

this public-discussion of the question, and the authoritative decision thereupon, the question had been privately asked of the Prudential Committee of this Christian Board; a committee whose name is most singularly ominous and significant, and whose duties, we presume, are to solve difficult and delicate questions of conscience, to grant dispensations, and the like. In two several cases, Missionaries in heathen lands, wrote home to this committee to ask advice in this matter, whether or no polygamists were to be admitted into the mission churches; and the Board refused to give advice.

"This venerable body were utterly unable to decide the question whether a sin, which in all Christian nations consigns a man to a felon's infamy and prison, should by the American Protestant Missionaries be admitted into the Christian Church. And so little interest did they take in the case, that the secretary declares he was profoundly ignorant of the subsequent disposal of the matter. In two other cases polygamists were certainly admitted into the mission churches; and not a hint of disapprobation was dropped by the Prudential Committee; and, for aught he knows, these two also came into the Church. He also states, that at a meeting of Missionaries in India the question was discussed, whether converted heathen polygamists should be admitted into the Church, and the majority were in favor of so doing." Another gentleman who took part in the debate announced that concubinage was allowed in the West Indian Moravian missions; and a third read extracts from a letter of a Rev. Mr. Griffin, who went out as an independent Missionary, sustained by certain churches in Litchfield county, Connecticut. Mr. Griffin declared that he found church members living in open fornication, that is, without marriage, that he at first hoped privately to persuade them to be married; but not succeeding, was forced to preach openly upon adultery. This raised a storm, and the people were sustained in their opposition by every Protestant Missionary whom they consulted. These Missionaries declared that the time had not come to make a stand against adultery!!

"We must yet make room for the arguments of two or three more of these Protestant theologians upon this subject. Dr. Tyler said:—The question is, shall we legislate for extreme cases? Discuss this question in any Ecclesiastical body, and they wouldn't agree. I wouldn't say that in all cases it is wrong. Let the Missionaries decide such cases.—We too have weak consciences, as has been said on the other side. We have as good a right to ask the board to say that polygamy, in extreme cases, is right, as they have to ask the board to say it is wrong."

"Chancellor Walworth referred to the opening of Turkey to the Gospel, where polygamy is common, and said the case might arise there. In his state polygamy was felony; there it is lawful. We couldn't decide it; the circumstances of the case must decide it."

In other words, this Protestant gentleman, professing, no doubt, to draw his religion from the Bible and the bible only, and upbraiding his Catholic neighbors on the ground that they "teach for doctrines the commandments of men," yet deliberately proclaims it as the duty of Christian Missionaries, proceeding to preach the Gospel to a heathen country, that they should consult the existing state of things, the customs and laws of the people, and shape religion accordingly. The Christian religion is to be made to tolerate a plurality of wives, or to denounce it as a grievous sin and scandal, according to the habits of the country in which it is being preached! The Divine law is to be regulated according to the human.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE PASSIONISTS IN ENGLAND—FATHER O'LOUGHLIN AND FATHER IGNATIUS.—The zeal and labors of the Passionists (of which Order Father Ignatius is a well-known member) amongst the Irish poor, who, in these hard times, flock to every part of England, are generally understood and appreciated. In the time of famine their charity was exemplary, and when—as is too often the case—they had no money, they sold the very vessels from the altar to raise alms for the distressed and famishing districts of this island. In the cholera times their labors were equally indefatigable and heroic; and indeed at all times their acts, not merely of spiritual, but of corporal mercy to the houseless wanderer of Irish birth, are innumerable. It is, we believe, a moderate calculation that alms are distributed by them yearly, on an average, to not less than fifteen or twenty thousand poor, of whom, of course, the immense majority are Irish. The Rev. Mr. O'Loughlin is at present in this city collecting alms for one of the struggling missions of this useful Order. Their only means of subsistence is by questing, and the mission for which this special call is made, and in which to the glory of God and the good of souls, numerous converts are being continually received into the Church, is so poor that the weekly collection amounts to not more than from four to six shillings. Father O'Loughlin's mission is warmly approved of and seconded by his Grace the Archbishop of this diocese.—*Tablet*.

We are enabled to state that the Archbishop of Tuam has received a few days ago the munificent sum of £80 from the central committee of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith for the relief of the distressed poor of his diocese.

The consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Fallon, as Bishop of Kilmacduagh and Kilsenora, is fixed to take place in Gort on Sunday the 1st of May. The Archbishop of Tuam will be the consecrating Prelate.—*Galway Packet*.

M. Rauscher, Archbishop of Gratz, has been definitively appointed Archbishop of Vienna. His en-

thronisation was shortly to take place by the Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Viale Prèla.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE IRISH BRIGADE AND THE "TRAITORS."—A report is current to the effect that a member for one of the midland counties made an application this week to the Catholic Bishop of the diocese for leave to retire from parliamentary life, and thus to create a vacancy for Mr. John Sadleir, the Irish Lord of the Treasury and the rejected of Carlow. The application was peremptorily refused.

THE MAYO PETITION.—The Clergymen of the deanery of Castlebar met on the 2nd of April, and have subscribed very liberally for the purpose of sustaining our excellent county member, George H. Moore, Esq., in the event of his being put to the harassing and expensive inconvenience of defending his seat in parliament; and it is gratifying to find that still more practical work was done at the meeting, for a committee has been appointed and authorised to communicate with the friends of this champion of civil and religious liberty, in order to obtain their subscriptions towards this most laudable purpose. From the determination manifested at the meeting, and from the well-known feelings of the Clergy and people of the county, it is most certain that the labors of the committee will be attended with the most signal success. It would be a disgrace to have such a man as Mr. Moore sacrificed at such a crisis as the present; and we confidently hope that the enemies of the freedom of Ireland will have cause to lament their vexatious and spiteful opposition to a man who is most deservedly the idol of his constituents, as well as the pride of his countrymen.—*Correspondent of the Freeman*.

The Athlone election petition has been abandoned. In the House of Commons on the 14th, Mr. Hamilton moved the following resolution respecting the national education system in Ireland:—"That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the working of the national system of education in Ireland, with a view of ascertaining how far the instructions contained in the letter of Secretary Stanley, in 1830, have been followed out or departed from by the commissioners, or to the practical operation of the system; and whether, and to what extent, a united or combined system of education has been attained under the national system; and also to inquire whether, by any extension or modification of the rules framed by the commissioners or otherwise, the conscientious objections which many of the people of Ireland entertain to the system as at present it is in operation can be obviated, so as to enable them to partake of the public grants and render the system more comprehensive and national."

POOR LAW RELIEF IN IRELAND.—According to a return to Parliament, just published, there has been a decrease of pauperism in Ireland on the quarter ended the 31st December last, compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. There has been a decrease in the numbers for the last five years ending at the same quarter. In the four provinces of Ireland the ordinary expenses as poor relief in the quarter ended the 31st December last were £187,090, while in the same period of 1851 they were £200,428. In the last quarter of 1848 there were as many as 585,106 in the relief lists; in the like period of 1849 the number was reduced to 290,015; in 1850 to 200,533; in 1851, to 166,225; and in 1852, to 141,822. The weekly mortality per 1,000 inmates of workhouses in the December quarter last was 2.4; in the like period of 1848 it was 6.6.

DEATH OF THE REV. JAMES VAILE, P.P., KILL AND NEWTON.—We deeply regret to announce the death of the Rev. James Vaile, for many years the beloved Pastor of the united parishes of Kill and Newton, county Waterford.

FRIGHTFUL DEATH OF A CATHOLIC CLERGYMAN.—The *Limerick Chronicle* contains the following account of a frightful and fatal accident which befel the Rev. Mr. Conway, Curate of Cahircionlish, on his way to attend at the bedside of a dying parishioner:—"The Rev. Michael Conway, Catholic Curate of Cahircionlish, encountered a terrible death on Thursday night near that village, where he fell, it is supposed, upon the spikes of a gate, and was impaled by the neck until the police patrol came up and extricated him, but the immortal spirit had been forced from its earthly tenement before their arrival at the fatal spot. The account in town is that the Rev. gentleman was suddenly called out on a very urgent sick message, and in his anxiety to respond to the summons, neglected ordinary precaution, striving in a dark stormy night to make his way to the bedside of a dying parishioner by the shortest route, and against all obstacles. With this view, struggling to surmount an iron gate, he sunk exhausted upon the spikes, and there expired."

