

shame to share, for a time, many of her views, for which I ask pardon of God and of my countrymen.—I was for a brief time in her confidence, and one of those selected to carry into execution her plans. The great object was to get rid of Christianity, and to convert our Churches into Halls of science. The plan was not to make open attacks on religion, although we might belabor the clergy and bring them into contempt where we could; but to establish a system of state, and to which all parents were to be compelled by law to send their children. Our complete plan was to take the children from their parents at the age of twelve or eighteen months, and to have them nursed, fed, clothed and trained in these schools at the public expense; but at any rate, we were to have godless schools for all the children of the country, to which the parents would be compelled by law to send them. The first thing to be done was to get this system of schools established. For this purpose, a secret society was formed, and the whole country was to be organized somewhat on the plan of the Carbonari of Italy, or as were the revolutionists throughout Europe by Bazard, preparatory to the revolutions of 1820 and 1830. This organization was commenced in 1829, in the city of New York, and to my own knowledge was effected throughout a considerable part of New York State. How far it was extended in other States, or whether it is still kept up I know not, for I abandoned it in the latter part of the year 1830, and have since had no confidential relations with any engaged in it; but this much I can say, the plan has been successfully pursued; the views we put forth have gained great popularity, and the whole action of the country on the subject has taken the direction we sought to give it. I have observed too that many who were associated with us, and relied upon to carry out the plan, have taken the lead in what has been done on the subject. One of the principal movers of the scheme had no mean share in organizing the Smithsonian Institution, and is now, I believe, one of the representatives of our government at an Italian court. It would be worth inquiring, if there were any means of ascertaining, how large a share this secret infidel society, with its members all through the country unsuspected by the public, and unknown to each other, yet all known to a central committee, and moved by it, have had in giving the extraordinary impulse to godless education, which all must have remarked since 1830, an impulse which seems too strong for any human power now to resist."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

We are happy to announce the return from Rome of the Rev. Dr. R. B. O'Brien, late of St. Mary's, Limerick. The Rev. gentleman is one of the Professors of All Hallows College, Drumcondra; and we feel much pleasure in informing his numerous friends and admirers that he enjoys the best of health and the most buoyant spirits.—*Limerick Reporter*.

The Presentation Convent nunnery at Waterford is threatened with distress for union poor rates.

The Board of National Education are about to grant a sum for the sustenance of one of the most deserving industrial schools in Ireland, endowed by the Rev. Dr. Smyth, at Esker, county Galway.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN O'CONNELL OF GRENA.—The Paris Journals have brought us the painful intelligence that John O'Connell the favorite brother of the Liberator, is no more. His death took place at Dinan, where he had been residing for some time, on the 12th ult., May his soul rest in peace. A braver, a kinder, a more generous and hospitable man never lived. As a patriot, a friend, and in all the relations of domestic life few could surpass him in excellence. He was emphatically the "poor man's magistrate" at a period when the commission of the peace, was looked upon as a royal license to plunder and to oppress. A perfect type of the fine old Irish gentleman, he happily blended the most enlightened sentiments of liberality with a zealous devotion to the Church of his fathers, and to the duties of a good Catholic. We remember him the most popular man in Kerry, and deservedly so, and we believe his popularity never waned while he retained his position in his native country.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.—At the last weekly meeting of the North Dublin Union guardians Mr. Hardy brought forward a motion to the effect that the schools of the union be disconnected from the National Board of Education. After a protracted discussion the resolution was lost by a majority of 21 to 12.

During the last five years £614,947 have been expended on national education in Ireland. The expense of inspection during that time was £64,626. The officers whose income amounted to £100 a-year and upwards number 98.

A STRONG MINDEN BISHOP.—The wife of Archbishop Whately has resented the treatment which her husband has experienced at the hands of the National Board in gallant style. Having ascertained that the new regulation for the expulsion of the Scripture Exacts had come into operation in her own national school at Stillorgan, she dismissed the teacher, and caused the inscription "National School" to be erased from the face of the building, at the same time announcing her determination to enforce the reading of the Scripture lessons on all the scholars.

