

open space fronting the fords, for here, he knew, whatever was approaching would be first visible. Presently, half-a-dozen English horsemen dashed out of the skirts of the wood and plunged into the river. They crossed in foaming haste, formed hurriedly on the bank below the abbey, and then spurred on to meet Sir John De Ryddel, whose company was just arrived from Ullard, and wheeling into the gateway of the court-yard.

'Do not dismount, Sir John,' cried the leader of the new comers; 'the Earl will need thy services presently. Draw down thy battle to the ford, and prepare the landing of such a prey as was never driven over the Barrow before.'

'Fore God,' replied the knight, 'I wish that may not be the Earl's army; for if some mishap have not befallen he surely would not take the fords with three thousand footmen such a night as this.'

'Tut, Sir John!' said the other, 'the fords are passable by a troop of children. Let us but get the prey across before this storm bursts again, and we shall drink a carouse to our friends in Essex, in the abbey hall, ere night.'

'What prey has the Earl captured,' asked the knight, 'that he is so eager to get out of Kavanagh's country in this haste?'

'By Saint George,' cried the other, 'I had not thought all Ireland contained such booty as we bear out of the fastnesses of Babanna and Tighmolin; gold and silver, Sir John, horses and harness, sheep and bees—as I live by bread, bees enough to victual Dublin against a six months' siege.'

'But what of the Byrnes and Tooles?' cried Sir John, 'what of Kavanagh's and their gallowglass? have you met nothing but sheep and black cattle in Hi Kinshella?'

'Not till an hour ago,' replied the other in a more serious tone; 'but, by my faith, if we get not shortly into the open country, I would not answer for the safety of our post in under woods. The Irish kern were already skirmishing with our men before I left the Earl's vanguard—bark! you may hear their savage war-cries even now.' As he spoke the sounds which had already reached the quick ears of Fitz Thomas, became clearly audible from the woods at the foot of Coulyehoune.

'What!' cried Sir John, 'the enemy in force upon our rear—a rising river in front—and we stand idly gossipping here. That brawling torrent protects our right flank, the abbey walls cover our rear, and then I leave well guarded.—Advance thou thy troop, Master Cosby, into the wood, an arrow flight to the left; see that you let none pass either by the water's edge or the crest of the hill; if pushed by a superior force fall back between the abbey and the river, but on your life leave clear room for the head of the Earl's main battle to form on the bank above the ford.'

'Then giving the word he led his own division to the river-side, while his officers, with the remainder of the troops, proceeded to secure an open esplanade for the operations of the advancing army.'

Fitz Thomas now turned his eyes to the forest from which the cries and tumult were momentarily redoubling. The level sunbeams were flashing on frequent glimpses of arms and armor through the trees; the regular march of a considerable body of cavalry was now heard, and from the dark forest passed the vanguard of the English army, a battalion of men at arms cased in steel and glittering in the yellow light. The sight of their well-trained ranks, as they came down with waving plumes and pennons, flashing breast plates, and a forest of lances quivering and glancing overhead, made Fitz Thomas's heart bound with a martial ardor that for a moment dispelled all recollection of his fears. 'Blessed Saint George,' he exclaimed, 'there go a company of spears that a man might well come ten days' journey to look upon, in what fair order they bear their slaves—what gallant array they keep—how easily each sits his heavy war-horse! By heaven, the sight of their knightly harness is so sweet to my eyes, that I can hardly keep down my tears! Sound a point of war, Sir John De Ryddel, hear you not their silver trumpets and kettle-drums? Ah! long might I live in the woods of Ofa! ere I could see such goodly show among the Irish gallowglass. Alas!' he continued, after a pause during which his eyes were suffused with tears he could no longer suppress, 'I am false and ungrateful to forget the true hearts that I leave behind me in the wild woods of Sheumargie! what have I to do with their knightly harness or martial music! I am a disgraced man—betrayed and dishonored—I will never wear gilt spurs more.'

