MR. S. O'BRIEN'S ADDRESS TO THE PROPLE OF IRELAND. PART VI. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Questions connected with the administration of Justice involve such a wide range of discussion that, even if I felt myself competent to deal with them in a satisfactory manner, I should not venture in this Address to invite your attention to them. But there are one or two points upon which it seems to me that I am specially bound to offer observation, because they have fallen within the circle of my own personal experience.

The first of these points is, what I will not call the habit, but the power which exists in Ire-

land of packing juries.

In ordinary cases the officials of the Crownthat is-the minister of the day and his subordinates-are indifferent, and therefore impartial in respect to the result of trials which afflict the life or liberty of individuals. - But it is not so in regard to trials of a political nature. The whole character of the system of government which shall prevail in a country may depend upon the issue of a single trial. In the administration of public affairs there may arise a direct antagonism between public opinion and the officials who conduct the executive government-more especially if, as is the case in Ireland, those officials represent the feeling which prevails in another country, and are not ultimately amenable to the people whose affairs they administer. Now, according to the theory of the British Constitution, Trial by Jury has been devised for the purpose of protecting the subject against the exercise of any undue influence on the part of the executive. In England this theory is realised in practice .--We have seen a number of cases in which Chartists and other political offenders have been brought to trial, but I do not remember an occasion on which any discontent has been expressed in reference to the appointment of the juries that have tried them. It is not so in Ireland !-I shall not dwell upon my own case, though it is the opinion of many eminent lawyers that I was not duly convicted of High Treason, and that, if I had been tried in England, I should have been acquitted. But I have no desire to escape from the responsibility which attends my own acts or to cast imputation upon the jury who tried me. The position which I am now endeavoring to maintain is that the system under which the political trials of 1848 were conducted is a system which gives to the officials of the crown as complete a power of convicting the accused as any that exists under the ordinary structure of a despotism-a power as complete, for instance, as that by which the judicial murder of the Duc d'Enghien was perpetrated under the sway of the first Napoleon.

The machinery is, indeed, somewhat more complex than that of a direct and immediate nomination of Judges appointed—not to try a prisoner but to condemn him. The High Sheriff is selected by the Government, and the High Sheriff selects a panel which he can arrange in such a manner as shall deprive the accused of all chance of escape. Take, for instance, the trial of a Roman Catholic-my friend Thos. Francis Meagher. Though the county of Tipperary is one of the most Catholic counties in Ireland. there was not, if I recollect rightly, a single Catholic on the jury which tried him. Now imagine what would be the indignation of the Protestants of the empire if a Belfast Orangeman were to be tried by a jury consisting exclusively of Roman Catholics for some offence connected with those military parades of Orangemen which have so often taken place in the North of Ireland. I have already said that I will offer no opinion upon the verdict under which I was sentenced to death, and actually transported, but I have no hesitation whatever in affirining that Mr. Meagher was not convicted according to law, and that upon the evidence which came before the Court he ought to have been acquitted, if he had been tried by a jury fairly constituted. Yet, I am now at home, and Mr. Meagher is still in exile-prohibited for ever from visiting, even for a short time, the country to which he is fondly attached. I am little disposed to speak disrespectfully of my Catholic fellow-countrymen, but I tell you frankly that it is a disgrace to the Catholic community of Ireland that they have not, as one man, demanded the restoration of Mr. Meagher to his country. Irrespectively of the merits of the cause for which he suffered, the gratitude which they owe to his father, who was for many years a faithful representative of the people—the interest which they might naturally have felt in the genius of the young orator who promised to rival Grattan and Curran in eloquence-above all, the flagrant, insult which was offered to the whole Catholic community by the exclusion of Catholics from the jury which tried him-all these considerations ought to have kept in a state of uneasiness the mind of every Irish Catholic so long as Thomas Francis Meagher was detained in exile. During the supremacy of the Whigs, this trifling concession might have easily been obtained by influential pressure on the part of those who upheld the late government. The Whigs have lost the opportunity of doing an act-I will not say-of grace or of generosity, but of simple justice. It remains to be seen whether their successors-whether the Whiteside-the Napier -the Fitzroy Kelly-who, as paid advocates, arraigned the verdicts under which we were condenned, will now think it consistent with the dignity of their party or with their own personal honor to consent that a man whom they believe to have been unjustly convicted shall be any longer subjected to proscription and exile.

