

stating that "as a matter of principle, he was not disposed to object to the Bill," and the English Attorney-General leading it even a stronger sanction. Thanks to the liberal spirit of the present Ministry!

A few days previously, a little host of bigots was openly allowed by the Government to extort from the House of Commons a vote to appoint a Committee to drag Nuns before it, and pry with impious gaze into the privacies of Conventual life. Thanks to the liberal spirit of the present Ministry!

This measure was introduced by a supporter of the Ministry, and it was carried almost simultaneously with the election, in a misled Catholic constituency, of a high official of the Ministry who had previously pledged himself to support such a measure. Thanks to the liberal spirit of the present Ministry!

And the next week, in reply to Mr. Lucas (the genuine compliment of the Archbishop to whom adds a peculiar pungency to the irony of his Grace's refection upon the Ministry)—Sir James Graham declared that "the Protestant religion was the established Church of the country, and that it was utterly impossible to admit on board one ship two chaplains of different religions." Therefore, let the Catholic sailor or marine die like a dog. Thanks to the liberal spirit of the present Ministry!

Gracious God! Since Emancipation a series of insults so gross has not been offered to our Church. What division in the House of the Lord do they calculate on, that they dare to scoff at us thus in the hour of their own sore strait and peril? Of old, had such things come to pass—were the police at our convent doors, and the last rites withheld from our gallant brethren bleeding in foreign war—a cry of indignation would have been echoed round the land from shrine to shrine, and struck more terror in their hearts than the tread of an army. What is it that is rotten in our state? What latent and corrupt influence is it that divides us against ourselves, paralyses our best efforts, seems threatening to rend the very veil of the Temple? Oh, surely our good Archbishop must be conscious that there is a perilous weakness at home, else, in speaking to our old ally and elder sister France, he would not use that subtle wit which they understand so well, but that manly indignation which they prize even more highly—the tones in which he spoke to Ireland three years ago, when the whole land rallied to defend his menaced dignity.

As the case presents itself to us, indeed, there seems no way of repelling their beastly assault upon the purest and holiest of God's creatures, but by a bolder and simpler course than we have yet seen counselled. The Archbishop has done wisely in appealing to the sympathies of France. If Russian, Frank, and Spaniard each claim the right to protect Christians under a Mahometan Power, surely it would well become a great Catholic State to interfere for the protection of Catholic communities in a Protestant land. Why not seek this intervention formally? Be sure, England would now yield aught it might demand. But if, indeed, they persist—if this Committee is to meet and sit for months, and hunt for evidence and pry into those retreats sacred to God—then there is another course which it is easy to take. Let them go into this inquiry with nought but their own bigotry to guide them. Let them discover their own witnesses—whom to summon and whom not—their names in religion, their names by the law. Let no unnecessary facility be given to them. When they want a fresh witness, let them send the Serjeant-at-Arms for her, and take her by the robe and lead her forth from her Convent in arrest. Were this done—did the Government believe it were likely to be done—we should have Mr. Chamber's Committee discharged ere this day week.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The bulls have arrived this week from Rome appointing a coadjutor Bishop of Kerry; and we congratulate the people and clergy of that ancient diocese, and the whole Irish church, upon the elevation of one of the most saintly, accomplished, and Irish-hearted ecclesiastics living—Dr. Moriarty, the President of All-Hallows Missionary College. From the institution of which he has been the light and guide for so many years his venerable presence will be sadly missed. There a true regret will be mingled with congratulations. But wherever Dr. Moriarty is known, and those whom he has taught are teaching the Gospel in every zone of the earth, his elevation to the throne of his diocese will be heard of with pride and thanksgiving. None has sealed a deeper impress upon the respect and affections of all who have known him.—*Nation*.

In Dublin, in Cork, and other cities of Ireland, large meetings of the Catholic citizens have been held to remonstrate against the brutal insults offered to their religion, in the persons of the religious, by Thomas Chamber's atrocious motion for an enquiry into nunneries. Immediately after Easter, an aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland will be held at the Rotundo in Dublin, for the same purpose.

Throughout the diocese of Killaloe and the Archdiocese of Cashel petitions were most numerous signed on Sunday at all the churches against Chamber's iniquitous Star Chamber Committee, and White-side's bill for the spoliation of the property of the convents.

HUNGARIAN ELECTION COMMITTEE.—Maguire is declared duly elected. The rascal conspiracy against him has failed. Heaven be praised! He will probably get costs. The point is reserved.—*Nation*.

