

SACRILEGIOUS OUTRAGE AT ST. MARY'S.

For the last ten days, the City has been in a state of unusual excitement, in consequence of the Sacrilegious and Robbery which were perpetrated at St. Mary's Cathedral on the night of Wednesday the 17th inst., or early in the morning of the 18th. We made no allusion to the subject last Saturday, both because we were not in a proper temper of mind to discuss it, and because we were unwilling by any premature publication of facts to impede the course of justice. We never for one moment believed that the diabolical crimes of that night were committed for any other purpose save that of plunder; but happily the fact is placed beyond doubt, by the discovery, apprehension and committal of the brace of military savages who perpetrated the deed. But, before we make any further allusion to them, we will briefly describe the nature and extent of their villainous operations.

They got into the Cemetery at the western side of the Cathedral, and made an attempt to break through one of the Church windows, in the very spot where Doherty and his accomplices effected their entrance, the last time the Church was robbed. However, after breaking two panes, the windows had been so well secured that they were failed. They then went to the Vestry door, and by sheer violence burst it open. They also broke through the door of a small room, between the Vestry and the back of the Altar, and made several attempts to burst open an immense Iron Safe, in the hope of getting at some of the Sacred Vessels, but in vain. Even had they succeeded, they would not have gained much, as almost every thing of value in the shape of plate is carefully removed every day after Divine Service. They next broke open the cases, chests and drawers in which the Vestments, Linens and Altar Ornaments were deposited, made their selection from amongst them, and scattered the rest all through the Vestry. They forced open each end of the Vestry Altar, in the hope of getting plate, and then proceeded to the High Altar in the Cathedral. Here their devastations were truly frightful, and such as to cause many to shed tears on the following morning. They took down two valuable bronze-gilt Reliquaries, broke them open and defaced them, and abstracted the Relics. The Tabernacle was tried, but found empty, as the Most Holy Sacrament is carefully removed on each day; but they smashed the large Altar Chart, and burned a portion of the gilt frame. The Sacred Shrine which was deposited last May, with so much solemnity, and at so much expense, was next invaded, broken open, and the contents scattered about the Altar. The Bishop's seat and prie dieu were ransacked in the hope of finding something of value, and a knock-door in the north-western corner of the Church was forced open for the same purpose. They also proceeded to the Temporary Porch inside the Great Entrance Door, and amongst other seats of arms smashed four Poor Boxes to pieces. The booty must have been very small, for the contents are carefully taken out every Sunday. Altogether, the villains must have spent a couple of hours in the work of destruction, before they effected their retreat by the corner of the Cemetery near Mr. Malcolm's houses. Amongst other things, they carried off a Gilt Incense-Boat of beautiful pattern, a Silver-plated Holy Water Pot, an Episcopal Cincture of silk and gold, several gold and bullion tassels wrenched from Stoles, a Stole with massive Crosses on it, which they supposed to be solid gold, four Albs and Amices, four Sou-wates, six cases of Relics (five of which have been happily discovered), a bronze-gilt Cross, seven pounds of Wax or Spermaceti Candles, &c.

When the Faithful came to Mass on the following morning, and the robbery was discovered, it would be impossible to describe their grief and excitement. The Bishop and Clergy carefully collected the remains of everything sacred which had been profaned at the Altar and in the Vestry, and speedy information was given to the authorities. It was soon reported that two Soldiers of the 7th had been out all night from barracks, and had attempted to steal in at an early hour in the morning. They were ordered to be confined to barracks for seven days, and a non-commissioned officer was appointed to watch

