

the effect of driving our people out of the crowded cities, and making them seek the country and subdue the soil, it will be only compelling them to follow the course adopted by those who made the country what it is, and thus eventually reach the position which these now occupy. It will be but another instance of good growing out of evil, and of hate working to the advantage of those whom it wished to injure.

"I am not acquainted with the majority of the gentlemen who are associated with you as Directors of the Society. I must confess I would have preferred seeing its management entrusted to a smaller number of persons all well known, who could and would have pledged themselves for its faithful administration, and whose pledges would have carried weight throughout the whole community. However, I take it for granted, especially in view of the manner in which the Board has been organized, that each member means to vouch for all the rest.

"His view of the case, which I deem warranted, is sufficient for me, at least, to inspire the necessary confidence. I make the remark, because I think it important that full satisfaction should be given on this score, and that it should be clearly known on whom the responsibility rests.

"There is much to be done to enable the emigrant to overcome the first difficulties of early settlements, to become acquainted with the system of agriculture best suited to the climate and the soil. On these and similar subjects, your board will no doubt obtain and communicate the most reliable information, and prepare such valuable aid as organization can give. Perfect isolation is not attainable, and hardly desirable. Contact with more experienced settlers will be of use, provided our people be numerous enough in each place to secure for themselves the advantages of association in sufficient number with persons of kindred feelings and the same faith. They will thus be able to practise their religion themselves and transmit it to their children, while in proportion to their industry they will receive a fair share in the benefits arising from the resources and prosperity of the country.

Wishing you the most abundant success in your undertakings, I remain, yours, faithfully in Christ,
M. O'CONNOR, Bishop of Pittsburg.
Rev. J. Kelly, President of the Society for Promoting Catholic Settlements.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

CATHOLICITY IN THE WEST.—Last week, His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam held his first Confirmation for the year 1856 at Hollymount, where he confirmed 320 individuals. He was assisted by the Clergy of the diocese in hearing confessions. His Grace addressed the people before and after confirmation in his own peculiarly impressive style, and he evidently produced a profound impression upon the congregation, owing to his earnest delivery, as well as to the lucid and practical mode of his instructions. He did not confine himself to the explanation of the sacrament of Confirmation, and the graces it was sure to confer on those who received it worthily, but he also dwelt a long time on the necessity of the people complying with the wishes of their pastors, in strictly conforming to the precepts of the Christian doctrine, and with the rules of the catechetical societies. On the following day, His Grace administered the sacrament of Confirmation, at the chapel of Bohern, to 220 persons. On this day also the Clergy, with His Grace, were at a very early hour employed in the confessional. At twelve o'clock the Rev. Mr. Griffin, C.C., offered up the Holy Sacrifice, and afterwards delivered a very persuasive discourse previous to administering the sacrament of Confirmation. His Grace, as on the preceding day, addressed the assembled multitude, and in simple yet glowing language, instructed them as to the nature of the sacrament, and continued for over an hour to entrance, by his earnest eloquence, his hearers. All present exhibited a lively joy at again having their kind and paternal archbishop amongst them, as active and robust as in former years. His Grace earnestly inculcated the necessity for persevering attention to the increase of those excellent male and female societies, for the promulgation of the Christian doctrine, in the establishment of which he still labors, and which, embracing by their pious practices the Catholic community, have rendered favorite the assaults of fanatics and traders in religion upon their faith and morals, as well as the more insidious encroachments of a hostile and godless administration. After the ceremonies and labors of the day His Grace and the clergy were hospitably entertained at the Presbytery.—*Dublin Freeman.*

The Catholics of Kingstown have presented the Redeption Fathers of Limerick, with a beautiful set of altar plates, as an offering of gratitude for their mission of last year. The Rev. Father de Bugge, S.M., Spenner, has returned thanks by public letter. The Catholic University Gazette announces that the new University Church at Dublin would probably be opened on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

We have received intelligence through Mr. Hamerton, the Dublin agent of Messrs. James Baines and Co., that the Ocean Chief, the vessel in which Mr. Duffy sailed for Melbourne, on the 5th of November last, had arrived safely on the 26th of January. No further particulars are given in the *Liverpool Telegraph* (shipping paper) which announces the fact, but we are in hourly expectation of direct intelligence from our noble friend.—*Nation.*

CAPTAIN O'CONNELL, M.P.—We have seen a letter from Captain John O'Connell, M.P., to a friend, in which he states that he has no intention of resigning his seat for Clonmel.—*Tipperary Free Press.*

Mr. Justice Keogh.—The Right Hon. William Keogh has been sworn in before the Lord Chancellor as one of Her Majesty's Justices for the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Keogh is one of the youngest judges by some years who has ever sat on the judicial bench in Ireland. He was born in the year 1817. Mr. Richard Kevin, solicitor, has been appointed his registrar.—*Irish Times.*

At Dungannon Quarter Sessions, the Assistant Barrister, Mr. Broderick, ruled that the Christian Brothers' schools and dwelling-house should be exempt from poor rate.

A correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal* draws attention to a secret and underhanded system of proselytism which is being carried on in Dublin, at the instigation of Dr. Whateley. The writer says:—"The whole system is directed by one head, a man who has been sent over here from England, and receives several thousand pounds of Irish money yearly for destroying the faith and morals of the Irish poor. This man has spent his long life in striving to materialise religion. He has been thwarted and disappointed to some extent in his deep schemes, and now his great mind, stimulated by mortified vanity, casts all its malignant power into the scale of the proselytisers. He has his wife and daughters to perfect and carry out his plans. They spend their days among the Catholic poor, and to their exertions are chiefly due the gigantic proportions of the Townsend street hall. They have their emissaries going through our poor-houses, our prisons, and public institutions with golden promises on their tongues for those who apostatise or procure the apostasy of others." We hope the exposures of this system will have the desired effect. The proselytisers dread nothing so much as publicity to their infamous schemes.

THE TEMPLEMORE AFFRAY.—At the Templemore petty sessions on Wednesday, some 19 or 20 civilians were brought up in custody, charged by the military with assaulting them in the desperate collision which took place between the soldiers and the peasantry at the Templemore Races, last week. Several soldiers and policemen were examined, and the prisoners, with the exception of two or three, were sent for trial at the quarter sessions. The cross charges against the military were not yet brought forward. Colonel Townsend stated that there are 6 officers and 55 men seriously wounded, and some of them he feared fatally so. Our correspondent states that one man had died of his wounds, and that an inquest was held on Thursday; and he adds that another man was reported to have sunk under the injuries which he received.—*Freeman.*

PROGRESS OF ARCHITECTURE IN DUBLIN.—To revisit this country after a lapse of twenty-five years is to see all things changed; for the arts of commerce and agriculture revive. In the metropolis the improvement is truly astounding; a population of 180,000 inhabitants have been nearly doubled, and the extension of the city increased beyond even the proportionate advance of London. Dublin, always distinguished for her splendid public buildings, unequalled by any other capital for the beauty of her villages, has been still further embellished; the churches (St. Patrick's and Christ Church) have been insulated and thrown open; the magnificent Custom House, the noble courts of law, lately completed, and the classic Bank, need no commentary; the suburbs have been extended in miles of villas, two commodious and even magnificent harbors (Kingstown and Howth) have been constructed at convenient distances; the Phoenix Park and its approaches have been improved, the College Park thrown open, its walls replaced by railings, (like Kensington Gardens); and the narrow streets (such as Holborn-bars and other streets of London) have been expanded to free commerce and daylight. There exists now, and there must have always hitherto, a public spirit in this comparatively poor place far superior to that which condemns London to a filthy river without quays, and to an unembellished city, with all the wealth which a boundless commerce can confer. The public buildings of old standing here are far superior (bating only the glorious St. Paul's and the venerable Abbey) to those of Great Britain's capital. There are seven bridges, and only one with a toll. There are two cathedrals, with peerless choirs; there are railway stations of more than common pretensions, at fair proximity to the centre; and there have been erected churches of all persuasions in style and character fully equal to the increase of population as proportioned with other cities of the empire, but the most palpable improvement effected in Dublin within the period specified, is the enlargement of the University, and the erection of a noble quadrangle, in keeping with the fine facade presented to College Green.—*The Builder.*

Thirteen regiments of Irish Militia are immediately to be reduced, and the remainder maintained at 400 strong.

