

estimable son. Were that son his sister's husband, I tremble to think of the further acts of business he might perpetrate, of the misery I should endure, the self-reproach I should feel for, believe me, added Margaret, 'Minnie and myself are always, as it were, on the verge of a precipice, trembling lest the post should bring us some painful intelligence from or concerning this unhappy man. Spare me, then, dear Mrs. Maxwell, continued Margaret, with a tremulous voice, which betrayed her excessive emotion, much as she strove to conceal it, 'I should ill return your love, and that of your noble-minded Eustace, could I, for one moment, revoke my determination.

Poor dear Mrs. Maxwell! she fumed and fretted, and fidgeted about the whole time Maggie was speaking; and taking off her spectacles, the tender-hearted woman wiped away the tears which had gathered in her eyes; then she paused for a moment, as though to think what she should say. Poor soul, she was one of those good, simple people we sometimes meet with in this cold world: open, frank, unsuspecting; innocent of guile herself, never imagining that evil existed in others; not over sensitive, therefore little capable of understanding this disposition in those with whom she might come in contact; and not likely to appreciate the high sense of honor by which such a woman as Margaret was likely to be guided. She tried to look angry, but those calm, placid and comely features could ill assume a wrathful expression; and taking Maggie's hand within her own, she said,—

'It is all pride, Margaret; I am shocked to see so much of it, both in yourself and Minnie; honor indeed; quite right, of course, to be honorable, and so forth, to a certain degree; but not to carry it to the length you carry it to.—Breaking such an engagement, too,' she added, now fairly bursting into tears, 'and torturing both yourself and Eustace on account of those high-minded, silly notions of honor, forsooth.'

(To be Continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Bulls for the consecration of the Very Rev. Dean Kieran, as Lord Primate of Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh, have arrived to the delight and gratification of the clergy and laity of the diocese, especially of his devoted flock in Dundak. The day for the solemn ceremonial has not yet been fixed.

In one of his letters to the London Times, Lord Dufferin (Conservative) gives an answer to the question of the Kilkenny Parliament, quoted by Mr. Bright.—'Why is it that the King is none the richer for Ireland?' Because, in substance, says Lord Dufferin; because of British commercial jealousy, and British legislation:—

It is to the discovery of this enigma that I now address myself, and in its solution it is possible we may find an answer to the famous question originally put to the Kilkenny Parliament, and lately repeated with considerable point by Mr. Bright.—'How is it that the King is none the richer for Ireland?'

Of course, any perfect retrospect of the economic career of Ireland would necessarily involve a review of her political history, but so large a treatment of the subject would not be adapted to your columns, nor is it necessary to my purpose. I am only anxious to point out, in a very few sentences, what have been those influences which have stunted the development of our material prosperity as prematurely, and perhaps more permanently, than even the religious intolerance of former days has vitiated our social atmosphere. I allude to the commercial jealousies of Great Britain.

It has been rather the custom of late to represent the landed interest of Great Britain as the sole inventors and patentees of protection. The experience of Ireland does not confirm this theory. During the course of the last 250 years we have successively tasted the tender mercies of every interest in turn—whether landed, trading, or commercial—and have little reason to pronounce one less selfish than another. From Queen Elizabeth's reign until the Union the various commercial confraternities of Great Britain never for a moment relaxed their relentless grip on the trades of Ireland. One by one, each of our nascent industries was either strangled in its birth, or handed over, gagged and bound, to the jealous custody of the rival interest in England, until at last every fountain of wealth was hermetically sealed, and even the traditions of commercial enterprise have perished through desuetude.