I say nothing about the cases of Mr. Mitchell and of Mr. M'Manus, because they repudiate all intervention on their behalf, but it is wonderful that Englishmen should dare to arraign the Governments of Austria and Naples on account of the severity with which they treat political offenders who have taken part in actual revolt -it is wonderful that they should screen and applaud conspiracies formed for the assassination of the foreign despot whom they greeted with fulsome adulation when they required his assistance in their hour of need-whilst they allow which he was an eye-witness."

three Irishmen to remain under proscription whose hands are unstained by blood, and whose only crime was an aboutive attempt to restore to their country its legislature. Ten years of imprisomment or exile are not considered an adequate punishment for the offence of having endeavored to recover for their native land its undoubted right. To me it seems (and upon this point I am sure that I speak the sentiments of a vast majority of my fellow-countrymen) that such petty vindictiveness is very contemptible, and utterly unworthy of a nation which claims for itself above all others, the virtue of magnanimity.

I am sure that I shall be forgiven for this digression respecting my fellow-sufferers by all who are capable of feeling a generous emotion. I trust that I have said more than enough to convince you that the Jury Laws of Ireland should be so amended as that the possibility of packing juries should be henceforth totally abolished.

I would also entreat your attention to the grievous wrong which is often done to individuals by allowing them to be detained in prison for many months before trial. It appears that out of seven persons committed to jail in Ireland three are acquitted-the number of persons committed in 1856 having been 7,099, of whom 4,024 were convicted, and 3,075 acquitted; so that, if we presume those who are acquitted to be innocent, it would seem that nearly one half of those who are committed to jail suffer by anticipation a punishment to which they are not justly liable. In the case of the two Englishmen who were recently taken prisoners by the Government of Naples, for having assisted an the orphans to tradesmen and farmers. The report armed force to invade the Neapolitan territory, great indignation has been manifested on account of their detention in prison for several months without trial, but it appears that in our country similar detention takes place every year in the case of several thousand individuals.

At the last Donegal Assizes a large number of prisoners charged with having killed or stolen sheep were, if the newspapers report correctly, sent back to prison, because the functionaries of the Crown were not ready to prosecute them, and their application to be permitted to stand out on bail was refused. Now if these prisoners, or any of them, be innocent, such innocent persons will have suffered by anticipation a degree of punishment which might perhaps have been more than an adequate penalty for the offence of which they are accused, in case they had been found guilty of committing it. Is there any one among you who would not deem it to be a cruel grievance if he were to suffer confinement in jail during a period of nine months, or even two months, under a false imputation, that he had committed an offence in regard of which he was altogether innocent? The natural remedy required to obviate such injustice is, that there should be more frequent circuits for jail-delivery, and that bail shall be refused only in the case of the most heinous crimes.

In a future publication your attention will be directed to some topics of a miscellaneous kind, connected with the local affairs of Ireland.

1 remain, your faithful friend, WILLIAM S. O'BRIEN. Cahirmoyle, April 26th, 1858.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE REV. MARTIN CONNOLLY, P.P.-We record with heartfelt regret the decease of the much-esteemed and truly zealous Parish Priest of Boyounagh and Templetogher. He died at his residence, Middletown, on Monday last, at the age of 60. His remains were borne to the grave on Wednesday, amid the tearful regrets of his numerous relatives, and the evidently sincere grief of a large concourse of his parishioners, including men of every creed and grade, who followed the mournful cortege. From an early hour Clergymen from different parts of the country began to assemble, and as they arrived they offered up the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the different altars prepared for them. At twelve o'clock a solemn High Mass de requiem was celebrated. The remains were interred in the handsome and beautifully situated churchyard of Boyounagh.-R.I.P.

Conversions.—We are happy to learn on undoubted authority that at the late mission in Tagoar no less than nine adult Protestants renounced the errors and delusions of the Protestant religion, made a solemn profession of the Catholic faith, and were happily received into the bosom of the Catholic Church .- Wexford People.

