

care so much about that old young man, for I never in my life exchanged more words with him than you have heard. But once, when the clock was fast, and he hadn't made his appearance at the hour, I sat quaking in my chair, and grew so nervous that, when at last the knock came, I started up with a scream. But this was after we had been well-nigh a score of years accustomed to each other. Earlier, I was sometimes cross; that was when we had hardly any lodgers, and the parlor never *would* suit. But it was all one to him. He didn't mind me a pin—not even when, being in better humor, I once asked him to sit down. He just looked as usual—as if there was nobody in the world but himself. I was so nettled, that I thought of repeating the invitation, and pointing to the young lady's chair: but it was a bad thought, and I am glad now I kept it down.

“He grew more and more infirm; and at last, when one year he came and went in a coach, although he would not make use of coachee's arm either in coming down or going up the steps, I had a sore heart and dim eyes looking after him. The next year, you may be sure, I was at my post as usual; but when it came near the hour, I was so fidgety and nervous, that I could not sit down, but kept going from the parlor window to the door, and looking up at the clock. The clock struck—there was no knock. Poor old young man! In ten minutes more, there was the postman's knock, and I took the letter he gave me into the parlor—slow and desolate-like. The girl was out; we had hardly any lodgers;

things were very bad with me—I was sore cast down. But business is business; and I opened the letter, which was no doubt about the apartments, for I never got any other. This time, it was from a country attorney, telling me of that Death, and of a clause in the will, leaving a hundred pounds to me for my trouble in showing *the lodgings that wouldn't suit*. Mister, I was took all of a heap! The whole twenty years seemed to be upon my brain. The young man—the young lady—the long, long love-looks across the street—the meeting he couldn't stand, that was like Matrimony in the papers—the visits to the parlor where she had lived, and sat, and never saw him—the gray face—the sinking limbs—the whitening hair—the empty lodgings—the hundred pounds! I was alone in the house; I felt alone in the world; and straightway I throws the letter upon the table, plumps me down in a chair, and burst out a-crying and sobbing.”

Here my landlady stopped; and here ends a tale that wants, methinks, only incident, plot, character, coloring, a beginning, a middle, and an end, to be a very good one. But all these it receives from the reader, who is acquainted with the inner life of that old young man, and is able, if he chose, to write his history in volumes; and whose memory brings before him some unconscious image, which gave a tone and direction to the thoughts of years, and supplied a Mecca of the heart for his meditative visits, without affecting in any sensible degree the cold, calm look, and the measured step with which he paced through the cares and business of the world.

Monthly Record of Current Events.

UNITED STATES.

THE past month has been meagre in events of interest and importance. The extra session of the Senate continued up to the date of closing this Record; but its proceedings had been without special significance. Its principal business had been the confirmation of sundry nominations to office made by the President. The debate on Central American affairs, which engaged attention at the adjournment of the regular session, has been continued from time to time, but without result. On the 9th of March, Mr. Clayton, Secretary of State under President Taylor, entered upon an extended and elaborate vindication of the treaty concluded by himself and Mr. Bulwer, in the course of which he discussed the Monroe doctrine of excluding European powers from any further colonization upon this Continent—insisting that it had never received the sanction of the Government of the United States in any form. On the 14th, Mr. Mason replied to him, and was followed by Mr. Douglas on the same side; both these gentlemen insisted upon requiring from Great Britain the most exact and scrupulous adherence to the provisions of the treaty. On the 15th, Mr. Clayton rejoined, and on the 16th, Mr. Douglas again spoke at length upon the subject, urging and re-enforcing the views he had before pre-

sented. On the 21st Mr. Everett made an extended and very eloquent speech in elucidation of the whole subject, in which he traced the history and explained the importance, from their position, of the Central American States, vindicated the action of our Government in regard to them, and set forth somewhat fully his views of the reasons which render peace and forbearance the true policy of our Government, and the best means of attaining unlimited prosperity and power.—With this exception no debate of importance has engaged the attention of the Senate during the month. A correspondence of some interest between Mr. Rives, the American Minister in Paris, and Mr. Webster, Secretary of State, in regard to the change of the French Government, effected by the *coup d'état* of December, 1851, has just been published. Mr. Webster, in a letter dated March 8, 1852, states that M. Sartiges, the French Minister at Washington, had called upon him, and complained of some expressions in one of Mr. Rives's dispatches, as implying censure of the Revolution, and as being thus an unwarrantable interference in the domestic affairs of France. Mr. Webster adds that he assured Mr. S. that Mr. Rives had not designed to call in question, even by imputation, the manner in which the rights of the French authorities had been obtained, and that he