The owners of England's pastures had the honour of opening the campaign. As early as the commencement of the 16th century the heaves of Roscommon, Tipperary, and Queen's County undersold the produce of the English grass counties in their own market. By an Act of the 20th of Elizabeth Irish cattle were declared 'a nuisance,' and their importation prohibited. Forbidden to send our beasts alive across the Channel, we killed them at home, and began to supply the sister country with cured provisions. A second Act of Parliament imposed prohibitory duties on salted meats. The hides of the animals still remained, but the same influence soon put a stop to the importation of leather. Our cattle trade abolished, we tried sheep farming. The sheep breeders of England immediately took alarm, and Irish wool was declared contraband by a Parliament of Charles II. Headed in this direction, we tried to work up the raw material at home, but this created the greatest outcry of all. Every maker of fustian, flannel, and broadcloth in the country rose up in arms, and by an Act of William III. the woolen industry of Ireland was extinguished, and 20,000 manufacturers left the island. The easiness of the Irish labor market and the cheapness of provisions still giving us an advantage, even though we had to import our materials, we next made a dash at the silk business; but the silk manufacturer proved as pitiless as the woolen. The cotton manufacturer, the sugar refiner, the soap and candle maker (who especially dreaded the abundance of our kelp), and any other trade or interest that thought it worth its while to petition was received by Parliament with the same partial cordiality, until the most searching scrutiny failed to detect a single vent through which it was possible for the hated industry of Ireland to breathe. But, although excluded from the markets of Britain, a hundred harbors gave her access to the universal sea. Alas! a rival commerce on her own element was still less welcome to England, and as early as the reign of Charles II. the Levant, the ports of Europe, and the oceans beyond the Cape were forbidden to the flag of Ireland. The colonial trade alone was in any manner open,—if that could be called an open trade which for a long time precluded all exports whatever, and excluded from direct importation to Ireland such important articles as sugar, cotton, and tobacco. What has been the consequence of such a system, pursued with relentless pertinacity for 250 years? This: that, debarred from every other trade and industry, the entire nation flung itself back upon 'the land' with as fatal an impulse as when a river whose current is sud-

denly impeded rolls back and drowns the valley it once fertilized. For a long time, however, the soil of their own island proved sufficient for the three or four millions which then inhabited it. The cheapness of provisions used to be the bane of the English manufacturer. But each successive century found the nation more straitened within its borders. At last a choice had to be made between the sacrifice of domestic happiness or of physical comfort; the natural liveliness of their affections, combined with a buoyant temperament, led the people to accept the latter alternative. The mildness of the climate, the cheapness of fuel, and, above all, the suitability of the potato to what is technically called 'la peste culture' contributed to turn the scale, and early marriages continued to remain a characteristic of the Irish peasantry. Even had the landlords interfered their remonstrances would have been vain, and the downward impulse once communicated, it naturally acquired a continually accelerated momentum, for the simple reason that each succeeding generation were accustomed from infancy to a lower standard of comfort than that which had satisfied their fathers. Extraneous circumstances, such as the rise of prices during the French wars, stimulated the popular tendency of self expansion, until by a logical sequence of events the spectacle was presented of a nation doubling its population every 50 years, yet entirely dependant for its support upon an agricultural area which had been found barely sufficient for its needs when it was a third less numerous; under such conditions, high rents, low wages, and all the other indications of destitution would be as inevitable as famine prices in a beleaguered city.

But I may be told this frantic clinging of the Irish to the land is natural to their genius, and not a result of commercial restrictions. History supplies the perfect refutation of such a theory. Though the hostile tariff of England comprehended almost every article produced in Ireland, one single exception was permitted; from the reign of William III. the linen trade of Ireland has been free; as a consequence, at this day Irish linens are exported in enormous quantities to every quarter of the globe, and their annual value nearly equals the entire rental of this island. Many attempts were made by the rival interest in England to deprive us of this boon, and in 1785 a petition—signed by 117,000 persons—was presented by Manchester, praying for the prohibition of Irish linens, but justice and reason for once prevailed, and the one surviving industry of Ireland was spared. How has it repaid the clemency of the British Parliament? By dowering the Crown of England with as fair a cluster of flourishing towns and loyal centres of industry as are to be found in any portion of the Empire. Would you see what Ireland might have been—go to Derry, to Belfast, to Limerick, and by the exceptional prosperity which has been developed, not only within a hundred towns and villages, but for miles and miles around them, you may measure the extent of the injury we have sustained. Would you ascertain how the numerical strength of a nation may be multiplied, while the status of each individual that comprises it is improved,—go to Belfast, where (within a single generation) the population has quadrupled, and the wages of labor have nearly trebled.

