

Cherbourg, which occupies public attention at this moment, is situated in the peninsula of Cotentin, the ancient Lower Normandy, so called from Cotentinae, its capital. Cotentin, which formed part of the possessions of William the Conqueror, became English after the battle of Hastings. Gerbert, Count of Cherbourg, distinguished himself in that battle, and contributed powerfully to the success of the Normans. From the death of William, 1087, until the middle of the 15th century, Cherbourg was frequently taken by the French, and retaken by the English. It was finally taken by Charles VII., the 12th of August, 1450, after a siege of forty days, and has never since ceased to belong to France. Louis XIV. finding that the French coast on the Channel to the extent of 125 leagues was unprovided with a post of refuge for ships of war, determined to construct one equal to Rochefort or Toulon, and appointed a committee to select a point. On the 13th of April, 1665, the committee reported that it would be expedient to improve the port of Cherbourg, and to construct a breakwater of 2,400 yards in length. Vauban subsequently visited the coast of Cotentin at the command of Louis XIV. He recommended La Hague as the most advantageous strategic point to construct a port for a war navy, but he admitted the merit of Cherbourg, and he prepared a plan for its defence, signed by his own hand, which is still preserved at the Hotel de Ville of that town. Nothing more, however, was done until the year 1739, when the commercial port was formed, the quays built, and two moles constructed at the entrance to the canal. The work of 1744 then interrupted the works. In 1751 Lord Howe landed at Cherbourg, and did not quit the town until he had caused considerable damage. Louis XVI. revived the question in 1776, but Vauban's preference for La Hague found many partisans, who would perhaps have triumphed had it not been for M. de Sartine, then Minister of Marine.—The partisans of Cherbourg found a valuable ally in Colonel Dumouriez, Commander of the town, who subsequently became so remarkable during the Republic; and on the 3rd of July, 1779, a Royal ordinance ordered the construction of the forts Hommet and of the Island Pelee. The works of Cherbourg excited attention both in France and throughout Europe, and the King commissioned his brother, the Comte d'Artois, to visit them. That Prince arrived at Cherbourg on the 22nd of May, 1786, and expressed his admiration of all he saw. At the end of three days he left for Versailles, and from the manner in which he spoke of the works, the King was induced to visit the new maritime establishment. Louis XVI. made his solemn entry into Cherbourg on the 22nd of June, 1786, and left the 26th of the same month. The King examined the works in the harbor, as well as the defences and the commercial port, with great interest. During his stay at Cherbourg he was well received by the authorities and by the population—his affability, his simple manners, and his solid information produced the best effect. The partisans of La Hague, however, remained firm, and returned to the charge in 1785. But they experienced an obstinate resistance. A note exists which was addressed to the King, on the 23rd of March, 1786, by M. Pleville le Pelley, in which the advantages possessed by Cherbourg are explained at great length.—Louis XVI. would not then abandon Cherbourg, and he took the warmest interest in the works until the conclusion of his reign. The plan was carried out by subsequent Governments. The National Assembly voted funds for the continuation of the works in 1791, and again in 1792. From this period the works of the breakwater have been continued without interruption. The breadth of this stupendous work is 140 yards. The breakwater is not extended in a straight line. It is composed of two branches of unequal length, which form an angle of 170 degrees, of which the opening is turned towards the south.—A commission appointed by M. Decres, Minister of Marine to Napoleon I., declared, on the 20th of April, 1811, that there was anchorage in the roads of Cherbourg for 25 ships of the line in summer and 17 in winter. The breakwater at Cherbourg was commenced in the year 1783, and finished the 31st December, 1852. The entire cost of the breakwater amounts to 67,000,000*fr.*, viz., 31,000,000*fr.*, from 1783 to 1803, 3,000,000*fr.*, from 1803 to 1830, and 28,000,000*fr.*, from 1830 to 1852. The annual expense of keeping the breakwater in repair is estimated at 120,000*fr.* The breakwater, which is 3,712 metres long from one channel to the other, is defined by natural blocks of granite. The wear of these blocks requires annually 3,000 cubic yards of fresh blocks. The points east and west are covered by artificial blocks composed of hydraulic cement. Each of these blocks is 30 cubic metres in volume, and weighs 44,000 kilogrammes. Cherbourg is defended by a fort constructed on the island of Pelee, which was commenced in 1783 and finished in 1794; Fort Charvagnac, Fort de Querqueville, Fort des Flamands, Fort du Hommet, and St. Anne's battery. The outer port of Cherbourg was inaugurated in the month of August, 1813, in the presence of the Empress Maria Louisa. The floating dock was finished in 1820.—The inner floating dock, now called the Dock of Napoleon III., cost 16,000,000*fr.*

