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WESTERN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Southern Cross.

DEAR SIR,

Your latest announcement in the "Cross" that Don Carlos Moll has been discharged from prison after having been declared innocent of the crime imputed to him is another proof that justice, in this country, is managed by a most extraordinary machinery.

He was a member of one of the most respected—may I use the word "aristocratic" in a republican country?—families of Navarro. The crime imputed to him was that he stole, or was principally connected with the robbery of some cattle belonging to Sr. Irigoyen. He was married a very short time before his imprisonment, and he has been four or five years a prisoner in the Penitenciaría. If innocent, what a purgatory he must have undergone all those years, and what mental sufferings his newly-wedded wife has endured! His first-born child might almost be a posthumous one, having been born while the father was undergoing what to him was the *peine forte et dure*. If guilty, why he declared innocent after so many years had gone and come? May we suggest a reason? Everone knows that the Moll family have some political weight in Navarro, and Mr. Irigoyen wants votes.

Justice, hitherto, has been depicted with her eyes bandaged and scales in her hand. But in this country Justice requires no fictitious bandages. She seems to have been "ciego de nacimiento." Governing by the "Rule of Thumb" she requires no scales, and her judgments being given "al tanteo" the heaviest hand gains the cause.

Has it ever struck any of your readers that the "bisacha" is a great refiner of camp? I would like to say a word in favor of these funny and lively little animals, so peculiar to the South American camp. If looked into carefully I think that it will be seen that they do quite as much, and perhaps more, good than they do harm. What is certain is that they have an innate dislike for all bad weeds and do not leave one that they do not uproot to a considerable range all round their holes. Again, these same holes act the part of good drains during very wet seasons. I am pretty sure that many wet camps where they have been cleared off have become a good deal coarser in consequence, yet all the harm the poor animals do is to eat a little grass. At home, in Ireland, the mole in former times was as much persecuted as the bisacha is here; principally by the gardeners because he used to throw up little unsightly hills, and spoil the symmetry of their trim beds. But when it was discovered that he was an inveterate destroyer of grubs and worms, besides being a splendid subsoil drainer, he was left alone, or rather protected than otherwise.

A countryman of our own, a single man, utilised in a practical way the industry of the bisacha. There were several bisacheros close to his puesto, each occupied by its more or less numerous family.

Now, this fine young man was very fond of cooked pumpkin in every shape and form—boiled, roast, fried, or made into that

North American delicacy, pumpkin pie; this vegetable was his especial vanity. Unfortunately, this year the sheep were very troublesome, and wanted continual cure. Sheeprot and scab were never so prevalent, and he had to be in the chiquero from morning till night. Not a moment could he spare to put a spade in the ground to prepare a plot for his favorite delicacy. *Sed omnia vincit amor*—of pumpkin. To obtain pumpkin he would scale mountains.

One evening as he sat at the door of his puesto, the *asador* with his usual *churasco* on it stuck into the ground in front of him; a desolate feeling at his heart, and a longing in the pit of his stomach; as he reviewed his solitary bit of roast, unsavory without the wished for accompaniment, he watched with a careless eye the gambols of the bisacheros as they scudded backwards and forwards to each other's holes, evidently bent on paying a neighbourly and gossiping visit. Suddenly his eyes lit up, and a gleam of joy and satisfaction sparkled in them. He slapped his thigh, and starting to his feet gave a victorious shout—"Eureka!" Hurro! you darling. By jabsers I have got you at last! And it was a solemn spectacle to see that solitary man in the darkening twilight furiously jiggling and capering, and cracking his fingers, to show his delight, around that miserable little *churasco* stuck on its little *asador*. Having, in this manner, exhausted the exuberance of his overjoyed feelings, he darted into the house, and soon reappeared with a small bag and a spade. Proceeding to the nearest biscachera and making as many small holes in the bare, open earth around it as he thought proper, into each he dropped the necessary amount of pumpkin seeds. Covering them up with earth he went on to the next, and then to the next, and so on: and, when he lay down in his bed that night, a tired but happy man, he had, what appeared even to him, sown a plentiful supply of his favorite dainty on every biscachera within a quarter of a mile from his puesto. In process of time the plants grew luxuriantly, without a weed among them. Do you think the bisacheros interfered with or objected to them? Not a bit of it. They formed a glorious shade for their holes during the summer days, when the sagacious little brutes could enjoy their *otium cum dignitate*: and when winter's frosty blast had shrivelled up the tender plants, stalk and leaf, the surrounding camp looked like a deserted battlefield where the cannon balls and shrapnell with which it was strown had been transformed into criollo and angola pumpkins.