THE STATE PRISONERS.—The Town Council of Cork has taken the initiative in a movement on behalf of Smith O'Brien and his companions, which is well-timed, and will, we believe, meet with prompt and general sympathy. It was originally proposed to embody a clause praying the exercise of the Queen's prerogative in the address presented upon the recent royal visit. This amendment, however, was declined on the principle, that if an effort were to be made in the matter at all, it should be in a systematic and organized not in a casual and hap-hazard way. The Cork corporation have accordingly, at their very first meeting after the Queen's departure, taken the question actively and practically in hand. They have not alone unanimously adopted an urgent memorial proposed by the local crown-solicitor, and seconded by one of the leading Conservatives of the council, but they have appointed, at the instance of the mayor, a committee with instructions to invite the co-operation of all the other civic bodies in Ireland. The question is thus effectively put in train for a genuine and extensive national demonstration. The Waterford corporation has already taken action upon the subject. The *Limerick Chronicle* regrets that its own council was not the first in the field. The Dublin council

will certainly belie its constancy, if the same unanimous vote does not declare, as in Cork, for both sides, of the house. In almost every other corporation throughout the country we anticipate a unanimous concurrence in the movement. We hope to see William Dargan's name the first upon any memorial that may be presented. It is said that the present time is peculiarly propitious for this movement. We believe there is, indeed, no real desire on either side of the House of Parliament for continuing our friends in duress; and we have strong reasons for believing that a full pardon would have been granted under the Derby administration were it not for the obstinate malignity of Chancellor Blackburne.—*Nation*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin has received the following letter from the Home Secretary:—Whithall, 12th Sept., 1853. "My Lord—It is with much satisfaction that I communicate to your lordship, by command of the Queen, the expression of her Majesty's entire satisfaction with all the arrangements made for her reception on the occasion of her late visit to the city of Dublin. The enthusiastic loyalty displayed by her Irish subjects, and the order and good feeling which invariably prevailed among them, have left upon the minds of her Majesty and of the Prince—her royal consort—the most agreeable impression; and I am commanded to convey this assurance to your lordship in the name of the Queen and Prince.—I have the honor to be, my lord, your lordship's obedient servant, PALMERSTON.

The Queen's late visit to the Irish metropolis cannot fail to demonstrate how little understood and how grossly misrepresented are the character and feelings of the people of Ireland. Englishmen who have been taught to consider the Irish as a race thoroughly disloyal and adverse to all constituted authorities must be surprised to learn that in no portion of her dominions is Victoria received with more enthusiastic loyalty than in this so-called abode of disaffection.—*Times*.

While in Dublin, the Queen had two dozen medals of William Dargan struck in Irish silver, for her own use. She also bought largely of Limerick and other lace at the Exhibition; expending a sum of £2000. It is related that the Royal children wandered about in the toy section of the Exhibition while the Queen and Prince Albert were in other departments. The Prince of Wales showed precocious tact in striking a bargain. He asked the price of an elaborate specimen of carving in bog-oak. "The shopman in attendance, quite overwhelmed with the unexpected honor, answered distractedly, 'a shilling,'—the true price being about fifteen shillings. The Prince, with a promptitude worthy the future ruler of a great commercial nation, closed with the bargain at once, laid down his shilling and walked off with his prize. This little incident will probably make the fortune of the exhibitor; who is constantly surrounded by groups of the curious, and preserves the shilling under a glass vase, only to be shown to the most favored of the customers."

English Catholics, after visiting the Exhibition in Dublin, have returned to their homes in England with increased affection and esteem for the Catholic people of Ireland. They describe the attendance at the confessional, and the crowds they witnessed taking part in the great service of the Church wherever they visited, as being worthy of a Catholic nation. Amongst other interesting relics brought across the Channel to keep in remembrance their visit to the land of persecution and sorrow, is some ivy plucked from alongside the grave of the sainted Gentili, whose memory is dearly cherished by thousands in this diocese; others have brought some leaves of a yew tree which they found growing alongside the grave of the immortal O'Connell.—*Tablet*.

The proceedings in connection with the great enterprise of covering the United Kingdom with a network of telegraph, in which the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company are embarked, progress with activity. Mr. Moseley, the agent for Ireland, has proceeded to Cork, in order to make arrangements for opening the communication between the Company's office, College-green, Dublin, and the "Beautiful City."

