

marriage which can hardly be suggested with due regard to delicacy. Our novels which depict the manoeuvres of designing unscrupulous mammas to secure advantageous matches for their daughters, would derive additional piquancy from the passage of such an act as is contemplated. And what the Syracuse lawgivers, who propose to base the obligations of this involuntary marriage on the contingency of offspring, would do with a young gentleman who should find himself compromised with two or more damsels at once, their petition does not permit us to know. Would they compel him to be husband for life to them all?

We cannot confidently accuse the legal profession of originating this memorial, and yet we never saw any thing better calculated to bring grist to their mill. The lawsuits that such an act would invite—to determine whether A B is a husband or not, and if he is, whether C D or E F is his wife—would require the doubling of our Judicial force to give suitors any chance for a hearing during life.

We see just one admissible suggestion in their memorial,—that of entitling all children to an equal inheritance in the estates of a common parent. They are in no sense responsible for their parents' errors; and if any ought to have a larger share in the estate than others, those who were forced to endure ignominy and scorn, perhaps privation and ignorance also, because of parental transgression, should be most favored. But even here, it would be necessary to proceed with the utmost caution, or a wealthy man would have more children charged upon him when dead than ever truly belonged to him while living.

We wish the strong reasons for Marriage as it is—for its obligations, limitations, and indestructibility—were more generally set forth from the pulpit and through the press than they are. The habit of regarding all institutions from the stand-point of individualism, and of judging each, not by its intrinsic character and average results, but by the exceptional hardships it induces, has led to suggestions even from well-meaning and pure-minded persons, of changes which would relieve a few persons from unhappy engagements at the cost of weakening, if not upheaving, the entire social fabric. Marriage honorable and honored—Marriage sacred and ending only with life—this is of far greater social moment than the relief of a few unhappy married persons from obligations too hastily contracted and responsibilities culpably incurred.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE FATHERS RINOLFI AND LOCKHART—MISSION IN CLIFDEN.—These distinguished preachers arrived in town on Thursday, the 13th Jan., en route to Clifden. On the next morning they proceeded to Clifden, where they intend to enter on those Christian labors which have been productive of so much good, not only in this town, but in every locality which they have visited. They will open the mission to-morrow, and it is supposed it will continue for a fortnight or three weeks.—Galway Packet.

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, FRANCIS STREET, DUBLIN.—At the conclusion of high mass on Sunday the 16th Jan., his Grace Paul Archbishop of Dublin preached the annual charity sermon in aid of the parochial schools of that most populous district, to a densely crowded congregation of the faithful.—His Grace took his text from the epistle of the day, and dwelt on the nature and character of the Christian religion, and on the obligations which devolved on parents and guardians of children to see that no opportunity should be lost in securing for those entrusted to their care the inestimable advantage of a moral and religious education, and dwelt on the excellence of the invaluable institution placed under the pious control of the Christian Brothers, whose claims he most eloquently advocated. His Grace, with that paternal and anxious solicitude for the welfare of his flock, referred to the deep necessity of guarding against the wiles and snares by which the enemies of the faith sought to lure and entrap the children of the poor, and in the most earnest and impressive manner besought his hearers to guard against the proselytising schools which had sprung up throughout the city. His Grace, who was heard with the deepest veneration, concluded his eloquent appeal by calling on the faithful to sustain the schools of the poor amidst the murmured blessings of the thousands present.

PRAYERS FOR FINE WEATHER.—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin has addressed the following circular to the Parish Priests and other superiors of the several churches through the diocese of Dublin: "3, Belvidere-place, 14th Jan. 1853.

"Very Reverend and dear Brethren—In consequence of the continued rains and the severity of the season, which threaten serious injury to the country, and to the poor and working classes of the population, you will be pleased, until further directions, to add, in the Mass, to the usual prayers of the day, the collect *Ad petendam serenitatem*, with the corresponding secret and post-communion, according to the directions of the Rubric; and to solicit the prayers of your congregation for the blessing of more favorable weather.—I remain, yours most faithfully in Christ,

"† PAUL CULLEN,
Archbishop of Dublin."

