

No, no, we had no fear for our people, we knew that bribery, perjury, and malice, were the weapons of crime, and could never succeed against the armour of truth, conscience, and charity. No, no, but we feared (as was the fact) that in the conflict, persecution from the enemy would fill the poorhouse, the churchyard, and the emigrant ship; and we anticipated in just terror, as now realized in Kilkenny, that English infidelity would be imported with the hideous-hired agents of Exeter-hall; and the vice of the English towns, and the blasphemies of the English metropolis would follow in the track of the Biblical slanderers. Respect for public virtue might urge the propriety of passing unnoticed the present disgrace of this Souper band; but yet there is a duty due to religion and to morality at home and abroad, to publish the origin and the failure of a scheme of apostasy which has cost English bigotry nearly half a million of money, and which has spread throughout Ireland the seeds of social discord, and irradicable religious animosity. I shall now proceed to adduce the extracts referred to in the beginning of this communication.

Firstly.—The following extract is taken from the *Kilkenny Moderator*, a high Protestant Provincial Journal:—
People complain to us of the beating of old kettles and pots by mobs of urchins after the street preachers, as an intolerable annoyance—and a great public annoyance it is certainly; but, in candour, these persons must admit the annoyance on the other side of having men, ostensibly in the name of religion, ranting and bellowing through the thoroughfares at the top of their voice for hours together—it is hard to say that one is a more intolerable nuisance than the other.
Four months ago the Rev. J. L. Drapes, in a letter printed in our columns, stated (as we believe in deference to the Lord Bishop of Ossory) that he had given directions that street preaching should not take place on the part of the agents of the Society for Irish Church Missions in Kilkenny; but Mr. Mairs, their local lay superintendent, who seems to have considered his special mission here to be the bringing the society into as much odium as possible amongst the Protestant community.
If the society means to persevere in the suicidal course of continuing this man in Kilkenny, it is to be hoped that—if he be amenable to any kind of authority, which, however, very much doubt—they will compel him to demean himself with some consideration for public propriety.

The next extract is taken from the letter of Capt. Helsham, which appears in another column, viz.:—
"In the Apostles' creed we (Protestants) declare, that we believe in God and in his holy Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary." This is the Protestant faith.

"The paid unordained Irish street missionaries take upon themselves to denounce this acknowledged truth to be a falsehood; and thus they belie our Protestant faith; and they apply epithets to the mother of man's Redeemer unfit for publication, and too horrible for the pen to trace. These shocking facts are of daily occurrence in the streets and outlets of our city."

The next extract is taken from the private letter of a gentleman from the County Kilkenny, a high Protestant, who states "that on coming into the city he stood to listen to one of these preachers, when to his horror he heard language applied to the Virgin Mary which surpassed in outrageous indecency anything he had ever conceived it possible for a Christian man to utter."
Hence the whole city, Catholic and Protestant, feel goaded to uncontrollable anger at the incredible conduct of these agents; and the public voice demands their removal, if necessary, by main force from the city: hence the *Kilkenny Journal* has the following short paragraph on the street fun which accompanies these apostles wherever they go:—

DRAWING THE SOUPERS.—The boys and girls of the city escort the "Missionaries" daily with various musical instruments such as gongs, tin cans, triangles, and drums, to the total discomfiture of this pious fraternity.

But it is not only the unmistakable blasphemy that they utter which covers their supporters with the cry of public shame; but it is in addition the civil strife, the civic contention which they call forth wherever they walk through the town. The reader cannot avoid being astonished at hearing that two policemen follow these men in their daily path of religious malignity, protecting them in their falsehood, and guarding them in their slander of our common faith.—This most strange guard of honour given to these men can, I dare say, be accounted for by the tax-payers, and by the grand jury of Kilkenny; but beyond doubt this sanctioned insult to Catholics, this military salute given to blasphemy is, perhaps, as outrageous in its way as the outrageous indecency complained of by the Protestant gentleman just quoted. But the reader will be further enlightened on this point when he learns that there are Souper policemen in Kilkenny; and policemen who are, moreover, so hardy in their knowledge of the power in their hands, given to them by their friends at their back, that they stand in open court with Souper defiance, and with uplifted forehead and loud voice of authority, snub a whole bench of Catholic magistrates!! The following extract from the *Kilkenny Journal* will establish very satisfactorily the truth of this singular police discipline:—