IRISH QUARRELS.—Last week the *Cork Reporter* insinuated a charge against Mr. Maguire, the member for Dungarvan, that he had offered his services to the Ministry on condition that they prevailed on Mr. Edmund O'Flaherty to withdraw his petition against Mr. Maguire's return. Mr. Maguire retorted that the charge was a "lie." Mr. Commissioner Murphy immediately wrote to Mr. Maguire, asking him whether he did not request Mr. Murphy to wait on Mr. Hayter and the Duke of Newcastle to induce them to obtain the withdrawal of the petition. "What equivalent," Mr. Murphy asks, "had you to offer them for their interference?" Mr. Maguire replies, by admitting that he not only asked Mr. Murphy's assistance, but that Mr. Murphy volunteered it; and that others had also been asked. "But," writes Mr. Maguire, "that I authorized any man to make a corrupt compact on my behalf, is a lie." Mr. Maguire considers that he has claims on a Liberal Ministry; for he was, is, and ever will be, a Liberal; and he says that although he sat with the independent Irish Members, he always deprecated a factious policy. Mr. Murphy now states distinctly that Mr. Maguire did authorize him to say that he "would not oppose the Government."

PREST PERSECUTION.—At the Petty Sessions of Middleton, county Cork, a Scripture reader, named Williams, summoned the Rev. Mr. Daly, C.C., and others, for assault. The magistrates granted informations, and returned the case for trial to the assizes. In giving his evidence the fellow betrayed his vulgarity by saying—"I was on another mission afore I came here." Yet missionary societies consider him educated enough for a preacher of the Gospel!

SCARCITY OF SILVER.—In many parts of the country silver has become unusually scarce, owing, as it is supposed, to the emigrants carrying off their cash in that form. It was so scarce in Ennis on Saturday many shopkeepers were obliged to refuse payment for goods amounting to 10s. or 12s. if they were required to give change for a note.

Twelve months ago there were 1,817 persons in the Waterford union workhouse. Now there are but 1,216 giving a reduction in favor of this year of 601.

Only the very small number of 157 passengers left Cork for Liverpool during the month of August, on their way to America.

The master and schoolmaster of the Coleraine workhouse have been dismissed for allowing the children to walk in procession, with party-colored flags, on the 12th July last.

THE WEATHER—THE CROPS.—A correspondent, writing from Killarney, says that the crops in that neighborhood are rather backward; that the potatoes are getting darkish, and that about a fifth of them are tainted. Considerable progress has been made with the harvest during the week, and the weather has been all that the most sanguine could wish for harvest operations. Should the ensuing week prove equally propitious, there will be but a small share of the crops remaining to be cut. Every kind of cereal crops is likely to turn out well. So far as the thrashing of oats has gone, the crop is yielding much better than the same crop did last year, although the bulk of straw is not so great, but the grain is excellent and of superior description. Barley and wheat are very fine crops. The potatoes are going rapidly in some parts, but generally speaking, the damage as yet is but very partial, and should the present fine weather continue it will tend to circumscribe the disease.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

A Newtownhamilton correspondent informs us that since the recent heavy rains the potato disease has spread considerably in the district of the county of Armagh. He, however, adds that the quantity of potatoes sown this year has been unusually large, and that if over one-fourth of the crop should be destroyed there will still be an abundant supply for the population. The digging of the potatoes has commenced. The disease has appeared generally, but not to the extent of one in a score, and that only slightly tainted. The potatoes sold in Ennis market would delight an Irishman's heart, wherever he might be.—*Clare Journal*.

We are sorry to say that the potato blight has very generally re-appeared in this county. The leaves and stocks afford unmistakable evidence of the existence of the old disease. Many persons have even felt the old peculiar offensive smell which used to proceed from the crop in the years of the famine.—Still, so far as we can form an opinion, there is no cause for serious alarm, as the root is well formed, and nothing can be superior to the quality of the potato sold in our market, at a very moderate price.—*Sligo Champion*.

At a moderate calculation, the quantity of ground under potatoes in Ulster this year is about 220,000 acres—nearly the largest area, yet planted in the province—and never before did the fields present a more healthy aspect.