The friends of Mr. Ball are requested to hold themselves disengaged, as, in the event of Major Gavin being unseated, he will again offer himself to the electors. The Liberals also are requested not to commit themselves to any one, as a Catholic gentleman, not many miles from Limerick, will solicit votes on independent principles .- Tipperary Examiner.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed John Charles O'Donnell, Esq., of Castleview, Kilmallock, to the commission of the peace for the county of Limerick, on the recommendation of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of

Clare, lieutenant of the county. The Earl of Desart has received the commission of

the peace for the city of Kilkenny. John Thomas Davys, Esq., Clonbonny, has been

appointed to the commission of the peace for the county Longford. The following interesting and remarkable statement (says an Irish paper) has been communicated to us by a gentleman who vouches for the perfect accuracy of the facts. Mr. J. Nolan, whose death is here recorded, was a member of a highly respectable family in the county of Carlow :- "On the 24th April, at his residence, Knockindrane, county Carlow, Mr. James Nolan departed this life, having reached the age of 115 years and nine months. He was born in 1742—thus he has lived in the reigns of five sovereigns of England. His father, whom he well remembered, died over one hundred years ago, at the age of 86, having been born in the reign of Charles the Second, and having lived through the reigns of eight monarchs of England. Thus do we see two generations in Ireland extending back nearly as far as the time of Cromwell. The late Mr. Nolan had all his faculties preserved to him to his death.— His sight was all but perfect-his hearing only was defective. He was a good Catholic, and an ardent lover of his country. Of sober, quiet habits, he cared little for the things of this world—for whilst his brothers' families have spread into every county in Leinster, he has remained on the farm he was left by his father one hundred years ago. May he rest in peace." The Carlow Post says :- "In personal appearance the late Mr. Nolan was most commanding, with good features, and fully six feet in stature. He was visited annually by his excellent landlord, the Earl of Bessborough, who delighted to hold converse with him on many and varied incidents of

Lord Campbell asks in dismay, "What is to become of the Irish? The present state of things, as far as Ireland is concerned, ought not to be endured." This outbreak of alarm and indignation was provoked by the Lord Chancellor's declaration that the Tory Government did not intend to favor Ireland with a Bill for legalising adultery, alias a Divorce Bill. We have heard a good deal of the misfortunes which would befal Ireland if the Whigs went out of office. This is the first that has come under our notice. Lord Oranworth, the late Whig Chancellor, was explicit. "It was perfectly true that it was the intention of the late Government to propose in the present session the extension of the Divorce Act to Ireland." There is, therefore, no doubt that the change of Ministry has made all the difference. Why do not the Catholic Whig papers and the Catholic Whig members and their supporters wax eloquent upon this grievance? The people of Ircland ought to know what they would have gained had the Whigs kept in, and what they have lost by their going out. The Marquis of Clanricarde evi dently thinks it a strong point in favor of the Whigs, for he moved the adjournment of the House to enable the statement to be made, and withdrew his motion as soon as Lord Cranworth had finished .- Tablet.

The social problem which the last famine in Ireland laid so unceremoniously at our doors still remains in a great measure unsolved: "What are we to do with our pauper orphans?" What are we to do with the eighteen thousand and odd "healthy children under fifteen years of age," to say nothing of the number above fifteen years of age, which appear to have been in the Irish workhouses at the date of the Poor Law Commissioners' last report? Some benevolent citizens of Cork have in downright earnest set about solving this problem for themselves. so far as regard their own workhouse orphans. Touched by the hapless state and prospects of the boys, a few gentlemen took counsel, they tell us-decided upon establishing a fund for the apprenticing of the committee of management cannot but be most gratifying to those who have had the good fortune to take part in promoting this excellent work, and is, indeed, most cheering, as affording an excellent example which might be followed in every union in the kingdom with the best results. Of the number of boys already rescued from the workhouse not one has turned out badly. On the contrary, it proves that, in the choice of masters for the boys, the committee, after exercising every care and the best discretion, were in more that one case singularly unfortunate. Notwithstanding, the poor boys have in all instances done their part. This might not have been the case, however, had not their benefactors stood by them with counsel and encouragement .-These excellent gentlemen have conceived, justly, that they would not be half fulfilling their charge were they to lose sight for any time of the yourlg apprentices. Nor have they done so. Every week, in fact, they have the boys to meet them, and they are sure to take every opportunity of proving, by little acts of kindness and forethought, their care and regard for those poor children, who have no other friends but God. Here, then, we repeat, is a grand example for all those who really love the children of the poor. Here is a work sure to bring its own hundred blessings even in this life. Neglect those work-house orphans, boys and girls, leave them, as heretofore, to "rot on in sluggish misery," and what must we expect to be the social result? It would appear, too, that the ladies of Cork are setting themselves to work to follow the example set them by their husbands and brothers. We have as yet no account of their proceedings, but it is gratifying to know that the work is going on at both sides of the house at once. Cork, "the beautiful city," has been earning for itself a good and enviable name for its efforts in the path of social reform. It had the honor of originating the temperance movement under Father Ma-thew, the system of female industrial schools under Mrs. Woodlock; it has had the start of the rest of Ireland in setting vigorously about the establishment of a reformatory under the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and here again we find it taking the lead in this truly admirable, humane, and Christian work of rescuing and saving our orphan poor from workhouse and prison—from a youth of heartless, miserable dependence under that "harsh stepmother, the law, and a full growth, it may be, of crime and misery, ending life as they began it, under the law .- Tablet.