DEATH OF JAMES ROCHE, ESQ., J.P.—We record with regret the death of one of our most distinguished citizens, James Roche. His death was unexpected, but not premature—for he had far outlived the ordinary span of human life, having reached his eighty-third year. No later than last week he presided at a meeting of the governors of the Eglinton Lunatic Asylum, when he displayed all the vigilance and readiness which could be expected from a person in the prime of life. And as an instance of his mental activity, it is only necessary to refer to a work of great research and critical ability, which he published one or two years since—"Essays of an Octogenarian." Under the signature of "J. R." he has been one of the ablest contributors to the *Gentleman's Magazine*.—*Cork Examiner*.

A new Orange organisation under the title of the "Central Conservative Society of Ireland," has issued a manifesto this week, calling upon all the Irish Tory Members to be strict in their attendance in the House of Commons. It seems that Lord Derby has at length formed a junction with the Irish Orange leaders, who are the sworn opponents of the policy of the present Government, especially on the land question. The *Evening Mail* declares that "the Great Conservative party in Ireland is re-organising itself and preparing for the battle; and the committee of the Central Society, though working in comparative privacy—(of course they are)—has received the adhesion and cordial support of the largest and most influential body of the Conservative party that has ever been brought into community of purpose and action since 1845."

PRIVY COUNCIL.—A Privy Council assembled on the 5th inst. at Dublin Castle, when a proclamation was issued declaring that the Act for the Better Prevention of crime in Ireland should be enforced in certain parishes in the barony of Raphoe and county of Donegal.

A ROW IN THE "GODLESS."—Dissensions, which have been for some time smouldering between the President and the Council of the Queen's College, Cork, have at length broken out in an open rupture. The causes of this quarrel are set forth in a memorial to the Queen, unanimously adopted by the Vice-President (Dr. Ryall) and Council, which has been forwarded to Lord Palmerston for presentation to Her Majesty. In this document the President is charged with attempting to raise himself into a position of despotic authority, which the memorialists allege to be dangerous to the institution, and to the system of education of which it forms a part. He will not, say his accusers, attend the deliberations of the Council, nor listen to arguments used in the course of them, and yet he claims "an arbitrary and unqualified veto on their resolutions," draws his pen through their minutes, and insists that he alone is authorized to conduct the correspondence of the college authorities and he draws it up without any communication with them, whence "many inconveniences have already arisen injurious to the peace and welfare of the college." The memorial concludes in the following emphatic words:—"We have been compelled to bring these matters under your Majesty's notice from the serious apprehensions we entertain that, unless some remedy be speedily provided, the prosperity of the college and the success of the system of education are in imminent danger. We also feel that the influence of the Queen's Colleges on the education and intellectual advancement of this country is now at stake, as it cannot be expected that our fellow-subjects will intrust their children to the instruction of men whom your Majesty will thus declare incapable of governing themselves and unfit to be intrusted with the charge of their own interests."

FRIGHTFUL AND LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—We are deeply concerned to announce that an accident of a most distressing nature occurred in the Great Exhibition Building, on the grounds of the Royal Dublin Society. The following is an official account of this deplorable event, furnished by Mr. Inspector Stokes, of the Metropolitan Police Force:—"Between ten and eleven o'clock on Thursday morning a gang of painters, fifteen in number were engaged in painting the arch of the machinery court of the Great Exhibition Building, when suddenly the scaffolding on which they stood gave way, and thirteen of the party were precipitated to the flooring—two having clung to the ropes by which the scaffolding had been suspended, and these only were saved uninjured. The injured sufferers were instantly conveyed in cars to Baggot-street Hospital, and placed immediately under medical and surgical treatment; but, we lament to say, that skill was unavailing in some cases, for death speedily put a period to the sufferings of three. The following are the names of the men who fell with the scaffolding:—Wm. Higginson, dead; James Malone, do.; Nathaniel Booker, do.; Walter Anderson, not expected to recover; Benjamin Beamish, severely injured; Charles Killeen, slightly injured; James Carr, do.; John Nolan, do.; William Clarke, do.; Edward Taylor, do.; Philip Hancock, do.; William Cardiff, do.; Peter Leary, thigh-bone broken. The foregoing is the state of the case to 12½ o'clock, and at half-past two Mr. Davis, one of the city coroners, held an inquest on the bodies at the hospital, and the inquiry was proceeding when we went to press.—*Tablet*.

