

luntary Christians, (See *Scotsman*, 15th March) he at once discontinued. In a word, let us be to you; (Sibonites, hewers of wood and drawers of waters; but force us not into your synagogue, nor make us pay for the helping, to do that, which in our souls we condemn.)

In plain words, my Lord, you Protestant Volunteers sturdily objects to pay for what you cannot in conscience approve; so do we Catholics, and, if on this conscientious scruple, you build up your right to make Parliament and the country ring again with your indignant protests against the Lord Advocate's justice; we lay claim to a like privilege, wherever its exercise may be called for; and so far there is something in common between us. But, if to defend your own homes from what you deem sacrilegious plunder, you are ready to sanction, nay, to urge against us the application of the very principle you so loudly denounce when threatening to affect yourselves; then, pray, tell us "what sort of justice that is, which," as Burke says, "is enforced by the breach of its own laws?"

By a certain class of voluntaries, then, and from your Lordship's congratulatory recollections of the late "great Edinburgh meeting," I fear a somewhat large class; denominational schools are to be cried down, as sinning against "the good cause," less from their denominational character, since they may clearly be Episcopalian schools—and your lordship "has no objection to the Episcopalian religion;"—than because they would prove the means of assisting us Roman Catholics to educate the thousands of helpless children, whom Irish misrule and Irish famine have thrown upon our shores; and they must, therefore, forthwith be made anathema, as being the "Popish parts" of the Bill. In a word, so great is the Christian forbearance of such Scottish Voluntaries as the above, for I would be sorry indeed to be understood here as speaking generally, that nothing will satisfy their brotherly love, but the utter extinction of their Catholic fellow-subjects from the land they live in. The Emperor Nero used to roll up his friends the Christians in well pitched skins, and then set them on fire, to turn them into torches for the lighting up of his gardens. Domitian, Valerian, Diocletian, and others, chose to break them upon the wheel, roast them upon gridirous, dislocate them upon the rack, or plunge them into boiling caldrons. Julian the Apostate had been a Christian himself; he knew better. He laid claim to toleration; he reduced Christians to poverty, only that they might live up the better to the spirit of the Gospel—and prevented them from going to school.

Think it not strange, my Lord Provost, that we Catholics feel strongly on the subject of this Voluntary amendment; and that we can view it in no softer light than that of open persecution. In as far as you, my Lord, have thought it your duty to connect yourself with it personally, you are best acquainted of course with your own motives, and I judge them not. But others there are who sail just now under the Voluntary flag, and their name is Legion—and their motives we are not at liberty to doubt, for they have unmistakably proclaimed them, and they have gloried in the avowal. They would force our Catholic children into Protestant schools, to be called 'common schools' and make us pay withal for what we would deem their perversion; as we are already so far made to do thro' the £100 now voted annually by the Edinburgh Commissioner of Police, to what are called the Original Tagged Schools; where, from the very showing of their founder, nearly three hundred destitute children who ought to be brought up Catholics, are, at this moment, clothed and fed, and taught to read and to work, and to ignore the faith of their forefathers; while they are systematically trained to believe ultimately in no other, than what may chance to prove, for the time being, the religion of their employers.

With the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, I am quite prepared to admit, that, for juvenile delinquents, reformatory schools would be infinitely preferable to bridewells and jails; nay, that nothing short of reformatory schools will ever reclaim. But I am not prepared to admit, that principle ought in this case, more than in any other, to be sacrificed to expediency; or, that boys and girls who have been idlers and thieves, are to be considered as reformed, for having been made so far to progress in what is called Christian knowledge, as just to be ignorant of the sort of Christians they are.