INVESTIGATION AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—MONDAY.
The Case of Souper Constable Flynn v. Joseph Delany.
Magistrates present.—The Mayor and Mr. Hart: and subsequently, Mr. E. Smithwick, Mr. Cullen, and Mr. Potter. The court was crowded. The plaintiff was asked to state his case.
Constable Flynn—I was on duty to-day in Black Mill-street, attending Mr. Mairs and the other preachers, as usual. The boy Delany was passing, and assaulted Mr. White.
The Mayor—How did he assault him?
Flynn—He threw a donkey at him. (Roars of laughter.)
The Mayor—How far did he throw the donkey?
Flynn—A couple of yards. (Laughter, and groans for the Soupers.)
Mr. Hart—Is White here to prosecute the boy?
Flynn—No declines to prosecute.
The Mayor—Then as there is no charge against him he is discharged.
Mr. Hart—Is there any other business to be done?
Flynn—Yes, I have a charge against this man (the boy's father), for assault and attempt to rescue. When I took the boy into custody, this man came up and said I should let him go. He caught me by the

hand on the arm, and said, "Do me any injury." Mr. Daniel Smithwick (who was present at the investigation) Remember what you say with regard to obstruction.
Flynn—I am minding what I say; I repeat the word obstruction. You came to me while I had the prisoner in charge, and wanted me to let him go.
Mr. Hart—You suffered no injury whatever from Mr. Delany?
Flynn—None; but I suppose—
The Mayor—You are not to suppose anything; tell us what you know, and let us have none of your suppositions.

Mr. Hart—Was he justified in arresting the boy at first, when there was no charge against him, and when no complaint was made by the person alleged to have been assaulted?
Head Constable—It was never adopted before, except in cases where the name was not known.
Flynn—He did not tell me the name.
Mr. Smithwick—If I did not, you knew me.
Flynn—You excited the crowd worse than they were by your obstruction.
Mr. Smithwick—The crowd was there before I remonstrated; and as I was known to the police, and as they knew my feelings towards them during my mayoralty last year, in making their duty light whenever I could, I thought that not a single policeman would refuse me any reasonable favour that I would ask.

Head Constable—You certainly deserve the gratitude of the police for your kindness and courtesy towards them during your mayoralty; and I am sure that they are animated by the best feelings towards you.
Constable Doreally also paid a high tribute to Mr. Smithwick, on the part of the police.
Mr. Smithwick—It is really too bad if things are allowed to go on in this way. This Souperism is a disgraceful nuisance, which keeps the city in a state of constant excitement.
Mr. Cullen put a question to Sub-Constable Clellan, when Flynn had the audacity to prompt him in a whispering manner in open court.
The Mayor—How dare you prompt the witness, Sir?

Mr. D. Smithwick—I would not have interfered at all, but that I expected he would at once acquiesce in my suggestion and let the prisoner go, in order to allay the excitement. I certainly thought no policeman would refuse me.

A Voice—Not one, except Flynn.
Sub-constable Armstrong was examined, but his evidence contained nothing new. He said White was not hurt, and that he made no complaint whatever.

Mr. Hart—The boy is dismissed as there is no charge against him—let Delany be summoned if there be a charge against him.

Flynn—I'll proceed, I want summonses for this man and Mr. Smithwick also.
The Mayor—I'll not sign them; go to Mr. Hort, R. M.

Flynn—I see you are all against me—you refuse to sign summonses.

Mr. Edmund Smithwick—Take care of what you say, sir; how dare you address a Bench of Magistrates in that way.
Head constable—Mr. Hort will sign them.

Mr. Potter, J.P. (who had not been present at the early stage of the proceeding) inquired what the boy had done in the first instance?
The Mayor—Flynn says that he threw an ass at the Soupers! (Great laughter and hisses.)

