

hurled a fine German battalion into the air. During four hours the carnage and uproar continued. The thick cloud which rose from the breach streamed out on the wind for many miles, and disappeared behind the hills of Clare. Late in the evening the besiegers retired slowly and sullenly to their camp. Their hope was that a second attack would be made on the morrow; and the soldiers vowed to have the town or die. But the powder was now almost exhausted; the rain fell in torrents; the gloomy masses of cloud which came up from the south west threatened a havoc more terrible than that of the sword; and there was reason to fear that the roads, which were already deep in mud, would soon be in such a state that no wheeled carriage could be dragged through them. The King determined to raise the siege, and to move his troops to a healthier region. He had in truth staid long enough: for it was with great difficulty that his guns and waggons were tugged away by long teams of oxen.

"The history of the first siege of Limerick bears, in some respects, a remarkable analogy to the history of the siege of Londonderry. The southern city was, like the northern city, the last asylum of a Church and of a nation. Both places were crowded by fugitives from all parts of Ireland. Both places appeared to men who had made a regular study of the art of war incapable of resisting an enemy. Both were, in the moment of extreme danger, abandoned by those commanders who should have defended them. Lauzun and Tyrconnel deserted Limerick as Cunningham and Lundy had deserted Londonderry. In both cases, religious and patriotic enthusiasm struggled unassisted against great odds; and, in both cases, religious and patriotic enthusiasm did what veteran warriors had pronounced it absurd to attempt."

(From the Tablet.)

Most of our readers know some one who is a Freemason, but few or none know anything of Freemasonry. The secret of the sect is well guarded, and no uninitiated person can penetrate within the dark enclosure of its mystery. The popular impression is that they are a very benevolent class, these Freemasons, fond of processions and good dinners, always ready to lay the first stone of any building from a church to a hotel. People look on and admire the Masonic rite, and all is over. The Freemasons are like the rest of their fellow-creatures; some have a religion, others none, though all are suspected by the ignorant public to be more or less inclined to Deism.

In England the Freemasons are supposed to be indifferent in their Masonic capacity to the course of politics; but it is only a supposition. The members of the sect are believed to be under an obligation to succour another member in difficulties, and it is possible that the difficulties of an election contest may be within the meaning of the obligation. It is also admitted that a Mason in one country is a Mason in all, and that he may assist, as of right, at all the lodges in the world, as a "free and accepted Mason." The English and the Continental Masons are brothers of the same craft or mystery, and entertain a certain correspondence, which is supposed to tend to their mutual edification, and the general progress of their sect. The Masons are a sort of imitators of the universality of the Church, and all nations and all religions find admission within the fraternity. It is therefore nothing unreasonable to comprehend the whole society in one condemnation, as the Sovereign Pontiffs have done, and to warn all men, who prefer their souls to the orgies of the sect, against any commerce with the interdicted craft.

Of late years the Continental Masons have been gradually throwing off the pliant restraints which were supposed to keep them from intermeddling with the public affairs of their respective countries. They have made revolutions before now, and the expulsion of the Orleans family was pronounced their work by a member of the Provisional Government. Since Louis Napoleon has taken the power into his own hands the French Masons have been extremely cautious, if not idle. But it is not so in the neighbouring kingdom of Belgium. There reigns the most absolute liberty for evil, and the Masons take advantage of their position to propagate their opinions, not always publicly however, but among the silly people, who, for some motive or other, join themselves to the sect.

The Belgian Masons have for some time insisted on their right to govern the State to the exclusion of non-Masons. They have publicly proclaimed their hostility to the Catholic faith, and to all social institutions depending on it, or in harmony with it. The definition of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception threw them into a frenzy of madness, from which they had not recovered when the Austrian Concordat brought on another access of their chronic malady. It is scarcely credible that the men of progress, as they call themselves, should have made no progress themselves; but, nevertheless, the fact is so. They are precisely what they were a hundred years ago. Voltaire is still their guide, and they cannot express themselves but in his language; nor have they any theories to propose which he had not proposed before.