I was rather amused during mission week in Suipacha by a remark from a countryman as he watched the great numbers of Irishmen who passed to and fro down the streets:—"This town looks as if we were the real natives in it, and these—motioning to some Argentines who were passing—are the foreigners."

The partido is certainly one of the most Irish in the country, and it is truly a fact, what has often been said, that one might travel from Mercedes to Chilicoy without once stepping off the Irishman's land, but it is also a fact that it is doubtful whether a more wretched, damp, unfit chapel, unbecoming the congregation, is to be found in any other Irish colony. Of course, all that cleanliness will do is done. Father McNerney takes care of that; but he is powerless to do more. The servant girls of New York, who by their pence raised such a magnificent cathedral to the honor of their country's patron saint, would open their eyes with wonder did any of them pay us a visit, to see the structure in which the sheepfarmers of this country are content to worship.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
Curiosus.

It is stated that a lecturer argued so powerfully at Manchester against the use of tobacco that several of his audience went home and burned their cigars—holding one end of them in their mouths.

BRASIL COFFEE CROP ESTIMATES.

That there has been an error in the estimate of the present coffee crop can now hardly be doubted. The receipts from July 1st to 28th February were 3,015,000 bags, and the present scale of receipts shows plainly that the interior is far from bare of coffee. The want of attention to this matter of crop estimates becomes every year of greater importance; not only from the point of view taken by the merchants interested in the trade but also because, as the article furnishes the basis for the greater part of our exchange operations, the more or less accurate crop estimate becomes a feature in the finances of the Empire. We had occasion to treat of this matter, and from the best information we could gather the crop was calculated at not over 3,500,000 bags; but if 3,000,000 be received in 8 months, and receipts are averaging over 10,000 bags per day, of which the railway is contributing a very large proportion, it seems proven that the exporters have been again misled by the planters. That the result will be, if it is not already, a further loss of confidence in all Brazilian coffee crop estimates we do not pretend to deny. The great extent of the territory planted with the bean further complicates the business; but it would almost seem that a systematic course of misrepresentation is pursued by planters and their agents, to the end of availing of some monetary advantages; assuredly followed by distrust and loss.—*Rio Janeiro News.*

ENGLAND'S DIFFICULTY.

By MR. JAMES O'KELLY, M.P.

A German alliance with England against Russia would inevitably result in a universal conflagration of which no man could see the end. Two such powers as France and Russia cannot be doubled up in a campaign or two, and even victory would leave the German people exposed to the danger of a future war of revenge on the part of two powerful neighbors which might place even the existence of the German Empire in danger. In a war against Russia Germany would have much to risk and nothing to gain. She is the one country in Europe that Russia could strike with her whole force, and the Russian army is organized and distributed with a special view to that contingency. The Germans know this, and are not likely to risk having a hundred thousand Cossacks poured across their frontier in order to prevent the Russians from pushing their frontiers a few miles closer to India. In case of war Russia means to fight Germany on German soil, and the chances of the Cossacks picketing their horses in Berlin is at least as good as that the Uhlans could reach Moscow or St. Petersburg. With all their brag the Germans are keenly conscious of the danger of fighting Russia, and of the risk they would run of being crushed between the Muscovites and the French. It is only half a secret that the French, like the Russians, have made up their minds that the next war will if possible be fought on German ground. At the first sign of inevitable war at least two millions of Frenchmen will be called to the standards, and behind them will be marshalled every man in France capable of carrying a gun. It will be no longer a struggle between a small standing army and the myriad of fighting men of a great nation, but a fight to the death between the manhood of two great nations—and woe to the conquered. These facts are well known to the statesmen of Germany. Ten years ago they saw the danger. They noted the enormous and feverish preparations which were silently going on in France in spite of the bitter party struggle which seemed to the casual observer to occupy the attention of the whole country, and they came to the

resolution to seek at once a quarrel which might give them an excuse to strike a crushing blow before the forces of France could be thoroughly organized. But at that moment Russia cried "Halt," and gave Prince Bismarck to understand that an attack on France would be regarded as an act of war against Russia. Since that day the relations between Paris and St. Petersburg have been of the most cordial character, and something like an arrangement or understanding exists that an attack on either country by Germany will be regarded as an attack on both. This is the real cause of the pacific counsels which have prevailed at Berlin of late years. No English alliance could compensate Germany for the sacrifices and dangers to which she would be exposed in a conflict in which she had for opponents France and Russia, even though she were sustained by Austria, Italy, and Turkey. None of these Powers could give her effective support, even though their military forces were as formidable in the field as they are on paper—which they are not. The alliance of Turkey would bring all the Balkan Christians into the field, Germany and her allies, and these would more than neutralise Turkey. Austria would have to face a powerful insurrection of the Sclay nationalities within her own borders in Bohemia, Dalmatia, Hungary, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, whose population would never fight against Russia in the interest of the abhorred Turk or the scarcely less detested German.

