

the population has decreased from eight millions to less than five and a half millions. The loss in the last ten years is 296,208. This diminution has fallen unequally on the religious sects. According to the London News, there are but 258 Jews in Ireland, a decrease of thirty-five per cent. since 1861. The adherents of the now disestablished Protestant Church have decreased by only one and three quarters per cent., those of Presbyterians, Methodists, Independents, Baptists, and the Society of Friends, by nearly four per cent., while the Catholic decrease has amounted to more than eight per cent.; and "other Christian persuasions," which have sunk nearly two-thirds in the province of Munster, and rather more than held their own in Leinster and Connaught, have so increased in Ulster as to stand and a quarter per cent. higher for the whole country.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.—An important demonstration was made by the Irishmen of Liverpool on the 31st of January in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. Mr. Sullivan, editor of the Dublin Nation, addressed the meeting. The audience was enthusiastic, but proceedings were orderly.

A late notice issued by order of the Lord Lieutenant to all the publicans in Kells and adjoining districts, to the effect that the provisions of a certain section of the Peace Preservation Act, requiring the victuallers to close their houses at sunset, has been put into force. The houses in question are now closed from about four o'clock, P.M. A body of the constabulary patrol the streets after that hour to see if there are any delinquents. The inhabitants feel very indignant, inasmuch as several of those public-houses are grocers' shops and bakeries. The proprietors of many of those houses, too, are old inhabitants, and have made a reputation for themselves. A public meeting is spoken of.

The Archbishop of Tuam has received a grateful letter from the Mayor of Chicago in acknowledgment of a sum of £50 forwarded by his Grace for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire. Mr. Mason says:—"If Ireland has a tender recollection of American charity in the past, America must ever gratefully remember that Irishmen have helped to make her what she is. And even were there not many ties of long standing between our two countries, the noble part borne by your people in extending its material aid through this time of adversity must bind us to Ireland with links as lasting as memory itself."

On the 15th ult., an inquest was held at Clonmel, near Maryborough, before William Clarke, Esq., coroner for the district, and a respectable jury, on the body of Patrick Curry. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was in the employment of the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Company, and he and three or four others were removing a stone-post on a lorry, when it slipped and fell on Curry. He was brought to the county infirmary, from whence he was removed to his own house next day, and died shortly afterwards. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was given.

Jan. 10th.—A telegram from Limerick reports an immense demonstration made in that city by the supporters of Home Rule, in the form of a reception to Messrs. P. J. Smith, Isaac Butt, and other prominent advocates of the movement. A procession, numbering 30,000 persons, bearing many banners, marched through the streets, and finally halted at Daniel O'Connell's monument, where speeches were made. Mr. Butt, in the course of his speech, spoke of many wrongs inflicted upon Ireland, and urged the rising of the oppressed nation from the dust.—He was very severe in his denunciation of the Marquis of Hartington.

A FORTUNATE IRISHMAN.—The great diamond, weighing 134 carats, which has been found at the Cape and is now on its way to England, is already furnished with its legend. It is said to have been found in the wall of one of the native huts a poor Irish adventurer had received hospitality for the night, and that being surprised at the light shining amid the darkness he had upon examination found it to proceed from a clump of the earth of which the wall was built. Of course the clump was soon detached by the visitor, and this new Koh-i-noor, with many other smaller diamonds, found within.

A Belfast correspondent, writing on the 15th ult., says:—"Small-pox, which for the past two or three weeks has been so very prevalent in Belfast, is beginning to decrease. The cases during the past ten days have not been so numerous, and it is believed the worst is now over. I regret, however, to say that the disease is rapidly spreading in Carrickfergus; it is supposed that the infection was brought from Belfast some four weeks ago by a young person who has since died of the disease at the residence of his parents in Carrickfergus. There are at present fourteen cases of small-pox in that town. A good deal of alarm exists among the inhabitants, many of whom are getting re-vaccinated."

Lord Clement has munificently contributed £100 towards the erection of a new Catholic Church at Carlingford.

