

PERSECUTION OF WITCHES.

From a recent London work called *History of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*:

Nations that were completely separated by position, by interests, and by character, on this one question were united. In almost every province in Germany, but especially in those where clerical influence predominated, the persecution raged with a fearful intensity. Seven thousand victims are said to have been burned at Treves, 600 by a single bishop of Ramburg, and 800 in a single year in the bishopric at Wurtzburg. In France, decrees were passed on the subject by the Parliaments of Paris, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Rheims, Rouen, Dijon, and Rennes, and they were all followed by a harvest of blood. At Toulouse, the seat of the Inquisition, 400 persons perished for sorcery at a single execution, and 50 at Douay in a single year. Remy, a Judge of Nancy, boasted that he had put to death 800 witches in sixteen years. The executions that took place at Paris in a few months, were, in the emphatic words of an old writer, "almost infinite." The fugitives who escaped to Spain were there seized and burned by the Inquisition. In that country the persecution spread to the smallest towns, and the belief was so deeply rooted in the popular mind, that a sorcerer was burnt as late as 1780. Torquemada devoted himself to the extirpation of witchcraft as zealously as to the extirpation of heresy, and he wrote a book upon the enormity of the crime. In Italy 1,000 persons were executed in a single year in the province of Como; and in other parts of the country, the severity of the inquisitors at last created an absolute rebellion. The same scenes were enacted in the wild valleys of Switzerland and Savoy. In Geneva, which was then ruled by a bishop, 500 alleged witches were executed in three months; 48 were burnt at Constance or Ravensburg, and 80 in the little town of Valey, in Savoy. In 1670, 70 persons were condemned in Sweden, and a large proportion of them burnt. And these are only a few of the more salient events in that long series of persecutions which extended over almost every country, and continued for centuries with unabated fury. The Church of Rome proclaimed in every way that was in her power the reality and the continued existence of the crime. She strained every nerve to stimulate the persecution. She taught by all her organs that to spare a witch was a direct insult to the Almighty, and to her ceaseless exertions is to be attributed by far the greater portion of the blood that was shed. In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII, issued a bull which gave a fearful impetus to the persecution, and he it was who commissioned the Inquisitor Sprenger, whose book was long the recognized manual on the subject, and who is said to have condemned hundreds to death every year. Similar bulls were issued by Julius II, in 1504, and by Adrian VI, in 1523.

INITIAL FACTS IN OUR HISTORY.—

Our children are taught French, moral science and conic sections and read histories of Greece and Rome. How few of them, and how few men and women, know any thing of the history of their own country, except an outline or a few detached facts? How few undergraduates know that Columbus undertook his first voyage in the expectation of finding the Grand Kahn of Tartary; that he set sail on Friday 1492—that unlucky and direful day—and on Friday, ten weeks after, discovered land; that he supposed Cuba to be the continent; that he first reached the continent on the north coast of South America six years afterwards, that upon his fourth and last voyage he founded the first colony on the mainland on the Isthmus of Panama; that twenty one years after the first discovery, the Old World was astonished to find they had discovered a New World, when they reached the Pacific across the Isthmus; but that Cabot, an Englishman, reached the shores of New England a full year before Columbus touched the continent; that San Augustine, Florida, is the oldest town in America, being just 300 years old; that Santa Fe, New Mexico, is the second town in point of age; that twenty years later—1602—California was discovered and explored; that in 1603 a Frenchman, Sieur de Monts, made the first settlement north of San Augustine, at Anapolis, and twice attempted a settlement on Cape Cod, but was driven off by the natives; that Champlain founded Quebec in 1608; that our coast from Pennsylvania to

New Brunswick, was named Acadie, afterwards New France; that Canada formerly comprehended our Vermont and New York; that Virginia was so named by Walter Raleigh, in honor of Queen Elizabeth, 1584, when he made his exploration of the North Carolina coast; that the first English child born in America was Virginia Dare, daughter of Ananias; that the projected colony failed; that Jamestown was the first English town in America, began 1607 and named for James I; that the want of wives in Virginia was so great that in 1621 a large number of young women "of good character" were transported to the colony on speculation and sold to the lonely settlers for a hundred and twenty to a hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco each [Mem: to suggest that a certain governor borrowed a hint thereby]; that New England was so named by John Smith, 1614; that at length a settlement was made, without a grant from the King's council, at New Plymouth, and sent its roots deep and wide into the scanty soil, by a band of 102 passengers, Dec., 11, 1620, who come in a small craft whose name has been spoken from the occident to the orient, to wit: the *Mayflower*.—[S. F. Bulletin.

