

eye was upon me. I felt my blood, in sudden re-... I felt my blood, in sudden re-... I felt my blood, in sudden re-...

After Mass, my first intention was to solicit an interview with the old priest, and at once discover myself. But finding my nervous excitement such that I required the bracing refreshment of the open air to enable me to stand the ordeal that awaited me, I changed my purpose, and stepped into the adjoining graveyard. With a mind somewhat calmed, and without any defined object, I leisurely strolled through that humble city of the dead. Here and there I could perceive (and with no little edification) some pious souls pouring out their orisons over the graves of departed friends or relatives. A train of melancholy, yet soothing thoughts, regarding the dear departed, whose resting-place I had come to visit, was the natural result; and I longed for the moment when I could direct my steps to the old family burying-ground. Musing thus, I proceeded with careless step till I found myself standing before a man who appeared sedulously employed in removing weeds, or aught else intrusive, from two graves, evidently tended by the hand of never-dying affection. Apparently bowed down, more by the weight of years than physical infirmity, he performed his work of love with ease and even agility. His dress proclaimed him a respectable farmer. At the head of the two graves, instead of sculptured marble, stood a yew tree, which had flourished, and which had been cut by the spirit of Catholic piety into the form of a cross. I had never seen or heard of any memorial of the kind before, and I was charmed with the never-dying faith and the good taste which had suggested and carried out the idea. The man pursued his task without noticing me or any one else, till I interrupted him by inquiring the names of the persons to whose memory that most chaste and appropriate of monuments had been erected (so to speak). The aged man suddenly raised his head as if in wild surprise. He gazed on me with a fixed eye, and without moving a muscle of his excited countenance, said in a slow, deep, sepulchral tone, 'To the memory of Peter and Mary Cahill!' I stood at the graves of my parents! In the features of the pious peasant I recognized those of my own uncle; but, without venturing a salutation, or hinting at the discovery I flung myself in deep nervous excitement on the graves of my father and mother, and I prayed and wept, till contrition and hope had rid my heart of the demon, which, for thirty years, had not permitted me to know a single day's unalloyed peace. When the burst of agony had somewhat subsided, I was assisted to rise by the still stalwart arm of my kind uncle, who, to my further astonishment, exclaimed as he pressed me to his heaving breast:—

'Augh, Edward Cahill, acushla machree! an' are you back to us at last! Many's the night an' day my heart told me that the teachings, an' the prayers of such a mother as yours, could not be lost on the son!—If it was necessary for the glory of God, her faith might have moved mountains—nature's strong in us to the last, avick!—Sure myself couldn't keep my eyes off you in the chapel. The mother's mild, subdued look, such as she wore since the day you deserted her, was strong upon. But when you spoke to me here, I trembled from head to foot; I thought, in my heart, my brother Peter had risen from the grave! I could almost have sworn the voice was his. Glory be to the Most High!—And now—now let us kneel and say one dicket (decade) of the Rosary, in thanksgiving for all His mercies—for the repose of their souls, and the peace of our own.'

I readily complied with the request of my truly pious uncle, and having fervently discharged the sacred duty, we proceeded towards the humble domicile of Father O'Donovan. (To be Continued.)

SIR R. PEEL AND THE GODLESS COLLEGES. The following is Sir H. W. Barron's reply to the Chief Secretary's circular on behalf of the Godless Colleges:—

