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J. E. COLLINS, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR



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The North Star, CHATHAM, NB, MAR. 5, 1881 J. E. COLLINS,.....EDITOR

THE IRISH BISHOPS AND THEIR PASTORALS.

The following passage in addition to that which was sent on Tuesday last occurs in the Arch bishop of Dublin's pastoral:—“As secret societies tend to promote iniquity and infidelity they are detrimental to the public good.”

DR. WARREN, Bishop of Ferns, commends to his flock the advice of the Pope to guard against being led into irregular and unjust acts in connection with the present land movement, and adds:—“The slightest wilful violation of the laws of truth and justice or any other moral virtue could never be tolerated by the Catholic Church, either for escaping temporal evils or for obtaining the greatest temporal advantage.”

DR. DUNGAN, Bishop of Clonfert, forwards the Pope's letter to his clergymen, and adds:—“It is needless to assure his Holiness that the Irish people will receive and obey his pastoral wishes with that reverential love which is characteristic of their traditional fealty to the Holy See.”

DR. DONNELLY, Bishop of Clogher, says:—“Our country presents at this moment to the gaze of the world a social upheaving which is calculated to inspire all with the greatest disquietude.”

DR. DONNELLY, Bishop of Clogher, says:—“Our country presents at this moment to the gaze of the world a social upheaving which is calculated to inspire all with the greatest disquietude. After being rescued by the charity of the world from the jaws of a terrible famine, the people have risen from their lethargy, and joining together in lawful combination, have proclaimed that they shall no longer submit to the conditions of life which keep the bulk of them in a state of chronic abasement and misery, to be turned into the horrors of a national famine through the failure of a single esculent. Is it not time that such a state of things should end, and that Irishmen, who are patterns of industry, thrift, loyalty, and prosperity in every foreign land, should no longer be kept in a perpetual struggle between life and death on this island which God has given for their support? While we ask the clergy to impress on their flocks the necessity of prudence, moderation, and charity in the present agitation, and the need of keeping strictly within the laws of God and His Church, and of the civil laws as well, we call on the priests and people to join with us at this supreme moment in making an earnest appeal to Almighty God that He may move the hearts of our rulers and legislators to send at length a message of relief to the long-suffering nation. If political

organization, a hitherto legal expedient, comes to be suppressed by coercive measures, the clergy must redouble their vigilance lest the popular enthusiasm may turn itself into other channels and secret combinations and dark conspiracy take the place of open action and agitation. They should warn the people assiduously against all secret and illegal societies equally imperilling their temporal and eternal interest.

CLIMBING CHIMBORAZO. TWENTY THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE SEA LEVEL.

[Pall Mall Gazette.]

Mr Edward Whymper, in his lecture last night to the members of the Alpine Club on the ascents of Chimborazo and Coto paxi, stated that he took with him from home two well known Swiss guides, Jean Antoine Carrel and Louis Carrel from the Vne Touranche. The height of Chimborazo, which he ascended first, was about 20,000 feet, and up to that time no one, so far as he could learn, had ascended higher than from 17000 to 18,000 feet. He had to provide his own food, about two tons of the most portable condensed provisions being sent out in tins for the expedition. His ascent of the mountain began on the 23rd of December 1879. The first camp being pitched about 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, they afterward ascended to a height of 16,500 feet, where they placed provisions enough for three weeks, and fuel enough for several days, water being obtained by melting snow. At that height he became feeble and feverish, and was unable to satisfy the craving for drink, added to which he had a bad headache and a gasping when he was swallowing liquid. Under these circumstances he used with great care and benefit chlorate of potash, which he had obtained by the advice of Dr. Marcet before starting. The camp was near a rock of trachyte, which rose to about 18,800ft. there being on the east of the ridge a conspicuous glacier, about 17,400 feet high, his health improved. On the 2d January, 1880, an attempt was made to reach the summit, but owing to an intensely cold wind they were obliged to fly back to the camp. Afterward, encouraged by fine weather and continuous sunshine, they made another attempt. Having at length reached what seemed the top, about 3.45 in the afternoon, they had the mortification of finding that it was lower than another elevation. There was then no help for it but to make for the highest point, and they arrived upon it standing up like men, instead of grovelling, as they had been doing for five hours before like beasts. The wind was blowing at the rate of fifty miles an hour from the northeast, and driving the snow before it, and they were all cold, wet and hungry. The temperature was there 21° Fahrenheit, which, on being worked out, gave a height at the summit of Chimborazo, of 20,545 feet. They descended as hastily as they could to the camp before darkness made the descent impossible, and they got back at 9 p.m., having been out sixteen hours and on foot the whole time. Altogether he spent seventeen days on Chimborazo, at 15,000 feet of altitude, 16,500 feet and 17,300 feet and went up three times as high as 18,500, and when he quitted the mountain all traces of mountain sickness had disappeared. Mr Whymper also described the ascent of Cotopaxi, and said it was impossible to conceive a more dramatic spectacle than that vast crater presented, illuminated as it was below with ruddy subterranean fires and above by a brilliant moon. The height of it was 19,550 feet, and the camp was 180 feet below. They remained

there 26 consecutive hours. He also described a second ascent which he had made at Chimborazo nearly five months later, and the height as tested in the same manner as before, was in this instance found to be 20,489 feet, being 50 feet less than on the previous occasion, the mean height of the two being 20,517 feet.

A CALIFORNIA MIRAGE. A VESSEL AND A WHARF APPARENTLY SUSPENDED IN MID AIR.

A correspondent of the Santa Barbara (Cal.) Press, under date of February 1st, thus describes a mirage seen at that place:—“Whoever chanced to near the old Mission last evening between four and five o'clock saw, looking seaward, an unusual sight—a mirage of the long wharf and the three-masted schooner lying alongside; not dim and indistinct, but as plainly silhouetted against the evening sky as the hills or the islands. The tops and base of the mountains were hidden in the mist—a sort of evanescent fog, through which the outlines of the hills were dimly seen. Glancing toward the ocean the long wharf seemed actually suspended in the air, and close above it the outlines of the ship lying alongside, with the mast particularly well defined. I am sure that no observer standing on the Calabrian shore and looking westward upon the Strait of Messina (where the most remarkable mirages are witnessed) ever beheld one surpassing this. The horizon was much depressed, the wharf enlarged and duplicated, with the seaward end much elevated, and the figure of the ship, also much enlarged, hanging as in mid air, above it, while the sky surrounding these objects wore a yellowish color. My friend and I could hardly believe our eyes, and I proposed a drive to the beach to see if there really was any three-masted vessel lying alongside the wharf. We found all just as we had seen it in the air.”

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