

God, and *in proportion as it is an offense* against God. For the flippant censors who abuse sin only because public opinion is against it, and in whose mind a violation of natural law and a breach of conventional decorum are one and the same thing, we have now not a word. It were necessary to discuss the first principles of Ethics with them. For the others, we have a few considerations.

1. The vices of the Irish are very much exaggerated, on account of the religious prejudice of editors and reporters. It is not uncommon, in a Police Report, to see an Irishman getting drunk headed "horrible," and another man's pocket-picking passed over with a joke.

2. These vices are for the most part contracted by the Irish, after their departure from the "Old Sod." Cut loose from the employments, amusements, and restraints of home, and exposed to temptations against which, previous experience had never armed them, their falling into excesses does not argue that profound malignity, which, in other circumstances, it might. "Travelling, seldom makes a man holier," says St. Thomas A. Kempis; and the errors of the Celt in America are equalled, if not surpassed by the libertinism of the Anglo-Saxon, on the continent of Europe.

3. Most of the Irish emigrating to this country are of the poorer classes of the people, whose principal motive for avoiding sin is Religion. Arriving here, they meet with many obstacles to the practice of their religious duties. They are employed in remote places on railroads and public works. They soon learn to fear the sneer or the oath of the "boss" too much, to dare to ask a Saturday afternoon, that they might prepare themselves for a devout reception of the sacraments. Their minds are kept in a ferment by continually hearing absurd and obscene abuse of their religion and their Priests, and by perpetual insults of their own 'ignorance and superstition'; so that they can hardly presume to approach the Sacraments. Thus losing the supernatural support of the Sacraments, they easily fall into disorders; and, as they have not learned concealment, those disorders are too often public and disgraceful.

4. The material circumstances of Irishmen in this country are, of themselves a terrible temptation. Their comfortless homes, the cellars, garrets, sheds, and, we had almost said, barrels, which they are obliged by poverty to inhabit, are not certainly calculated to invite them of a Saturday night from the grogshop and the street, where they meet evil company and fall into sin. While the affluent have their refined amusements, and are so absorbed in them as not to have time to fall into gross vices, the poor have scarcely a recreation which is not sinful.

5. Finally, the vices of the Irish, even according to the most exaggerated accounts of their enemies, are not vices of a deep, malignant nature. They do not evince malice of a standing and settled kind, but rather the ebullition of thoughtless caprice—the transient burst of undisciplined passion. Celtic offenders are generally brought before the Police Court for being drunk, disorderly, fighting, &c. These are, indeed, sins. But they are not sins of so heinous a nature as robbing, cheating, swindling, counterfeiting, slandering, calumniating, blaspheming, using obscene language, &c., which are not charged upon them. Upon this let the thoughtful reader ponder. Drunkenness and its accompanying disorders, are mortal sins; but they are not mortal sins of so malignant a character as many other more decent crimes. They do not betoken a heart so thoroughly depraved as do vices of a more refined and elegant cast. Its grossness is more than half the disgusting in crime. Let no tour reader mistake violations of propriety for offences against the law of God. We can be lenient with crimes of impulse—but we cannot excuse crimes of malice. We would prefer the Irishman [or any other man] fined, as a culprit, for fighting in the heat of passion, to the judge who fines him, bribed by polite offenders to a betrayal of justice. We condemn less the drunken loafer, than the smooth-faced vender of wooden nutmegs.

If the traducers of the Irish would consider all of the ten commandments, they would find, we fear, that they themselves inhabit "glass houses." They would find that the "vices of the Irish" do not exceed their own; and though of another nature, are not the tokens of a malice half so deep. If various individuals, in particular of this city, who frequently glorify themselves by expressing their contempt of the Irish, would make this examination of conscience, they would find it salutary; and if, in addition, one of them would use in this exercise, besides the time employed in abusing the Irish, that spent in planning intrigues, he would subserve his own spiritual interest and the cause of charity and truth. Let him take our advice and act upon it in a friendly spirit; and let all believe that the vices of the Irish are far less inexcusable and far less malicious than they are represented to be.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

RECEPTION OF THE RELIGIOUS VEIL.—On Sunday the feast of the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, the Lord Bishop of Meath conferred the religious veil, at the Loreto convent, on five young ladies, three of whom were destined for the convent Darjeling, in the Himalaya mountains.