A Belgian Mason has lately become notorious by the publication of a speech he made at the winter orgies of his sect. The publicity which his speech obtained is not owing to him, but to some false brother, in all probability, scandalised at the doctrines so nakedly put forth. And certainly, if this man's opinions were to prevail, there would be little or no liberty left in the world. He demands the suppression of standing armies, the confiscation of all Ecclesiastical property, the organisation of labour by means of associations of workmen, together with the creation of a bank of credit. He further requires the State to educate everybody gratuitously in the elements of knowledge, and that there shall be no such thing as irremovable judges, nor capital punishment for political crimes; nor, indeed, for any crime at all. Whether the Freemasons could manage, or live under, a government thus constituted, they best know, but we should personally emigrate from such a country as soon as we possibly could, for we are by no means certain that we should be able to preserve a sixpence in our pocket where such precious principles are practised.

The modern developments of Freemasonry are exciting the fears of even the most tranquil-minded. Even Liberals, who had no objection to see the Clergy reviled, or the doctrines of the Church scoffed at, may well tremble when their property is thus attacked.

The Freemason from which we have quoted these opinions maintains that a man has a right to work, which means, that a rich man must find work for him whether he likes him or not; whether he wants an additional labourer or not. This right of labour is said to flow naturally from the right of existence, and it is just possible that some more learned Mason may derive other rights too from that right, of which we are all in possession.

It is time for people who take up questionable theories about their rights and duties to consider what those rights and duties mean in the hands of others. The intermeddling of the State with the general education of the people is not likely to stop where it stops now. There are other men busy at this besides the Committee of Council, and they have a very definite theory on the matter. The end of all is identical with that of the Belgian Mason, the supremacy of the State, and the absolute denial of the supernatural principle. "Shall we crush the wretch," says this miserable man, "or submit to his authority?" That is the point, and the issue is plainly put. The Freemasons avow themselves on the side of evil, and are ready to abolish the Church in order to establish their own domination. They see that it is a fight unto death without truce or quarter, and that no peace is possible till one side be completely subdued. For the present it is sufficient to give the education of the people to the Government, and to ignore the Priesthood; but when the State shall have given education for two generations, the State itself will disappear before the fury of its own pupils, *filia devorabit matrem*. The Anarchists and Socialists—terms applied to Belgian Masons, according to their own confession—will not rest till they are beaten or victorious themselves. Their friends in other countries—consciously or unconsciously—are doing the same work, increasing the functions of the secular power at the expense of all the traditions and instincts of the world. There are wise men who will be oracles in the eyes of the Heywoods for ever, and who will prove that God, though omnipotent, could not create the earth in less time than some millions of years. These are the men whom the State will employ to educate the people, and no wonder that they begin to feel the necessity of destroying private property and abolishing capital punishments; for when men are all scientifically certain that they have no souls, the bodies of their neighbours will not be very safe.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Rev. Dr. Coghlan, of St. Michael's, Limerick, has been appointed parish priest of Abbeyfeale, by the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan.

The Right Rev. Dr. McKinnon, Bishop of Arichat, Nova Scotia, has arrived at Waterford.

The charity sermon preached at Ennis on Sunday, by the Rev. Father Petcherine, in aid of the completion of the new Catholic chapel realised £40.

Sir Thomas Redington has resigned his office of one of the Secretaries of the Board of Control, in order to become a candidate for New Ross.

SLIGO BOROUGH ELECTION.—Letters from Sligo announce the formal withdrawal of all the candidates from the hustings save Mr. Wynne and Mr. Somers, in whom are respectively personified the Derbyite and Palmerston Administration. Great efforts, it is reported, were made to induce Mr. Somers to give way to some other Liberal more to the taste of the constituency, but the ex-member was inexorable, and the contest (says the *Freeman*) "will be one between Palmerston's nominee and the nominee of the Carlton Club." The odds are altogether in favour of Mr. Wynne.

WATERFORD AS A NAVAL STATION.—It affords us much pleasure to have authority for stating that the remonstrance of the mayor against the removal of the war steamer, which lately paid our port such a flying visit, as well as his representations of the claims and eligibility of Waterford as a naval station, have been attended with success, and that for the future, when the exigencies of the service do not require their presence elsewhere, we may expect to have at least one vessel of war anchored in our waters. A steam frigate of larger size than the last may be expected in a short time, and should the fleet not be despatched this year to the Baltic, she will probably occupy her station in the Suir until replaced by another.—*Waterford Mail*.

An immense quantity of potatoes was sold in Ennis market on Saturday, and realised high prices. We have heard an old inhabitant say that in the whole course of his experience he had not seen so many potatoes for sale on a single day. All of them were disposed of at an average rate of 6d per stone.

