

## VOL. IV.

## MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1853.

## NO. 14.

- TO ESTABLISH THE REFORMATION informed of the fact. As I believe, ladies and gen-saw, and of authority they never exercised, they fee; there was no primogeniture, and no entail of IN IRELAND.
- A LECTURE DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, NEW YORK, ON MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 1853, BY T. D. M'GEE.

## (From the American Celt.)

We have beard a great deal of late, ladies and gentleman, of the progress of the new "Reformati, n" in Ireland. All our sectorian journals are full of anecdotes of its success, and it is only the present week that a Doctor in Divinity, gave two or int week that a Doctor in Divinity, gave two or three lectures on this subject, in what is called, "a fashionable church, up-town." The gentleman who gave the lectures is the same, I believe, who some time last year, begged the prayers of his congregation to deliver him from the Rochester Knockings. Perhaps he received his Irish facts, through the medium of his spiritual visitors, or perhaps he really and in the flesh, did make a tour through Connaught, and saw or heard from others, what he has related: in any case, the subject is worth investigating, not only to ascertain whether the "reformation" has at last reached the island of St. Patrick, but also, if so, why it was so long in reaching that point, and why it is still so doubtful of its own stability.

The present "reformation" in Ireland, is I perceive, chiefly confined to the famished shores and islands of Kerry, Galway, and Mayo. Achill and Arran are its strong points, and the Reverend Ilya-cinth Darcy, Messrs. Nagle, Dallas, and the Protestant Bishop of Tuam, are the most conspicuous of its Apostles. The Bishop, the only Queen's Bishop actively engaged in this work, is the son of Lord Chancellor Plunket, one of the greatest of orators, a ve-nerable person who still lives; he is the last of the noble band of Irish patriots and orators, who resisted the act of union in 1800; he is also the last of the original advocates of Catholic Emancipation. He has outlived his friends, but never can outlive his reputation. Half a century ago, he was one of the glories of the Bar and the Parliament of Ireland, and must forever remain one of the ornaments of her literature and her history. Many have spared the proselytizing Bishop of Tuam, for the sake of the friend of Grattan, and the friend of Ireland, and I shall so far as it is possible to do so, follow their lenient example.

But the subject I have chosen, ladies and gentlemen, will not be confined to persons, places, or the time being. It is of more general and ancient interest. It is nothing less, than to account for Ireland's moral superiority, or inferiority to the neighboring Island and the nations of Northern Europe. For, if the "reformation," was in reality what the name indicates; if it was a purification of Christiani-17, if it was a restoration of old simplicity, if it was a return to the ways and the maxims of the saints, then our Irish ancestors were either a very foolish, a very perverse, or a very wicked people, for so long and so hercely resisting it. But if, on the other hand as you and I believe and maintain, it was in truth, an insurrection of the worldly passions and purposes of men against Holy orders and Divine discipline ; if it was conceived in sin, and born in iniquity ; if it was a modern revolt of the giants against God, then Ireland deserves especial honor among nations, for having clearly understood and brarely resisted it, from the very beginning. It is in this light, I must always regard Ireland's relation to the Reformation, and in this alone can I speak of that movement and of that country. Furthermore, I design to show the present efforts to plant Protestantism in fields and hamlets desolated by famine, as being only the sequel of a system of operations three centuries old, and I will show what that system has been, to make more clearly appear what it at present is. The history of "the Reformation in Ireland," is in fact, the history of the people of that country, for the last three centuries. Every people organized or dispersed, must have some enduring bond, some hereditary principle, which binds the nation together, and conserves its character. What language was to the Greeks, and their city to the Romans, the Altar and the Cross have been to Ireland. In all Englishspeaking regions, " Irish" and " Catholic" have long been synonimous terms, and if they are not strictly so at this hour, it is because the vanquished have overcome the victors, and have spread their proscribed religion into the very ranks of their enemies. The grandeur of this subject arises not only from is embracing a whole people, and from so beautifully illustrating the retributions of Providence; but it arises also from the fact, that of all the moderns, Ireland is the only nation that has preferred religion to every object of ambition. If there is any other people who have chosen to part with property, laws, language, and frequently with life itself, who have made this choice not once but many times over ; if Bishops, such men as Traners, Lancaster, and Good- cracy ; it approached nearer to a Patriarchial magis- mention. Before 1590, one half of fertile Munster there is another such instance in modern history, I acre, none of whom can lawfully be called Irish Bi- tracy. The fee simple of the soil never was rested was confiscated on this ples, and the once flourishing

prostrate, one rich in revenue and strong in arms, the other poor in public wealth, and disorganised for dear the proud.

