

CONVERSIONS FROM POPERY.—Our columns of Friday last contained a brief account of the confirmation of 99 Roman Catholics by the Lord Bishop of Tuam, in the picturesque village of Oughterd, county Galway, on Tuesday, the 16th inst. We have now to report the gratifying intelligence that, in prosecuting that tour the Bishop proceeded on Wednesday to Castlekirke, where he administered the rite of confirmation to 96 individuals, all of whom were converts from the Church of Rome, except two, and of the whole number two-thirds were adults, many of them 40, some 50, and a few even 60 years of age, thus testifying that the Word of God can bring conviction to the grey-headed as well as to the youthful, and that one and all, when they come under the power of that Word, are anxious to cast off the bondage of Popery, and embrace in the most public manner the glorious liberty of the children of God. In the year 1849, a confirmation was held in this parish, when 174 converts from Romanism were confirmed, thus making a total of 270 converts in this parish alone, who have been thus publicly received into the Church within two years. The following day, Thursday, the Bishop visited another missionary station (Salruick), also under the Society for Irish Church Missions, where he confirmed 30 individuals, all of whom, except one, are converts from Romanism. This mission has only been in operation little more than a twelvemonth, yet they are close upon 200 converts from Romanism, and the daily school is crowded with 60 children, all of whose parents were, until lately, under the influence of Dr. McHale and his priests, who carefully kept from them the knowledge of that blessed Word, which has in the riches of God's grace been of late so abundantly blessed to both parents and children. On Saturday the Bishop was to hold a confirmation at Cliden, where about 400 converts were expected to present themselves.—*Standard.*

ROMANISM.—It is stated that a portion of the parishioners of St. Saviour's, Leeds, who went over to the Church of Rome with Messrs. Minster, Ward, &c., have returned to the Church of England, having found the practice of the Church of Rome to be very different from its high professions, and offering nothing to compensate for the abandonment of the Church of their fathers.

YOUNG MEN'S COLLEGE AT ST. BARNABAS.—The Clergy of St. Barnabas propose to establish a College in connection with their Church, for the reception of young men living apart from their parents, as students, apprentices, or clerks. Each young man is to pay, for board and lodging, a sum not exceeding from 25s. to 30s. a week. As soon as a sufficient number of young men shall have applied for admission, suitable premises will be engaged, and the College opened under the superintendence of the Rev. J. Skinner, M.A., late Fellow of University College, Durham, and the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddle, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's, Knights-bridge.

From our English Files.

EXTRAORDINARY CONFESSION.—About a month since the *New York Express* stated that lately, at Halifax, a private of the 1st Royal Regiment, then in garrison, about to return to England, appeared at the police-office, and voluntarily confessed to having murdered a young woman, about eight years ago, at Norwich, in England. The man gave his name as Thomson, a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. His victim was a young woman with whom he had been on terms of intimacy, and the crime was perpetrated by drowning her in what he termed a canal. The crime had so preyed on the offender's mind that he at length determined to give himself up to justice, and allow the law to take its course. Subsequent occurrences have confirmed the truth of the principal circumstances narrated. Thomson has arrived in England, and is now in Winchester gaol, and one of the superintendents of that district, Mr. Hubbersty, late of the Norfolk constabulary, has been over to this city instituting inquiries. Thomson gives the name of his victim as Hannah Barber, and both he and the girl were well known to many people still living in Norwich, the crime having been perpetrated so recently as 1846. Thomson himself states that it was in the month of August of that year, and Mr. Hubbersty has learned from several sources that Thomson was at that time a private of the regiment of Carbineers then lying at Ipswich, having just left Norwich, and that a girl named Hannah Barber had shortly before been rejected by one of the band of the same regiment, in consequence of her intimacy with Thomson and other men; that Thomson got a day's leave of absence, and came down to Norwich; saw the girl there again, and walked out with her in the evening. It appears, also, that a Mr. Taylor, of Puckthorpe, well remembers that between twelve and one o'clock one night in the same month, while bobbing for cobs in the river, near St. George's bridge, he heard some blows struck, and immediately afterwards a splash in the water. He also distinctly heard the footsteps of a person running away. He unmoored his boat as quickly as possible, and hastened to the spot, and succeeded in rescuing a young woman from a watery grave. After she recovered herself a little he placed her on the steps leading to the house of Mr. Brooks, builder. Mr. Taylor, together with Mr. Rix, a brewer, who came up at the time, attempted to learn from her her name, but she positively refused to tell, or to reveal any of the circumstances connected with the event which had just occurred. She shortly afterwards left the spot, no one knowing who she was, or whether she went. Two or three persons now state that they have seen Hannah Barber in Norwich within the last twelve months, but have no knowledge as to where she is to be found. She is said to be a country girl, and her visits to Norwich were only occasional. It is very desirable that she should be found, in order that it may be ascertained whether she is really the girl whom Mr. Taylor rescued. Under any circumstances, however, it appears probable that Thomson's victim escaped the death to which he has till now thought he had hurried her. Shortly after August, Thomson left the Carbineers at Ipswich, and joined the 1st Royals, who were lying in Canada, whether he was sent to join them; and he has, doubtless, been living since that time under great mental suffering.—*York Herald.*