CONVERSION.—On Thursday last, Miss Anne Gillier, made a public recantation of Protestantism, and was received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. T. Hardiman, P.P.—*Tuam Herald*

THE MAYNOOTH COMMISSION.—The commissioners, it seems, have no idle time of it, their sittings being protracted to between four and five hours each day. It is said that they have already made considerable progress in the onerous inquiry contemplated by the Royal Commission.

Mr. Dargan, it is stated, will be requested, at the next vacancy, to represent Dublin in Parliament.

The conference of the friends of tenant right, called for the purpose of considering the present position of the cause, and deciding upon the course that should be adopted for the future, in order to secure a speedy and equitable settlement of a question which so vitally affects the welfare of the people of this country, was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst. in the Council Rooms of the Tenant League, Beresford-place. This meeting was most numerous and influentially attended by the advocates of tenant right from all parts of the country, and the proceedings were marked by the greatest earnestness and determination. Amongst the resolutions adopted we find the following:—

"That in the opinion of this conference the present advanced position of the question of tenant right in parliament is mainly attributable to the exertions of the Irish independent party, and to the policy of independent opposition proclaimed in the conference of September, 1852; and that it is the solemn duty and strong interest of the Irish constituencies to sustain that party, and to avail themselves of any opportunity that may arise of increasing its numbers; that it is our conviction were it not for the desertion of their pledged principles by a number of the representatives who attended that conference that the tenant question would ere now have been carried to a successful issue; and in order to eject and replace those members, and the more successfully to carry out in future the policy of independent opposition, that a committee be appointed by this conference to prepare a list of parliamentary candidates thoroughly identified with, and positively pledged to maintain in and out of parliament the principles of the Irish independent party."

A LIBERAL LANDLORD.—Mr. James C. Harte, purchased and paid for, some time since, through a friend and without having seen it, the estate of Esker near Banagher. His first act, after having received possession, was to buy up all the old arrears due by the tenants, in order to protect them from any claims of the former landlord, and, having purchased them, he passed a sponge over them, thus allowing the tenants to commence anew, full of hope for the future. Since August, 1852, when he got possession, 2,500 perches of main drains have been opened, the work of which was performed by resident laborers, who received ample weekly wages in cash. New fences were erected at his expense, clean white cottages have taken the place of the old, miserable, dirty cabins, and liberal abatements of rent are to be given in all legitimate cases. This is commencing work in earnest, and it is gratifying to find that the conduct of their landlord is fully appreciated by the tenants on his estate, which we forgot to mention is under the able management of Mr. T. Hynes, Dublin, who honestly seconds the views of Mr. Harte. The rents are now paid up freely and punctually. Last week the proprietor paid a visit to the locality, where he remained for four days; bonfires were blazing every night, with other rejoicings, which showed their hearty welcome. The last evening, the tenantry enjoyed unusual festivities; barrels of ale were broached and dancing kept up to a late hour. Mr. Harte addressed them on his departure. He thanked them for the generous feeling they displayed in his regard. He assured them that he felt them, and would always feel, that their and his interests were identical.—*Galway Vindicator*.