would direct Mr. Rives to make such a statement to the French Government, and to disavow any intentional disrespect. Mr. Rives, in reply, first vindicated the course he had pursued in declining to recognize the new Government in France until directed so to do by instructions from home, and then proceeded to show that his dispatches to his own Government were matters not supposed to be within the cognizance, and certainly not within the jurisdiction of the French Government or its ambassadors, and that M. Sartiges had no right to complain of language or sentiments which they might contain. He quoted Mr. Webster's letter to Chevalier Hulsemann, to prove that our Government had distinctly repelled the claim of foreign powers thus to supervise communications from its agents abroad to their own Government. And upon these grounds Mr. Rives declined to present any apology or explanation to the French Government for the language used in his dispatches, or to read to the French Minister Mr. Webster's dispatch.—The diplomatic corps at Washington paid their respects to President Pierce in a formal visit, soon after his inauguration. M. Bodisco, the Russian Minister, being the senior member of the body, tendered their congratulations upon his accession in a brief address. They declared their conviction that the incontestable prosperity of this country, though largely due to the national energies, is mainly to be attributed to the continuance of peace, as one of the most essential elements of the expansion of the productive capacities of all countries, and the maintenance of which contributes so efficiently to spread and extend the general welfare. The address added an expression of the desire of the respective governments represented, for the continuance of the good understanding now so happily existing. The President, reciprocating these expressions of national amity, said that in the conduct of our relations with other powers he should of course "look, in the first instance, to what the interests and honor of the United States may require, which necessarily include a strict observance of national engagements, and a faithful adherence to those sacred principles of justice which are the common law of Christendom."

From CALIFORNIA we have intelligence to the 18th of March, but it has little general interest. The Legislature was still in session, but its transactions were exclusively of local importance. The question of dividing the State continued to be agitated, but without any public demonstrations. Bills had been introduced into the Legislature for the relief of emigrants by the overland routes. The news from the mines continued to be highly favorable, so far as the product of gold was concerned, but bloody and atrocious crimes seemed to be increasing. A Mexican named Joaquin, with a gang of some fifty men, had created great alarm by his daring robberies. Armed expeditions had gone in pursuit of him, but without success. There are indications that the reports of the extraordinary richness of the gold mines in Australia may attract thither some of the miners in California, but thus far they have had but little effect. All the mines in California seem to be yielding abundantly.

MEXICO.

The political revolution noticed in our last has been consummated, and Santa Anna is again President of the Mexican Republic. The votes of the several departments were officially counted on the 17th of March, and showed eighteen for Santa Anna, and five for all others. He was then formally de-