Thomas Hammond, Esq. J. P. has been sworn in as High Sheriff for Drogheda for the present year. There have been two wrecks on the Wexford coast. Of the crew of one, the Undine, only two out of six were saved. The other drifted ashore without a soul on board.

THE REPRESENTATION OF ARMAGH.—It is probable that the election for Armagh, which the promotion of the present representative Mr. Miller, to the judicial bench will render necessary, will not take place sooner than about the 22nd of January.

Captain Kieley, who died from the effects of the lance thrust at the election in Dungarvan, was buried on Friday. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people, including the most respectable inhabitants of the town and neighborhood. The deceased being a Catholic, there was a procession of priests and High Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of Abbotside.

The severity of the weather at the close of last week, although not so intense as in England, caused acute suffering amongst the poor. A very large number of coast casualties have taken place, some of them attended with loss of life.

The inquest in Dungarvan appears to fix a charge of drunkenness upon the Lanear who stabbed Captain Kieley in the recent election riots.

There is no doubt that there will be a petition against the return for the county of Waterford, and if intimidation and mob violence be sufficient grounds for invalidating an election, there is as little doubt that a committee of the House of Commons would declare the return to be null and void. In one of the placards conspicuously posted through the county the electors are called upon to remember 1826, and they are asked,— 'Who raised the triangle in the County Waterford? Who used the pitch cap and the gibbet, the car and the cat-o-nine-tails? The Beresfords. What did O'Donnell say of them in 1826? 'Beresfords, who were never known to smile except when their victim was writhing on the gibbet.'

EXTRAORDINARY EXPLOSION.—A fearful explosion of some combustible material, the nature of which is as yet a mystery, occurred on Sunday, at the house, No. 8, West Essex street, it attended with considerable loss of property, and, it is feared, loss of life. The facts of this singular transaction, so far as they can be ascertained, appear to be as follows:—On Friday evening a stranger called at the house No. 8, Essex-street, and inquired for lodgings. A man named Edward Connolly occupied the drawing-room floor, and as the stranger said he required nothing but a bed, the former agreed to set him a small closet adjoining the drawing-room. The man minutely inspected the room, and expressed himself satisfied with the accommodation it afforded. He then went away, and afterwards returned with a small box, which he carefully placed on the table. Saying he would be shortly back, he again left the house, but did not return, and he has not since been heard of. On Sunday Connolly, being disengaged, and having his curiosity aroused by the non-appearance of his tenant, resolved to ascertain the contents of the parcel. Accordingly he proceeded with great care to open the little box and examine the contents. The first articles met with were two round bottles carefully corked, and covered on the top with chamois leather. He placed the bottles on a table at the window, and proceeded to further investigate the contents of the box. A large paper parcel next presented itself, and on being touched by him exploded with such terrific force as to knock down the side walls and partition of the room, and blow the windows completely out of the house. Connolly was immediately prostrated, and received most serious injuries about the head and hands. Inspector Armstrong, of the A Division, who happened to be in the neighbourhood at the time, heard the explosion, and immediately hastened to Essex street. On his way thither he met a police constable, who informed him that a house was on fire in Essex-street. The Inspector desired the constable to alarm the Fire Brigade, and proceeded himself to the locality indicated. On arriving in Essex-street he found the air strongly impregnated with gunpowder, and saw a large crowd assembled round the house No. 8. The Inspector entered the house, having heard what had occurred, proceeded to the drawing room, where he discovered Connolly lying on the floor writhing in agony, while the apartment itself was in a perfect state of ruin. From the force of the concussion consequent upon the explosion, the windows in the house 38 and 40, on the opposite side of the street, were all broken; and it was stated that the persons in the house No. 8 were either all knocked down or violently thrown against the walls. Fortunately, the two bottles,