'Paris, Dec. 20, 1861. Sir—Your letter followed me to different places, and at last it reached me here. This will account for the delay in answering it. I regret not being able to comply with its request. I say, without meaning any disrespect, *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*—I believe that our views conscientiously differ. No man in Ireland more ardently supported mixed education than I did. I established six schools on that principle. But experience has proved to me the total failure of the system. I know of my own knowledge that practically, these schools, and the majority of others I am acquainted with, are not mixed schools. I believe the colleges you wish to endow are turning in the same direction, and that the want of religious teaching must lead to infidelity—the worst possible school to educate young men in. Any man who visits this country must be convinced that a greater curse cannot befall a nation than to educate man without making religion the foundation of all knowledge. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that in Ireland you must adopt the same principle adopted in England, namely, to assist all religious denominations in the holy work of education. With this view I think that your first step should be to give a charter to the Catholic University. In Protestant Prussia this principle is adopted with the happiest effect. I am satisfied that if your illustrious father lived he would adopt this principle now. Ireland is essentially a Catholic country. Common sense, experience, sound policy require that she should be treated as such. We have much sympathy for Italian freedom, Italian liberty, and the right of the people of Italy to have their wishes respected. Would it not be wise, be politic, be just, to adopt the same principle? Believe me, that Ireland is becoming too enlightened, too intelligent, too educated to be governed by any other principle. I deny, in the most emphatic terms the English language can afford, there were any such grievances in Italy. (If the whole truth were honestly and fairly stated as the grievances complained of at this very day, by a large majority of the Irish people.) But this is not the time or place to enter into details. I shall therefore conclude by a hope that you may turn your abilities, your position, and the weight of your great name to finding out a remedy for the serious diffi-

ulty of governing Ireland with advantage to the great British empire. The time may not be far distant when you may require the ardent co-operation of united people to combat foreign foes. Let us all then combine to remove, just cause of discontent. In this work I shall be delighted to co-operate with you, though not in your present proposal. I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant. H. WILSON BARRON.'

We publish with pleasure the following letter from Charles Langdale, Esq., Colbridge Abbey, son-in-law of the late Henry Gratian, in answer to Sir R. Peel's circular:— 'The Abbey, Colbridge, Dec. 21, 1861. Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ult., inviting me to contribute towards the Queen's University in Ireland. In declining to do so, I should have been contented to refer you to the admirable letters of Mr. Dease and other gentlemen, were it not that my position is somewhat different from theirs. 'As an English Catholic residing in Ireland, I have always been struck with the fact, that when ever education is in question, the measures adopted towards Catholics in Ireland are the very opposite of those applied to their brethren in England. Thus in England Catholics demand the denominational system, and they get it; in Ireland they demand the same thing, and they get the 'mixed'; they ask a charter for their own University, and they are offered another Queen's College. 'I am at a loss to find any explanation of this anomaly; for I cannot accept the only reason I have ever heard mentioned, viz.—that the 'mixed' system promotes mutual religious tolerance.' The only part of Ireland where the National system is in fact as well as theory a 'mixed' system is unhappily the only part notorious for 'religious intolerance.' 'In speculating upon this subject it has sometimes occurred to me to think what the result might have been if, instead of acting upon the old principle of mistrusting the Catholics of this country, and founding three mixed colleges, your illustrious father had adopted the generous and open-handed system of confidence, and given a separate college to the Catholics, another to the Presbyterians, &c. This mode of treatment has succeeded in producing peace and enlightenment in every other portion of Her Majesty's dominions. In Ireland it has never been tried. 'But to descend from speculation to fact. In England, happily, Catholics have had little experience in the working of the 'mixed system' in educational matters—one notable instance, however, occurs to me to which I desire to call your attention. I allude to the connection of our colleges with the London University. That institution is governed by a senate which determines the subjects for examination, confers degrees, honors, &c., as I believe is done by a similar body in the Queen's University. I remember the satisfaction that was felt by the Catholic body in England when our colleges were affiliated to the University of London, and for several years subsequently the lists of successful candidates, both for degrees and honors, showed that Catholics availed themselves of the opportunity for distinction thus presented to them. About four years ago, however, the Senate revised the subjects of examination and adopted a work on moral philosophy, the principles of which Catholics could not admit. The Senate was told this at the time, but it maintained its decision, and our Catholic Colleges, have ceased to encourage their students to take the degrees of the London University. 'If moral philosophy is taught in your colleges, what guarantee do you offer that the Senate of the Queen's University will not act as that of London has done? Should it, however, not be taught, history at all events is. Let me, then, ask if you think that the views of even the Regius Professor of History at Oxford could all be accepted by Catholics, and especially Irish Catholics. 'Again, the novel and 'highly liberal' principles of the 'History of Civilisation in England' are much discussed at present. What guarantee can you give us that a disciple of Mr. Buckle's will never be appointed to teach in one of your colleges? 'Finally, every Catholic will tell you that there are some subjects on which we can admit none but Catholic teachings, and this very principle of your Colleges forbids them to afford. Under these circumstances I must not only decline supporting the Queen's Colleges, but heartily join the other gentlemen who have addressed you, in protesting against those institutions being forced upon my fellow-Catholics in Ireland.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, 'CHARLES LANGDALE.'