In studying the history of this remarkable harbour it will be seen that its warlike defences had been originally undertaken solely against English invasion. It is equally clear from its records that the works have been always suspended during peace with England; and again always resumed in time of war with Great Britain. It is in fact, a French fortress built expressly against England. It never had, nor has it at present any other meaning or object, except the exclusive plan of defence and offence in reference to England. It was conceived, carried on, and finished against England, and no other nation, as exclusively as Fort William at Calcutta was completed against the Hindoos.—If France were sincere she should rejoice as England did at Calcutta, that she has now in the end of ages completed a fort which sets English invasion at defiance; and if England would withdraw the veil which conceals her mortified feeling and her hypocrisy, she would be seen to weep in vengeance, as India did when Fort William was executed. Both nations are acting the hypocrite. The difference however is this:—France is acting the triumphant hypocrite, while England is clearly covering her scalding inferiority, and indeed subjugation under the appearance of national joy. When Napoleon III. resumed the work of the old harbour, he must of course carry on that work in the spirit and intention of its well-known object—namely, resistance to England; and when Victoria now witnesses the final completion of this work, she must and ought to experience the feeling of her predecessors—namely, grief at the progress of this outpost of France.

The new forts, the new war-ships, which one day may overthrow the power of England. One rigid reality shines in a well defined form, through the dreary misty dissimulation which hangs over the entire festival—namely, the largest force France has ever mustered, the best soldiers in the world, the most formidable steam navy in Europe, lies in an impregnable fortress within seventy-one miles of England; and if a political accident or design should direct this overwhelming force in hostility against England, there can be no doubt nor entertained by the coolest statesman, that France has it in her power (shall I use the word), to blot out England like Poland from the map of Europe. Hear the *Times* on this important subject, in answer to the French military organ *Moniteur de l'Armee*:

Even supposing that, as far as regards the navy and its ports of war, England were at this moment fully equal to France, or not yet fully equalled by France, there are two important considerations which make the same naval armament a very different thing in one case from what it is in the other. The first of these is that very army which the *Moniteur de l'Armee* has forgotten for the occasion. Nobody ever imagined for an instant that we could, with the commonest military prudence, take the 21,000 men reviewed on Wednesday at Aldershot, and land them on the territory of France. Our army is on such a scale that it is a question of continual anxiety whether it be enough for the defence of our shores in a time of profound peace. To take less than all the men under arms in this country and land them on the opposite side of the Channel would be simply to give them up prisoners of war to the nearest division of the French army. To send all under arms would be simply to invite France to come over and take possession of this island the very day it had been left without a soldier. So in the present state of our army we can only contemplate defence. We cannot possibly have one hostile thought towards France. We show our confidence by the most conspicuous practical illustration in our power. Our army barely suffices for a shield—sword, we have none. But is it so with France? The *Moniteur de l'Armee* can frame no pleasant or ingenuous, no rebukes so severe, as to disguise the fact that with an army of half a million men, all of them, by means of railways, within two days of Cherbourg, France has both the sword and shield, and could hurl the most formidable armament at our shores without the smallest misgiving as to her own. She could spare a force double or treble any we could bring as ever. The armed tide would slowly work up, a wave or two, from the southern provinces, and supply in two or three days the trifling gap left by the embarkation of a hundred thousand men for these shores. Is that a consideration to be forgotten by us in the great business of our national security? Yet, forgotten it is by the *Moniteur de l'Armee*.

It matters not what was the precise object of the ever-threatened invasion; whether to reduce England to a province of the Empire, or to lay her under tribute, or to compel her admission to some European system convenient to France. When independence is lost, the form of servitude to be imposed by the conqueror rests with his pleasure, and is a secondary question. But nobody can dispute that our national independence was threatened by his long-continued assemblage of armies, boats, and all the apparatus of war within sight of Dover. Could that army once occupy the same position on the heights of Boulogne, the fortunes of war must have been very adverse, and the French Generals very wanting to their reputation, if they did not make their way to London in a fortnight. All this is fresh in the memory of England. The nephew of the man who so often stood wistfully on those cliffs, white with tents and glistening with bayonets, has himself re-enacted the very scene. He has kept up this among the other traditions of the empire. We cannot forget what he remembers. He is capable of surprises. Such a thing is at least possible. The French army would show more than military obedience. Is it right that England should leave herself at the mercy of a man who grasps the means of her instant destruction, and who boasts to represent in all things the man who most wished it? We must forewarn her, and she must forewarn herself.