A dispatch from Nenagh, dated the 20th ult., says:—"As Mr. Walsh, Manager of the National Bank in Nenagh, with his assistant, Mr. Tydd, were returning this evening from Borrisokane, where they held a bank weekly, two men came forward and one fired, seriously wounding Mr. Tydd, who fired in reply, and it is supposed he struck the man. Another shot was fired at Mr. Walsh, wounding him, it is supposed mortally. Mr. Tydd secured the money, which he brought in safe. Mr. Walsh was shot in the head, and dropped off the car on which they were travelling. Up to seven o'clock this evening no definite news of him had been obtained, but it was feared he was dead."

A second dispatch, dated Nenagh, Thursday, Dec. 21st, says:—"Three prisoners named Palmer, Griffin, and Donohoe, have been brought into Nenagh this evening, where the magistrates held a private inquiry. The result was the release of Donohoe, and a remand till to-morrow of the others. A clue has been found likely to lead to important results, namely—A shoe, which fits into a mark, and a gun. Mr. Walsh is still unconscious. He must have been beaten on the head as well as shot. Mr. Tydd's case also causes anxiety. Both bankers are still living, but Mr. Walsh is in a precarious condition."

Small-pox is now so rife in Dublin that the Guardians of South Dublin Union have proposed to levy an extra rate of 2d. in the pound, which would produce £25,000, to meet the expenses entailed by it.

Several threatening letters, received by parties residing in the county Meath, have been handed over to the police authorities. In one of the letters the gentleman threatened is informed that if he does not obey a former mandate "his days won't be long in the land."

No less than nineteen notices of ejection have been served in the townlands of Leightown and Scarlockstown. One of the parties served is a Mrs. Nicoll, a widow and sister-in-law to the Rev. John Nicoll, P.P., of Kells, and Catholic Archdeacon of Meath.

A Waterford correspondent, writing on the 17th ult., says:—"A very mysterious affair has just occurred here. A farmer named Quigley, residing about four miles from town, came in to the market on the 13th, and sold a number of pigs, for which he received upwards of £20. About eight o'clock that night he was drinking with a man named Corcoran, but has not since been heard of. Corcoran was in the city on Thursday, but has since disappeared. It is believed Quigley has received foul play."

In order to prevent the destruction of the ancient relics so frequently found by the peasantry, the Royal Irish Academy have determined to publish, in Irish, an abstract of the law of treasure trove, and directions for the transmission of such articles to the Academy.

A Belurbet correspondent writes:—"The constabulary of this district have been directed to put themselves on the alert to capture a young man named Patrick Magovern, a native of Curraghmore. Magovern, it appears, made a furious attack upon another man, named James Maguire, in Ballyconell; and, before desisting, left his victim in such a condition that Maguire is not expected to live. It is supposed that Magovern is making his way to some of the sea-ports with the intention of leaving the country; and to prevent his escape the detective force at Queenstown, Derry, and elsewhere have been communicated with."

At the Southern Police Court, Dublin, on the 12th ult., a man named Charles Carolan was charged by Alice Gardner, of Jarvis street, with having assaulted her by presenting a revolver at her the previous night. Carolan was also charged with having arms in a proclaimed district. On the full hearing of the case it was found that the "revolver" was nothing more or less than a cork driver and the prisoner was discharged on his own bail.

A death, at present unaccountable, has taken place on Slievevenish Mountain, near Tarlee. The police searched the spot on Friday, Dec. 15, and found traces of a struggle, but no marks of violence on the deceased person. Two men, neighbors, were with him leaving Tarlee, and all were under the influence of drink.