'Ulonahis, Castlereagh, Dec. 20, 1861. 'Gentlemen,—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your circular; requesting that I would favorably consider your memorandum, relating to the education of all classes of the Irish people. Least silence regarding this invitation might be interpreted by some as approval of the scheme which you advocate, I feel myself called upon to reply to a communication which, at first, I had intended not to notice by letter, believing that the views of the Catholics of Ireland on this subject were too well known to require to be repeated. I should most favorably regard any proposal, which seemed to me of a nature likely to benefit true education in this country; but I do not believe that on this account the Queen's Colleges, or University would be entitled to my support. Condemned, as they have been repeatedly, by the hierarchy of our Church; condemned by Catholic laymen of every shade of political opinion, and condemned still more decidedly by the fact, that in spite of the great inducements they hold out, they have but sparingly resorted to by the Catholic youth of the country, I feel that a request, such as that contained in your letter, is to say the least of it, when made to a Catholic, a very strange one. You ask me to support the colleges on the ground that they are successful, that they have won their way into popular esteem, and that their prestige is established; and you assume that their success is proved by the statement that six hundred students, through their instrumentality, are receiving the benefits of university education. 'I cannot, however, admit, the conclusiveness of this proof, or that six hundred students really receive University education; for I believe the total number of persons who have taken out degrees since the opening of the University, or during twelve years, is under four hundred, the great majority of whom receive not only a gratuitous education and support, but carried away with them, in the end, a pecuniary compensation. How the colleges have won their way into popular esteem, and how their prestige is established, I confess myself quite at a loss to discover. For enlightenment on this subject I look in vain to the official statistics of the colleges. With an equal want of success I look to the response already given to your appeal on their behalf; and when I recollect the very influential position of a Chief Secretary for Ireland, I cannot but wonder that if these Colleges had won their way into popular esteem, when supported by such a powerful advocate, they should have failed so signally in eliciting the sympathy of the Catholics of Ireland. It is hardly necessary for me to add, that under these circumstances, I could not favorably consider your proposal; and admitting the want of a recognized University for Ireland, I am sure that I am not misrepresenting the general feeling of the country in stating, that we can never consider that want supplied by institutions, such as those of the Queen's Colleges or University.—I have the honor to remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant, 'O'CONNOR DON. 'Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart. 'G. Johnston, Stoney, Esq.'