While he indulged in these bitter reflections, the tumult in the woods was growing louder and nearer at every shout, and at length, with a sound as if a storm were tearing its way through the forest, came rushing, trampling, belching, the maddest animals. They burst from every outlet of the work in dark and impetuous torrents, that seemed to flow from a perpetual source, so innumerable was the multitude of bees and other animals. The leaders, refusing the ford, ran wildly up and down, pawing the ground and rearing with rage and terror. They were driven back at either side by the men at arms; still they refused to take water. The rest gathered against these as a stream against its barriers, until the whole open space between the wood and the river was filled with the heaving and reeking mass. The vapor from their fretted sides hung over them like steam above a seething cauldron; while the lowing of the heifers, the piteous bleating of the sheep, the horrible cries of the swine and bellowing of the bulls, raised such a tumult as drowned both the clamor of the drivers and the din of arms. But the force of man at length prevailed, the sullen leaders gave way before the point of the spear, and the accumulated throng poured down upon the river. The water rose in a broad sheet of foam before their breasts, and swelled against the solid mass of their wedged bodies; but long ere the foremost had reached the nearer bank, their order was broken, and the river rushed free through their thinned and scattered numbers; for many had been borne by the violence of the

current over the shallows of the ford, and were vainly struggling with the rush of the mountain stream that fell into the deep water below, while others, heading up the river, were swimming wide of the landing place, or could not make good their footing on the higher bank. When the captors perceived their loss, they sent forward a body of cavalry who formed in line across the river on the lower shallows, and with their spears confined the cattle as they passed to the centre of the ford.

For a full hour the prey continued to pour across the Barrow, and the opposite ground was not yet cleared of the herd. Ten thousand head of cattle had been driven out of Hi Kinshella.— But with the prey were now crossing numerous bodies of foot and horse, hardly distinguished from the dark masses beside them in the deepening twilight. The cattle were driven together under the abbey walls, and the troops, as they arrived, were drawn up on the water's edge, at either side of the advancing column. It was now plain that the main army were hotly engaged in defending their position on Tinnelinch; for as the field on that side was abandoned by the departing herds, it was rapidly occupied by horse and foot pressing on to the fords as if anxious to place the Barrow between them and their assailants, with as little delay as might be. The river, too, was evidently rising, and each successive party crossed with greater difficulty. It was at this crisis that Fitz Thomas first perceived that the position of Cosby's horse, upon the left of the abbey, was attacked by a force from the hill and woods next Ullard. The first shout of the onset was hardly drowned in the noise of battle, when the river above was suddenly illuminated by floating fires launched from either bank on rafts of rushes and bramble.— By their light, he could see in the distance, boats full of galloglass crossing over, and the heads, above the now embrowned waters, of hundreds of kern swimming from the opposite bank. The attack on Cosby's post was redoubled; his men at arms were forced back before an overwhelming multitude of horse and foot. They debated every inch of ground, but in vain; and after a furious resistance were driven in pell-mell upon the mass of cattle. They threw themselves for safety among the astonished herd, while their assailants, keeping their front unbroken, pushed both men and beasts, with shouts and blows, back upon the river. It was in vain that De Ryddel tried to stem the rush of such a multitude, for the slope of the ground was with the Irish, and the mere weight of their charge was sufficient to bear down any opposition he could offer. Like a gallant soldier, however, he made good his stand upon the spot of level ground below the ford, upon the bank of the stream that had covered that flank of his broken position.— Here he was in direct communication with the main army, from which numerous masses of infantry were now detached to his aid. The river seemed bridged by a broad causeway, so fully was the ford occupied by the advancing succors; but the head of the column of cattle was now turned, for the routed throng from before the abbey were pouring back with irresistible impetuosity on those advancing; and they, checked or repulsed in front, and terrified by the fires now blazing among them, pressed also by the accumulating weight of water, and scrambling for the shallows, bore down against the parallel march of the infantry, whose shouts and imprecations rose fearfully above the loudest of the fray; for they were up to the middle in the river, upon the lowest verge of the shallows, and if thrust from their march, must perish in the deep water and the meeting torrent below. This was the purpose of the Irish, and their design took fearful effect.