supposed to contain Greek fire, which Connolly had removed from the box, remained uninjured on the table. Lying on the floor the Inspector discerned a large number of hall cartridges. The packages were on fire, and the cartridges had already ignited, when the Inspector's attention was attracted to them. They were immediately extinguished, however, and taken in charge by the police, as were also the bottles. Connolly was then removed to hospital, and Captain Ingram having arrived in the interim with fire engines, and finding that his services were not required, left some of the brigade men with Inspector Armstrong to clear the house of the debris. This having been effected the premises were taken charge of by the police. Up to the present the owner of the box has not been discovered, neither has it been ascertained what material actually caused the explosion. It was believed by the inmates of the house at first that the explosion was a thunder-storm, and it was not till after the discovery of some cartridges in the street that their minds could be disabused of this impression. Connolly was removed to Mercer's Hospital, where he lies in a very precarious state. It is believed that if ever he recovers he will be deprived of the use of his sight. The police have no doubt that the combustible which exploded was portion of Fenian munitions of war.

The man, Edward Connolly, who was injured by the explosion in East Essex-street on Sunday, is still lying in Mercer's Hospital in a very precarious state. The whole of the right side of the head is injured seriously. The design of the person who is alleged to have placed the 'infernal machine' in the closet, is pointed by the circumstances that on Friday last the governmental authorities were informed through the medium of an anonymous letter that in Connolly's premises arms and ammunition would be found, and requesting that a search would be made by detective officers.—Evening Mail.

EMIGRATION.—There was a time when we might have guided the stream of emigration towards our own settlements in the Southern Hemisphere. There, under the influence, not of prosperity, but of distance, the Irish emigrant might have forgotten all bitter remembrances and vindictive feelings. Too happy to brood over past wrongs, and too remote to meditate future mischief, he might have united with his English compeer in founding a community which in its children should combine the poetry and imagination of one race with the stubborn energy of the other. Two races of characters so different might have blended into a people which, while it represented the special virtues of each ancestral country, gloried in the fame and happiness of both. Fate has willed it otherwise. Those who might have remained our more fortunate fellow-subjects have rid themselves at once of their calamities and of their nationality. They have made themselves aliens and enemies, and in the novelty of an unwonted prosperity cherish the recollection, not only of their own, but also of their fathers' sufferings. While those that they have left behind enter on a career free from the pangs of a fretful and hungry competition, enjoying plenty where they once knew starvation, and learning independence where they once cultivated servility, the malignity of English faction, and the blind fury of class-hatred, make this improvement of their fortunes a reproach to the landlords, whose greatest folly and greatest crime would have been to obstruct an emigration which had been already proved so beneficial to Englishmen, and which has since proved the economical salvation of Ireland. The fact that pauper and starvation banished, discontent and dissatisfaction survive, shows quite as much the impracticable nature of the Irish people and the insoluble difficulties of Irish questions, as the injustice of the Government or the cruelty of the landlords.—Saturday Review