Mr. E. Smithwick—It is a great hardship on the police to be attending those fellows in their missionary perambulations; it is a fruitful employment.
Head Constable—The police feel it as much as any one else.

The Magistrate present, however, would not sign the summonses, unless Mr. Hort refused to do so, in which case they would sign them. The proceedings then terminated, and the crowd retired groaning for the Soupers.

The above extract speaks for itself, and will prove more cogently than any remarks from me the scandalous state of society, socially, politically, and religiously, which now prevails in Kilkenny, through the conduct of these wretched soupers and their clerical superiors. The case, as it stands now, is one which degrades the Protestant Church in Kilkenny, which is resisted by the most respectable class of Protestants in the city, which is viewed with contempt by the first men in the country, and which is the source of immeasurable fun and irrepressible frolic to all the poor Catholics of the diocese of Ossory.

Secondly—in reference to the police law of England, all who read newspapers must recollect the summary silence which the Lord Mayor of London put on the souper preachers of London, during the past year, by removing them from all the city thoroughfares, and by expelling them totally from the Park! And the extract which follows will show the discipline of the Liverpool police in their regard, enforced by Mr. Mansfield, the stipendiary magistrate there—a man not more remarkable for the impartiality of his official decisions than for his known liberality of sentiment, and for the acknowledged extent and variety of his literary attainments. I know Mr. Mansfield well, and I feel much pleasure in offering this small tribute of my respect to his official justice and to his distinguished learning:—

STREET PREACHING.—Thomas Crossley a rough looking young fellow, was brought up, charged by officer 537 with having disturbed a street preacher, on Sunday night. The officer stated that on Sunday evening, a street preacher was holding forth to a highly respectable congregation, in Islington Old Market, when the prisoner came up, and, after listening for some time, he cried out, "D—n your eyes, you're a b—d old liar." There were complaints made of this language, and the officer arrested him. Mr. Mansfield said the man had been improperly taken into custody. Street preachers were in a different position from the clergy preaching or officiating in the churches of established communities. If those choose to stand forth in the streets, and enunciate their own peculiar doctrines, others were at liberty to stand forth and contradict them. The prisoner must be discharged.—*Liverpool Daily Post*, April 13.

Thirdly—I must say, on referring to the letter of Captain Helsham, which is printed in the *TELEGRAPH* of this day, that I have seldom which appears before me under such favourable and distinguished circumstances; conceived in the mind of a gentleman, published from the heart of a Christian, and written with the pen of a scholar, Captain Helsham has rescued the character of high Protestantism in Kilkenny from the dishonor of opprobrious Souperism; and he has added a fresh claim to the public respect which the laborious studies of his youth, and the accomplished career of his maturer years have earned and won from all those who have been familiar with his name, or have been honored by his acquaintance. Captain Helsham is clearly a firm Protestant; and hence because he demands respect for the religious convictions of his own creed, he extends with a generous and a congruous liberality, the same license to the conscientious feelings of others. The remonstrance to Dr.

O'Brien from the Protestants of Kilkenny, and from such a man as Captain Helsham, was a noble act: his kind compliment to the teaching of the Catholic priest is a graceful picture; and it is well executed: his observations on the religious training of the children of the poor are expressed with an honorable force and feeling; while his scathing enunciations of the vice and the ignorance of some parts of England will long preserve the name of the writer in cherished remembrance with his Catholic fellow-countrymen. He does, no doubt, respect his own faith; but when the conduct of its ministry clashes with truth, honor, and religion, he fearlessly exposes the culprit, be he who he may, perfectly indifferent about the consequences. I have reason to know that this letter to the Lord Lieutenant has already been attended with beneficial consequences; and that the remonstrance of that letter will be duly attended to. If I could, therefore, presume to offer one word of my own opinion to the accomplished Captain, it would be to give time to the Authorities to carry out his requests: and to wait therefore in silence for some time till the public consent, and the realization of his hopes, will show the justice of these my humble suggestions.

Fourthly—while a society in England gives £39,000 a year (see report) to demoralise the Irish by bribery and apostasy, hear the Bishop of Exeter, in the House of Lords, on Friday night, the 23rd of April, deploring the threatened extinction of Protestantism in London and all the manufacturing towns! From statistics which the Bishop held in his hand, and which he stated, namely—
"There was no place for the poor in the English churches!"

