#### PHILADELPHIA. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1869.

Although we issue a four-page supplement to-day, to satisfy the demands of our advertisers, our columns are still under a great pressure; but on our outside pages and in the supplement our readers will find a variety of ontertaining reading matter.

TEE GEUMENICAL COUNCIL. We publish to-day a lengthy and exhaustive article explanatory of the origin, character, and probable action of the Œcumenical Council, which is to assemble in Rome next week. This resume will prove deeply interesting to all who wish to obtain a correct idea of the most important religious movement of the century. The contemplated scope of action Is so extensive, and the subjects likely to be discussed are so numerous, that all Christian sects will be directly or indirectly affected, and, in some countries, very deeply, by the proceedings about to transpire at the seat of Papal power. Pius IX, who has only maintained his temporal power by a desperate struggle and the aid of French bayonets, seems to have resolved to "pluck the flower safety from the nettle danger," and to have chosen the moment when his Italian opponents were most hopeful and aggressive for the boldest strike for a consolidation and extension of Pontifical dominion that has ever been made. Claiming that he represents on earth "the authority of God, the Father Almighty, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul," he asks not merely that all avowed Catholies shall unite in devising measures to extend his sway, but that the dissevered branches connected with the Greek and Oriental Churches shall also return to the bosom of their mother Church, and that all Protestants shall surrender at discretion without even having an opportunity to explain or defend what he terms their "condemned errors." As a fitting counterpart to this grand scheme, a long series of extremist doctrines have been prepared, which the council is asked to approve so that the whole Catholic Church may be compelled to believe and applaud them.

Rome, in her palmiest days, never devised a more magnificent programme. If thoroughly successful, the rule of the Eternal City over civilized mankind in spiritual, as well as, to a large extent, temporal affairs, would be more firmly established than in any former period of the world's history. It is therefore not surprising that these extraordinary pretensions have already encountered much passive as well as active resistance. The Greek Church fails to respond to the proposals for reunion; the Oriental Churches will be but partially and poorly represented in the council; the bulk of the Protestants feel more inclined to widen than to close the breach made centuries ago; and the representatives of the more liberal branches of the Catholic Church are preparing to make vigorous and determined resistance to the specially obnoxious features of the Papal

Syllabus. The deepest interest which Americans have in this convocation is that connected with the discussions of the specifications of errors in the syllabus. The council is asked to formally condemn various doctrines which constitute fundamental elements of our political system, and it is scarcely too much to say that our republican institutions are to be placed on trial. The Pope alleges that it is an error to assert that "the Church ought to be separated from the State, and the State from the Church;" that it is an error to assert that "it is no longer expedient that the Catholic religion shall be held as the only religion of the State, to the exclusion of all other modes of worship;" that it is error to permit Protestants who reside in Catholic countries to "enjoy the public exercise of their own worship; that it is an error to "hope for the eternal salvation of those who are in no manner in the true Church of Christ," or to regard Protestantism as "another form of the some Christian religion;" that it is an error to deny to the Church "the power of availing herself of force, or any direct or indirect temporal power;" that it is an error to permit the civil power to possess the entire direction of public schools, and an error for Catholics to approve or tolerate this system; that it is an error to e ns'der a c'vil marriage or a marriage contract binding if the Catholic sacrament is excluded; that it is an error to deem revolts against legitimate princes allowable, or to sanction insurrections against tyranny; and an error to regard the civil power as paramount to the ecclesiastical in cases of dispute. But it is needless to continue these specifications, which our readers will find at length in another part of THE TELEGRAPH. They point ostensibly to the conclusion that if the Pope is right the whole civil framework of American society is radically wrong. Even in the very epoch in which Spain is bursting the trammels that for centuries have bound her, and establishing religious liberty, Italy asserting her claims to nationality and freedom, and when Protestant England is granting tardy justice, in religious matters, to Cathelic Irehal, the Œcumenical Council is asked to grant a formal endorsement to the most extreme Papal doctrines that have ever been enunciated, and to incite Catholic princes and people to stamp out Protestantism by arbitrary methods which would have been disgraceful even in the dark ages. It will be curious to note how these reactionary doctrines are received. The future progress of Catholicism in the United States will depend, in a large degree, upon the judgment which the Church passes upon them, and we presume that a large portion of the American bishops will, therefore, act with the liberal members of the council.

