

There was great rejoicing all over the lands of Ballyvaughan, at the news of the wedding, but Ned had best reason to be glad. Mr. O'Reilly said as he and his son came into the world about the same time, they might as well be settled in life together. "This pair will never be steady or give over their billing and cooing till they are married," Edmund said, "so 'tis only to our advantage to give them a helping hand." Edmund jumped in with his father's humor, remarking that the dairy house wanted to be repaired, and when that was done, Ned and his wife might as well be there, they'd keep it all right for the future. As well be furnishing our own house newly, I dare say we can spare them a few old chairs and stools, he added. And so to Ned's delight it was settled that he and his young master were to be made happy on the same day, and in the same place. Mr. McMahon had his barn cleared out, and told Ned to ask all his friends, and one Kitty's to make merry there. Alice anxious to bestow additional pleasure on her betrothed, took charge of Kitty's wardrobe, and replenished it amply.

I could not describe the wedding: If I began I would not know where to end, but 'twas a right merry one. The most difficult point to be decided was which bride looked prettiest, they were both so handsome. I believe the matter has not been decided from that day to this, but neither of the husbands ever regretted his choice.

THE END.

EXAMINATION OF PERTH SEPARATE SCHOOL.

On Tuesday, 28th ult., the pupils of the Perth Separate School were examined by the Very Rev. chairman of the Board of Trustees, Vicar General MacDonagh, assisted by Revs. Dr. Madden of Port Hope, O'Connell of Richmond, Harty of Kemptville and Browne of Perth. The Trustees of the School and a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen, attended the examination, and by their presence, encouraged the children to tell, at least, all they knew about the various subjects on which they were examined.

The forenoon was devoted to the examination of the female department under Miss Lyons, and the various classes in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, acquitted themselves with fair credit, but without any marked superiority over the examination of six months previous. In Christian doctrine and English composition great progress was observable, indeed so much so in the latter case, as to give rise to a suspicion that older heads assisted in the preparation of the articles read to the examiners, until Miss Lyons explained that they were all written in the school under her personal superintendence. A very pleasing feature of the style of composition taught by Miss Lyons, is the establishment of a supposititious newspaper, styled 'The Olive Branch,' of which each girl in turn is Editor, the rest of the class being contributors. By this method, the girls are acquiring, and will, no doubt, before long, be entertaining the readers of the *Courier*, with elegant contributions to its columns. At the close of the examination the girls presented their Teacher with an affectionate address, accompanied with a beautiful Album, to which Miss Lyons replied in appropriate terms. Father MacDonagh expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the girls in many branches of study, especially in composition, and hoped their attention to duty after the vacation would be equal to what it had been in the past.

The Boys were examined in the afternoon by the same gentlemen, and acquitted themselves with credit. Their progress under Mr. Lee was well marked, especially in the ordinary branches of a good English education, in which, at previous examinations, they were greatly deficient. The tendency to 'topheavy' learning, Euclid, Latin, &c., without a proper foundation in English Grammar and Spelling, so observable in previous examinations of the School, has been properly checked by the present Teacher, Mr. Lee, who, while duly honoring and teaching the higher branches in their proper places, is successfully training his boys to a knowledge of the foundations of education, namely, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar. In those studies their progress was exceedingly satisfactory to the examiners, and creditable to the Teacher. The Latin and Euclid class also acquitted itself with credit, for, whilst carrying out much needed reforms in the English department of this School, Mr. Lee has not neglected the higher departments of study, but is successfully harmonizing the teachings of Latin and English, Euclid and Arithmetic.

The examination, on the whole, showed marked progress on the part of the pupils during the last six months, and we hope their advancement during the next half-year, will equal the expectation raised by their present proficiency.

THE SEPARATE SCHOOL CONCERT.

