

## Poetry.

### WHAT IS CHARITY?

'Tis not to pass, when at my door  
A shivering mortal stands,  
To ask the cause that made him poor,  
Or why he help demands.

'Tis not to spurn that brother's prayer,  
For faults he once had known,  
'Tis not to leave him to despair,  
And say that I have none.

The voice of charity is kind,  
She seeketh nothing wrong,  
To every fault she seemeth blind,  
Nor vaunteth with her tongue.

In penitence she pleadeth faith,  
Hope smileth at the door,  
Believeth fret, then softly saith,  
Go, brother, sin no more!

### PROTESTANT AND MORAL ENGLAND —BURIAL CLUBS.

It will be seen from a report we published last week, that the ramifications of the poison-clubs in the village of Essex have spread wider than was even at first supposed. We are forced to admit the existence of a state of things in real life more terrible than the imaginative horrors of the modern school of French novelists. Can it be true after all that Dumas and Sue have drawn from nature with the mere accuracy of Dutch painters? As you pass through a country village in England, and see the children playing in the sunshine, can the mind admit the conviction that in many instances they are predoomed to a lingering and painful destruction; that the blooming cheeks must soon grow pale, the rounded form be worn down by an emaciating fire from within, and the changing expression of childhood give way to the monotonous aspect of death, and that all this will be the work of their parents' hands? Would you know how many of the children you see are destined to an premature fate, ascertain how many have been entered by their parents in the burial clubs, and you may then guess with tolerable accuracy the number marked for death. Children are poisoned in consequence of the bonus on their death offered by the burial clubs. This is a system that can be cut up root and branch by a suppression of these institutions, or at least by giving the insuring parties no legal claim upon the clubs for the amount insured on the contingency of their children's death. It should be observed that the more ordinary but equally horrible consequence of the existing arrangement is, that parents, without the administration of any lethal drug, may simply allow their children to die of neglect and starvation. This, no doubt, is the commoner method by which parties entitle themselves to the benefit of the association, although it would be vain to deny that poison is largely employed. The probability of a child's death in Manchester, should it have been entered on the fatal books, is sufficiently indicated by a phrase in use amongst women of the lowest class in that city—"Aye, aye, that child will not live, it is in the burial club!" It is remarkable in these cases that the boys, whose exertions are likely to be more available to the family funds, are not the victims of this infernal system. It is the female children who are ordinarily poisoned.

Much valuable information on this subject will be found in Mr. Chadwick's "Supplementary Report for 1843, on the Practice of Interment in Towns." From this it appears that the actual cost of a child's funeral at Manchester varies from £1 to £1 10s. The allowances from the clubs in that town are usually £3, and sometimes extend to £4 and £5. We find it mentioned in the Report, that insurances for such payments on the deaths of children are made in four or five of these burial societies. There was one instance where a man had insured such payments in no less than nineteen different burial clubs in Manchester. Infanticide, either by the administration of poison or by the neglect of children entered upon the fatal rolls of these death unions, prevails throughout England to a most lamentable extent. It seems, indeed, a hard thing to say to the poor man, "You shall not join an association which would be bound to supply you with the means of giving your child a decent interment." But see the alternative, is it possible to retain the good without letting in the evil? It has been suggested that in no case should the parents be allowed either from one

or several insurance societies more than would be sufficient to cover the expenses of the funeral of the child insured. Some of the burial clubs have even adopted this as their rule. But it appears too easy of evasion; and in such cases as these half measures are rarely successful. It would be well to remove from the apprehension of the poorer classes the possibility of successfully evading the law. My's case in Essex the other day was a fair example of the working of the system as it stands in the agricultural districts, and we shall shortly have occasion to bring other cases before public notice. One would have supposed at first that infanticide of this nature did not exist in the manufacturing districts, as infant labour in factories becomes remunerative at so early an age. The returns, however, show that the supposition is not borne out by the facts. Manchester and Stockport are tainted with the same foul spot as the quiet districts of Essex.—*London Times*.