My Lord Provost, the true and exclusive principles on which human legislation ought to be based, are not different from those which have been revealed unto men for the governing of their own hearts.—They are those immutable ones of eternal justice, which, if strictly acted upon, can alone give life and happiness alike to individuals and to nations. Let all passion, then, and none more so than that which struts abroad in mantle of apparent holiness, be set aside; while a measure of such unparalleled importance is under the consideration of the country, as that of a Law on National Education. And let such words as these be in our hearts: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them;" or, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again;" and let us bind them for a sign upon our hands, and let them be as frontlets between our eyes, and let us write them upon the posts of our houses, and on our gates: and how great soever the difficulties that might lie in our way, they will, under the blessing of God, be overcome.—I have the honor to be,

My Lord Provost,
Your most obedient servant,

† JAMES GILLIS, Catholic Bishop
of Edinburgh.
Edinburgh, 23rd March, 1854.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

A general meeting of the Clergy of the Diocese of Tuam was held on the 12th ult., to take into consideration the attack menaced against the civil rights of Catholics. Resolutions, attributing the boldness of the enemies of the Church to the dissensions amongst the Irish members, and calling upon the latter to adhere to the principles of "Independent Opposition," were agreed to. The following petition to Parliament was drawn up and extensively signed:—

To the Right Honorable and Honorable the Knights, Burgesses, and Citizens in the Imperial Parliament Assembled.
The humble Petition of the undersigned Catholic Clergymen in the Diocese of Tuam,
Humbly Sheweth—That your Petitioners have learned with no inconsiderable degree of surprise and sorrow, that measures have been introduced into Parliament, calculated to wound the feelings of the inmates of Catholic Convents, and which, if passed into law, would seriously affect the pecuniary interests and constitutional rights of these invaluable institutions, and ultimately endanger their existence.

That, whilst your petitioners deprecate the injustice of such proceedings, they cannot but deplore its peculiarly unseasonable impolicy at the present time, as tending to exasperate the Catholics, who cannot view without alarm, this attempt at persecution, when wisdom should prompt the conciliation of that body by further concessions of their religious and social rights. That it is to the incessant and inexorable requisition of the Established Church in Ireland, becoming more important from the forbearance it has recently experienced, your petitioners are to trace this fresh aggression on institutions, whose vast social as well as religious advantages, should have called forth not hate but gratitude. That in order that your Honorable House should be spared the frequent collisions of adverse religious interests, and the country saved from those offensive attacks on Catholic institutions, by which its strength may be impaired, when it is so important it should be increased, your petitioners implore your Honorable House to check those attacks upon our Conventual institutions, by devoting the surplus revenues of the overgrown Establishment in Ireland to the relief and education of the poor.

We copy from the *Dublin Weekly Telegraph*—
We publish to day (April 8) a letter (signed "A. D. St. G. B.") which is written by a gentleman of rank and influence. We wish our subscribers to peruse this letter, and our enemies to ponder upon it; for it indicates a state of excitement amongst Catholics upon this topic—the persecution of our nuns—which it is not safe to tamper with, and may, ultimately, be dangerous to the stability of the empire to continue.

THE AGGRESSION ON CONVENTS.

Dublin, April 3, 1854.
Sir—Who can help admiring the wisdom of our sublime Houses of Legislature, in choosing, with so much foresight and judgment, a moment like the present, for wounding the feelings and heaping fresh indignities upon the Catholics of the British empire?

At the commencement of a terrible and dreadful war, which, like a prairie fire, will soon overwhelm all things in its fury, and draw all nations into its fatal embrace; with the decks of our ships of war swarming, and the ranks of our armies teeming with high-beating Catholic hearts, on whose blood and sinew, on whose faith and loyalty to Protestant England, in this her hour of difficulty and perplexity, so much depends; this, doubtless, is a wondrous well chosen time to assail and insult us! Methinks, however, were these same Catholic sailors and soldiers, on the eve of some great and important action, boldly to come forward and lay down their arms, and unanimously refuse to fight the battles of their persecutors, who, like cowards, have dared in their absence to insult and offer dishonor to the helpless devout ones, most near and dear to them; methinks, if such a scene should be enacted in the Baltic, or on the shores of the Mediterranean, there would be many a tall ship and many a crack regiment humbled and paralysed before the enemy by this sudden withdrawal of Catholic aid and co-operation; and deep would be, then, the curses heaped upon the infatuated bigots at home, who had so recklessly provoked and occasioned the deed. Who, I boldly ask, under the circumstances, could blame Catholics for so acting?

For myself, though I will yield to no man in my sense of pride, and feelings of glory, at the former exploits, and past high deeds of Britain by sea and land, I, for one, would exult in witnessing this act of just reprisal performed, for it would kindle within my heart the hope, that Catholics had now, at last, begun really to feel their chains, and to struggle, in earnest, against their tyrannical oppressions; for, believe me, until the fetters gall, we need never hope to see the blow struck that will insure freedom!

