

exposure made by Mr. Lucas in his place in Parliament of the present iniquitous state of things, we wait anxiously to see what Government are about to do in the matter. Two Chaplains, it seems, have been appointed. Two! What a provision for the Catholics of the British army—more than a third of the entire! No wonder that the Archbishop of Dublin would address his simple, touching appeal to the zeal of the French Chaplains to extend the blessings of their sacred Ministry to the poor abandoned Irish soldier. The Government may have made a step in the right direction, but it is a very short one:—

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE UNIVERS.

“Dublin, March 8th, 1854.

“My dear Sir—I beg to forward through your kindness 2,000*l.* to the persecuted Archbishop of Freiburg and his faithful Clergy. Of this sum one-half has been contributed by the Right Rev. Doctor Murphy and his diocese, the other half principally by the Clergy of Dublin.

“We have to regret that the spirit of persecution, displayed with so much malignity in Baden, is not any longer confined to the petty states of Germany, but extends its evils to this great empire. You must have learned ere now that some fanatics in Parliament, anxious to show their hostility to our Church, and seemingly intent on impeding the good which is effected by our institutions of charity and religion, are attempting to renew penal enactments against our religious communities. In the first step they have been successful, and at their instigation a Parliamentary Committee is to be appointed to inquire into the state of our convents. Not even the shadow of a pretext was alleged for taking this step, so fraught with bigotry and so insulting to Catholics. When such proceedings are adopted, every one asks, is it prudent in our Legislature to cast a stigma on the doctrines and practices of the Catholic world at a moment when England desires to be on the most friendly terms, and to cement the closest alliance with a nation so thoroughly Catholic, and so sensitive on every Catholic interest as France? Is it politic to excite and irritate millions of her Majesty's subjects when the united energies of the empire may be all necessary to sustain a struggle now commencing, of which no one can foresee the various vicissitudes and final issue? Is it wise to insult in their sisters, and daughters, and dear relatives, who are dedicated to the service of God in our convents, many of those brave men now called to shed their blood in defence of their country? The answer to those questions is obvious; but fanaticism, true to its antecedents in this empire, where it has been maintained by penal laws and violence, where its treason and treachery brought at one time a monarch to the scaffold, is blind to the public good, and reckless of consequences, provided only it inflicts a wound on Catholicity.

“Will you allow me now to call your attention to the discussion which took place a few days ago in the House of Commons on the religious condition of Catholics in the British army and navy? The various facts brought to light on that occasion, especially in Mr. Lucas's speech, must have astonished every one who looks to England as the seat of religious equality and perfect tolerance. Yet it is gratifying to perceive that, through the liberal spirit of the present Ministry, some little inroad is to be made on the practices sanctioned by the bigotry of past times. The appointment of even two Chaplains to the troops now sailing to the East is of good augury, and we trust that this first measure, however insufficient, will be followed by others of the same tendency.

“As, however, it is apparent that adequate provision is not to be made immediately for the spiritual wants of those troops, I venture to express a hope that the zeal and clarity of the excellent Chaplains who accompany the French army will not leave our good Catholic soldiers who are to share every danger with the brave warriors of France without the consolations of religion in the time of need. Our countrymen are full of faith, and nothing is so dreadful to them as to be deprived at the hour of death of the means of salvation supplied by the Catholic Church. Your Ecclesiastics, so celebrated for their devotedness and courage, will have frequent opportunities of meriting the gratitude and prayers of many poor abandoned souls by providing for their eternal welfare.

“I have the honor to be,

With profound respect,

Your devoted servant,

“PAUL CULLEN, Archbishop of Dublin.”

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam is about to convene a Provincial Synod in Connaught; the Synod of Armagh is fixed for the 10th of May.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—DIocese of PHILADELPHIA, U. S.—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin has received from the Rev. Dr. Donnelly, a draft for £300—a further instalment of donations, &c., from the Faithful of the diocese of Philadelphia to the funds for establishing the Catholic University of Ireland.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Egan, Bishop of Kerry, has remitted a debt of £2,000 due to him on the building of the new Cathedral, Kilarney, and which will be opened for worship in August.