The Cork Examiner reports the substance of a sermon delivered at Dungarvan on Sunday by Father Moran.—'The reverend preacher said he had expected that day to be able to wish his hearers the joy and happiness belonging to the holy time, and to preach to them, as usual, the Gospel of joy and peace. But those unholy men who had been let loose among the people had cruelly robbed them of their joy and their peace. They had brought sorrow and mourning into our midst. They had brought desolation to more than one home. They had brought anxiety and insecurity to every one among us, and we are not able, as we would wish, to turn our minds to the sacred truths. But we have only to thank God that we have escaped so well—that many more are not been cut down, many more added to the killed and wounded. Soon, please God, after the investigation that will be made this coming week—and the whole truth before the public—and the perpetrators of these foul deeds branded, and when found guilty punished, then we shall be able to dispose our minds and rear again to the sacred memories appropriate to this holy season! This painful subject was brought before the Dungarvan Petty Sessions on Saturday, and the Examiner gives to its long report of the proceedings the sensational heading, 'The Dungarvan Massacre.' On the bench were: Sir Nugent Hamble, chairman; J. R. Dower, R. Kennedy, Lord Hastings, S. E. Maguire, H. A. Fitzgerald, J. P. Sherlock, and Capt. Barry, R. M. Mr. S. R. Fitzgerald refused to act upon the bench, as being concerned in certain cases fixed for trial at the present sitting. For some time previously to the opening of the court a number of persons had congregated abroad and near the court-house, and waited under the pelted rain for the arrival of the magistrates, when they poured in and quickly filled every available spot in the building. Eight men were charged with having rescued a number of prisoners from the custody of the police at Cappagh, during the riots in connection with the county of Waterford election. The prisoners were being escorted by the police for the Limerick Quarter Sessions, when they were set upon and liberated by a large crowd of country people, under the impression, it is said, that they were voters. Mr. Blake, who defended the traversers, earnestly pressed on the Bench the wisdom of allowing the bad feeling excited in the county by the deplorable events of the election to subside, and of not proceeding further with the prosecutions, especially as there had been faults on both sides. He proposed to enter a plea of guilty, on condition that his clients were liberated on their own recognizances. This suggestion was supported by Mr. Dower, and opposed by Mr. Fitzgerald. After considerable discussion between the magistrates, the informations taken in the case were read, for the purpose of ascertaining what was the nature of the case against the prisoners. The information of Mr. Fitzgerald alleged that a serious riot took place at Cappagh, in which the police, assaulted by the mob with sticks and stones, used their bayonets freely and wounded several persons. Ultimately the majority of the Bench decided on granting Mr. Blake's application, and a plea of guilty having been entered, the prisoners were admitted to bail and discharged. A man charged with having assaulted Mr. Maguire, J. P., was ordered to give security for his good behaviour.

IRISH DISCONTENT. To the Editor of the Times. Sir,—I see that you have most justly objected to Lord Dufferin's economical theory of the ills of Ireland as totally inadequate to account for the sad phenomena which it professes to explain. You may, therefore, think it worth while to say before your readers a wider and more impartial view of a question which unhappily cannot yet be dismissed to the calm regions of history, but is still a present power in the world of politics, and may effect the destinies of Ireland for good or evil as it is rightly or wrongly understood by politicians in this country and in Great Britain. This view, taken by a statesman-philosopher of the culture and most accurate intellect, will be found in Sir G. C. Lewis's work upon 'Disturbances in Ireland, and the Irish Union Question.' When discussing the causes of discontent, Sir George Lewis says:—'The treatment of the na-

tive Irish as an incurably barbarous race, before the Reformation, and the various civil wars and confiscations which took place after the Reformation, had, at the period of the Revolution, when King William's power was finally established in Ireland, so completely broken up the framework of society, and so utterly destroyed the notions as to the obligations of law and morality, that it would have been a miracle for the wisest and most beneficent Government to raise the mass of the Irish people to the general level of European civilisation. Instead, however, of attempting a course of policy which was at least sure of partial success, the Government, alarmed at the strength of the Pretender's party, and acting on the persecuting maxims which were then still current in Europe, introduced the penal code against the Catholics, and treated the majority of the Irish people as outlaws. According to this system (which has to a greater or less extent been acted on nearly up to the present day) every Irish Catholic was presumed to be disaffected to the State, and was treated as an open or concealed rebel. The entire Government was carried on by the Protestants and for their benefit; and the Protestants were considered as the only link between England and Ireland. The English thought it for their interest that Ireland should belong to them, and they supported the Irish Protestants in opposing the Irish Catholics;—