Nothing, then, can be so insufficient to the occasion or so beside the purpose as a mere comparison of harbours and fleets with fleets. It is not a question of sea, but of land. It relates, not to remote dependencies, or even to European standing,—it comes much nearer home, for it is a question of national security, independence, and existence itself. France is, by nature and position, a great military Power. She regards her navy as subordinate to her army, and chiefly as the means of carrying, protecting, landing, and helping her soldiers. As she is beyond comparison superior in her army, a naval equality renders her our superior absolutely. If, with the power of sending a great fleet and army across the Channel in a single night, she is not at least a very dangerous neighbour, then the great statesmen who governed England at the beginning of the century were egregiously mistaken. They reckoned that France being, without comparison, the stronger military Power, our naval superiority corrected that perilous difference, and that with our blockading squadrons we were just able, not to do much in the way of offence, but to hold our own. On their estimate of affairs we ought to be doubling our navy. Indeed, it is impossible to object to any Estimates that a Minister may make founded on the argument of keeping our navy at home superior to the home navy of France. Unfortunately also we, whether necessarily or not, have a large navy abroad, scattered, like our army, all over the world. France has not by any means the same amount of foreign or distant service for her navy. It matters little to her whether her ships are at the antipodes or in the Channel, and she can concentrate them all at Cherbourg without the risk of losing a dozen colonies and dependencies. Thus, if she pleases, she can bring an army and a navy, every element of her gigantic power, to bear on one traditional object of ambition. Were it left to all France we might rely the permanent feelings of forty millions of people. But it rests with one man. It depends on the goodness of his heart, the soundness of his judgment, and the sanity of his brain, not to say his physical frame. The speculations and sentiments of the first Napoleon at St. Helena had been ascribed, even by his friends, to the clouding of his mental faculties under the progress of a lurking disease. His enemies refer his want of self-command to a much earlier date, and point to the Russian campaign as an example. Has the reflection no bearing upon present times?

The position of the French army, from this day forward, in reference to England, cannot be otherwise expressed than to state that they are encamped at the gates of London; and that whenever it may please the Emperor, he can take the city, and take revenge, too, for the fate of his Uncle. In these remarks of mine I follow a safe authority—namely, the Duke of Wellington, who, in his famous letter to Sir John Burgoyne, in 1832, has over and over again warned England of her most unprotected coast, and asserted that if the French army "were such as he once knew them," they could effect a successful landing on our shores with ease, and then march, without serious opposition, to the capture of the City of London! What would the Duke say, if he were now alive, accompanying the Queen (which he would not do)

to the French outpost, and inspecting the works which are destined, perhaps, to accomplish the final conquest of the country?

But if Cherbourg will not be employed (as I trust it will not) in seizing on the English soil, it will execute a triumph not less beneficial to France, and decidedly more important to the dearest interests of all Christendom. The stability of the present French dynasty and power is the guarantee for the undisturbed peace of Europe: and the menacing attitude which France can now assume towards England in one day, is the inflexible check to revolution in all the surrounding states. England during fifty years has been the great political disturber of all Catholic kingdoms: she has sent her apostles of rebellion into every city where insurrection and infidelity could be inflamed; and her ambassadors seemed to have her credentials from England more for their social mischief than for their professional duties. This order of things is now at an end. A French army occupies Rome and guards Naples; a French division is encamped on the confines of Switzerland, and silences the outthroats in Bern; a second division is collected at the foot of the Alps, and keeps peace in Northern Italy; and the forces at Cherbourg, or rather in *Pecadilly*, gag the mouths of Palmerston and his party, and preserve the peace of Europe. Mankind may rely with confidence on the universal peace of Europe, as long as the Cherbourg forts, the three railroads, the national circular telegraph, and the Napoleon dynasty exist in France. From the 4th August, 1858, England is gagged, imprisoned, and handcuffed, on her own soil; and in future she can neither send her troops to India, or her war-ships out of docks, till she will have visited Cherbourg, and obtained a passport of safe conduct from his Imperial Majesty. If her entire military and naval forces concentrated in Portsmouth be now avowedly unable to resist a French invasion, how could she attempt to encounter the same force with her armies scattered over the colonies and her ships divided on various foreign stations. It can be said in one sentence—"England is now placed at the complete mercy of France;" a consummation devoutly welcomed by Europe, since it happily suppresses the reign of universal insurrection and irreligion.

