

OUR readers will, doubtless, recollect a document that appeared in our columns a short time since which purported to be the excommunication of Victor Emanuel by the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. The Sacramento Union published the same document, and was taken to task for doing so by the Monitor, "the only Irish or Catholic journal in California." That paper declared the document a forgery, and charged the Union with ignorance and stupidity if it did not know that the document was false, and, if it did know it to be false, with an intent to injure the Catholic Church. To this article the Union replied; but the Monitor was not content with that, and another article appeared upon the subject, in which it was stated that the so-called Victor Emanuel excommunication is "indescribably revolting to every feeling that the Christian religion has ennobled and purified."

The Union, in its reply, proceeds to show that such documents have been issued on previous occasions by the Church of Rome. It quotes from Dean Milman's History of Latin Christianity a portion of an excommunication fulminated against Louis VI of Bavaria in 1346 by Pope Clement VI, also, from Lea's Studies of Church History; the excommunication of Minemar and other servants of Baldwin of Flanders, issued by a Council of Bishops at Rheims in the year 900, and a bull of excommunication against certain vassals of the Court of Provence, issued by Benedict VIII, in the year 1014. The article closes with the suggestion that the Monitor shall publish the text of the excommunication of Victor Emanuel in full. The excommunications which the Union quotes are, if anything, stronger in their language and more comprehensive in their cursing than the so-called excommunication of Victor Emanuel—they omit nothing that will bear cursing.

THE Secretary of State of Illinois, in his late annual report to the Governor of the State, made allusion to the "large, commodious, pleasant rooms, well lighted and ventilated," in which both branches of the General Assembly of the State are to meet. The Health Lift calls attention to this statement of the Secretary of State, and makes a brief summary of the ratio of sickness and mortality of the Constitutional Convention, which held its session in this same "well ventilated" hall in the winter of 1869-70. The total number of members, it says, of the convention was eighty-five, of whom four died during the session, and five more during the subsequent three months; making a total of nine deaths in eight months, out of eighty-five men, averaging more than ordinary vitality, vigor and expectation of life. It states that the average rate of absence daily on account of sickness was twenty-three, or considerable more than twenty-five per cent of the whole number. The Health Lift gives the names of a number of members of that convention who were seriously affected by the bad ventilation, and some of them have not yet recovered, but linger along, shattered in spirits and in body, mere wrecks of their former selves. That these results were directly caused by the horrible atmosphere of this "well ventilated" hall, it says, the testimony is unanimous. It gives the names of several gentlemen who concur in saying, that at least three or four members were absolutely killed by the foul air, and that not a member escaped suffering in a greater or lesser degree; that hardly a session was held after the first fortnight at which, at least, a few of the members were not more or less invalided; and that, toward the close of the session, it became positively irksome to make any exertion, either mental or physical.

If the statements of the Health Lift be true, and they have that appearance, they afford a very thorough illustration of the dreadful evils which follow bad ventilation.

THE prison statistics of the State of New York, as furnished by the report of the Inspector of Prisons, shows a very unsatisfactory condition of affairs, and great need of reform; for instead of being self-sustaining, as well conducted institutions of the kind, where the inmates are numerous ought to be, they have sunk, in the course of the last fourteen years, six millions of money collected from the tax payers of the State. From 1854 to 1870 ten million dollars were appropriated by the State Legislature to support the prisons, and in the same time only about four millions have been paid in as earned by the convicts.

In 1854 the appropriations made were \$322,000; in 1870, \$1,146,000, an increase of over two hundred and fifty per cent., while the increase of convicts in the same time is only thirty per cent. In 1854 the average amount of the appropriations to each individual was \$160.80; while in 1870 it was \$391.73, very nearly a hundred and fifty per cent. increase. But while there has been this increase in the average amount appropriated for the maintenance of each, the average increase of individual earning amounts to only 91 per cent. The excess of appropriations over receipts in 1854 was \$150,000; in 1870, \$666,000, an increase in deficit of more than three hundred per cent.

New York city and State are credited with being the fattest places in the world for political "bummers" and office-holders in general, and, after reading the above statistics, as figures cannot lie, one is forced to the conclusion that there must be considerable picking and stealing done by those who have charge of the prisons.