At Kells Petty Sessions, on the 18th ult., a young man, named Natty, residing at Cookstown, near Kells, was charged by Head-Constable Carden, with being out of his place of abode on the night of the 10th ult., contrary to the provisions of the Peace Preservation Act. From the evidence of the police it appeared that on the night in question they were on duty in this locality, and met Natty between ten and eleven o'clock. His answer not satisfying them, they summoned him. The Bench, after considerable consultation, decided on adjourning the case till next session, Natty to enter into bail for his appearance. The magistrates were afterwards engaged for a considerable time examining witnesses relative to a threatening letter received by Matthew Dolan, whose house was fired, ordering him to abstain from pasturing a portion of the property of which he has charge, under pain of death.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—A despatch from Sandringham reports that the Prince of Wales went out yesterday for the first time since his illness. Dr. Galt, who has been constantly in attendance on His Royal Highness since the first dangerous symptoms appeared, left Sandringham to-day.

Mr. G. Dixon has been doing a novel thing. He has held a public meeting of agricultural laborers in Herefordshire, and induced them to speak on their grievances. They all spoke sensibly enough, complaining mainly of their wages, which they said were 10s. per week, and of the cost of helping the parish to support their parents, cost from which "the old folk didn't get any benefit." They wanted 15s. a week, and security of tenure in their cottages—which at present they must quit if they quit the owner's service—and a bit of land for a cow. The speakers all regard the state of affairs as quite natural, and looked to emigration as the only means of escape. Give these fellows education enough to save a ten-pound note out of "beer and bacon," and how many of them will be left in Herefordshire? Or, if they stay, the tenure of land will have to be radically reformed.—London Spectator.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Lord Stanley addressed a large meeting of workmen at Liverpool this evening. In the course of his remarks he said the old liberal programme had exhausted its vitality, and he expected that in the future Conservatism would predominate in all questions.

The Scotsman, a Scotch Protestant journal, publishes the following tables of illegitimacy:—

"We come next to a very painful and important point, and shall get away from it as soon as possible. The proportion of illegitimate births to the total number of births is, in Ireland, 3.8 per cent.; in England the proportion is 6.4; in Scotland, 9.9; in other words England is nearly twice, and Scotland nearly three times worse than Ireland. Some thing worse has to be added from which no consolation can be derived. The proportion of illegitimacy is very unequally distributed over Ireland, and the inequality rather humbling to us as Protestants and still more as Presbyterians and Scotchmen. Taking Ireland according to the registration divisions, the proportion of illegitimate births varies from 6.2 to 1.3. The division showing this lowest figure is the Western, being substantially the Province of Connaught, where about nineteen-twentieths of the population are Celtic and Roman Catholic. The division showing the highest proportion of illegitimacy is the North-Eastern, which comprises or almost consists of the Province of Ulster, where the population is almost equally divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics, and where the great majority of Protestants are of Scotch blood and of the Presbyterian Church. The sum of the whole matter is, that semi-Protestant and semi-Scotch Ulster is fully three times more immoral than wholly Popish and wholly Irish Connaught—which corresponds with wonderful accuracy to the more general fact that Scotland, as a whole is three times more immoral than Ireland as a whole."

DEATH OF MRS. RYVES, THE ALLEGED PRINCESS OF CAMBERLAND.—This aged lady, whose name will be remembered in connection with the cause for many years before the legal tribunals, in which she was a claimant to Royalty as the daughter of the Princess Olive of Cumberland, died on the 7th inst., at her residence, Haverstock Hill. The immediate cause of death was bronchitis and congestion of the lungs, from a neglected cold. She died after six days illness. Up to this her constitution was remarkable for vigour, although she had attained her 75th year, having been born on the 16th March, 1797. The father of the deceased lady was John Thomas Serres, a celebrated painter and marine draughtsman to the Admiralty, and the late Royal Academician, Mr. Clarkson Stanfield was one of his pupils. Mr. J. T. Serres was the son of Dominic Serres, one of the first forty Royal Academicians when incorporated by George III., and Mrs. Ryves has received an annuity from the Academy for many years. The mother of Mrs. Ryves was the lady known as the "Princess Olive," alleged to be the daughter of Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III. Mrs. Ryves was married to Anthony Thomas, son of Captain Ryves, of Ransdon Hall, but many years since obtained a divorce, a *mens et thoro* for adultery and cruelty. She leaves two sons and three daughters to mourn her loss.—London Telegraph.

