

UNITED STATES

SECESSION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA.—There was a large meeting held yesterday afternoon, in the lower saloon of the Chinese Museum, on the occasion of a number of intelligent Germans of our city and country having expressed a desire to secede from the Church of Rome. This subject, one of the most important now in agitation, brought together a large number of intelligent men, who were desirous of ascertaining the reasons for the movement. There were about fifteen hundred men, women, and children present. At about three o'clock, the Rev. L. Gustiniani, and the Rev. Chas. Kast, of Baden, Germany, ascended the rostrum. After a silent prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gustiniani, the congregation joined in devotional exercises and the proceedings progressed. Rev. Mr. G. addressed the assembly in English, and set forth the nine following reasons why the congregation wished to secede from the Romish hierarchy, and to establish a free Catholic Church.

First—Freedom of conscience. Second—Because we and our children are deprived of the Holy Bible. Third—We cannot recognize the Pope as the infallible head of the Church, or Vicar of Christ. Fourth—We do reject that the priests, through their ordination, receive power to rule over God's inheritance, to traffic in souls, enslave conscience, and stupefy the mind with superstition. Fifth—We reject celibacy. Sixth—We reject Auricular Confession as unrighteous and demoralizing. Seventh—We reject purgatory. Eighth—We reject calling on the saints, veneration of images and relics. Ninth—We reject indulgence and pilgrimages, because they tend to self-righteousness, and make commerce of human souls.

The above nine reasons made the subject of the speech of the Rev. Mr. Gustiniani. He fortified himself with ample proof taken from the Scriptures. His appeals to the audience, to stand steadfast by the Holy Bible, and to put their trust in the Lord, were quite eloquent and impressive. There was a disposition to applaud, on one or two occasions, which he promptly checked, and hoped that the sacredness of the day would be observed. There was no attack made upon the Roman Catholic religion; the speaker, rather than go into an argument, gave his reasons why he could not concur in the peculiar tenets of that Institution. He wished it distinctly understood, that whilst he renounced all allegiance to the Pope of Rome, he was not opposed to the Catholic religion. He exhorted his hearers to be watchful and prayerful; to clasp the Bible to their bosoms, to read it, to put their trust in it, and as long as a single star blazed in the American flag, they would be safe. It, however, this blessed country should be blasted by the influence of the Roman priesthood, then he would exhort his hearers to take their Bibles in their arms, gather themselves together, and die in its defence rather than submit.

The Rev. Charles Kast, of Germany, addressed the congregation. He spoke in German, and was eloquent. After he had concluded, the Rev. Mr. Gustiniani descended to the floor, and, taking a lighted candle in his hand, pronounced the congregation as having seceded from the Church of Rome, and, on blowing out the candle, introduced in its stead the never-failing light that comes from the throne of Heaven. During the meeting, a body of men and women suddenly arose and left the place. Eight or ten of the females were dressed in white.—Philadelphia Sun, July 8.

THE SEA COW IN FLORIDA.—The U. S. steamer Monmouth, Capt. Freeborn, from Indian River, Fla., arrived here yesterday, and reports that Messrs. Clark and Burnham, who have been induced by an offer from Mr. Barnum of the New York Museum, to take the adventure; succeeded in capturing two beautiful specimens of the Manatee genus, near Jupiter Creek in Fla. One of these animals was about 14 feet long, weighed 1,500 lbs., and was killed in capturing. The other is 9-12 feet long and was secured without much difficulty to a skiff and towed into Indian River, from whence it was shipped via Charleston for New York.

The Manatee is what is commonly called the Sea cow, and known in the Pacific, especially at the Philippine Islands, as the Waldases; there are two species, the Arctic and the Antarctic, which differ only in the color of the skin and hair.

They resemble a seal very much, and doubtless belong to the same genus, having flippers and flukes, but instead of the separations of the tail, it is whole and spreads like a fan. Its head is shaped like that of a cow, but longer, and having teeth only in the lower jaw, which resembles a dog's.

These sea animals were known to the Indians in Florida many years since, and Col. Harvey, during his campaign among them, was several times feasted on their flesh, which he pronounced very choice.—Sav. Georgian, July 20th.

THE GREAT TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.—We publish to day, officially, the Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, in relation to Nicaragua. The leading object appears to be the establishment of a ship canal across the Isthmus, which connects North with South America, under the Protectorate, not only of Great Britain and the United States, but of all other nations which desire the right of passage through it, from ocean to ocean on the same equal terms. In reference to political advantages connected with that Treaty, it may be remarked that all the States of Central America, comprehending the immense extent of country from the Belize, commonly called the Bay of Honduras, down to the Northern boundary of New Grenada, is neutral Territory. No Government entering into this treaty can occupy, colonize, fortify, or assume or exercise any dominion over any part of the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America, from the boundaries of the Bay of Honduras and Mexico on the North, to those of New Grenada on the South. The British title to the Belize, the treaty does not in any manner recognize, nor