CONVERSION AT BALLINROBE.—On Thursday last the Rev. Thomas Hardiman, P.P., received into the Church Mary Laffin, wife of John Laffin. She was suddenly seized with what she feared was her death sickness, and racked with pain, she exclaimed to the priest when he entered—"Oh, Sir, I lived a Protestant, but I am afraid to die one." She accordingly made her profession, and was duly received into the Catholic faith.—Tuam Herald.

On the 18th ult. Mr. Stringer was received into the Catholic Church at Outerard, after last Mass, by the Rev. M. A. Kavanagh, P.P., after making solemn profession of the Faith. When we recollect that Outerard has been long the chief seat of Jesuitism in this province, this conversion becomes particularly significant, and ominous of the fate to which that atrocious system is just merging.—Galway Mercury.

PURCHASE OF A CHURCH.—Rev. Mr. Gibson has purchased, at public auction, the Methodist Church, at Templeton, Mass. It is 40 by 50 feet. It is to be removed to Janesville, an adjoining village. This will be a convenient location, as it will accommodate the Catholics of Winchendon, Royalston, Gardner and Athol. It is to be dedicated to St. Martin. Father Gibson is zealously engaged in providing for the accommodation of our people, and we are pleased to learn that the people aid him in his exertions.—Boston Pilot.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

LETTER OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM.

St. Jarlath's, Tuam, Jan. 15, 1853.
MY DEAR MR. MOORE,—As you are anxious to have my opinion on a grave question of morality I give it you without any hesitation. At the same time allow me to express some surprise at your consulting on a clear case of conscience which, when stripped of all the other relations of policy or expediency, or private interest, or prophecies of increased good or probabilities of qualified evil, with which it is sought to obscure and confound it, is too clear for debate or conflicting decisions. With all those extrinsic private or public relations I have no concern. I have only to deal with the obligation of faithfully fulfilling lawful and honest covenants, freely and deliberately entered into, by different parties, and so precisely and explicitly worded as to leave no room for misapprehending their meaning.

Or, the strict and religious obligation of fidelity to such covenants there can be no controversy—an obligation the more sacred and binding in proportion to the numbers committed to such engagement, and to the magnitude and sacredness of the interest which they involve. Dissolve the binding power of such contracts, and you loosen the firmest bonds by which society is kept together. There is now no question about the prudence or imprudence of having contracted those engagements that were honest and legitimate. There was perfect freedom to adopt or decline them at the time of treaty, and if one party should find them rather inconvenient to be observed, that is no reason why they should be released from their observance to the injury of the other contracting parties, to whom they bound themselves by a strictly reciprocal obligation. If the proposed pledge should appear hard or inconvenient, then the honest course would have been respectfully to decline it, rather than occupy the place of others who would be ready, in return for their share of the benefits of the contract, to fulfil all the correlative obligations which it imposed! For an unfaithful and foolish promise displeaseth God, and it is much better not to vow, than after the vow not to perform the things promised.

If, then, it is displeasing to God not to perform the things promised, we cannot be parties to the violation of such promises, on the obvious principle of the Apostle, who tells us that those sin not only who do the evil, but, they, too, who consent to its infliction. This is the clear and simple doctrine taught to every Catholic child in his infancy, which grows and expands with his maturer years, if his mind be not perverted by false political maxims. It is this simplicity of the Gospel, so much opposed to the cunning and crafty wisdom of the world, that makes the Catholic people of Ireland be filled with astonishment at those violations of promise and breaches of solemn contracts, which the votaries of political expediency treat with levity and derision.

It is this confiding disposition, the fruit of the sound teaching of their holy religion, that makes the people so hopeful and reliant on solemn promises, notwithstanding the frequency of the instances in which that confidence has been betrayed. It is a glorious attribute of our people, surviving every process by which it has been sought to destroy it, believing in the integrity of others, because truth is a duty, and because they have not yet been reared and disciplined in the school of political deception.