On Wednesday evening, 29th ult., the people of Perth were treated to a genuine display of native talent, the pupils belonging to the Separate School in this town being the performers. The entertainment went off remarkably well, and everything in connection with it gave general satisfaction, showing that no pains had been spared by the originators to render it in the highest manner pleasing to the audience. Miss Lyons, Teacher of the Female Department of the School, deserves especial credit for the thorough and efficient manner in which everything was conducted and carried out—nothing but the most unwearied attention and care on her part could have conquered the disadvantages of the youth, timidity, and inexperience of a greater part of the youthful actors. Mrs. A. E. Seely kindly consented to lend her assistance on this occasion and her efforts were highly appreciated by an audience who had learned to praise her musical talent. Miss Annie O'Brien, as well as Mrs. Seely, was repeatedly, *encored*, and Master E. O'Brien gave repeated evidence of his skill both in vocal and dramatic performance. The dramatic portion of the entertainment was good, and was mainly taken by pupils of the school who had never been before an audience till then. Master

P. Stanley was conspicuous for his bold bearing and clever voice blended with a fine delivery. 'Lochiel's Warning' was given in *char acter* by two very small boys, Masters J. Brennan and M. Costello, one in the costume of a Highland chieftain and the other in the garb of a 'death-telling seer.' Both acquitted themselves far beyond the expectations of their hearers. Miss Stanley sustained the part of the heroine in the 'Elopement' in a highly dramatic style, and Mrs. Ferland sang several French songs as a kind of change in the programme. Misses C. Ferland, M. A. Kerr, M. Doran, M. A. Terney, and a few more young ladies whose names we did not learn, sustained their several parts efficiently. Prizes were distributed to the deserving scholars by the Very Rev. Mr. MacDonagh, and the National Anthem was then sung, after which the audience, which consisted of not much less than four hundred people, broke up well pleased with what they had seen and heard.

EXAMINATION OF THE CONVENT OF NOTRE DAME DE VICTOIRE, OGDENSBURG.

(To the Editor of the True Witness.)

SIR,—Through the columns of the True Witness, I beg to give the public a description of the examination and first annual distribution of prizes of the Convent of Notre Dame de Victoire at Ogdensburg, which took place on Friday the 1st inst.

This new Institution was opened in September last, and became so deserving of public confidence and esteem, that at the end of the Scholastic year it contained forty-five boarders, and sixty half-boarders and externs.

The Convent is beautifully situated on a rising ground on the South bank of the St. Lawrence, and is one of the most conspicuous buildings which attracts the eye of the passing traveller in ascending or descending the river. The Exhibition Hall was splendidly decorated on the occasion; a large concourse of visitors, who came to witness the distribution, filled the room. Various specimens of drawing and embroidery—the work of the young ladies—were hung upon the walls. A large, eight Octave Piano was at one end of the stage, and at the other were several tables, covered with prizes, which were soon to be distributed to the successful competitors therefor.

J. Magone, Esq., took the chair at 2 o'clock. On his right was Mr. J. B. D. Gray, and Mr. J. M. Jolly on his left. At a given signal the young ladies in the superior classes, dressed in full uniform, entered, and bowed to the audience. One of the young ladies, dressed in white, advanced and said:—*'Ladies and Gentlemen, these young ladies are now prepared to be examined in Rhetoric, Philosophy, English, French, Astronomy and Botany.'* Mr. Magone opened the Examination in Astronomy and English; followed by Mr. Gray in Rhetoric and French, and by Mr. Jolly in Botany and Natural Philosophy. The great familiarity with, and advancement of, the young ladies in these beautiful sciences were the object of general admiration; they were highly complimented by the chairman, who, in expressing his agreeable surprise at the great success of the examination, said that no scholar could fail to admire and appreciate the great advantages which the institution afforded; he congratulated the young ladies on their brilliant and successful examination, and remarked that the Sisters of Notre Dame had reason to be proud of their scholars, and that their scholars should be grateful to them. Before the commencement of the distribution, one of the examiners rose and said:—*'Ladies and Gentlemen, I assure you I experience an unusual pleasure in expressing at request a tribute of merit to one of the young ladies present. By constant application, aided by her great abilities, she has attained unusual success in her studies; and this has been deemed an appropriate occasion to reward, in an especial manner, her great merit. She has won the first prize of Botany, Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Politeness, Religious Instruction, Music, Drawing and uniform good conduct and appreciation; and the extreme honor of presenting this beautiful prize to this young lady, who has made so much progress in every accomplishment which could adorn her sex, has been allotted to me, as I am a Prescotian, and as she is also from Prescott. However, I recognize here Mr. Jolly, her former professor, and to him I resign the agreeable task of crowning Miss Almeida Methode.'* She was then crowned and presented with her splendid prizes, amid loud applause from the audience, which she gracefully acknowledged. Miss Lulu Sigman in Rhetoric, Miss Lillie E. Sigman in Natural Philosophy, Miss Rosmer in Astronomy, Miss F. Simons in Botany, are deserving of special mention for the brilliancy of their examinations in these several branches of science. The examination hours were agreeably diversified by vocal and instrumental music, in which the Misses Horner, Lankton and Simons gave production of the first order.