does it deny it or meddle with it. That settlement remains in that particular, as it stood previous to the treaty. This treaty which has been very erroneously called the "Nicaragua treaty," does not extend merely to the state of Nicaragua, nor does it more cover with neutrality that territory, than the other four Central American Republics of Honduras, Guatemala, San Salvador, and Costa Rica. The same international guaranties of protection which it provides for the Canal at Nicaragua, it equally offers to every other line of communication, whether by canal or railroad, that can be constructed at Tehuantepec, Panama, or any other place on the whole Isthmus, whether within the limits of Mexico, Central America, or New Grenada. The protection of the great Maritime Powers, contemplated by this treaty to the Nicaragua or other canals, will of course be the means of saving, to all Powers which may become parties to it, the cost of maintaining large and expensive naval armaments to guard their interests in transit, through these highways. And the clause which exempts vessels passing through the Nicaragua canal from capture, detention and blockade, presents a new feature of itself of so much interest and consequence, as, in connection with other provisions, to mark the conclusion of this treaty as an era in the history of international compacts.—Boston Atlas.

CHEAP POSTAGE.—Notwithstanding all the opposition to the law of 1845, and the forebodings of its opponents, it has produced results which have gratified its friends and confounded its enemies. The letters have increased the last year to sixty-two millions!—the revenue of the department four million, nine hundred and five thousand, one hundred and seventy-six dollars—(\$4,905,176)—being one hundred and forty-six thousand and sixty-six dollars, (\$146,066.) more than was ever received in one year since the establishment of the Post office Department. The department has not only defrayed its own expenses, but there is now a sum of \$691,782.70, unexpended of the revenue of the past year.

The friends of this measure have the fullest conviction that a further reduction can be made, which will meet the demands of the people, and promote the usefulness and popularity of the Post office Department. It should be reduced to the lowest point possible, so that the poorest person among us may feel that postage is not a burden; although there is some difference of opinion as to the rate to which it should be reduced, observation and experience have shown that the revenue point is two cents, pre-paid.

An uniform rate of two cents will be amply sufficient, when once in full operation, to pay the regular and necessary expenses of the post office.

The objects of the association above mentioned are, to collect funds to aid in the dissemination of knowledge on the subject of cheap postage, and to take all the necessary steps for procuring such modifications of the laws as are requisite for the accomplishment of the desired reduction of rates. An agent of the association is now in Boston, and we trust he will receive a degree of assistance from our citizens, corresponding to the importance of the benefits which they would realize by the success of the undertaking.

FEROUS BIGOTRY.—The Catholic paper of New York, the Freeman's Journal, contains the following atrocious paragraph:—Transcript.

"The too widely known Margaret Fuller, formerly of the New York Tribune, was shipwrecked and drowned off Fire Island, just as she was approaching the American coast. She had with her the manuscript of a book, in which she sang the praises of all the scoundrels who pillaged Rome and vilified the Pope and all decent men. Her terrible end should be a warning to the miscreants of whom she was an advocate."

This shows what the Hugheases and the Brownsons would do with all the Protestants, if they only had the power. The fact is, many American Catholics (a minority, we doubt not) would feel that they were glorifying God to burn and niterly destroy every Protestant on earth. They are all considered by Catholics as damnable heretics; and true, original Catholicity makes it a duty for the faithful to pursue such with fire and faggot, to utter extermination; and the scandalous weather-cock, O. A. Brownson, says truly, Catholicity never changes—it is in its nature murderous and cruel, as in the gloomy days when heretics, with much public ceremony were burnt as an act of faith, in the terrible sacrifices called Auto da Fe. The spirit of the age only checks their bloody and exterminating persecutions. May that spirit forever curb the bloody spirit of original and true Catholicity, falsely so called.—Olive Branch.

ANOTHER MIRACLE.—Our respected contemporary, the Boston Pilot, publishes another letter from abroad, with an account of another modern miracle. The eyes of a picture of the Virgin were seen to move in the canvas! The story is fully equal to the "mysterious knockings" of Rochester.—Olive Branch.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE ERIE RAILROAD.—A serious and fatal accident occurred on the Erie Railroad on Wednesday afternoon. It was occasioned by the breaking of the iron bridge extending across a narrow stream about three miles above Lackawaxen Creek. The New York Journal of Commerce gives the following account of the accident:

"A locomotive, with twelve freight cars attached, had partially crossed the bridge, when it gave way, and the central bars of the train fell, drawing the cars at each end after them. The coupling of the tender breaking, that with the locomotive passed in safety. The remaining cars, loaded with horned cattle, sheep, &c., were smashed to atoms. And when our informant left, this morning, the dead bodies of three men had been taken out, and it was feared that others were buried beneath the rubbish.

Two of them were drovers from Ohio. The other was a brakeman, employed on the road. There were also sixty head of cattle killed, and a large number of sheep and hogs. The bridge we are told, was only 16 feet span, and the

whole loss will not exceed \$10,000 or 15,000. The road will be soon repaired.