The Select Committee on Donegal destitution is composed as follows: -Sir Edmund Hayes, Mr. P. W. Martin, Mr. Dobbs, Lord Naas, Sir M. S. Stewart, Sir W. Somerville, Mr. Deasy, Mr. Maguire, and Mr. Maguire, and Mr. Bagwell. The last three names may be supposed to represent the tenantry, as Mr. Bagwell has undertaken their case. The Committee is believed to be a fair one, though there is a very strong preponderance of the landed element. We miss the name of a single member of the English Radical party, who, on such a subject, might be considered the most impartial judges .- Tablet.

The Times, in an article on the establishment of Landed Estates Courts, congratulates Ireland on having taken the lead in legislation, and thinks that as regards the transfer of land a principle has been established which may without difficulty be applied to England.

THE MAYNOOTH ENDOWMENT .- Mr. Maguire, M.P. writes as follows in the Cork Examiner :- "Your readers may remember that, so far back as two years since, I informed them of the desire which there was on the part of the real or ostensible opponents of Maynooth to make seme compromise with its supporters, and thus get rid of the perplexity and inconvenience entailed upon themselves, as upon others, by an annual debate and an annual division. Even the most violent of the opponents of the endowment then privately expressed their readiness to give a 'lump sum,' and 'have done with it :' and this desire, indicated in the recent reply of Lord Derby, has been very much enhanced by the present position of affairs. To almost every party, or even section of party, the subject is either odicus or full of danger. To Catholics it is insulting and irritating in the highest degree for the very grounds on which legislative interference is attempted are so full of outrage to their feelings as gentlemen, not to say as Catholics, that it is with difficulty they can at all times keep their temper within due parliamentary restriction. Things are said of them and of their creed which no one even dreams of saying of any other class or any other creed. Sometimes these insolent speeches are gently insinuated by a bland bigot, who would like to conciliate even while he wounded; at another time they are blurted out, with native rudeness by one of 'your downright candid fellows.' whose natural delicacy is on a par with his cultivation. Now it is a doubt more galling than a belief; now it is a compliment to the Catholic members of the house, at the expense of all they hold dear, their Church, their religion, their countrymen, and their kindred; and now it is the grossest, the foulest, the most atrocious calumny. Catholic gentlemen may disregard the sneerer, may pity the bigot, and may despise the brute; but it is not at all times that they have philosophy enough to confine the expression of their feelings to ironical cheers and mocking laughter. To the Catholic members, then, the escape from the insult and degradation of an annual debate would be an inestimable boon, for which they could not be otherwise than grateful. Nor would the boon be scarcely less welcome to the liberal-minded Protestant members, who have illiberal constituents. Whether they vote for or against Spooner's motion, the annoyance is to them almost the same; for, while they satisfy the requirements of bigotry by going into the lobby with the pious member for North Warwickshire, they at the same time violate their own principles, and stultify their own convictions; and