The Lord Bishop of Ossory, has appointed the Rev. Nicholas Kealy, late administrator of the parish of St. John's, in this city, to the parish of Thomastown, rendered vacant by the lamented decease of the Rev. Philip Darcy, P.P.—*Kilkenny Journal*.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS FOR THE TROOPS.—The Rev. Mr. Cuffe, C.C., of Lusk, has been appointed chaplain to the Catholic troops leaving Dublin for the seat of war. The reverend gentleman is, we understand, to rank on the regimental list, as a lieutenant—the salary to be, we are informed at the rate of £150 per annum. It is said that another chaplain is to go out with a subsequent contingent from the army of Dublin.

THE LOUTH ELECTION.—THE PETITION.—Mr. Cantwell was in Dundalk Wednesday last, making the necessary arrangements by presenting a petition against the return of the Junior Lord of the Treasury. The charges made against Sadleir's successor are those of bribery, treating, and intimidation, &c., which we may state were practised on a large scale by some of his agents.

It remains now for the honest men of Louth to supply the funds Mr. Cantwell will require, to enable him to unseat Mr. Sadleir's successor. Nearly £200 have already been collected, and it will require £300 more to enable Mr. Cantwell to bring forty witnesses to London and see counsel. No matter what sort of a committee may be struck to try the merits of the petition, Mr. Cantwell will present such a case of wholesale corruption as they cannot get over. The proofs are at hand, ample, conclusive, and satisfactory.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

THE CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.—This committee proceeds with its investigations into the alleged corrupt practices of Irish ministerial members. On the examination of Mr. Lucas, member for Meath, and editor of the *Tablet*, an exciting scene occurred between him and Mr. Keogh, Solicitor General for Ireland; which we find thus described by the London correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman*:

“The examination of Mr. Lucas was proceeded with to-day (Friday 10th March) and the attendance of members of Parliament, as well as of strangers, attested the general conviction that something would arise that was worth the hearing. For a time that general expectation seemed doomed to disappointment, and for two weary hours the patience of the auditory was severely tried by constant clearings of the room and lengthened discussions of the committee, for which the nature of the examination, in one or two instances, did not appear to afford sufficient warrant. The interest excited, was, however, proof against these repeated trials; and, on each occasion on which strangers were readmitted, the undiminished and immediate rush both into the body of the room and the space allotted to members of parliament showed that general expectation was not to be staved off.

Patience and perseverance were finally rewarded, for a more wonderful display of intellectual single combat—brilliant, fierce, fearful in the amount of power and passion that it evoked—has never been witnessed in our time, than that which took place within the last half hour of the sitting of the committee. Mr. Lucas, in the course of his examination, had dwelt upon the corruption and political prostitution of Mr. Keogh's career in a tone of easy and sarcastic calm, which lent dramatic interest to the frightful charges which he stated. Mr. Vernon, as the squire of the champion of corruption, was the first to offer a challenge to the knight of the sorrowful countenance. Mr. Keogh was obliged to waive aside his incompetent ally, and at last the two great intellectual gladiators met face to face. Amidst hushed expectation, a few preliminary passages of arms were exchanged between them, as if to try each other's strength, till at length, after a pause, and one of those triumphant and overwhelming looks with which Mr. Keogh so well knows how to add weight to his deliveries—he thundered before his antagonist a question so damaging, so well aimed, and so effectively delivered, that a buzz of admiration throughout the room expressed by anticipation the old ‘habel’ of the amphitheatre. But the ‘habel’ was uttered in vain, for in an instant the deadly thrust was parried, and the sword of the assailed passed through the very sword arm of the assailant. But the intellectual resources, the courage, and the skill of the accomplished though fallen Irishman were not yet exhausted, and, to do Mr. Keogh justice, he exhibited even in the moment of conscious defeat, a self-possession and a capacity worthy of a better cause. Again collecting his energies for the encounter, he again directed against his antagonist an interrogatory so trenchant, and so terrible in its bearing, that for a moment it looked as if he had restored the battle, and every man held his breath, as he waited for the answer. Deliberate and inevitable as death it came—cold and pointed—it cleft the very heart of the vanquished gladiator, and a long suppressed respiration from all around told that in this instance the ‘habel’ was unmistakable. It was a sight which none that have witnessed it will ever forget to look upon, the countenances of the two combatants at this juncture—rage and unconquered despair in the one face—desperation, triumphant and ineffable, in that of the other.