(To be concluded in our next)

PROTESTANT TRAFFIC IN THE CURE OF SOULS.

Sir—The sale or auction of livings in the Protestant Church, as described in my letter of the 9th ultimo, is said by some to have been greatly exaggerated; too highly coloured; others assert that the story was a mere *jeu d'esprit*, whilst the Rev. Mr. O— is reported to have stated that the idea of such a traffic in his church was an invention of Papists, wishing to prejudice the public mind against pure Protestantism. Some of the lately unacquainted with the spirit which characterised the Reformation, confidently declare that the alleged abuse of patronage was quite impossible. 'How,' they ask, 'could the Protestant Church, which has reformed itself, and which is now justly styled 'the beauty of holiness,' and the nearest approximation to the apostolical model; how could it be overlaid and weighed down by such abuses? How could our clergy who undertake to set an example of Christian living to others—to instruct them in the way in which they should walk; how could they themselves begin their ecclesiastical career by engaging in so demoralising and dishonourable a traffic; at variance with all our ideas of pure morality and true religion?'

There are a few of the observations which my letter elicited, and which induce me, returning to the subject, to supply further evidence of the truth of the charges already preferred. Now, so far from exaggerating, misstating, or inventing anything, if my accusers had seen the documents which lay before me, whilst writing my letter, they would, I am convinced, be compelled to admit that I had touched rather lightly, and perhaps too tenderly, on the abuses of the Established Church.

As to the enormity of the offence of simony, there is no difference of opinion amongst Christians. It is undoubtedly the most infamous of all traffic; that the demon of avarice ever devised. It shocks every Christian feeling, to see the care of souls advertised with other merchandise to be sold at the auction mart.

I have before me the card of one of those brokers or auctioneers engaged in the simony department. It is perfect in its line, and gives a fair idea of the extent to which the business is carried on. It runs thus:—

Mr.— submits to the notice of the clergy a scale of charges for business entrusted to his care. He also takes this opportunity to express his acknowledgements for the very extensive patronage he has had during the last ten years.

TERMS.— Introductory Fee—One Guinea.

Mr.— begs to state that after the payment of this introductory fee, the party having done so, will be entitled to confidential information for twelve months respecting all, or any of the livings, curacies, &c., &c., on his books for disposal or otherwise, and in all cases where a purchase is effected, the introductory fee is deducted.

For the sale of the next presentation. If the purchase money is above £4,000, and under £7,000—two-and-a-half per cent; if the purchase money is

above £7,000, and under £10,000, two per cent; if the purchase is above £10,000, one and three-fourth per cent. &c., &c.

Mr.— has generally on his books an extensive list of livings for sale, and livings, chaplaincies, and curacies for exchange.

Mr.— begs to state that all instructions received, and information given by him relating to clerical affairs, are to be considered as strictly confidential.

'Every letter written, 3s 6d.'

Mr.— begs to state that for the first eight or nine years, of the period during which he has had the honor of being concerned for the clergy, no introductory fee was ever charged, but in consequence of the great number of clergymen for whom he has been engaged, upwards of 5,000, a large portion of his time has been occupied, and he has been put to much trouble and expense from motives of mere curiosity; therefore, in justice to himself he has been compelled to adopt such a course, and he trusts, that this plan of conducting clerical business will meet with general as it has already met with very extensive approbation.

Sometimes we read of a living as being well situated for hunting, shooting, and fishing. The following is from one of the morning papers:— 'For sale, by private contract, the next presentation to the Rectory of —, subject to the life of the present incumbent. It is well situated in the county of Monaghan and diocese of Ogher, close to the line of railway from Belfast to Galway. The Rectory House is large and commodious, and in perfect repair. The income amounts to about £1,200 a year net, arising from rent-charge; and from about 1,330 acres of glebe. The neighborhood offers good society. For further particulars, and to treat for purchase, apply to Mr. A., John-street, Adelphi, London.'