What, therefore, is made to our nation a reproach of weakness, is one of the qualities of which, perhaps, it has reason to be most proud, and it would be a disastrous day for the interests of public and private morality were the people to feel no horror for the infraction of solemn promises, or no grief at the conduct of those who should treat lightly their obligations. Then, indeed, would their lot be hopeless, if they were insensible to any higher impulses than those which the world gives; and if they, too, like some of those above them in station, but below them in honor and fidelity, were to measure the extent of the obligation of promises by the scale of personal benefits or privations. How, then, to guard against future treachery is now a question, as it was often before seriously propounded. Not certainly by curing the people of their credulity, for that would be a remedy worse than the disease, if disease we should call so wholesome a disposition. No, but by carrying the reform where it is most wanted—by raising the standard of public morality to a level sufficiently lofty for the ideas of a Christian people, who still believe that grave, and serious, and solemn promises are sacred things, and that pledges are the property of the Almighty. Whilst the confiding voter, then, is entirely free from guilt in his over-abounding confidence, it should be shared among those exclusively who are inopportune for the price of their broken promises, and those who, far from rebuking the candidates for dishonesty, or tempting others to forego their solemn pledges, and ready to reward them most amply for their violation.—I remain, my dear Mr. Moore, yours faithfully,

† JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam.

THE IRISH BRIGADE.—THE DESERTERS.—A public meeting of the Inns Quay Ward has been held in Dublin, to petition Parliament to pass Mr. Crawford's Tenant Right Bill, to abolish ministers' money, and some other public measures. After the main questions were lightly touched upon, the orators alluded to the deserters from the ranks of the Irish Brigade. Mr. Reynolds, ex-M. P., in the course of a long speech, said: As to the three great questions of ministers' money, Shazman Crawford's Bill, and the abolition of the venial freemen franchise, he (Alderman Reynolds) would assure them that, whether in or out of Parliament, these questions should have his most strenuous and most decided support. A voice: What about the men who sold themselves—Keogh and Sadleir (hear, and cheer); Alderman Reynolds said the city wanted him as its representative more than he wanted it. A voice: But what about the sellers—what about Keogh and Sadleir (hear, and cheer)—Alderman Reynolds left the meeting shortly after. Dr. White T. C., said he had a resolution to propose which he would first read to the meeting. It was as follows:—"Resolved, That as a stigma, involving the venality of Irishmen, would be indelibly fixed upon our character before the nations of the earth, unless public opinion branded with its utmost abhorrence the treachery of Messrs. Sadleir and Keogh, we hereby denounce their defection as treason to the sovereign majesty of the people of Ireland, and we declare that such instances of pledge-breaking are equally abhorrent to religion and morality as they are destructive to patriotism and humanity—that every man who has been identified with the Irish party, and he who does not express his condemnation of treason, must be looked on as an approver, and henceforward be recognised as a concealed traitor." The doctor supported his proposition in a vehemently-delivered speech. After being duly supported and seconded, the resolution, passed, and the meeting separated (groaning for the deserters, and cheering for tenant-right.)

ATHLONE ELECTION PETITION.—From the statement copied from a Westmeath paper, that candidates have consented to be put in nomination for the borough of Athlone, it might be supposed that Mr. Lawes has withdrawn his petition, and resigned the contest for the seat. Such is not the fact. On the contrary, that gentleman is determined to proceed with the petition, the result of which he fully expects will be in his favor; and he has visited his constituents for the purpose of reassuring them of his determination.—Daily Express.

ATHLONE ELECTION.—The Westmeath Independent is "in a position, to announce that John Ennis, Esquire, of Ballinahown, and Chairman of the Midland Great Western Railway, has, in compliance with the wishes of a large portion of the constituency, consented to be put in nomination as a candidate for the representation of this borough."

CARLOW ELECTION.—The efforts of the Orangemen to seize on the representation of this borough have been already baptised in blood. At half-past one on Tuesday morning, a poor man, by trade a nailor, named Richard Cahill, 56 years of age, was assailed, almost in cold blood, by a sprig of Orangism, named Robert Wilson, son of Mr. Michael Wilson, a shopkeeper of the borough, and stabbed in the breast. The poor man was passing alone through the streets, on business connected with his trade, when he was met by a party of Orangemen, one of whom (the assailant) shouted:—"Who'll say a word against Alexander?" Poor Cahill, unfortunately, cried out, "I will," when Wilson rushed on him, and deliberate stabbed him with a clasp knife in the breast. Another man named Keogh, ran to his assistance, and received a blow from Wilson, which inflicted a slight flesh wound. Cahill was at once conveyed to the Police Office, and thence to the County Infirmary, where he was committed to the care of Thomas O'Meara, Esq., M. D., who pronounced that the wound had penetrated his liver. Both Cahill and his assailant were at the time perfectly sober. He now lies in a most dangerous condition at the infirmary. Wilson and three others having been taken into custody and presented to Cahill, he immediately identified the former. His dying declaration to the foregoing facts was then taken by R. Tuckey, Esq., R.M., and Arthur Fitzmaurice, Esq., J. P. It is feared the poor man's demise will take place within a day or two. He has a wife and helpless family of five children dependent on him.—Evening Post.