There are two celebrated pictures of Paul Delaroche, each of which may help the reader to an idea. Those who have studied the face of Cromwell as he gazes on the fallen Charles may imagine the conquering scorn of Lucas—those who have looked upon the lineaments of Napoleon sitting rigid in his chair at Fontainebleau may conceive the collapsed features of the vanquished Keogh.

“It was of course impossible at such a moment to proceed with any further business, and every tongue, a few minutes after, was busy in describing the scene that had just occurred, as I am now endeavoring to describe it to you.

CONTINUED COALITION SCANDALS.—That, in the short space of a twelvemonth, one of Lord Aberdeen's Lords of the Treasury, should have his name associated with the proceedings sworn to have taken place in the two boroughs of Sligo and Carlow, is an extraordinary circumstance. Mr. Michael Gethin, a Solicitor, stated before the Sligo committee on Wednesday:—“Mr. Stonor and Mr. Towneley desired him (Gethin) to use all his influence at the last election for Mr. John Sadleir. He offered £50 to Cullen the elder to withdraw his recognizances. If Cullen would have taken it, he would have sent his bill for it to Mr. Sadleir.” It seems to have been a foregone conclusion with Mr. Gethin that Lord Aberdeen's Lord of the Treasury would neither have ‘ignored’ his proceedings, or protested against his bill. The whole evidence before this Sligo committee is of the most startling nature, and will certainly give that coalition through a prominence, more peculiar than honorable, in electioneering annals. One witness swore that he would not have taken £1,000 to do what one of the supporters of Mr. Sadleir proposed to him. A postmaster deposed to false affidavits having been offered to him and the rival swearers disagreed in their evidence only as to which of the witnesses first proposed the corrupt agreement. Not the least curious incident of the case is that Mr. Coppock was the advocate of Mr. Sadleir.—*Press*.

SLIGO ELECTION.—The report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the allegations of Mr. Somers' petition, complaining of irregular proceedings in the matter of the petition against Mr. Sadleir's return for Sligo, has been presented to the House of Commons and printed. The committee report that the main allegations of Mr. Somers' petition are proved; that Mr. Gethin, solicitor of Sligo, being instructed by Mr. Sadleir's agent to make inquiries as to the solvency of the sureties to the petition against Mr. Sadleir's return, employed for this purpose James Simpson, a farmer, and Henry Simpson, relieving officer of the Sligo Union; and that at a meeting at Gethin's office, at which the three were present, Gethin and James Simpson offered the father of one of the sureties £50 to induce him to procure his son's signature to an affidavit giving a false statement as to his property; and that the Simpsons made a similar offer in the case of the other surety, with a view to get sworn an affidavit (in Gethin's handwriting) containing false statements respecting the surety's property, with a view to showing that he was not worth the requisite amount. The committee report “that the conduct of these three persons is deserving of the serious attention and animadversion of the House,” but they state “that Mr. Sadleir does not appear from the evidence to have been personally implicated in or cognizant of these proceedings.”

MR. J. P. SOMERS AND THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.—It will be remembered that the committee now engaged in investigating the charges of corruption recently brought against certain Irish representatives were lately inquiring into the circumstances under which Mr. Patrick C. Howley obtained the appointment of stipendiary magistrate for the county of Tipperary. At the time when the appointment was obtained Mr. John Patrick Somers, lately M. P. for Sligo, accepted a loan of £400 from Mr. Howley, which it was alleged was never intended to be repaid; a judgment was confessed by Mr. Somers for that amount, but no interest has since been paid on it. The estate of Mr. Somers having been sold in the Encumbered Estates Court, a “schedule of encumbrances” was prepared, in which Mr. Howley figures as creditor for the £400. On Monday last the schedule came on for hearing before the Commissioner, and the important question now arises—will Howley's judgment be paid out of the proceeds of the sale? for, if so, the inference is that it was a *bona fide* loan, and not merely a colorable one. As the matter now stands, it is extremely probable that Howley's demand will be repaid out of the fund, as no objection to it has been substantiated. The amount due to prior creditors being disputed, a reference has been directed to the Master of the Court to ascertain how much is due to them; and until the accounts are taken it cannot be stated with certainty in what way the fund in court (about £3,400) will be distributed. The present aspect of the case, however, is very much in Howley's favor.