What a fearfully immoral traffic this is! how the enormity of the crime grows as we read of some rich man coming with the money-bags to the Adelphi, London, and paying perhaps £15,000 for a living in which his scamp of a son is to take the care of souls, and enjoy a large income! or when we hear of a clerical broker proclaiming that he had an extensive trade in simony, with upwards of 5,000 clergymen!

The Times, which so often assails the Catholic religion in the most unmeasured terms of vituperation, writes of this simoniacal traffic in Protestantism in quite an off handed way. In its leading article of the current year June 27, 1863, it is written:— 'In the mans and offices where livings are bought and sold in this country, a living is sometimes described as so much a head, ten shillings a head being considered no very bad price. Indeed, many a living with 500 people has been sold for two or three thousand pounds.'

The Times makes no comment. It speaks of this traffic as it would of the sale of cattle, at so much a head in the London market, and there is not a word more about it.

The hypocrisy of the proselytisers is really incomprehensible! They pretend to be greatly shocked at what they call the sale of indulgences, which nowhere exists save in their own slanderous invention. They write innumerable tracts, they thrust fly-sheets into our hands to walk the streets, they cover the walls of the city with placards, denouncing this imaginary traffic. Whilst the sale of parishes in the public market, or the disposal of dioceses for consideration equally as corrupt: as cash payment, never elicits a word of reproof. Verily the Pharisees of old were far less hypocritical! Silence on this head by those who live by the traffic, is quite natural; but how the laity who are thus treated as merchandise, who are bought and sold, bear it, I cannot understand.

The persons who enter the church by simony are the curse of modern society. Their early career has been faithfully described by Mr. Beverley, in a letter addressed to the Archbishop of York. At page 27 he writes thus:— 'I have known and do know scores of those young priests who come warm from the hot-beds of the universities. A mighty sensation they make amongst the good Christians in some country town or village; but as you inquire what they are likely to do for the time to come. But let me tell those good Christians what they have done up to the moment that they entered into holy orders. They led the life of jovial debauchees at the university, they hunted, poached, frequented the stews, got drunk, broke lumps and windows, gave the proctors a run, contracted enormous debts, drove tandems to London, slanged, swore, smoked, rioted, all the time they were preparing for the ministry of Christ's religion.'

And here let me add, that no one could know the character of those whom he describes better than Mr. Beverley, who was himself the son of an archbishop.

Christ, the true, the faithful, to whom good men return after prayer, fasting, long study, and meditation! Protestantism, favored as it is by the Court, by Parliament, by all fashionable and wealthy societies, and with all its extensive endowments, cannot boast in our day of one convert whose motives are above suspicion, whilst the True Church in its poverty, counts them by hundreds.

It is hard to bear with the prodigious insolence and ignorance of those proselytisers, coming fresh and seething from this Simoniacal Establishment, and holding a gibing warfare on religious topics with the children of the Catholic Church. They employ, at is 6d a-day, a motley crew of Bible readers, Scriptural bill-stickers, and Evangelical colporteurs, distinguished for their vice and vulgarity, to traverse the country and visit the back lanes of the cities and towns, where fanatical ladies have preceded them. It may be new to those ladies, but I beg leave to tell them, that their visiting the hovels of the poor, not to relieve their physical wants, but to originate a controversy, is not charity; it is not religion; it is the petted insolence of the rich, trampling on the simplicity, native gentleness, and timidity of the poor. It is the natural growth of an Ecclesiastical Establishment, condemned by the universal voice of mankind; and thoroughly indicated, on the part of those bright-eyed Evangelizers, a complete ignorance of the duties of their station, or of the virtues which adorn and dignify a Christian lady; and here, let me add, if the press had done its duty, the poor would have long since been relieved from an intolerable persecution, which would not be suffered for an hour in any other country in Europe. I remain, &c., &c.

