

Sir the language and sentiments which I have had to pass under review in this letter are so unworthy of a man professing Christianity, that I must withhold, at its close, even the expression of my pity for you, whilst I cherish towards you as usual good wishes and good will.

✠ JOHN HUGHES, Bishop of New York.

The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20.

ST. MARY'S—RT. REV. DR. HUGHES.

On Sunday morning last this distinguished Prelate officiated at our Cathedral. His Lordship also assisted pontifically at High Mass, at eleven o'clock, which was celebrated by the Very Rev. Mr. Conolly, attended by Rev. Messrs. Wallace and O'Connor as Deacon and Sub-deacon. The Bishop of Halifax was also in the Sanctuary. It having become known in the course of the day that a Sermon would be preached at Vespers by the Bishop of New York, St. Mary's Church was crowded to overflowing long before the appointed hour. Numbers of our fellow-citizens of various denominations were present, attracted, no doubt, by the well-merited reputation of Dr. Hughes. Indeed we have heard it observed by several that so vast a multitude were never before wedged together in the Cathedral. At three o'clock Vespers commenced, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Walsh officiating, assisted by seven or eight Clergymen; and at the close of the solemn service the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hughes delivered a beautiful, impressive, and closely-reasoned discourse, which commanded the breathless attention of his audience for considerably more than an hour. Having taken his text from the Epistle of St. John, he proceeded to describe the nature and properties of Divine Faith—the distinction between this great virtue, “the foundation and root of all justification” and mere human opinion—the motives of credibility, the strong contrast between truth and error, the teaching of fallible man and the immutable revelations of God. He next shewed the necessity of good works in conjunction with Faith, proved that by this divine principle alone can man make the sacrifices that are necessary for the observance of God's laws, and that all-powerful faith renders the observance of the Commandments not only possible, but truly delightful, so that the man of true faith always finds the yoke of the Lord sweet and his burden light. He pointed out in the language of a portion of his text how our Divine Faith was the “victory which overcometh the world,” and by a rapid and brilliant sketch of the early triumphs of Christianity and the glorious career of the men of faith in every age, illustrated this part of his subject. At the close of his able and argumentative discourse, the Bishop complimented the Catholics of Halifax on the many opportunities they enjoyed of practising their holy religion; and earnestly exhorted them to avail themselves diligently of those precious graces. Never was a Sermon listened to with more profound attention, and never did a congregation depart to all appearance more gratified. Indeed the Sermon of Dr. Hughes has formed a principal topic of discourse for several days past.

THE LAST STEAMER.

The Britannia arrived on Thursday night, and her news is important. Smith O'Brien is captured and lodged in Kilmainham gaol. Several Confederates have been arrested in various parts of Ireland; the Informer is beginning to unmask, and many of the Young Irelanders are attempting to escape to America. We cannot trust ourselves to say what we think of the whole affair. We never believed that this rash scheme would succeed, because we know that in Ireland no National movement can ever succeed without the cordial assistance of the majority of the Catholic Clergy. This was the doctrine and practice of O'Connell's life, than whom no one knew better the vast resources of the British Empire and the fearful odds that Ireland would have to encounter even in an united struggle against England. The Confederates fondly imagined that by discarding Cicalical influence they would secure the adhesion of the Orangemen and Irish Protestants to the National cause. They were bitterly disappointed. They made some converts, it is true, but these were far outnumbered by the multitude of hostile spirits whom they evoked from the almost covered graves of Orangeism. An United Irish people would have been formidable to the Government, and would, at no distant day, wrest

from them all their legitimate demands. The English Cabinet and the English Press, convinced of this, set all their engines at work to produce division in the National ranks.—