MELANCHOLY CATASTROPHE AT SEA.—We regret to have to record a most melancholy catastrophe—one which, in its principal features, possesses a sad resemblance to the loss of the ill-fated steamer *Victoria*, with its yet unknown and unnumbered complement of human beings. The accident to which we allude took place on Tuesday night, in the Irish sea, some miles north of the Calf of Man, during the voyage of the steamer *Minerva* from Liverpool to Belfast; and the facts, as we have collected them from the most authentic sources, are as follows:—"The *Minerva* left Liverpool on Tuesday afternoon, and had proceeded on her voyage to Belfast to about midway between the Calf of Man and the South Rock Lighthouse, when a vessel was observed right under her bows, and so close that to escape collision seemed impossible. The hour was about 10 o'clock, the weather had been very hazy, and the ill-fated vessel had, it is stated, shown no light till the steamer's bowsprit was almost over her bulwarks. Then a lantern was raised up from her deck, but previous to that, we are informed, the helm of the *Minerva* was put "hard-a-port," the engines were reversed, and every effort made to avoid the collision, but without avail. The vessels came in contact with each other, and in the space of a second the ill-fated vessel and her crew were engulfed. No trace of either could be seen, notwithstanding the most diligent search. The chances that one out of all on board escaped to tell the tale are slight indeed, and it is probable that the name, even, of the vessel will be unknown for months, perhaps years, to come. The facts of the melancholy catastrophe are stated as follows by Captain Lyall, of the *Minerva*:—"I regret having to report an accident which has occurred, with, I presume, the loss of life. On Tuesday the 29th inst., the *Minerva* left Liverpool at 2.45 p.m., on her voyage to Belfast. At 10.45 p.m., being then half way between the Calf of Man and the South Rock Lighthouse, a vessel was reported at the head of the steamer, when every exertion was made to prevent a collision, but unfortunately without effect—neither vessel nor crew could be rendered any assistance. She instantly disappeared. All I could observe was that she had two masts, and that no light was shone until immediately before the accident took place. As soon as the light was observed, the helm was put hard-a-port and the engines stopped and backed, but not with the desired effect. One of our boats was, as soon as practicable, lowered, and every effort made, but no vestiges were to be found. The *Minerva* has not sustained the slightest damage. Arrived in Belfast at 4.50 a.m. on Wednesday."

SCARCITY OF LABORERS.—As the spring advances complaints of the scarcity of laborers are becoming more frequent in some districts, although in general there appears to be a sufficiency of hands when a small advance on the old and very low rate of wages is offered. But the oxodus proceeds with such accelerated force, carrying off such large numbers of the strongest and healthiest of the peasantry, that there must be a deficiency of labor which may lead to very serious inconvenience even during the next harvest. A Galway journal states that, in various parts of the counties of Galway and Clare, "it is so difficult to procure laborers that they are often sought for to a distance of several miles, and even then cannot be had." Fears are expressed that the public works on Lough Corrib may be impeded, as a large number of

men is required for the heavy operations of the coming season; and the same journal speculates upon such a marvellous change as the introduction of laborers into this county from England. In Mayo, where the laborers are combining for an advance of wages, the boards of guardians are refusing to admit to the work-houses able-bodied pauper boys, in consequence of the scarcity of hands for spring work. From the northern counties of Down, Armagh, and Louth, the emigration continues to an enormous extent.

A Writer in the *Tralee Chronicle* thus describes the condition of the county of Kerry, as effected by the general thinning of the peasant class:—"On the condition of the laboring class, we have been taught by bitter experience, hang all our fortunes. That class has been purged of most of its dross; the lazy, the idle, the dissolute, and infirm, have been either absorbed by the Poor-law and disposed of or sent for from America. And although along with the bad we have lost many and too many good men, still the average of the remainder is improved in quality, and being encouraged by seeing the labor market nowhere overstocked, our laborers can look forward to and demand a higher rate of wages. There are higher wages being paid to-day in Kerry than have been paid within our memory. This has its effect on the farmer, who used to be more of an overseer than a working man, and induces an increased activity to meet this increasing demand on him, and hence of course a great increase of industry with its sure reward, additional produce. So the wave roll on from class to class, swelling the merchant's trade, the Banker's discounts, the shopman's sales, and last, not least, the landlord's rents, enabling him to "tide over" his difficulties in many cases. This is the mainspring of our improvement. Whoever takes this view of our present state of things must feel no small alarm at the incessant emigration of that class on which we so completely depend for our ultimate recovery from starvation. The laborers are going away as fast as they can; already we can spare no more, and the further the drain goes on the nearer we shall be approaching to the paralysed condition of those countries where the demand for labor greatly exceeds the supply. Who are most interested in this consideration? Certainly, the owners of land. As the difficulty or expenses of cultivation increases for want of hands, so must the rents come down, and so must the improvement of the land be stayed or stopped entirely."