The action brought by Dowling against Mr. Sadleir, M.P., for conspiracy to procure the plaintiff's arrest, in order to prevent him from exercising his franchise by voting, as he intended to do, for Mr. Brown, Mr. Sadleir's opponent, at the Carlow election of 1852, was tried at the Carlow assizes on Friday and Saturday, and on the afternoon of the latter day the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £1,100 damages and 6*d.* costs.

The fruits of the treachery of last year are now tolerably apparent. War has come and a war budget, and with it we have received for Ireland the first permanent increase of the income tax. For the first half of the next year the income tax is to be doubled—tenpence half-penny in the pound instead of sevenpence; and if the war should continue, it is probable that for the second half of the year it will also be doubled, and will thus be brought up to the full measure of fourteen pence on the whole year. By the perfidy of those who deserted us, we have got this increase. They could not have doubled the Consolidated Annuities, but they can easily double an income tax. This unpopular tax, is now not only increased but, made permanent. It is fastened for ever upon the people of Ireland. It is now no longer for a short term of years—it is probable that the longest liver of us will not see the end of the income tax. It has already outlived many promises of its extinction. This year it has outlived the very possibility of making such promises in future. If the people of Ireland like the income tax, they know to whom their gratitude is due I hope it may be fully paid.—*Tablet*.

MINISTERS' MONEY.—The Catholics of Ireland—or rather a few cities and towns in Ireland—are subject to an injury, and insult that are not felt in this country. Since the reign of Charles the II. there is a tax, called Ministers' Money, levied upon the occupiers of houses in certain towns in the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, for the maintenance of clergymen of the Established Church. In Ulster, the most Protestant quarter of the island, this nuisance is unknown. It is only in the Catholic provinces that the obnoxious tax is levied. To remove this link of abomination, this badge of servitude, was the object of a motion which the Hon. member for Cork (Mr. Fagan) made in the House of Commons on Friday night. Mr. Fagan, reasonably concluding that a Church which enjoys a revenue of three-fourths of a million sterling per annum at least, though its communicants are hardly a million, did not need the aid of this tax which, though paltry in amount, is most insulting in principle—proposed that loss which the abolition of the impost would inflict upon individual ministers of the Anglican Establishment, should be made good out of the funds of the Irish Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This proposition was so fair and just that no one ventured to oppose it absolutely, while it was supported with much ability by the mover himself and by Messrs. Hume, Hadfield, Maguire, Fitzgerald, Crossley, and Cowan. Government admitting the reasonableness of the motion but wanting courage to give it effect, hit upon a compromise which while it sounds speciously from the lips of Sir John Young is really more pernicious than the system it professes to displace. The Irish Secretary proposes that henceforth the tax shall not be leviable upon houses rated at or under £10 a year; that no house built in future shall be liable to the tax; that the rate shall be reduced upon those houses which are to be still inflicted with the impost, according to their depreciation in value by time or circumstances; and that there should be a power of redemption at a fixed rate. It will be seen at a glance that this proposal leaves the heart of the grievance untouched. It scotches, not kills, the viper. We suppose the Catholic who rents or owns a house rated at £12 or £20 a year has a conscience and feelings as well as his co-religionist who inhabits or owns

an inferior tenement. If it be wrong in principle to levy a particular tax upon the Catholic who dwells in a £10 house, it cannot be right to levy the same tax upon the Catholic who is able to occupy a larger and a better house. The grievance is not in the amount of the tax but in the principle on which it is exacted, and the proposed arrangement does not touch that.—*Catholic Standard*.

At a meeting of the friends of Tenant Right, last week, in Draperstown, Londonderry, Mr. Sharman Crawford publicly severed himself from all connexion with the Tenant League. The Tenant League, he said, seems an Irish emanation of the Carlton Club, and he would not identify himself with the enemies of all reform. He advised the people not to contribute to the League, but to keep their money, and to use it when wanted for purposes connected with their own country.—*Spectator*.

THE DARGAN INSTITUTE.—The Marquis of Westmeath presided at a meeting of the committee of the Dargan Institute yesterday, when a sum of £200 was handed in as the subscription of Messrs. Betts and Peto, and £5 from the Marquis of Headford.

Dublin is threatened with another visit by the notorious Gavazzi.