"The poor were never, therefore, seen in the Protestant church!"
"Amongst the rich wealthy Protestants, only ten persons in every hundred attended church in some churches: thirteen in other districts: and sixteen was the highest number, on the average, which attended Protestant worship, on Sundays, in the towns and cities of England!"

In a parish of a thousand souls, only one hundred people attend! according to the Bishop: but I beg leave to inform the Bishop, from official statistics before the British public, that fifty persons is the average congregation seen on Sundays in the churches in the City of London!—*The Moderator* has well expressed the Souper movement as suicidal to the interests of Protestantism: and the word is strictly correct, since it has provoked inquiry into the creed and practices of England, resulting in the public acknowledged fact that the churches are deserted, and that universal indifference, infidelity, and reckless immorality and crime have covered the entire face of the country. The bishop, in alluding to the conduct of the clergy, quoted Milton, as aptly expressing his own opinions, in that passage where the epic poet describes the descent of the fallen angels into hell. And I shall conclude, following a Bishop's example, with the Bishop's own quotation—namely—
He feared that we were a people who worshipped Mammon.

"Mammon, the least erect spirit that fell
"From Heaven, for 'e'en in Heaven his looks and thoughts
"Were always downward bent, admiring more
"The riches of Heaven's pavement trodden gold,
"Than sought divine or holy else enjoy'd
"In vision beatific."
D. W. C.

MR. S. O'BRIEN'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

PART V.
There being now before Parliament a Bill for the amendment of the Grand Jury laws, your attention is naturally directed to the defects which at present exist in our administration of local affairs and to the principles which ought to govern legislation with a view to remedy those defects. As the taxation levied by Grand Jury presentments amounts annually to about one million sterling, and as the functions of Grand Juries embrace many branches of local administration, the subject is one which well deserves your consideration.

Though of late years the proceedings of Grand Juries have been comparatively free from the abuses which existed in former times, this improvement is to be attributed rather to the increased control of public opinion than to the excellence of the system under which they act. If an organisation be radically defective, it is unjust to lay its imperfections to the charge of those who administer it. It has been customary to speak of the jobbing of Grand Juries as an evidence of a want of integrity on the part of the country gentlemen of Ireland, but I am convinced that there goes on within the precincts of the British Parliament, in the department of private bill legislation, more jobbing than is to be found in the Grand Juries, Corporations, Boards of Guardians and other bodies administering the local affairs of the whole Kingdom of Ireland. Indeed, considering how defective is the machinery under which Grand Juries are constituted, it is wonderful that there do not prevail more abuses and corruption than are actually found to exist. The whole Grand Jury system is at variance with the principles upon which bodies exercising fiscal functions ought to be constituted.—The High Sheriff, who is irresponsible for his selection, nominates according to his caprice a number of gentlemen, who are themselves irresponsible, to act as a Grand Jury. These gentlemen impose upon the people at large taxation from which they may themselves be wholly exempt. The Grand Juries nominate according to the caprice of individual Grand Jurors, cesspayers who are irresponsible to act at presentment sessions with magistrates who are also irresponsible to the ratepayers at large.—Thus from first to last the principle, now universally accepted, that taxation should be imposed only by persons who represent the Taxpayers, is violated.

The Bill introduced by Mr. Herbert contains some useful provisions, but it fails to correct the fundamental defect of the present system as it leaves to Grand Juries selected by sheriffs the power of regulating and controlling the county taxation of Ireland. It introduces, however, the principle of election in the constitution of the Baronial Presentment Sessions, as it proposes that cesspayers who act with the magistrates shall hereafter be chosen by the ratepayers not nominated by the Grand Juries; and if Parliament be disposed to substitute the principle of representation for that of nomination in the Baronial Sessions it cannot consistently refuse to extend this principle to the body which acts for the county at large. Many of you would object to give to magistrates, acting *ex officio*, a vote at the presentment sessions, and perhaps this objection is well founded, because it may be said that if a magistrate enjoy the confidence of his neighbors he will be elected as their representative at the Baronial Sessions, and if he does not possess their confidence, his presence is