The rage for emigration from this port continues, not only to Australia, but also to the United States and Canada. Every steamer that leaves for Liverpool—whence ships are leaving daily for every distant port—takes her full complement of emigrants. On Thursday the *Messenger* sailed from Queenstown for Boston with emigrants, having her regulated number on board. The same day there was a rush of emigrants to the *Princess*, river steamer, to carry them to the St. Petersburg, lying at Passage West, for Boston. Three hundred emigrants had engaged their passage, and not a few of them were sons of respectable gentlemen connected with this county. The emigrants were all comfortably clad, and the majority appeared to be of the farming class, strangers to this part of Ireland.—The emigration from the United Kingdom, which is progressing with increased activity, has, during the last five years, been going on at the rate of 300,000 per annum.—*Cork Constitution*.

The moment at which Mr. Smith O'Brien's letter is published we conceive to be peculiarly auspicious; for it will either force the self-styled English Humanitarians and Liberals to take, in their own despite, an active part in seeking for the liberation of Mr. Smith O'Brien, or it will force them, by their own act, to brand themselves before the world, as being (that which we believe them to be) the basest hypocrites that move on this earth.

Look how these Humanitarians and Liberals in England have, of late years, been employing themselves. Under the pretence of sympathising with "the aspirants for freedom," in Italy and in Hungary, they have been fomenting rebellion, and inciting to assassinations. Under the pretence of "abhorring slavery," they who work to death white female slaves in London dress-makers' dens, have been seeking to stir up all the horrors of a social servile war in the United States. Under the pretence of protesting against any invasion of "religious liberty," they have been propagating the most scandalous falsehoods about the Madiais, declaring that those persons were "imprisoned for reading the Bible," when, in their hearts, they well knew the Madiais were convicted of carrying on a system of proselytism, by insulting, outraging, and lampooning the Catholic religion, its most sacred rites, and its most awful of all Sacraments. These hypocrites—these malignant and malevolent hypocrites—who made a purse for Mazzini, built an Aphrodite temple for Achilli, and prepared an ovation for Kossuth, but who never gave utterance to a single word of sorrow for Smith O'Brien—who closed their ears to the dying shrieks of the starving millions in Ireland, or would alone give them food in exchange for their souls—these hypocrites are now crying out against the harshness of Austria in expelling the Ticinese, from Lombardy, or in sequestrating the estates of rebellious nobles—these malignant hypocrites, who say and do these things, well know that they themselves—the highest, noblest, and greatest amongst them—are high, and noble, and great, because they are the possessors of property,—of confiscated property—of property confiscated, because its rightful owners were true to their God, and faithful to their King.

Let us see—let us see how those who are decking their halls, to receive in all the pomp of their wealth and pride, the writer of a Swadler's romance—let us see how those who weep over the well written woes of the Negro, will treat the truthful and manly appeal of the Irishman who is in exile, and who did sympathise with those worse treated for centuries by England than the Negro by the American slave master. There is no instance on record of the American slave master permitting his slave to die of hunger. Let *Shaftesbury* and the *Exeter Hall Humanitarians*, and the *Stafford House Duchesses and Countesses*, the next time they call for a *jur owny Negro*, remember that fact.

Let us see—let us see what agitation will take place, what speeches will be made, what profound sympathy expressed for the Irish exile, Mr. Smith O'Brien, by Lord Dudley Stuart, and all the London Liberals, who do so admire! Governor Kossuth, and Consul Mazzini, and dictator Mannin, and Mr. Ancona Murray, and every other rebel, and reprobate, and renegade who in times past or times present has distinguished himself by his hatred to the Church of Rome and the sanctified Society of Jesus.

No, no; not one word will they say. They have oppressed and tortured the Irish worse than the wret-