In a war against Russia Austria would have to face a dozen Irelands, only more powerful and more warlike than Ireland can claim to be. There would then remain to Germany as potent allies, England and Italy. Both powerful at sea, but practically helpless on land—so far as German interests are concerned. Italy might, of course, mass a force in the Alps, and threaten south-eastern France, but 100,000 Frenchmen disposed in the passes and the forts which guard that frontier would give a good account of the whole Italian army. While the English, Italian, and German fleets combined to sweep the sea, what would become of Germany? From the south-west a couple of millions of Frenchmen would sweep over her frontiers, blockading her fortresses, and passing on to live on the fatherland as the Germans lived on France in 1870; while from the north-west a couple of million Russians would pour into the cultivated plains of Germany to eat her up like a swarm of grasshoppers. All the victories that could be won at sea in a century could not compensate Germany for the havoc which would be wrought in one year of such a campaign. Even were England and her allies successful in the end, all the losses would fall on Germany, all the profit to England. And yet some men imagine that German statesmen and soldiers are going to expose their country to the horrors of two invasions in order that England may be able to rob and oppress India in peace. If any such idea exists in Berlin, German statesmen must be as great fools as the dozen incapable spouters who now dispose of the destinies of the British Empire. The advantages, on the other hand, which would accrue to Germany by maintaining a strict neutrality and insisting that Austria and Turkey should also remain neutral are so great and so obvious that even if the danger of war were slight in comparison with what it actually is the statesmen of Berlin would convict themselves of folly in failing to avail of them. Now what are these advantages? First, a practical monopoly of the Russian trade during the continuance of the war; secondly, the certainty of enormously increasing her maritime carrying trade at the expense of English commerce; thirdly, the chance of enormously extending her manufacturing industries through the partial collapse of English and Russian manufacturing energy; and, fourthly, the security of the goodwill of Russia as against any attack from France. It may not be generally known that Germany

is the most formidable manufacturing rival which England meets in the markets of the world, but it is nevertheless a fact. Since the war of 1870 German statesmen have been paying quite as much attention to the development of the manufacturing industries of the fatherland and to the extension of her commerce as to the drilling of big battalions, and Germany has become the real rival of England in commerce and industry. Russia, which is generally spoken of as a poor country, does an enormous trade, which I have seen set down somewhere in the respectable annual total of £96,000,000 sterling for the exports alone. Under ordinary circumstances the mass of this trade passes out by the Baltic ports on the north and by Odessa on the south. Should the neutrality of the Black Sea be insisted upon by the European Powers Russian trade in the Black Sea would go on as usual with the exception that the maritime carrying trade, which is now chiefly done by British vessels, would pass to neutral bottoms. This would not injure Russia perceptibly, but would inflict a heavy blow on English commerce. In case the neutrality of the Black Sea was not respected, a part of the southern trade would be diverted to Galatz, on the Danube, where the English fleet would be powerless to interfere with it. The products of Central and Eastern Russia would be diverted to Germany, and would find an outlet at Dantzic and Koenigsburg, on the Baltic. The immediate effect of the blockade of the Russian Baltic ports would be the turning of an immense volume of Russian trade into the commercial ports of Dantzic and Koenigsburg, whence it would be carried to sea and distributed over the neutral bottoms, the chief gainers being the Germans and the chief losers the English, whose Baltic commerce would be destroyed in all probability never to be restored.

DINING-MINISTER ROBERTS.

AMERICAN COMMERCE WITH CHILE DISCUSSED AT A FAREWELL BANQUET.

A farewell dinner was given to William R. Roberts, the new minister of Chile, at Delmonico's. The Chilean and American flags were spread back of the guests' table and the musicians' gallery opposite was hidden by the French flag, an Irish banner and a screen bearing a golden harp and the motto, "Erin Go Bragh." Small Irish and Chilean flags waved over the tables between the green leaves and white flowers of hydrangeas. About 150 guests ate *coquilles à la Coquimbo, ris de veau à la Valparaiso, poulet sauté, à l'achilleenne, pommes à l'irlandaise, filets de beef à la Roberts*, and other good things. Among the guests were Mayor Grace and several other distinguished Irishmen.

Commissioner Crimmins made a little congratulatory speech, and James W. O'Brien read letters from Secretaries Bayard and Manning, Postmaster-General Vilas and others.