The spring operations progress with unwonted energy while the only drawback is the scarcity of labourers.—*Roscommon Messenger*.

A VOICE FROM AMERICA.—We extract the following from the letter of an Irish emigrant now in Boston, U.S.:—"I often think what fools the people are to sell their farms to come out here. It is sheer madness. There are some people shut up in miserable rooms in Boston that I have known to be respectable farmers in Ireland. And things are far worse in New York. I could not live in such places if I were to travel the world over."—*Waterford News*.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT DARTRY CASTLE, THE RESIDENCE OF LORD CREMORNE.—A destructive fire broke out on Saturday evening in Dartry Castle, county Monaghan, the residence of Lord Cremorne. The fire was first observed at six o'clock in the evening, when a message was immediately despatched to Mr. McCoy, of Monaghan—a distance of at least thirteen miles. Mr. McCoy exerted himself with the greatest energy, and arrived at the scene of the conflagration at nine o'clock, bringing with him a fire engine, and several men to work it. By this time the flames had enveloped a great portion of the building. The firemen promptly set to work, under the able direction of Mr. McCoy, and were busily employed until nine o'clock on Sunday morning, when they succeeded in extinguishing the fire, saving about one-half of the house, and the whole of the valuable furniture. The damage is estimated at seven or eight thousand pounds, which is covered by insurances in the Alliance Company. The fire was caused by the bursting of a flue near the top of the house, and when discovered the roof was in flames. The edifice was erected some ten years ago at enormous cost, the stones of which it was composed having been brought over from Scotland, and carted from Dundalk to near Rockcorry.

KEOGH ON THE BENCH.—The *Wexford People* utters this indignant protest against the possible promotion of Mr. William Keogh:—"The 'astounding disclosures' connected with the career of the wretched Sadleir do not 'astound' us. Fellows who are liars and perjurers in public will be thieves in private; there are not two kinds of morality. The infamous policy known by the name of Sadleirism has inflicted an amount of mischief on this unfortunate island greater than any other perfidy perpetrated since an English foot first polluted the soil of our country. If this abominable policy will be extinguished by the death of its author, much as we may regret the horrid scandal—deeply as we may deplore the fate of the miserable suicide—we must admit that 'out of evil cometh good.' We do not envy the feelings, if any they have, of the men who supported this most unhappy man, and his detestable system of public lying and shameless corruption; men whose ostentatious support of Sadleirism drove to death the purest spirit, the noblest intellect, the most unselfish patriot that ever advocated the Irish cause, and sent into exile 'the foremost man of all this island,' a man who risked his life for the independence of his country, and who would cheerfully lay his head on the block, if the sacrifice would establish the freedom of this beautiful but mis-governed land. We believe that Sadleirism is crushed for the next twenty years at least. If truth and justice and morality have not sufficient weight to deter men from supporting such an infamous system, the risk of losing money will keep them from having any connection with public pledge-breakers. They won't be accessaries after the fact when their pockets are in danger. The next man who makes a public pledge and breaks it, if he is a banker, every one who holds his notes will run to get them changed for gold; every man who has money deposited with him will hurry to place it in an honest establishment; if he is in any other business, no man will discount a bill for him; he will suspect the names to be forged; no man will sell him goods; he will expect payment in the Court of Bankruptcy, and so this evil will cure itself. Both God and man, both honesty and self-interest will brown on the atrocious system, and Sadleirism will be remembered with horror, as the greatest moral plague that ever afflicted this country. There is another consideration that presses on us here. For some time rumors have been current that Mr. William Keogh, the colleague of Sadleir in public pledge-breaking, and who even went further than Sadleir in his protestations; for Keogh swore, 'So help him God!' he would never hold office under any government that would not make Crawford's Bill a Cabinet question; and he holds office under Lord Palmerston who laughs at Fenian Right—there are rumors that this man is to be made a judge. Can such a profanation be possible? Can public decency be so outraged? Can the plainest principles of morality be so trampled in the dust? We believe the government of Lord Palmerston is capable of doing a large amount of iniquity—but there is a limit beyond which they dare not pass, or the whole world would cry shame on them, and this is one."

