

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER



And Bible Society, Missionary, and Sabbath School Advocate.

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MEMORIAL TO LORD PALMERSTON.

The following remonstrance has been addressed by "the Scottish Reformation Society" to Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Home Secretary:—

Unto the Right Honourable Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, the humble memorial of the Scottish Reformation Society,—

Sheweth,—That your memorialists have heard with alarm and indignation, that attacks have been made by furious mobs on certain ministers of the Gospel who had gone to preach in various parts of Ireland, and that the civil authorities, instead of searching out the originators of these acts of violence, and subjecting them to condign punishment, have simply declared themselves unable to keep the peace, and warned the ministers to leave the districts. That such a state of matters strikes at the root of that law of toleration on which the constitution of Britain is based, is a virtual abrogation of the civil government, and a dissolution of society into its original elements.

In regard to the expediency of the course which the said ministers have deemed it their duty to pursue, it is enough at present to state, that the lawfulness of that course has not been called in question, and that no attempt was made to interdict their proceedings, by any competent authority. It may also be observed, that the same course is pursued at present by Popish priests in the centre of London and in the north of Ireland, and that, too, without molestation, although in the midst of thousands of Protestants; nay, that the same course is pursued with safety amidst the Hindoos of India, the idolaters of China, and the savages of Africa.

Your memorialists are well aware, however, that Popery is essentially and avowedly a persecuting system wherever it has power,—that in all Popish countries religious liberty is put down by the civil magistrate, and all Protestantism studiously excluded by force; and that, even in Protestant countries, where the magistrates cannot be made the direct agents in accomplishing this object, the same object is secured, as far as possible, through the instrumentality of mobs instigated by the priests; and that, too, at the very time when the most unbounded liberty, and even licence, is clamorously demanded by the same priests on behalf of their own superstitions. That, in the present instance, it is publicly affirmed, that the priests have been the actual, although invisible, ringleaders of the mobs in Ireland, by denouncing the ministers referred to from their altars, and stirring up their deluded votaries to riot and bloodshed. That it is, therefore, the imperative duty of the Government to have the truth of this allegation investigated, and, if it is found true, to punish, in the most exemplary way, the guilty parties, and reinforce the authority of the magistrates.

Your memorialists are painfully convinced that the British Government have of late years manifested a palpable reluctance to enforce the law when violated by Popish priests. But they humbly submit, whether it is wise or safe any longer to continue this course. The Protestants of this country

cannot be satisfied with merely receiving toleration in Britain where they are strong enough to enforce it. If Papists are to receive perfect liberty in all parts of the kingdom, Protestants are entitled to demand a similar liberty in Ireland. And if, through the machinations of priests and the apathy of the civil authorities, this reciprocity of liberty is flagrantly violated in the sister country, and no law is enforced there but the law of the strongest, it is for the Government to consider whether they are prepared for all the consequence which may result, should the Protestants of the empire on any occasion, however unjustifiably give way to the exasperation which such treatment may unhappily produce, and proceed also to take the law into their own hands. The best security for peace is in the energy and impartiality of the Executive. Protestants are, no doubt, taught by their Divine Master to return good for evil, and to "live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty;" but it cannot be right or safe to make this, their very excellence as citizens, a reason for allowing them to be treated with marked injustice, while the very pests of society are encouraged in their deeds of violence by absolute impunity. Your memorialists would respectfully remind your lordship, that rulers ought to be "a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to such as do well."

May it therefore please your lordship to institute an immediate inquiry into the conduct of the priests and magistrates of those parts of Ireland in which the late riots have occurred, and to grant such effectual redress as the circumstances of the case may demand.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

STATE OF MORALS IN MONTREAL.

The Editor of the *Montreal Witness* in remarking on this subject says:—

Montreal has fallen on evil days, in which every man of any character or no character can get a license to destroy his fellow-men, body and soul, with alcoholic poisons.