We will take first if you please, what we may call the two centuries of coercion from 1550 to 1770 inclusive.

Henry the VIII, of England, who died in 1547, was elected in 1541, "King of Ireland," and is the first of our English sovereigns. You know some- or misfortune connected with it, tell it, and tell it, crown. That was reserved for Henry's minister, Bathing of his character. Six years before his Irish and tell it again. Tell it in a thousand forms. Tell ron Finglass, for Lords Burleigh and Bacon, for " the election, he had separated from the centre of Catho-lic Unity, and declared himself head of the church of view. Tell it of this locality and tell it of that. Spencer, and "the chiralrous" Raleigh; two in Bagland. But he was not, in the present sense 'fell it of twenty years back, and tell of now. Tell bled for fortune under the standard of St. George. of the word, a Protestant. He believed in Seven it of the mass, and tell it of individuals." To me this Sacraments, and many other Catholic doctrines; he seems good counsel, and I do not think you can ever was more a Schismatic than a Heretic, and more a hear too much of your ancestors. Their story ought Sensualist than either. His Irish election may be to be forever before your eyes and the eyes of your debated on the point of legality, for the clergy- children. It is, I own, "a great and distressing body who had been always considered since St. Patrick's of facts," if regarded merely by the light of political time, the complement of the legislative body-were economy, but from the moral point of view it is a not summoned, and the suffrages of the chiefs taken story of religious heroism, unequalled in interest; it singly, or in families, were obtained on written couditions not subsequently fulfilled. The "Crown" for- dus," filled up with some of the awful realities of the mally acknowledged each chief as "head of his na- |"Book of Revelations." tion," and agreed not to disturb their " ancient laws and franchises." There was undoubteilly, a large number of suffrages obtained in this way, but whether they were sufficient to clect a King, and whe-ther they did truly elect Henry as such, are critical questions, which for the present I decline discussing. It is enough for us that he got the crown, and was proclaimed King at Dublin, at London, and by his ambassadors at all the courts of Christendom.

The most important condition made by the Irish electors with Henry, is that quoted against Lord | war; left the orthodox Irish no choice but submis-Strafford, in the Irish Commons Journal of 1641- sion in temporals and rebellion in spirituals; a course "That the Church of Ireland shall be free and enjoy of conduct unnatural, irreconcileable and necessarily all its accustomed privileges." Observe "the changeable. Hence the seeming double principle of Church of Ireland !" What was the Church of Irish politics, the frequent fluctuations between insur-Ireland at the time of King Henry's election? It rection and loyalty the reputed instability of the peowas exclusively Roman Catholic; its bishops had ple, and the real unsettlement of the country. their " palliums" from the tombs of the Apostles; its Priests and rites were all Roman; its Monasteries and Convents were bound by rules sanctioned siastical, but also a popular decision. at Rome; and we will find that, sooner than resign tures, banishment, and death. This is important to be remembered, for if her present Majesty, Queen Bishop, Sheyne, burned the image of St. Dominick | dred men of knightly rank, all of his own name, were of her sovereign power. lor at Dublin, who states that after a visitation ser- desire, and the prevalence of a variety of scientific for succor and assistance. This was in the year mon, preached at Clonmel by Dr. Brown, the Arch- and philosophic speculation." Nor were the chiefs premacy." That these oaths at that time, did not religion, though the Crown lost no opportunity to of Dublin, Lord Butler, the master of the Rolls, and hereditary religion. Mr. Treasurer, and one or two more of small reputation, none may abide the hearing of it, spiritual as itself in by an aristocracy. It must create a new, they call them, or temporal." Here we find but one if it cannot enlist the old aristocracy. If it cannot the Irish friend of Don Sebastian of Portugal. Of Prelate-Dr. Brown of Dublin, an Oxford Schisma- | enlist the old, it must destroy it, in order to make way tic nominated by Henry and ordained by Cranmer- for the new, which it may enlist. In this way the and half a dozen officials " who would hear of" the confiscation of the old Irish Proprietary was a poli-Reformation in religion. When soon alterwards tiral necessity of the British Reformation. That