The London correspondent of the *Nation* writes:—"You have much to answer for, for having inserted the perplexing letter about Sadleir's death. I assure you, as a fact, that the belief of the suicide and the inquest being all a sham is a very common thing in London, and more especially about the region of Gloucester Square. The butler, it is said, was much attached to his excellent master, and yet that faithful servant has been remarked to be exceedingly vivacious and happy since the sad affair. If his master were really dead, would he not be drowied with tears, or at least benumbed with beer; but the fellow is said to be downright jolly, and, therefore, according to the conclusive reasoning of the servants' hall, his master is not dead, and old Wakley is a humbug. What was suspicion before is certainly now; and, though the Coroner did open a dead man's eyelids, and did look into his eyes, why should the eyelids and the eyes have been John Sadleir's? So then, should a nervous person die of fright at the appearance of some dark, designing, sinister-looking foreigner, and in the belief that it was Sadleir dead, or alive, the *Nation* will be morally accountable for the catastrophe. But not only is this attached butler jolly, but the dead man's cousins, the members for Tipperary and Cork, are remarkably pleasant. Vincent is more playful and captivating than ever, and Frank's expressive countenance is lighted up with smiles of a self-satisfaction, above being disturbed. Even the shades of impending vengeance, to be wreaked by disgusted constituencies, do not darken the calm brow of either patriot. Therefore, John Sadleir, the cousin and the leader, is not dead, Mr. Coroner Wakley notwithstanding.—*THE MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.*

THE MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.—The *Evening Post* supplies the following particulars of the enormous property of the late Mrs. Kelly:—"The estate of Ballinderry, where the murder took place, contains nearly 1,500 acres. Mrs. Kelly had been engaged in draining and improving it. There is little exaggeration as to the extent of the property obtained by the deceased under the will of her husband, Mr. Edmund Kelly, of Rookwood, which had been the subject of such protracted litigation in the cause of Kelly v. Thewles, in the prerogative Court and the Court of Delegates. Besides landed estates to the value of £7,000 or £8,000 a year, Mrs. Kelly obtained nearly £250,000 in founded property. In a case in which she had been prosecutrix a few years since, she was

stated to have paid £30,000 for investment in share property, which she eventually she lost. But her chattel property must still have been upwards of £200,000. She had lent £134,000 to the Midland Great Western Railway Company, for which she held a mortgage on the Royal Canal, the property of that company, for which she has been receiving nearly £7,000 per annum. Mrs. Kelly, about a year since made a will, which was deposited for safe keeping at the bank of Messrs. Boyle, Low, and Co., where it now remains."

The *Freeman's* correspondent, writes from Moate, last night, as follows:—"Mrs. Kelly's property of Ballinderry is situated about one mile from the town of Moate, in the county of Westmeath. She held 200 acres in her possession, and the management of it was intrusted to her nephew, Mr. George Strevens. Mrs. Kelly had been residing in England since last November, and only returned to Ballinderry about a fortnight ago, accompanied by her solicitor, Mr. Campion. It is stated that three or four tenants had recently been served with ejectments on the part of the unfortunate lady, but they were not proceeded with. Mr. Campion had brought down five or six stamped agreements, which the tenants were to sign for an increased rent. This was to have been done in the course of a few days; but it is said the tenants were satisfied with the arrangement. However, this may be, the police have taken two of them into custody, and also a labouring man named Owen Waters, who was in the employment of the deceased, and who had been absent from work during a part of the day on which the murder took place. The inquest was opened on Wednesday. One witness only was examined—a girl, who was working in the field where the assassination occurred, and was actually in conversation with Mrs. Kelly when the murderers approached her. The witness said there were about 12 girls and two men in the field picking stones. Mrs. Kelly came into the field about 4 o'clock p.m. with Mr. Campion and Mr. George Strevens, her nephew. Mr. Campion left the field by directions of Mrs. Kelly, to settle some accounts, as he was to go to Dublin next day. Mr. Strevens went to where the men were picking stones, and Mrs. Kelly came over to witness to ask if her mother had made up the clothes she had given her, as she (the witness) was to be sent to a situation in Dublin, procured for her by Mrs. Kelly. Just as they were talking, about five yards from the ditch, two men came into the field through the gate, 150 yards from where they stood. They had women's clothes on, and black cloths over their faces with openings, through which she (the witness) could see one eye. When Mrs. Kelly saw them she appeared to be much alarmed and caught hold of the witness, who said, 'Don't be afraid, Mrs. Kelly; they are only coming to frighten the children' (meaning the girls, who were picking stones). Mrs. Kelly then ran over towards the ditch, and fell; the murderers followed, and whilst she was lying on the ground, one man stooped, and fired at Mrs. Kelly's head with a witness though was a pistol, and then stepped aside, upon which his companion did the same. Mr. G. Strevens, who was about 10 yards off, began to shout. The two assassins then went overtowards him. He ran away, and did not stop till he arrived at the house, where he informed Mr. Campion that Mrs. Kelly had been shot dead. The two assassins went back through the gate by which they came in, and no one saw them afterwards. The body of Mrs. Kelly was removed to Dublin by the first up-train this (Thursday) morning, in charge of Mr. Campion, but her nephew (Mr. Strevens) remains here in lodgings, in charge of two policemen. I need not say that the dreadful event has created the most intense sensation in this neighbourhood."