AN ORANGE RIOT AT PORTADOWN.—At Portadown Petty Sessions, held on Friday, before Messrs Millar, R. M., and Shillington, two Catholics were charged with having broken a drum belonging to a party of persons who were walking in procession and playing party airs. For the defence it was stated that the plaintiffs had been of a crowd who had marched in procession to the residence of a man named Fern, who is a Catholic, playing party airs; that the defendants and others ordered them off, and a scuffle ensued in the course of which the drum was broken. Mr. Millar, in pronouncing the decision of the bench, said that as it had been proved that the drum had been broken, which was an illegal act, the bench had no alternative but to mulct the defendants in the amount of the damage done—that was, 5s. each; but he should tell the parties who were called the Orangemen that they were not adopting a legal course in these processions, which were calculated to disturb the peace of the country, and excite animosity and ill will. Two other men were charged with breaking drums on the same occasion, and fined in similar amounts, the bench making similar remarks. Countercharges by the Catholics were brought against the Orangemen for illegal procession. It was proved that the defendants, Henry Flavel, Thomas Christopher Dynes, Francis Dynes, Russell, Thomas Riddell, and others, had marched in procession with a number of other persons playing party airs, and crying "To hell with the Pope," "To hell with the holy water," &c. Information were taken against the parties for a breach of the illegal processions act, returnable to the Armagh Assizes.—*Banner of Ulster*.

IRISH PAUPER STATISTICS.—Returns just published, on the motion of the Irish Secretary, show that on the 1st of January, 1856, there were 73,083 persons in Ireland in receipt of relief, against 86,819 on the 1st of January, 1855—viz., 72,247 in-door, and 836 out of doors. This is equivalent to a decrease of pauperism amounting to 15.8 per cent. The decrease included every county.

EMIGRATION.—By the Mars, from hence to Liverpool, we perceive the ebb of emigration increasing to the United States. About 60 left, amid the lamentations of those departing, and the relatives they left behind. Several were of a respectable class.—*Waterford Chronicle*.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY GALWAY.—A dreadful murder was perpetrated a few days ago near Portumna, Mr. Thaddeus Callaghan, solicitor, of 3 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, and Ballinruane, in county Galway, having fallen a victim. It would appear that Mr. Callaghan became obnoxious to the tenantry soon after obtaining possession; he served ejectment suits on some of the occupying tenants and dispossessed several of them. The *Freeman's Journal* has the following report of the occurrence:—"We have just received an account of the lamentable end of the above named gentleman, who, it is much to be feared, fell a victim to the private revenge of some unfortunate outcast evicted from a property which recently came into his hands. It is said that about eighteen months ago Mr. Callaghan came into possession of his property, and that immediately after he commenced proceedings for the removal of every occupant on it. Several ejectments were successfully carried out, and, whether correctly or not, rumour attributes his death to the irritation of some of the wretches who were left homeless and homeless in a heartless world." The accounts received in town to-day state that Mr. Callaghan was assailed on the high road near Portumna, and so seriously injured by stones flung at him that death almost immediately ensued."

HUMANITY OF ENGLISH POOR LAW OFFICIALS.—We have to record a case of inhumanity, if not barbarity, of English Poor Law officials. The facts are in themselves so very atrocious that we will give them simply. William Kelly, a native of Newcastle, in the county Limerick, migrated to Bristol more than ten years ago, and has been resident and employed there during that period. About ten days since he fell accidentally into the river and got cold, and was taken to Stapleton Infirmary; where he was treated for a few days, but, while in a very weakly state, he was, without any notice, put into a cab, taken down to the Bristol steamer, and put on board as a deck passenger, without a morsel of food or an atom of covering. The sailors on board, having more pity than the Poor Law officials, subscribed 1s. to get him something to eat, but he was thus, at this wintry season, in an infirm, delicate state, exposed for a day and a night as a deck passenger to the asperities of the weather and the danger of sickness, and was landed here a picture of suffering, thus thrown on our quay, and still sixty miles from his home. He fell into hands less harsh than those he met in England. He was sent by the Mayor to the poorhouse, until Monday, when he will be transmitted to Newcastle, county Limerick.—*Waterford Mail*.

