

It will be remembered that during the Cleveland-Blaine campaign, Doctor Burchard was among the guests invited to a political gathering in New York in honor of Mr. Blaine, and in an officious address on that occasion he placed Mr. Blaine in the light of a mighty deliverer, who had come to rescue the Republic from its three great oppressors—Rum, Romanism and Rebellion.

It has been invariably charged by Republicans that the speech cost Mr. Blaine his election to the Presidency. We should be reluctant to believe the result so serious. It is no compliment to our elective system to think that so utterly foolish a remark, coming from so irresponsible a source, should count for so much among American voters. In any case the insinuation was very grave against the character of Catholic citizens, and should have been met long ago with a general remonstrance from that sect. A voter who can be so turned from the natural course of his convictions is not worthy of any very responsible trust. Such an imputation, if true, would thoroughly justify the record of Presidential elections, which shows that no Roman Catholic has yet occupied the White House. Republicans are doing their party no credit in acknowledging that its success is dependent upon voters of that character.

As for Dr. Burchard, let him go hence in peace. The charge that certain carping organs are making, that his speech was the culmination of a conspiracy, and that he was paid a "certain sum" by a Democratic editor for inserting in it the invidious fling at Roman Catholics, is simply nonsense. There is not the slightest evidence that Dr. Burchard was anything more than this unseasonable intrusion of personal vindictiveness would suggest.—merely a fanatical preacher with bad taste and narrow perception.

### THE POPE'S TEMPORAL POWER.

On the 20th of September, 1870, the Italian troops entered the city of Rome. On that day the temporal power of the Pope was overthrown and Victor Emmanuel became King of united Italy. The twenty-first anniversary of this event was celebrated in New York City about a week ago. Seven thousand Italians, representing sixty-eight societies, marched in procession to commemorate the day. The Italian flag waved from the city hall. The Italians of the city in general observed the event as a holiday. In Brooklyn and other cities similar celebrations occurred.

In London, England, the occasion

was also observed by the Roman population of that city. The Catholic churches, however, did not engage in anything like festivity; neither did they, as on other occasions, make it one of sorrow and mourning.

In the city of Rome itself there are two parties, one against the papal temporal power and one for it. Both are strong, but the majority of the people are in favor of a united Italy. The anniversary passed off in that city without much of a demonstration on either side. The Pope gave audience to a band of French working men who were on a pilgrimage to the "eternal city." On this occasion the ceremony of kissing the foot of his holiness was observed. This part of the proceedings was severely criticized by the Roman Radicals. They stated that while nobles and men of wealth were given the hand to kiss, the working men were compelled to salute the foot. This the Radicals complained of as discrimination, and exhorted the working men to refrain from kissing altogether unless the rich and poor were treated alike.

In juxtaposition to the rejoicing at the overthrow of the temporal power is another element seeking to restore it. At the Catholic congress held in Germany a few weeks ago a strong demand was made for its restoration. It is claimed that the Pope is held a prisoner at the Vatican, and that the faithful all the world over are insulted by the procedure of the Italian King. It is also stated that an aggressive agitation will be instituted in all the Catholic countries of Europe for the restoration of the temporal power. In view of the fact that the majority of the Italian people are opposed to it, this proceeding on the part of German or American Catholics would be equivalent to political dictation. Besides, it seems grossly absurd to think that a form of power which in the middle ages was barely possible could be restored in our time.

### THE SUIT ON THE TAX QUESTION

The horizontal reduction of twenty per cent. on the assessment of real estate in this city does not please the Assessor. Of course not. But the reduction was not made to suit him, it was done in the interest of justice and to meet the views of the taxpayers, who claimed that their property was overvalued.

There are some other persons who think the reduction is unfair to them, because it does not cover the valuations on personal property. And they have taken a peculiar method of venting their grievance. Their complaint, voiced by Mr. Johnson of the firm of

Remington, Johnson & Co., and presented before Judge Anderson, by Mr. Varian, will be found in another part of this paper. The gist of it is that this reduction is discriminating and unfair, as it applies to real estate only and not to personal property.

If there were nothing more than this alleged in the complaint it could be easily answered by this proposition: If this valuation on personalty ought to have been reduced as well as on realty, the proper way to do is to work for an extension of the reduction to make it cover the whole ground, not attempt to destroy the good work done because it is claimed that it does not go far enough.

But the complaint goes further. It alleges first, that in hearing the objections of taxpayers and deciding upon them, the Board of Equalization thus made the assessment roll to represent the fair cash valuation of all the taxable property, real and personal, within the corporate limits of the city; and second, that having done this, the Board of Equalization exhausted its powers, and therefore had no right to make the reduction of twenty per cent. on the valuation of the realty.

The case appears to us to turn on the question of whether the first allegation is true as a matter of fact. Then the question of law involved as to the powers of the City Council as a Board of Equalization will be one for the court to determine. Is it true that after the objections of those taxpayers who made complaints were heard and determined, the real estate of the city was placed at a fair cash valuation? Thousands of voices of aggrieved taxpayers will exclaim "No." The grievance is that the entire assessment of realty has been excessive. Values have fallen but assessments have been raised. The assessor has put fictitious and not actual cash values upon realty generally.

One proof of this is afforded by the valuations of the County Assessor. Comparison of the two assessment rolls will demonstrate this: That either the County Assessor has undervalued the realty in this city or that the City Assessor has overvalued it. There is no complaint that the County Assessor has been derelict. There is a universal complaint that the City Assessor has been exorbitant.

The meaning of the term "cash valuation" as to realty has not been taken into account in the city assessment. That meaning is not open to question or quibble. It is given in the law and signifies, not boom figures, not speculative prices, not values to give an assessor a big income on a per centage, but "the