The adjourned inquest was resumed yesterday, but the inquiry has so far failed to throw any material light upon the affair, which still remains, for anything that is known of the real assassins, involved in mystery. It may be remembered that the witness on the opening of the inquest was a young girl, who was employed in picking stones in the field at the moment of the murder. Her evidence is corroborated in all essential particulars by a second witness, also a young girl, about the age of 16. There is a slight discrepancy, however, in the testimony of the two; for while the first, on seeing the murderers, observed to Mrs. Kelly, "Don't be afraid, ma'am," as though she were not aware of their intention, the second witness states that, immediately on seeing the assassins, she and Mrs. Kelly, who were both in the field, among the girls working in the field, the witness, among the number, ran off terrified. This was the only other witness examined yesterday except the doctor, who had no difficulty in accounting for the cause of death. The jury returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased, Sarah Kelly, came by her death on Tuesday, April 8, on the townland of Ballinderry, parish of Kilmorragh, and barony of Clonlunan, county Westmeath, from gunshot wounds inflicted by two persons unknown; and we further find that the said two persons are guilty of the wilful murder of the said Sarah Kelly."

The subjoined interesting report of the conclusion of the proceedings is supplied by the *Freeman's Journal*:—"Mr. Heron said, before the jury were discharged he wished to ascertain what course the coroner intended to pursue with reference to Mr. Strevens, against whom there was no charge. Was it to be presumed that he would be at once discharged from custody? The Coroner replied, that this was not a matter for him at all. He had nothing to do with Mr. Strevens; he had come there to inquire as to the cause of Mrs. Kelly's death. No evidence implicating any persons had been brought before him, and, moreover, it was not by his authority Mr. Strevens was arrested. A meeting of the magistrates subsequently took place in their private room in reference to the case of Mr. Strevens. It was directed that Mr. Strevens should be detained in custody until Monday next, if evidence was not given against him on that day to warrant his further detention, he should be discharged. In addition to Mr. Strevens, four other persons have been arrested on suspicion, Owen Kinahan, Owen Waters, these two are tenants on the lands of James Bannon (nephew of Kinahan), and Richard Wilson, a carpenter, who is a stranger in the neighbourhood, and who states he is from Roscommon, and was making his way to Mullingar looking for work."

THE MYSTERIES OF ROOKWOOD HOUSE.—Under this head one of the Dublin papers furnishes the following sketch of some of the main incidents in the eventful life of the late Sarah Kelly. It may be mentioned here that all kinds of rumors have been current since yesterday respecting the testamentary disposition of the property of the ill-fated woman; but as some of the stories carried with them an air of almost startling

improbability, there would be no use in making further reference to them, especially as the real facts must be known before the lapse of many days:—