The first object was to paralyze O'Connell. For this they encouraged the disaffection at Conciliation Hall, patted the Young Irelanders on the back, praised their patriotism, admired their sincerity, extolled their eloquence, flattered their vanity, and precipitated them headlong into that collision with the Liberator which has been so fatal to Irish hopes. Having thus distracted and divided the national strength, having agitated the Episcopal and Clerical bodies by the vexed questions of Bequest Bills, Mixed Education, and so forth, they permitted the Young Irelanders to run the full length of their tether before they checked the string. Hence, to the astonishment of many, seditious speeches and writings were suffered for whole months to pass with impunity. But they were permitted, because they helped to widen the breach with the O'Connell and Clerical party, and to secure a decent pretext at the proper moment for Gagging Bills, and Algerine Acts, the suspension of the Constitution, and the prostration of Irish liberties. The Whigs knew as well, eight months ago, all the designs of the Confederates, as they did when they passed the late Acts with such indecent haste and affected fear. They are now enjoying the result of their cunning policy, and of the blundering of their opponents. But, in our opinion, they have very little reason to chaunt the psalms of victory. They have almost driven into a sort of premature insurrection a more fragment of the Irish nation. With fifty thousand men, a formidable fleet, and every advantage that a powerful government could command, they have captured two or three dozen of young men, whose sanguine dispositions and ardent patriotism outstrips their judgment. But they have not conquered the Irish nation—in fact they have not come into collision with any section of the people. There has been no rising; no insurrection; no Irish army, no pitched battle, nothing deserting the name even of a skirmish. They have not disarmed the people; but above all they have not disarmed or conquered *one Irish heart*. On the contrary they have made English rule in Ireland still more difficult—English oppression still more hateful. The Rebellion, as it is called, has not been suppressed, because it has never broken out. All the old grievances remain, with many recent additions; the cup of national bitterness has now been filled to overflowing, the fervour of national hate has reached its highest intensity. After seven hundred years of blundering and wicked legislation on the part of England, Ireland now hates her more fiercely than ever, and if there be any subject of congratulation present or prospective in this, we wish England joy of her miserable triumph.— That hideous oppressor had long continued to wear a clumsy mask before the world and to rob her hapless victims of the sympathies of humanity by a tissue of fraud, calumny and deception. But she now stands forth in all her naked ferocity and is forced before the nations of the Earth to make the humiliating avowal that she has no dominion in Ireland but that of the sword, and that it requires three fourths of her mighty resources to preserve for one week even the semblance of a government in Ireland. No: the great Irish problem is not yet solved. John Bull has not yet paid one fourth of the cost of *his Irish whistle*; England's formidable difficulties in Ireland are yet to be encountered.

RIGHT REV. DR. HUGHES.

We feel great pleasure in announcing that the Bishop of New York will preach at Vespers on to-morrow, in St. Mary's Cathedral.

PARLIAMENT IN DUBLIN.

A long petition to Parliament has been agreed on by the Grand Jury of Westmeath, signed by the High Sheriff, nine Deputy-Lieutenants, and twenty-three Justices of the Peace, contrasting the advantages and capabilities of Ireland with her miserable, distracted condition, and goes on to say,—“Your petitioners believe that the cause of this disappointment arises in a great measure from the Government of Ireland being administered in ignorance of Ireland, and that the system pursued as to her social and political relations has been one of vacillation and experiment, producing, or at least not preventing, these results—that instead of peace we have discord—instead of wealth poverty—instead of contentment disaffection, and that a kingdom which might form the strength and boast of the empire constitutes its weakness and its reproach. Your petitioners do not consider that a remedy for

this melancholy exhibition can be found in the creation of a separate Legislature, but that it may be found in the periodical removal of the Imperial Parliament to the Irish capital for Irish purposes, for an adequate time, before or after the regular sessions in London.

[From the Tablet.]

THE INSURRECTION.

The insurrection in Ireland has come at last. What has taken place, or is taking place among the Colliers of Ballinagary and Mullinahone it is not very easy to understand with any sort of minute accuracy; but it may safely be asserted both that there is insurrection, and that it is on a very small scale. Some of our London journals have been extremely facetious on the “liad in a nutshell;” the rebellion disposed of in a newspaper column and-a-half; the three thousand insurgents put to flight by fifty policemen. But all this, however witty, is a little premature. The insurrection is not yet quite at an end; the liad, as at present recited, is only a fragment of the first book; and the exploit of the fifty policemen not quite so decided if we may believe one account which states that the withdrawal of the insurgent besiegers was owing to the approach of General Macdonald with two or three regiments and artillery.

Not unlike this is the state of Ireland at present. The real insurrection is not put down; is not yet begun to be put down; has not yet distinctly shown itself. What has been put down, or what is being put down is folly merely. The mine is there; the powder is heaped together; a few handfuls of it have been damped for the present; but the mine and the powder is still beneath your feet. What will the Government do to render it explosive—to remove it altogether? Upon them it depends whether the country be damped down to a temperance of peace, or whether the “ferocious civil war” be yet to come.

For the present the influence of the Priests and the terror of military preparations have prevailed. But how long is our reliance to be placed on these? How long can the influence of the Priests be strained without producing weakness? How long will the people of England endure to have one-half of their military force and constant preparations for war in so close proximity to their own shores? Some better means, it is obvious, must be devised, and that promptly. Lord John must not meet the question with his miserable excuses that “there is not time;” that rebellions come because his hands are full; that the empire is sore and rent asunder because his occupations are too numerous. If he cannot find time to grapple with this huge difficulty, some other politician must, and please Heaven, will be found with whom such excuses are inadmissible.

But at all events, we warn the Government to be prompt in holding out some hope of relief, some prospect of contentment. The Ides of March are come—not gone. The fatal September has not yet been passed over; and though at the voice of Smith O'Brien the people were too wary to rise without a visible prospect of success, yet we warn the Government to beware of the coming autumn.