PROTEST OF THE CATHOLIC GENTRY AGAINST THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE.—The following Catholic Nobility and Gentry have protested, by letter, in answer to Sir Robert Peel's application for aid towards the extension of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland:—Right Hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh, MP; DL, Kerry, Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household; Rt. Hon. R. Mores O'Ferrall, MP, DL, Kildare, JP, Meath; Right Hon. W. Russell, MP, DL, Limerick, JP, Clare; Right Hon. Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart., DL, Wexford; Sir Thomas B. Blake, Bart., JP, Galway; John F. Maguire, MP, JP, Mayor, Elect, Cork; Myles W. O'Reilly, DL, Louth, JP, Dublin; James A. Dease, DL, Cavan, JP, Westmeath; Edmund Dease, DL, Queen's County; Anthony J. Cliffe, DL, Wexford; Thomas Kane, DL, Limerick; John T. MacShane, JP, Mayor of Limerick; John T. Devitt, Barrister, JP, Limerick; Stephen Roche, JP, Clare, Limerick, and Galway; William Hartigan, JP, Limerick; M. J. Ryan, JP, Limerick; Neil M. Donald, JP, Limerick; John O'Shaughnessy, JP, Limerick; Eugene O'Callaghan, JP, Limerick; Michael Quinn, JP, Limerick; Robert M. Mahon, JP, Limerick; Thomas Boys, JP, Limerick; William O'Hara, JP, Limerick; John R. Tinsley, JP, Limerick; John M. Donnell, JP, Clare; Piers O'Leary, JP, Clare; Luke J. Shea, JP, Cork; Keane Mahony, JP, Kerry and Cork; D. Shine Lalor, JP, Kerry; P. J. Kearney, JP, Meath; R. Russell Cruise, JP, Dublin; Mulhally Marum, JP, Queen's County; Francis Ryan, JP, Mayor of Clonmeef; Charles Bianconi, JP, Tipperary; John Irwin, JP, Roscommon; Henry W. Barron, Bart., DL.

DEATH OF THE VERY REV. JOHN KEARNEY, P.P. KILKENNY WASH.—On the 18th ult., this venerable and distinguished ecclesiastic, in the 68th year of his age, and after a lingering illness of nearly two years, expired at his residence in a recluse. To his numerous and devoted friends it will afford consolation to know that in his last moments he was fortified by those helping graces with which the Church, through her sacraments, sustains and cheers her expiring children. His was a calm and holy death. Friday, the 20th, was fixed for his consignment to the tomb, and notwithstanding the severity of the season, forty priests gathered round his coffin to celebrate his obsequies. When the sad tidings of his death had spread through Westmeath, King's Co., and Meath, there was but one sentiment of regret amongst priests and people. All felt that his native diocese sustained an irreparable loss.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE REV. JAMES LOFTUS.—CASTLEBAR, Thursday.—One of those melancholy occurrences which happen every day, and which so clearly prove the uncertainty of life, occurred in this town on Christmas morning, in the sudden and unexpected demise of the above Rev. gentleman, who, while in the act of celebrating Mass in the Catholic chapel of the workhouse dropped dead at the foot of the altar. Nothing could exceed the consternation of the officials, and inmates of the workhouse who were present. Medical aid was immediately obtained, but life was extinct. The deceased Reverend gentleman was only lately appointed Curate in this town, was about forty years of age, and of a very delicate constitution, as he had been suffering for the last two years from some inward disease, caused by over exertion of his mental and physical powers at a mission in Clifden. His remains were removed on Thursday to the parish chapel of this town, whence they will be conveyed to the family burial ground. Amiable, just, and forbearing, he died as he had lived—peaceful and happy, called away in the midst of celebrating the Divine mysteries of his Master, whom he faithfully served. May he rest in peace.