Government has at last taken up seriously the subject of fortifying the Irish coast, says the *Limerick Chronicle*, and we this day publish contracts for 26 Batteries on the Dublin and Wicklow low sea board.

The Society of Friends in Ireland petitioned parliament against Sir John Young's Ministers' Money Bill.

The price of land rises in Ireland. There is great competition for land in Galway, sold by the Encumbered Estates Court. The other day a small property was sold at nearly thirty-five years' purchase.

The prevailing opinion here (says a London correspondent of the *Daily Express*) is, that Mr. Keogh intends to resign—whether voluntarily or in obedience to a gentle pressure is not so confidently defined.

Apocryphal Irish matters, says a correspondent of the *Belfast News Letter*, there is a rumor prevalent about the house that an arrangement is likely to be made, by which Baron Pennefather will retire from the Irish Bench, and be succeeded by Mr. Brewster. In this eventuality, it is said that Mr. Keogh will be appointed Attorney-General, Mr. Butt, M.P., for Youghal, Solicitor-General for Ireland. If there be any truth in this report, it will at once account for the marked desire which Mr. Butt is said to exhibit in the Irish Corruption Committee to ward off heavy blows from his intended colleague, Mr. Keogh.

The strike on the part of the masons, carpenters, and laborers lately in the employment of the master builders of Cork, still continues.

The Great Southern and Western Railway Company have agreed to pay £3,000 and costs to the widow and children of Mr. William Bateman, a Cork solicitor, who was killed by the collision at Straffan.

SPECIAL COMMISSION.—The *Northern Whig* announces that Baron Greene and Mr. Sergeant Howley, after despatching the business of the county of Antrim, will proceed to Monaghan, and there hold a special commission for the trial of the persons remaining in custody in that county, including the Ribandmen charged with conspiracy to murder the late Mr. Thomas Bateson.

Tyrone assizes terminated without a capital conviction.

At the Antrim assizes, Robert O'Neill, a private in the 12th Regiment of Foot, has been found guilty of the murder of John Browne, a corporal in the same Regiment. He is to be executed on the 5th of April.

PRIEST-HUNTING.—At the Londonderry assizes, the Rev. Patrick Campbell, a Catholic clergyman, was indicted for celebrating an illegal marriage between Wm. Chippington, a soldier in the 54th Regiment, and Martha Lynch. The facts were as follows:—In June, 1853, Chippington applied to Mr. Campbell to marry him to Martha Lynch, he being a Protestant, and she a Catholic. Mr. Campbell refused to do so unless Chippington would conform to the Catholic religion. He accordingly was baptised, and afterwards confirmed as a Catholic. Some days after, he went with Martha Lynch to the house of the Rev. Mr. McCarron, where the prisoner was resident curate.—He paid the prisoner £1 for the ceremony, which was performed in a darkened room by a person to whose person or voice, neither Chippington nor his wife could depose. A document purporting to be a certificate of the marriage, signed by Mr. Campbell, was given in evidence for the Crown, but which Mr. Johnston, for the prisoner, contended was only a copy from the entry in the registry authenticated by the name of the prisoner. The registry book was produced, in which an entry of the marriage appeared, unsigned, and not in the handwriting of the prisoner. Mr. Johnston spoke to the evidence for the prisoner. He commented on the extreme rigor and severity of the very penal act under which the prisoner had been indicted, and which he designated as a re-enactment of the penal code. He showed that penalties which exclusively affected the Catholic clergy, which had been repealed by a previous act of parliament, had been smuggled into the late act, in the shape of a proviso, which no one understood when the act passed. He insisted there was no evidence to fix the offence on the prisoner, and that he was, according to the rules of legal evidence, entitled to an acquittal.

The Rev. Mr. McLoughlin was called to prove that the document on which the Crown relied was a transcript from the registry, which was copied for the purpose of giving them certificates. The entry in the registry was the writing of the Rev. Mr. McCarron, and was not signed. On cross-examination he stated that he considered the law which required the Catholic clergyman to ascertain that neither of the parties had been Protestants for more than 12 months before the marriage so unjust, that he would be justified in evading it by every means in his power. To the Court—he had no hesitation in saying he would evade such a law whenever he could. It was unjust, oppressive, and applied only to the clergy of his religion. Judge Torrens charged the jury. Verdict—not guilty. The jury was composed of six Protestants and six Catholics.—*Nation*.