ROCHEFORT AS A LEGISLATOR. THE sensational character of French liberalism renders it more aggravating to the Imperialists, but in reality less dangerous and far easier to oppose with effect than if there were less sound and fury and a greater amount of real energy. Men like Rochefort, Victor Hugo, and other agitators are not content unless they are perpetually doing something to make people talk about them, and their conduct seems to indicate that they care less for the success of the principles they profess than they do for the applause that greets their sarcasms and witticisms. A French liberal would apparently prefer to say a sharp thing that would make people laugh at the Emperor and his system of government rather than, by holding his tongue, aid in promoting substantial reforms. The personalities in which Rochefort has been in the habit of indulging were undoubtedly very annoying, and the Emperor showed very plainly that he was annoyed by instituting proceedings against his tormentor. He has now, however, hit upon exactly the right way to deal with such men, and that is to let them severely alone. Rochefort's attacks on the Emperor gave huge delight to a very large class of Frenchmen, simply because they saw that Napoleon and his wife-especially his wife-showed themselves to be extremely sensitive to the ridicule heaped upon them.

Rochefort, however, has been permitted now to return to Paris, and to say pretty much what he pleases. On the strength of his popularity he has obtained his election to the Corps Legislatif, and his first act on taking his seat is a piece of sensationalism such as no real statesman would have indulged in. Yesterday he made the extraordinary demand that the National Guard be ordered to guard the Hall of the Corps Legislatif for the protection of the members; the meaning of which was that he feared attempts at intimidation on the part of the Imperial authorities. The demand caused an excitement, which just what Rochefort wanted, and it excited the cheers of some of the opposition members, which was music to his ears. He certainly did not have the slightest expectation that his demands would be complied with, and the whole performance was but a specimen of the claptrap that makes French liberalism disreputable in the eyes of all thinking men. Bad as the Imperial Government may be, the French people very rightly prefer it to the rule of such men as Rochefort, and it is they who in reality are the firmest supporters of the empire, simply because they demonstrate every day how much it is to be preferred to what they have to offer in exchange for it.

A SIDE ISSUE. "JUSTICE" writes to the Morning Post complaining that we were profoundly stupid in our comments yesterday upon the Cuban question, and that our assertion concerning the course of France in the Revolutionary War was "either an error or a deliberate falsehood." It was practically neither the one nor the other, as we are happy to inform "Justice." For centuries preceding this period there was practically an uninterrupted warfare waged between France and England, the so-called periods of peace being at the best mere temporary truces. Such was the character of the relations between the two countries subsequent to the Peace of Paris, 1763. It is true that nominally hostilities were brought to a close by it, and did not again commence until after France had entered into a treaty of alliance with the revolting colonies. The first material assistance extended to the colonies, however, was the expedition commanded by Count Rochambeau, which did not arrive in this country until 1780, two years after the treaty of alliance. and the reopening of hostilities with Great Britain which immediately ollowed; although, previous to Rochambeau's arrival, a French fleet, under Admiral d'Estaing, had been cruising off our coast without much consert of action with our own leaders. But from the very outset of the troubles between the colonies and the mother country, the sympathies of the French Government and people were actively enlisted on the side of the colonies, and the final outbreak of the Revolution was owing in greater measure to the intrigues of the Due de Choiseul, a leading French statesman, than to any other extraneous cause. To all intents and purposes, as far as France was concerned, the American Revolution was an insurrection instigated by the French ministry against a country with which they had been for years merely seeking a pretext for a quarrel, and an opportunity to strike a blow in the back. This view of the subject, of course, detracts much from the generosity and kindliness of the course of France, but it is, nevertheless, the only view which is warranted by the facts, as we find them recorded in history. But the whole subject is a side issue, and does not help the cause of those who would embroil the United States in a war with Spain,

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