

firm the right and necessity of full religious liberty! It was truly the greatest scandal; and the *Univers Religieux* the organ of the Jesuit faction, was commissioned to censure Abbe Deguerry. It executed this mission with much eagerness; for when it has to attack and insult others, the *Univers* has an inexhaustible fecundity. M. Deguerry answered his opponents in a public letter, and asked them whether liberty of conscience and worship was not written in all our laws? This question exasperated yet more the Ultramontanes; and in its reply the *Univers* developed this odious position,—viz., that the Roman Catholics accept, or rather endure religious liberty by constraint, when they can do no otherwise—when they are weak; but that their traditional and universal principle is to maintain liberty for their church only, when they are the most numerous and strongest. That is to say, in England for example, the Papists demand equal rights for all religious communions, whilst they form a small minority. But if tomorrow—in a year, in ten years, by a supposition happily improbable—they should succeed in acquiring a preponderant power, they would oppress the Protestants, and prevent their worshipping God according to their conscience. Such is the thesis maintained by the organ of the adepts of Loyola, in the face of France—is there no fear that the most intolerant maxims of the middle ages will be exhumed and sustained? It is clear that the Abbe Deguerry would be a deserter, a criminal of the first class, for these people.

You will learn with interest that the *Religious Book Society of Toulouse*, following the example of English Christians, and which has so well succeeded in your country, have offered prizes for two essays on the observance of the Sabbath.

A prize of 300 francs will be given for the first manuscript, and of 200 francs for the second. Working people only, of both sexes, in France and in Switzerland, will be allowed to compete. The programme of this competition is now before me, and contains excellent matter.—“The workmen who regard not the day of public worship must,” says the Committee of Toulouse, “infallibly pay the penalty. They forget the great interests of their soul and of eternity. Besides, their health decays, their mind is cramped and debased; they cannot taste as they should, the joys of their family; their whole existence, in a word, is smitten by the same blow.”

It is not probable that this competition will produce such satisfactory results as in England. Our workmen have not received the same education; they have not the same knowledge of the Bible; but we hope there will be at least one or two good compositions to reward.

FROM CUBA.—On the 10th October, the anniversary of the birth day of the Spanish Queen was to have been held at the ball established by the Government, in the saloon of the Philharmonic Society of Matanzas. However, the last proof of the barbarous despotism of the colonial authorities of this island, the general discontent, and the disheartened state of the people, who find no pleasure in dancing to the clank of their chains, least of all for the purpose of celebrating the natal day of their tyrant, were evident in the fact, that at the hour appointed for the opening of the ball, the only persons present in the saloon were one lady and the President of the society! The orchestra in vain filled the hall with the sounds of the enlivening Cuban dance. The music had no effect upon the empty walls. At length, after the lapse of about an hour the authorities began to perceive that the inhabitants had made up their minds not to make any display on the occasion, and the Governor, Talguera, was informed of the fact. Talguera, who was then in a neighbouring quinta, (the Pardo de Matanzas) irritated by such an outrageous instance of disrespect, ordered an Alcalde mayor of the town to proceed to the certification of the fact, and to make out a list of those whom he considered as the principle movers in this proceeding. Immediately, during the same evening before 11 o'clock, a tribune was constituted and those guilty of this great crime of high treason (i. e. of non-appearance at a ball in honour of the Queen) were examined.

In consequence of the results of this inquisition for individuals, all young Cubans, were imprisoned, four of them being cast into the loathsome dungeons in the fort of San Severino, deprived of communication from without, and treated with the utmost rigor. Their names are, Sr Don Calisto Sorondo, Sr Don Francisco Sorondo, Sr Don Joaquin Delgado Lopez, Sr Don Ignacio Alvarez. The two first are owners of haciendas; the two last are employees in the Government offices at Matanzas. A few days afterwards they were transferred to the Morro castle at the Havannah, and the 20th of this month were placed on board a Spanish packet, and banished to Spain.—They were not allowed to take leave of their families nor even permitted to take with them a change of wearing apparel.

P. S.—This report is entirely correct, and obtained by a verbal statement by a gentleman just arrived from Matanzas.

A most disastrous hurricane swept through the West Indies, between the 12th and 20th of last month, inflicting immense injury on shipping and among the plantations. We have the accounts of the wrecking of two vessels.—That of the Spanish brig *Gessavin*, from Havannah bound to Marseilles, whose passengers and crew were saved by the exertions of Captain Doane, and officers of the American brig *Sabine*, from Halifax, bound for Jamaica, as noticed some days since, and the fast clipper mail packet the *Hispano Cubana*, running between Cadiz and Havana. She had on board in all 200 passengers. When the hurricane struck her, her masts and all her upper works were swept off, though by a miracle no one was lost. All the passengers, 100 in number, were fastened below, and the hatches nailed down; soon however they began to suffocate, and driven to desperation burst open the hatches. The sea was at this time making clean breaches over the helpless vessel, and it poured down the hatches, the vessel soon began to founder, and the helm became utterly useless. All at once a shriek, “To the pumps!” was heard from the Captain, and in a moment all four