Carlow, December 7, 1863. JAMES MAHER, P.P.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE REV. CHARLES MORRIS, P.P., LOWER BADONEY.—From a communication forwarded by a respected correspondent, we learn that the Rev. gentleman, whose death was announced in our last, died on the 2nd Dec., at his lodgings in the village of Grannog, county Tyrone. His death, which was rather sudden, is much regretted by the people of the parish, to whom he had assiduously ministered for the last ten years. The funeral took place on Friday morning, and notwithstanding the severity of the weather, which was peculiarly felt in that mountain region, a number of the Catholic clergymen of the district attended the obsequies. The corpse was interred in the chapel of Grannog, near the altar.— High Mass was celebrated on the occasion, the Rev. T. Taggart, C.C., Lower Badoney; Rev. Mr. McGlinchey, P.P., Lower Badoney; and the Rev. P. Campbell, C.C., Bannaigh, taking part in the ceremonies. The Rev. P. Rogers, P.P., Upper Badoney, and late of Boston, America, preached the funeral sermon. The utmost sorrow was felt by the clergymen present at the melancholy event, which had brought them together, most of them being natives of the same parish as their deceased friend.— *Derry Journal.*

The *Drumcree Reporter* discusses 'A Magistrate's' letter on the state of Ireland:— 'The figures given by 'A Magistrate' are rather startling. In England there are 62 individuals to every 100 statute acres, and in Ireland only 34 to the 100. If we were a food-producing country, as we ought to be, we could employ 62 individuals to every 100 acres, exempting women and children from the number employed.— The property and income charged in 1861 was—in England, 255,647,054; Scotland, 24,952,471; Ireland, 22,746,342, making in England, 121, 12s 10d a-head; Scotland, 81, 3s a-head; and Ireland, 31 18s 6d a-head. 'A Magistrate' adds: 'It is evident from these figures that Ireland, for fiscal purposes, is badly worked, and like one of her own neglected farms, yields a much smaller crop of taxes than she ought. Taking population for our basis, we find the income of Ireland, with even her present diminished numbers, ought, in the ratio of Scotland, to be at least 45,000,000, and in the ratio of England 73,000,000, instead of 22,000,000, as at present. Suppose the latter. What an important reduction it would effect in the rate of taxation in the United Kingdom. For instance, an extension of the basis of taxation from 201,000,000, to 350,000,000, would reduce our present income tax of 7d in the pound to 6d. Moreover, our indirect taxation would be lessened, as there would be a considerable increase in Ireland in the consumption of tea, sugar, and other articles, which are the media of indirect taxation. All this is matter for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the tax-payers of the United Kingdom.' It can hardly be doubted that England's interest requires that it should pay a great deal more attention to Ireland.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN IRELAND.—One of the most eminent of philosophers and historians has said that no despotic Government ever treated a conquered province with so little consideration of justice and humanity as Ireland has been treated by England. That opinion was uttered a hundred years ago; and to the present day it remains as well as it was then. The spirit which dictated the phrase of the late Lord Lyndhurst, who characterised the Irish as aliens in blood, in language and in religion, is the spirit which has animated all the dealings of the British Government with Ireland. And that is the justification of the apparently harsh language of the deceased statesman. We have treated the Irish as aliens, and they have become so. Now, they are flying the country by tens and hundreds of thousands. Animals useful and profitable to man are disappearing as the men themselves are going, and the land is becoming gradually waste. The Irish soil is fertile, its people are ingenious and industrious, and generally as well fitted to prosper by those qualities as any other people. The geographical position of the country is favourable to commerce, and its natural resources constitute elements of manufacturing wealth. An Englishman who knew the people well has left it on record that none were more passionately attached to justice or more impatient of its opposite than the Irish. With all these natural advantages, and their capacity for social progress, how does it happen that Ireland at this period of general affluence and well-being in the other portions of the kingdom, is going to rapid ruin? Why are the people departing, to leave behind diminished activity, decreasing wealth, and land reverting to a state of nature? What is the influence which has perverted the usual order of things, and produced this malign effect? No other answer can be given to these questions than this—that England has governed Ireland badly. Explain it how you will, that is the statement of a general truth irrefragable. We know it is said that Ireland enjoys the same administration and the same laws as England and Scotland, although it is admitted that up to a comparatively recent period—up to the time of the present generation—the sister island was really treated as a conquered province. Now, we might say that the results of some hundred years of misrule are not to be got rid of in thirty or forty years; but truth goes further, and affirms that Ireland is not treated equally with the rest of the kingdom. The maintenance of a Church alien to the people, and hostile to their religion, while enjoying the ecclesiastical revenues belonging to the people, is something more than a mere badge of inferiority adhering to Ireland. It is a direct injustice, and virtually a robbery of the Irish Catholics, who see the money which by right ought to go to the support of their Oberg and religion seized by an institution which they regard as inimical, while they have by voluntary effort to make good the loss thus sustained. And, although the letter of the general law may be the same in Ireland as in England, the people of the former country know only too well that it is in the spirit in which a law is administered its real operation lies, and they feel thoroughly that that spirit is foreign and unfriendly towards themselves. But

