

this quarter. We were living in terms of amity with the few Protestant inhabitants who are interspersed here and there through the country. We have even borne with comparative quiet the presence of the hireling crew of Bible-crusaders who have followed in the track of famine to insult Catholic conscience by seeking to purchase souls for a "mess of pottage." It was felt here that things would right themselves in the course of time, and that with the first dawn of a return to comparative plenty, the whole spawn of Exeter Hall would disappear from the face of the country. But now, a strong underhand spirit of discontent is actively at work upon the minds of the people, which, at any moment, might be kindled into a destructive, because frenzied religious warfare.— Upon the head of Lord John Russell and his supporters will rest the responsibility of rekindling once more in this country those sectarian feelings which have long proved its bitterest curse, and the great drag-chain on our march towards industrial enterprise. Instead of fomenting religious discord it was his duty to pour oil into the festering wounds of our hapless people. If Lord John Russell wished to make another move against the established church in Ireland, he could not have selected means more likely to forward his objects than by extending his insulting and penal policy to the Catholic population of this country. And if in the teeth of the wishes of Ireland, expressed in simultaneous petitions, and conveyed to the legislative assembly by the noble band of independent and unpurchasable Irish members, the cabinet have the fatuity to urge on the measure, that moment will be laid the foundation of an agitation against the existence of the established church in Ireland which will shake it to its very foundation.

The letters of the highly-gifted Doctor Cahill are telling upon the public mind with startling force. If he follows up his purpose of convening an aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, I make no doubt but it will be well attended, and that any practicable form of agitation traced out at the meeting will be carried into effect by the country. We are anxiously looking forward for his exposure of the anti-Catholic policy of the Whig cabinet. He has already settled the young Sir Robert Peel, whose maiden speech in the house has entitled him to the unenviable notoriety he has earned for himself, and with which his name will be connected for some time to come. Everything that comes from the pen of Dr. Cahill will be read with the attention due to his surpassing talents, and, in the present instance, he has selected a theme, which will find a ready response in the breast of every Catholic in the kingdom.

Your readers will have remarked from the tone of all our local journals, how very unpopular these members of parliament have rendered themselves, who either by their absence or their votes have contributed to mark any confidence in the present cabinet. On every side is heard nothing but indignant execration against the present cabinet. If the present popular feeling do not cool down to an unworthy degree of indifference, the next election will terminate the parliamentary career of the greater number of the gentlemen who represent the province of Connaught. At least, universal disapprobation is felt and expressed against them. The only safe policy is, to force the representatives of Catholic constituencies, whether Catholic or Protestant, to band themselves together, and obstruct, as far as the forms of the house will admit, any and every motion, no matter how important until this odious penal law is totally withdrawn. It will not do to vote against the bill itself, and vote with ministers upon other questions; because it is now quite apparent that the intense bigotry existing or called up in England, will compel a majority of their representatives to carry any measure of persecution against Catholicity. But although John Bull loves his liberty much, we believe he loves mammon more. He will not relish much the alternative of seeing all public business obstructed when nothing stands in the way, but this absurd and persecuting bill. Sentiment will yield before stubborn fact. Nor will the industry and commerce of England permit the risk of seeing both deranged or materially obstructed in their progress by an obstinate and useless adherence to the phantom of religious and sectarian ascendancy. The noble Irish "band" who broke up the cabinet are held in honor, and their names are as familiar as household words in every part of this province.

I never recollect to have heard such a storm of indignant feelings expressed as after the scene in the House of Commons, in which Mr. Drummond was pronounced to be in "order," after insulting, grossly and wantonly, every Catholic family in the kingdom. No one felt much surprise at the distorted views taken by the unfortunate gentleman himself, but that his blasphemous ribaldry should not only be applauded by any notable number of men of the rank of senators, but should, moreover, be pronounced to have the sanction of the house, as guaranteed by the Speaker's decision, was felt a conclusive evidence of the little reliance to be placed by Catholic Ireland upon the justice or the good feelings of the English nation. All our hopes now rest upon the gallant "band" to whom I have alluded. By uniting firmly together they will form a common point of union, around which public opinion will throw a bright lustre. Every liberal member will be forced to retire from public life, or join the ranks of this phalanx. It is not upon this penal policy alone the "Irish vote" will exert its salutary influence. It is confidently expected they will extend their arms and objects, and throw themselves in the breach to arrest all efforts at centralization. A strong national feeling can be evoked with more propriety at this moment than at any period since the act of Union. The population then amounted only to about four millions, they are now double that number. They did not feel the loss of their own parliament and the dreadful miseries its removal was about to entail upon every interest in the