A CORONER'S TESTIMONY.—At the Anniversary of the London Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance, a coroner named Dr. Hardwick made an important speech to the following effect: It was an undoubted fact that the race was deteriorating physically, owing to the bad air, and bad food, and bad lodging of the working classes. With the money they spent in intoxicating liquor, they could better their position, and regain somewhat of their original vigor. Again, he contended that we should have little mortality between the ages of twenty-five and threescore years and ten, and yet it was a matter of fact that there was a large mortality, and that mortality was the result of intemperance. It was true this did not come out in the reports of the doctors, because medical men were placed often in a peculiarly delicate position, and would not hurt the feelings of survivors; but the real fact was that such deaths as were attributed to fatty heart diseases of the liver or kidneys were brought about by drinking.

As coroner he always endeavoured to elicit this truth, and at last he had got his juries to go so far as to return verdicts in certain cases of death accelerated by drinking. Further, he maintained drunkenness should be made criminal. A drunkard had no business to cast the burden of his support upon others.

There is talk in England of introducing, at the next session of Parliament, a plan of "home rule" for the three sections of the United Kingdom, which is quite a novelty. It proposes that any measure not referring to more than one of the three kingdoms of the realm be referred, after the principle had been agreed to in the whole House, to a "Grand Committee" of the members returned from that kingdom, by whom alone the details should be settled and reported to the House. Thus all three "Grand Committees" might sit at one and the same time on different bills, and there would be an immense economy of the time of the House, and advantage to the progress of local legislation.

Dr. Lankester in his annual report of the sanitary condition of St. James', Westminster, gives a clear account of contagious diseases, in his parish, and of the modes of preventing them. In the course of his report he estimates that the losses from Scarlet Fever, throughout Great Britain during the last sixteen years has not been less than 109,000 lives. And in Westminster, Mr. Barnard Holt states that 235 lives fell a sacrifice to Small Pox during the year 1871, against 13 who died of that disease the year previous. All these facts point to the necessity of earnest and painstaking exertion on the part of Government and communities to adopt means for the arrest of the progress of epidemics.

All the London journals have articles on the assassination of James Fisk, jr. They cite the cases of Richardson and Crittenden, and attribute the frequency of such deeds to the peculiar civilization of America, and denounce the laxity of public sentiment and the weakness of the Courts, which make the practice of carrying concealed weapons so general in the United States. The Times arrives at the conclusion that the assassin's pistol in this case only killed Fisk, but the spirit of which he was the incarnate representative is still living and strong in the City of New York.