temporal and eternal welfare by some of the men whom they compel to vote against this paltry endowment, they would be more surprised than comforted On Thursday, as the members were entering the house from the different lobbies, I actually heard one member apologising to his Irish friends for his vote, saying : Really, I cannot help it ; these fellows of mine bound me to it. I know it's not fair, but what can I do ?' Of course, his Irish friends good-naturedly laughed at his perplexity, and soothed him with words of politeness. So much for the liberally-disposed members, who cannot vote for or against without offence to their constituents or to their conscience. Then there are the Tories, who, next to the Radical Scotchmen, are the strongest opponents of Maynooth. To them the question is pregnant with embarrassment. It is true they do not offend their constituents or peril their seats, because they march with Spooner; but they do damage to their party, even when in opposition, and they seriously embarras it when in office. As a party, the Torics never will or can command a majority in the House of Commons, and therefore, existing as they do, and as they ever must, on sufferance-on forbearance and permission—they cannot afford to incur the active hostility of the Liberal representatives of Ireland, or furnish them with any pressing reason for eager opposition. Even the very men who fittingly grace the platform in Dublin, and are ready to defend, if not abet, all kinds of Orange ferocity-even these men are now only too willing that Maynooth should have its endowment converted into capital, and thus remove it for ever from the battle-field of the House of Commons. The question now remains, what is the amount of the purchase money? In all probability, some proposal may emanate from this government, or some government, before the question comes on for future discussion; and if it be a fair proposal, such as the friends of the College can in justice to its interest accept, it will be welcomed and accepted with real satisfaction, inasmuch as a period will thus be put to a cause of annual bitterness, mortification, and unchristian enmity."

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The Tuam Herald says :- " Events occur periodi cally which prove that the snake of fanatical bigotry is scotched, but not yet dead in this empire, in which Catholics have the supreme happiness to live. If the Spoonerites were allowed their own way they would renew the penal laws in all their odious integrity and diabolical malignity. Yet, though the matter ended in smoke, the fact is not without its moral to the Catholics of the empire, and especially of Ireland. With the accumulated wealth of centuries of Catholic times in their possession, Protestant dignitaries are found so dead to decency as to shock Catholic feelings by the grossest abuse of all that the latter hold in veneration. Not content with cating their plundered pudding in peace, they periodically come forward to prove by their conduct that, though they lack the power, they have the will to re-establish the persecution of the triangle, the pitchcap, and the gibbet. The proper reply to the rabid ferocity of the Spoonerites would be to agitate for the utter annihilation of the Protestant Establishment. If the Irish people set seriously to work, and lay the axe to the root of the mischief, by demanding, with a voice of thunder, the abolition of the fortress where all this sectarian virulence is nurtured, we would hear no more about Maynooth and the miserable pittance doled out so grudgingly for its main-tenance. English statesmen, like the present Premier, know and feel the force of this, and therefore pay no attention to the rantings of fanaticism; but the fanatics themselves should be taught a lesson.-We take no heed of the raving of the ignorant herd; but not so of the sleek-faced dignitaries who, with malice prepense, fan the fanatical flame, and fire into frenzy the brutal instincts of the populace. We do not forget the Stockport riots, or the bigotry which evoked the storm of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill agitation. These are too fresh in our memories to be speedily or so easily effaced. It must be borne in mind that the House of Commons is the creature of the English people's will, and that the people themselves are guided in their fanatical hate by the very parties who live upon the spoil of Catholic plunder. Now, the way to teach these dignitaries a salutary lesson is to let them know and feel that they are bringing on their own heads a suitable retribution. Is it for this that Ireland pays upwards of a million a year to a Church establishment? As to Maynooth, we imagine it is pretty safe; but not so the feelings of the Catholics of Ireland. The moment a wet finger is laid on Maynooth, an agitation will arise in Ireland which will shake the fabric of the Church Establishment to its very found

We, for our parts, and with deference to the judgment of those who have authority in the matter, could suggest nothing better for all parties than that the annual grant to Maynoeth under the Act of 1845 should be commuted for a fixed sum, say of 800,000l. This would give 200,000l. to the Archbishop and Bishops of each of the four Ecclesiastical provinces of Ireland to help them to provide for the education of the Irish Priesthood. We have a tender and affectionate regard for the scruples of Messrs. Spooner and Newdegate and their Protestant followers. We exceedingly admire their reluctance to meddle in any way, or to assume any responsibility, for the management of Catholic Ecclesiastical institutions. It is a most commendable feeling, and they are commended for it warmly. They cannot please us better than by abstaining from every interference with the religious affairs of Catholics. Let them pay us what we are entitled to out of the common fund to which we all contribute, and the less they have to do with our disposal of the money the more we shall rejoice, for our own sake as well as for theirs. Seriously speaking, would it not be wise to avail ourselves at once of the favourable dispositions of the Tory Premier, and to seek a settlement of this vexed and dangerous question? The Whigs would never do it, and even if they were willing, they never would be able. All that the State could require would be security that the money should be applied for the purposes of the grant. This would be perfectly effected by an Act of Parliament vesting in the four Archbishops the sum of 800,000L, as trustees for the maintenance of diocesan seminaries on a plan proposed and ratified by the Irish Episcopacy, and approved of by the Holy Sec .- Tablet.