clared President, and his inauguration was to take place on his reaching the capital. It will be remembered that Senor Escobar was sent by the authorities of Vera Cruz to Carthagena to invite Santa Anna's return before the result of the election was known. Escobar has since published a report of his mission, dated on board the steamer *Dee*, and addressed to the Governor and Legislature of Vera Cruz. He says he found Santa Anna at Turbaco, about five miles from Carthagena, where he had given prosperity to a half-ruined town, and won the profound gratitude and respect of the inhabitants. In reply to his inquiries, Escobar gave him a detailed statement of the political condition of Mexico, the course of the Government in regard to the Tehuantepec dispute, and the probability that the Republic would be compelled to yield to the demands of the United States. The next day Santa Anna expressed the profoundest concern for the condition and fate of the country, without revenue, owing large debts the interest on which she is unable to pay, without an army, the frontiers abandoned to savage incursions, the frontier States undermined by traitors influenced and protected by Americans, Lower California threatened, Yucatan sustaining an Indian war in which it can not triumph, Tehuantepec threatened, and Mexico, in these critical circumstances, abandoned to an imbecile and corrupt administration, he could see none but the most gloomy prospects overhanging the Republic. The interview lasted for two or three days, at the end of which Escobar invited Santa Anna to return, and put himself again at the head of affairs. In reply he spoke of his disinclination to leave the tranquil life he was then leading—of his past services and sufferings, and the ingratitude with which he had been treated in return for them, and of the profound degradation of the whole political and civil society of Mexico. Unless the Mexicans had come to see that the root of their sufferings was in themselves—that their lax morals and indifference to the venality and corruption of their public men were the real cause of the deplorable condition of their country, and were willing to make a strong and earnest effort for their redemption, it would be useless for him to attempt any thing on their behalf. Escobar, in reply, sought to reassure him on all these points, and to convince him that a very large body of influential and intelligent citizens, who had hitherto held themselves aloof from political affairs, were ready to rally around him, and that his presence would cause anarchy to fly, and restrain the counsels of those who wished to convert Mexico into a colony. After two days' deliberation, Santa Anna told him, in reply to these entreaties, that his heart could only be Mexican; that, notwithstanding the past, he wished to show to his compatriots how dear they were to him; that their misfortunes were his, and he could never be indifferent to them; that, looking at objects from a distance, their deformities were better seen; that he did not wish that history should one day say that he had been deaf to the call of his country when she honored him with a call to meet the common danger, and that he had seen with indifference her fate; that he desired to end his days in the spot he had chosen as a residence for his family; that his only wish was to see his country happy; and that, casting aside every thing tending to detain him, he resigned himself to give the last proof of his patriotism, although history taught him to place no confidence in the passing enthusiasm of the masses. "I hold," he said, "that independence is the greatest of our blessings, and every good citizen should

defend it with all his power, and I can not be deaf to the voice of my countrymen, nor fail to appreciate the high honor they have conferred upon me in calling me to help them out of the labyrinth in which they have been involved, and above all to save our nationality, now in such imminent peril from the grasping spirit of our neighbors, and the indolence and treason of a few Mexicans. Return in the next packet, and in giving an account of your mission to those who sent you, tell them from me that in the next month of March I will leave this port for the shores of Mexico. On my arrival there I will call around me those persons of influence who are true lovers of their country. I will confer with them; and if I find co-operation, if I find sincerity and a good will to abnegate capricious and mistaken opinions; and finally if I find men of heart to make an obstinate defense of our rights against the aggressors from the North, and that the only cry is INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH, then will I lend myself cheerfully to new sacrifices; for, in truth, I can not survive the disappearance of the Mexican nationality, and I desire to bury myself in its ruins, if, after the Mexicans have done their duty, the great Regulator of the destinies of nations should order for us such a fate. But if my hopes should not find encouragement equal to my desires, which can never be other than the weal and glory of our nation, I will return disconsolate to this retirement, and deplore the blindness of a people that obstinately believe it can do every thing when it leaves the only path left open to it, and will not imitate others, who, like them, have found themselves in a similar situation." These declarations are important, as indicating the spirit and the purposes which are henceforth to be dominant in the councils of the Mexican Republic.

SOUTH AMERICA.

From *Buenos Ayres* we have details of the siege of the city, which continued without result to the 2d of February. The besieging forces had surrounded the town on all but the water side, and were commanded by Col. Lagos and four or five others, all of whom had cordially joined in the movement against Urquiza on the 10th of September, and had been promoted by the local government to situations of high trust and importance. Their troops were five or six thousand in number, and they had confined their operations to skirmishes and measures designed to deprive the city of provisions. The force mustered for the defense of the city numbered five or six thousand, mainly of young men engaged in business, and wholly inexperienced in war. The streets had been barricaded and fortified with cannon, and a good deal of spirit was shown in their defense. Col. Pedro Rosas had been sent to the south to raise troops for the relief of the city, and the Government had promised to send him officers and infantry; but the steambot intended for that service had been intercepted by Urquiza, so that he was left without support. Rosas himself, after two or three engagements with the forces of Urquiza, was himself captured, and his troops dispersed. An embassy was about to be sent to Brazil to enlist the aid of that government against Urquiza, but with slight hopes of success. An attack upon the city was daily expected.

GREAT BRITAIN.