FRUIT FAILURE.—SOLON ROBINSON.—The apple is failing all over New England. Peaches have already gone, and apples are going, and it is not because the fruit was stung by the curculio, nor because the codling moth made worms in the fruit, nor worms bored into the trunks of the trees, nor because caterpillars ate the leaves. The trees have perished from a change in the climate, commencing far up north on the Canadian line, and working down south already through four degrees of latitude. In some cases planting new trees will avert the evil to some degree; in others, it is of no use. For the present in Northern Vermont and New Hampshire the apple is doomed. Now we are told that those famous old orchards upon the hills of the Housatonic have gone the way of those that perished a few years earlier further north, and we are gravely told that it is all the work of the bugs. I tell you that assertion is the greatest of all bugs that ever hover about an apple-tree. Yet I would plant trees, and use all diligence to preserve them from insects, but all the care of man will not save the old orchards.

E. WILLIAMS—I agree fully with this opinion. We cannot grow trees as they formerly grew, and it is not insects that cause the failure. We cannot grow potatoes as they formerly grew; nor Isabella and Catawba grapes and peaches. My apple and pear trees blossomed well and blighted before any fruit formed for the curculio to sting. I am willing to concede to Dr. Trimble all that is chargeable to insects and neglect, but I won't concede to that all the failure of fruit.

MR. NICHOLS, Hammon, N. J., said that upon Grand Isle, Lake Champlain, apples grow perfect, while upon the adjoining mainland they all fail. It is an atmospheric influence there, most certainly.—[N. Y. Tribune

THE FREQUENCY OF CRIME.—The oldest inhabitant may ransack the stores of his memory in vain to find a parallel to the crimes committed in this the afternoon time of the 19th century, in this our boasted land of liberty and law. The most horrid crimes are of such frequent occurrence as scarcely to excite a remark, and scarce a day but the telegraph brings details of robberies and defalcations of army officers or of bank agents, amounting in the yearly aggregate to millions, and they scarce excite astonishment. No matter how enormous the fraud, its memory seems to have been forgotten in reading the account of the new one which succeeds it. With the news of these startling crimes come railway accidents with the loss of life and limb, and these, too, are soon forgotten in the recital of a new accident or villainy which has been unmasked.

During the last four or five years, our people have become so used to outrages on law and order—to villainies of all kinds, and to bloodshed and to death—that they seem as if hardened to crime, and have come to regard it as but a natural consequence of having bad men as rulers.—[Crisis.

A BARBER in England, during the prevalence of the cholera, expressed the opinion to a customer on whom he was operating, that, after all, the cholera was in the hair. "Then," was the answer, "you ought to be very careful what brushes you use." "Oh, sir," replied the barber, laughing, "I didn't mean the hair of the head, but the hair of the atmosphere."

A PUZZLED IRISHMAN.—Mr. O'Flaherty undertook to tell how many were at the party: "The two Crogans was one, myself was two, Mike Finn was three, and—and—who the devil was four? Let me see, (counting his fingers,) the two Crogans was one, Mike Finn was two, myself three, and—bedad there was four of us, but St. Patrick couldn't tell the name of the other. Now, it's myself that has it. Mike Finn was one—the two Crogans was two, myself was three, and—and, by me sowl, I think there was but three of us anyhow."

A QUAKER'S ADVICE TO MONEY HUNTERS.—A prudent and well disposed member of the Society of Friends, once gave the following friendly advice:

"John," said he, "I hear thou art going to be married."

"Yes," replied John, "I am."

"Well," replied the man of drab, I have one little piece of advice to give thee, and that is, never marry a woman worth more than thou art. When I married my wife, I had just fifty shillings, and she was worth sixty-two; and when any difference has occurred between us since, she has always thrown up the odd shillings."

LARGEST VINEYARD IN THE WORLD.—It is said that the Buena Vista Vineyard, in Sonoma county, California, is the largest in the world. It consists of 6,000 acres, with 272,000 vines planted previous to 1865, and 700,000 planted or to be planted this year. Last year the yield was 42,500 gallons of still wine, 60,000 gallons of sparkling wine, and 12,500 gallons of brandy. One hundred men are constantly employed, and double that number during the vintage. There are 8,000 fruit trees, and large varieties of grapes.

SINGULAR EFFECT OF COAL OIL.—The Virginia City *Enterprise* says: We have lately heard many surprising things about oils, their terrible explosive properties, etc., but in all we have read in the way of wonders of oil, we recollect nothing more astonishing than what we are about to relate of the effects of coal oil or kerosene on the human flesh. A night or two since J. J. Cooper, formerly agent of Langton's Express in this city, and now proprietor of the Clipper Gap Hay-yard and Stables, desiring to empty a can of kerosene into another with a faucet attached, punched a hole in the top of the new can with a large nail. When he attempted to pour the oil from the one can into the funnel placed in the other, he found the hole he had made too large, as the oil spattered over the sides of the funnel. To remedy this he placed his thumb over a portion of the hole in such a manner as to regulate the stream. His thumb was in such a position that the oil flowed out around it, covering it nearly to the second joint. While thus engaged Mr. Cooper felt a slight numbness in his thumb, but paid little attention to it. The whole operation of pouring out the oil occupied but two or three minutes, yet when it was completed the gentleman found to his great astonishment that his thumb was frozen as stiff as a stick. On wiping off the oil with his handkerchief he found half the length of his thumb was as white and as frosty as though it had been frozen for a month. He could hardly believe his eyes. Trying his teeth upon the frosted member he found it hard as a stick—utterly void of feeling. Proper remedies were applied on the thumb and it was thawed out, but it was still so bad yesterday when Mr. Cooper gave us the particulars of the very singular occurrence, he was unable to use his hand, the end of his thumb having swollen till it split open nearly to the bone. The flowing stream occasionally dashed against the side of the forefinger, and a spot on it was also frozen. We regard this as a very singular effect to be produced by oil. Had the fluid been either there would have been nothing so strange about it, but kerosene is certainly not sufficiently volatile to have produced, by evaporation, so great a degree of cold in so short a time. It appears to us that here is a nut for some savans to crack. The freezing did not occur in the open air, but in a room comfortably warmed.