A LONDON STREET.—The intelligent and brilliant French writer M. Taine thus describes his visit to Shadwell:—"I have seen the bad quarters of Mar-seilles, of Antwerp, of Paris, they do not come near to it. Low houses poor streets of brick under red-tiled roofs cross each other in every direction, and lead down with a dismal look to the river. Beggars, gipsies, harlots, the latter especially, crowd Shadwell-street. One hears a grating music in the spirit cellars; sometimes it is a negro who handles the violin; through the open windows one perceives unmade beds, women dancing. Thrice in ten minutes I saw crowds collected at the doors; fights were going on, chiefly fights between women: one of them, her face bleeding, tears in her eyes, drunk, shouted with a sharp and harsh voice, and wishes to bring herself upon a man. The bystanders laughed; the noise caused the adjacent lanes to be emptied of their occupants; ragged poor children, harlots—it was like a human sewer suddenly discharging its contents. Some of them have a relic of neatness, a new garment, but the greater number are in filthy and unseemingly tatters. Figure to yourself what a lady's bonnet may become after passing during three or four years from head to head having been crushed against walls, having had blows from fists; they receive them. I noticed blackened eyes, lacerated noses, bloody cheeks-bones. The women gesticulate with extraordinary vehemence; but most horrible of all is their shrill, acute, cracked voice, resembling that of an ailing street owl. From the time of leaving the tunnel street boys abound—bare-footed, dirty, and turning wheels in order to get alms. On the stairs leading to the Thames they swarm, pale-faced, more deformed, more repulsive than the scum of Paris; without question, the climate is worse, and the gin more deadly. Near them, leaning against the greasy walls, or inert on the steps, are men in astounding rags; it is impossible to imagine before seeing them how many layers of dirt an overcoat or a pair of trousers could hold; they dream or close open-mouthed, their faces are begrimed, dull, and sometimes streaked with red lines. It is in these localities that families have been discovered with no other bed than a heap of soot; they had slept there during several months. For a creature so wasted and jaded there is but one refuge—drunkenness. 'Not drink!' said a disciple at an inquest. 'It were better than to die at once.' A tradesman said to me, 'Look after your pockets, sir,' and a policeman warned me not to enter certain lanes. I walked through some of the broader ones; all the houses except one or two are evidently inhabited by harlots. Other small streets, dusty courts, reeking with a smell of rotten rags, are draped with tattered clothes and linen hung up to dry. Children swarm. In a moment, in a narrow court, I saw fourteen or fifteen around me dirty, barefooted, the little sister carrying a sucking child in her arms, the year-old nursing who whose whitish head had no hair. Nothing is more lugubrious than these white bodies, that pale flaxen hair, these labby cheeks encrusted with old dirt. They press together, they point out the gentleman with curious and eager gestures. The motionless mothers with an exhausted air, look out at the door. One observes the narrow lodging, sometimes the single room wherein they are all huddled in the foul air. The houses are most frequently one-story, low, narrow—a den in which to sleep and die. What a place of residence in winter, when, during weeks of continuous rain and fog, the windows are shut! And in order that this brood may not die of hunger, it is necessary that father should not drink, should never be idle, should never besick. Here and there is a dust-heap. Women are laboring to pick-out what is valuable from it. One old and withered, had a short pipe in her mouth. They stand up amidst the muck to look at me; brutalized, disgusting faces of female Yahoos; perhaps this pipe and a glass of gin is the last idea which floats in their idiotic brain. Should we find there anything else than the instincts and the appetites of a savage and of a beast of burden? A miserable black cat, lean, lame, started, watches them timidly out of the corner of its eye, and furtively searches in a heap of rubbish. It was possibly right in feeling easy. The old woman, muttering, followed it with a look as wild as its own. She seemed to think that two pounds weight of meat were there. I recall the alleys which run into Oxford-street, stifling lanes, encumbered with human exhalations; troops of pale children nestling on the muddy stairs, the seats on London-bridge, where families, huddled together with drooping heads, shiver through the night; particularly the Haymarket and the Strand in the evening, every hundred steps one jostles twenty harlots; some of them ask for a glass of gin, others say, 'Sir, it is to pay my lodging.' This is not debauchery which faints itself, but destitution—and such destitution! The deplorable procession in the shade of the monumental streets is sickening; it seems to me a march of the dead. That is a plague-spot—the real plague-spot of English society."

A THUNDERBOLT APPEAL.—The following extraordinary "religious notice" was recently placarded in London:—"The United Christian Band of Royal Artillery of Heaven! A company of extraordinary men, who have been rescued from among the champions of the devil, having been wrestlers, publicans, pugilists, etc., etc. but are now the servants of God and of his Son Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!!! who by the assistance of the Holy Ghost purpose making a desperate attack on the kingdom of Satan in the Town Hall, Longton."