what can be done? We are confident that the English people wish well to their Irish fellow-subjects, and would greatly prefer to see them contented and prosperous at home rather than rushing away to America or elsewhere, as from a place of pestilence and death. We are told however, that the case is beyond the operation of law, that the evil originates in social conditions, and that no statutes that the Legislature could enact would be of any avail. This emigration, it is said, moreover, is the natural solution of a mere economical difficulty. There is too much competition for land in Ireland, and that is what has kept the country back, but now that the people are going the demand will slacken, and the would-be tenants will be better able to make advantageous contracts with the landlords. While it is admitted—and, under the circumstances, we think with reason—that the Irish exodus is a good thing, for those who go, even writers who deny the existence of a remedy admit also that it would be better if the people could stay in comfort and contentment. Well, are there really no means by which brighter prospects could be presented to the Irish peasantry successfully carried out in Prussia by Stein could not by any means be repeated in Ireland. No interference with the rights of property or with the freedom of contract between landlord and tenant can for a moment be thought of. But the law which confers some anomalous rights on the landlord to the great injury of the tenant, might be abolished. For instance, the detestably perniciious law of distraint ought to be abolished. You cannot compel a landlord to grant a lease, but if he chooses to have tenants from year to year, you can at least take from him the power to keep suspended over their heads the paralyzing and discouraging notice to quit. There are some just and intelligent landlords in Ireland who know and feel better than to avail themselves of this power; but, generally speaking, such is the malign spirit engendered between landlord and tenant by this law, among other causes, that generally in that country all tenants-at-will, as a matter of course, and totally without special or individual reason, are constantly under legal notice to quit. The abolition of that landlord right would greatly increase the security of the tenant; and, although, in general, it is wise not to dictate by law in this case we can recognise no breach of that principle were the law to give to the tenants a right to recover compensation for unexhausted improvements should the landlord, as he has a right to do, terminate the tenancy at his own will. It is all very well to argue that no Irishman is compelled to take the farm if he does not like the terms, and that it is better for him to leave the country if he cannot live in it. No doubt; but it cannot be the interest of England that natural limitation to the supply of land in Ireland should be virtually still farther narrowed by laws which afflict the tenant with insecurity, in addition to the high rent which naturally arises from a large demand and limited supply. In this sense, and to this extent, the Irish evil is one which may be dealt with the Legislature; and, if it were not hopeless to look to that body for an Act, which would produce an immense moral effect of a creative kind in Ireland, we should say—abolish the Established Church in Ireland.—*Star.*