pumps were in operation, the hatches were finally secured, and the passengers and crew began systematically to relieve each other. After pumping all night the vessel was freed from water, the weather moderated, and after several more days of suffering, the vessel was finally brought into Nassau under try sails. The American ship *Monipan* brought over the news and several of the passengers to Cardenas.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We have been favoured with the following documents for publication:

St. John, N. B., 26th Oct. 1849.

Hon. J. R. PARTELOW, Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—I have the honour to address you as the official organ of communication with the Provincial Government on the subject of the recent investigation made, by order of His Excellency, upon charges instituted against Dr. Peters, the Medical Officer in charge of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.

My daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bruce Street, is one of the unfortunate inmates of the Institution, and her husband's absence from this Province renders it my duty to act in her behalf, in a case where the grossest insult has been offered to herself, and an unprecedented affront put upon all her friends and connexions, whose knowledge of it is obtained through the publication of the testimony in the *Freeman* newspaper; and it was with great surprise that I thus discovered, for the first time, that the investigation was permitted to be public, and that a newspaper reporter was permitted to take notes, and publish the vile depositions of the woman Cooper, prior to Mr. Chandler's report and the actions of the Government promulgated thereon.

Under these circumstances, I feel constrained to ask the Government to give publicity to its credence, or the opposite of the woman Cooper's testimony, in as far as it applies to Mrs. Bruce Street, and thereby place her friends in a position to take such action as the case may require.

It is only now that I am informed the charges in the particulars to which I refer were in writing, and in the possession of the Government, and a public investigation is permitted to take place without myself or any other of Mrs. Bruce Street's friends having opportunity to procure counsel to attend on her behalf, and otherwise take measures to refute the foul aspersions.

I never had even a suspicion of Mrs. B. Street's name being associated with the charges against Dr. Peters, or I should have attended the investigation, and could have produced testimony strongly relative of that which has gone forth to the public.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. H. STREET.

Secretary's Office, Fredericton, 30th Oct. 1849.

Sir,—In answer to the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, in respect to the late investigation of the charges made by George Cooper against Dr. Peters, as Physician and Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to forward the inclosed copy of a letter addressed to the Chairman of that Institution, relative to the result of the investigation, and His Excellency's opinion in reference thereto, for your information, and to be used by you in any way that may seem proper.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. R. PARTELOW.

Wm. H. STREET, Esq., Sec. Saint John.

Secretary's Office, Fredericton, Oct. 29th 1849.

Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to transmit to you, for the information of the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, a copy of Mr. Chandler's report on the complaints preferred, by Mr. George Cooper, against Dr. G. P. Peters, together with a copy of the notes of evidence taken on the Inquiry.

The Commissioners will observe that Mr. Chandler reports the 1st 2d 3d 4th and 6th charges to be not even colorably sustained by the evidence.

With respect to the 5th and 7th charges, Mr. Chandler says, “the only witness in support of these charges was Mrs. Cooper, the wife of Mr. George Cooper, the person who preferred the charges.” The other witnesses called by Mr. Cooper expressly denied all knowledge of the fact alleged.

That Cooper and his wife came forward in the character of discharged servants is irrelevant to the truth of the charges; but the Lieutenant Governor is decidedly of opinion that little value can be attached to the evidence of any woman who admits that she herself sought for, accepted, and retained a situation under Dr. Peters, after he had made a deliberate attempt to violate her person. It will be observed, moreover, that she admits that she did not mention this attempt to her husband until long afterwards.

The greatest suspicion too attaches to the description of the injuries received by Mrs. Cooper—injuries the reality and violence of which might be substantiated by calling as witnesses, the medical men whom she consulted at the time.

The direct testimony given by her to an act of illicit intercourse between Dr. Peters and one of his female patients is rendered valueless by its production as an after-thought, and by the allegation that she did not mention it before, from motives of delicacy, when the influence of any such motives on her mind at her first examination is completely negatived by the nature of the evidence there given without any unnecessary scruples.

After fully weighing, therefore, all these matters, His Excellency concurs in the opinion expressed by Mr. Chandler, that the 5th and 7th charges also are not sustained.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. R. PARTELOW.

JOHN WARD, Esq., Chairman of the Commissioners of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.

GREAT FIGHT WITH THE APACHES.