injurious rather than beneficial. Looking, however, to the operation of the system upon which our Boards of Guardians are constituted, in which magistrates act *ex officio* concurrently with guardians elected by the ratepayers, you will probably agree with me in thinking that we ought to accept the proposed fusion of elected cesspayers with magistrates, as a considerable improvement upon the system at present in force. We have now to require that a permanent Fiscal Board, similar to the Town Council of a municipality, consisting of persons who shall represent the ratepayers, shall be substituted for the Grand Jury. This Board might be constituted either by direct election, or by collecting together two or more deputies from each Presentment Sessions.

Want of permanency is another defect incidental to the bodies which at present administer the fiscal affairs of our counties. A Grand Jury is compelled to perform all its complicated duties within the space of a couple of days. Consequently it is incapable of steadily pursuing any object that requires prolonged attention, and if an individual grand juror feel disposed to apply himself with earnestness to any particular subject which requires continuity of operation, he is disheartened by the reflection that it is quite uncertain whether he may be nominated as a member of the ensuing Grand Jury. By the proposed substitution of a permanent Fiscal Board for the Grand Jury this defect of the present system would be remedied.

I will not weary you by commenting to detail upon the various provisions of Mr. Herbert's Bill, but I feel it to be incumbent upon me to notice one other deficiency in this measure. It is, I believe, universally allowed that the enactment by which in the Irish Poor Law one half of the poor rate is thrown upon the landlord is an arrangement which is both equitable in its nature and advantageous to all classes. Now if such be your opinion you ought to insist that in all cases where the tenant holds at will or where a lease shall be made subsequent to the date of this act the tenant shall be entitled likewise to deduct from his rent one half of the amount paid by him as county cess. Such an arrangement would interfere with no existing contract, so there can be no reason to complain of injustice, whilst it would operate most advantageously by increasing the vigilance of landlords in regard to every proceeding which can affect the local taxation of the country. If such a principle had been in force of late years we should probably never have witnessed the painful spectacle which is now presented in a portion of the county of Donegal, and which has attracted the observation even of foreign countries. The inhabitants of the county of Donegal were formerly the most peaceful population in Ireland. It appears that some landlords, by ejecting their tenants and placing Scotchmen in their holdings, have created a spirit of uneasiness which did not before exist. To repress disturbance a large police force has been sent to the district in which these changes have taken place, and the expense of this force has been assessed upon the occupiers alone. Thus the distress and discontent occasioned by the acts of these landlords have been aggravated, until at last it has become necessary to make an appeal to the benevolence of the world at large in behalf of these Donegal peasants. Now, if the landlords of that district had felt that they would themselves participate in the suffering which they have occasioned, it is to be supposed that they would have hesitated before they adopted measures which have evidently tended to produce social disorganisation. The motive of self-interest might, perhaps, have been more cogent than the obligations of social duty.

RAILWAYS.
If there were to exist in each county a body possessing fully the confidence of the population at large, many powers and functions, not at present enjoyed by Grand Juries, might be assigned to it. Thus it might hereafter be found advisable to authorise County Boards, with the concurrence of the Presentment Sessions of the Baronies which would be affected by the measure, to encourage the construction of Branch Railways by enabling them either to take shares in such Railways or to guarantee a dividend to Railway Companies. If the Fiscal Boards were enabled, with consent of the Baronial Sessions, to contract with Railway Companies for the construction of branch lines, it would not be necessary to seek the intervention of Parliament whenever a few additional miles of Railway may be required. The necessity which at present exists of expending several thousand pounds upon parliamentary costs, whenever a local improvement requires the enactment of a private bill, is an intolerable abuse. The appropriate remedy for this abuse is to construct in each locality an organisation which shall possess the full confidence of the country, and to provide through this agency for all the municipal requirements of the population.

The Fiscal Board of each county would resemble very much the provincial councils of Belgium, which bodies contribute their funds and their labors in aid of every object that can promote the well being of the districts for which they act.