THE OLD IRISH SCHOOL-MASTER.—The hadge school and the philomath are institutions, if we might say so, which, as peculiar to poor persecuted Catholic Ireland, we have seen disappear not without some natural regret. Beside the green hedge, where the hawthorn and briar-rose bloomed, the philomath pursued his calling all the long bright days. Sometimes he would range his scholars in the village market-place and "porse" them in view and hearing of the Street. On wet days, and throughout the winter, school was kept within doors, and every scholar had daily to bring a sod of turf for a seat, a constant contribution to the poor philomath's stock of fuel. Then such a Babel as the school seemed to any strange visitor or passer-by who did not feel the quick switching of the boys' shins, administered all round, or hear the word of command, "Rehearse, rehearse!" issued on his approach being observed by the master. Then rival schools met occasionally, and did bloody battle, each for its master's reputation; or the philomaths themselves exchange sounding challenges, usually in verse, and even hold public disputations, after which the beaten man had no business staying in that side of the country. It was a most unsophisticated system of teaching no doubt, but it served to keep alive the tradition of the Faith for the philomath was ever intensely. Catholic and Irish. He had to resist all the efforts of State and private proselytism. In vain, in the year 1570, were the Diocesan Free Schools "placed on a permanent basis by an Act of the Irish Parliament, 33 years after the Act which imposed on the Clergy of the Unitif, on the other hand, they yield to the promptings of their good feeling and good sense, they enrage their schools." In vain, too, were the Royal Free Schools of King James I. established in the year 1608. All ents could only hear the prayers offered up for their in vain did "Mr. Brasmus Smith, an alderman of

had obtained property in Ireland under propagate the Protestant faith." He himself tells us why those schools are so consumptive, which was, and is, and will be (if not prevented), the many Popish schools, their neighbors, which as succors doe starve the tree."—(A.D. 1669.) Even the out-ofdoor-school life itself, with its pure, sweet, animating influences, "where living waters flow, and birds fly freely away into the fields," was itself one of the best preparatory means of inducing in the youthful heart love of country and of God. So the poor philomath pursued his calling.—"Philomath" he named himself, whether "fagellating his alumni" through the construction of the Greek verb, or, in after and less heroic days, when a taste for trede and tasks. less heroic days, when a taste for trade and traffic became prevalent amongst country boys, through Jackson's Book-keeping, by single and double entry, and with variations innumerable of his own. What the philomath taught he mostly did so thoroughly and well, if the pupil could and would learn. In the hedge school, the poor scholar, the strong farmer's son, and the young gentleman, too, were grounded for college, business, or profession. It was at once a primary and secondary school. The course of instruction, however, whether primary or secondary, carried through there was not full nor systematic. The true philomath was always a classical teacher. At a time when it was penal for "any person whatsoever of the Popish religion publicly to teach school" in Ireland, as " to go, or send any other, be-yond seas to be trained up in Popery,"—from 1709, when the Popish schoolmaster was rendered " liable to the same penalty as the Popish Regular Clergyman," the second offence being punishable as high treason—during that long term of years, whilst cducation was proscribed, men did not defy a penal law save on occasion and for a purpose. It was most usually done in order to prepare the devoted youths, intended for the Priesthood, for entrance to college Latin and Greek being the preliminary matter of study, became in process of years the settled course of ordinary teaching in the hedge schools. Parochial, diocesan, Royal Free Schools, Erasmus Smith's, Charter and Kildare-place Schools, have all failed in their object; the bedge school and philomath were more than a match for them all. But hedge school and philomath have themselves gone, and for ever. The National Schools and the Schools of the Christian Brothers have taken their place, so far as regards primary instruction, but not so as respects secondary instruction. The want of classical teachers for schools for the middle class in place of the philomaths supplanted has latterly begun to be felt. The middle class in Ireland demand proper means of education for their children as of right from the State. They say: "You have established Queen's Colleges, and universities for the class above, and your National Schools for the class below. It is our turn next, and we surely have as good a claim to participate in the State aid towards education as any other class in the community. And yet more, since it was mainly through the establishment of your National Schools we have come to be deprived of classical school teaching for our children. The philomath would still continue to keep school in town and village if the National Schools were not there carrying off the poorer pupils, whose contributions went to make the philomath's school pay.