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN—WARNING AGAINST SECRET SOCIETIES.—A most important warning against the folly, danger, and criminality of Secret Societies has just been published by Mr. Smith O'Brien. We (*Dublin Telegraph*) quote all the principal passages.—Mr. O'Brien addresses the people of Tipperary on the recent dismissal of The O'Donoghue from the commission of the peace and writes as follows:— 'With respect to the committee which was appointed at the Rotunda meeting, I take upon myself the responsibility of having advised The O'Donoghue to withdraw his name from that committee. I gave that advice because I was informed that the list of the members of that committee had been almost surreptitiously intruded upon the meeting; and because I thought it possible that The O'Donoghue might, by acting with it, become hereafter responsible for proceedings which he does not approve. I have felt it the more especially to be my duty to offer this advice to The O'Donoghue, and to others, because I am afraid that there exists in this country a secret organisation which may hereafter compromise many inexperienced, yet noble-minded youths. Three years ago I took the liberty to warn my fellow-countrymen against secret societies. I have since repeated that warning, and now once again I adjure them to treat as their worst enemy any man who invites them to join a secret society. 'For myself, I care not whether the leader whom I follow belong to the patrician or plebeian ranks of society. I would support the son of a beggar as loyally as I would support the son of a prince, if he possesses virtue, ability, and patriotism, but I never have joined and never will join any secret society which may be governed by a man or men with whose character and with whose aims I am unacquainted. 'If a man believes himself fit to guide his countrymen, let him stand forth to the scrutiny of daylight. Let us examine his qualifications, and determine how far he is or is not fit to be trusted. Let us know, also, what is the end and aim to which he proposes to lead us, and what are the means by which we are to arrive at that end? 'Nor ought it to be forgotten that the existence of secret societies tends to prevent the formation of legal associations for the purpose of forwarding legitimate objects; because it is impossible to enter into combined action with a member of a secret society on terms of confidence or safety. Every prudent man shuns the risk of being compromised by the proceedings of those who, being members of secret societies, may intrude themselves into the open and legal association to which he belongs. 'Moreover, the leaders of secret societies generally keep out of danger themselves, whilst they allow those whom they inveigle to be sacrificed for having acted upon their perilous suggestions. 'It is almost needless that I should repeat my conviction that the Irish Government is informed respecting every movement that is made by the members of secret societies existing in this country.'