kingdom, except in theory; they had no experience of the reality as they now have. If the people of this country could have realized to themselves a title of what they have since endured by the absence of the fostering care of a domestic parliament, it is not two but a hundred millions of gold that would be required to purchase the treasonable adhesion of Ireland. The famine of the last four years has given the last and finishing lesson to the Irish nation. Every man in the land feels that if Ireland had her own parliament, no one would be allowed to starve. We would have been spared from witnessing such scenes of bloodless horror as makes the senses reel at the very recollection. We would not see our population more than decimated in those ghastly workhouses, nor would we require the aid of a stranger to come amongst us to lift up the veil which overhangs the nakedness and deformity. If centralization had not so changed the focus of public opinion as to remove its telling efficiency so far from our own doors, and place it at the mercy of the English press, we would need no "S. G. Osborne" to startle the ears of our alien taskmasters on their way to the House of Commons, by the recital of the tragedies of Kilrush and other unions. Whilst we feel all the gratitude for the heroic benevolence which actuates this kind-hearted man, the blush of shame must mantle the cheek of every Irishman, to think that it is owing to the treachery of our own representatives we owe the first and great step towards that centralization which is exhausting the life-blood of the country, and leaving her a mangled helpless victim at the mercy of an English despot. It was a sad, nay a maddening reflection, during the days of our late, and I may add, yet continued famine, to think that there was no alternative but quietly to lie down and die, in accordance with the pre-conceived notions of an English theory of political economy. I am credibly informed that when Lord John Russell wanted to raise the much-boasted loan of eight millions, for the relief of the poor, but a notable portion of which found its way into the hands of English officials, who covered the land like a horde of locusts, he had offers upon his table in Downing-street of moneys to the amount of nearly a hundred millions, and which he might have raised upon the same terms, and with the same facility, as he did the paltry sum of eight millions. Yet his cabinet permitted thousands and hundreds of thousands to die in the ditches of hunger. Never was the absence of a native parliament felt with such force and acuteness as during these awful times. However, if it be not possible, at present, to recal the past and undo the act of 1800, it is within the power of the nation to arrest the utter annihilation of our national institutions. Even if they were of no other use, but as mementos of our past glory, they should be still sacred. The landmarks of other times may be guides at no distant day. England has not shot into the earth an eternal root. She carries with her, at this moment, the seeds of decay. If, with an infatuation which looks like the handwriting on the wall, she perseveres in her present course of persecution, and they raise up one third of her population into an attitude of enmity and hatred against her laws, it is hard to tell the result. It was a saying of the great O'Connell, the darkest hour is the hour nearest day. It may contain a moral even for haughty England. But to come to the "Irish vote," all eyes are fixed upon the noble band. To their determined attitude do we look for the utter rejection of this present penal bill. To their patriotism and their stern inflexibility of resolve, do we also look forward as an opposing force against further centralization; or, in more proper phrase, the further denationalization of our country. All the country seems to require at this moment in some party of talent and honesty, around which to cling in this struggle. But as a basis for safe operation, the ground work must be the utter rejection of penal enactments, and the entire abolition of sectarian ascendancy.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PASTORAL LETTER OF THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM AND ADMINISTRATOR OF NOTTINGHAM.

William Bernard, by the Grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Birmingham, and administrator of the Diocese of Nottingham, to our dearly beloved the Clergy Secular and Regular, and the Faithful of the said diocese, health and benediction in the Lord.

We appear before you bearing the load of contumely, in which you, our brethren, have largely shared, for the faith of Christ, and for the discipline of His holy Church. In their seats of power they have meditated vain things, and raged "against the Lord and against His anointed." They have fondly imagined that you, even you, the faithful Clergy and the faithful laity, were on their part. They have said to you, "let us burst asunder their bonds, and let us cast from our shoulders their yoke." They knew it not, that you loved the bonds of truth, and the cords of discipline, and the sweet yoke of our Lord; and that its burden you knew to be far lighter than the yoke of that state establishment, whose load they would fain lay upon you. Against the light of heaven they have struck at the chief shepherds, and pretended to aim their stroke for your protection. But by these vain machinations you and we are only drawn more closely together in confidence and affection. We are exercised together in the same school of patience and endurance; and our hopes of eternal life are nourished, while it is given us to follow our Lord more closely in the great fight of patience, and, after His divine pattern, to encounter derision with meekness. Can we do better, both Pastors and people, whilst we stand in the defence of truth, than to forgive from our whole hearts, and to pray for the conversion of those who know not either what they do, or of what they

affirm, or whither their actions are tending? And do you pray for us, dearly beloved, that we may receive increase of light, and vigor for upholding the Church of God. And fear not that, with the Divine grace, we shall be faithful to the end to the diocese which God has given us for a spouse, and to the title which we have received with her, and which is not temporal power, but of Divine right.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the charity of God, and the communication of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

† WILLIAM BERNARD,
Bishop of Birmingham and Administrator
of the Diocese of Nottingham.