After the distribution, Mr. Gray addressed those present on the great success of the new institution; he passed a deserving eulogium on the brilliancy and success of the examination, expatiated on the great principle of basing education on religion, and remarked that every one present must needs be convinced that the Convent of Notre Dame de Victoire had acquired a very enviable reputation, and hoped that the same liberal support would be extended to it in future which had marked the year just concluded. Mr. Jolly, in an eloquent address, paid a high tribute to the institution and to the young ladies; and remarked that he would be happy to recommend the Institution as one affording every advantage necessary for the acquisition of a refined and solid education.

Vacations were then announced till September proximo.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE LATE BISHOP OF LIMERICK.—Limerick.—At a recent meeting of the Corporation of this city, held after the transaction of the ordinary business,

The Right Worshipful Eugene O'Callaghan, Mayor, rose and said:—Gentlemen, as formal matters have been gone through, I deem it my duty to advert to what I consider is foremost in the breast of every one of our fellow-citizens at the present moment, namely—the demise of our highly-respected and venerated Lord Bishop. [Hear, hear.] I feel that at this period we ought not to proceed further without passing a resolution of condolence, in connection with the whole diocese of Limerick, on the death of so worthy a Prelate as the late Right Rev. Dr. Ryan. [Hear.] He presided in the episcopacy for a period of thirty-nine years. I merely introduce the matter, leaving it in the hands of other members of the Council who wish to follow up the suggestion. [Hear.]

Mr. John Thomas M'Sheehy, J.P., said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, I beg leave to move that we place upon the record of our proceedings a resolution expressive of our sincere regret at the demise of our late respected and venerated Bishop. [Hear.] There is no one in any class of life amongst our fellow-citizens who does not regret this sad and melancholy event, because the much esteemed Prelate never had a difference of a sectarian nature with any of his fellow-citizens. [Hear, hear.] His whole life was a labour of love, and I hold that the Corporation of the city over which he so long presided should place on its records their opinion of the manner in which he discharged his duty, and their regret upon his demise. [Hear, hear.] I now move—

That this Corporation place on its records the

expression of deep regret at the demise of the late respected and venerated Bishop, Right Reverend Dr. Ryan, whilst they, at the same time beg to express their humble approval of the truly Christian and zealous manner in which he discharged all the high and sacred duties of his office during the long period over which he presided as Catholic Bishop of this diocese, and that this expression of our regret be inserted on the minutes."

Alderman Cartie seconded the resolution, and regretted exceedingly that he was not present at the funeral, owing to a mistake in the circular which requested his attendance.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.—*Freeman.*