No event of importance has distinguished the month in England. The attention of Parliament has been mainly absorbed by domestic affairs. A motion to withdraw the grant of government aid from

Maynooth College, engaged attention for several successive days: an amendment, which proposed to include in the withdrawal all Parliamentary grants for purposes of religious endowments, was discussed at length, and on the 2d of March was negatived by a vote of 262 to 68. Lord John Russell moved to go into committee upon a proposition to remove the Jewish disabilities, and in support of the motion made an able and influential speech upon the general subject. The motion was carried by 234 to 205, and a resolution, declaring the expediency of removing the disabilities in question, and directing a bill to be brought in for that purpose, was carried without a division. A bill was accordingly introduced, and upon its second reading, on the 11th of March, was extensively discussed. Sir Frederic Thesiger opposed it with great warmth, urging as a conclusive argument against it that if this bill passed, gentlemen must be ready to throw open Parliament to men of all religions, and of no religion at all. Lord John Russell, in reply, said that the imposition of disabilities on religious grounds was dictated by the same principle which punished by the rack and the stake of old, and which imprisoned the Madiai at the present day. The second reading was carried by a vote of 263 to 212, and the third reading was set down for the 11th of April.—A bill proposing to give to the Canadian Legislature complete control of the estates hitherto reserved by the Crown for the clergy, was introduced, and resisted with great warmth by Sir John Pakington, who took occasion to vindicate his share in the government of Lord Derby, and to urge the injustice and impolicy of the measure proposed. On the other hand its passage was advocated as a necessary concession to the Canadian people—its enactment having been prayed for by the Legislative Council and Assembly of the colony, and being in evident conformity with the spirit of the age. The bill had its second reading on the 4th of March, the vote being 275 to 192; and it subsequently passed.—Foreign affairs have engaged attention in Parliament to some extent. On the 3d of March Lord Dudley Stuart called the attention of the House to the affairs of Turkey as affected by the contest in Montenegro, sketching the history and condition of the latter country in a speech of considerable length, and commenting freely on the designs of Austria upon Turkey. Lord John Russell, in reply to a motion for copies of dispatches upon the subject, expressed his concurrence in the opinion that England ought to maintain the independence of Turkey, and said that such a contingency as her dismemberment would produce a general war in Europe. International law, good faith, and policy dictated the maintenance of the integrity of Turkey. After entering into the history of the Montenegrin war, he said that, in answer to representations made to the Austrian Government assurances had been given that the latter held the same views as the English government on the subject, and though he could not state the precise terms of the arrangement that had been made, the intervention of France and England had been successful, and he trusted that the late differences were over. The course adopted by England had been to give Turkey such advice as would preserve her honor and maintain her independence.—On the 14th of March further inquiries were made by Mr. Disraeli as to the result of the differences between Austria and Turkey, to which Lord John Russell replied that official intelligence had been received from Constantinople of the final adjustment of all those differences. Count Leiningen, on behalf of the Austrian Govern-

ment, had demanded that the former *status* should be re-established in Montenegro, and that it should be evacuated by the Turkish troops:—the ports of Kieck and Suterina were also required to be closed, and indemnity to be paid for injuries inflicted on Austrian subjects. The Sublime Porte had conceded all these points, and thus removed all grounds of difference with Austria.—The Earl of Aberdeen had stated in reply to inquiries that no demand had been made by Austria or France for the expulsion from England of political refugees. Lord John Russell, in making a similar statement, added that if such a demand ever should be made, it would be met by a distinct and indignant refusal. At the same time it was intimated that the Government would exercise special vigilance to prevent conspiracies in England against the peace of European Governments.—No less than eight members of the House of Commons have been unseated upon proof of having obtained their election by bribery.—The increased frequency of Railway accidents, has attracted the attention of the Government, and led to the proposal of preventive measures:—nothing effective, however, has yet been done.—A deputation of gentlemen connected with the newspaper press has asked the attention of the Government to the tax on advertisements and urged its total repeal, or if that be refused, its reduction one half.—Bulwer, the novelist, has been elected President of the Associated Societies of the University of Edinburgh.—The news from Australia continues to be highly encouraging. The gold diggings yielded abundantly—the price of labor was very high, and the prospects for the season were very good. Gold discoveries had been reported in New Zealand.—From the Cape of Good Hope intelligence has been received of further engagements between the English troops and the Kaffir forces in the Orange River district, in which the former lost some fifty men.

THE CONTINENT.