KILKENNY ASSIZES.—The *Queen vs. the Rev. Martin Doyle*.—In this case the Rev. Mr. Doyle, parish priest of Graigue, was indicted for having in sermons, preached in the months of November and December last, incited his flock to attack the scripture readers who infested the neighborhood. The case for the prosecution occupied the greater part of the day, a number of witnesses having been examined; but no witnesses were called for the defence; and the fact being perfectly palpable that it was the proselytisers themselves who disturbed the neighborhood, and excited the popular feeling against them, the jury at once found a verdict, acquitting the Rev. defendant, who was greeted with loud cheers by a crowded court, and by a multitude of the people who followed him through the street, testifying their pleasure at the result of the trial.

All the Galway papers speak in the most sanguine terms of the state and prospects of agriculture in that district. The weather has been everything the farmer could desire, and, to the great delight of every true "Paddy," confidence is beginning to be re-established in his potato. "It is pleasing," says one of the journals, "to witness the enthusiasm with which the old favorite root is being committed to the soil."

It is reported from all quarters that this year there is a vast extent of potato-planting.

The Belfast journals announce the death of James Coulson, Esq., principal of the great Lisburn damask manufactory.

THE CHOLERA.—Letters from Kanturk, published in the *Cork Reporter*, state that there has been a decided abatement both in the number of persons attacked by cholera and in the virulence of the disease, but that, although the immediate prospects are quickly assuming a more cheerful and encouraging aspect, the greatest precaution and vigilance are still necessary, as the treacherous malady is yet lurking among the unfortunate people of the "Bluepools." The writer then goes on to say:—"Some cases have been reported in the country districts, and I have heard, from good authority, that three cases of decided cholera appeared in the Mallow workhouse this day. It is evident the disease is yet among us; and, should the weather, become warmer, fears are entertained of a much more calamitous attack than we have yet had.

MINISTERS' MONEY.—After a contest, sustained by the Irish Liberal members and the English Dissenters, with singular fidelity and skill, the new Ministers Money Act has been advanced an additional stage. The debate took place in Committee in the House of Commons on Monday, and there were four divisions—each result affirming the principle of the bill. The first took place on Mr. Fagan's proposition, that every house valued at £20 should be exempted from the tax; this, he said, would relieve many Catholics from the operation of the bill. Sir John Young did not seem to consider that result absolutely indispensable, however: he opposed the motion, and it was rejected by a majority of 15. Mr. Hadfield, an English Dissenter, then moved that all houses rated at £15 should be exempted. The tax was for the benefit of one-sixth of the Irish people, he observed, who had already £600,000 for "their religious sustentation;" and he requested to know on what principle it was wrung from the poor Catholics? Sir John Young's reply, was an exquisite compliment to the Catholic merchants and gentry of Ireland. "He believed that nearly all the Roman Catholics in towns would be exempted under this bill—the exemption being only of houses rated at £10 and under—and that the burden would mainly fall on the Protestant population." "If so," was the happy rejoinder of Mr. Hume, "why not remove dissatisfaction at once by introducing a clause to exempt all the Catholics in towns?" Mr. Pellatt, another English Dissenter, insisted that the tax should be abolished, because it had been originally imposed as a badge of conquest upon the Catholics. But when the House divided, there appeared a majority of 21 for the government Bill. Two other amendments were then submitted, one proposing the exemption of Catholics and Dissenters, and another suggesting the reduction of the tax according to the increase of the Ecclesiastical Commission Fund. But after a debate, which the House had very carefully made up its mind not to listen to, both were rejected by substantial majorities.—*Nation*.