"Mrs. Sarah Kelly, a lady of great wealth, residing on her estates in Galway, went out to walk in her grounds on Tuesday last, accompanied by her nephew, two persons, respectably dressed as females, in black bonnets and veils; walked up to her, desired the nephew to move out of the way, and shot her dead through the head. The assassins then escaped. Such is all that the world knows of a murder, dark, hideous, and mysterious as any which the chambers of Stamboul, the quays of Venice, or the midnight streets of Paris could reveal. But, strange and mysterious as has been the death of this lady, it is only when viewed in connexion with her past life that it is seen in its true light: that death so awful, so unparalleled in its circumstances, closed a life of almost fabulous incident and change; it terminated a career such as no novelist has ever dreamed of portraying. Sarah Kelly was born at Broadstairs, a watering-place on the coast of Kent, where her father kept an inn. At this inn, about 50 years ago, a young Irishman, named Meredyth, the heir of a handsome estate and a baronetcy, was sojourning. The beauty of the innkeeper's daughter attracted the notice of young Meredyth, and he devoted himself, but too successfully to the task of her conquest. Miss Birch—for that was her name—led with her admirer to the Land of the West, where she in due time presented him with a too convincing token of attachment. Love has been said to fly at sight of human lies; in this case his light wings spread for want of them. Meredyth, the betrayer, abandoned his victim and her infant, under circumstances of desertion so heartless as to induce a Dublin jury, subsequently to award a sum of £3,000 as damages in an action brought against him for her seduction. The trial took place about 1817, and elicited the forensic art and eloquence of some of the most distinguished advocates of the time. Over the next succeeding chapters of Miss Birch's life we desire to pass with as little detail as possible; she led the life of adventure and difficulty, of error and shame, into which her previous misfortune and her beauty had, we might almost say, driven her. Mr. Edmund Kelly, gentleman, of Merrion-square, an elderly widower, a land agent, solicitor, millionaire, became acquainted with her; she gave up her city life, and became his housekeeper; subsequently, it appears, his wife, and mistress of Rookwood-house, county of Galway. Mr. Kelly had a daughter by his first wife, but she had disappeared; he had, however, relations who expected to divide at his decease the enormous wealth, estimated at £300,000 to £500,000, of which he was the possessor. Miss Birch was not as yet known, or at any rate, not recognized as Mrs. Kelly. She was, however, most assiduous in her attentions to the old man, who every day grew more weak, more eccentric, and, it is said, more imbecile. Strange stories were told of his last days; how the idea haunted him that he should die of hunger; how his watchful mistress, wife, nurse, or gaoler, whichever she was, had his bedroom hung round with eatables of every description, stories of a deathbed marriage, of a deathbed will, but how much of all this was truth, and how much fable, can never be satisfactorily ascertained. Mr. Kelly died; Miss Birch claimed the recognition of her position as his widow, and produced a will, entitling her to all the property, real and personal, of the late owner of Rookwood-house. His nearest relative, an elderly maiden lady named Thewles, denied the validity of the will; her means were slight, but her claim was strong—at least so thought her friends; who advanced her the money sufficient to prosecute her suit at law. The action must be fresh in the recollection of our readers, so we do not need to give its curious details. Miss Thewles had a verdict in her favor. Mrs. Kelly appealed from the Court of Delegates, but now offers of money flowed plentifully upon Miss Thewles; offers of matrimony came also; she accepted one; that of her confidential solicitor. He was not as successful for his wife as he had been for this client; the verdict in favor of Miss Thewles was totally set aside by the late Chancellor Blackburne in an able judgment upon Mrs. Kelly's application for a Court of Review. Mrs. Kelly now set out to enjoy her wealth; she resided in Merrion-square. One day a poor woman with two little children by the hand pulled the bell, and humbly asked the powdered and gold-laced footman to bear his mistress a note; there was no answer. She called again and often, and as often turned wearily and dejectedly away. It was the daughter of the late Edmund Kelly, who was begging a morsel of all her father's wealth. What a history was hers! She had been brought up with the fondest parental care; she had been placed at a first-rate boarding school in Clifton, in England, where no less than £300 a year was paid for her! When her father married secondly she was removed to an inferior school at Bath, and her allowance gradually reduced. After many trials and vicissitudes, chiefly caused by false information as to her father's death, she was at length abandoned, with two children, by a profligate villain, who had married her under the pretence of being her father's agent. She contrived to eke out a livelihood for herself and children as a governess, until she again married a Mr. Morton. She had heard of her father's death, and of his extraordinary will, and of Miss Thewles's action, and she came across to Ireland, to see if Mrs. Kelly would not help her in some way. Mrs. Kelly had a confidential solicitor, named Birch; she called him her nephew; others said he was a nearer relative still. This Mr. George Birch told the applicant that his aunt would do nothing for her, but that she would do something; he made vile proposals to her—and worse. Her husband, Mr. Morton, brought an action for assault, and obtained damages £200 and 6d., costs against Mr. Birch. The wealth of Edmund Kelly seemed to rest never, as if it were fated to be the prolific source of strife and contention; a curse and not a blessing. Mrs. Kelly drove up in great haste one day to a police office in the city, and applied for a warrant against her nephew, George Birch, who had absconded with £200,000. He was arrested on board the steamer, leaving England for the continent, but on being brought back not only stood his trial, but challenged a prosecution; none was pressed, we believe matters were settled. The last appearance of Mrs. Kelly in the law courts was as defendant, sued by the police sergeant who arrested Mr. Birch, for the reward of £500, which it was alleged, she had offered. Since then she has resided principally on her estates in Galway, where she has been thus barbarously assassinated. The attempt to divert the public from the true scene by the idea of the murder being of an agrarian nature, has been a signal failure. All save a few persons who could not be expected to forego