Not less desirable is the second result of the Cherbourg triumph. The English Bible Societies, or the infidel associations of Exeter-hall can no longer find a refuge in the neighboring cities; their trade is exploded, and thus the cause of religion will be proportionably advanced. The Protestant Church Establishment, too, must share in the general change; and having no foreign work to perform, that is, having no lies to tell abroad, they must begin to mind their business at home; and direct their professional labors to teaching the truth to their own people, in place of the crusade of slander and blasphemy, in which they have hitherto degraded their profession, demoralized society, and nearly extinguished the Gospel in England.

July 26. D. W. C.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE NEW CHAPEL AT TIPPERARY.—This edifice is hastening towards completion, and already the massive framework of the high antique roof is being erected, and the tower—of chiselled limestone—is finished externally to the height of about forty feet. When completed this tower will be one hundred and sixty feet high, including the spire, which is to spring from the distance of eighty-five feet from the ground. The large lancet windows in the east and west gables are, in the centre, thirty-four feet in length, and, when finished, will be filled in with stained glass, the gift of the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy and Dr. Howley, P.P., Tipperary. There is yet much of the interior and decorative works to be carried out, and it is not expected to be completed before the early part of next year.—*Clonmel Chronicle*.

The new Catholic Church of St. Michael, Ballinasloe, will be consecrated on Wednesday, the 25th of August next. The sermon will be preached on the occasion by Cardinal Wiseman. The attendance of this eminent Prelate will insure one of the largest audiences ever before congregated in the West of Ireland; and his presence here will be an undoubted proof of the extraordinary zeal and ceaseless exertions of the Right Rev. Dr. Derry to promote the interests of the Catholic Church in this part of the diocese of Clonfert. Already some of the people of Ballinasloe are making preparations to accommodate the vast concourse to be expected on the occasion.—*Western Star*.

MISSION OF THE FATHERS OBLATES IN THURLES.—The mission of the Oblate Fathers in Thurles is working great good among the entire population. Those who have gone to hear the thrilling discourses of the Fathers have been strongly impressed with the strength, beauty, and effectiveness of their teachings; and already converts have been enrolled under the sacred banner around which they have summoned the people. The Fathers are five in number—viz., Rev. Fathers Cooke, Noble, Fox, Gubbins, and Ryan. The two last mentioned are natives of the archdiocese and county of Limerick; and their sermons have been heard with profit and joy by thousands. The sermons of Father Cooke are particularly impressive, whilst those of Fathers Fox and Noble have been attended also with the greatest advantage.

The prospectus has been issued of a Catholic Institute Association, to be formed in Belfast, under the Limited Liability Act, with a proposed capital of £6,000, in shares of £1 each. The objects of the association are stated to be the construction and support of a public lecture-hall, library, and reading-room, and "the purchase from time to time of land or house property sufficient for the accommodation of same, and the doing of all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above object." The objects most prominently put forward are the moral improvement and mental culture, the education, and lawful rational recreation of the minds and bodies of the Catholic population of Belfast.—*Freeman's Journal*.

A movement has been made in Belfast to aid in the collection for the large orphan family of poor noble John Hogan, the sculptor. We hope Belfast will do its duty well in this matter. The local honorary secretaries are Messrs H. H. Bottomley and J. M. Thompson, who will gladly receive subscriptions from all lovers of Irish art and genius. We earnestly hope that in this movement for the relief of the helpless family of a great Irishman the Catholics of Belfast will not hold back. We shall be glad to take charge of any subscriptions entrusted to us.—*Ulsterman*.

On Monday M. Amadeo de Moris, a merchant extensively engaged in the wine and brandy trades in Dublin, committed suicide at his residence, Percy-place, by cutting his throat. He was the brother-in-law of John Banis, Esq., M.P.

