

vote recorded for toleration, on the adoption of the constitution, was given by a Catholic bishop.

The influence of the clergy is great, and they have much political power in the state. The people may generally be called bigoted, and under the control of the priests. The clergy as a body stand very fair; they encourage schools. The inhabitants are ignorant as yet; their opportunities for instruction are limited. There is no impediment in the way of Protestants teaching.

Although it may be somewhat trite to mention it, yet one cannot but admire the sight of the *Oracion*, or sunset prayer. Whatever may be our idea of Catholic worship, no one can witness it here without feeling the solemn and impressive scene of a whole community, on the striking of the evening bells, instantly stopping employment, both within and without doors, and uncovering their heads to offer up their thanks or prayer for a few minutes. It must bring reflection, unless habit so blunts the mind and feeling as to make it callous to impressions well calculated to make men consider their evil ways, and feel thankful for the blessings they enjoy.

The commerce of Chili is increasing rapidly. Valparaiso numbers sixty coasting vessels, of from fifty to three hundred and fifty tons, part of which are engaged in the trade from Valdivia and Chiloe to the northern ports, with timber and staves; and part are charged from Maule and Concepcion with grain, returning in ballast to Valparaiso, to load with foreign manufactures for the various ports of the republic. The exports are taken away in foreign vessels, and consist of copper, hides, wool, hemp, and plata piña. About sixty thousand quintals of copper are exported from Huasco, Coquimbo, and Valparaiso annually; one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand quintals of 100 lbs. in copper ores are shipped annually to England, and one hundred thousand marks of 8 oz. in bar silver. The returns from sales of English goods are made mostly in bullion.

Thirty thousand hides are exported, principally from Valparaiso. Five to six hundred quintals of wool are shipped annually from Concepcion. The grain and country produce are generally sent to Peru and Guayaquil. Very little silver is coined in the country, dollars being an article of merchandise, worth from seven to nine per cent., according to the supplies from Bolivia or Peru. From eight hundred thousand to one million silver dollars come annually from Cobija to Valparaiso, and are shipped thence to England. Gold coins are issued from the mint at Santiago, doubloons, half, quarter, and eighth doubloon pieces; the current value of the ounce is seventeen dollars twenty-five cents.