POLICE.
To municipal bodies, such as the Town Councils of corporate towns and the Fiscal Boards of counties naturally belongs the superintendence of a municipal police. As the expenses of the police of Ireland are for the most part defrayed by the State, it may be argued that local bodies have no claim to interfere in respect to the administration of this force. What ever may be our predilections in favour of a municipal force in preference to a *gendarmerie* maintained by the State and governed by central authority, it is scarcely to be expected that you should desire to take upon yourselves the expense of maintaining this force—more especially as it may be admitted that, upon the whole, the Irish Constabulary are a well conducted body of men. But it ought never to be forgotten that a force such as the Irish Constabulary may at any time become a most pernicious engine of misgovernment in the hands of a bad minister. It requires but a whisper from head-quarters to convert every policeman into a government spy and to paralyse altogether the executive power of the local authorities. At the last Limerick Election a police functionary was sent down by the authorities at Dublin Castle to act as an ally of the Government candidate, and he took upon himself to supersede the Mayor of the City, the resident stipendiary magistrate, and all the other local magistrates. I was not present myself at the election, so I cannot speak from ocular observation, but I was informed by several persons in whose truthfulness I place implicit confidence that if the Mayor and local authorities had not offered positive resistance to the proceedings of this functionary, the streets of Limerick would have been in the most wanton manner stained with blood through the indiscretion of this delegate of the Castle. In a constitutional point of view it is necessary that the utmost vigilance should be exercised to restrain within legitimate bounds the controlling action of the central police functionaries and to preserve to municipal magistrates their constitutional authority. In a financial point of view, too, it is right that their power of imposing taxation should be defined. At the last spring assizes the Grand Juries of the counties of Limerick and Tipperary disputed the legality of some demands made by the police authorities. In Limerick the police presentment was resisted by the Judge on grounds of informality. In Tipperary the Judge decides that the amount demanded must be levied; whether the charge were made in accordance with law or not. If the decision of this Judge be well founded, it is manifest that no redress can be procured from any illegal charge which may be made by the police authorities, except by the intervention of parliament. For this reason, if there were no other, an investigation ought to be demanded into the administration of the Constabulary force, and some bounds ought hereafter to be placed upon this tendency to usurp unlimited and irresponsible authority. You ought, therefore, to in-

quire into the management of the Constabulary department.

FOUR LAWS.
Another branch of local administration which deserves your attention, with a view to its improvement, is that connected with the relief of the poor. Though I have advocated during a period of nearly thirty years the principle of a provision for the relief of the poor, I have always felt that there are many points connected with the Workhouse system which are extremely objectionable. The British Parliament, however, if not the Irish People, having decided upon adopting and maintaining this system, we have now only to consider how it can be rendered as perfect as possible. Few even of its warmest supporters will contend that it has as yet attained perfection; whilst its opponents must admit that, except in times of famine, it secures to every destitute person a refuge against actual starvation—that it provides an infirmary for the sick poor of every district, and that it brings into friendly co-operation a number of intelligent Guardians of the Poor, who would otherwise have few opportunities of deliberating together upon the interests of the localities with which they are connected. As I have, upon many occasions, set forth in print the principles upon which, in my opinion, an organisation for the relief of the poor ought to be constituted, I shall not repeat them here; but I wish to engage your support in favor of a proposal suggested by the discussions which have taken place respecting the establishment of Reformatory Schools.

No part of the Workhouse system is more liable to objection than that which relates to the education of destitute children. It is impossible in a workhouse to prevent children from forming associations of an injurious kind. Now as it is alleged that there is at present available a surplus of workhouses, it deserves to be considered whether some of the supernumerary poorhouses might not, with advantage, be applied exclusively to the reception of destitute children.—One of the most interesting institutions that I have ever visited was an *Ecole de Reforme* near Bruges (Russeyde), in which 600 boys were receiving instruction and training, which appeared to me to be nearly perfect in suitability to the class for whom the institution was designed. At a short distance from Russeyde there was a similar institution, in which 300 girls were receiving, at the time of my visit, under the superintendence of Sisters of Charity, instruction and training which appeared to be equally advantageous. In all such cases it is desirable to proceed gradually, and by way of experiment. As the feeling of this country appears at present to be in favor of separate education, some of these workhouses might be applied to the reception of Protestant children—some to the reception of Catholics; some for male children—some for female. The State might fairly be expected to provide all the expenditure that would be connected with the original outlay, but in other respects these institutions would be self-supporting, as the Boards of Guardians ought to be called upon to pay for every child whom they might send into those national establishments a weekly amount equivalent to the sum which such children would cost if maintained in the workhouse of the district to which they originally belonged.