in every successive attempt been beaten back by the Hierarchy was convoked in Dublin, the test was first it indomitable constancy of the Irish people. I shall regularly put to the Bishops, whether or not they defen a long and it Hierarchy was convoked in Dublin, the test was first Government. show you to the best of my power two nations, one would accept " the new liturgy." After a long and invention. It was unknown to Pagan Rome, it was crowned, the other chained, one prosperous, the other warm discussion, almost all the Bishops retired with not conceived of by the honest barbarians. The the Primate (Dowdal) at their head, leaving none be-hind except the half-dozen "King's Bishops" I have "usufruct" of that soil was never, I believe, denied fence; and I shall show you the weak triumphant mentioned: of the regularly consecrated Irish Pre-over the strong, the disarmed conquering the well. lates, but two can be proved to have adhered at any dern, except by England to Ireland. And it was equipped; the servant raised above the master, the time to the crown, and one of these (Dr. Magrath), not denied, even by England, until her faith was " rehumble exalted, to the confusion of the boastful and afterwards recanted." A more deliberate rejection of Schism, never occurred in the whole history of religion.

this contest. A recent popular writer has somewhere been fought, like that of Athenry; but it had never said, "if there be a great and distressing body of been proposed to the Catholic sovereigns of lingfacts, with some great mystery, of iniquity, or error, land, to declare the whole soil confiscated to the is a perpetual crusade; it is another "Book of Exo-

1551, or had the Irish Chiefs gone to church with must have been immense—but the precise amount Queen Elizabeth ten years later no coercive mea- cannot now be determined. In the currency of that sures would have been attempted. One creed and age, the portable plunder of the Churches in and one crown would have been sufficient to unite the two Islands; the crown without the creed was not enough. while the value of "1,000 pounds of wax tapers," is Election without conformity gave the titular sovereignty to a Protestant dynasty; gave that Protest-ant dynasty the initiative of Ireland in peace and

tlemen, it will be my duty to show you that the Irish gave in their adhesion to the pretensions of the Prince, estates. Consequently, even by the letter of the conpeople, at "the Reformation," and their descendants whose creatures they were. I do not deny that in fiscations, the chiefs ought to have forfeited no lands since, did voluntarily, each generation in its turn, the subsequent reign, (about the year 1550), a na- except their own. To confiscate Munster as Eliza-prefer their religion to all ambitious objects. And it tive Bishop, Dr. Coyne or Quinn, of Limerick, and bath did, to punish the Desmonds; to confiscate Hiwill also be my duty to prove to you, that the whole Dr. Miler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel, did swear ster as James I. did, to punish O'Neill and O'Den-force of Great Britain, civil and military, legislative to accept the supremacy of Edward VI. But these nell was as unjust as if all in this city should be plun-and intellectual, has returned again and again to this are only two out of thirty. When on the 1st of dered by Federal troops, because one of its half milassault, with or without declarations of war, and has | March, 1551, by an order in council, the whole lion of men refused to pay a debt due to the general

nen mangelan ar a better realization and an annen d'arrenne på balle te baselan at som de state og an annen so Mangela forske er a film banden annen som er ander film for som de state annen som er ander som at som er ander

Notional Confiscation was peculiarly a Protestant formed." Four centuries of internecine war had been waged by the Plantagenet Princes with Ireland ; cruel and proscriptive laws (like the Statute of It is well that we should study every particular of Kilkenny) had been enacted; ferocious battles had

The first great confiscation designed by Henry was carried out under Edward VI. It was directed against the religious houses of which there were some six hundred, all possessed of considerable landed and chattet property. The Augustinian Orders counted alone 250 houses, the Franciscans 114, the Cistercians and Dominicans more than forty houses each, and other orders were also well endowed. The property thus seized by the crown had been accumulating for ages; it was the charitable capital and in-"Book of Revelations." "My first conclusion from the facts I have enume-rated is that, had the Irish Bishops apostatized in and feeding the poor. Its value in the 16th century. about Dublin, is reported as exceeding 2,000 pounds, set down at 20 nounds. From this single instance we may judge that first the confiscation of Church furniture alone produced, very large sums of money.