imagining that the subjection of Ireland to England could only be maintained by giving a monopoly of power to the Protestants of the Established Church. At the same time that a wide and impassable line was drawn by law between the two religions in Ireland, and the one persuasion was made a privileged, the other an inferior class, the whole of Ireland was treated as a province or colony, whose interests were to be sacrificed to those of the mother country. Hence arose the restrictions on Irish commerce, on the exportation of corn, cattle, and woollen goods, avowedly for the benefit of England. A system of government administered in this spirit, and in a country where the people were already in a state of great rudeness and disorder necessarily led to the degradation and demoralizing of the bulk of the population. The relation between landlord and tenant was affected by two ways by the treatment which Ireland had experienced from England. In the first place the large grants which the Government had made to Englishmen naturally led to the non-residence of many of the chief landed proprietors. These persons were forced to manage their Irish estates by agents, or more frequently they were tempted to let them in large portions to middlemen, who then divided the land into small holdings and sublet it to the occupying tenantry. In this manner the landlord (the reckless resident, Sir G. Lewis might have said, as well as the absentee) secured a man who undertook for the property; but he lost the difference between the rent paid by the occupying tenants and the rent paid by the middleman, and he prevented the possibility of a respectable tenantry being ever formed on his property. In the second place, the landlord if resident and an Irishman was almost invariably a Protestant, and Catholics were incapacitated from holding land, and as in the three southern provinces nearly all the tenants were Catholic, the landlord exercised over his tenant not only that influence which a creditor necessarily exercises over a debtor, but also that power which the law gave to the Protestant over the Catholic, to the magistrate and grand juror over the suspected rebel. In these two ways all friendly connection between the landlord and the tenant of the soil was broken; either the landlord was represented by an oppressive, grasping middleman, or he was the member of a dominant and privileged caste, who was as much bound by his official duties as he was prompted by the opinion of his order, by the love of power, and by the feeling of irresponsibility to oppress, degrade, and trample upon his Catholic tenants.

Arthur Young, who travelled in Ireland in 1776, appears to have been much struck with the difference between the relation of landlord and tenant in England and in Ireland, and in describing the wretched condition of the latter he makes use of expressions which might be brought hyperbolical if they had not proceeded from a dry, matter-of-fact writer on the details of husbandry. 'It must be very apparent to every traveller through that country,' he says, 'that the labouring poor are treated with harshness and, are in all respects so little considered that their want of importance seems a perfect contrast to their situation in England. . . . The age has improved so much in humanity that even the poor Irish have experienced its influence, and are every day treated better and better; but still the remnant of the old manners, the abominable distinction of religion, united with the oppressive conduct of the little country gentleman, or rather vermin of the kingdom, who never were out of it, altogether still bear very heavy on the poor people, and a subject them to situations more mortifying than we ever behold in England. The landlord of an Irish estate inhabited by Roman Catholics is a sort of despot, who yields obedience in whatever concerns the poor to no law but that of his will. . . . The labouring classes (continues Sir G. Lewis) suffered most of the evils of slavery without enjoying any of its advantages. Deprived of all self-respect by the operation of the penal statutes, prevented from rising in the world or from bettering their condition by legal disabilities and the legalised oppression of their landlords, without education, excluded from a public participation in the rites of their own religion, they endured all and more than the evils which belonged to the lot of a serf without looking forward to the interested protection and relief which a master would afford to his bondman.'