SECRET SOCIETIES.—Wm. James Plunkett, T.C., has written the following letter to the *Dublin Telegraph* upon the subject of secret societies:— '38, James's-street, December, 30, 1861. Dear Sir—I have heard with surprise a rumour that secret societies are organizing in the country, and even in this city—also that the authorities know this. Can it be possible? Is there no warning voice to be raised to save those deluded men from being ensnared by villains and informers who will traffic in their blood? Is the fate of the Phoenix Society so soon forgotten? Is the history of the fate of all such societies to be no warning? Will those things be going on still, although banned by the Church and abhorred by all good men?—Yours truly, 'JAMES PLUNKETT.'

SEIZURE OF A STEAMER AT COVE.—It is rumored in Liverpool that one of the large steamers which sail between Liverpool and New York has been seized by the authorities at Cove, on the ground that she had on board a quantity of rifles and other contraband of war intended for the United States Government. The Government has ordered the erection, near Downpatrick, of an asylum sufficient to accommodate 300 lunatic poor, to be called the Down District Lunatic Asylum.

BRISH INTELLIGENCE

DEATHS IN THE WEST.—A deputation from the municipal council of the city of Dublin, led upon the Lord-Lieutenant on Monday, at the vice-regal lodgings, to present the memorial agreed to on the motion of Peter Paul M'Sweeney, &c., respecting the existing distress in the West of Ireland. 'The deputation was received by the Lord-Lieutenant who was accompanied by Sir Robert Peel, and Mr. Hatchell, private Secretary, and attended by Captain Claude Lascelles, A. D. C. 'The Lord Mayor read the memorial:— 'To his Excellency George William Frederick, Earl of Carlisle, Lord-Lieutenant-general, and General Governor of Ireland. 'The humble Address of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Dublin. 'May it please your Excellency—We, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Dublin, humbly approach your Excellency, and deeply regret to assure you that we have reason to know that during the present winter there will exist in many districts in Ireland, and more particularly in the western, great privations arising from the want of both fuel and food. We humbly represent to your Excellency that while the existing laws for the relief of the poor provide, although not adequately, means to afford food to the indigent, no provisions are contained therein, nor does any machinery exist for providing food and distributing it to the poor; and at the same time that we impress upon your Excellency the importance of the Government watchfully guarding against the spread of famine, we desire more particularly to entreat attention to the necessity of having immediate steps taken to provide an adequate supply of fuel to the poor; the want of fuel being, even at the present moment, actually felt in many districts of Ireland, and having been the cause of much misery and disease. We rest assured your Excellency will direct the attention of Government to the necessity of devising means to mitigate the impending calamity. 'The Lord-Lieutenant replied as follows:—My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen,—It must be always pleasing to find any portion of the community sympathizing with the wants and privations of their less happily situated brethren. The condition of the poor has, without doubt, been unfavourably influenced by the general character of the weather in the year we are just closing. It continues to engage the watchful attention of the Government. With respect to the article of fuel, to which you have prominently adverted, I am happy to find that in some of the cases, which the law of the realm especially devised for the relief of public distress may have failed to meet the liberality of the proprietors of the soil, and the wealthier classes in the respective neighborhoods, has been called forth with a view to increase and distribute the supply of this essential requisite; and I cannot doubt that if unhappily further exertions may become necessary, the initiative of relief, at least, will be that generous public whose benevolence and generosity have been seldom invoked in vain. 'The deputation then retired, its members evincing feelings of surprise when they had received his Excellency's reply. 'Upon his lordship's answer the *Morning News* thus severely comments:— 'The reply of the Lord-Lieutenant to the address of the Corporation of Dublin, asking the assistance of the Government for our starving countrymen in the West, is as curt, cold, and unsatisfactory as any English Lord-Lieutenant's could be. Our readers will not fail to notice the contrast this carefully-clipped production presents to the elaborate and long-winded orations expended by the same ready and facile tongue, on pigs, oxen, and turkeys. The subject was evidently not congenial to His Excellency's bucolic mind. The condition of the steeves possesses for him far more interest than the state of our famished poor, and the alien and unsympathetic spirit in which he has dismissed rather than received the grave and responsible representations of the Corporation of Dublin, proves him to be as a man insensible to our sufferings, and as a ruler indifferent to our complaints.'

FAMINE IN THE WEST.—In the Dublin Corporation on Wednesday, Mr. P. P. M'Sweeney, after depicting in an able speech the state of destitution in the West, commented strongly on the Lord-Lieutenant's reply to the deputation from the Town Council, and moved that it be inserted on the minutes of the Council, which was accordingly adopted.—*Nation*.

THE DISTRESS.—Memorials to the Lord-Lieutenant are at present in the course of signature in the counties of Sligo and Roscommon, praying that his Excellency will take measures to have employment provided for the people; and we understand that those memorials will be presented to Lord Carlisle by a deputation comprising the Most Rev. Dr. Gillooly, Lord Bishop of Elphin, and several of the leading gentry of the counties named.

FUEL FOR THE POOR OF GRANARD.—The poor of this town were liberally supplied with coal on Christmas Eve, by means of rather a novel description. At an auction held some time previous in the court house a limited number of tickets were put to public competition, amongst which were distributed £10 in prizes, after paying all expenses. The instigators of the scheme were happy to be able to give such relief when fuel of all kinds are so scarce.

TIMBER FOR FUEL.—We understand that tickets entitling the holder to a supply of timber from Rockingham demesne will be issued early next week.—*Roscommon Gazette*.