MESSERS. SADLER AND KEOGH.—The one an ex-Lord of the Treasury and the other Solicitor-General for Ireland in the Coalition Ministry—are a pretty pair. *Arcades ambo!* Our readers are already aware of Mr. Sadler's misdoings, and his illegal proceedings in connection with his own election, which have caused him to be twice condemned in the Civil Courts,—to be mulcted in damages to the amount of £1100,—and to be ignominiously expelled from a Ministry that stuck by him as long as possible. Mr. Keogh, the other Representative of the Irish Brigade in the Ministry, is now in a fair way of terminating his official career in a similar manner. He was one of the Committee appointed to investigate the charges of corrupt trafficking in places, brought against the Irish Members; and during the course of the investigation, so many and grievous charges have been adduced against himself, that he has felt compelled to resign his seat in the Committee. The evidence offered tends so much to inculpate him that, instead of sitting as a judge, he feels he must rather be regarded as a criminal. Among other charges brought against him is one to the effect that, at the General Election in 1847, he induced a Colonel Smith to sign bills to a large amount to defray his electioneering expenses,—promising, in return, to obtain for the Colonel the office of a stipendiary Magistrate. Mr. Keogh, however, had not then interest enough to obtain this appointment for his backer, and Colonel Smith went abroad for some time to Canada,—it is alleged, in embarrassed circumstances. Recently Mr. Keogh contrived to get Colonel Smith's son appointed to an office in the Customs; and on the occasion of last election, this young man was allowed leave of absence, and took a leading part in the canvassing for Mr. Keogh. This is only one of a dozen or more cases in which it is alleged that Mr. Keogh corruptly trafficked in places with which to remunerate his political supporters and partisans in the borough of Athlone. It would be unfair, however, to make much comment on the matter as it at present stands. Once the evidence adduced before the Committee is printed, as it likely will be, we shall be able to pronounce definitely on the matter; but so damaging is much of the evidence now being adduced, that ever and anon the Committee have recourse to the expedient of clearing the room, and taking the evidence with closed doors.—*Edinburgh Advertiser*.

EXODUS.—Despite the encouraging prospects of agriculture in Ireland, the Celtic Exodus again becomes a prominent feature of our provincial news.—Some of the local journals describe the flight of old families, who had been rooted in the country for centuries: others tell how entire districts in the South and West, once filled with the hum of successful industry, now present only tottering cabins and uncultivated fields. A Waterford journal describing the departure of three hundred emigrants, observes, "They were the bone and sinew of our country, both men, women, boys and girls." It seems impossible to fix any limit or proportion to the Exodus, says a Galway paper. According to a Cork journal, "this continual stream of emigration is going on regularly every week. About a fortnight since such was the desire to emigrate, that a second steamer had to be put on by the Cork Steam Ship Company, and both left crowded with emigrants."—*Nation*.

THE SUNDAY RECRUIT.—As we predicted in our last, the Magistrates decided on allowing the warlike tailor to escape the consequences of his Dutch courage. On Wednesday last the case was again called on, when Mr. McIntire briefly recapitulated his objections to the mode of enlistment, and left the case in the hands of the bench. H. Darcus, Esq., the Mayor, said it was the opinion of the bench that enlistment was a voluntary contract, and, therefore, could not be legally entered into on the Sabbath. Although the law of the case had not been quite decided, they had no hesitation in saying that, when the person enlisted on the Lord's day did not come forward voluntarily the morning following, and renew his engagement, the original compact was null and void. It was contrary to the law of God, in the first place, to enlist on the Sabbath day, and this being the case, military men should not commit a breach of God's law in endeavoring to entrap men into the service, for it was his opinion that the man who would not come forward on the day after his enlistment, and ratify his engagement, was unworthy of the service, and that the force would be much better without him. Besides this, they had the opinion of the Duke of Wellington—a high authority in military matters—that, unless a man enlisted on the Sabbath came forward the day following and renewed his contract, the previous enlistment was of no effect. Under these circumstances, the bench were of opinion that, as the prisoner did not express

his willingness to fulfil his contract on Monday, but evaded doing so, they could do nothing in the matter but order the prisoner to refund any money which might have been advanced to him, and to let him be discharged. This the prisoner did, and left the dock, the recruiting sergeant at the same time signifying his intention of reporting the case to his commanding officer.—*Derry Journal*.

Military recruiting is still in progress in Dublin, and is moderately successful. Amongst the recruits attested on Thursday, at the Head Police Office, was a discharged sergeant with a pension, who, after returning from India, has now re-entered the service as a private. This brave fellow is allowed to retain his pension.

A medical student, the son of Surgeon Haffield, of Charlemont-street, has been fined £2, or a month's imprisonment, at College-street Police-office, for wantonly insulting the Rev. Mr. M'Hugh, Chaplain of Fifehouse Convent, Templeogue. Father M'Hugh, was proceeding towards his residence on Saturday evening, and while passing up Stephen's-green, the prisoner cried after him "666: the mark of the beast." On being remonstrated with by the rev. gentleman, he shouted "To hell with the Pope." "Wait till we get the nunneries bill." He was then given into custody.—*Nation*.