Given at Birmingham, this 2nd
of April, 1851.

ANGLICANISM.—IMPORTANT NOVENA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

Sir—Your readers will doubtless recollect, that immediately after it had been formally and authoritatively decided that the "one baptism for the remission of sins" was an "open question" in the Anglican Establishment, some very important "resolutions" were published, to which the name of thirteen leading Tractarians were attached. These "resolutions" were to the effect that if the "Church of England" acquiesced in the judgment which had been pronounced, they (the subscribers) could no longer regard it as forming part of the one true Church, &c. More than a year has now elapsed since this document was put forth; and many of those who subscribed it have already acted upon their words, and submitted to the Catholic Church. The following clergymen, however, have not yet done so, although, I believe, several of them are (more or less distinctly) contemplating submission to the Church:—Dr. Pusey, Dr. Mill, Mr. J. R. Wilberforce, Mr. Thorp, Mr. Keble, and Mr. Bennett. It has occurred to several Catholics (themselves converts) that it would be highly desirable to commence an extensive Novena for these persons; for in praying for their conversion, we shall also be (indirectly) benefitting others who depend upon them; many of whom say plainly that they are only waiting for such a one, mentioning the individual upon whom they place most reliance. I have ventured to trouble you with these particulars in the hope, or rather the conviction, that your readers will join us, in order that we may thus endeavor to do "violence" to Heaven. I ought to have mentioned that it is proposed to add to the above list Dr. Forbes (called "Bishop of Brechin") Mr. Richards, of Margaret Chapel, and a young lady who is very peculiarly and painfully situated, being almost entirely convinced of her duty to submit to the Church, whilst she has not sufficient grace or courage to make the necessary sacrifices. I would earnestly request your Catholic readers not only to join in the Novena themselves (giving it the intention of as many Masses, Communions, Rosaries, &c., as they can spare,) but to endeavor, by every means in their power, to get others to join also, especially religious communities. I have no doubt that many of the Clergy will also give the intentions of some of their Masses, and I trust this Novena will produce results as satisfactory as preceding ones have done, the effects of which have been quite wonderful. It is suggested that the prayers should be used, if possible, three (or more) times daily; but every one is at liberty to use what devotions he pleases, though it would, perhaps, be desirable that as many as possible should address themselves to the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, and to the Saints I have mentioned.

In order to enable Catholics, on the Continent, and others who may not hear of the proposal until the Novena has commenced, to join in it, it has been arranged that another should begin on the day on which this one closes. I have written to all the other weekly Catholic publications on the subject.—Your faithful servant,

W. R. G.

Westminster, Monday in Holy Week.

ST. PANCRAS CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION.

(From a correspondent of the Tablet.)

A very numerous and respectably attended meeting of the Catholics of St. Pancras was held on Monday night, the 14th, at Lawson's Rooms, Gower-street, for the purpose of forming an association to resist the present ministerial attempt to renew the penal laws, and for the defence of civil and religious liberty. At eight o'clock the chair was taken by J. A. Cooke, Esq., and on the platform were, — Bagshaw, Esq.; — Bagshaw, jun., Esq.; J. O'Connor, Esq.; — Young, Esq.; — Fitzgerald, Esq.; S. Walsh, Esq.; — Smith, Esq.; — Cancares, Esq.; — Stilles, Esq.; — Mathews, Esq.; J. H. Lynch, Esq.; and others.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Hillis, who, in a long and eloquent speech, moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Young, and was as follows:—

"That we, as British subjects, demand the enjoyment of all the rights which are justly and undeniably ours according to the letter and spirit of the British constitution; and that the first and dearest of those rights is that of the full and free exercise of our religion as Catholics, which we cannot enjoy (according to the principles and practice of the Catholic Church) except under the spiritual control and Ecclesiastical government of our Hierarchy."

Mr. Bagshaw proposed the second resolution:— "Resolved—That the attempts at present being made to interfere with our Hierarchy, as appointed by our Holy Father for our spiritual advantage, can be intended only as a means to fetter and paralyse, if possible, the Catholic Church in this country; and is,

as being an enactment of the penal laws, a virtual denial of the principles on which the Emancipation Act of 1829 was founded; an outrage on our civil and religious liberties, and a violation of the British constitution."