What, however, gives us most concern is the tremendous sacrifice of Irish Catholic life in this horrible civil war; and we feel deeply grateful to Lord Clanricarde for his repeated efforts to force the Queen's ministers into an active discharge of their duty in this most serious matter. It is beyond doubt or question that the enormous emigration of young and able-bodied men from Ireland for the last two years has been in a great measure the wicked work of the Federal Government. Their agents have been, and are still scattered over the country seducing the young and athletic Irish to go the North either avowedly as soldiers in the Federal pay, or ostensibly as labourers for whom when they arrive at Boston or New York, there is no labor but that of fighting to subjugate the South. The accounts that almost daily reach us from across the Atlantic, of the fate of these poor creatures are absolutely heartrending; and Lord Clanricarde in forcing the subject again and again upon the attention of Parliament is acting as a patriot conferring a signal service upon his native land. Enticed to leave their homes by the delusive promise and prospect of bettering their condition by high wages for their labor in North America, the Irish emigrants, who have not the faintest idea of military drill, or the remotest notion of becoming soldiers, are told on landing that the agricultural business or the industrial speculation in which it was intended to employ them has failed, and that as the spade, the bill, or the axe cannot be put into their hands, they have no alternative but to handle the rifle or starve. As a prelude, however, to this unpleasant intimation, the unfortunate fellows are treated to drugged drink, and the result generally is that in the excitement or stupefaction of the moment, most of them take the Federal bounty which is always at hand, and when they recover from their intoxication or delirium, find themselves marching to the theatre of war under commanders who look upon them as Falsstaff did upon his ragged regiment, as so much food for powder. Their native courage is well known—there is no apprehension that once before the enemy, they will turn their backs,—and as the Federal Generals despise tactics, because they are themselves utterly ignorant of these invaluable resources of a good commander, and rely solely upon pluck and numbers, the raw recruits are launched remorselessly against the disciplined foe, and are slaughtered in hcatombs. It is stated, and we believe truly, that of the seventy or eighty thousand men put *hors de combat* under Grant in his abortive attempt to dislodge Lee from his impregnable position at Spotsylvania, two-thirds were Irish. And what makes this deplorable news still more afflicting is that the unhappy creatures have been the victims of Federal craft and villainy,—that they were cajoled or coerced into the Federal service against their will,—and that their valuable lives have been sacrificed in the vilest cause in which human blood was ever shed. Even Lord Brougham, the veteran apostle of Negro emancipation,—the veteran warrior against the Slave-trade,—is, with all his sympathies and prejudices against the 'peculiar institution,' as it is called, obliged to admit that this war is cruel, calamitous, and lamentable, and declares his conviction that there is but one universal feeling—not only in this country but all over Europe,—of reproach for its continuance—of deep lamentation for its existence, and of an anxious desire that it should be made to cease.—*Weekly Register.*

DEATH OF WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.—The name of another illustrious Irishman has been added to the list of those who have passed away from earth—from the scenes of their labors and their love—their eyes ungladdened by the sight of that for which they had toiled and thought and suiven,—the regeneration of their native land and the elevation of their people from the social degradation into which the misrule of an alien government has plunged them. William Smith O'Brien is no more. The great heart whose every fibre vibrated with the loftiest and most ennobling emotions of patriotism, is stilled in death; the spirit which adversity could not break, nor the prospect of an ignominious death shake, has passed away; and of the true patriot, the wise and prudent statesman, the unflinching friend and earnest advocate, all that now remains to Ireland of him who, 'in happier hours,' might have been one of her most useful sons, as he was one her brightest ornaments, is the inanimate clay which she must reclaim from an alien shore, and the memory of the good deeds which, in private as in his public life, marked his whole career.

Mr. O'Brien had been for some time past suffering from what, to medical men, is known as fatty degeneration of the heart, together with an attack of jaundice. For a considerable period his health had been failing visibly. His color was getting bad, his breathing short and asthmatic, and his motions were growing very feeble. In addition to this his spirits were very low and desponding; he felt unhappy, and he said so. Our Dublin Correspondent was in his company immediately before the illustrious patriot set out from Ireland on that journey, which has proved his last in this world, and on that occasion, as on several previous ones, the tone of Mr. O'Brien's conversation was full of melancholy. This had some relation to his own personal affairs past and present, as connected with political matters; but his main cause was the prostrate and, apparently, hopeless condition of his country. The riot of misrule which he saw desolating the land, the dismemberment of the national party, the anarchy of national politics, all these things affected him intensely, and weighed heavily on his heart. To use his own words, however he might have striven to do his duty by his country, he felt that the labor of his life had been profitless, and the years he had given from his family and domestic circle had been lost in vain. But it is needless to say that his principles remained unshaken; his patriotism was firm as a rock, his heart thrilled to every circumstance that affected the fortunes of the old land; and could he have gone through the years of his life again, in the same cause, he would have risked all that he risked before, and the worst his foes could do if he only saw the chance of thereby contributing to the freedom and happiness of his dearly loved country.

Mr. O'Brien expired at Bangor, in Wales, at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 18th ultimo. A report of his death, on the 16th had previously reached Dublin and London, and had been seized by several of the English journals (the *Post* among others), as the occasion of strictures on his public career as false and ill-grounded as they were ungenerous and vulgar. However men might differ in political views from William Smith O'Brien, it cannot be denied that during his time in Parliament, he had a few equals and no superior as a statesman and legislator, while in integrity, truthfulness and perfect consistency, he stood a shining example to all his contemporaries. But he was an Irishman; he loved his poor afflicted country, to the last; and that was enough to ensure for his memory the assaults of that portion of the British press through which the hatred and antagonism of the Saxon against the Celt habitually find expression.