A pastoral letter from his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin was read on Sunday last in all the churches of the Diocese of Dublin. With reference to the forthcoming festival of the Assumption, His Grace remarks:—"During the Novena, we recommend you, dearly beloved, to offer most fervent prayers to the Almighty, and to implore the powerful intercession of the Virgin for the happiness and prosperity of the Holy Catholic Church in every portion of the globe, and especially in our own country, where bigotry and fanaticism, assailing us on every side, are incessant in their efforts to undermine the foundations of Faith, and by bribes and monies are endeavoring to seduce the children of want, and to brand them with the guilt of apostasy. How many schools have been established for their perversion—how many attempts are made to poison the sources of knowledge? It is only by fervent and humble prayer, and by the powerful assistance of the Holy Mother of God, that we can defeat such machinations of the powers of darkness. We recommend you also to pray for the conversion of all those who are sitting in the shades of death, and especially of our countrymen who have misfortune to be wandering in the paths of error, without Faith, tossed about by every wind of doctrine. Unceasing efforts are made by the emissaries of the enemy of mankind to poison them with prejudices against everything Catholic, and to depict our doctrines in the most revolting colors. It is only by a special grace of God and the intercession of the Holy Virgin that they can obtain sufficient courage to embrace the truth, and to become members of that holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, out of whose pale there is no salvation. To conclude, let us pray for all our necessities, which are innumerable, and let us place all our petitions with the greatest confidence in the hands of the Immaculate Mother of God. O, Holy Virgin, let us say, come to our assistance, rescue us from the evils by which we are menaced, repress the fell spirit of bigotry and fanaticism now so active against us, protect the children of our poor from the snares laid for their destruction; Thou who art the seat of wisdom preserve all the youth of our country from the evils of a bad education, promote piety and the practices of religion amongst all classes, obtain for us the happiness to be all of one mind, and to be united in the bonds of charity among ourselves, so that our dissensions may not leave us an easy prey to our enemies; restore peace and plenty, obtain for us patience and resignation in our afflictions, strength to glory in the persecutions we have to suffer for conscience sake; and, in fine, through thy intercession, may we all, being delivered from the hands of our enemies, serve the Lord our God without fear, in holiness and justice, all our days."

AS IRISH PARLIAMENT.—The *Celt*, a monthly publication of the true Irish stamp, is labouring to form a party for agitating for the Repeal of the Union.—After O'Connell's failure, it is quite natural that men should be startled a little by such an announcement, believing as many do, that what he failed to win can never be won for Ireland. But the conclusion thus arrived at, by no means follows from the premises. O'Connell failed to achieve several matters, which a combination of circumstances have succeeded in achieving since his death. The great question of the repeal of the Corn Laws was carried, not by the force of agitation, but from necessity, and it is probable that but for the failure of the potato crop the Corn Laws would yet remain on the English statute book. There was no Incumbered Estates Court in O'Connell's day; for the aristocracy were too haughty and dominant in Ireland to even hear of breaking up their ancient, but ill-gotten inheritance; and yet, from a combination of circumstances, the estates of lords, and baronets, and proud men were brought to the hammer two or three years after his death, and sold with as little ceremony as they themselves disposed of their tenants' crops to satisfy their claims for a heavy and grinding rack rent. In his time the elective franchise was not given to men in boroughs occupying houses valued at £8 a year; nor had the property qualification for members of parliament been abolished, nor was justice done to the Catholic chaplains in the army. It is an old adage that "Truth is mighty and will prevail," and we are told on high authority that "freedom's battle once begun," although baffled by tyrants in, in the end, successful, consequently, the wrongs unredressed to-day, may fade from our views on to-morrow; and the task unaccomplished by O'Connell may be performed by feeble men. It is probable that we missed a great opportunity in not having unfurled the repeal banner during the Russian war, when England was in straitened circumstances. But we believe a greater difficulty awaits her. We think we can discern disasters to her lag looming in the distance, when she will be in a position in which she will find it necessary to yield to Ireland what she deprived her of in the day of our weakness. But whatever be the result of another effort to win a domestic legislation for Ireland, we are ready to join in the good work, confident that if the nation be only true to itself the labour will not be fruitless. England will bluster, and threaten, and tell us that she will sooner restore the hierarchy than submit to the reconstruction of an Irish Legislature. But we are fully aware now of the value of such threats, and we shall think very little of them. We know that she has always yielded to necessity; and it is for us to create the necessity which shall compel her to restore our plundered parliament. The *Celt*, in one of its articles, reminds us of the pledge of the 30th May, 1845, when O'Connell and his companions in captivity received the homage of Ireland at their grand levee in the Rotundo, Ireland, we are certain, does not forget that pledge.—Her representatives, who thronged the Round Room of the Rotundo, declared on the occasion that no cajolery, no deceit, no trickery of the English government would be able to drive them from seeking for a repeal of the Union. Nor have they done so. We always looked on the struggle for Tenant Right as part and parcel of the repeal agitation. It was undertaken to root and fasten the tenant farmers more firmly in the soil, that they might be freed from the tyranny of bad landlords, whilst working for repeal. The patriots who now prepare to lift the repeal banner, are some of the purest men in the world; foremost amongst whom is Dr. Cane of Kilkenny; and in whose integrity and firmness of purpose the greatest reliance may be placed. They see, as every honest man must, that no effort of Irishmen under imperial rule, led on even by a thousand O'Connell's—if that were possible—could give to this country the vast benefits which beautiful land, if governed by native legislators, could bestow. England rules us for her own benefit and aggrandisement. She uses us as she uses every country in which she has got a footing—she disarms us; makes us slaves, and then plunders us of our property. We are not men, if we do not put an end to such a rule as that, and win the power to govern Ireland for the benefit of the Irish people.