them. One of them was observed to throw a small yellow spoon, which he broke into the stove. This was the Incense Spoon that was fastened by a small chain to the stolen article. Another was seen offering a silk handkerchief for sale. This belonged to the Vicar General, and was placed in his drawer in the Vestry, from where it was taken by the robbers. About 8 o'clock on Thursday evening, the pair of marauders deserted the barracks, and though patrols were sent after them, they could not be found. In the course of the night some further clue to the haunts of one of them was discovered, and a strong party of Catholics, accompanied by two constables, proceeded to a house in Dutchtown, which they surrounded. Two having entered, demanded light, and the candle lighted by a woman was immediately pronounced to be one of the Church candles. The scent was quickly followed up, and the two runaway soldiers were discovered together in bed. They were ordered to get up and dress, which they reluctantly did. Meantime the straw tick on which they lay was ripped open, and several of the missing articles, including some of the Reliquaries, were found. This was about one o'clock in the morning. The night was piercingly cold, and when the inmates of a neighboring house were roused up by some of the party, the man of the house came in rather a surly mood to the door to enquire what they wanted with a rope, which they were crying out for. When he was informed that it was for the purpose of tying the villains who had robbed the Cathedral, he desired his wife to get up instantly, that they might take the bed rope out for the purpose. Jones and Lazby, who follows in question, were then pinioned together, and conveyed by their very active captives to the Watch house, where they were locked up for the night. On the following day they were brought before the Mayor, the articles were identified, and a warrant made out for their committal to jail, where they now await their trial. On their way from the Mayor's Office to prison, they were surrounded by an enraged multitude, who groaned and shouted in the ears of the villains, and who would no doubt have taken summary vengeance on the spot but that they were properly restrained by some influential Catholics. Of one thing, however, we are convinced—and it can do no harm to warn both soldiers and burglars of every description—that this is the last time an offence of this horrible nature will escape immediate punishment. St. Mary's Church has been now thrice robbed within a short time, and in each case the villains were discovered. In any case we hold it impossible that the smallest robbery in St. Mary's Church can escape detection, and from the precautions now taken, the most experienced thief will be failed. But to return to our warning. From the indignant feeling provoked on this occasion, and from the determination manifested by the people, we believe that any ruffian hereafter detected in an attempt on a Catholic Church in Halifax, will be very fortunate if he escape with his life. The people seem to feel there is no protection for their religious property, and they will protect it themselves. Some have been heard to vow, that if any similar case should occur, they will save the authorities the trouble and expense of a trial; and though we heartily condemn, we are not much surprised at the resolution, especially when we consider the horrible manner in which every thing they hold dear and sacred was profaned.

We will return to the subject next week, and record our opinions on the causes and origin of the recent robbery. Meantime we would earnestly recommend the sacrilegious wretch who was convicted of the former pillage of St. Mary's Church, who has passed through the very agreeable ordeal of our very comfortable Penitentiary, (we are quite serious in using the epithets,) and who has been lately let loose on this community again;—we would advise him, we say, for the benefit of his health, to try the air of Texas or California as soon as possible. The presence of such a ruffian is an insult to the whole city, and, we say it with reluctance, by no means creditable to those who ought to have saved Halifax from such an infestation.

It is but an act of justice to state, that on the late occasion the Civil and Military Authorities behaved in the handsomest manner. They made every effort and afforded every facility for the discovery and apprehension of the offenders. Jones, the supposed ringleader in the late outrage, was a soldier of the 20th Regt, and was

tried and convicted here for robbery. He was, we believe, undergoing his sentence at the Penitentiary when the Regiment left for Canada. His term having lately expired, he was attached to the 7th Fusiliers, at the North Barracks, where rumour says he corrupted the young man Lazby, his accomplice, who had the misfortune to form an acquaintance with him.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

It was announced last Sunday, that the usual Meeting of the Halifax Branch of this Great Association would be held to-morrow evening, at St. Mary's, immediately after Vespers. We need not exhort the tried friends of the cause to lend their valuable assistance on this occasion. The Halifax Branch was founded in January, 1843, and it has occupied a proud and prominent position ever since. We will "wager a ducat," that at the Meeting of to-morrow not an offensive word will be spoken in their absence of those who differ from us in religion. Such a thing has never occurred at any of the Meetings of the Society. We wish we could say the same of the Colonial Church Meeting. Perhaps they will learn better manners next year. We have been requested, by one whom we respect, to spare the blushes of the old women who have lately engaged our attention, and, in consideration of their sex, to extend them a liberal pardon. Well, we will graciously remit the remainder of their punishment, and, like true gallants, suspend our Crucial scourge for the present. But, take notice, Mrs. Cogswell, and all ye other old women; do not offend again, for we will be "mightily angry next time," as Sambo the black preacher said in a certain memorable discourse.

"Discite justitiam, inoniti; et non temere Divos."

LEGAL REFORM.

A Correspondent writes to complain that at the last rising of the Supreme Court, no less than SEVENTY cases were untried, though some of them have been on the docket for two or three years—and suggests various plans for a reformation in the Law Courts. It is right to mention that he throws no blame upon the Judges, who are restricted, as to time, by the Law itself. We know nothing of the grounds of his complaint, or the efficacy of his remedies. In fact, we are rather surprised that some secular Paper has not been selected as a more suitable organ for those complaints anent "the Law's delay," one of the greatest miseries of human life. As we have less to do with the Law, than with the Prophets—wishing, as we do, to keep our Paper exclusively religious, we would recommend our Correspondent to agitate his favorite question in some other Journal. His MS. is carefully preserved, and will be returned on application.