Lord Clonbrock has given directions to cut down large quantities of wood for fuel on his extensive plantations. On other estates blankets have been given to the poor in great numbers. Among the landed proprietors that are proving benefactors to the humbler classes of their tenantry, during the present severe season, not the least considerate and generous are ladies. In Wexford county Lady Esmonde has presented each of the poor tenantry on her estates with a large supply of coals, clothing, and blankets. Mrs. Frye, of Oregan, Westmeath has dealt out liberal supplies of the same kind. This lady gives clothes to all her workpeople, constantly, in addition to their wages: Lord and Lady Dunraven have distributed comforts bountifully among the poor at Adare Manor. Mr. Allan Pollok and Mrs. Pollok have given 240l. in Christmas charities on their Irish estates. The fuel fund in Limerick has amounted to 1,100l. by which 2,000 poor families have been relieved. The *Galway Express* says,—"On Saturday a seasonable donation of clothes was made to the poor, of Headford, by Mr. Botterill, being a donation from Mrs. St. George, of Torquay. The old labourers on the estate were each supplied with a full suit, and about 80 persons received flannel petticoats, &c. On Monday a meeting of the committee appointed by the Poor Law Commissioners was held. The Rev. Mr. Conway also attended, and, in his zeal to have parties entered for outdoor relief, said the meeting wanted to browbeat the poor, although on the same morning 64 persons were supplied gratuitously with coals, their weekly supply, out of the stock generously placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr. St. George. Through the generosity of Mrs. St. George and a few Protestant ladies in the town, the 64 persons (62 of whom were Roman Catholics) also got the means for a substantial breakfast for Christmas morning, consisting of bread, tea, and sugar. The same day Mrs. Tyner, of Headford, distributed a quantity of meat, and Mrs. St. George, of Headford, distributed more bread and meat on Sunday."

GALWAY HARBOR DUES.—Within the last thirty years the port dues of our harbor have increased from £300 to nearly £2,000 a year.—Last year the exact figure was £2,764. With a pier and breakwater which would constitute Galway a harbor of refuge, with a graving dock, which is included in the improvements, what might we not anticipate.—*Galway Pictorial*.

CHARLES BENEFACTION.—The Lord Bishop of Elphin, the Most Rev. Dr. Gillooly, gave a liberal supply of bread and tea to the inmates of the Sligo workhouse—nearly 500 in number—on Christmas evening. 'A KIND LANDLORD.—John Wilson, Esq., of Dananore, in order to relieve the poor on his property at Street with fuel this trying season, has ordered his caretaker to ground, and while there stood a tree on his property, not to see them in want, without regard to their religious persuasion.—*Correspondent*.

EMPLOYMENT—IMPROVEMENT OF LAND.—We are gratified at being in a position to state that Robert Conway Hickson, Esq., J. P., Fermoy, has determined upon providing employment for a large number of the labourers and small farmers of his district, during what is already felt to be a most trying and severe winter; and this, too, in a way which will benefit both the employes and the employer. Mr. Hickson intends improving his property by drainage and other works which will involve an expenditure of over £4,000, and give employment to a very large class in the neighbourhood of Castlegregory. Were this example followed by the other landlords of the country, who can scarcely say that their properties do not need improvement, and were the government, to step in to their assistance, by way of loan of money, if required a large share if not all of the misery and destitution which do and otherwise will prevail would be immediately obviated.—*Tralee Chronicle*.