A WHALE IN A FIX.—On Friday forenoon, Mr. Lamb, of Greenock, was rowing along in a small boat with two lads, near the mouth of Gardloch, they discovered a whale grounded on the shore, when they immediately rowed towards it, and, after a vigorous struggle of two hours, succeeded in dislodging it with the boat-hook, when it proved to be a whale of the bottle-nose species, twenty-two feet in length; it was towed to Greenock, and exhibited to the public on Saturday. We believe the carcass was sold for the sum of £10. The first appearance of this monster of the deep in our waters caused considerable excitement

among the denizens of the coast; and numerous boats put out to sea in chase, armed with pitchforks, spades, boat-hooks, rusty swords, and every offensive weapon that could be laid hold of, but he escaped at that time. After it had taken the ground, and before it was killed it created a dreadful commotion in the water, blowing and lashing the sea into foam, and sending the spray from twenty to thirty feet into the air. The huge fish measured between six and seven feet in diameter, and the tail was six feet broad.—*Glasgow Daily Mail.*

BEES.—A correspondent of the *Chelmsford Chronicle* who is a bee-keeper, observes that he often hears cottagers complain of the difficulty of paying their rent, and as an efficient means of doing so, he recommends them to turn their attention to bees. "I would advise," he says, "young people, as soon as they are married, instead of buying so many paltry things into the house, to endeavour to save a half sovereign, and buy a skep of bees. In two years they can get a good stock, that will bring them in money enough to pay their rent every year. I have kept bees for twenty-one years, and have been very fortunate with them; the account of honey and wax proceeds for the last three years is as follows:—

1849.—221 lbs. of honey, at 6d. per lb. £5 10 6
" 9 ditto wax, 1s. 6d. ditto " 0 13 6
1850.—135 ditto honey, at 6d. ditto " 3 5 6
" 6 ditto wax, 1s. 4d. ditto " 0 9 5
1851.—170 ditto honey, at 6d. ditto " 4 5 0
" 8 ditto wax, at 1s. 2d. ditto. " 0 8 4
Total in three years..... £14 13 2
Per year..... 4 14 4

This will pay the rent and leave a few shillings besides to put into the pockets."

The *Morning Herald* announces that Mr. Birch has resigned his office of Tutor to the Prince of Wales, and that he is to be succeeded by Mr. Gibbs, a Barrister, and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. No cause is assigned for this change; but we can well imagine, and have long expected and hoped, that a late Assistant-Master of Eton would eventually become convinced that attendance at a Presbyterian place of worship, in deference to a mere political custom of the Court, was inconsistent and unworthy compromise of principle, especially when a Priest of the Church was in attendance as Chaplain to the Court, as we understand Dr. Wellesley to be at the present time.

THE CLIPPER YACHT, "AMERICA."—A Dartmouth man, who has given much attention to naval architecture, and who for more than twenty years has condemned the English yacht builder's system of building broad short vessels, suggests that the best way to surpass the America in accommodation, stability and sailing (without enlarging her sails) would be to take a vessel of her precise model and size, cut her in two at her midship section, and lengthen her amidships about as long as she is broad. Captain Matson may observe on board the Chinese junk, Keying, that her lug sails stand like boards, chiefly in consequence of their feet being lashed to booms, like the America's; so that pot-bellied sails—not boards—may be deemed the real novelty. A naval architect should never allow either mast makers, or riggers, or sail makers, to interfere with the designs. Until the dummy system be exploded, her Majesty's navy will not contain a really fast sailing ship. The Pique frigate now en route from Portsmouth to Penbrake to be lengthened 40 feet, ought, even as a sailing ship, to be lengthened 120 feet; and the length of our war and other ocean steamers, ought to be nine times their breadth. 2,000 ton paddle steamers, built upon that proportion, would bring Bengal and South Australia, *via* the Cape of Good Hope, within forty days of Plymouth—an object of high importance to the British Empire.—*Post.*

ABOLITION OF THE TITHES OFFICE.—The Tithes Office at Somerset House, is to be abolished, the tithes throughout England being nearly wholly commuted.