Mr. O'Brien was born on the 17th of October, 1803, at Dromoland, in the county of Clare, the seat

of the late Sir Edward O'Brien, of whom he was the second son. He received his education principally at Harrow and Cambridge, in England; and, indeed, passed a great portion of his youth in that country. On entering public life, in 1827, as member for the borough of Ennis, it was quite natural, from early associations, as well as the political connections of his family, that he should be counted, by the so-called Conservative party, as belonging to their ranks. But his mind was of too high an order, and his opinions too strongly national to permit him to act long with a party whose tenets were confined within such narrow limits. One of his first acts was to join the Catholic Association in the struggle for the enfranchisement of the majority of his fellow-countrymen; and, throughout his whole career, he showed himself, on every occasion, the able and earnest champion of the principles of civil and religious liberty.

Mr. O'Brien's second return to Parliament was as member for the county of Limerick which he continued to represent, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, till his exile in 1848. When the Government, in 1843 arrested and imprisoned O'Connell, Smith O'Brien threw himself heart and soul into the national organization, though in doing so he estranged himself from his family, and created a coolness between himself and them which, to one of his affectionate disposition, must have been extremely painful. From that period no one worked more energetically for the legislative independence of Ireland than he did; and no other exerted a greater influence over the minds of his countrymen. The subsequent events of his career,—the division of the national party, and the arrest, condemnation, and exile of Smith O'Brien in 1848, are still fresh in the minds of the people, and require no repetition here. Since his return from exile, in 1856, Mr. O'Brien's only connection with public affairs has been through his letters to the public press, and his speeches during his visit to America, in 1859. The latter years of his life have been saddened by grief, for the loss of his wife, to whom he was devotedly attached, and by the troubles regarding the settlement of his property which subsequently ensued. Enjoying, as he did thoroughly, the esteem and respect of all who knew his many virtues and genuine goodness of heart, few men will have more numerous or more sincere mourners than William Smith O'Brien, whose loss will be deeply felt and truly deplored by the country which he so faithfully served throughout his long and brilliant career.—*Irish American.*

The reports of the flax crop are most favorable.

The *Times* Chronicle says:—The emigration from this country has fortunately decreased very much, and we shall in all likelihood hear no more of the difficulty of procuring passages. Much will, of course depend upon the character of the coming harvest, and the promise in this respect is fortunately all that could be hoped for.

Emigration to America proceeds with as much vigor at Queenstown as if it had only just begun. The ships, says the Cork Reporter, are invariably filled, and leave behind numbers of eager applicants for passages. The City of Washington received three hundred on the 9th. The men were all young and stalwart, with two exceptions. There were many women on board, and among them were seven nuns of the Order of the Good Shepherd, who embarked at Liverpool.

The Cork Herald says a formidable competitor with the Inman steamship line is now springing up in the National Steam Navigation Company. The new company will be in a position, towards the end of the year, to send two steamers in every week from Liverpool to New York, via this port. The largest carrying steamer built on the Tyne will be launched for them on Saturday next. She will be called the *Erin*. She is 3,200 tons burthen, 385 feet over all, and 28 feet deep in the hold. The *Erin* will be followed by five others, equally large vessels, which are now on the stocks. Messrs. Cummins, Brothers, are the agents at Queenstown for the new line.

THE ALLEGED DETERIORATION IN THE IRISH BREED OF HORSES.

(To the Editor of the Times.)

SIR,—The letters upon this subject between Sir Robert Peel and Admiral Rous have attracted much attention and discussion, and are well deserving of further consideration.

Both these writers appear to have lost sight of the great principles upon which this, as well as all other agricultural and commercial systems and calculations, really depends.

In the some impression of your paper (June 10) in which these letters appear, there is an admirable leading article upon free trade as applied to the shipping interest:—

"That the doctrines of free trade do not apply to agriculture; that the interest of money ought not, like every other price, to be permitted to regulate itself according to demand and supply, are heresies which have been successfully demolished by reason and opinion, leaving the place which they once took up to be occupied by the wide principles the application of which they have vainly sought to circumscribe."

