

good works, and again questioned Mr. Noel whether he would not oppose such doctrines. The Rev. gentleman again signified his assent.]

The Rev. Mr. McNEILK suggested the propriety of not pursuing the subject, as Mr. Noel agreed in all that was said.

Mr. Gordon continued.—If the early reformers were justified in protesting against the doctrines of the church of Rome in the sixteenth century, a society which designed to revive the principles of the Reformation was equally justified in protesting against them. The modern distinction between idolatrous and idolatry was for the Reformation Society to comprehend. After observing, that his object in standing before the meeting was statements, not declamation, Mr. Gordon said, that in the course of the last year, twenty-nine meetings had been held by the society in Ireland, and with nearly uniform success. The first of these took place at Waterford, at a time when a strong feeling of political irritation prevailed in the country, and when considerable difference of opinion existed with regard to the expediency of holding such meetings; but there did not appear the slightest symptom of disturbance or had feeling. It was then determined to try the effect of a meeting at night in the same place, and an attendance of upwards of 1,200 persons was convened at a few hours notice. Nothing could exceed the attention with which they listened throughout; and a still larger attendance was collected on the following evening. Night as well as day meetings of the Society were from that time held in almost every part of Ireland, and the success which attended them exceeded any thing which could have been conceived to be possible. The meetings at Limerick were peculiarly interesting; but the most striking feature in the society's experience, during the past year, was the meetings which it held in Eunis, shortly after the memorable political contest which convulsed the county of Clare. These were crowded by Roman Catholics, who listened to him (Mr. Gordon), and the dean of Armagh, with no deeper attention, and at night they remained until past ten o'clock, when most of the lights were burnt out in the sockets. Mr. Gordon then concluded with a strong appeal to the meeting, in favour of an institution which was capable of producing such results.

Lord VALENTIA, in a neat speech, proposed the next resolution. Whatever might be the respective opinions of the persons present, relative to the late measures of Parliament, he trusted there was not an individual present but was anxious to destroy the system of popery.

The Dean of ARMAGH seconded the resolution, and observed, that having heard a great deal about transubstantiation, he should feel happy if he could change the assembly into a congregation of his poor countrymen. (*Laughter.*) He should then feel more at home, and be able to speak to them on the things that belonged to their everlasting salvation. The rev. dean gave a long and very interesting detail of the progress of scriptural knowledge in Ireland, through the exertions of the society; and assured the meeting, from his own observation, as well as on the authority of letters from Catholics themselves, that a spirit of inquiry was spread among the people of that country, who were daily becoming more anxious for the truths of salvation.

The Rev. G. W. PHILLIPS moved the next resolution, and impressed upon the meeting the necessity, if they valued their liberties as Protestants, of doing all they could to uproot the dangerous and oppressive system of popery. It was because the society had trodden in the steps of Luther and Cramer, that God had honoured its instrumentality, and blessed it with the success which it now enjoyed. (*Cheers.*)

The Rev. Mr. DALTON stood forward to second the resolution, and said, that only one word was necessary to give an idea of that state of Ireland, and that word was Romanism. With this religion, how could she be expected to present a lovely aspect? It was only those who had watched the effect of Romanism on the people who could judge with accuracy of that religion. That the society was adapted to the propagation of the Gospel in Ireland, was borne on by the testimony of Scripture, and by the example of the apostles. When the apostle preached at Athens, and represented the idolatries of the city, for instance, the people heard and believed, and brought their books of enchantments and burnt them before the multitude. With respect to pre-

cedents, the meeting had had instances brought before them which must have been amply sufficient to convince them of the utility and success of this institution. He had never seen a more interesting scene than that presented by a congregation of his countrymen listening to the preaching of the Gospel. He had known people who depended on very trifling wages for their support, give them up for days together, in order to attend the discussion of religious subjects: while the people of England were doubting whether the society was doing right or wrong, many of the people were lifting up their hallelujahs of praise to God for the benefits received through the exertions of the agents of this institution.

The Rev. H. McNEILK, in proposing the next resolution, said, that he stood before the meeting in a two-fold character: first, as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, a minister of that Gospel which taught us to love our brethren as ourselves; and, secondly, as the pledged and covenanted enemy of popery, root and branch. The Catholics of England and Ireland were taking advantage of recent circumstances, and of the impression in their favour, which had been lately produced, to propagate their religious tenets. He had lived in the neighbourhood of Catholics for a long time; but he had never perceived any thing like activity amongst them, till within the two last eventful and significant months. In the course of that time, the Catholic priest had brought to a Catholic family in the vicinity of his residence, a large quantity of tracts, &c., for distribution amongst his parishioners, desiring that they might be widely circulated. He had felt it his duty to oppose this conduct, and he therefore wrote to the priest, stating, that it would ill become him (Mr. McNeile) who preached one hundred and four times a year against popery, to condemn a minister of religion for defending it; but at the same time inviting the priest to a discussion on the doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion. He had not, however, accepted the challenge. The Rev. gentleman concluded by observing, that he trusted in God the expressions of applause from the meeting would give the lie to what he had said, as to the defection of the people with respect to the doctrines of the Reformation.

