

Attorney General. At the Antrim Sessions, upwards of fifty actions were brought last week in the name of Mr. Blackburne, as Attorney General; defences were entered by Mr. Hitchcock, agent for some of the defendants, on the ground that "the petitions had abated by the promotion of Mr. Blackburne to be Master of the Rolls." The objection, after argument, was held to be good by the Assistant Barrister, and the fifty prosecutions fell to the ground. In Belfast, sixty similar cases were dismissed, with costs, on the same objection this week. If the demand for Tithes had any foundation in justice, men of rank, wealth and intelligence, would not be thus found ready to avail themselves of technical objections, to evade the payment. The resistance augurs well for the total abolition.—*Drogheda Argus.*

**POLITICAL REFORM IN ITALY.**—We learn that the Pope, with that enlightened liberality which becomes his high place, recently directed a revision of the Criminal Laws of the Pontifical States. *Galignani* says: The new penal code of criminal procedure, which, by order of the Pope, have been drawn up by a committee composed of the most eminent legislators in Italy, presided over by Cardinal Bernetti, have just been published. These two codes, entitled "Regolamento Organico ova delitti o le sue pene," are a real work of improvement, and bear the mark of an enlightened philanthropy. By them all the privileges and exemptions hitherto enjoyed by the higher classes are abolished. They establish the perfect equality of all citizens before the law, that no person can be withdrawn from his natural judges. They maintain no exceptional tribunals except the ecclesiastical ones, and those only for persons in orders, and for crimes and misdemeanors committed in the exercise of their functions. The punishment of death is preserved, but restricted to a very small number of crimes. All other punishments evidently have for object the amendment of the individuals on whom they are inflicted. As to foreigners, the enactments which relate to them are exceedingly liberal. After a delay of two months together in any one part of the Pontifical States, they are no longer to be amenable in criminal matters to the police authorities, but to the ordinary tribunals, in all cases in which they shall be found guilty of misdemeanors, or slight offences with extenuating circumstances, they are to be condemned to the smallest amount of punishment.—*N. E. Reporter.*

**TRAPPISTS IN ALGIERS.**—The French Government have bestowed a considerable grant of land on the above order.

The solemn and interesting ceremony of the re-opening of the Catholic Church at Darwen, took place on the 17th inst. The charming spot being most picturesque, and the day highly favorable, the scene was extremely imposing. A considerable number of persons of different religious denominations, not only from Darwen but from the adjoining neighbourhood of Blackburn, Preston,

Brindley, and Pleasington were present. Several of the Catholic clergymen attended on this interesting occasion. The holy sacrifice of the mass was offered up at ten o'clock, by the zealous pastor of the church, assisted by several of his reverend brothers on the mission, and the choir and sacred music, from the first masters, were of the most effective kind. After the mass, the Reverend Ambrose Lemon, of Liverpool, delivered a very powerful discourse grounded on the 19th chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, from the 1st to the 44th verse inclusively. After this a most imposing procession took place of about 500 persons headed by a cross-bearer, supported on each side by persons carrying staves, surmounted by gilt balls and crosses, beautifully decorated with artificial flowers. Eight females followed, bearing similar emblems. After these a female walked bearing a banner of the middle-ages, with one of the eight beatitudes inscribed upon it. She was supported on each side by females, bearing staves and crosses. They followed in this way with eight beautiful banners, until the eight beatitudes had been all displayed. After these several younger females, suitably dressed, walked, each bearing interesting Christian emblems. About 300 men in neat dresses, wearing green scarfs with gold crosses inscribed, followed in succession, and the whole produced a most singular and edifying effect. At three o'clock p.m. the vespers were solemnly chanted, and the Rev. Mr. Lemon delivered another instructive sermon suited to the occasion.—*Orthodox Journal.*

**The Anti-Catholicism of Poor Law Commissioners.**—Whenever there is an opportunity of shewing the cloven foot of intolerance or bigotry, these snugly-salaried officials display it freely. A young woman of some education and of sound morals became an inmate of the North Dublin Union Poor house some time ago. Owing to her good conduct, she was appointed assistant in the female school attached to the institution. From being a Protestant on her entrance into the house, she expressed a wish to become a convert to the Catholic faith, and was received as such by the respectable and zealous Catholic chaplain, Rev. Dr. Murphy. On hearing of this change, the Protestant chaplain and some of the Protestant regulators of the house ordered her to be dismissed. The Rev. Dr. Murphy requested the matter to remain as it was until referred to the Board of Guardians. It was however, sought to have her dismissal ratified by the commissioners, which they were not loath to do. The prerogatives of the regular officers were thus, in some measure, set aside; the board met, fully examined the question, and by a majority decided that the young woman should remain in full possession of the rights of conscience. As the irresponsible officials are thus taught a lesson of moderation, their subsequent liberality is yet to be learned and appreciated.

The Arch-Bishop of Sydney, Dr. Polding, was to sail from Liverpool on the 4th inst. with twenty Priests for the extensive missions of Australia.