In returning thanks Colonel Roberts spoke of the growing relations between the United States and Chile and their importance to American commerce. He continued:—

I am not violating any State secrets when I say that no man in America is more alive to the importance of this subject than President Cleveland, and that no man living is more desirous to have our rising republics understand that we are their friends. Secretary of State Bayard has voiced the sentiments of the administration, as well as his own, in his letter to your committee, wherein he declared, "that the government has no plan inconsistent with the integrity, prosperity and development of every State in the entire hemisphere." My appointment by the President was made with personal assurance of his confidence that I would honestly endeavor to carry out these views of the administration; and Secretary Bayard has honored me by a public demonstration of a similar character,

which will undoubtedly strengthen my hands, and without which I would scarcely feel justified in expressing myself so freely to-night.

Colonel Roberts made a reference to Mayor Grace which caused his hearers to interrupt him with three cheers.

Mr. James responded to the toast "The United States." He congratulated the country that a business man had been appointed minister. This was the more gratifying as some administrations sometimes forgot that to be a useful, influential, and honorable representative abroad, required something more than an ability to digest good dinners, or to give instruction in the noble game of poker. Chile was the most progressive republic, save the United States, in the world. She was one of the two powers on this side of the Atlantic who possessed navies before which the navy of the United States would go down as speedily as did the "Tallapoosa" after her short, sharp, and decisive encounter with a collier in the Sound. He referred to Colonel Roberts's qualifications for the post. "In bidding him Godspeed to-night to the land of earthquakes," he continued, "we promise him, if success crowns his efforts, to give him an earthquake of a reception on his return. Should he fail we will give him over to the newspapers, and the Lord have mercy on him!"

After Mayor Grace many of the guests made informal speeches of farewell.—*The New York Herald.*

FOREIGN NOTES.

Dr. Jenner, the Ritualist, ex-Bishop of Dunedin, has been persuaded by Mr. Loysen to go through the ceremony of ordination at the little Gallican chapel in the Rue d'Arras, Paris. Just as the service was about commencing a gentleman rose and said: "I beg to protest, as a Catholic, against this farce. Monsieur Jenner must surely be aware that he is committing a horrible sacrilege." At this point the ex-Père Hyacinthe ordered the beadle to turn the interrupter out of the building, and looked imploringly at Madame Loysen, who was in one of the front benches. No resistance was offered, and after the expulsion, the ex-Carmelite angrily said that the incident had been got up by the Catholic press. The function would have been grotesque had it not been blasphemous and sacrilegious. It is stated now that poor Dr. Jenner is about to consecrate Mr. Loysen to the Primacy of the Gallican Church. Bishop Reinens and the Jansenist Bishop of Utrecht have both refused to raise the unfortunate Loysen to the Episcopal dignity, and he is now obliged to fall back on the unattached Anglican prelate from Dunedin. Gallicanism is evidently in a flourishing condition.

The *Volks Zeitung* of Berlin gives some statistics of the cost to Europe for her armies. For the seventeen states of Europe the total of the armies on a peace footing is 2,529,522 men. Calculating their wages at the low figure of fifty cents a day, and omitting Sundays, we have a sum of \$157 a year for each man. Multiplying this sum by 2,529,522 the total comes to \$697,134,954. Adding to this the total of the seventeen war budgets, which is \$508,363,910, the total loss suffered by Europe annually on account of her armies is \$905,498,864. No wonder that the tide of emigration is so rapidly increasing; Europe is a good place to live out of.

Experiments have been carried out to test the extraordinary powers claimed for a new torpedo invented by Mr. Brennan, an Irish-American, with wonderful success. In the many trials which have taken place a machine something like the section of a boat has been seen to descend to the water's edge by means of a carriage on a tramway, and plunge into the sea, through which it has shot at a marvelous speed, estimated by some observers at fifty miles an hour. Two

reels of wire are coiled round two reels revolving inside the machine, and as they are independent of each other and actuate different propellers the torpedo can be steered with great accuracy, and it has actually performed a journey of 2,000 yards, working in and out among shipping, finally to be let go to strike the object aimed at, while the wires were drawn in for further use.

Recent events in Belgium have given courage to French Catholics. A positive rupture between the Vatican and the constitutional government, brought about, not by the national voice, but by the machinations of the secret societies, has now ceased. A Conservative, or to be more correct, a Liberal-Conservative Republican party, may rise in France, in which men like M. Ribot may revive the traditions of M. Thiers and M. Dufaure. Religion would undoubtedly be the gainer, and it is not impossible that even the closed churches of the religious might in some cases reopen their doors. Such a result would undoubtedly comfort the heart of Leo XIII. We can only hope to see it. Meanwhile every Catholic foreigner in France feels that any reaction in favor of God's Church, or any cessation of open hostilities must be helped by the constitutional efforts and by the electoral organisation of Catholics themselves. Above all things, Legitimists, Bonapartists, and other Parisians who rejoice in the name of Catholics must not be afraid to unite with political adversaries where religion is concerned.