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—It is certainly not a little remarkable that the authors of the recent attacks on the House of Lords should be gentlemen professedly interested in the cause of education. A zealot for the spread of sound knowledge, uncolored by theology, among the masses should have something to urge against a venerable institution than vulgar jokes and threadbare commonplaces. A Liberal of this particular stamp may perhaps be pardoned for not feeling the force of the general argument against sweeping changes in the House of Lords which is based on the strong presumption in favor of every material part of an aggregate of institutions through which a higher degree of freedom has been enjoyed for a longer time in this country than in any other open to observation or known to history. But persons who think themselves better educated than their neighbors might, even though advanced Liberals, be expected to have sufficient elementary acquaintance with the records of constitutional experiment to be aware that the construction of a second legislative chamber has been found the most perplexing of political problems, and to have learned that the framers of constitutions, whenever they have had the materials at their disposal, have been eager to imitate in part the fabric of the House of Lords. Putting aside such fine-new experiments as these which have been tried in British colonies, and confining ourselves to Constitutions established in empires comparable with the British empire in variety and importance, the examples of upper or second legislative bodies which are worth noticing appear to adjust themselves to four types. Two of them are without the smallest relevancy to the reform of the House of Lords. We merely mention the Roman Senate, because Lord Malmesbury's strange idea that it was a patrician assembly appeared to exercise some influence on the House of Lords when it rejected the scheme of Lord Russell and Lord Salisbury for the establishment of life peerages. As a matter of fact, its analogy to an Upper Legislative Chamber was extremely incomplete, and it can never have a parallel in this country until the House of Lords comes to consist of politicians who have passed through a series of Cabinet offices, and who have besides served as Governor-General of India or Canada, or Governors of some of the larger colonies. The most striking experiment of modern times is also without application to this country. The Federal Senate of the United States, it is needless to say, is so constituted as to reflect the original equality of the States composing the Union, each State contributing two Senators, irrespectively of its size and importance. No materials for such an institution exist here, and even if they did the theory on which it is founded has collapsed. The equality of the several States has ceased to have any meaning or reality since the close of the war of secession, and in point of fact, fully a third of the American Senate now consists of "carpet-baggers"—that is, of Northern adventurers hurriedly returned by a combination of negro voting power with undisguised military coercion.—Edinburgh Mail Gazette.

Hobbling along the road to Framfield was a poor old labourer who lived at Buxted. "Bad times here in the winter?" I asked. "Not so bad," he replied. "The farmer keeps the married ones on, and turns off single ones." My admiration for the kindness of the farmer was somewhat lessened when it was afterwards pointed out that philanthropy had little to do with this arrangement, but that a single man could and would go elsewhere, while a married one with a family came at once on the rates. Then he went on to say that there wasn't much thinking about there; they had had enough to get drunk upon. As to whether he hadn't heard of talk of any since he was a boy; his mother used to speak of it. "Did I think, now, that a witch could stop a cart going up-hill?" "Did he?" "Well he wasn't sure." "Plurisuses? What were they?" "Oh, yes, he had heard speak of feery rings." "Did he go to church?" "Yes, and sometimes to the Wesleyans. All we have to do," said he, as if he wished to give me a summary of his creed, "is to stick to the Bible." Yet even he had his difficulties. "I be ignorant, sir, I be. May be ye can tell me what this means. I think it be in one of the little books where it do say, 'God came from Tenny.' How can that be when it say, 'God was, and is, and ever shall be?'" "The Stone Paralytic—in the World, from 'Golden Hours.'"

DEATH OF A RELATIVE OF FATHER MATTHEW.—In our obituary we recorded the death of Mr. Matthew, a resident for some years past in this town. At his decease he had reached his 80th year, and he was the eldest direct representative of the surviving branch of the ancient Matthew family, intimately connected for generations with the city of Llandaff and surrounding district. The family has been somewhat distinguished by its longevity. Mr. Edmund Matthew, who was Sheriff of Glamorgan in the 17th century, attained the age of 102. The elder branch of the family became extinct in 1821, in the person of Major Matthew, of Bath, grandson of the famous Admiral Matthew. A little later the collateral branch of the Llandaff family was ennobled by the creation of the earldom of Llandaff, which fell into abeyance in 1833, at the demise of the second earl. It is claimed that the family estates held by the earl should at his death have reverted to the family of which the well-known Father Matthew was the survivor, and thence to the family of which Mr. Matthew, whose decease we now record, was a representative. Be this as it may, the sister of the earl retained the estates, and at her death bequeathed them to Count de Jaranc, her cousin by marriage, by whose son they are now held. In her will she designated Father Matthew as one of her executors, but he declined to act. The three collateral lines above referred to converge in their common ancestor, Sir David Matthew, whose monument in Aldwark, forms a conspicuous object at Llandaff Cathedral. Sir David is stated to have saved the life of Edward IV., at the battle of Tewton. The grandfather of the deceased gentleman was Mr. William Matthew, fifth in descent from Sir David, who inherited certain family estates at Cogan, and was lord of the manor of Leckwith. His eldest son, William, was a publisher at Bristol, where he issued the first "Bristol Annual Directory," which has continued to be published by members of his family, including the Mr. Matthew recently deceased.—Cardiff Times.