**Active Clergy.**—I have often thought that the simple outline of the sacred duties performed by a Catholic pastor is well calculated to impress upon the mind of our separated brethren some idea of the respect and reverence in which he is justly held by his Catholic flock. To portray the character of the clergy in cities and large towns is, perhaps, unnecessary, as their labours are so generally known. I will, therefore, at present, give one amongst the thousands, who thank God, are an honour to the rural districts and country parishes. In the course of twenty hours, I thus witnessed those ordinary and regular duties, which form the daily or weekly rule of their lives. This was no festival time nor extraordinary period of devotion. It was the every Sunday work—the every Sabbath duty! I arrived in Lusk, about ten miles from the metropolis, and famed for so many memorials of religious antiquity, on Saturday evening. Here the good pastor, who in England and in France, had devoted many years to the sacred cause of his early ministry, Rev. P. J. Tyrell, with his active curate, Rev. James Dunno, had terminated the awful but heavenly labour of the confessional for hours, and had retired to complete their divine office, the recital of which takes up in itself alone nearly two hours each day. We then concluded the Sabbath, or Lord's Day- eve, by an interesting conversation upon the labours and sufferings of the Trappists, and those other religious men who are an honour and ornament of the Catholic Church. After due sleep, we arose. It was the Christian's day of rest; but the ministers of religion's most active time of duty. The pastor, after commencing his morning by the first part of his divine office, repaired to the church to hear the confessions of all who were anxious to approach the table of the Lord with piety and love! This done, he rested and offered the holy sacrifice of the mass for the relief of the living and the dead. He then opened the book of the Gospel, and having read the words of eternal hope, plainly but solidly laid before his flock their duties, their hopes, and their rewards. During this period the zealous curate was performing the same sacred work in the poor-house, thus turning the house of their captivity into comfort, and cheering the gloom of their prison with the divine rays of religion. Whilst we partook of a plain but solid breakfast, the curate arrived in the parish church again, to offer the holy sacrifice for all who could not attend in the early part of the morning. After this the pastor again ascended the steps of the altar, and for nearly another hour addressed the remainder of his flock in the most fervent terms, upon what most concerned their present peace and future happiness. After this, catechetical instruction commenced and spiritual reading for all who had not the means of being duly instructed, which filled up the time to nearly two o'clock. We had scarcely time to take a circuit round the town, when, at three o'clock, vespers were solemnly chanted by the choir and responded to by the pastor, his curate, and the flock round the altar of

love. Next followed the office in honour of the sacred heart of Mary, ever Virgin, which is recited here every Sunday, with the intention of imploring the conversion of sinners. The solemn prayers being duly recited, agreeably to the rules of this pious confraternity, the members of whom were assembled, a lecture on the virtues of the Holy Virgin was read, and an exhortation by the Pastor given. He then gave a solemn benediction of the most holy sacrament, and the evening's pious work closed by an additional enrolment of members. Time was left for dinner and that free and familiar converse which adds a charm to friendship and a pleasure even to piety itself. Thus, with a religious confraternity, good schools, benefit society, and temperance association, peace and order and the purest pleasures prevail throughout this rural seat of happiness and love.—*London Catholic.*

An accusation of a most shocking character has been published this week in one of our daily papers. As there is to be a public investigation in the meeting houses of the Methodists, one of whose Preachers is accused, we will omit for the present making any allusion to the disgraceful occasion. The Methodists, Clerical and Lay, have been exhibiting themselves lately in very unedifying colors.—*Cat. Tl.*

**A Sunday in St. Pancras Workhouse.** On first rising, the children have prayers and a collect, which latter some of them commit to memory. Then the Rev. Dr. Stebbing comes, as workhouse chaplain, and reads to them the Morning Service, giving them a lecture besides. By this time, breakfast having also been doled out, it is half-past ten o'clock, and they are marched to church, when they hear the Morning Service over again, and another sermon. They are then marched back to their hurried workhouse dinner, and by half-past two again to church; for another service and another sermon. In the evening, a portion of them attend once more the service of the church and preaching; while the remainder stay in the school-room with the master, reading the psalms of the day, and repeating collect and catechism. Supper and evening prayers then send them to bed, tired enough no doubt.—*True Tablet.*

**THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS.**—The emigration of the "Mormons, or Latter-day Saints," from this port is daily increasing. Notwithstanding the rascality of the rascal, Joe Smith, having been so often denounced and exposed, these well meaning but deluded enthusiasts continue to leave their native country by hundreds, in order to swell the number of his dupes on the other side of the Atlantic. The class of persons thus emigrating are, in appearance and worldly circumstances, above the ordinary run of steerage passengers. The bulk of them are from the midland counties—farmers and farmers' servants, with their wives and families. Upwards of 5000 have already emigrated, and an equal number will probably leave before spring. As no better freight is offering, the New Orleans vessels are taking these disciples of the knavish blacksmith at a very low rate. The Sydney, for instance, only received £115 for 180 of the Mormons, while the Henry has agreed to carry 140 for £100—little more than 16s. a-head! All this is clearly indicative of two things: first, the utter stagnation of trade between this port and America at the present moment; and secondly, the prevalence of superstition and simplicity amongst a class of our countrymen, who ought to know better than to leave their homes and kindred in order to follow the fortunes of one of the most ignorant and impudent quacks of modern days, whose knavery is so transparent as to be seen through by every person of ordinary capacity.—*Liverpool Albion.*