MR. KER, M. P., FOR DOWN.—Mr. Ker has addressed the following letter to the editor of the Northern Whig:—"Sir—Having seen in your paper of the 15th instant a paragraph headed 'Deserter,' stating that I have given in my adhesion to Lord Aberdeen's ministry, I think it due to my character as a supporter of Lord Derby's party, and a representative of a Conservative constituency, to contradict that statement without a moment's delay, as I am not aware what are the principles, or what will be the measures of Lord Aberdeen's government, whether Whig, Radical, or Conservative—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, D. S. KER.—Belfast, Jan. 17th, 1853."

WYNDHAM GOULD, Esq., M. P., presided on Tuesday at a meeting of the Limerick Packet Station Committee, when a prospectus was read and approved of for the formation of a company, in shares of 10 pounds each, to purchase a first-class steamer to run between this port and America from Foynes Island.—Limerick Chronicle.

DEATH OF J. PRICE, Esq.—We read with deep regret in the Packet of Saturday the death of Mr. Price, who had been so long connected with the Dublin press and enjoyed the esteem of all for his amiable, and the admiration of all for his intellectual qualities. Mr. Price had been a political and literary contributor to the Evening Packet for fifteen years.

THE "ANGLO CELT."—In the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, on Wednesday, in the case of the Queen v. the proprietor of the Anglo Celt, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Q.C., applied for a new trial on the part of the defendant, who had been found guilty of a libel upon the officers and men of the 31st Regiment. The Court, after hearing the application, took until next day to consider.

THE "WORLD" AND THE "NATION."—In the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, on Saturday, Mr. O'Driscoll renewed an application he made on Friday for a bench warrant against Mr. Duffy, for neglecting to enter into recognizances, which he submitted he was bound to do, according to the practice in such cases. Mr. O'Hagan, Q.C., said that he applied for Mr. Duffy to resist the motion. Mr. Duffy had pleaded that day, and was ready to do everything else that was necessary; the court therefore would refuse the application. The Chief Justice stated that the court was of opinion that there was no ground for the motion, which should be refused.

The Limerick Examiner states that the present Government has determined to prosecute in the Six-mile bridge affair; and that the Attorney General will attend the Clare assizes for the purposes of conducting the proceedings against the military and Mr. Delmege.

Mr. Wilberforce, brother of the Secretary of the Defence Association, has purchased a portion of the Renville estates in Connemara, situated at the head of Killery Bay.—Galway Mercury.

We are glad to find in his Grace's Pastoral an authoritative confirmation of the facts we gave some weeks ago in reference to the exaggerated and false statements circulated, respecting the extent of proselytism in this diocese. Even in Achill it seems that each succeeding day witnesses the desertion of the proselytising "meal stores" and "strabour schools," to which some few destitute children were attracted by hunger. His Grace, with that consistency which characterised his whole eventful life, is still anxious to extend further those religious and educational institutions in which Catholic youth may receive a solid education without danger of alloy from heretical or infidel principles. It is an instructive but melancholy fact that the so-much-boasted National system has not been found a sufficient antidote against the efforts of proselytism, whilst wherever the Monks of St. Francis have succeeded in founding schools, proselytism has vanished before their laborious and self-sacrificing zeal. His Grace has, in recommending a system of simultaneous contributions for local purposes, hit upon a chord which will vibrate deeply from end to end of this extensive diocese. There are many pious Catholics who will cheerfully respond to a call rendered so imperative by the bigoted and unprincipled hostility of a few who are attempting to tyrannise over the consciences of their famine-stricken tenantry.—Tuam Herald.