But whilst our brethren are away, we "stay at home?" Catholics have an additional and most sacred charge committed to us, even the protection of the devout female relatives of our absent friends, as well as our own.

Remonstrance, argument, memorial, and petition, if addressed to the enlightened majority in the British Parliament, is mere waste of breath and loss of time. Our Queen is powerless, our Government (so called) is powerless. The majority in Parliament is the monarch absolute of these realms. This is the rampant, semi-infidel power that we have to memorialise, and this is the very monster who is now foaming with mad impatience to be let loose against the devout but helpless ones of the Catholic fold.

Whither, then, shall we turn?
Lift up your eyes to France—to chivalrous, Catholic France. Rise up as one man, and lay before the French Emperor our grievances and injuries, and implore him, by our common faith, to raise his voice, and, if need be, his mighty right arm, in defence of our helpless ones, our devout sisters of devotion, our persecuted nuns. Before the stern rebuke of this proud champion of Catholicity apostate Britain would shrink and cover like a baffled and detected miscreant.

"'Twill, doubtless, be a sight 'most passing strange'" to see the Catholic subjects of a great nation, despairing of obtaining justice at the hands of their legitimate governors, thus appealing to foreign agency for help and protection, on behalf of women devoted to God's service against the unmanly and brutal insults of their persecuting fellow countrymen! It will be, indeed, a sight worthy of the enlightened and liberty mouthing nineteenth century. It will fill a page in the world's history of which Protestant, non-persecuting England may well be everlastingly proud.

Sir, I feel deeply, poignantly—I am not ashamed to confess, bitterly—on this subject; and, though some may preach patience, and advise us to unite in petitioning and re-petitioning the British Legislature, I feel convinced that, by adopting this line of policy, we shall only lose valuable time, expose ourselves to the ridicule of our enemies for our credulity, and gain—nothing. Heaven knows we have need of all our energies at this moment, and though I who write am but a very humble individual, I cannot but hope that, if my suggestion of appealing to France be promptly and unitedly acted upon, it may be the means, with God's help, of even yet saving our conventual institutions from an atrocious inquisition with which they are threatened, and of averting from our dear, devout, Catholic ladies the infliction of every kind of ribald impertinence and obscene interrogation that the seething and filthy brain of Exeter Hall bigots can invent to insult their feelings, or devise to assail their purity and devotion.

Oh! Sir, assist me in this most righteous cause with all the powers of your great intellect and formidable pen, and though you may throw aside this long and (I fear) tedious letter, do not, I entreat you, despise or neglect my suggestion of appealing to France for protection at once, "whilst it is called to-day; for, behold, the night cometh in which no man can work," and all further exertion will be unavailing.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A. D. St. G. B.

P.S.—I enclose my card for your satisfaction.

MEETING IN LIMERICK.—We have the gratification of announcing that a requisition to the Mayor, for a city and county meeting to petition parliament against the measures of Messrs. Chambers and Whiteside, is in course of signature, and is rapidly receiving the men of respectability, intellect, wealth, and station in Limerick—Protestant as well as Catholic. The meeting will be held during the Easter recess.—*Munster News.*

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.—Mr. John Ball, M.P. for Carlow county, has written a letter to a local paper, in the course of which he expresses great, and perhaps not wholly unjustifiable alarm at the reactionary feeling which has set in in England and Scotland against the toleration which, up to the last few years, had been accorded to her Majesty's Irish Catholic subjects. The hon. gentleman solemnly warns his countrymen against the fatal consequences of a too credulous reliance upon the invincibility of their claims to the continued possession of the "religious freedom" which has been achieved during the last half-century. "It is my firm conviction," says Mr. Ball, "derived from all I have seen and heard in the House of Commons, that this is a serious, and may become a fatal mistake. There is a large and organized party in England and Scotland whose views do not stop short of a repeal of the Emancipation Act, if they do not go even further; and this party, openly encouraged by the leaders of the Tory opposition, is determined to take every means of effecting, step by step, the objects which they contemplate. It is a dangerous delusion to imagine that the present Government can protect us. A great change has taken place of late years in political parties. Three fourths of the habitual supporters of the present Government are not men who agree with it on many points, but who owe it no allegiance, and frequently vote against it. I believe the great Majority of the present Government to be perfectly sincere in their opposition, but many of their supporters, including more than half the Scotch members, are ready to join in any attack upon us, and, in fact, are elected on that professed ground, I do not understand the policy of those Catholics, who think it a matter of indifference whether we have a Government that openly joins our enemies or one that does what is possible to protect us, but I am quite sure that in either case we must lose no time in doing all in our power to protect ourselves."

