

entire field. From end to end, like one continued roar of thunder, pealed the musketry; and the unbroken cloud of white smoke spread entirely across the plain, and swept around the bases of the opposing hills. The glorious evening sun streamed redly over the scene of heroic battle—the extended splendor of martial pomp—and all along the line rose, deep and stern, the wild shouting of tens of thousands of human voices; while, from the opposing batteries rang out the sustained discharge of artillery and the roar of round shot—speeding through dust and smoke, upon their deadly mission.

tion rallied the fragments of its ancient aristocracy and native people, in military array against the power of England. In the choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral are suspended what are alleged to be the gloves and spurs of St. Ruth; nay, even the shot that slew him in its flight. His ashes lie, as tradition asserts with clear and circumstantial detail, in the roofless church of Athray, besides those of Lord Galway, who fell upon the self same field of battle.

to the subversion of all religion. Looking over the list of magnificent subscriptions which you enclose would not lead me to suppose that the object was popular with all denominations; unless I take as a criterion that of a "Roman Catholic Layman" who withholds his name. Feeling strongly in favour of combined religious and secular education, I must decline to add my name to the list—and have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

ditions to close the passes through which this familiar enemy of famine is let in on the country, making such continued havoc among all classes of the people? When but a few years ago, the Loire and the Rhine, swelled by mountain rains, overflowed their banks, and spread desolation; the fairest provinces of France, you may recollect with what promptness measures were taken by the Government to repair the disaster. Its most zealous officers were despatched, not merely to witness, but to alleviate the public distress; the first personage in the empire displayed a laudable sympathy with the provincial suffering; the ablest and most skillful engineers were engaged to deepen the ballows and confine the courses of those floods; and thus save the inhabitants from a repetition of the same calamities.

VERY REV. AND DEAN DR. WOOLLOCK—The sum of \$291 12s. 2d., for which a bank order is herewith enclosed, includes all the parochial contributions, and in a few days more all the parishes will have made their returns. In some districts the circulars from Dublin did not reach the clergymen till an advanced hour in the morning of the second Sunday, when it was not late to make effective arrangements for the third Sunday. The inconvenience of such delays may be prevented by despatching from Dublin early in the week, all circulars and documents which ought to be in the hands of the clergymen on the Thursday or Friday previous to the Sunday on which the University collection is to be announced.

SIR ROBERT PEELE AND HIS YOUTHFUL UNIVERSITY.

The following replies by Catholic gentlemen have been forwarded to Sir Robert Peel:— Ballyna, Dec. 15, 1861. Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th December, enclosing a subscription list, and a statement relating to the Queen's University, and inviting me on the grounds therein stated, to contribute to prizes, as a further inducement to the youth of Ireland to accept of education in the Queen's Colleges. I recognize among the names appended to the statement some who have been the consistent advocates of freedom of opinion in matters of religion, and whom I believe to be incapable of holding out pecuniary inducements to their Catholic countrymen to abandon or modify their conscientious convictions; but, taking into account the history of the Queen's University, and the grounds of the opposition offered to it by the hierarchy and laity of the Catholic Church, I feel that to ask a Catholic to subscribe to it can only be regarded as offensive. The vast endowments of the Established Church provide superabundant means and full security for the religious and secular education of the Protestant minority in their own university, under the special and exclusive guardianship of their prelates and clergy, and yet you deny to the Catholic majority that security in education which you retain for yourselves. If you would support your Church out of your own resources, instead of forcing me and my co-religionists to pay a tribute to your Protestant Ascendancy in the shape of rent charge on our properties, and thereby aid in the maintenance of your sinecure clergy in parishes where there are neither Protestants nor churches, you would do more to effect the objects you profess to have at heart than by begging for contributions to support a system of irreligious education which the majority of my countrymen conscientiously repudiate. You have been ill-advised to enter on a contest with the Catholics of this country on the question of religious education. We suffered for our religion and succeeded in preserving it. Do you suppose that we can be won to the teaching of your colleges by any such inducements as you offer? We look on our religion as an essential part of our nationality, which, under more prudent and tolerant statesmanship, would become a strength instead of a weakness to the British crown. It is unnecessary for me, on my own part or that of my co-religionists, lay or clerical, to make any profession of zeal in the cause of secular education. In 1831 the laity and a portion of the hierarchy accepted with unbounded but misplaced confidence the experiment of mixed education on the solemn assurance of the ministers of that day that the system should be so administered as to preclude "even the suspicion of proselytism," and we accepted certain rules and regulations as sufficient for the object. Those rules, framed for our security, have been altered against our consent; a parliamentary return has proved that, consequent on such alterations, several hundred children have been submitted to Protestant teaching in matters of religion; and yet, in defiance of our remonstrances, these injurious alterations are still maintained. Confidence destroyed by such bad faith is seldom restored. More experience would have taught you that, though a government which so forfeits the confidence of the people may continue to exist for the want of a better it is impotent for good. I have the honor to be, your obedient servant, R. MORE O'FERRALL.

LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT PALMERSTON. Saint-Jarlah's, Tuam, Dec. 9, 1861. My Lord—The sudden danger of war from the far countries beyond the Atlantic cannot dispel the alarm excited at home by the more terrible enemy of famine. The one may, and I trust will be, only a mere panic, inspired by national hate and aggravated by national pride, which the reasonable counsels of peace and wisdom can effectually allay. But the other is a reality daily spreading and gathering fearful dimensions from the continuous baleful influence of the elements by which it was more immediately created. Yes, the prophecy of two months ago is already hastening to its fulfilment, and the remnant of the wretched potato crop, which in some places was left undug in the hope of improvement, has been so ruined under incessant rains as to be utterly abandoned in the field. The condition of the portion that has been dug, and pitted or housed, is scarcely better, and how unfit they are for human food may be inferred from a very general observation, that they are actually refused by some fowl and animals not remarkable for fastidiousness; yet, on this miserable esculent, never ripened, and now in a state of decay, the lives of hundreds of thousands, until the remote month of August, are exclusively depending.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE BISHOP OF CLOYNE HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO US FOR PUBLICATION.— Fermoy, Dec. 12. VERY REV. AND DEAN DR. WOOLLOCK—The sum of \$291 12s. 2d., for which a bank order is herewith enclosed, includes all the parochial contributions, and in a few days more all the parishes will have made their returns. In some districts the circulars from Dublin did not reach the clergymen till an advanced hour in the morning of the second Sunday, when it was not late to make effective arrangements for the third Sunday. The inconvenience of such delays may be prevented by despatching from Dublin early in the week, all circulars and documents which ought to be in the hands of the clergymen on the Thursday or Friday previous to the Sunday on which the University collection is to be announced.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR R. PEELE. Rath, Ballybrittas, Dec. 15, 1861. Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a circular bearing your signature, in which I am asked to subscribe towards the "founding exhibitions or other prizes, to encourage learning and promote industry among students and graduates of the Queen's University in Ireland." While I decline complying with the above request, I beg to assure you that I do so from the strong conviction that the Colleges of Belfast, Galway, and Cork, have not only proved to be a lamentable failure, but are quite unsuited to the requirements of this country. It has been proved that those who condemned the system of education in the Queen's Colleges based their objections on a solid foundation. I have but to call your attention to the disgraceful proceedings as reported to have taken place at Belfast on the recent inspection by the Lord Chancellor and other visitors of the College in that town, where, we are informed, the demonstrations of a party, and which is miscalled a religious character, took place. This shows in an unmistakable manner that "a united system of education" does not tend to subdue those feelings of bitterness and rancour which can only be allayed by all teaching being based on true religion. The Catholics of Ireland, disapproving of the Queen's University, have founded a seat of learning, without any "aid from Government," thereby showing in an extraordinary degree that self-reliance to which your circular refers. May we not fairly claim for the Catholic University at the hands of the executive the encouragement of a charter, which would place it on an equal footing with similar institutions, and give it that fair play which it is the proud boast of every English statesman to promote?—I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.