The *Castlebar Telegraph*, writing on the same subject, says:—"We rejoice to say that the Old Guards are preparing for action anew. The Nation, true to its origin, is beginning to treat its readers to original articles on the subject nearest to their hearts. The *Celt* under the auspices of Dr. O'Connell—than whom no man, after O'Connell, has done more to fan the national flame—makes a monthly appeal to the best feelings of Irishmen in favour of an Irish parliament. In the last number of the *Dundalk Democrat* we find an excellent article on the subject, declaring, a readiness to embark at once in the advocacy of the good old cause. Thus have we the leading journals of the kingdom of Ireland again declaring that Repeal is still alive in the heart of the nation."—*Dundalk Democrat*.

Mr. Spurgeon is announced to appear in Belfast on the 17th inst. The Rev. gentleman was invited to meet the Earls of Erskine and Roden, but previous engagements prevented him from accepting the invitation. (Rather too small fry for the "Star" of the Surrey Gardens.)

Father Roche, of Wexford, has sent twenty penitent women to Canada, to be placed under the care of the nuns in that country. These emigrant women were formerly unfortunate of Wexford, and by the subscriptions of the good people of Wexford and Ross, Father Roche was enabled to provide for them, and to secure their perseverance in virtue. We wish other towns would imitate the excellent example of Wexford in repressing the degrading vice of immorality.

At a meeting of the Dublin Town Council on Monday, Alderman Lambert—proposed by Alderman Hudson, and seconded by Mr. Chambers—was unanimously elected Lord Mayor of Dublin for 1859.

LAND EDWARDS' COURT.—By this time the Land Ed Estates Bill has become an Act of Parliament, and it is agreed on all hands that the measure is one of the most beneficial that has emanated from the Derby Government. It is calculated that the amount of business to be brought before the new Court will be large beyond any estimate that has been framed, for, if the proceedings be well regulated, and the Court prove moderate in cost and expeditious in practice, nearly the whole of the conveyancing business of the country will pass through it. Mr. Ormsby's annual report of the ninth session of the Old Court has not yet appeared, but in the meantime the trade report of the *Freeman's Journal* supplies, in round numbers, a few of the general results—viz., "The total amount of purchases money from the commencement is over £22,000,000, out of which about £3,000,000, or not quite so much, were purchased by English and Scotch purchasers. The number of estates sold were 2,350, divided into more than 11,000 lots, and 8,235 conveyances have been executed by the Commissioners. Since the 27th of July the Court has refused to receive any more petitions, its powers having expired on the 23th. New business, therefore, remains in abeyance, as far as new matter is concerned, until the new Act receives the Royal assent."