PROTESTANT ASCENDANCY.—On the present Grand Jury for the county of Cork there is the handsome number of four Catholics. Out of a body of twenty three individuals, having the power to tax the property, and in some events to decide on the liberties and lives of a Catholic population of at least six hundred thousand, the noble proportion of one-sixth is assigned to the persuasion of the vast majority. In this county it has been shown there are over a hundred Catholic gentlemen, fully qualified, by property, rank, and personal worth, for the position of grand juror. There are Catholic magistrates more than sufficient to constitute the entire body. But still the Catholic hundreds of thousands and the Catholic gentry must be content with the liberal allowance of four.—*Cork Examiner*.

There is not a Catholic on the Clare Grand Jury.—However, Mr. Skerret, Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, M. P., and O'Gorman Mahon were invited. Since last assizes a barrier has been raised in the grand jury room, outside which, on Saturday, Mr. J. D. Wilson took his stand, and in reply to invitations made to him to enter, stated that he would never go by suffrage where he felt he ought to go by right, even though he were a Papist!—*Limerick Chronicle*.

The Irish metropolis presents a most animated appearance, from the vast number of volunteers daily arriving from all parts of the kingdom, in order to join those regiments which are first on the roster for war service in the East.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.—The Hon. Captain Maxwell, one of the representatives for Cavan, has issued an address to his constituents, informing them that he has been ordered to join his regiment (the 59th), now under orders for war service in the East. The hon. and gallant member trusts that his necessary absence from his Parliamentary duties may not be of any lengthened duration, but in the mean time he has “paired” for the remainder of the session with an officer who is placed in precisely similar circumstances with himself.

EMIGRATION.—We deeply regret to be compelled to state that notwithstanding the fearful disasters by sea, which during the last few years have struck with dismay the most callous hearts, and has hurried thousands of emigrants to a premature ocean grave, notwithstanding the fearful ravages of diseases under whose influences thousands even of those who have escaped the perils of the deep have died in America, notwithstanding the repugnance which Irishmen feel in quitting the scenes of their happier youthful days, and the fond desire they so ardently cherish of laying their bones with those of their fathers in the dear old village churchyards of the Green Isle of the Saints, the rage for emigration is not only not abated, but seems to gather strength and intensity with each succeeding season of spring. Every week batches of some fifty each pass through this town from the districts adjacent, and from the county of Mayo, on their way to America. Instead of manifesting any symptoms of grief they only seem happy to quit a land which God has blessed with every natural gift, to an abundance even overflowing, but where, from the operation of bad laws, scenes of misery have occurred unparalleled in the annals of the human race.—*Tuam Herald*.

THE FRUITS OF BRITISH RULE AND PROTESTANT ASCENDANCY.—According to the authority of the *Galway Packet*, the Celtic race is fast disappearing even in its western stronghold. The editor has just completed a tour through Jar Connaught and Joyce's country, and for miles, he says, the traveller could not see a human habitation—all was utter desolation; not a trace of farm cultivation, and in lieu of houses nothing remained but heaps of stones and unroofed gables. Whenever the writer met an inhabited dwelling, it was a miserable hut, in which Englishmen would hesitate to lodge their hogs. “These cabins (he continues) freely admit the rain through the roof; they are without windows, and frequently without doors. Naked wretches and filthy-looking women, forcibly reminding the traveller of Indian squaws, emerge from the cloud of smoke which fills the wretched dwellings, and stare wildly at the traveller. The lithe and athletic mountaineers of Connemara are nowhere to be seen. The race is extinct. Stunted, sickly-looking, dwarfish specimens of humanity, are all that remain of that hardy, vigorous population which, a few short years since, abounded in Connemara. The working classes are nowhere to be found in the west of Ireland. They have proceeded to England, Scotland, and America, or rotted away in the cells of the workhouse. Those who remain are making extraordinary efforts to plant potatoes, and women may be seen toiling up the hill sides, laden with baskets of seaweed manure. In point of fact, the greater portion of the field labor is now performed by women in the remote western districts. Strangers who have settled down in Connemara cannot obtain men to work at any price. Mr. Twining, of Cleggan, has been obliged to bring a large number of farm laborers and mechanics from England; and last Saturday three Englishmen, whom he had engaged, travelled to Clifden by Bianconi's car. When it has been necessary to ransack the English labor-market and import hands from that country to cultivate the Irish soil, the condition of the country and the change which has passed over it can be easily imagined. In travelling through 100 miles of country we only met one beggar, so that even the very mendicants have disappeared. Verily, a revolution has taken place, which war and conquest could never have accomplished.”