Nothing of special interest has occurred in FRANCE during the month. The Emperor is said to be anxious to expedite his Coronation, at which it is understood the Pope has consented to be present and assist; but the date for the ceremony has not yet been fixed. Several members of the Legitimist party have been offered seats in the Senate but have refused. The Count Camarata, grandson of the Princess Eliza, elder sister of Napoleon I. committed suicide in Paris, lately by blowing out his brains. He was but 27 years old, and filled a post of honor in the Council of State. He had been speculating deeply in the funds, and had sustained heavy losses. His embarrassments are supposed to have prompted the act. Only a few days after, Mlle. Marthe, an actress with whom he had been on terms of criminal intimacy, suffocated herself with the fumes of charcoal in her boudoir. A monument is to be erected to Marshal Ney on the spot where he was executed, at the end of the Avenue of the Luxembourg. Marshal St. Arnaud has surrendered the portfolio of

Minister of War and is succeeded by M. Ducos. The funeral of the wife of M. Raspail, the celebrated Republican leader, was made the occasion of a large and imposing public demonstration. About a thousand pardoned political offenders have been brought back to France. M. Orfila the great French chemist, celebrated especially for his writings on poison, died at Paris on the 12th of March. He bequeathed 120,000 francs to the Academy of Medicine to found scientific prizes.

From AUSTRIA there is no news of interest. The assassin whose attempt upon the Emperor's life has been already noticed, has been executed. He was a Hungarian, named Lebenyi; repeated examinations, not unlike torture in many of their features, failed to draw from him any acknowledgment that he had accomplices in the attempt. Great disaffection continues to manifest itself in every part of Hungary: a conspiracy has been detected within the fortress of Komorn for its surrender, in which the provost was implicated. He was immediately executed, with a number of accomplices. Four Hungarian prisoners of note were executed at Pesh on the 30th of March. They were Karl Juhbal, professor of mathematics, and formerly tutor in the family of Kossuth; Karl Devenyujfala, a lieutenant in a regiment of hussars; Caspar Nozsloly, a landed proprietor, advocate, and magistrate—an efficient actor in the revolution of 1849; and Samuel Sarkozy, a private soldier. General Haynau died at Vienna on the 14th of March. Leopold von Buch, the celebrated Prussian geologist, died at Berlin on the 4th.

In LOMBARDY the most harsh and oppressive measures have been resorted to by the Austrian government in punishment for the Milan insurrection. A great number of executions have taken place, many more prisoners have been condemned to death, and decrees of confiscation have been issued against all the Lombard exiles or residents in foreign states. There are upward of thirty thousand of the latter in Sardinia alone, many of whom have been residing there with the permission of the Austrian Government. The value of the confiscated property is said to exceed two hundred millions of dollars.

In TURKEY fresh difficulties arose with Russia, which threatened for a time to be still more formidable than those with Austria. Prince Menschikoff had arrived at Constantinople as the special envoy of the Czar, accompanied by a son of the veteran Nesselrode, and a very large and brilliant staff. On his way he reviewed the Russian troops on the frontier, and on his arrival conducted himself with so haughty and ostentatious a disregard of all the usual forms of diplomatic intercourse, as to leave upon the public mind a very strong conviction of hostile intentions. His demands upon the Turkish government are said to relate to the custody of the Holy Places, a subject upon which all the great powers are jealously interested, and France especially sensitive. This mission is said to have resulted in the concession of all his demands, though no details of the negotiation have yet been received.

Editor's Table.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY—What is it? The right to believe and worship according to the decision of one's own conscience. Nothing would seem more compactly logical than such a definition, and yet when we come to take a close look at it, a new question, full as difficult as the old one, starts up in every term. *Right—belief—worship—conscience.* There may be sometimes claimed the *right to do wrong.* There may be a belief the outward manifestation of which is at war with the exercise of any other belief, however pure and holy. There may be a worship not only most revolting to every other worship, but destructive of all that is most healthy in the civil and temporal relations of mankind. There may be a conscience so exclusive, so individualizing, so narrow in itself, and yet so determined to bring within its own jurisdiction all social and political questions, as to be utterly incapable of any organic harmony. Or, what is the most impracticable and unmanageable of all difficulties, there may be a religion so utterly intolerant as to render some degree of intolerance toward itself a matter of necessity on the part of every other creed. If belief were ever separate from acts—if faith had nothing to do with works—if worship were ever solitary and unsocial, instead of being, from its very nature, filled with all sympathetic action and re-action—if the higher or spiritual interests of humanity did not tend to draw within their sphere all lower relations—if it were not an unchangeable law of our responsibilities as moral and religious beings that the most sacred truths are ever those which are capable of perversion to the most tremendous evils—then might we regard the question as of easy solution, and look with some degree of tolerance upon that shallow rhetoric which ever prates so flippantly about the “entire separation of the temporal and the spiritual,” as though this were one of the first truths, and most practicable measures of political philosophy.