Sir Robert Peel, in his letter to Admiral Rous, states that—

"The Irish Government is now intrusted by the Treasury with the annual sum of nearly 1,600*l.* for 15 Queen's Plates to be run for in Ireland, and it rests with the Government to determine the weights and distances for Her Majesty's Plate to be duly reported to the Treasury in an official return of the special application of the fund, and I would most particularly inquire of you whether you could suggest any alteration in the present customary regulations with which you are familiar, for competition for these plates, and, moreover, as the point has been raised, I would put it to you, although I do not suppose such a limitation would meet with your approval, whether you consider it advisable or expedient to limit the entries for Queen's Plates in Ireland to Irish bred horses."

That is to say, would Admiral Rous return to the old system of bounties, protection, and monopoly, by way of giving encouragement to agriculture and the breeding of horses? I believe that it would be a deathblow to both.

With the best intentions—himself an undoubted friend of the turf and to the improvement of the breed of horses—Admiral Rous appears to lose his way in this investigation. His difficulty appears to be, to reconcile the present system of Queen's Plates with the acknowledged principles of freedom for every man in the management of his own affairs.

In the year 1863 the British Government gave a donation of 3,641*l.* to the United Kingdom for Queen's Plates. Admiral Rous now says "that what we require is a national prize of 5,000*l.*" Is that likewise to come out of the pockets of the people? If so, it is a system of bounties and protection with a vengeance.

As a breeder of horses and a friend of the turf, I protest against these mistakes. Many religious and respectable persons are opposed to all racing, alleging that it causes dishonest practices and gambling, forgetting that other occupations, trades, amusements, and professions, when not under proper regulations, give rise to similar accusations. They therefore highly disapprove of public money—that is, any of the money of the people—being given by Government in Queen's Plates.

Many reflecting persons likewise disapprove the system as being opposed to the principles of free trade. The injurious effects of bounties and protection are strongly exemplified in the deterioration of the Irish breed of horses. How should it be otherwise when, in the words of Admiral Rous, "Nothing can be more fallacious than the statement submitted to the Secretary by the patrons of the Irish turf." If these gentlemen sell every first-class stallion, every superior mare, and every promising young horse, it is not surprising that they have nothing left, to com-

pete with the third-class racehorses sent from England to pick up Royal Plates.

As a breeder of horses and a friend to the turf, I am ashamed to receive any part of this charitable donation—this bounty out of the people's money, this protection to a third class of racehorses to "pick up Royal Plates in Ireland." This is the reason of the weak racehorses being bred, instead of the magnificent strong hunters and chargers which Ireland used to produce.

The remedy is in the hands of the gentlemen of the turf, and emphatically of the Jockey Club, if the breeders were left to themselves, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, supported by Parliament, will do his duty, and refuse to grant any more bounties or Royal Plates for the breeding of 'third-class' racehorses weeds.

The remedy, I repeat, is in the hands of the breeders and friends of the turf. Good, strong, useful, well-bred horses will always command a ready market. But the struggle for a quick return of capital and the Royal Plates cause thousands of fine two-year-old horses to be broken down and destroyed before they have acquired their natural growth and strength.

Let the Derby and the St. Leger be run for by four year olds instead of three-year-olds; it would alter and improve the whole system, although at first, like every change, it would meet with opposition. Leave breeders to manage their own affairs, and do not give bounties and plates upon wrong and mistaken principles, which are 'deteriorating the breed of horses in Ireland.'—Yours, faithfully,

GEORGE STRICKLAND.

Boynnton, Yorkshire, and 123, Piccadilly, June 14.