Notwithstanding the continuance of fine weather and the prospect of a harvest of at least average abundance, prices of all kinds of provisions are rapidly rising, and, unless some unforeseen change takes place, there is no doubt that the pressure of the present high rates will be felt as keenly in the coming winter by consumers in the large towns as it was in the two years succeeding the great potato failure.—Meanwhile the exportation of stock to England from all the Irish seaports are becoming larger every day. The shipments of black cattle from Dublin alone far exceed those of any former season, not only in numbers, but in the quality and condition of the stock. From morning till night, drove after drove pass down the long line of quays leading to the North-wall, and perhaps the only marvel is, that notwithstanding this continued drain, butcher's meat is to be had at any price in the Dublin markets. Bacon is high—the rates yesterday at Spitalfields being 8d. per lb. for prime, and 8d. for inferior quality. Bread, butter, eggs—in fact every consumable article—is advancing in the same ratio. The agricultural classes, at all events, have no reason to complain of this state of affairs. A much more prosperous year for that interest could scarcely be conceived. A letter from Waterford mentions that a day or two ago a field of standing oats, consisting of three acres, sold for the enormous sum of £40, being one-fourth higher than the same quantity realised in the most palmy days of the last great European war. The following is an extract from a Belfast commercial letter:—"The steady and prosperous condition of business in the principal departments of enterprise, the carrying out of which creates the greatest demand for labor, is well supported; and, if the present harvest turns out as all appearance would indicate, there is every prospect of one of the most active seasons ever recollected in the commercial history of these realms. In the more forward districts of Ireland demand for labor has done great service to the trading classes, through the increased circulation of money and the enlarged spirit of independence created among the people. Industrial enterprise, up to the last couple of years little more than known in many parts of Connaught, is at present pushed with a good deal of vigor in that province; and farmers there, like those in our own neighborhood, find that some exertion must now be made, even with additional wages, in order to procure the requisite number of hands for the harvest field.—Indeed, it would appear that mechanical power will be forced on the agriculturists who intend to keep pace with the progress of the day; and the grower of corn, as a manufacturer of food, must, like manufacturers of clothing, learn to supply, by means of the steam-engine, the present and prospective deficiency of labor. Manufactures are in course of extension throughout Ireland's remotest localities. One of the most enterprising linen merchants in this part of the country is at present about to re-open a flax spinning-mill in the neighborhood of Bunrana, county of Donegal. Flax is selling at excellent prices to growers. Every description of grain has advanced in value.

The *Northern Whig* has the following remarks on the state of the Irish labor-market, "the most remarkable feature of these most remarkable times":—"It was only the other day, so to speak, that unskilled labor was a drug, and skilled labor, but poorly paid, and insufficiently employed. How different is the state of things at present! Wages of every kind have risen enormously, and, as for employment, none but the lazy of either sex, or of almost any age, need now be idle. Indeed, in many departments, the competition for trained hands is such as to render still higher wages certain; and, although capitalists may complain of diminished profits, we heartily rejoice that labor, the sole capital of the children of toil, now commands a high and increasing value, and that, too, as we before remarked, without creating those bitter feelings between the employer and employed, or causing those acts of savage violence which used, a few years ago, so surely to accompany a movement for a rise in wages. There can be no doubt that the unparalleled prosperity we have been enjoying is largely assisted by the increased consumption of food and clothing by the working classes, the greater part of whose weekly wages generally go to supply their weekly wants, thus extending trade and benefitting the entire community."

Reverend and Dear Sir—The many contradictory accounts about souperism in the west induced me, a few weeks ago, to travel through Connemara for the purpose of collecting correct information, and of seeing with my own eyes the true state of things; and the result of my inquiries and observation is a full conviction on my mind that never was there a more wicked combination of bribery, coercion, and falsehood, than the thing called souperism. Bribery and coercion are its ordinary means of action, and it lives and preserves its temporary existence on lies.

From the false reports which I have heard and read, I expected to find your flock tainted by imposture, but I was greatly and agreeably surprised on Sunday morning, the 31st of July, to witness the most striking manifestation of religious fervor amongst your people. Although the day was very wet, multitudes flocked in from the country districts to assist at Mass, and many who could not get inside the chapel still remained under the heavy rain to listen with breathless attention to your interesting instructions. In the afternoon vast numbers of children assembled in your chapel, and, arrayed in perfect order, were receiving religious instruction from the devout young men and women of your flock. May God bless them! These and other edifying practices which I observed, together with the promising appearance of the potato crop, satisfied me that souperism was nearly defunct in Clifden. It appeared as if a merciful Providence would powerfully aid you to put a stop to the vile traffic of bribery and tampering with the souls of the dear little ones of Christ, by restoring the potato in abundance to the most destitute of the poor of Ireland, while we hear and read of the frightful ravages the disease is making this year in many parts of England.