This accident did not arise from any negligence on the part of the company. The bridge had been pronounced by scientific men, to be sufficiently strong.

One of the sufferers by this accident had the horn of one of the cattle driven through his breast. The Commercial says:

"The scene, as described by our informant, to whom we are much indebted, was painful in the extreme. The mass was wedged in between the two banks of the chasm over which the bridge passes, the cattle being pierced with numerous splinters of the cars, and impaled upon the horns of each other. A few were still alive, and after fearful struggles, succeeded in extricating themselves, and getting out upon the adjoining plain. But those that did thus escape were apparently all more or less injured. A number of sheep also escaped in the same way."—The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

Some accounts say a larger number of cattle and sheep were killed.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

The gold dust brought by the Cherokee amounts to \$1,700,000, and about \$200,000 in the hands of passengers. The steamers Northern and Republic had arrived at Chagres.

But little is doing in the mines,—the water in the rivers and large gulches being yet too high, and in small ravines there is too little gold for successful operations. This will soon, however, be remedied.

Immigration is as great as ever through San Francisco. The people are anxiously waiting the final action of Congress as to their reception.

A number of frightful murders are reported from the southern mines. Two Americans were murdered in their tent at Jamestown, by some persons unknown; one, a Mr. Chase of New Bedford, and Mr. Hatheway of Dighton Mass. The tent was robbed of about \$1000.

A Frenchman was shot by an unknown man near Oregon tent. Several murders of a similar nature are reported.

People go armed to the teeth. The gold lake excitement has almost entirely subsided.

The steamer Georgia, having the California mails on board, sailed from Chagres on the 26th ult., for New York via Havana.

The steamer Philadelphia arrived at Chagres on the evening of the 26th ult., after having experienced a heavy gale which lasted three days, during which, one seaman was washed overboard and lost, and five died from injuries.

On the 8th of July, the Conductor of Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall's specie train, was robbed of \$30,000, while on his passage across the Isthmus.

Among the consignees of gold, of whom there is a great number, we notice Adams & Co., \$353,544; G. B. Upton, \$26,300; W. Bishop, 64,000; Minto, Hooper & Co., \$28,000; J. M. Forbes, \$28,000; J. A. Townsend & Co., \$20,000.

WRECK OF A BUILDING IN NEW YORK.—About twenty minutes before 2 o'clock this forenoon, the large six story brick building, No. 40 Spruce Street, occupied by William and Oliver Hoyt, and in course of enlargement, fell with a tremendous crash, burying a number of labourers in the ruins. Undoubtedly several of them have perished. Five have been taken out, with their limbs and bodies crushed and mangled in a shocking manner. Their names, nearly as can be ascertained, are:—

Patrick Riley, Peter Fagan, McGough, Nash and Lambert. They have all, we believe, been taken into the city Hospital. The groans and cries of others can be heard beneath the rubbish.

The Chief of Police, with his aids, and as many more as can be advantageously employed, are exerting themselves for their recovery.

The fall of the building was caused by the removal of the under-pinning and of placing at undue weight of bricks as we are informed, on the cross timbers. The side walls and the front portion are still standing.

It is not known how many are in the ruins. There were, we suppose 18 men in the building when it fell.—N. Y. Jour. Com.

RIOT AMONG THE SERVANTS AT CAPE MAY.—The Baltimore Clipper states that a mob of negro servants at the Atlantic Hotel, joined by the blackmen in the vicinity had compelled all the Southern gentlemen who were residing there to leave forthwith, including many gentlemen from Baltimore. It began in a southern gentleman being assaulted and dreadfully beaten by the negro servants at the above named Hotel.—Boston Advertiser.

MISSIONARY FAMILY SHIPWRECKED.—It is reported in a London paper of July 16, that the ship Columbus, of Newburyport, bound from Arracan to Amwerp, in lat. 20 40 S., lon. 76 30 E., took from the Dutch ship Madura, which was abandoned March 26, thirteen of the crew of the said vessel, together with Mr. Howard, a Missionary of the Baptist Mission Union Board, his wife and six children, who were passengers, and were on their return from the Mission station at Maulmain, to Boston. The Columbus being in a leaky state, proceeded to Mauritius, where she arrived April 5th.—Ib.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.—On Saturday, the Steamer Admiral, Capt. Hutchins, brought to this city several distinguished gentlemen who attended the Great Railroad Convention in Portland. Among the number were, the venerable Admiral Owen, of New Brunswick, Captain Robinson, of the House of Assembly, Hon. R. Wilnot, Attorney General of New Brunswick, and Hon. Mr. Perley. They returned in the Admiral yesterday. They expressed themselves highly pleased with the evidences of prosperity which they witnessed in "the States."—Ib.

THE CHOLERA.—25 deaths from cholera occurred at Cincinnati during the 24 hours ending the 26th instant. During the same period 32 occurred at Louisville.

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