A Nihilist congress was held recently, which is likely to have tremendous consequences throughout the empire. A sort of Nihilist reformation has been proclaimed on principles no longer confined merely to the destruction of the existing social system, but to the creation of a new system, capable at any moment of being put in force and of fulfilling all the requirements for the administration of the State. The congress decided that for 2 years no attempt shall be made against the life of the Czar or any member of the Imperial family. Every possible effort will be made to induce the Czar to issue the constitution that was actually signed by the late Czar on the very day of his assassination, but which was never promulgated. At the congress of the Nihilists a copy of this ukase for the constitution, the tenor of which has been guarded as a profound secret by the Imperial family, was read and discussed and unanimously approved. It is believed that the Nihilists obtained a copy through the Princess Dolgorski the late Czar'smorganatic widow. This constitution is of the most liberal character, based on that of Germany, and if promulgated will be the virtual end of Russian autocracy. If, at the expiration of two years, the Czar refuses to grant the constitution, then the policy of assassination and terrorism will be inaugurated on a scale never yet attempted. Kharkoff has long been the hotbed of Nihilism, and a Russian professor formerly attached to the University of Kharkoff, who, at the present moment may be considered the successor of the famous Nechayeff, has submitted the following views:

«Nihilism exists to-day in more force than ever before. Nothing better proves its discipline than the present abstention when nothing is to be gained by drastic measures. Over 4,000 officers of the Russian army are now included in the Nihilist ranks. The next time that Nihilism moves it will be with crushing force, and will overturn with one blow the entire social fabric.

«The Czar is a man of most feeble intellect; has neither talent nor taste for governing, nor for choosing able advisers. That he should rule suits for the moment the ultimate end and aim of the Nihilist. In the event of an Anglo-Russian war the Nihilists would work heart and soul with the existing Government to fight the common enemy.»

«How can a woman tell?» is the title of a recent poem. Humph! How can she help telling?

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IRISH CLUB

THE Rules having been formally sanctioned at the General Meeting held on the 23rd ult., a copy can be obtained by anyone desirous to join the Club on application to the Honorary Secretary, or the Treasurer by whom Subscriptions will also be received.

The Committee are looking round for suitable premises, and hope to be able to report progress shortly. Meantime those who have already signified their intention to become members are requested to forward their entrance fee and first quarter's subscription to the Treasurer to provide for initial expenses.

On behalf of the Committee—

M. CARROLL, President.
J. E. O'CURRY, Hon. Secretary,
5-7 Lavalle.
Ed. CASEY, Treasurer,
80 Reconquista.

NOTICE.

Having closed my offices, CANGALLO 55, any correspondence, during my absence, can be forwarded to Messrs. Warrell and Latorre, at

181 Calle Peru.

JUAN FEELY.

j 22 1 m



AVISO IMPORTANTE

Como Corredor Oficial del Banco Hipotecario, pido a los señores que me han visto con anticipación, como así mismo a los que desean hipotecar sus propiedades rurales ó urbanas, me remitan los Titulos, pues el día 12 del corriente, dicho Banco reabre sus operaciones con la Serie G. de 7 o/o de interes, las que saldrán en circulación desde el 1º del proximo Agosto. Asi mismo hago presente a mis numerosas relaciones que me hago cargo de toda clase de operaciones, relativas a dicho Banco, como a cancelaciones, transferencias, etc.

NATAL T. DE TORRES
SAN MARTIN 73 (ALTOS)

NOTA

El interesado que se encuentre fuera de la Capital, con escribir y enviar el Título del bien raiz que desee hipotecar bastara, pues solo para recibir las cedulas y firmar la escritura, se le avisara, no perdiendo asi tiempo alguno.

EDUARDO KENNY

Consignatario
de Frutos del Pais

WOOL & PRODUCE BROKER
AND
GENERAL
COMMISSION AGENT

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THE "Southern Cross,"

PASAJE ARGENTINO

No. 6,

(Opposite the Merced Church)

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THE SOUTHERN CROSS

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH, 1885.

We are asked whether Mr. P. Egan, who has come to this country by the «Neva», is Mr. Pat Egan, of Land League celebrity. We don't know; but we suppose not. Mr. Pat Egan the ex-treasurer of the Irish Land League, is comfortably settled down in North America.

