

poor-rates. This scheme would extend the benefit of the funds, obtained by the sale of lands and rent-charges, to all denominations. The sum set apart for life interests, it is suggested should be given to a lay committee by the clergy to form a nucleus for a new church endowment fund. It is supposed that the laity would amply repay the self-sacrifice of the clergy in abandoning their life-interests. The last paragraph of the letter is as follows:—"Let us for a moment see the result of the plan on the Established Church. It would still hold from ten to twelve-twentieths of the entire of its present property. What a foundation this would be on which to erect a voluntary Church! Believe me, the cause of the Protestant religion would not suffer. The effective missionary energy of this branch of the Church will only then be developed with a force and power which, with God's blessing, will tell in Ireland."

Lord Stanley having moved a Resolution in favour of deferring debate and action on the Irish Church to a more convenient season, and the House of Commons having by a majority of sixty decided in favour of the immediate discussion of the question, Irish churchmen are sorely feeling the want of Synods by which the great influence of united action might be secured. Too often, poor Paddy's "forethought comes afterwards."

It is now argued that if the worst comes, and the Irish Church should even lose her endowments, the Reformed religion unendowed will hold its ground against the Romish Intrusion unendowed. In England where Romanism has to contend with the endowed Established Church and on endowed Dissent, it is the endowed Church that suffers most from its forays.

It is beginning to be felt that when the Protestant Establishment, the old stock grievance of the Romish priests in Ireland is taken away, the fierce Ultramontanism of those ecclesiastics will lose its strongest support. Heretofore Paddy would stand anything from the man who he thought was fighting his battle against the Sassenach. Some leading Roman Catholic newspapers are showing a very considerable amount of doubt as to the result of disestablishment in Ireland, which they describe as intended to take from the Protestant without giving to the "Catholic." It is a time of anxiety among them, and a pastoral from Cardinal Cullen has been read in the Dublin Roman Catholic chapels, calling on good Catholics to "practice special acts of piety and prayer, as the future prospects of Ireland may be seriously affected by the measures now before Parliament regarding the Protestant Establishment, educational matters, and protection of the agricultural classes."

AUSTRALIA.—The first Session of the Church of England Assembly at Victoria, was opened at Melbourne, on the 29th Jan'y, the Bishop of Melbourne presiding.

CANADA.—The Diocese of Ontario was organized six years ago. It raised, at the outset, its own bishopric endowment, to the amount of \$40,000. Its Missionary Fund has steadily increased year by year, and last year reached \$5,628. Thirty-two new churches have been built, and some enlarged. The number of missionaries has been doubled. Fifteen parsonages have been erected, and some provided with glebes. The Diocesan Church Society has been incorporated with the Synod, with very gratifying results. A Diocesan Sustentation Fund of \$20,000 has been almost secured. Ontario College, Picton, has been successfully inaugurated. A Diocesan Depository has been established and a Diocesan Library started, which already contains over 1,000 volumes of standard divinity. A Theological Seminary for the special training of young men for the ministry is now being formed.

The Right Rev. Benjamin Cronin, D. D., Bishop of Huron, was married in Dublin, last month, to Miss Collins, daughter of Dr. Collins, of Ely Place. The Bishop, who has been a widower for eighteen months, is nearly seventy years of age, and has several children and many grandchildren. The bride is nearly twenty-five years his junior. The Bishop is endeavouring to obtain an endowment for a theological college in his diocese.