There is nothing in Ireland which the present Whig Government fears except the Independent Opposition policy. For there is not a "true man" in the St. Patrick's Brotherhood, or any other society of a cognate character in Ireland, whose measure, mental and physical, their police and spies have not taken, and whom, generally speaking, they could not have in custody in from twenty-four minutes to twenty-four hours; no matter how lustily Castle detectives may clap and cheer, or how eloquently the well-paid secret Castle agents may spout patriotism at their meetings;—as was well known to be the case in '48, and as, most assuredly, is the case now. No, they are so far from being afraid of any such organisations that it has been always the custom of the English Government to foster them for the express purpose of finding a pretext for withholding or withdrawing the rights of the Irish people, and of turning the current of Irish popular energy into a channel, which, like certain African and Australian rivers, is lost in the sands, and ends in vapour. We by no means mean to say that all who take a leading part in such organisations are paid agents of the Castle. But we know of only four other classes of leaders except those we have adverted to. One is, those ambitious, audacious, unscrupulous, clever gamblers for personal advancement, who want to attract public notice, and, judging by the recently past, think there is very little real danger, or that at least they can retire in time, and who find that by affecting ultra sentiments they can obtain a hearing, and perhaps a following, and who have no other chance of either, but who in this way manage to become "men of mark." Another class is composed of men whose vanity is so extravagant that they are willing to risk a good deal to gratify it, and who find the readiest way to be the profession of high-toned patriotism, and readiness to do battle with the "Sassanagh." These "patriots" always end in vapour, no matter how the current flows, and are swept away by the first breeze. Another is composed of the "true men," who have allowed themselves to be persuaded that there is no chance for Ireland except by fighting for it, and who, like the brave men, whom Ireland has always produced in abundance, would willingly fight to redress the manifold and almost insupportable wrongs of their country. This class, we need scarcely add, are the victims on whom the others traffic, and leave to pay all the penalty of the proceeding. For their own personal safety is a point they never fail—however threatening the danger may appear—by some means or other to secure. Of this latter class was M'Manus, and the masses of the people are full of such men; it is truly a pity to traffic on their hopes, much less on their liberty, or their blood. And to show them that certain forms of organisation, into which they may, under the influence of their excited feelings, be drawn, are not necessary did even such a combination of circumstances arise as might appear to justify them in resorting to arms, we will only remind them of the case of Wexford in '98, when the part of the county that had been "organised" and sworn in as United Irishmen did not fight at all, while the part that had been left unorganised did fight—so much for such so-called organisation. In short, the only effect of any possible organisation of the nature we have been adverting to, at present, in Ireland, is to give employment to the secret agents of the Government, and blood-money to informers. There is another class of organisers which we have not particularised, though an important one, we may, however, have to speak of on a future occasion. But there is an organisation of which England is very much afraid, for it would virtually repeal the Union, by giving Ireland the control of her own affairs, as Scotland has through about half our number of members; that is, an organisation to secure an effective Independent Opposition party in Parliament. To that organisation England will afford no facilities, but give every possible opposition. But if Irishmen do their duty to themselves and their country, they can secure its advantages in spite of her and even of past defections, and command any reasonable concessions they demand; equally regardless of the treason of the informer or the vengeance of the law. We think the time has come for stating these plain facts, and that it is our duty to state them.—*Wexford People*.

The right to create a new Irish peerage on the extinction of the titles of General Fitzgerald and Riversdale, has again accorded to the Crown. The name of Mr. Herbert, M. P. for Kerry, is mentioned. The last Irish peer created was Lord Fermoy.—*Guardian*.

The Rev. Mr. Stone, chaplain of the Sligo Gaol, was returning from that place after doing duty on Christmas afternoon, when he was waylaid and severely injured by a man named Hart, a Militia deserter, who had been discharged three days before from that gaol. The attack was witnessed by the turnkeys, who succeeded in arresting the offender. The *Sligo Independent* ascribes the assault to religious bigotry.

LORD LYONS IN CORK.—The excitement occasioned by the expectation of news from America was made the occasion for a hoax yesterday (Sunday). Some mischievous persons in Queenstown telegraphed to Mr. Mathew Honan, a respectable merchant in this city, that Lord Lyons had arrived in the Canada. Mr. Honan naturally repeated the intelligence to General Bloomfield, who then happened to be in the Commercial room. The General, it is said, was about to give instructions to turn out a guard of honour, but this proceeding was avoided by the arrival immediately after of the telegram from Southampton, stating that the Canada was to be detained.—*Cork Examiner*.

PROTECTION OF BELFAST COMMENCE.—As Government have sent an 80-gun ship and two heavily-armed gunboats to the Mersey, for the protection of shipping there in case of war, something should also be done for the most totally defenceless harbour of Belfast. A couple of screw gun-vessels, armed with Armstrong guns, would, under ordinary circumstances, suffice for the required purpose. The merchants of the Clyde are bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to secure like protection for their mercantile marine, and such an example is worthy of imitation by all who are interested in the maritime commerce of Belfast. As the port is now circumstanced, an adventurous privateer would find little difficulty in even exceeding the daring exploit of Paul Jones, who, during the first American war, cut out and carried off an armed British vessel from under the guns of Carrickfergus Castle.—*Northern Whig*.