It is said that preacher Thompson, of the American proselytizing society, for want of better work, has been challenging somebody to a religious discussion, and that the Catholic Cura of Mercedes has accepted the challenge and intends to enter the arena to measure swords with Thompson. If such is the case, we hope the Catholic clergyman will be guided by better counsels. Nothing has ever come of open religious discussions, even in the case where both disputants are men of good sense and moderation, but bitterness and bad feeling, and Thompson, when speaking of the Catholic Church, can observe neither moderation nor good sense. You might as well expect moderation from a volcano or a grizzly bear, and an open discussion with him would give him an occasion of vomiting forth further insults and lies against the visible head of the Catholic Church. The mantle of Tresham Gregg has fallen upon Thompson, but Tresham Gregg, after blaspheming hideously against the Mother of God, graduated in a lunatic asylum, and it is to be feared that the same fate awaits the evangelical bully and platform «energúmeno» of the Souper Society, who wishes to gain cheap celebrity by getting up a religious discussion and disturbing the peace of the country.

The National Government has received from Europe twenty Krupp guns of 20 tons weight. They cost one million of national dollars, but when they reached here the Government did not know what to do with them. Like the monster that Frankenstein conjured up, their presence was ardently desired, and no sooner did they appear in the port than their presence became a puzzle to our bellicose authorities. If they had caught a Tartar they could not be more perplexed. An attempt was made to land the guns in the Riachuelo, but as that was impossible, it was resolved to send them to Zarate. This was done at great labour and expense, and there they will remain an object of wonder and curiosity, and as much out of place as a white elephant.

The 14th inst. was a French national festival, and the French orphan boys and girls appeared before a large number of their countrymen, sang French national songs, and recited pieces in prose and verse appertaining to French glory. On the national Argentine festival the orphan girls of the Merced Church, who are under the care of the good Father Rassore, assembled in the large hall, and in presence of a highly respectable audience sang the Argentine National Anthem. The Spanish and Italian children make similar manifestations on their national days, and all are taught the history of their respective countries. Would it be too much to expect that the children of the Irish Orphanage, who are all, or nearly all, Irish or of Irish origin, should be taught the history of Ireland? We have no doubt it would be a pleasure to

the good nuns of the Sacred Heart to teach the children the beautiful melodies and songs of Ireland, particularly those which are interwoven with her history and which tell of her struggles, her sorrows, her joys, and her hopes. There is a romance about Irish history and Irish music which have a special attraction for the poor and the unfortunate, and to whose echoes their hearts will readily respond. We speak in the interests of the orphan children as well as of the land which gave us birth and which has every claim upon our affection and remembrance. And we may be permitted to address these remarks to the Directors of all schools in the Republic in which Irish children are being educated. The children of today will be the parents of tomorrow, and it is our duty to try and preserve intact the ties that bind them to the land of their origin. It would be sad, indeed, if after being suckled by Irish mothers and with Irish blood coursing through their veins, the day should ever come when it would be said of them that they knew not Ireland. We repeat then, let Irish children be taught Irish history, Irish songs, Irish music, and we are sorry we cannot add the Irish language.

FACTS AND PROSPECTS.

Having entered on the second half of the year it may be well to cast a look back and see what progress we have made in the past, and how much we are likely to make in the future. The condition of the country just now, apart altogether from political troubles, is a most anomalous one. In the midst of great prosperity we are suffering from a monetary crisis. In the midst of abundance we are feeling, as it were, the pinch of hunger. With an increased revenue we are short of money. In time of peace we are contracting debts at ruinous rates of interest. Vessels coming here, from Europe, bring us, week by week, a supply of gold like toys for children, and when we are lulled to sleep financiers, who act the part of nurses, take away the gold that has just arrived, and a great deal more along with it. Only the other day it happened that a vessel that had brought £20,000 in specie took with her £40,000 on her return trip. Merchants are crying out that the country is ruined, and farmers are exulting because the prospects look very bright. There is no doubt that «curso forzoso» has had a most disastrous effect in some branches of business; yet there are those who will maintain that «curso forzoso» is a great blessing, and that it came just in time to save the country from a catastrophe compared with which our present sufferings are only a trifle. It enabled the farmers to sell their wool, say these economists, and as they had to pay their rents in paper, it suited them to have a paper currency. The more depreciated it was the better they liked it, and the more profits they made. It must be remembered, too, that «curso forzoso» was beneficial in another sense. It facilitated export of produce and it opened up the saladeros, so that some of these establishments that were closed last year have done a very fair business this year. It is only in this way we can account for the impulse given suddenly to this important branch of business which had been languishing for several years. We do not mean to say that the improvement in this respect is as great as it ought to be, but that it is a decided advance on former years. The number of animals killed in the saladeros of Buenos Aires this year up to the 30th June was 244,500. At the same time, last year, the number was 88,700, and this, while the number of animals killed in the saladeros of Montevideo have decreased, as compared with former years. There are signs of improvement, also, in the freezing meat business. All this redounds to the benefit of the farmer, and with a favourable season, such as we have had, and a large increase in