But we can not sever the question from these aspects without doing a greater injury to humanity than ever came from any amount of religious intolerance. Shall we shrink from the avowal, or boldly make the declaration, that we would rather live in an age—ay, and meet the fearful responsibilities of an age in which men burned each other for religious belief, than of one in which a soulless infidel indifference has so withered all hearts that the fact of martyrdom comes to be regarded as among the extravagant Quixotisms of an unintelligible phase of humanity. But such a supposition can not be indulged. Men can not be thus indifferent. The bare possibility of issues and interests such as are presented by the thought of another and an eternal life, must call up an intensity of feeling which no affectation of infidel indifference can disguise, even among those who have gone the farthest in denying to man any other than an animal and material nature.

Here we have the solution of that otherwise inexplicable fact, that infidels and theophilanthropists—yes, even professed atheists—can be as persecuting as the most bigoted sectarians, and even more unrelenting. The intolerance of the religious bigot, like all other intolerance, is from hell; but then it allies itself with a higher principle, which, although it can never sanctify, may give a serious dignity to its unholy partner. We do not speak of sheer hypocrisy;

to that clearly belongs another and a darker name. But real bigotry, even in its worst form, has some redeeming quality. It has a reason to assign for its proceedings, which atheism can never plead in behalf of its more hellish cruelties. Bigotry may sometimes melt, but infidelity has no heart. What is man, if its creed be true? What are his rights or wrongs, if all religion be a dream? Of what consequence is his freedom of thought, or freedom of action? What matters it whether he think truly or falsely, or think at all, upon any thing else than the gratification of his more immediate animal appetites?

Thus with its very capacity of persecuting and being persecuted religiously, is connected that which gives our race its highest dignity. The risk of the greatest evil is the price of the greatest good. The loss of the beliefs, or disbeliefs, in the perversion of which bigotry has its birth, would be a sorer calamity to our world than any amount of religious intolerance. But we are wandering from the issue first proposed. We may not be able to settle the momentous question so much agitated in past times, and now again brought up with new aspects of interest; but if we can convince any of its immense difficulty, it will be no small gain to the blessed cause of charity—that heavenly charity, which, though ever “*rejoicing in the truth,*” yet “*hopeth all things,*” “*endureth all things*”—“*believeth all*” the good it can, even of the intolerant and the unbelieving.

Perhaps the best way of setting forth the wide range it embraces, would be to present two extreme cases which may seem to give us the outermost limits of the question. It is only a few months since that a man and his wife were condemned in Tuscany to a severe imprisonment. The crime alleged, as we find it in the judicial sentence itself, was that of *impiety in abandoning the Roman Catholic religion for that which is called the Protestant or Evangelical, and of proselyting others to that belief—not only by denying the truth of the Catholic tenets, but by reading and teaching others to read the Bible translated by Dodati, and the book of Common Prayer printed in London by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian Knowledge.* Now, in view of this case, thus truly stated, we are not going to indulge in any exclamations about the “Nineteenth Century,” or the “dark ages,” or the “progress of the human mind.” We give it as an example of what seems clearly to us in America, and, as we think, to all Protestants in Europe, a *gross violation of religious liberty.*

But now for another example. In a certain part of this State there is at present, or has been until very recently, a religious community of men and women, avowedly practicing the most unrestrained intercourse, discarding marriage as an anti-Christian yoke, and all this not only on the ground of *right,* but *conscientious duty.* It is defended as a proper and commanded manifestation of Christian feeling. It is a work of conscience and religion. The fact may seem incredible, and yet the present statement is made on the most unquestionable authority.

What an immense distance between these two cases. And yet there are those, on either extreme, who would contend that the same principle applies to both; while they differ only in this, that the one class of apologists would say that the claim of liberty in either case is equally valid; the other, that it is equally to be disallowed.