THE CHOLERA.—Prayers against the cholera were said in all the Catholic churches of the archdiocese of Dublin on Sunday, by order of his Grace the Archbishop. The prayers, which consist of the Fiftieth Psalm and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, will be continued until further direction from his Grace.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT NEAR DUBLIN.—A terrible accident happened at the Great Southern and Western Railroad, near Dublin; 13 passengers were killed and 60 wounded. Many were horribly mangled; the following particulars are from the *Freeman's Journal*:—A passenger train, up from Killarney and the south, that was due in Dublin about six o'clock p. m., was brought to a standstill between the Sallins and Straffan stations, owing, we believe, to some defect in the engine. Mr. Croker Barrington the solicitor to the company, who was a passenger by the train (and who was accompanied by Mrs. Barrington,) got out, and directed one of the railway servants to go down the line with a danger signal, as there was a heavy cattle and luggage train following. The man departed accordingly with a red danger lamp. He had been gone about twelve or fifteen minutes when the red lamps in front of the cattle train were seen approaching. It was taken for granted that it was coming along at slow speed, for the line was straight, and its pace could not be judged, and in consequence of this unhappy confidence some persons who had got out of the carriages of the passenger train re-entered them, fearing lest their engine might be got into motion and that they would be left behind, and feeling satisfied that the danger signal had been observed by the driver. Scarcely had they done so, however, when the cattle train ran at full speed into them, going clean through a first-class carriage that was last in the passenger train, and driving the remainder into a heap of ruins. The third carriage from the front of the passenger train, a second-class carriage broke up and turned over, bursting the powerful iron links which held it to the carriage immediately before it. The impulse given to the two forward carriages thus freed was so tremendous that the roof was cut clean off the one next the ruined train, and it actually fell upon the spot which the carriage had just before occupied, the unroofed carriage with the one before it, the tender, and the engine being sent flying along the line, which they traversed for nearly three-quarters of a mile before they stopped, passing the Straffan station about a quarter of a mile. And here a most melancholy episode occurred. An English gentleman was accompanied by his sister, his wife (a beautiful young lady of 21,) and their child, an infant of about nine months. A passenger, a Mr. Jelly, of Maryborough, had got out of the carriage in which the two English ladies and the baby were, and stood talking with Capt. Collis; but, on seeing the cattle train coming along, he got in the doorway watching its approach. The ladies got alarmed on hearing that the train was coming, and wanted to get out, but the English gentleman advised them to stay as they were and he was about to get in himself, and was only waiting for Mr. Jelly to get out of the doorway, when the collision took place—Mr. Jelly was instantly decapitated, both his legs cut off, and his body torn to pieces. The ladies were both killed, and the agony of the unfortunate husband and brother, when he cast himself upon the lifeless body of his young wife, was quite indescribable. The baby was extricated from the grasp of the unhappy mother, and was living.

FOOD SUPPLIES.—Prices of Grain and of provision^s of all kinds continue on the ascending scale, and, according to present appearances, the pressure on consumers will be felt as severely in the coming winter as it was in the years 1846-7, when the country was suffering under the infliction of a positive famine.—These remarks are not limited to the metropolis, or to any one particular district. They are applicable to the whole country, as will be seen by some extracts taken from the last provincial journals. For instance, in Galway it is stated that in consequence of the warlike aspect of affairs in the East, the price of flour has increased 2s 6d per cwt. since Saturday. A letter from Armagh of Wednesday's date mentions that prices are still rising for every marketable commodity. The farmers will not part with their supplies unless they get a good price, which they think they must have, now that the eastern question has assumed so threatening an aspect. The writer, however, thinks that the speculators will be disappointed, as he has reason to believe that the millowners are feeling very much the tightness of capital at present, and unless some change takes place in the money-market they may not be able to maintain their credit. Many of them would not purchase at all now, but they are compelled to keep their mills going, though some of them are working only half hands. Bread, he adds, is greatly increased in price, so that there is a bad prospect for the poor when once the potato goes, and, as the auctioneers say, it is "going. With respect to the latter source of supply, the accounts are not encouraging although there are still good grounds for hoping that the reports of actual loss by the old blight are somewhat over colored. The King's County paper asserts that the disease is spreading with fearful rapidity, and that one-third of the crop has already perished under its attacks. In Ballina, in the county of Mayo, the grain crops are nearly all cut down, and the result is less satisfactory than had been anticipated. The return will not reach an average. The potato crop, however, is tolerably safe, and an average yield is expected, as the disease had almost ceased to make further progress. Another Mayo paper, published in Castlebar, thus reports:—Potatoes are now considered as more than half gone—and some reports say they are three-fourths diseased. This alarm had the effect of raising them from 2½ to 4d. in one week in our market. The effect of the famine panic in this province may be judged of by the following tenders laid before the Poor law guardians of Ballinasloe:—A Mr. O'Shaughnessy's tender was 9d for the 4lb of brown bread, and 10d for the white description. Mr. Wm. Colgan's tender was 1d higher for each variety, viz: 11d for the 4lb white loaf, or 3½d per lb. Oats are now selling in the Castlebar market at 6s to 6s 6d per cwt.; oatmeal at 13s 3d to 13s 6d per cwt.; Indian meal, £6 per ton, with an upward tendency. Those were the prices reported to us yesterday. We have seen 13s refused for oatmeal on the morning of yesterday; second flour was then 36s to 38s per bag; 4lb loaf 8d 1½"

