

moting amongst the faithful of his native diocese the most tender devotion to the Blessed Mother of God. This news will cause great delight to his numerous friends, and be no small surprise to himself; for I am certain he has no notice nor desire of the intended honours.—[Our Dublin Correspondence.]

SPAIN.

The sitting of the Congress, on the 12th, was entirely occupied with a speech of Senor Seijas in favour of the report of the minority of the committee on the Church Property question, and one of Senor Pidal in reply to it. The subject is necessarily very much narrowed by the fact of both sections of the committee having reported in favour of giving up the unsold property to the Church, the only difference being that the minority of the committee propose certain restrictions and certain verbal distinctions in the wording of the bill. Senor Seijas dwelt at great length upon the importance of these restrictions and distinctions, such as using the word 'entregar' instead of the terms 'devolucion,' employed by the Government, the one meaning 'to deliver to,' while the other implies a restoration or giving back. Senor Seijas contended that much alarm existed in the country respecting this question, and that it was necessary to calm it, which would be effected by dealing with the subject in the way proposed by himself and colleagues, by which a sufficient authority was conceded to the Government to take such steps as it might think most advantageous to all parties. The present project of the Government laboured under the disadvantage of not settling to whom the property was to be restored, whether to the former possessors or by a new arrangement to the churches and corporations. The difficulty here was, that some churches would acquire back all their property, because none had been sold, while others would receive back nothing, the whole having been sold; others again would get something back; but the inequality thus produced would be sure to lead to fatal consequences. Senor Pidal adverted to the importance of coming to an accord with the Pope, saying that the temporal power could not go on well if divorced from the spiritual power: this had been the case in Spain, and they could not continue in that state; the churches without Bishops, the tribunals without jurisdictions, and, in a word, the civil power divorced from the religious power. The Government wished to secure tranquillity in the state and in the Church; to assure the purchasers of the Church property sold; and in respect to the unsold property and to other ecclesiastical questions, to go to Rome and to seek for a union between the Church and the State. With respect to the property sold, he stated that the Government would seek and would obtain a declaration from the Holy See, such as had been obtained by Napoleon, by the King of Sardinia, and by the King of Naples, with which the

rights of the present holders of those estates would acquire. The debate was adjourned till next day.

We learn by letters from Madrid of the 13th instant, that the debate upon the Church Property question was still going on, and excited great interest. In the course of the debate M. Martinez de la Rosa said that a solemn and official declaration had been made by the Holy See to the Courts of France and Austria, in which his Holiness proclaimed that the time had arrived for entering again into relations with Spain, and he hoped that the negotiations now going on would soon lead to a concordat. He declared that the Government intended to respect acquired rights to their fullest extent, and that the purchasers of national property might be satisfied that their titles would not be disturbed. This assurance is a mere repetition of the assertion made by Narvaez; but neither one nor the other has had the effect of quieting the apprehensions of the public.

NORTHAMPTON.

REV. DR. FLETCHER.—We regret to have to announce to our readers the death of one who we believe was respected by all who knew him; we mean the Rev Dr. Fletcher, who died in this town on Tuesday last. Like many others of his creed and profession who lived in those strange times, he was under the necessity of seeking abroad what the penal laws forbade him to acquire at home, viz, the blessing of an excellent and suitable education. He pursued his studies at St Omer's, Paris, and Douay; had the honour of twelve months' imprisonment at the period of the French Revolution; and at length being promoted to the priesthood, devoted himself to the duties of the mission in the northern parts of England, where he received his birth. His career was one of a gentle, peaceful, and studious cast. He was passionately devoted to books, and few have handled the pen more vigorously, more voluminously, more elegantly, and less acrimoniously; for never, we believe, was one drop of bitterness permitted to commingle with the ink that flowed so copiously from his pen. His various works, chiefly of a spiritual character, are a proof of his extensive literary acquirements, of his chaste and polished style, and of his gentle and benevolent disposition. French, Greek, and Latin, were almost as familiar to him as his mother tongue; and his general acquaintance with books was of such a character that you could hardly name an author of note with whose writings he was not conversant. Though a considerable portion of the latter part of his career was spent in the Throckmorton family and in the society of the higher grades, he never lost sight of the poor. No one ever applied to him in vain; indeed he was benevolent and charitable almost to a fault. He is now summoned before that tribunal where his good works will not only follow, but plead for him. We hear that the remains of the deceased are to be deposited in the small burial plot attached to the