### THE RUSSIAN CHURCHES.

These edifices generally resemble one another exactly in form. They are built in the shape of a Greek Cross, and surmounted by a dome in the centre. In the interior, one arm of the cross is shut off by a gorgeous screen adorned with stately pillars, and containing large folding doors, covered with gilded carving. The space behind the screen is the sanctum sanctorum, and always contains a figure of our Saviour in a glass case, which is made use of in certain ceremonies. The altar is also here, and though we find no difficulty in gaining admission to the mysteries of their shrines, no woman is ever permitted to enter their sacred precincts; while the carpet in front of the altar is never trodden but by the priest alone. The whole interior is always devoid of seat or pew, as the worshippers of the Greek religion pray standing; but there is in every church a place set apart for the Emperor to stand in, which is raised above the floor, and usually covered with a canopy or small dome. All the churches in St Petersburg, except that of the Smolnoi monastery, are filled with banners, horse tails, keys of fortresses, and other spoils of various wars. Turkish, Persian, Polish, Swedish, and French colors are grouped round the massive columns; keys of vanquished cities, and insignia of conquered generals adorn the wall; while over the trophies of her victorious children soars in triumphant majesty the black eagle of the north, and seems here to be nearly as sacred a symbol as the cross of Christ. The Greek churches contain no statues; but pictures of different saints are hung round in great profusion; the face, feet and hands of the holy personage whom the painting represents, are the only parts of the body or drapery visible, as the rest of the picture is covered with either gold or silver plates, and sometimes studded with precious stones of immense value; so we generally in the richest picture, see the face of the holy departed peeping through a pavement of gems, the hands springing from a diamond waistband, and the feet protruding from an emerald petticoat. The churches and the treasures are always guarded by one or two soldiers, who lie on a bench near the door, rolled in their sheep skins, and who are delighted to show every thing to strangers, in expectation of the cupecks that usually reward their civility. The service is chaunted, and the continual crossing and genuflection, practiced by the worshippers far exceed what I have seen in Catholic countries.

The sacred music is generally excellent, and the imperial choir, whereof I shall hereafter speak is the finest in the world. Instrumental music is totally excluded from their services.—*Bourke's St. Petersburg and Moscow*.

KINGSTOWN CHAPEL.—One of the finest pieces of Irish workmanship which we have seen for some time, is the beautiful altar just completed by Mr. Kirwan, of Dorset-street for Kingstown Chapel. The tabernacle is composed of virgin Carrara marble, the style of architecture being Gothic, and the plan octagon. The columns are supported by pilasters and buttresses, with rich mouldings, divided into two stages, the cornices of simple character. Altogether it is a choice piece of art, and must be seen to appreciate its beauty. It is from a design by P. Byrne, Esq., and ordered by the Rev. Mr. Sheridan, P.P. Kingstown, who has shown his classical taste by having the work executed by such an able artist as Kirwan.—*Freeman's Journal*.

SIR J. TYRELL AND THE PRIEST OF KENMARE.—To the Editor of the *TABLET*—Kenmare, Ireland, Sept. 9.—Dear Sir—I see by the report of the proceedings in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, the 30th of August, that that bull-calf of a fellow, Sir J. Tyrell, brought my name again before the House. He stupidly perseveres in endeavouring to fasten on me what never occurred. I have already denied, through the *Freeman's Journal*, that I either tore down the Lord-Lieutenant's proclamation or advised others to do so. Still, the ranting bigot takes up the important time of the House with his folly on the subject. I can scarcely trust my present feelings whilst writing these few lines. He gives as his author a poor, stolid, biggotted, intemperate major, who wrote a private letter from Kenmare River, as full of lies as words, and which private letter he (Sir J. Tyrell) had the very bad taste to read in the face of the whole House of Commons. The public here know well that the proprietor of the castle which he says he was defending never brought a single policeman from Limerick, as this hero states, and the police authorities here as well know that he was not looking at me tearing down the proclamation, or listening to me abusing these men, as neither ever occurred. I must say that if I were foolish enough to tear down the said proclamation I would have very little more to expect from some of the officials here. It is wonderful, then, that any person pretending to the character of a gentleman of honour or truth should so far forget himself as to write such palpable lies. This hero also writes from Kenmare River that "the vagabond Priests ought to be exterminated," and that "these are the fellows whom Lord Lansdowne has at his table when he comes here to see his property." Very polite language for the ears of the first assembly of gentlemen in the world! Now, I beg to state that I never saw Lord Lansdowne in all my life, and consequently could not be at his table. No wonder there should be so much prejudice in the English mind against poor Ireland when such slanders are the order of the day. I take leave to say, in conclusion, that the members for the county Kerry sadly and shamefully forget their duty to their constituents when they allowed such filth to be cast on their proverbially peaceable county without a word in reply. Many thanks to Mr. Ansell, M.P. for Youghal, for his conduct on the occasion. Hoping you will excuse this trouble, and wishing you every success as the defender of Catholicity, I remain, dear Sir, ever sincerely yours P. HAMPSTON, R.C.C.—P.S.—I hope all the journals in England will insert this my denial of Sir J. Tyrell's charges as well as they did his slanders.