For our part we hope he may make an heroic effort, and we hope he may succeed; but as we believe neither the one nor the other we still cry out for Repeal.

SIR G. GREY ON THE IRISH PROTESTANT CHURCH.

On the subject of the Protestant Church, he (Sir G. Grey) said—“My opinions upon that subject will be found expressed in the debate, upon the second reading of the Maynooth Bill in 1845. Sir, I am not prepared to deny that the existence of an exclusive Protestant Church establishment—an establishment which does not coincide with the views of the majority, but only represents a small minority, is an anomaly which was unjustifiable in its establishment, and indefensible in its continuance. (Hear) I know no country in Europe, in which that experiment has been made, and in which the attempt has been carried out. (Hear, hear) I am quite prepared for the odium which these opinions may draw upon me. I do not shrink from their avowal. I think it an unfortunate thing, and one which materially affects the peace of the country, that the clergy of the people should be dependent upon those circumstances which have been stated by the honourable member for Mid-dlesex. (Hear, hear.) I very much agree in the opinion that a time will come when the Mi-

nistry will be able to introduce some measures upon the subject, when public feeling has been altered by a long experience of the evils arising from the present state of things. (Cheers) I hope I am not too sanguine in these expectations, but this I will say, notwithstanding the feelings which exist among my constituents upon this question, that I for one shall hail such a measure with satisfaction, and that either in office or out of office I will be ready to give it my hearty concurrence.” (Cheers.)

THE GENTLENESS OF CHRIST.

What an expression! How much is there in that short sentence! How much to admire; how much to imitate! Christ performed great deeds such as no one ever did; but not that we should imitate them. He spake to the tempest, and stilled the rolling billows, but not that we should lift up our voices when the wind blows, and the thunders roll, and the waves are piled mountains high, and attempt to hush them to peace. He stood by the grave and spake, and the dead man left his tomb and came again to life—but not that we should imitate him in this, or attempt by miracles to give vigor to the feeble, or health to the diseased. But Christ was meek and gentle, that we might be so too. Christ was benignant and kind, that we might be so too. Christ patiently bore reviling, that we might do it also; he was not irritable, and uncharitable, and fretful, and envious, and revengeful—and in all these we may imitate him. His was a life of benevolence; diffusive like the light of a morning without clouds; a life undisturbed by conflicting emotions; unbroken by a harsh and dissatisfied temper; kind when others were unkind; gentle when the storms of furious passion raged in their bosoms; and tranquil and serene while all around him were distracted by anger, and ambition, and envy, and revenge. To us may the same spirit be given; and while the world around is agitated with passion, and pride, and wrath, in our hearts may there reign forevermore “the gentleness of Christ.”

DIOCESE OF BOSTON.—On Thursday last, the Rt. Rev. Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, to six hundred and ninety-eight persons, of whom about one hundred were adults. On the same day the great majority of the children who were confirmed, made their first communions. The ceremony was one of the most imposing we have ever witnessed.—*Catholic Observer.*

[From the Sun.]

MEETING OF CATHOLICS AT THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL-HOUSE.

A highly respectable and dense gathering of Catholics and Irishmen assembled at the Parochial School Room of St. Mary's on Monday evening. The object of the meeting being to consider the propriety of doing special honour to the Right Rev. Dr. Hughes, Bishop of New York, now in this city.

Mr. Bernard O'Neill having been called to the Chair by acclamation, and Mr. W. Condon nominated to act as Secretary, the meeting was addressed by the Chairman, in a few pertinent remarks explanatory of the object for which they were assembled. When,

Mr. R. Nugent, rose and said that a few individuals having at heart the interest and character of the Catholics and Irishmen of Halifax, had consulted on the propriety of offering some testimony of Catholic esteem to the Rt. Rev'd Dr. Hughes, now in this City, and with this view the Meeting which had been so much of a mystery to many people, was called, and he felt confident that those who had obeyed the call would heartily approve of the object. It devolved upon him to move the first Resolution, and it was not in the nature of a Catholic or an Irishman to hold back, upon an occasion like the present, when he was called upon to do honour to an eminent Prelate, an able champion of Catholicity, and a patriot known for his devotedness and zeal in the cause of suffering Ireland—(loud cheers). Dr. Hughes, the distinguished Bishop of New York, was now sojourning for a few days amongst us,—personally a stranger to the Catholics of Halifax, he was not unknown to them by the fame of his noble efforts in the great cause of the Church, and by the report of that untiring zeal with which he had laboured in the immediate field of his own Diocese to ensure to every Catholic child fair play, and prevent the lambs of his flock from being touched and infected with the poison of erroneous tenets—(cheers.) No words of his, (Mr. N's), no ap-