IRISH SCHOOLS SYSTEM.—Sir Hugh Cairns, in deference, it is said, to the urgent pressure of his Presbyterian constituents, made a fierce attack, on Tuesday evening, upon the system of the Irish National Board of Education in dealing with Conventual and Monastic Schools. Mr. Peel Dawson seconded his motion, which was also supported by Mr. Whiteside, who charged the Board with having been influenced throughout their later proceedings by Archbishop Cullen, and with having acted at the dictation of the Synod of Thurles. The Attorney General for Ireland defended the Board in a speech, which has deservedly raised his character as a Parliamentary speaker, and which completely rebutted several of the charges brought against the Board. The debate was adjourned on the motion of the O'Connor Don; and will afford an excellent, an unforeseen, and almost providential opportunity for all the Catholic Whigs, who looked with dismay to the imminent general election, to manufacture political capital, as fast as Mr. Chase makes greenbacks, against those terrible Tories, who want to persecute our holy nuns. It was a painful instance of the degree of insubordination that exists in the Conservative party, when two such men as Sir Hugh Cairns and Mr. Whiteside cannot be restrained at such a moment from giving tongue to the fanatical propensities of their local supporters, at the risk of doing such service to their adversaries from one end of Ireland to the other. Nor do they seem to be in the least alive to the fact, that it is the present Government and the Liberal Party, the peculiar friends and advocates of mixed education, that they are supporting, when they attack the Board for not more strictly adhering to its principles. The fact is, the rules of which they complain, were made mainly in deference to the wishes of the Ulster Presbyterians; and whatever concessions of Catholics may in some districts obtain under them for Monastic schools, Catholics have throughout Ulster to complain that these same rules almost necessitate the attendance of their children at Presbyterian or other Protestant religious instruction. With this in view, Mr. Hennessy has proposed an amendment to omit the words Convent and Monastic Schools from the original resolution, thus leaving its force to apply to one class of schools as well as the other. No Catholic need care to deny that the Convent and Monastic schools are not mixed schools in any sense of the word, but 'what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander' also. A few more debates like this will, we suspect, bring the mixed system to an end, and it will soon be the great Irish Question, What is to follow?—*London Tablet.*

DRAF MUTES IN WORKHOUSES.—The following letter has been received from the Clerk of the Galway Union, by the Inspector of the Catholic Institution for Deaf Mutes. What a striking testimony to the invaluable services of that noble institution!—

Galway, May 21, 1864.

SIR,—I beg to state for your information that the mute, Bartholomew Feeney, presented himself before the Board of Guardians at yesterday's meeting, and handed in a letter, written by himself, thanking the guardians for having sent him to an institution where he received a moral, religious education, and instructions in a trade which he trusts will enable him to earn a livelihood for himself, and be of assistance to his mother. The guardians felt much pleased with his appearance, and they desire to express their approval (which is entered on their minutes) of the evident care bestowed upon him, both morally and physically, and also their conviction of the great blessings conferred upon that afflicted section of the community, the poor deaf mutes, through the agency of the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servt., THOMAS STACEY.

DISGRACEFUL RUFFIANISM.—The most secondarily act of vandalism has ever been here our lot to record, was perpetrated a Clonmacnoise, on Sunday night. The people of the neighborhood were attending their various places of worship when a number of degraded beings arrived on an excursion from Birr. Cowardly as such mean villains ever are, they took advantage of the men of Clonmacnoise being absent, and, with wanton and brutal malignity, defaced the carved ornamentation of the magnificent monumental crosses and principal doorways of the Churches, by 'bat-taring them with stones. This hate of the emblem of our Saviour's suffering and signs of our country's ancient greatness is stated to have been shown by a Protestant Young Men's Society. If so, they must be of the lowest dregs of Orange depravity, and a libel on young Irish Protestants. Had the men of Clonmacnoise, Protestant or Catholic, come upon them, they would have received the chastisement, drubbing and ducking, they deserved. As it is we hope they shall receive their due. The Rector and Priest are united in taking preliminary legal steps, a servant girl being fortunately, able to identify some of them. They are a disgrace to Birr, and should be expelled from the town. The matter must not sleep. Clonmacnoise is one of the glories of Ireland.

An imposter recently visited Limerick in sacerdotal garb naming himself Murphy, and stating that he was a Catholic priest engaged in a collection for a Catholic church in Dover, England. He even had the audacity to ask the Right Rev. Dr. Butler's permission to collect funds but was refused. After some ill-doings of his were exposed, the police were put on his track, and it was ascertained that the adventurer's true name was Mackie; that he had been arrested some years ago in Paris for collecting money on fictitious pretences, in the false name of Donnelly, and that he had never received orders in any church. He was arrested, but on the day of the funeral of the late Bishop, managed to escape. Mackie is described to be a young man, about 24 years of age, longish face, pallid hue, projecting chin, high forehead, dark hair, catfish eyes, aquiline nose. He is about five feet nine inches in height, lightly built, and wears a clerical habit, here, in clerical garb. His detection can be easily effected by any clergyman by whom he is questioned on theological subjects. The ecclesiastical authorities of Limerick request that these particulars may be as widely circulated as possible by the Catholic Journals of the Kingdom and those of America, and other destinations of the Irish race.—*Munster News.*