UNDER the heading "Two Words with Brigham Young," Dr. Miller, of the Omaha Herald of the 20th instant, says a few well deserved compliments to President Brigham Young, and then makes some remarks in reference to the Utah lumber trade, which would be extremely pertinent were the situation such as the Doctor imagines it to be.

The Doctor wonders that, with all the keen foresight and organizing capacity and sagacity of which President Young has proved himself the possessor, he has failed to make the most of the mine of wealth Utah possesses in her great forests of timber in the mountains immediately overlooking her settlements, while hundreds of thousands of feet are being imported from Truckee to supply this and neighboring Territories. The Doctor says that the text of his remarks was obtained from a letter recently penned on the subject by Dr. Latham, the well-known and able correspondent of the Herald.

We thank the editor of the Herald for the kindly spirit evinced by him in these remarks, and on every occasion when he refers to Utah and her people; but we beg to inform him that his conclusions in respect to the Utah Lumber trade are not quite correct, being based on unsound premises. It is true that Utah has abundance of lumber in its crude state, but, with few exceptions it has been found hitherto, when manufactured, to be generally of a quality inferior to that manufactured at and imported from the West. We have localities in some portions of the Territory where good timber grows in great quantities; but at present lumber cannot be brought to this market from those localities, the carriage is too costly, so that for the time being it is impossible to supply either the home or outside market with lumber at anything like the price for which it can be imported from other places on the line of railroad.

MR. ROBERT SCOTT, an English weather philosopher, has just been ventilating his ideas, as to the signs of rain. He says that rain may be expected when the clouds lie low, and when the weather is very bright and clear, making the distant hills visible. His philosophy is that in the former case the clouds are full of moisture; and it is the same in the latter case, for when the air is dry it contains dust which makes the distant landscape hazy; and when the vapor condenses it first attaches itself to the particles of dust and precipitates them to the ground, thus clearing the atmosphere and indicating a speedy rainfall. A bright starlight night, occurring in otherwise rainy weather, he considers an indication of the speedy recurrence of showers.

A young man at New Orleans who had been driven out of the house of his lady love by her cruel parents, because he was poor, recently drew a prize of several thousand dollars in the Louisiana State Lottery, and in his altered circumstances readily obtained consent, and was united to his adored.

"You have lost your baby, I hear?" said one gentleman to another. "Yes, poor little thing! It was only five months old. We did all we could for it. We had four doctors, blistered its head and feet, put mustard poultices all over it, gave it nine calomel powders, leached its temples, had it bled, gave it all kind of medicines, and yet, after a week's illness it died."

The Chassepot ball in not so crushing and destructive a missile as the old spherical ball, nor yet as the Minnie. A great number have passed through limbs, without breaking the bones, and an unusual number have passed through the chest without death ensuing. A soldier was struck just over the region of the heart, and the ball came out a little to the left of the spine. He coughed and spat blood for some days, and suffered as much as one might under an attack of feverish cold; but he was soon well again. Surgically speaking, he ought to have died. Another fine fellow, rapidly recovering, has ten holes in his body. He, too, has been shot through the chest; and, beside this usually fatal wound, he has been hit four times in the legs. Fortunately, no bones were broken. It is supposed he came under the fire of a mitrailleuse. Fragments of shell are the most horrible instruments of death. There was one poor fellow, who had lived ten days, but was gradually sinking, who had all the flesh torn from the lower part of the back.

S. Bogue, who is perhaps the oldest man in Indiana, resides near Hopewell, Henry County. He is in his 108th year, can neither read nor write, but, being possessed of a remarkable memory, can relate incidents of the Revolutionary War, and can repeat many passages of Scripture, most of which he learned at his wife's knee when he was a young man. His sight and hearing have almost failed.

The editor of the Willimantic Journal has received the following epistle for advocating town assistance to the Air Line Railroad: "Windham, Ct., Sept. 18, 1870.—Editor: I want my paper stopped I can't stand it to have you telling me how to spend my money nor I won't. When you told folks to vote YES you over-stepped your orthodoxy. As a public journalist I hold you've no rite to advocate what you do. Napolin you say is a grate man and I say he ain't, and your pinion ain't no better an mine. Railroads is a humbug. Taxes is a burden and yure a fule. Stop mi paper I'll never pay a nother cent. Yours, etc."

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