It will be recollected by our readers that the Mexican State of Durango, which has been, from time immemorial, a prey to the savage incursions of the Apache Indians, who have ruined their agriculture, and almost dissolved the bonds of civilized society among the poor Mexicans residing at spots distant from the large towns, decided a few months ago to invite adventurers from the United States to form guerilla bands, in order to make war on their merciless foes. For this purpose the Legislature appropriated a certain amount of head-money, \$200, for each Indian taken dead or alive. Several companies were soon formed, and some terrible encounters have taken place between the Americans and the Indians, in all of which the latter have been worsted, losing a large number of their chief warriors, killed or made prisoners. The Mexican papers at the capital at first denounced this system of mercenary warfare, and we believe that the Congress passed a strong resolution condemnatory of the conduct of the Durango Legislature, and also that of Sonora, which had imitated the former. Our last advices, however, from Mexico, received yesterday, state that public feeling in that city had changed on this subject; and the *Siglo*, one of the most influential of the metropolitan prints declares there is no other way of getting rid of the scourge.

Among the American companies that have distinguished themselves in this warfare, that commanded by a captain Box, in the service of the State of Durango, is in the first rank. This body had a terrific encounter with a band of Apaches on the 3rd of September, and although but thirty against between two and three hundred, they came off victorious. The Mexicans are quite enchanted with their deeds, and the *Siglo* of the 21st ult. devotes a considerable space to a narrative of their exploits. We translate from that paper the following:—N. O. Pic.

STATE OF DURANGO, Sept. 6, 1849.

For the information of the inhabitants of the State, we publish an extra containing the following letter received by express from Santiago Papasquaro, giving an account of the fight which took place at daylight on the 3rd inst., between the savages and the valiant guerilla company of *Norte Americanos* sent in pursuit of them by the supreme government. We congratulate our fellow-citizens on the victory gained over the ferocious enemy, and we trust that it will reanimate our people, and convince them that the Indians are not invulnerable, since less than thirty men have put to flight more than two hundred of them, after stretching upwards of twenty dead on the field.

To the Secretary of the Supreme Government of Durango.

AMERICAN GUERRILLA COMPANY OF CAPT. BOX, SAN-
TIAGO, September 3, 1849.

Sir: Last night I overtook the enemy among the ruins of the rancho of Talaveras, distant one league from Papasquaro. At 10 o'clock this morning the battle commenced, when the positions and intrenchments of the Indians were carried by assault. They fled, leaving five killed and ten prisoners, whom I handed over to the Alcalde of Papasquaro. The Indians shortly afterwards recovered from their surprise, and finding how small our number was, and their own overwhelming superiority, they returned and made a furious attack on us—five Mexicans on horseback, and the Americans who were entrenched within the rancho. Being repulsed, they dashed off toward the spot where the Americans had set their horses, which necessitated a retreat by the latter to defend their cattle.

As the Americans were on foot, I with my four men on horseback kept the enemy in check until they reached the spot where their horses stood. Here the encounter was tremendous, and the firing was without intermission on both sides. Mr. Thos. Cleveland [Cleveland, perhaps] was the first that fell, after he had killed two Indians.—He was captured alive, having been suddenly seized by the enemy, who immediately cut off his head. The Indians, finding their loss so severe by the precision with which the Americans delivered their fire, at length retreated, and again took up their position at the rancho, which had been abandoned by the latter when they hastened to the defence of their cattle.

The company returned to the charge with admirable courage, and again stormed the intrenchment, driving out the Indians with a heavy loss. The latter then made another attempt at the cattle, but the Americans pursued them, and after half an hour's combat put them to flight. The Indians returned to their entrenchments at the rancho, when the fire having ceased, they collected their dead and wounded, which lay exposed on the field.

The fight lasted three hours, and 1,500 rounds of ammunition were expended by the company. From twenty to twenty-five Indians were killed; and ten were made prisoners. The Americans, quite fatigued with their continued exertions, were unable to follow up their victory.—The number of Indians was about 200, according to appearances, although one of the prisoners stated there were 300 in all. The whole number of Americans and Mexicans engaged was only twenty-nine. The loss on the part of the little band was one killed and eight wounded.

Through the great disparity in the numbers of the combatants, there was no possibility of capturing any of the cattle that accompanied the Indians.

(Signed)

LUIS TOSTADO.

A SOMNAMBULIST STORY.—In the month of November last, a young girl named Eulalie M—, of the age of sixteen, was brought to one of the hospitals of P—, laboring under a most alarming attack. The case was a most curious one, and the doctor declared that she was subject to this evil, never been afflicted for so long a period—been four days and nights without consciousness. The doctors of the establishment were, of course, with this *bonne aubaine*, and forthwith began mentalise, and to prove and test a hundred different methods of, which, nevertheless, had all been exhausted.