One of the Dublin market notes says;—It would be useless to deny that disease has done serious injury; yet we understand, from the continuance of dry weather, it has abated much, and that a large portion of the crop, especially green tops, will be found sound. Unquestionably among dealers, if the prices are 3s 8d to 4s per cwt., better and sounder cannot be had, while it is quite true that damaged are selling as low as 10d to 1s per cwt. for farina purposes. On inverting to the prices of food, we believe there never was more anxiety manifested as to the wild state of the markets at the conclusion of really as good a harvest in Ireland as that which now exists. Thirty, and in some cases forty per cent. are freely offered for grain above what would have been given in the months of July and August, caused, it is said, by the state of the French markets and the prohibition of wheat from Egypt, while, as a matter of course, America has run up her exports to corresponding rates."

THE LINEN TRADE.—A Scotch company are about to establish a branch of the linen manufacture in the county of Leitrim. A large factory is in process of erection, and in a very short time permanent employment will be given to over 100 hands.

THE POTATO.—The *Belfast Mercury* thus refers to the condition of the potato crop in a district of the county of Down:—"The disease has, without question, made serious inroad upon the potato fields within the last fortnight. The most favored varieties have suffered beyond the worst anticipations. It is quite impossible to speak with accuracy regarding the extent of the injury sustained. Potatoes which are comparatively uninjured in our locality, are severely affected in another, and vice versa all round, the old varieties in every case being all but completely gone, and of defective growth in the interim. We have at all times been careful to avoid any exaggeration of statement upon this head; but the evidences of daily experience and authentic information fully warrant the preceding description of the state of our national esculent at this period of the season. The prices of potatoes have risen considerably in all the markets of late, and the demand for pigs to consume the tainted tubers being exceedingly brisk, cause rates to rule so high that the prospects of adequate profit from feeding must be slender indeed. It is well, however, that the injured portion of the crop can be used up before progressing to decomposition; and it is a fact that farmers would have given up potato planting long ago, to its present apparently ruinous extent, had not the saving expedient of pig-feeding secured the growers from inevitable serious loss and prospective ruin."

The *Dublin Evening Mail* states that "the vast project which has long been desired, and as long almost despaired of, is at last about to be accomplished; the connection of Sligo by railway with Dublin, and with the south of Ireland. When we announce that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company have undertaken the construction of a line from Portlargo to Sligo—to pass by the towns of Tullamore, Clara, Athlone, Roscommon, Boyle, &c.—we have said almost enough to assure the public that the work will be completed in the best manner, and in the shortest possible time. Part of the proposed line, viz, from Portlargo to Tullamore, is already in progress, and will be open for traffic early in the spring; and we understand it is the fixed determination of the company to apply to the Legislature, during the next session, for a bill to enable them to complete the undertaking."

INCUMBERED ESTATES.—The total amount of payments on account of the Incumbered estates in Ireland, from the commencement of the commissioners proceedings to the present time, is estimated at £6,500,000.

THE TIMES UPON IRISHMEN.—It is proverbial that an Irishman can shift for himself on the edge of a forest better than the Englishman of the same class, inasmuch as he has not to get over the uncomfortable discovery that he has no farmer to employ him, no rates to fall upon, no grocer's shop where he can satisfy all his manifold wants. The Irish would not have multiplied so prodigiously, and thriven so well, not to speak of maintaining many thousand gentry and clergy in and out of Ireland, had they not a good deal in them; and it certainly is rather hard that they should be continually abused for their dependence by the very classes which depend upon them, by landlords who carry away their rents, and by clergymen who live on their tithes or rents. What the Irishman really wants is faith in himself; such a belief in his own powers, as shall make him take proper care of himself, not only when starved, turned out, driven away, and expatriated altogether, but also when he sees a Chancellor of the Exchequer, or a Lord of the Admiralty or any other fairy godmother of political romance. That is the Irishman's weak point. He is too apt to dream of buried treasures, of pots of gold, or short cuts to wealth, of places, of grants, of friends in place, and all sorts of luck.—Imagination has a good deal to do with it; and the effect of imagination is very often seen in this country when an industrious honest man is spoiled by the expectation, well grounded or otherwise, that he is entitled to some considerable property, hanging over him like the grapes of Tantalus all his life, yet never coming within his grasp.