The number of new taverns and dram-shops is very great, and the character of many of them the very worst; and though there are most notorious violations of the law in every direction by licensed dealers selling on Sunday, and unlicensed dealers any day, yet no convictions are obtained, nor even, so far as we see, prosecutions instituted. Thus everything is driving on to the demoralization of society, and consequent imminent danger to the peace and prosperity of the city.

The reason assigned, we understand, by the officers, whose duty it is to watch over infractions of the license laws, for their inactivity, is, that informations cannot be obtained; informers being in danger of their lives. Indeed, there are two now said to be missing, and supposed to be murdered. And this in a community claiming to be civilized!

Alas for Canada! in the midst of all the whirlwind of prosperity that is coming upon her, there is a worm in the bud, a canker at the root of society, which will go far to wither up law, order, liberty, temperance, morality, and religion, unless the Maine Law be speedily enacted.

EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT IN SARDINIA.

From a letter dated at Lyons, July 19th, we learn that a very interesting movement is at the present time in progress at Favale, in the kingdom of Sardinia, not far from the Gulf of Genoa. One copy of the Bible was the spark which has lighted the train. Seven entire branches of one peasant family, amounting to forty persons, have now given themselves to Christ, and constitute a centre of light, which is steadily expanding itself in the midst of surrounding darkness. The work is wholly a native

one—foreigners having had nothing to do with it. The Waldensian Table as it is called, which is a Church Court conducting generally the affairs of the synod in the interval between its meetings, and other times carrying out its decisions, is sending a missionary to these their newly-enlightened countrymen, and all that is further needed is the erection of their little church of stone. They have it is said full religious freedom. The Lord has raised up this spiritual Church of forty brethren, in less than a year, in the midst of Italy. The state of the whole of Sardinia at the present time is reported to be extremely interesting. There is an awakening from a long sleep—a stir amongst the dry bones. Everywhere the people are beginning to reflect, to discover their mistake, and to pant and inquire after something better. The Scriptures are largely pouring into their aid, and their Divine Author wonderfully blesses the reading of them, without the intervention of human instrumentality; while, wherever the Gospel is preached, it is listened to with the deepest attention, and numbers find it to be the power of God unto their salvation. Waldensian Pastors are established in the chief towns.—*N. Y. Observer.*

SABBATH IN PARIS.—A correspondent of one of our religious papers, writing from France, says:

"Paris has no Sabbath of its own, and it is difficult to realize that this is the day which the Lord hath hallowed. A Sabbath in Paris is a strange thing to an American. During the morning the market is thronged with buyers and sellers, and the stores are open until afternoon. Then every one goes out in pursuit of recreation. Many of the people attend church in the morning, but in the afternoon everybody goes to the gardens, to the Boulevards, and to the Champs Elysees. Yesterday there was a grand balloon ascension. Sunday is a holiday, and all the great displays are reserved for this day. The Emperor has his grand reviews on Sunday. The large balls and fetes are always on Sunday. The throng of the people on the excursion trains of the railways on that day is immense. "The elections are held on Sunday. The grand fountains at St. Cloud and Versailles play only on Sunday. It is terrible to see such entire forgetfulness of one of God's commandments, and all with such unconsciousness of wrong. What will become of this poor people without evangelical religion? O God, send out thy light and thy truth!"

RAILROADS.

At the commencement of the present year there were completed in the United States 13,227 miles of railroad; 13,000 more were under construction, and 700 under survey—making a total of 33,000 miles. The cost of building the average cost per mile, \$30,000, would be \$990,000,000. This is a sum greater than the value of all the live stock in the Union, by the last census, thirteen times greater than the total expenses of the United States government for the last year, and equal to about one fifth part of the cash value of all the farms in the United States according to the last census.

The Pacific Railway Company has completed a road for 50 miles west from St. Louis and it is already under contract for 135 miles. Its length is to be 600 miles, to the boundary of the State. It is intended to continue it by the Burton and Fremont route to the Pacific.

One hundred and forty million dollars' worth of tobacco was consumed by Great Britain last year—enough money to keep a million boys at a good school.