THE CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.—Conjectures about the probable result of the proceedings of the Corruption Committee are numerous and various. According to some, its labors will end in no tangible good. Others are under the impression that the process of buying and selling places for pecuniary considerations will receive a salutary check, in consequence of the exposures made before the committee. The organs of the government and all those who maintain that patronage and places conferred on the few as an equivalent for the sales of the country is justifiable, are vexed at the revelations which are from day to day being elicited. In the opinion of this latter class, it is perfectly fair and honest for a member of parliament to procure his return on the faith of certain clearly defined principles and pledges, and to forswear these principles and pledges for the emoluments of office or place or patronage. Solemn oaths have been taken and solemn covenants entered into between representatives and their fellow-countrymen to adhere in parliament to a particular and well-defined course of action. These oaths and covenants have, however, been openly and recklessly broken. The equivalents for these violations are place and office; or patronage which is often, as it now appears, more lucrative than place or office. All the "moralists" who advocate the orthodoxy of this latter species of corruption and demoralisation are quite annoyed at the course of proceeding adopted by the "Corruption Committee."—In their views, the whole affair is a concocted alliance between the Independent Opposition party and the Orangemen.—*Tuam Herald.*

It is instructive to note the comments of the English Press upon the Independent Irish Party:—"Mr. Moore's party (observes the *Liverpool Journal*) doesn't consist now of more than twenty men; but it is a party with a policy; and, by adroit appearances and votes at the right moment, it is practically powerful—forcing other parties to watch and study it, if not, as yet, attempting to win it. And if it succeeds, as it is likely to do, in beating the whole house on the T. Chambers' committee business, and preventing that committee sitting at all this session, it will get such a position in England, and such popularity in Ireland, as to restore all that Lord Aberdeen ruined, and recreate a real Irish party."

COAST GUARD VOLUNTEERS.—Captain Jerningham arrived in Galway on last Thursday for the purpose of enrolling volunteers for the coast defences, and had placards posted throughout the town, inviting parties to join; but he has been unable to obtain a single Claddagh man. "Arrah," said an old fisherman to a person who enquired if any of them had enrolled themselves, "he didn't get any man in Claddagh; isn't it to shoot them he wants?"—*Galway Packet.*

In the last four days of the past week a fleet of seventy sail arrived at Cork, laden with breadstuffs, sugars, and guano.

The Marquis of Sligo has been appointed Lieutenant of Mayo during Lord Lucan's absence. Lord Lucan is descended by the Mother's side from William Sarsfield, brother of the celebrated Irish general.

Within the past week orders have, it is understood, been sent from head-quarters, directing the instant reinforcement of the fortification of Cork Harbor.—Camden and Carlisle forts and Haulbowline Island are to be immediately inspected, and the fortifications, where necessary, augmented, so as to place Cork harbor on a footing with the most strongly fortified naval stations in the world.

It is stated that Limerick, Athlone, Galway, and Longford, will be garrisoned with English Militia Regiments. The corps of enrolled pensioners upon which so much of the public money has been expended, are found now, when the emergency arises for their services, to be unavailable for any kind of duty.—*Longford Journal.*

Several Russian vessels were sold in Cork last week in consequence of the war.

It is stated that the Belfast Chamber of Commerce is about to take up the question of a new packet station for the benefit of the North of Ireland, and that it is intended to apply for commission to inquire into the relative eligibility of Loch Ryan or Port Patrick.