THE FRAUDS OF MR. SADLEIR.—A Commission of the Royal Swedish Railroad Company has ascertained, after a hasty preliminary examination, that the over-issue of shares on this Company amount to 16,291 £5 shares and 18,782 £4 shares—but the Commission admits that as yet it is impossible to arrive at a correct statement, and that the total issue appropriated to himself may possibly prove to have been £250,000. A new commission, to make a more searching investigation has been appointed.

Great excitement and disappointment has been caused by the wholesale robbery of the Tipperary Joint Stock Bank; many have lost their lives as well as money from disappointment, and the sudden shock occasioned one farmer to beat his wife to death, because she dissuaded him from taking out his money (£300) when he heard of the alarm. A poor woman who was gathering her little savings—near £100—to send her stepson to America, has lost it all.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

The details of the frauds and robberies of the wretched suicide Sadleir are beginning to appear, and so far seem to bear out the "astounding disclosures" of his "friend" in the *Morning Advertiser*. The preliminary investigation into the affairs of the Swedish Railway Company establish the fact of the fraudulent issue of shares and bonds to the enormous nominal amount of nigh a quarter of a million sterling. What sum was actually realised by this audacious swindle it is impossible to say—probably not more than a third of the amount with which the unfortunate shareholders are thus iniquitously saddled. But as this loss will fall principally on British capitalists, we are pretty certain to have a strict and searching investigation into the whole concern, and already the *Times* has opened fire upon those who may be considered delinquents in the second degree. This branch of the great Sadleir swindle may, therefore, be looked upon as in tolerably safe hands.—But what shall we say of the unfortunate shareholders and deluded depositors in that gigantic and most villainous swindle, the Tipperary Bank? Certainly, the proceedings before the Master of the Rolls on Tuesday open before the melancholy prospect. Never before in all the annals of bankruptcy and swindling did such a case come into a court of justice or of law.—The Tipperary Bank had a subscribed capital of a hundred thousand pounds, and their liabilities for deposits, &c., were stated in court to amount to four hundred thousand pounds. Well, what are the assets to set against half a million of hard cash entrusted to the managers or manager of this bank? Why, just £5,400 in money, and £30,000 in bills, &c. This is the statement made on behalf of James Scully, a shareholder, and, we believe, a near relative of the Sadleirs. What became of the £460,000 constituting the great bulk of the capital and deposits? Why, Mr. John Sadleir "overdrew his account" (what mild and considerate phraseology!) to the extent of some £200,000, and the other quarter of a million has yet to be discovered and accounted for.—Such, so far as we can understand from the report of the proceedings in the Rolls Court, seems to be the position of the unfortunate shareholders and the deluded depositors of this bank. If the statements put forward on behalf of Mr. Scully be well founded, and no one there threw any doubt upon them, not only has the whole capital of the shareholders been swept away, but they have been involved in liabilities to an enormous and ruinous extent. To what extent it is at present impossible to say, because it must depend a good deal, not only on the amount of deficiency to be made good, but also on the solvency of particular shareholders. Several of these are known to be men of substance; but of others a different idea is entertained. Of course the solvent shareholders will have to pay for the insolvent ones, in addition to their own share of the liability, and thus it may happen that a share in this concern of the nominal value of £50 and on which a dividend and bonus at the rate of 9 per cent. was received a few weeks ago, may turn out to be worth several hundred pounds less than nothing.—The great probability at present is that the unfortunate shareholders, or such of them as have anything to lose, will be utterly ruined, and yet that the depositors will be robbed to a fearful extent. It is asserted by writers, evidently well informed, in the *Freeman* and *Evening Post*, that the entire property of all the shareholders would not suffice, if sold, to make good the defalcations. The latter journal says:—

"Look to facts that transpired, we fear that the creditors of the bank, as well as the shareholders, will be sufferers to a very considerable extent. The liabilities are so immense that the entire property of the shareholders—supposing all the names on the list to represent persons who had made 'bona fide' investments—would probably fall far short of the amount. It is stated that some of those persons, although their names appear on the registry, are mere nominal proprietors, and that others are possessed of narrow means. All the shareholders are liable to the last shilling they possess; but, even if they were totally exhausted by successive calls, we fear much that the entire produce would be greatly below £400,000.

"And this was the more deplorable, because a large proportion of the creditors are farmers and small traders, who, deceived by false representations of prosperity and the temptation of a high rate of interest on deposits, had left all their savings and their capital at the various branches of the bank. Some heart-rending cases have been mentioned in the local