BE KIND TO THE OLD.—O, be kind to those who are in the autumn of life, for thou knowest not what sufferings they have endured, how much it may still be their portion to bear. Are they querulous and unreasonable? Allow not thine anger to kindle against them—rebuke them not, for doubtless, many and severe have been the crosses and trials of earlier years, and, for a change, their dispositions, while in the "spring time of life," were more gentle and flexible than thine own. Do they require aid of thee? thou render it cheerfully, and forget not that the time may come when thou mayest desire the same assistance from others that now thou renderest unto them. Do all that is needful for the old, and do it with alacrity, and think it not hard if much is required at thine hand; lest, when age has set its seal upon thy brow, and filled thy limbs with trembling, there may be found those who will wait upon thee unwillingly, and who will feel relieved when the coffin lid has covered thy face forever.

The old must soon pass from this to another world. Is it a world of bliss? Then, though they have much to cheer them through the remnant of their earthly existence be kind, very kind, to them, for they have many sorrows to endure, before they seek the abodes of happiness; they have yet to pass through "the valley of the shadow of death," is it a world of woe to which they are hastening? have they no hope of Heaven? then be doubly cautious how thou addest a single drop to a cup already full; for surely they have enough to bear, if their prospects for both time and eternity are shrouded in gloom.

A Trappist Monastery is about to be founded near Bardstown, Ky., where a tract of 1200 acres of land has been bought for the purpose. About eighty of the members of the order are now on their way from Nantes, and the community will be organized next spring.

THE JURY SYSTEM.—We know of no more monstrous grievance than the jury system as at present conducted in Ireland. As to its operation in this county, we have so frequently addressed ourselves to this important topic that we should but reiterate all we had previously said with respect to its characteristics were we now to dwell upon it. We shall simply mention facts in relation to the Special Commission, which commences to-morrow in Clonmel. Only one Catholic, of the ordinary rank, namely—Mr Cooke, of Brownstown, has been summoned from Thurles to Roscrea, including Templemore, and a very important portion of Tipperary! From the Ormonds, we have been assured, there have been but three Catholics summoned, namely—Mr Nugent, of Grange, Mr Kennedy, of Bantie, and Mr Lalor, of Gurteen. Mr Lalor, we may observe, never attends on Juries; and the ceremony of summoning that gentleman is a mere piece of supererogation. With respect to other portions of the county, we have been told that it is just the same. And this, be it understood, whilst very small Protestant shopkeepers and landholders have received the High Sheriff's orders to attend, and whilst some persons of the same creed, who may be called lackland, have been similarly honored by that functionary. Surely such a system is an intolerable grievance, and one, we need no add, which every Catholic in Tipperary must intensely and acutely experience.—*Tipperary Vindicator*.

SIGN OF THE TIMES.—It is of frequent occurrence in this town and neighbourhood, within the last fortnight, to see the goods and properties of once opulent and respectable tradesmen, &c. seized by bailiffs, and rate collectors, and carried to the pound, there to remain until they be sold by auction either for the debts contracted or the unpaid poor rates, they not having any means to pay them, and being unable to obtain any employment. Thus it is that pauperism augments, and thereby the poor rates become heavy and oppressive. In some instances the bailiff and rate collector enter houses together, and distraint at the same time!—*Nenagh Guardian*.

"THE CHURCH IN DANGER."—A correspondent informs us that he has heard, from a source which is certainly entitled to attention, that Lord John Russell, in conjunction with the Archbishop of Canterbury, intends to issue a Commission to certain parties to revise the Liturgy, and particularly the Baptismal services; and that some plan of "bracketing" certain passages, after Mr. Hugh M'Neil's celebrated proposal, some years since, is contemplated. Of course a new or revised "Act of Uniformity" would be necessary, or perhaps the present Act would be repealed altogether. It is alleged that Lord John relies on the quiet acquiescence of the "Old High Churchmen," seeing that they would be allowed to go on in the old way, while they would not grudge a little relief to the tender consciences of their weaker "Evangelical" brethren! On this subject we cannot do better than refer our readers to the most valuable "Charge of the Lord Bishop of Exeter," just published by Mr. Murray. Although our recent reports of it are proved to be tolerably correct, yet it is much better to read the *authentic* Charge, especially as his Lordship has added an Appendix, and several Notes of great interest and importance.—*English Churchman*.

### Births

OCTOBER 9—Mrs Timms of a Daughter,  
9—Mrs O'Connor of a Daughter  
9—Mrs Riley of a Daughter,  
9—Mrs McKay of a Daughter,  
9—Mrs Quilty of a Daughter,  
10—Mrs Weston of a Daughter.

### Married.

OCTOBER 9—John Tense to Marian Curran,  
9—Laughlen Cullen to Mary Ann Basse,  
16—Edward Rice to Margaret O'Brien,  
10—Edward Morrissey to Ellen Fitzgibbon.

### Died.

Yesterday morning, Michael Kent, aged 27. Funeral to-morrow, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence Barrack Street, next door to the residence of Councillor Cabot.