THE QUICKEST MAIL TRANSIT EVER KNOWN TO CHINA.—The mail of the 24th of May from London reached Hong Kong on the 8th of July, being only forty-four days in its transit. It was conveyed from Suez to Ceylon by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-ship *Hindustan*, and from Ceylon to Hong Kong in their new steamer *Singapore*. The mail of the 24th of June, which would be conveyed by the Oriental and Malta steamers, was expected to reach China in about the same time. The time allowed in the contract with the Company is fifty-six days.

Mr. Birch has resigned the situation of preceptor to the Prince of Wales. He is to be succeeded in his office by Mr. Gibbs, barrister-at-law, and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

NEW MOVEMENT OF THE ROMANISTS.—Arrangements are in progress for calling, on as early a day as circumstances will admit, a provincial synod of the principal Romish teachers in England. The synod will be held in the metropolis, under the Presidency of Dr. Wiseman, and the most important matter which will come under consideration will be the nature of the canon law to be adopted for the government of the Romanists in this country. It appears that it was in contemplation to hold the synod some weeks since, but it was thought advisable to postpone the proceedings until the arrival of Dr. Grant. The synod will be assisted by Dr. McHale in drawing up a code of canon law. Dr. McHale will arrive in London in the course of the present week.

THE PRIME MINISTER AT BALMORAL AND A HIGHLAND WOMAN.—A good joke is related of an old Highland woman, who came trudging an immense distance over the hills, having heard that Lord John Russell was to be at the Kirk on Sunday last. What, thinks the reader was her errand? She had heard that Lord John was the Prime "Meenister" of all England, and she "expected to hear him hold forth in a sh-obleemne discourse"—*Inverness Courier.*

EXECUTION UNDER SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.—Some years ago a man was apprehended near —, in Hampshire, charged with a capital offence (sheep-stealing I believe). After being examined before a Justice of the Peace, he was committed to the county gaol at Winchester for trial at the ensuing assizes. The evidence against the man was too strong to admit of any doubt of his guilt, he was consequently convicted, and sentence of death (rigidly enforced for this crime at the period alluded to) pronounced. Months and years passed away, but no warrant for his execution arrived. In the interval a marked improvement in the man's conduct and bearing became apparent. His natural abilities were good, his temper mild, and his general desire to please attracted the attention and engaged the confidence of the governor of the prison, who at length employed him in executing commissions not only in the city, but to places at a great distance from it. After a considerable lapse of time,

however, the awful instrument, which had been inadvertently concealed among other papers, was discovered, and at once forwarded to the high sheriff, and by the proper authority to the unfortunate delinquent himself. My purpose is brief relation only; suffice it to say the unhappy man is stated, under these affecting circumstances, to have suffered the last penalty of the law.—*Notes and Queries.*

DECREASE OF CRIME IN THE SOUTH.—The *Newspaper*, noticing the marked decline of crime in Tipperary, evidenced by the extreme paucity of cases tried, not only at assizes and quarter-sessions, but descending even to the petty-sessions courts, ascribes the happy change to the absence of competition for land:—"Land was the great source of crime in the county of Tipperary, and, perhaps, there was no part of Ireland that the peasantry clung to it with so much tenacity, or laid their very existence upon it, as in this. Now the reverse is the fact—they are flying from the land, as it poured forth plague and pestilence, to become inhabitants of a foreign clime, and there to labour under the heat of a scorching sun and the rigid temperature of a trying winter. Now tranquility and peace reign among us—the law is upheld and respected—and, what is a very curious fact, and indicative of the harmony which prevails, the lawyer's occupation is all but gone—our quarter-sessions' courts are generally occupied with the trial of simple larcenies, and our assizes for the last twelve months for the county have proved maiden with regard to capital conviction. This is truly a great cause of congratulation and a source of pleasure, that after a dark and terrible era of murder and crime, we now have arrived at a period of peace and contentment which may be the forerunner of the amelioration and happiness of our country."

THE BRAMAH LOCK CONTROVERSY.—The Messrs. Bramah have just published in a pamphlet, for general circulation, the articles which appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* of the 8th and 10th of September, together with the remarks which appeared in one of our cotemporaries on the subject. To these remarks they have added the following information:—

"The property of transposition and property of motion which the Bramah lock possesses are illustrated by the subjoined table. The first column shows the number of sliders in each lock; the second the number of transpositions; the third, the variations which may be made in any lock, supposing each slider to admit only of six notches, by which the actual sum of security compared with unity is demonstrated for any given number of sliders from four to eighteen.