CAUTION TO IRISH LABORERS.—We have recently received authentic information that an attempt is making to enlist in Ireland large companies of men by contract to go to Aspinwall or Panama as laborers on the Isthmus railroad. We beg of our exchange papers in Dublin, and in the South, West, and North of Ireland, as an act of charity and of duty to warn the people that this is a contract for their almost certain death. Since our warnings of the fatality attending foreign laborers there, Irishmen cannot be found to go from the United States. Let the press in Ireland, and of their charity let the priests and all the friends of the laboring Irish, declare to them that the climate of Panama is certain disease, and in seven cases out of ten certain death to them if they go there to labor.—*N. Y. Freeman's Journal*.

ANCIENT STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.—There has been for some time preserved in the Carmelite Church, in Whitefriar-street, Dublin, a very interesting sample of ancient sculpture—a statue of the Virgin, with the infant Jesus in her arms, the size of life, carved in Irish oak. The style of this most curious monument is dry and Gothic; yet it has considerable merit. There are some circumstances relative to the preservation of this statue, preserved by tradition, which may probably interest the reader. It was originally the distinguished ornament of St. Mary's Abbey, at the north side of Dublin, where it was not less an object of religious veneration than of admiration for its beauty (*See Archdall's Monasticon*.) Its glory, however, was but of short duration. The storm of the Reformation came. The noble abbey, to which it appertained, was given to the Earl of Ormond for stables for his train, and the beautiful statue was condemned, and, as it was supposed, consigned to the flames. One half of it was actually burnt, but it was that moiety which when placed in a niche is not much missed; the other part was carried by a devout person to a neighboring inn yard, where, with its face buried in the ground, and the hollow trunk appearing uppermost, it was appropriated for concealment and safety to the ignoble purpose of a hog trough!!! In this situation it remained until the tempest had subsided, and the ignoble rage of the iconoclasts had passed away, when it was restored to its original use in the humble chapel of St. Michan's parish (Mary's-lane,) which had grown up from the ruins of the great monastery to which the statue had originally belonged. But during the long night of its slumber in obscurity, a great change had taken place in the spirit of the times, more dangerous to its safety than the abhorrence of its iconoclastic enemies. No longer an object of admiration to any, except the curious antiquary it was considered of little value by its owners. The ancient silver crown which adorned the Virgin's head was sold for its intrinsic value as old plate, and melted down (this crown is generally supposed to have been the identical one used at the coronation of Lambert Simnel in Christ Church, Dublin); and the statue itself would most probably have followed the fate of its coronet, had it not been rescued by the Very Rev. Dr. Spratt, of the Carmelite Church, who placed it at the epistle side of the high altar. It is now amongst the relics of ancient art in the Great Industrial Exhibition where it attracts much attention and admiration.

BIBLE IN IRELAND.—It is to be lamented that there is at the present day no complete edition of the Bible in the Irish language except Bedel's scarcely Irish version of the heretical Scriptures. We are happy to be informed that his Grace of Tuam is engaged at present in preparing an Irish version, which is so great a desideratum. But it is a serious mistake to suppose that the ancient Irish were destitute of vernacular versions of the Bible. On the contrary such translations abounded in ancient Ireland. We are expressly told by Michael O'Clery—one of the Four Masters—that he had selected from an Irish version of the Holy Bible many obsolete words with which to swell his glossary; thus proving the great antiquity of the version in question, as even in the time of O'Clery the words had become unintelligible. This very version was, in the 17th century, in the possession of Boetius M'Egan, Bishop of Cloyne, who was hanged by the enlightened Cromwellian troopers, or settlers in his diocese. We also read in the "Annals" that, in the 14th century, a certain library in Connaught, "O'Curran's books," as they are called, were remarkable as including the best collections of the ancient Scriptures in Ireland when they were consumed by fire. Nay, they were an edifice in very remote times, constructed at Armagh for the express and exclusive purpose of preserving Irish versions of the Bible from such calamities as that just mentioned. But of all those ancient translations nothing now remains but fragments scattered through the libraries of Britain and Ireland, which are from time to time exhumed (as it were) by such indefatigable antiquarians as Mr. Eugene Curry. And modern Ireland, unlike ancient Ireland, may be said to have no Irish translation of the Scriptures, for that of Bedel does not merit the name, Bedel, in fact, being neither orthodox nor Irish. And it is to relieve us from the shame of such a state of things that the Archbishop of Tuam has, we understand, for some years back been busy in what may be termed the crowning labor of his literary life—an