UNITED STATES.

JUDICIAL CORRUPTION IN NEW YORK STATE.—The Bar Association of New York have adopted the report of their Judiciary Committee to the effect that after careful examination they consider that there are charges against the judges so well founded, and of such serious character as to demand investigation.

A correspondent of a London paper states that an American missionary, sent to Calcutta to convert the Hindus, has become a disciple of the Keshub Chunder Sen and been formally received into the Hindoo-Sona Church.

THE MISSION TO THE COLORED RACE.—In this we have another illustration of the truly Catholic character of the Church. With here there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither Barbarian Scythian, bond or free, but all are her children, without regard to race, nationality, birth, knowledge or ignorance, loftiness or lowliness. There is, too, a propitius—as was remarked by Archbishop Manning—in this Mission originating in England. For it was England who imported the first Africans into the United States. What differences of opinion there may be—and that there are such differences honestly entertained—are well aware—in regard to the late emancipation of the colored race, and the manner and time in which, and circumstances under which it was done, there will, we presume, be no difference of sentiment in regard to the importance of taking immediate and

vigorous efforts for christianizing the negroes. We say christianizing, for those who are most familiar with their condition in the Southern States, particularly the more distant of those States, testify that in many districts of country, they are little, if any more elevated in their religious notions, than their heathen ancestors in Africa, and that heathen superstitions and heathen customs and rites of worship are coming rapidly to prevail among them.—This will not surprise any one who was acquainted with their past religious condition. The only form of Protestantism that previous to the war seemed to have any power to attract them, was Methodism. But it really did little or nothing in the way of giving them positive religious ideas or actual religious instruction. They talked and shouted about Jesus; and yelled and groaned in what they called praying; but, for all they knew, the sacred name of Jesus, which they often so reverently used, might have been the name of some African fetish, and their prayers incantations. The bond of sympathy between them and Methodism was the fact that it allowed them to dance, to yell, and express their feelings, and in its style of worship allowed a manner of expressing those feelings which they could not enjoy under other forms of Protestantism. The new circumstances in which they have been placed by emancipation; the new and unsettled condition of things growing out of this social change has unquestionably left them, for the time being, more open to bad influences, and tendencies to evil, than previously. The old heathen traditions, brought by their ancestors from Africa, and still remembered and secretly cherished, seem to be reviving and reasserting their power over them. And if allowed to prevail unchecked, the negro race of the more Southern States would in a very short time become as a mass, practical heathens.—Catholic Register.

AN UNGRATEFUL WRETCH.—We clip the following from the Philadelphia Catholic Standard:

A MOST REMARKABLE CASE. A striking illustration of the manner in which our Holy Spiritual Father's Church is continually fulfilling practically the prophecy, "Not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing; but on the contrary blessing, hap-pened lately in this city (Philadelphia).

During last summer, two gentlemen, who had been Protestant "ministers," were admitted into the Church. The reception afforded a fair opportunity for allowance of that "right of individual judgment" which Protestantism extols so loudly in theory, but ignores so entirely in practice. Instead, however, of saying "These men have followed their convictions, as they had a right to do, it is no concern of ours; their conversion was made the occasion for abusing the Holy Catholic Church, especially by the paper which is under the patronage of the sect, which these gentlemen left, called the Boston Church Messenger! One of the editors of that paper insinuated that for the gentlemen to become Catholics was equivalent to their going to hell, saying, with the words which St. Peter used respecting Judas Iscariot.