TABLE OF PERMUTATIONS OF THE BRAMAH LOCK.

1	2	3
4	24	576
5	120	3000
6	720	25920
7	5040	211680
8	40320	1935360
9	362880	19595520
10	3628800	217728000
11	39916800	2634598800
12	479001600	34488115200
13	6227020800	485707622400
14	87178291200	7322976460800
15	1307674368000	11769693120000
16	20922789888000	206283829248000
17	355687428096000	362801176657024000
18	9402374705728000	678651612897168000

"To illustrate the practical effect of these changes or permutations, it may be stated that when a key to any Bramah lock is lost or stolen, the change of one of the sliders will effectually exclude the original key. A new key (and this is the only expense) becomes necessary, while the old one remains utterly useless in whatever hands it may happen to fall.

"This trial having been dispensed of, it is intended to fit up the same lock with such improvements as Bramah and Co. now use, and to restore it with its challenge to the place of honour it has occupied in their window, 124, Piccadilly, for half a century."

The lock on which Mr. Hobbs operated for 16 days before he could open it was by no means a large lock, being only 4 inches wide and 1 1/2 inch thick, and 3 1/2 inches over the boss (all outside measurement), while its actual machinery was contained in a barrel 2 1/2 inches long and 1 1/2 inch in diameter. That in order to open it the operator had recourse (although the spring was only 13lbs.) to a fixed apparatus to keep it down, screwed to the woodwork in which the lock was inclosed, a powerful reflector, a trunk of tools and four or five other instruments made for the purpose, and this after he had been allowed, six or seven weeks before he commenced his operations, to take a wax impression of the key hole; and further, that the lock did not contain our more recent improvements in at least three particulars, and its interior had not been opened for 34 years.

[For our own parts, we should not place one atom of less confidence in Messrs. Bramah's locks in consequence of one of them having yielded to such a prolonged and complicated attack as that of Mr. Hobbs' who had facilities which no thief could procure.—*Ed. E. C.*]

The Emperor of Austria is making a tour into Italy. In Spain the greatest rejoicing was caused by the Cuban news, but it was resolved to send out reinforcements for the island.—*Spectator.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.—The Congregational Board of Education has taken the field against the secular education schemes started at Manchester, and has held a meeting in the same town, at which a resolution was passed, setting forth:—"That in the judgment of this meeting it is of the highest importance that the education of the young people of this country should include instruction in the truths of the Christian religion, as pre-eminently calculated, under the Divine blessing, to render them valuable members of society, and to lay the foundation of their eternal well being. That this meeting, therefore, solemnly protests against the exclusion of religion from the day schools of this country; and at the same time, on the ground of well known nonconformist principles, it equally protests against provision being made for religious teaching by legislative authority and compulsory taxation."

The *Droit* has the following rather incredible story:—"A commercial traveller, whose business frequently called him from Orleans to Paris, M. Edmund D—, was accustomed to go to an hotel, with the landlord of which he was acquainted. Liking, like almost all persons of his profession, to talk and joke, he was the favourite of every body in the hotel. A few days ago he arrived, and was received with pleasure by all, but it was observed that he was much less gay than usual. The stories that he told, instead of being interesting as formerly, were of a lugubrious character. On Thurs-

day evening after supper, he invited the people of the hotel to go to his chamber to take coffee, and he promised to tell them a tale full of dramatic incident. On entering the room his guests saw on the bed, near which he seated himself, a pair of pistols. 'My story,' said he, 'has a sad denouement, and I require the pistols to make it clearly understood. As he had always been accustomed, in telling his tales, to indulge in expressive pantomime, and to take up anything which lay handy, calculated to add to the effect, no surprise was felt at his having prepared pistols. He began by narrating the loves of a young girl and a young man. They had both, he said, promised, under the most solemn oaths, inviolable fidelity. The young man, whose profession obliged him to travel, once made a long absence. Whilst he was away he received a legacy, and on his return hastened to place it at her feet. But on presenting himself before her he learned that, in compliance with the wishes of her family, she had just married a wealthy merchant. The young man thereupon took a terrible resolution. 'He purchased a pair of pistols, like these,' he continued, taking one in each hand, 'then he assembled his friends in his chamber, and after some conversation, placed one under his chin, in this way, as I do, saying in a joke that it would be a pleasure to blow out his brains. And at the same moment he pulled the trigger.' Here the man discharged the pistol, and his head was shattered to pieces. Pieces of the bone and portions of the brains fell on the horrified spectators. The unfortunate man had told his own story."