Well may be add to this description the observation that,—'The poor class in Ireland seem to have been in that precise state which is the most favourable to the growth of population, namely, where the moral checks on increase scarcely operate at all, and the physical checks operate but feebly. . . . Such are some of the broad facts of Irish history (among which its selfish commercial policy of England is by no means the most important) which account for the reckless multiplication of the peasantry and the excessive subdivision of the land, with all the consequences of intense poverty, discontent at home, flight to another country, and hatred of England among the Irish settlers there, which still, in spite of great and manifold changes for the better, make up the Irish 'difficulty.' They are facts, I think, which the Protestant landlords of Ireland ought not to forget, because they may induce many an enlightened and patriotic member of that class, to make some sacrifice of extreme rights and hereditary feelings for the sake of curing the evils left behind it by a false and unjust system of which his predecessors, if they were in truth the victims, were certainly the abettors and the instruments. Lord Dufferin would, I am sure, be the last man to desire that anything proceeding from his pen should weaken the motives which, it is to be hoped, may lead the Protestant gentry to concur in the improvement of the land laws of Ireland and an equitable settlement of the Church question. When we shall have done this, and made some sacrifice of our interests and prejudices in the doing of it, we may put back the volume of Irish history upon our shelves with a good conscience, but not till then. Such, at all events, is the moral drawn from its pages by your obedient servant,

AN IRISH LANDLORD.

A meeting was held at Valentia of the farmers and other inhabitants of the island, under the auspices of the Knight of Kerry and the clergymen of the parish, both Protestant and Catholic, at which the resolutions given below were unanimously adopted. The meeting was limited to the proprietors of land, farmers, and other inhabitants of Valentia. The chair was occupied by the Knight of Kerry who is owner of the greater part of the island. The Knight of Kerry addressed the assembly at some length on the objects for which they were met, and expressed his great satisfaction that those who attended there on that occasion gave evidence of those feelings of

loyalty which in times past, and times even more critical than the present, had characterized their fathers, and made the loyalty and quietness of the county of Kerry almost proverbial. He challenged any man to point out where the honest exertions of any person to improve their condition was impeded by the action of Government or the laws of the land; and, after showing to the satisfaction of the meeting the utter uselessness of success for the Fenian projects other than the lamentable success with which the leaders were filling their pockets at the expense of their deluded followers, he asked, even if success were possible, what benefit could redound to the country, and proceeded to illustrate what the probable consequences would have been in Ireland generally by showing step by step what must have been the pounds, shillings, and pence results to themselves in Valentia if Mr. Stephens's projects had there been put in execution some 30 or 40 years ago. Nothing could exceed the attention with which he was listened to. The first resolution was proposed by the clergyman of the Established Church and seconded by a Catholic gentleman; while the second was proposed by the Parish Priest, and seconded by Captain Needham, agent to the Protestant and Ecclesiastical Corporation of Trinity College, Dublin:—

1. Resolved.—That this meeting, on the part of those present, as well as of the rest of the inhabitants of Valentia, desire to record their unshaken loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

2. Resolved.—That this meeting desires further, on the part of the inhabitants of Valentia, to express their determination to prevent the introduction into this island of any secret or illegal societies, and their readiness in case of necessity to take any steps that may be deemed advisable for the protection of persons and property, more especially for the security of the Atlantic Cable and Telegraph establishment, the introduction of which has already done so much good to this locality?

The proceedings of the National Association on Tuesday will be read with interest. The important letters from the Cardinal Archbishop, the Primate Elect the Archbishop of Cashel, and seven other prelates afford the strongest evidence of the deep confidence reposed by the Hierarchy in the wisdom, prudence, and energy of the executive committee of the Association, and also their warm and grateful recognition of the marked success that has attended their labours in promoting the objects for which it was founded. The letters of all these prelates imply, whilst that of his Eminence explicitly states, that the Association is the recognised organ of the Catholic body, so far as the public questions with whose promotion it is charged are concerned and that its utterances thereon are endorsed by the popular voice. The report with the speeches of the chairman, Alderman M'Sweeney, whose zeal and devotion in the good work are so fittingly noticed by the bishops, Mr. Daunt and Professor Kavanagh afford a clear sketch of the successful labours of the Association since its foundation two years since.— One of the most important incidents in the proceedings is the distinct and emphatic repudiation by the meeting by former resolution unanimously adopted as well as by the able and opportune letter of the venerated and patriotic Bishop of Ross, Dr. O'Hea, and the speeches of Mr. Daunt and Professor Kavanagh, of all and every scheme for the settlement of the Church Question other than total disendowment. With well-grounded confidence I have assured your readers, for some weeks past, that the 'levelling-up' scheme of Mr. Aubrey de Vere, well-meaning and ably recommended by that excellent gentleman, would find no large or influential support amongst Irish Catholics. The Association, by this timely declaration, pending the next meeting of the bishops, has simplified the settlement of the Church Question, and removed all doubt as to the determination of Catholics to accept no remnant of the temporaries.