Considerably more than half a century ago, in that city of the south which has given to Ireland some of its proudest names in religion, in art, in science, and in literature, was born Mary, daughter of Robert Aikenhead, medical doctor. In those days Catholicity in Ireland had scarcely crept from the crypt and the cavern into which persecution had driven it. The glorious institutions that stud our island to-day, the honor of our people and the admiration of the stranger, had then no place in Ireland. Cathedrals, and colleges, and convents once more rise proudly over the green fields and amidst the cities of faithful Erin, and the island presents itself again in the garb of ancient days, and wears upon its face the signs of an old Catholic nation; but in those days although the jailer had already tired of his task and loosed the fetters around the bondsman, they still encircled him, and religious education was difficult, and religious foundations were rare in Ireland. In 1812, the young Miss Aikenhead bade farewell to the sunny Lee, and leaving behind her the shores of her native land, she sailed for England to become a novice at the Institute of the Blessed Virgin at York. She sailed from Ireland, but she forgot it not; before Our Lady's Altar she prayed for her native country; and God who heard her prayer destined her for a Mission which was to be to that country a benefaction and a blessing for all time. And so, three years afterwards, no longer a novice, but Sister Mary Augustine, the pledged servant of God, she once more sailed from the dock of the English packet the blue hills of the land that was henceforth to be her earthly home.—In 1815, the rescript of the Holy Father Pius the Seventh sanctioned the foundation of the Order, and with some three or four fellow-laborers, Sister Mary Augustine founded in North William street, Dublin, the first house of the Order of Charity in Ireland.—The education of the poor and the care of the sickness-stricken children of poverty, was the duty to which this little band had sworn a life service.—Their vows forbade them to accept the slightest gratuity or recompense for their labors; their mission was "To honor Christ in the person of the poor."—Her first undertaking prospered, and, in 1819, resolved to push still further her efforts; the House of O'Leary, Stanhope street, for industrious women of good character, next rose beneath her zeal; and how lasting have been her works is proved to-day in its extended and extending usefulness. Five years again elapse; and, still untiring, still toiling, still conquering, she now stretches forth her hand to the rescue of the unfortunate fallen ones of her sex;—and now her native city is the field of her labours. In 1826, she founded the Magdalen Asylum in Cork. The world will hear and praise the victories of the sword, and history record how battle-fields were lost and won; but until the good and evil of this world is revealed before the Judgment Seat of God, the victories over the Devil—the victims snatched from sin and shame and sorrow by that glorious work of this true heroine—will never be fully known save to One in heaven. In 1829, the Convent in Upper Gardiner street, where she founded a sick mission and schools, was established; these schools now contain over seven hundred children. In 1832, the Constitution of the Order was confirmed by His Holiness Gregory XVI; and in this year charge was taken of the Magdalen Asylum, Townsend street, which, four years later, was removed to Donnybrook, where nearly seventy poor penitent outcasts have now a shelter from the world's scorn, and a sanctuary in which they have found reconciliation with their Creator. In 1834, St. Vincent's Hospital, in Stephen's-green, was added to the trophies of Mother Mary Augustine. What can we say of this glorious monument of all that is noble and heroic in woman's heart enlisted in the cause of suffering humanity? No word of ours can add a ray to the halo which surrounds that house of Samaritan succor. This, however, was not all; while she lived, she rested not. In 1843, in Waterford; in 1844, at Kilkenny; in Galway; and in 1845, in Clonmel—sick mission and free schools, for the poor were raised by the indefatigable "Sister of Charity;" in 1845, she established the Convent at Harold's Cross, with its sick mission and free schools, and evening instruction for the poor factory girls! It was here the good Mother resided, and here she died on Thursday, the 22nd of July. We have contented ourselves with barely reciting, like a herald at a warrior's bier, the names and dates of the chief victories of this most true Warrior of Christ. The captives and trophies of Pagan conquerors were paraded in the funeral train; three thousand children daily receiving free education in the Schools of the Order; hundreds of penitent victims snatched from a life of shame, and thousand of grateful poor restored to health in the wards of the Sisters of Charity, are the captives and trophies of Mother Mary Augustine. No smoking cities, no bloodstained fields have marked the course of the heroine for whom we ask a nation's grief and a nation's prayers to-day. The school-room and the hospital ward were her theatres of action. Where the groan of anguish and the cry of pain ascended, she was, indeed, an angel of charity, an angel of peace and of success.

"The dying Looked up into her face, and thought indeed to behold there Gleams of celestial light encircle her forehead with splendor. And with light on her looks she entered the chambers of sickness Moistened the feverish lip, and the aching brow, and in silence Closing the sightless eyes of the dead, and concealing their faces, Where, on their pallets, they lay like drifts of snow by the way side." God raised her up as a wonderful instrument of His grace to Ireland, from end to end of the island, where her name will be honored and her memory enshrined in the hearts of a grateful people.—*Nation*.