The second confiscation was undertaken by Ehzabeth. Its pretence was the rebellion of the Ear! of Desmond. That nobleman stood at the head of the Munster branch of the noble Norman house of Fitzgerald, the Earl of Kildare being head of the Leinster branch. In Henry's reign, Kildare was e, and the real unsettlement of the country. It is always to be remembered that in Ireland the Thomas," (so called from his splendor in dress) rejection of the Reformation, was not only an eccle- I shared his fate. Thus, on one scaffold fell eight of the noblest members of that family. The Earl on When the citizens of Cashel heard that Dr. Ma- Desmond, warned by their treatment, resolved not to their Roman character and connection, many of the grath had taken the oath of supremacy they rose in a trust himself within the gates either of Dublin or chiefs and clergy of the Irish Church suffered tor- jumult and drove him out, and Dr. Edmund Butler London. He also had three noble brothers, Thomas, was consecrated to fill his place; when Elizabeth's | James and John, and it is said that nearly three hun-Victoria, inherits the crown of Ireland from King at Cork, he and his attendants had to fly for their once assembled in the halls of Kilmallock. Two Henry, and if he obtained it on condition of granting lives; when his brother, Dr. Ball, attempted to pull hundred and fifty thousand men, composed his prefull freedom to "the Irish Church," then her present down the market cross of Kilkenny, he "narrowly sonal estates. Early in Elizabeth's reign he had re-Majesty forfeits her title, by abridging or interrupt-ing that freedom which is "the condition precedent" killed in the affray. A rumor having gone out in royal force, captured in the battle of Affane, and killed in the affray. A rumor having gone out in royal force, captured in the battle of Affane, and confined for ten years in the Tower. Having escaped from his guards, he was for a short time unthe Irish Bishops, or a majority of them, did, like the politic motives to deny it, though he adds, his "con- disturbed, but not forgotten. Well he knew that British Bishops, favor "the Reformation" at the out- science well enough inclined him thereto." The co- England, never forgets nor forgives an Irishman who set. So far as I have seen, this charge rests on the temporary Irish annals speak of the English Schism loves his country. He despatched his favorite brosingle authority of a letter from the King's Chancel-) as "the effects of pride, vain-glory, avarice, sensual ther, James of Desmond, to Spain and to the Powe 1580. King Philip II-a Prince who, whatever ins bishop of Tuam and Cashel, and five Bishops took and lords of the soil, whether of Milesian or Nor- faults, was a generous friend and ally of Irelandthe oaths "touching the King's succession and su- man extraction, more favorably disposed to the new promised and gave arms, funds, and men. The Pope -and it proves the truly Catholic character of the embrace any formal heresy, we might well infer from make converts among them. "Recusant" (that is, first Irish insurrections in the 16th and 17th centuthe fact, that some of the Prelates mentioned are re- orthodox) Bishops who fled from the districts in the ries, that the Popes were actual parties to them all corded as utterly hostile to Protestantism. But, in hands of the English, found shelter and hanor with addition, we have the express testimony of Agard, the Desmonds and O'Neils, and almost all the old no-the Dublin Correspondent of Secretary Cromwell, bility, preferred the loss of court favor and broad as to those who fought against the Turks for the re-the test of the secretary Cromwell, bility, preferred the loss of court favor and broad as to those who fought against the Turks for the re--the Pope Gregory XIII, issued his Buil on the 13th of May, 1580, granting "the same indulgence who writes subsequently : "except the Archbishop acres, to the sacrifice of their beloved Priesthood, covery of the Holy Land," to all who would fight against the English in Ireland. He went further. A new royalty in any kingdom, must needs hedge He armed, equipped, and fitted out an anxiliary force of 2,000 Romans, under the command of Stukely, this and of the Spanish expedition ; of the Desmond war; of the death of all the brothers, of the assassination of the last Earl, accidentally discovered in mid-winter, in a Kerry forest; these things as 1 am some sea-board sees fell vacant, Henry sent over as proprietary did not form, in reality, a Feudal aristo- not treating of the wars of Ireland, I shall binrely

Meath, that Dr. Browne of Dublin meant "to pluck I know it has been asserted more than once, that down our Lady of Trim," that official was fain from