AN OCTOGENARIAN PEDESTRIAN AND THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—It may be mentioned, as a curious illustration of the desire felt among the humbler classes in the provinces to see the Exhibition, that a poor fisherman, from the Parish of Paul, in Cornwall, named Mary Calimack, aged 84, walked to London, a distance of 350 miles, for the purpose, occupying in the performance of this pedestrian feat no less than five weeks.

EPISCOPACY AND ERASTIANISM.

Great pains are taken by the organs of the Low Church party to divert the public mind from the real point raised by the unfortunate document which the PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND, in an unguarded hour, issued from his pen, and which, in an hour still more unguarded, he authenticated to the public as a record of his deliberate sentiments, instead of giving as, he might have done, such explanations as would have in a great measure neutralized its effect, and reduced it to comparative insignificance. With a view to screen the Archbishop in the indefensible position in which his Grace has placed himself, the most unscrupulous attempts are made to create a prejudice in *limine* against the assertion of the truth in opposition to the Primate's erroneous exposition of the doctrine of the Church of England, as well as of the opinions entertained by her Bishops and Clergy. For this purpose two artifices, most unworthy in themselves, but worthy of such a cause, are resorted to. The first of these is to represent the remonstrants as actuated by motives of personal hostility to his Grace. No evidence of any kind being offered in support of so grave a charge, it is fair to conclude that the charge is altogether made at random; in the absence of all proof or reasonable ground for making it. For ourselves, being among the remonstrants, we can only repel the imputation as a foul calumny, for which there is not a shadow of pretence. We entertain no personal hostility against his Grace; and in the absence of proof to the contrary, we are bound in common charity to believe that the same is the case with regard to other parties who have felt themselves called upon to raise their voices in protest against an assertion as unjustifiable in point of principle as it is unwarrantable in point of fact.

There are, unhappily, reasons more than sufficient to account for the frequent instances of opposition to his Grace which have occurred during the comparatively short period during which he has occupied the Metropolitan chair. His elevation to the Primacy was marked by the surrender of the undoubted right of the Church to show cause against the appointment of unfit persons to the Episcopal office; the part which he took in the Gorham question, to say nothing of the theological sentiments expressed by him on that occasion, involved a surrender of the Church's "authority in controversies of faith" into the hands of an incompetent lay tribunal; his speech on the Convocational question during the recent debate in the House of Lords, amounted to a denial, inconsistent with the facts of history, of the constitutional rights of the Church, and an abandonment of those rights for the future; and his disastrous letter to the Jesuit under the Puritan mask is a virtual denial of the Commission which the Divine Founder of the Church gave to His Apostles, and which is the only valid authority extant for ministering in His name. The most careless cannot fail to discern that in all this there are vital principles at stake, which must place those who are at variance with those of the Archbishop, in a position of constant and painful antagonism towards his Grace, which is perfectly intelligible without the calumnious imputation of motives of personal hostility towards the Primate.

The other artifice on which the special pleaders who have undertaken the defence of the Archbishop rely is to represent the remonstrants as pronouncing a sweeping sentence of eternal damnation against all members of non-episcopal communions. A great outcry is made about the uncharitableness of a view which, according to the misrepresentations made, excludes from all claim to the Christian character and from all hope of salvation, all those to whom the Word and Sacraments are not ministered by an episcopally-ordained Clergy. The fallacy of such a conclusion from the refusal to recognize the validity of non-episcopal orders, is transparent. The principle, "*fiery non debuit, factum valet*," is too generally recognized in regard to such controversies, to leave any excuse to those who willfully lose sight of it on the present occasion, for the purpose of placing their opponents in a false position. It is one thing to maintain that certain ministrations are irregular, and quite another thing to assert that no beneficial effect can result from those ministrations. The latter is an assertion which every right-minded person would at once repudiate; the former is a position which cannot be abandoned without injury to the dignity of regular ministrations, and consequent irreverence, and worse than irreverence towards the authority by which those regular ministrations were appointed.

As regards the question what are, and what are not regular ministrations, it is one which, it appears to us, the Church of England has decided for her members in the Preface to her Ordination Services. It is in the Preface, however, of so strictly theological a character that we are anxious, if possible, to avoid the discussion of it in our columns; referring our readers to a sermon opportunely published at this moment, in the form of a tract, under the title *The Exclusive Validity*