THE WAR—IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY.

England is at length inextricably and finally involved in the dreadful maelstrom of war! She would cheerfully yield up many of her fairest possessions, if the truth were confessed, to avoid the gulph, if it were possible. But, alas! it is not. The departure of the Baltic fleet on Saturday for its destination proclaims that for hesitation, for diplomacy, for retreat, there is now room no more! The die is cast! The ordeal is to be gone through. The fierce antagonistic elements, which have been kept assunder for nearly half a century, are about coming into terrible collision, with what result Heaven only can foretell. Every symptom portends a dreadful trial; and, let victory be where it may, England cannot expect to come scathless, though her flag should triumph in every battle. Her resources are taxed already to the utmost tension. There is no energy of her's that is not severely tested in every shape at this moment. New taxes are levied to bear the weight imposed by these hostilities; and these taxes are to be followed by others, till the back of the empire may bend or break under the pressure. Troops are hourly hurrying to the scene of approaching conflict. So denuded is Ireland of soldiery that the barrack squares in the great majority of our garrison towns are overgrown with grass, whilst in the larger cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Waterford, the agencies of English rule will be placed, in a few weeks hence, in the custody of a few pensioners or of a few constables of Police; and Ireland, which, a few years ago, demanded the presence of an overwhelming military power "to keep her in order," is well nigh totally abandoned at this moment to the safe keeping of its own population, which is too weak, too distrustful, too beaten down, to dream of an effort for self-justification—which is too disheartened and discouraged by intestine broils, by insane divisions about names or nonentities—about personal recriminations and mutual charges between individuals, to think of redressing her wrongs as they only can be redressed by the peaceful operation of public opinion.—Sick at heart, in consequence of the angry violence of their new leaders, who agree on no common ground of principle—who recognise no means of practical action among themselves, the people are actuated by no controlling motive save an insatiable thirst for emigration, which has become the ruling passion with the remnant of those millions who possess no home in the land of their fathers. Split up into fragments—divided between adverse sections—coinciding in no sentiment or opinion—bound by no common tie of sympathy, whilst bent, and bruised, and torn as never were a people before—our countrymen, ever since the death of O'Connell, have been a helpless prey, to empiricism on one side, to neglect on the other. Deluded by the decoys of factions or cliques, which have been tried and found wanting in each, and in all, they have scattered to the winds the glorious organisation which made them formidable to their tyrants; whilst now, with war proclaimed, and the country left defenceless, no practical step is taken by the Government in the way of conciliation, because there is no power in the country to coerce the government to be just and honest. On the contrary, an attempt is made to rivet our chains more closely, as in the instance of Ministers' Money, the total abolition of which has been so long promised and denied, and to occupy the public mind with exhibitions of personal acrimony, with disgust every right-thinking man, as they prove how ready Irishmen are to spit and roast each other, and expose their nakedness to the derisive joy of every enemy and the indignation or pity of nations which might otherwise feel for our condition. England's difficulty—the opportunity which for so many years had been expected—has come; but will it not pass away without leaving other trace of its existence than the deeper degradation of the people, and a systematic aggression on those civil and religious immunities which, with the co-operation of a united clergy and people, O'Connell won for Ireland, after his heroic struggles with English pride and supremacy, which he conquered? War, which never yet was ushered in by England, even in the darkest days of the Penal Code, without a relaxation of oppression, is now proclaimed amid the bigoted howl of the Chamberlains, the Drummonds, the Newdegates, who, when they demand Committees of Inquiry into the sacred concerns of our Convents, bear down the moderate sense of the minority, upon the protestations of the Catholic and Liberal Protestant members, overwhelm the Government, and obtain the objects for which they seek without any means of successful resistance on the part of those who oppose their wicked and infamous designs. English fanaticism is in the ascendant even at the critical juncture that England requires the right arm of Catholic Ireland to co-operate in fighting her battles by sea and by land. Reform is shelved. Progress is not thought of. The governing spirit at the other side of the Channel is one of bitter, unrelenting, intense persecution, which no remonstrance can arrest—which defies reason—which will have its will, come what may. A conditional pardon to the Irish Exiles cannot be regarded in a favorable light as long as the great body of the people are driven to the alternative of self-ex-patriation because they have no security for their industry in the land of their fathers. Our wishes are unconsulted for, our wants are spurned.—*Limerick Reporter*.