

not empty his own pockets, gave the monopoly of the manufacture of paper to a party who stamped their goods with the royal crest. Cromwell's Parliament made many jests on the king's monogram, and in mockery substituted the fool's cap and bells. The Rump Parliament had its brief day and passed away, as also did the figures of the fool and his bells from the paper, but sheets the size of the Parliament journals still retain the name.

"Hurrah" is a Slavonian word, and is heard from the coast of Dalmatia to Behrings Straits when any of the inhabitants of those limits have occasion to show courage or valor. The word originated in the primitive idea that every man that dies bravely for his country "goes straight to heaven." Huray! (to Paradise) and in the heat of battle the soldiers shout that cry as the Turks do that of "Allah," animating themselves by the hope of death being but an entrance on a state of reward for their heroism and suffering here.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

At the recent meeting of the Episcopal Board of the Catholic University, a memorial, very numerous and influentially signed, was presented to their lordships, the members of the board, praying that the Chair of Irish Language and Literature (then vacant) in the University, might be filled. The Episcopal Board, promptly acceding to the prayer of the memorial, have appointed to the Chair of Irish a gentleman eminently qualified to fill it.

The memorial above referred to, was drawn up and sent out for signature by a committee of gentlemen anxious to promote the cultivation of Irish scholarship in the Catholic University, and to secure that the researches in Celtic antiquities, so brilliantly inaugurated by the late Professor O'Curry, shall continue to be prosecuted with energy and success. It seems to the committee that the Episcopal Board of the University, having now done their part by founding and endowing an Irish Chair, it remains for the people of Ireland to do the rest.

The study of the Irish language and literature is by no means a remunerative pursuit. Therefore, if the Irish people are really desirous that the study of the antiquities and ancient literature of their country shall be successfully prosecuted in their national University, some inducements must be held out to those who may be willing to devote their time and energy to a study from which they can hope to derive but little pecuniary profit. It must also be borne in mind that in order to attend the lectures of Professor O'Looney, and to have access to the MSS., etc., contained in the libraries of the Catholic University, Trinity College, and the Royal Irish Academy, it would be

absolutely necessary for a student to reside in Dublin. Residence in Dublin must obviously involve considerable expense.

Now, those who can speak the Irish language at the present day belong, as a rule, to the poorer classes of the people, and since the faculty of speaking modern Irish must be of considerable advantage to any one engaged in the study of the antiquities and ancient literature of Ireland, it is clear that in many cases the very persons best qualified to prosecute such studies with success would be absolutely deterred from doing so, unless provided with the means necessary for residence in Dublin.

The committee consider that the best method of meeting the difficulty would be to loan a few exhibitions or burses, for the encouragement of scholarship in the University; and to enable them to do so, they have resolved to make an appeal to the Irish nation.

In making this appeal, the committee are conscious that they have undertaken a duty which has been already too long neglected. The danger of almost total extinction which hangs over our ancient national literature, and the importance, not alone for Ireland, but for the whole civilized world, of averting that danger, have been frequently pointed out by many of the leading antiquarians and philologists of Europe. Ebel, Zuss, Picot, Blackie, Matthew Arnold, Bopp, have expressed themselves on the subject as warmly as O'Curry himself. The following letter from Adolphe Picot, written a few years ago, is so apposite to the present occasion, that the committee cannot forbear from quoting it at some length. After observing that Ireland does not possess a single dictionary of her language, such as the science of philology at present requires, he adds:—

"It is not possible for the linguist who compares languages to take upon himself the task of proving the authenticity of every word in a particular language. His business commences where that of special philologists ends; and it is these last who must prepare for him the materials he is to work on. Now Ireland, it must be confessed, is far in arrears in this respect, and she must take immediate steps to supply the deficiency, or see herself excluded for a long time to come from the field of study which is now beginning to fix the attention of Europe. And what do you wait for? Is there any want of means? . . . I cannot believe that the question of money can be any obstacle; an appeal to Irish patriotism would surely provide the necessary funds. All further delays are injurious. The old relics of your language are disappearing year after year, from accidents, carelessness, fire or damp. How many irreparable losses have taken place during the last two or three centuries!