GREAT BRITAIN.

CATHOLIC DEPUTATION TO THE GOVERNMENT .- On Saturday last the following gentlemen had an interview, by appointment, with General Peel, the Minister at War, on the subject of the grievances suffered by Catholic soldiers in consequence of the want of adequate provision being made for their spiritual assistance at home and abroad, and also with respect to the difficulties thrown in the way of Catholic instruction for the children of Catholic soldiers :- The Duke of Norfolk, Lord Edward Howard, Hon. C. Langdale, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Grace, Mr. Power, Mr. De Vere, Mr. C. Townley, Mr. Bagwell, Mr. Monsell. Captain O'Connell, Mr. Hatchell, Mr. Corbally, Hon. Arthur Stourton, Mr. Maguire, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. F. W. Russell, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Bland, Mr. Cogan, Mr. Gregory, Sergeant Deasy, Mr. Bowyer, and Mr. McCann.

We (Weekly Register) take the following particulars (which are substanially correct) from an account of the proceedings forwarded by Mr. J. F. Maguire, M.P. (one of the deputation,) to the Cork Examiner.

The case dale, who insisted on the necessity of a Catholic Chaplain being attuched to every division of the army, especially when on active service, and at stations abroad; and also on the justice of allowing Catholic soldiers to have their children instructed according to their own faith; and doing away with the regulations by which a soldier is compelled, in case he objects to his child attending a Protestant school, to make his objection to the commanding officer in writing or otherwise. He contended that it was unfair to the humble man to place him in such a position, and that there should be no cause for his objection or remonstrance—and that his feelings should be respected, as well as the faith of his children protected. Mr. Langdale went into the question very fully, touching on all its leading points in a clear and satisfactory manner.

He was followed by Major Gavin, who fortified the statement of Mr. Langdale by describing his own experience in India, and the deep discontent and jealousy felt by Catholic soldiers at not having the service of a Catholic Chaplain, especially in the hour of sickness or of danger. Major Gavin likewise dwelt on the grievance felt by Catholic soldiers in India with respect to the severe regulations in the achools.

Mr. Monsell supplied any omission in the statements of Mr. Langdale, and, in reply to questions, from the Secretary at War, entered into several valuable details. He was followed by Mr. Ragwell, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Stonor, and other gentlemen.

Mr. Maguire refered to the extraordinary rule acted upon in the Hibernian Military School in Dublin, which limited the number of Catholic children to one-third of the whole; whereas it was notorious that of every ten soldiers entering the army from Ireland, nine were Catholic. He showed how this most arbitrary and unjust rule, by which two Protestant vacancies were created for every one Catholic vacancy, had the natural effect of inducing the destitute widow of a Catholic soldier to sacrifice her conscience to her poverty, and to enter her child as a Protestant. He referred to the fact that all the officers of the school were Protestant with a single exception, and he asserted that not only was the teaching Protestant, but the very atmosphere which the Catholic child imbibed was Protestant; and that the result was evidenced in frequent instances of change of religion on the part of the children.

Sergeant Deasy corroborated the statement of Mr. Maguire, and said that he had given notice of having this question of the Hibernian School, as well as the broader question of Chaplaincy and Schools generally, brought before the House on an early day; and this notice had been given before the the present Government came into office, and was therefore introduced in no hostile spirit, but in the hope that, by a full discussion, the injustice might be made so clear, that the Government would see the necessity of providing a remedy for it as speedily as

possible. General Peel listened to all that the deputation had to say with the greatest attention, and frequently asked for fuller information, or a more accurate and specific description of the demand made. He said, in explanation, that he heard many of the things stated for the first time; and he concluded, as he began, by saying though he was not in a position to give any distinct promise with respect to the several matters then brought before him, he could assure the deputation that he would give to them his most attentive and anxious consideration.