Let us pass over a few months, and what this new Protestant editor and "minister" then has to say.

"The hand of God's mysterious Providence came upon us in a way that well might strike us dumb. Before we departed of our day, our brother came to our door, complaining of sore afflictions. Two days developed the invulnerable truth that he was really a victim of the small-pox. This cut us off from all outside intercourse with our fellow men. No friend or neighbor, no Christian brother or minister of the Gospel, only the kind physician could be expected to come near our infected dwelling. Some were unwilling so much as to receive our letters. Even our usual reading matter failed to reach us. No friendly offices were volunteered for possible or friendly visits. Long days and weary nights set in. The patient's sufferings increased.

And now, readers, learn what next in God's mysterious Providence occurred! We quote again:

"A Franciscan Nun, at the Doctor's request, when no other Christian, save the Doctor, would come for love or money, to her honor, he it mattered, Sister Fulana came for charity's sake," and helped to care for this Protestant minister (his own brother). "She had seen but one wise case. God will surely reward that self-sacrificing piety and devotion, which thus encounters danger, and courageously wees death for charity's sake." In such acts their course is in strong contrast with some Christians."

Thus, in the hour of this man's extremity, when deserted by his friends, and when "no minister of the Gospel could be expected" to visit him, or his dying brother, did the Church which he had so falsely defamed and so bitterly reviled, in the person of one of her devoted children, return to him not evil for evil nor railing for railing, but on the contrary, blessing."

We wish we could stop here. But there is still another feature in this case, which the subject shall relate in his own words.

Speculating respecting the motives which actuated her to whom he was so much indebted, he says: "Is it because they are trained by stern discipline, as soldiers are, to do such things? Or is it a system of meritorious work—righteousness that prompts them to do it? Or is it blind devotion, anxious only to court death? and end their message to a life-long vow?"

O, most suspicious, most hard-hearted and most unjust man! Thus cruelly to asperse, by your insinuations, that heavenly "charity" of which you furnish the opposite exemplar—in that, if I think no evil, but rejoice with the truth—charity, which that Holy Sister freely extended when not one of your "friends," not one of your fellow "ministers of the Gospel" would "come to you for love or money?" Making by insinuation the infamous charge that she was seeking a suicidal end, because "only for charity's sake" she smoothed your brother's pillow, and alleviated his dying agony! Could not the quiet composure with which she endured the imminent danger—that caused you to be "in much fear and trembling"—to encounter which, to use your own words, requires "courage" equal to "entering the battlefield"—could not the placid calmness of that face, indicating a mind at peace with itself and with all the world, because at peace with God, heard overflowing with love for man because filled with divine love, a soul at rest, because it rested in Christ, a forbitude which could move undisturbed amid torments which made strong men quake with fear,—could not the "devotion," disinterested "kindness," "self-sacrificing piety," "goodness," "courage," "patience" which you yourself ascribe to her, repel from your mind the unworthy suggestion, and save you from being her slanderer, and herself and her holy order from your base imputation? Was there any necessity to "court death" in order to "end her bondage in a life-long vow" had she felt that "vow" to be a "bondage," or desired to end it? Would not you and hundreds of your "friends" and "ministers of the Gospel" who would not "come for love or money" near "your infected dwelling," welcome and assist, and do this sister homage, if she were willing, or could be induced, to accept your protection and thus to "end her vows"? Are there no other ways in which death can be found, but by submitting to the loathsome embrace of that most foul of all forms in which pestilence can come? O man, if man you be! By what malignant influence if not by those of the spirits that in their torment blaspheme God, could all the better feelings of your nature have been so poisoned and perverted, thus to defame, even at the time when affliction should have softened your heart, and filled it with gratitude, your penis benefactress?