But I perceive by the *Freeman* of the 17th ultimo that the hypocrites are still endeavoring to earn the wages of "false testimony," and that you are collecting funds to meet their vile attempts. If the charitable Irish will follow the example of your "charitable English" friends, an adequate sum will soon be provided to protect the good and faithful children of your flock.

As to the permanent means you are adopting to save your flock from further injury, they are most praiseworthy. Already you are provided by his Grace of Tuam with the means of education for the poor male children by the establishment of the Brothers of Saint Francis. Your hopes of founding a nunnery for the female children will, I doubt not, be fully realised.

Since I saw you I had the honor of a conversation with your illustrious Archbishop, who is resolved to give you all the assistance his limited means will allow.

From what I know and have heard of the benevolent and wealthy proprietor of your district, I have no doubt of the success of your undertaking. I am also certain the charitable public will not withhold its substantial sympathy from a people so faithful and so religious as yours unquestionably is.

Please put down my name for £100 towards the holy institution.—Faithfully yours,
Rev. P. Macmanus, P.P. RICHARD DEVEREUX.

ANOTHER STRAY SHEEP RETURNED TO THE FOLD.

A Souper writes to the *Dublin Weekly Telegraph*, announcing his return to the Catholic Church. Dunahane, Carigahol, County Clare, Sept. 3rd, 1853.

Sir—I beg leave for trespassing upon you to give insertion to the following lines in your valuable paper. It is an obligation due to me both to God and man. It is well known in this district that I have had been one of that degrading and disgraceful tribe called Soupers.

In the year 1851 I attended some Irish meetings, and after some time engaged to teach Irish under the Irish Society, which I continued for a quarter; then I gave myself up to the priest. Some time afterwards I went publicly to church, thinking thereby to vex the priest the greater, and continued so since January until about the middle of April last, when I declined to go to church for the future. I knew right well I was doing what was wrong, and thought an hour, much less a day, too long to remain as I was. Therefore, I went at once to the priest, who said he would receive me after a little trial. We read of persons who gave themselves up both soul and body to the Devil, in writing, with their own blood, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin were pardoned. Then, why should any person despair, or be diffident in God's mercy? Therefore, I say to those that are still in connection with Soupers, that there is danger in everything connected with Souperism. Death comes very uncertain, as like a thief in the night, and one hour, even a moment, is too long for them to hazard the salvation of their souls for this wicked and deceitful world.

Though I joined the Soupers, I had a great horror for Bible readers, because of their shocking hypocrisy. A Scripture reader handles the Bible just as a mason would his trowel, or a carpenter would his chisel. But there is a great difference; the carpenter earns honest bread, but the Scripture reader, Bible in hand (as they say), makes a common tool of the sacred volume, to get wages for idleness and a reward for hypocrisy.

Also, a Scripture reader will take a Bible with as little humility or respect for that holy book into his hands, as if it were the life of James Freney, or *Cant an rchain Oudhehe*. *Nescio qualis sit*—I know not what it is—heaven knows it is a desecration of the holy word of God to put its sacred volume into the hands of him (who wants more to go to school and learn orthography), and to submit its pure and mysterious truths to the interpretations which his ignorance or his passions at the moment suggest.

When a Bible reader goes here to the mountain and he, perchance, meets with a few at a turf bank, one of them, perhaps, a favorite of his; he begins with some put-together trash, then draws a Bible as big as a soup pot out of his pocket, saying at the time:—"Neighbors, here is your priests' own Bible." Oh! what the poor mountaineer knows about the Bible! I was often near a reader in the church, and he could not read the Book of Common Prayer, being ignorant of the lessons of the day. What could he know about the Bible? If he understands the Bible, what has he to say to the following? The Eunuch of Ethiopia did not understand the Bible, for Philip said to him, "Dost thou understand what thou readest?" and he said, "how can I, except some man show me." "Call on man father upon earth, neither be you called masters, for one is your Master, Christ." "If any man see thee at law to take away thy coat, let him have thy