the flocks, there is a prospect of a very fair return for the campaign. On the other hand, the crisis has been severely felt in town; house-rent has gone up to an enormous figure. A good house in the centre of the city cannot be had for less than \$300 m/n per month, and it is whispered that unless some turn for the better comes, we may hear of many failures before the year is out. So say the Cassandras and pessimists, and the sudden rise in gold this week tends to increase the uneasy feeling prevailing in commercial circles.

We are far from believing, however, that there are serious grounds for alarm. The finances of the country are badly administered, but the resources of the country are inexhaustible, and public opinion must some day assert itself and put worthy men into power. The prosperity of the country will surely be felt in every department of trade, for our sheep and cattle are still the staple wealth of the country. Cereals have been put on their trial, but have failed to give the result expected. Growing corn for shipment to Europe, with present prices, is not a very profitable business, and, as a fact, we find that cornfields are nearly always found in the immediate neighbourhood of the river or some convenient railway. The crops, however, will always be more than sufficient to supply the immediate wants of the country, and the principal branch of industry will probably give a magnificent result this year. True, the price of wool has fallen in the European markets, but there again forced currency comes in and keeps up the nominal price on a par with those of last year; while the nominal price of hides and other articles of produce is much higher than it was last year.

IRRELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

As no running stream can be pure which flows from a polluted fountain, so literature which is inimical to God's Holy Church, although reveling in the finest graces of style and abounding in meretricious ornament, such as romantic designs and situations, cannot be pure or beneficial. Ever since the church was established enemies have sought to encompass it and destroy it. Heretical novelties have sprung up in every age. An open and unceasing warfare has always been waged against the church founded upon a rock; but as we all know from the assuring promise of Christ Himself these assaults are never to prevail.

Notably in the days of Voltaire, himself and his associated «philosophers» so-called, strove by insidious literary assaults to extirpate Christianity from the minds of people in every land. We all know what havoc and desolation this brood of literary infidels caused. It succeeded largely in undermining the faith of the French nation—not leaving unscathed the minds and souls of men everywhere with an itching for novelties. Even in our day, and in every civilized country, the most systematic and dangerous opposition to Christian and conservative teaching comes from literary quarters. Very many leading magazines and reviews are prepared by Agnostic writers—skeptics, freethinkers—enemies of Holy Church and its sublime, but—to them—unpalatable morality.

Bearing upon this subject and all that relates to it, is an interesting article in the current number of the *Contemporary Review*, written by an Italian, Signor Boglietti, on the theme of «Life and thought in Italy.» This writer confines himself to the arena of popular novel-writing. He speaks of those of his own country—degenerate countrymen of Alessandro Manzoni, the renowned author of that charming tale: «I Promessi Sposi, «The Betrothed, «there is no abomination,» he says, «with which they have not defiled their pens; no turpitude with which they have not approved; no crime which they have not outraged.» So, Massimo d'Azeglio in his

Ricordi. But now Italian fiction has reached even a lower depth. To outrage every principle of ethics is bad enough. But to inculcate her animalism is even worse. And novel writing in Italy has come to that. So, here, we have an admission, by one of their own literary men, that Italy, under its modern government, and having thrown off the mild, paternal and economic sway of the Popes is not only verging upon financial bankruptcy, but that it has descended from having been the Mistress of the Arts and Sciences, to the low plane of animal bestiality in its novel writers and readers! Italian fiction, Signor B. says, is rapidly following in the footsteps of that of the French, and that, we all know, is bad enough.

They profess to belong to the school of Naturalism. The Signor says that is simply Materialism. It regards men, in M. Zola's phrase, as «la bete humaine,» the human animal; and dealing with him as a mere animal converts him into something much lower. It treats him as merely matter in movement; and applies itself to exhibit the springs of his action, which it holds to consist of merely bestial passions. In that school it is, of course, needless to remark that such expressions as «the ideal,» the «good,» «virtue,» «aspirations,» have no meaning; while it is well-known that in the naturalistic world people simply obey the laws of the environment, the compulsion of heredity, or the fatality of instinct. That school has many adepts in Italy. It is quite true that among the generality of Italian readers they attract the most attention and are the most in fashion. These facts illustrate the scriptural expression, «When the blind lead the blind, all shall fall into the pit.»