It is stated by the Manchester Courier that there was a meeting held for the purpose of laying before the religious public of Manchester a plan for the regeneration of Ireland, by establishing at Ballinglen an institution for the instruction of the people in the rudiments of agricultural avocations, and that Mr. Thos. Greig was the chairman who explained that this project has originated with a Dr. Duff, whose great experience in India at the head of a similar educational establishment enabled him to offer most valuable suggestions. One thing was clearly pointed out, that this movement was essentially Protestant—that it sought by green crops, guano, and Protestantism, to change the face of the country.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY MEETING.—At the meeting of the Friends of Religious Equality, held on Wednesday, we find the verdict of the country, in condemnation of those who took place in violation of their solemn pledges to the contrary, expressed with an amount of earnestness equal to that which characterised the conduct of the supporters of the tenant right cause on the preceding day. The repeated condemnation thus expressed in Dublin will, we trust, be taken up by the several constituencies throughout the country. From end to end of the kingdom the fiery indignation of an outraged people should go forth in denunciation of the treachery practised against national honor and national confidence. There is no time to be lost. If the country exhibit symptoms of apathy in this crisis, and permit connection or communion with men who have so seriously damaged and attempted to destroy the national sentiment, it will be hard to repair the injury.—Tuam Herald.

LORD DERBY AND HIS IRISH TENANTRY.—The Limerick Chronicle, after remarking that the late Premier is quite dissatisfied at the conduct of most of his tenantry in Tipperary, makes the following announcement:—"The Earl of Derby has ordered to be sold off all the farm stock upon his estates in Tipperary, and is building commodious houses upon every farm of fifty acres average, to be let to English and Scotch agriculturists."

The Irish renegades are already grumbling over their bargain. They find that the treason which was to have made men of them all was not so profitable as they expected. The Peelites and Whigs have monopolized more than the lion's share of the spoils and slung to the hungry Brigadiers but a few stray lumps of official garbage.

JUST THE THING.—Whatever blundering has been committed by the new Government in the arrangement of offices, one appointment at least has been most felicitous. It is given to the proper man.

Sir James Graham may "miss stays," at the Admiralty; Sir Sidney Herbert bungle at the War Office; and Mr. William Keogh fail in his law as Solicitor-General; But Mr. John Sadleir, as Irish Lord of the Treasury, will be in his proper element.

The country commonly imagines that an Irish Junior Lord of the Treasury has important financial duties to discharge in connection with the revenue and monetary concerns. No such thing.

The business of Mr. John Sadleir's office is not so respectable, though it is often more important.

Mr. John Sadleir is taken into Government employment to corrupt and bribe the Irish Members of Parliament by the promise and bestowal of small places. He is to the present Government what Montesquieu Bellew was to Lord John Russell's. He is to be the agent of every filthy intrigue; the paymaster of every renegade Irishman who can be got to shout at the back of his employers.

This is absolutely the nature of the office Mr. Sadleir has accepted; and that he is eminently qualified for it no one can deny—"nobody dare deny."

The Coalition have taken his measure to a hair. They have misfitted other men lamentably. One laughs to see Palmerston confined to the petty limits of the Home Office, narrowing his mind to the superintendence of police reports and gaol deliveries; but the late Member for Carlow will be perfectly at home.

And his work lies before him. When the Whigs determined to seduce the Irish Repeal Members, the work of corruption was comparatively easy. They had to deal with notorious profligates and pretenders. But now it will require miracles of persuasions to break the phalanx of representatives who had not gone over to the enemy.

If any man could do it, Mr. Sadleir might hope to succeed. He has all the arts, and is habituated to all the practices which qualify for the disreputable duty. But we warn him that, with the exception of his own corrupt and disgraceful "tail," his efforts will be useless.

He and his Colleague, Mr. Hayter, who knows something of Irish Representatives of the old School, will only burn their fingers if they try to extend their practice beyond the limits of the few who have apostatized with the Brigadiers who are in office.

Let no man misunderstand Mr. Sadleir's position. His place is not a sinecure; his appointment is not an "innocent" one. It involves the discharge of many discreditable and unclean duties. And he would not be in it if he were not competent to fill it. For, it at least is always given to a knowing hand. And the heads of the Government have evinced unwonted discrimination in putting the proper man in his proper work.