CHARGES AGAINST A CAVALRY OFFICER.—A circumstance recently occurred in Dublin which has excited quite a sensation in military circles. It appears that a female of bad repute gave information to the police that a gold watch had been stolen from her residence, while she had no suspicion of the thief. The detectives soon discovered the article in a shop of a dealer, who gave the name of the person from whom he obtained it. The seller, in his turn, alleged that he purchased the watch from Mr. Kelly, 11th Hussars, for the sum of £3. When this officer was informed of the serious charge against him, he at once admitted having taken the watch from one of the French-street ladies, partly as a joke, and partly for ill-requited favors conferred upon her. The watch lay openly for some days upon his dressing-table, when a jeweler called upon him to offer ready money in exchange for jewels, bullion, bills, and other disposable security. The watch was deemed by the Israelite a marketable commodity. When the female heard that a felonious charge was brought against her quondam admirer she refused to prosecute him. The facts of the case were then reported to the military authorities. Mr. Kelly was placed under arrest on his parole, and a court martial ordered for his trial, but the misguided young man fled the country to escape the ordeal. He is the son of a gentleman of extensive possessions and respectable family in this country.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

STATE OF THE LABOR MARKET.—Nearly all the Irish journals dwell, with more or less alarm, upon the continuous drain of the population, and the now almost inevitable certainty of the supply of labor being insufficient to meet the demands of agriculturo. The *Louth Advertiser*, referring to this subject, is fully satisfied that the value of labor will be double or triple in Ireland before the growing harvest is ripe for the sickle.

"The breadth of potatoes sown this year in the west is one-fourth greater than any plantation known for the last 20 years. The value of land in Connaught is more enhanced in value than at any period since the last war. The landlords, with a sharp eye, are taking advantage of this state of things, and the rents demanded are quite equal to those paid when war raged during the Napoleonic era. In short farmers and landlords are looking up, no matter how the other classes of the community may weather the storm.—The value of seaweed as manure has increased in proportion with everything else. By the boatload, it is now 27s., whereas in former years it was purchased at 8s. Other manures are equally high and equally scarce; but farmers purchase with avidity."—*Galway Vindictor.*

The *Carlow Sentinel* says:—"It has been stated, we believe truly, that a larger amount of grain has been sown this year than during twenty years previously."

The *Belfast Mercury*, a competent and unprejudiced authority upon matters connected with agriculture and commerce, remarks that the farming (Irish) world seems endowed with a new spirit, and the enterprise, formerly supposed to be found only in the factory, now shows itself in full strength at field labor.

The *Galway Vindictor* avers that complaints of high wages, the result of the wholesale emigration now in progress, are universal among the farmers:

"In the neighborhood of Galway, 1s 4d a day is usual. About the Oranmore and Headford districts farmers are paying 2s a day, which every body knows is counted as enormous wages in Ireland. The reason now is obvious why Lord Palmerston refused to call out the Irish militia. If the remaining laborers whom the drain of emigration had left behind were embodied as militia the whole lands would go out of cultivation, or we should be compelled to have recourse to the extraordinary movement of importing men to cultivate the Irish soil. Only think of Ireland with all her "surplus population," so benighted by the political economists, and so abused by Malthusian legislators, reduced to this extremity at last!"

The *Sligo Journal* says:—"Despite of wars and rumors of wars" the people continue to carry on the spring work with unremitting vigor and a renewed spirit of industry seems to have taken hold of them, which augurs well for the future prospects of this country—the welfare of which, in no small degree, depends on the skill, the application, and the energy, of the agriculturist."

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.—The learned Assistant Barrister of Armagh (E. Tickell, Esq.) and a full Bench of Magistrates attended at the Market-hill court-house on Saturday last. After the usual formalities, the grand jury, of which Mr. William Wann was foreman, was sworn for the discharge of the criminal business; when on inspection of the Crown book by his worship, lo! it was discovered to be a perfect blank, not a single case, even of the most trifling description, appearing upon its pages! Proclamation was then made for any person having either bail or criminal complaint to bring it before the court, but to this there was no response. His worship warmly congratulated the grand jury on the extremely gratifying proof thus afforded of the peaceful and prosperous state of that district, of the county, and then immediately discharged them. The foreman cordially reciprocated the congratulations of the court, good humoredly insinuating that it was hardly fair of the sheriff (if he could have previously been cognizant to the fact) "to summon a jury to be made April fools of."—*Newry Telegraph.*