Mr. Bagshaw, jun., proposed the third resolution, which was as follows:—

"Resolved—That although we regard the base and infamous calumnies uttered against the Catholic Church, its Clergy, and religious establishments, as worthy only of contempt, we cannot but regret that men should be found so dishonest as to propagate them, and others so ignorant as to believe them. We look upon them as falsehoods expressly disseminated for the purpose of creating in the hearts of our Protestant fellow-subjects a religious rancor for sinister and unworthy purposes."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. O'Connor then came forward to move the fourth resolution, which declared

"That our thanks are due and are hereby given to those members of parliament who recently voted against the proposed penal bill, and especially to our representative, Lord Dudley Stuart, who opposed even its introduction in the House of Commons."

Mr. O'Connor spoke with some severity of those Catholic members who absented themselves from the late division on the first reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and with great warmth denounced the indecent attack made by Mr. Drummond upon the holy and spotless inhabitants of our convents.

Mr. Cancares seconded the resolution.

Mr. Lynch moved the fifth resolution:—

"That an association of the Catholics of the division of St. Pancras parish, in the borough of Marylebone, to be called the St. Pancras Catholic Association, be, and is hereby, formed to oppose by all constitutional means the re-enactment of any penal law, and in defence of civil and religious liberty; and that a standing committee be appointed for carrying out the object of the association, with power to add to their numbers, and to appoint a secretary."

Mr. Walsh seconded the resolution.

A vote of thanks was then moved to the chairman by Mr. Hillis.

[The correspondent who kindly furnished us with the above report adds:—]

"The attendance was not only numerous, but was in great part composed of a class that I did not expect to find there. No doubt the large attendance of the middle classes is to be attributed to a desire to pay a compliment to Mr. Cooke after his late Vice-Chancery Court "badgering." Everything, however, went off most satisfactorily, and a great number enrolled their names and paid their subscriptions as members; and there is at present much reason to hope, that if the committee work with unity and zeal we may effect much good."

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—His Grace the Primate has received, from some anonymous contributor, a further some of £200, making in all £1000, which has been received anonymously for the Catholic University.

LONDON.—On Palm Sunday his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster administered the Sacrament of Confirmation, in the chapel of his residence, to Rev. Mr. (late Archdeacon) Manning, Mr. Bodley, late Curate of Archbishop Tennison's chapel, and James Hope, Esq., Q.C.; and afterwards gave the Tonsure to Mr. Manning, thus at once incorporating him into the Clergy of the Catholic Church. The ceremony was attended by Messrs. Allies, New, Bethell, and Dodsworth, Mr. Serjeant Bellasis, and Mr. Monsell, M.P., all recent converts. The function was truly consoling and edifying. May God grant us many repetitions of it!—*Tablet*.

THE CATHOLICS OF SEDGFIELD AND CARDINAL WISEMAN.—An address has been presented to Cardinal Wiseman by the Catholic inhabitants of Sedgfield and Thornley. They say—"It would have been with no ordinary feelings of joy that we should, under any circumstances, have welcomed the auspicious (although, to our sanguine wishes, tardy) re-establishment of a native Hierarchy, but our gratitude to the illustrious Pontiff, beneath whose Apostolic rule the world rejoices, is enhanced to a singular degree by the fact that a Prelate so religious, so learned, and so energetic, should have been selected to wield the cross of St. Thomas." The address concludes as follows:—"We beg of your Eminence your Apostolic benediction, and that you will regard with some even special affection your spiritual children in the ancient palatine of St. Cuthbert—children who, true to the ancient tradition of their holy Faith, regard, in the primacy of your Eminence, a sublime and sacred power which no human government can create or impair. Signed by the Priests and Wardens on behalf of the entire population." To this address a gracious reply from Cardinal Wiseman has been received by the Rev. R. Suffield.

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.—We have been permitted to read a very interesting letter from a young American sojourning in Rome, which came by the last steamer. The writer has frequent opportunities of seeing our Archbishop, whom he reports as in excellent health and spirits. He says that His Grace is variously and laboriously occupied—a piece of information quite well to be understood. He adds that he is engaged in writing, when he finds time, and from this it is concluded that some new publication will be forthcoming. The Holy Father has shown particular regard for our Archbishop, and on the first Sunday of Lent he sent him two splendid fish from his own table. May God preserve him in life and strenght to render yet farther services to the Church.—*N. Y. Freeman's Journal*.