CRIME IN MAINE.—Judge Barrow, of the Maine Supreme Court in session at Portland, lately remarked, in passing some severe sentence upon criminals, that the present term of the court presented an extraordinary catalogue of crime. In the few months that intervened since the last term, there had been more crimes committed than had ever been known for so short a period.

GIVING THE DEVIL HIS DUE.—Dr. H., who is pastor of an orthodox church, had been for some time annoyed by the forwardness of a lay brother to "speak" whenever an opportunity was offered, to the frequent exclusion of those whose remarks had a greater tendency to edification. This had been carried so far that the pastor, whenever he stated that "an opportunity would now be offered for any brother to give an exhortation," had always a secret dread of the loquacious member. On one special occasion the latter prefaced a prosy, incoherent harangue, with an account of a previous controversy he had been carrying on with the great adversary. "My friends," said he, "the devil and I have been fighting for more than 20 minutes; he told me not to speak to-night, but I determined I would; he said some of the rest could speak better than I, but still I felt that I could not keep silent; he even whispered that I spoke too often and that nobody wanted to hear me; but I was not to be put down that way, and now I have gained the victory, I must tell you all that is in my heart." Then followed the tedious harangue aforesaid. As they were coming out of the session room, the good pastor inclined his head so that his mouth approached the ear of the militant member, and whispered, "Brother, I think the devil was right."

RAISING TREES ON THE PRAIRIES.—A Correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says: "When it snows or blows on the prairie it is bitter cold. For miles there is no shelter. Barns are few, shelters for cattle fewer. Stables are made of straw.—They want trees. Trees will grow well. In seven years, Dunlap, at Champaign, has raised a nice little forest of silver-leaf maples. Many of them are twenty-five feet high. Phoenix says if he were going to commence life again, he would plant pines for saw logs. Indeed he has commenced a pine forest of several acres. Let one look at Samuel Evan's evergreens, and he will see how they grow. Mr. Galusha also is successful; so is every one who plants and properly cultivates. Walnut trees grow finely, as do most trees. Farmers should plant trees. If there were no other way, they should get up at midnight to do so."

NOTHING keeps this year in Europe; apples, pears, grapes, chestnuts, walnuts, potatoes, &c., rot as soon as they are put in the store room.

A CHICAGO divine was recently discussing the subject of baptism, and after summing up all the arguments in its favor, he said to his opponent: "I am not surprised that you object to immersion, sir, for that was the way Satan lost all his pork."

THE Federal Council of Switzerland has been long in session to arrange some reforms which were very necessary, and has made religion free throughout the republic for Jew and Gentile, and given to the citizens of every canton the privilege of remaining and taking up their abode in any other, without the trouble and expense hitherto attending such a change.

THE London *Daily News* suggests Ireland as the fittest place of the Pope when the French army has left him and his subjects revolt, and it adds that the British Government, for some time past, has shaped its Irish policy in conformity with mandates from the Vatican.

THE City of St. Louis has 21 Catholic churches, 15 Lutheran, 13 Methodist, 11 Presbyterian, 6 Baptist, 6 Episcopal, 1 Christian, 1 Congregational, 1 Unitarian, and 1 Universal. The foreign population is in excess of the native.

ENTIRE freedom has been granted to the Methodist Episcopal Church to carry on its missionary operations in the kingdom of Denmark. The significance of this permission appears from the fact stated by the American Minister, in congratulating the Missionary Society upon having secured it, that "the like of it has not been done for any foreign church since 1748."

FRANCE, which had in 1841 a total population of 34,230,178, had in 1861 an aggregate of 36,717,254—showing an increase in twenty years of 2,487,076, or about 7 per cent. Add to this the population of Savoy and Nice (Maritime Alps) acquired meantime from Italy, and the officially ascertained population of all France in 1861 was 37,386,313, whereof about 33,000,000 were living in the Departments wherein they respectively were born, and 19,873,493 (more than half) lived by Agriculture.