GENERAL SWEENEY.—The paragraph which went through the Cork papers stating that a woman upon whose death an inquest was lately held in this city, was the mother of the Fenian General Sweeney, is, as has been already mentioned in our column, incorrect. The statement has not even the least foundation. General Sweeney has relatives in Cork, which city he left at the early age of eight or nine years, but they are all of a respectable class, and his mother died in America some fourteen or fifteen years since. Though we have no responsibility in connection with the communication which contained the statement, we are sorry that it should have appeared in this journal, because of its being calculated to give pain to a high-minded and excellent man. We have always discountenanced the project with which General Sweeney's name was for a while identified, but we have abundant testimony that it was on his part conceived 'all in honour,' and in a spirit of the most sincere, if mistaken patriotism.—Cork Examiner.

Dr. F. R. Cruise, writing in the British Medical Journal, gives details of the recent outbreak of cholera in Mountjoy Prison. They will serve to correct various erroneous statements that have been made on the subject. There has been no new case since December 27. The attack commenced on Sunday, December 23, the health of the establishment having been previously quite satisfactory. The epidemic lasted five days, during which time nine cases of Asiatic cholera with collapse, occurred, and four terminated fatally. The inhabitants of the prison are convicts, together with about 140 untried prisoners, now confined under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act. Most of the cases of cholera occurred among the convicts. The outbreak was immediately notified to the Government, and the most active sanitary measures were at once put into force, under the direction of the medical officer of the prison, Dr. McDonnell. To the promptitude and energy with which these measures were carried out undoubtedly may fairly be attributed the rapid suggestion of the attack. Perhaps the most interesting point in connection with this particular visitation is the difficulty in tracing its origin. No case of cholera has taken place among the officers of the establishment or their families. The prisoners in the various divisions of the prison do not communicate with each other, nor with the same officers; nevertheless, cases arose simultaneously in these divisions. The water supply is derived from the reservoirs of the north side of the city. It is received in a supply-tank, from which it is pumped by a steam-engine to cisterns on the top of the building. This supply-tank is pumped empty every 24 hours. From its situation it is absolutely secure from all risk of contamination from sewage, &c. The adjoining Female Convict Prison it supplied from the same tank. But no case of cholera occurred in the Female Prison. The food recently supplied has, on examination, been reported of unexceptionable quality. The different divisions of the prison are not on the same diet, neither is the food for them cooked in the same vessels. Nevertheless the disease appeared in all the divisions. The disease could not be ascribed to atmospheric influences for the prison is on one of the healthiest situations in Dublin.

The frost has been terribly severe here during the week. Yesterday and the day before it was dry and very pleasant for the skaters, who crowded round a sheet of water in the Zoological-gardens, Phoenixpark. The intensity of the cold was greatest last night, and to day it is blowing fiercely with sleet from the east, which must be very trying indeed to a large number of poor in this city who are ill-fed, ill-clad and miserably lodged. It is stated in the papers on good authority that there are hundreds of poor families in our back streets and lanes who are without food, and whose sufferings have been greatly augmented by the want of fuel to mitigate the severity of the intense cold. Similar accounts of the severity of the frost reach us from all parts of the island. Happily, cholera has almost entirely disappeared.—Dublin Cor. of Times.