We do not know whether it is the custom here to give the Lawyers a new fee every Term, whether the case comes on or not. Such donations are termed elsewhere *Refreners*—a word used in relation to the *memories* of the Juriconsults, alias, "the gentlemen of the long robe." Their robes may be very long, but it seems their *memories* are sometimes exceedingly short, and hence, we suppose, like the drowsy nation in Gulliver's travels, they require a "Flapper" every now and then, in the shape of a fee, to keep them wide awake. We suspect that our querulous Correspondent is some luckless client, whose sleep is disturbed by the fluttering of long bills of untaxed law costs. We wish we could administer a suitable soporific; but we fear he will think us "Job's comforters," when we give him our serious opinion—viz., that if the grievances in question were odious or inconvenient to the very forgetful gentlemen above alluded to, those grievances would have long since been redressed.

PIUS IX.

Translated for "The Cross" from the "Ami de la Religion."

On the morning of the 10th December, His Holiness celebrated Mass in his apartments, in presence of the Royal Family of Naples. Before Mass, His Holiness conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on His Royal Highness Prince Louis, Count of Trani. During the day the Superior Council of Health, of Naples, composed of the Marquis Garofolo, Duke de Sant'ano, Count of Chiaramonte, Prince de Sant'agela, Duke de Regina, Duke de Castellmardo, &c. &c. were admitted to kiss the foot of His Holiness. The Holy Father replied to the alle-

cution of the President with a benevolence and grace which accompanies all his acts: "I am most grateful for the proofs of hospitality and devotedness I have received from all the subjects of your august Sovereign. I regret to have detained you: on account of the numerous affairs I had to attend to this day, I beg of you to receive my apologies. I bless you and all your families, and I invoke the assistance of the Holy Virgin that God may grant you health of soul and body." Afterwards His Holiness conversed individually with the Members of the Council. The Marquis de Garofolo, President of the Arch-Confraternity of Our Lady of the Seven Joys, presented the Holy Father with a Petition praying His Holiness to allow his venerated name to be placed on the list of the Members of the Arch-Confraternity—an honor his Predecessors had consented to grant. His Holiness received this request in the most amiable manner, and signed the act of acceptance with his own hand.

It is already known with what zeal the Count de Spaur, Minister of Bavaria, accomplished the glorious mission of delivering the Holy Father from the hands of his oppressors and facilitating his retreat. The Pope has addressed him the following letter:

"To the Count Spaur:—The aid and support which we have received from you, My Count, at the time of our departure from Rome, makes it a duty on our part to give you a mark of our gratitude. We therefore nominate you Grand Cross of the Order of Pius—and your son Maximilian a Knight of the Order of Christ. We yet hope, that more prosperous circumstances will shortly permit us, more fully to testify our sentiments towards you. In the meantime we pray the Most High to bestow his graces on you, the Countess and your son. Receive the Apostolic Benediction which we give you in the effusion of our heart.

"PIUS P. P. 9th.

"Gaeta, 27th November, 1848."

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

WARD NO. 4.

James Breen	£9 3 0
John Tobin	0 1 3
Luke Franklia	0 1 3
John Cronan	0 1 3
William Walsh	0 0 7 1/2
Michael Glawson	0 1 3
Thomas McManara	0 0 7 1/2
James Sunderland	0 1 3
Lawrence O'Brien	0 1 3
William Shortland	0 2 6
Patrick Power	0 1 3
Richard Ryan	0 1 3
Thomas Bowes	0 2 6
John Landurs	0 0 7 1/2
James English	0 1 3
Owen Kearns	0 1 3
Rody McCarthy	0 1 3
Mrs. James Walsh	0 1 3
Mrs. Michael Kelly	0 1 3
Mrs. Quinn	0 1 3
James Hurley	0 1 3
Patrick Lynch	0 1 3
Edward Murphy	0 1 3
William Smith	0 4 4 1/2
Maurice Brido	0 1 3
Widow Anthony	0 7 0
Michael Bulger	0 1 3
Charles Eaton	0 2 6
George Sinclair	0 1 3
Michael Flanery	0 1 3
James Lawrence	0 1 3
Doctor Magee	0 1 3
Edward Metzler	0 1 3
Mrs. Byrns	0 1 3
Miss Mary Mooney	0 1 3
James Mooney	0 1 3
Thomas Walsh	0 1 3
Widow Sheehan	0 1 3
Mrs. Margaret Brady	0 1 3
John O'Neil	0 1 3
Widow McKenna	0 1 3
Phillip Maher	0 1 3

£3 4 6.

Paid to the Rev. T. L. Connolly, V. G.,

W. BUCKLEY,

January 11, 1849.

Collector.

DIOCESE OF GALVESTON.—The consecration of the Cathedral of Galveston was duly performed, according to the ceremonies prescribed in the Pontifical, on Sunday the 28th ult. The Bishops of New Orleans and Buffalo were present and assisted.