The Rev. G. HAMILTON said, he hoped that since the principles of Protestantism could be propagated in Ireland, that their influence would be reflected back on England, and tend to the reformation of Protestantism.

The Rev. R. IRONS, of Camberwell, proposed the last resolution in a brief speech, owing to the lateness of the hour.

HENRY DRUMMOND, Esq. in seconding the resolution, said, the Protestant church had once to testify against the corrupted church of Rome, and the Protestants of England were now called to bear testimony against the church of Ireland. He would say, that the Protestants would do well to take the beam out of their own eye, before they attempted to remove the mote from the eye of others. The wretched condition of the people of Ireland had been spoken of; but he would ask, what would they have been but for the exertions of the Catholic priests? What would have been the darkness of the people, but for the light which the ministers of the Catholic church had communicated to them. The hon. gentleman then proceeded to comment on the liberalism of the present day, and concluded by urging the meeting to support the society.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

After an explanation from the Hon. and Rev. GERARD NOEL, of some passages in his speech which had been misunderstood, the meeting separated.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

TREMENDOUS STORM IN SCOTLAND.

From the Inverness Journal.

[CONCLUDED.]

MONROSE.—So great a deluge of rain, attended with such disastrous consequences in all low-lying lands, as we experienced on Monday and Tuesday last, has not occurred in this quarter for about half a century. The district of Lochlee, we regret to state, suffered very severely. The substantial stone bridge over the Tarf has been entirely demolished, and all the other bridges in the parish have been more or less injured. The Rev. Mr. Jolly's manse was inundated by the Tarf, in all the lower rooms

of which it rose to the height of three feet, and did considerable damage. On the farm of Dalscampy, the North Esk swept down part of a stone dyke distant 200 yards from its usual channel. The new wooden bridge at Dalhousie has been entirely swept away; and the fine suspension bridge at Slateford, also of recent erection, has shared the same fate. The scene at the Gaunuchy Bridge was truly grand, but was far surpassed by the spectacle at the junction of the North, West, and Cruik waters, where the former threatened destruction to every opposing obstacle. The large haugh above the bridge of Marykirk, from which a quantity of sheep were, with much difficulty, extricated, was one continuous sheet of water; of course, the farm house of Marymill was completely enveloped; and we are sorry to understand that the tenant (Mr. R. Taylor) has suffered an immense loss in the destruction of his crops, farming utensils, house-furniture, pigs, and poultry. The greater part of the contiguous farm of Spairmill was also completely inundated; and from this and other similarly situated farms, large quantities of hay have been swept away. But, if it fared ill with a portion of the agricultural community, the calamity was far more disastrous to the commercial houses which have embarked large capitals in manufactures in this district. The extensive works at Craigo Mill, belonging to Messrs. Mahery and Co., presented, on the recess of the waters, a scene of devastation hardly to be described. The water, having overspread the whole of the large bleachfield which was covered with cloths and yarns to an immense value, soon found its way into the mill, warehouses, drying-houses, &c., in which it rose to the height of three feet; and, had it not been for the more than ordinary and united exertions of the workmen, who, when the river was at its highest, and threatening to pass all bounds and limits, raised, by the directions of Provost Jameson, a rampart at the *gates*, at the imminent risk of their lives, it is more than probable that the whole of the works would have been reduced to one common ruin. As it was, the damage sustained is immense; what with machinery destroyed, yarns and cloth partly rendered unmarketable, and partly carried out to sea, and the consequent derangement of business, we doubt not that it will amount to two or three thousand pounds. The devastation at the works at Logie Mill, belonging to Messrs. Aberdeen and Gordon, was comparatively speaking, not less than at Craigo. The water here rose to the height of fifteen feet, being nine inches higher than ever it was known before. The machinery in the mills, factories, &c. received incalculable damage; and the gable wall of a drying warehouse having been levelled by the current, a large quantity of yarn which it contained was the same moment born away to the sea. The greater portion of the yarns and cloth, however, having been strewed about the confluence of the river, it has been recovered, but so much damaged, especially the former, that we question whether the expense of bringing them to the market will not exceed the profit. The spinning mill at Mills of Kinnaaber, possessed by Messrs. Duke and Alexander, was completely deluged, the water having risen almost to the top of the lower flat of the mill. The injury to the machinery may therefore be conceived, besides the destruction of other property.

CUPAR ANGUS.—On Monday afternoon we had a storm in this quarter, such as has seldom been equalled. There was a great deal of lightning, accompanied with loud successive peals of thunder. The rain fell incessantly and heavily for a very long time. The wind blew a perfect hurricane. The Isla came down with a rapidly and depth, such as has scarcely ever been witnessed at this season, and overflowed the banks in almost every part of its course. The damage done to the crops over the whole Strath is very serious. Those parts of the crop which were heavy and close have been laid flat, and the reed broken, and driven in contrary directions by the violence of the rain and wind. At this advanced season, it is to be feared, a great deal of the crop thus laid and damaged will never, under any sort of weather, recover from the effects of the storm. Within water mark, the potatoes and the turnips are likely to suffer very severely; and it is evident that the extent of the rain which has fallen, joined with the previous wet weather, will have the effect of retarding the harvest to a degree of lateness which will be very dangerous both to the full ripen-