THE REVOLUTION IN CORRIENTES.

The revolution in Corrientes has taken nobody by surprise. Its advent was expected and the day has been long ago calculated exactly when the torch of civil war would be once more kindled in that unfortunate province. «Old men and beldames in the street did prophecy upon it dangleously.» The coming event was known in Buenos Aires long before Toledo laid hands on the person of the governor and clapped him into jail.

This must have been known to the Government before all others. It was impossible for them to ignore the fact that Derqui and Toledo were marshalling their forces and would soon come into collision. The question is naturally asked why did the National Government remain quiescent when there was imminent danger of the public peace being disturbed. If our house is assailed or we have reason to fear a nightly visit from a bandit, we have a right to demand protection. The poorest man in Buenos Aires may call in the aid of the police with the sanction of the Government when his life or property is in peril. But the lives and property of the people of Corrientes were in the hands of a party of merciless bandits, and the Government made no sign. The reason is because the anarchy and disorder of Corrientes are the work of the Government's own hands. Derqui's rule was only a revolutionary creation formed for the purpose of carrying out the centralisation policy of the National Government, and Toledo with his 300 troopers was a sort of Pretorian guard which might be relied on in time of trouble.

The best laid plans of mice and men Gang off a-gley; and Toledo did not play the game precisely as the Government wanted him. Whether it is because he was thwarted in his purpose or that he was instigated by one of the candidates for the presidency, he grew restive under control. There is little doubt that the *emute* that arose a few weeks ago while Toledo was in Buenos Aires was got up for the purpose of getting rid of him. He clearly saw it in this light, for as

soon as he returned he took measures to turn the tables on his opponent. The result is that Derqui and the legislative and judicial authorities of that place are now in Toledo's power. As we write this it is difficult to say what will be the denouement of the drama. Toledo is said to be a man of great daring, and as he is utterly devoid of education his ferocious instincts may prompt him to the perpetration of still more lamentable deeds. Derqui, on the other hand, is a person of some education, but as he had in contemplation to promote his brothers and nephews, his «sisters, and his cousins, and his aunts» to office, it is doubtful whether his absolute sway would be more acceptable to the people of Corrientes than that of Toledo. The latter has, it is said, 3,000 men under his command, and if he has in him the fighting qualities for which he generally gets credit it may be no easy task to reduce him to submission.

POLITICS

AND
«PROFESSIONS OF FAITH.»

To the Editor of the *Southern Cross.*

DEAR SIR,

I have been not a little surprised in reading in your last issue the views expressed in a leading article headed «Professions of Faith.» You point out therein some grounds of objection to candidates in general, but single out one of the latter in particular to exemplify the truth of your remarks. If I apprehend your meaning rightly, you say that Dr. Gorostiaga has been put forward by the Committee of the Catholic Union chiefly because he is a man of good character. I always thought that a man's antecedents and character were the best guarantee he could give of his conduct, either public or private, and the best grounds on which to form an opinion as to what he is capable of in the future. «By their works you shall know them; the tree is known by its fruit,» says Holy Scripture. Apply the test to each of the candidates and tell me, if you please, which of them appears the most worthy of confidence. I do not take on myself to decide so difficult and important a question. I candidly confess that this is a task for which neither my social position, nor my knowledge, nor my experience qualifies me. Moreover, I am not a voter, and therefore my voice is not of much importance one way or the other. Nevertheless, as I feel deeply interested in whatever affects the welfare of my adopted country, I consider myself fully justified in submitting to a careful examination the views of a public writer on so important a subject, and further, I would add that it is my duty simply as a member of society to ascertain as far as I am able what are the comparative merits of those who would rule us. You say that professions of faith afford but a «poor safeguard against political tergiversation.» Quite true, sir. We have had some sad examples of such «political tergiversation.» But of the two pray tell me which is the more worthy of confidence, he whose life has been a constant illustration of the principles he professes, or he whose public behaviour belies his private opinions and is at variance with his private life? Cavour, Rosas, Wilde, Errazuiz, etc., whom you quote, are indeed the true prototypes of the latter, and of them certainly he is the least deceptive whose public acts are least inconsistent with his antecedents.

Instead of a profession of faith, which I admit is no safeguard against «political tergiversation,» you would have each candidate publish at the outset a complete political programme. If such a programme were always strictly carried out, its publication at the commencement of an electoral campaign would be a «consummation devoutly to be wished for,» but, alas! when professions of faith solemnly made are not always adhered to, what stronger reason have you to hope, in view of common examples, that a political programme, perhaps cleverly evasive and ingeniously