ENGLISH MONEY LAWS FOR IRELAND.—The *True and Real Remedy for Irish Destitution and Depression.*—At a meeting of the Association for promoting the consideration and adoption by Parliament of an Act to extend the English Money Laws to Ireland, held at the Town-hall, Waterford, on Tuesday, the 17th November, 1863, John Delahunty, Esq., in the chair. The following resolutions were agreed to:—

'Resolved That a full and abundant money circulation in Ireland is necessary, to secure employment for the people, and promote trade, commerce, and manufactures in the country.

That it appears from the statement now read, that, owing to the existing money laws which permit the circulation of small notes, the quantity of 11. money in Ireland is not equal, according to population, to one-tenth of the amount of like money in circulation in England or France.

That such being the fact it behoves all, more particularly Irishmen, to endeavor to procure an extension of the English Money Laws to Ireland, and thereby enable her great and acknowledged resources to be fully developed.

That copies of this statement be sent to the members of the Government and Legislature, and that they be respectfully requested to take the subject into their early consideration, with the view, if proved advantageous, to enact equal and similar laws for both countries.

That we respectfully call upon all well-wishers to Irish prosperity and employment of the people, to join this association, and co-operate and combine with us in this movement to obtain for Ireland the advantages and benefits of the British Money Laws.'

JAMES DELAHUNTY, Chairman. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Secretary.

ORANGEISM RAMPANT AGAIN.—Those who believed that the spirit of rancour and revenge, bigotry and persecution inherent, as it were, in the Orange fraternity had in the slightest degree abated in virulence and ferocity, will find themselves egregiously mistaken on scanning the proceedings which took place at the 'usual half-yearly meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge,' held in this city on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week. True, the Address of the Grand Orange Lodge to the Orangemen of Ireland is apparently couched in moderate terms; but the sentiments, the opinions, the ends, and purposes of the knights of the fanatical organisation are unmistakably the same that they were when the brotherhood revelled in all their pomp, power, and glory. A more insolent and insulting—a more unseasonable and barru-working document it would have been impossible to send forth, at a juncture, too, when all men possessing a spark of true patriotism in their breasts, or the slightest regard for the true interests of the country and their countrymen in their hearts, are at length seriously consulting each other as to the best means of saving the country from utter destruction. We say advisedly that it will be the duty of Government to stretch its authority to the utmost, and if necessary to demand further powers from the Legislature to crush this hydra-headed monster once for all.—*Dublin Telegraph.*

ATTEMPT TO UPSET A RAILWAY TRAIN.—Limerick, Dec. 11.—A malicious attempt to injure a train of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company was made at a place within half a mile of the Pallas station, on Thursday last, which was fortunately prevented by the milkman, who observed the obstruction, which he removed before the train came up, due at Pallas in about twenty minutes. The nature of the obstruction was four large stones placed across the rails. No clue as yet has been obtained as to the perpetrators. The only motive that can be assigned for this diabolical act is that two calves belonging to a farmer in the neighbourhood were killed on the line the day previous.

THE GALWAY HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.—Some difficulties having come in the way of the larger scheme which required a loan of £75,000 from Government, the plans have been materially modified, and submitted for the consideration of the board.— In a report from Mr. Roberts, C.E., that gentleman proposes to connect Mutton Island with the mainland by means of a causeway formed by a timber superstructure at a level above the influence of the sea, supported by five massive masonry piers of masonry with intermediate piers formed of iron piles. By this arrangement, he says, the connection between the land and the island may be secured at a cost of considerably less than one-half that of a stone structure. From Mutton Island he proposes that a breakwater should be extended for a length of 750 feet, and that on its inside, for a length of 400 feet, a timber landing wharf should be constructed, forming a berth for one vessel to discharge or load her cargo. The report was adopted, and it was also ordered that the plans be forwarded to the Board of Trade.