In advocating this proposal I have assumed that the statements of those who have petitioned for an amalgamation of unions are well founded; but, for my own part, I am by no means convinced that there is such a redundancy of workhouses in Ireland as is alleged to exist. If upon enquiry it be found that none of the existing workhouses could be spared for the purpose of being converted into Reformatory or Poor Schools, it would be necessary to erect new establishments for the especial purpose here contemplated, and the sites of such institutions ought to be chosen with a special regard to the object which is to be attained.

I have now to ask that I may be permitted to devote another Chapter of this Address to the local affairs of Ireland.
I remain your faithful friend,
WILLIAM S. O'BRIEN.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—PROSECUTION OF FATHERS CONWAY AND RYAN.—Lord J. Browne rose to ask the Attorney General for Ireland whether it was his intention to take any further steps in the prosecution of Mr. Conway and Mr. Ryan. It would be remembered that the Attorney General had received the orders of the house to proceed against those gentlemen, and that he obtained a charge of venue from Mayo to Dublin. In February last Father Conway was accordingly tried in Dublin; but the jury could not agree in their verdict, and if trial were to be repeated twenty times over with the same evidence the result would be the same. (Hear, hear.) It would, however, bear an appearance of persecution were Father Conway to be tried once more. Ireland was at the present moment contented and happy, and it was wise to disturb that state of things by a revival of religious animosity, which would certainly ensue from a renewal of these prosecutions? He hoped the house would remember the language which had been made use of last night in reference to another case—namely, that the government thought it unjust when a man had once been acquitted on a question of facts to place him again at the bar on the same charge. Mr. Whiteside gave an evasive answer, but said that no proceedings would be taken before June.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—A Bill of Sergeant Deasy, M.P., and Mr. Bagwell, M.P., provides for the establishment of reformatory schools for the better training of juvenile offenders in Ireland. The Chief Secretary for Ireland, on application, may order an inspector to report on the condition and regulations of established reformatories, and to include them as reformatories within the meaning of the Act. Justices of counties and councils of towns may grant money in aid of such schools, subject to conditions. No money may be granted to reformatories unless certified by the Chief Secretary, acting on the Inspector's report. Juvenile delinquents under 16 years of age may, in addition to the sentence passed, be sent to these schools from a minimum of two and a maximum of five years, and they may be then wholly or partly maintained at the cost of the Treasury. The parents of the delinquents, if able, may be compelled to contribute five shillings a week to the maintenance of their children in the reformatories, and, in default of payment, may be committed to gaol for three months. The Act is limited to Ireland.

MR. R. WARD.—Sir Duncan M'Gregor, Inspector General of Constabulary, has been pleased to award first class Sub Constable James Costelloe, James's street station, Tralee, one chevron and approbation, on the 23rd inst., for his cool and intrepid conduct in securing a dangerous lunatic armed with a large knife, with which he threatened death to himself and any person who approached him. Too much praise cannot be given to Sub Constable Costelloe for his courageous conduct on this occasion. The gentry of Tralee and the neighbouring magistracies warmly applauded this officer for saving divers persons in Tralee by stopping a runaway horse and cart, at the risk of his life. Sub Constable Costelloe is well known in the county of Limerick, where he performed several brave acts, amongst which was one on the night of the 26th of January, 1856. The police barrack in the town of Bruff was broken into with stones, and Sub Constable Costelloe rushed forward through a crowd of riotous civilians and succeeded in capturing the two ringleaders of the party, with their pockets filled with stones. Sub Constable Costelloe is a Catholic. He was removed from Limerick on the reduction of the constabulary force, in March, 1857, without ever a complaint being made against him.