

py, but for a long time held her peace upon the subject, trusting that the cloud might be a temporary one, and would disappear.

It was not so, unfortunately. Though in their manner to each other when together, nothing but the most cordial affection was observable, Catherine, when she came alone to see Hannah, always seemed a prey to some uneasiness which all her efforts could not conceal from her old friend. Even when she became for the first time a mother, and, with all the beautiful pride of a young mother's love, presented her babe to Hannah, the latter could see signs of a secret grief imprinted on Catherine's brow. Hoping by her counsels to bring relief, Hannah at last took an opportunity to tell the young wife what she had observed, and besought her confidence. At first, Catherine stammered forth a hurried assurance that she was perfectly happy, and, in a few seconds, belied her words by bursting into tears, and owning that she was very unhappy.

'But I cannot, Hannah,' she exclaimed, 'I cannot tell the cause—not even to you.'

'Don't say so, my poor Catherine,' replied Hannah; 'it is not curiosity that bids me interfere.'

'Oh, no! Hannah,' replied the young wife 'I know you speak from love to me.'

'Well, then,' continued the dame, 'open your heart to me. Age is a good adviser.'

Catherine was silent.

'Is your husband harsh?' asked Hannah.

'No, no,' cried the wife, 'man could not be kinder to woman than he is to me.'

'Perhaps he indulges in drink—in private—'

'Hannah, you mistake altogether,' was Catherine's reply; 'my husband is as free from all such faults as ever man was.'

'My dear child,' said she to the young woman, almost smiling as the idea entered her head, 'you are not suspicious—not jealous—'

'I have never had a moment's cause, Hannah,' answered Catherine. 'No, my griefs are not of that nature. He is one of the best and dearest of husbands.'

Old Hannah was puzzled by these replies, as much as she was distressed by the now open avowal of Catherine's having some hidden cause of sorrow; but seeing that her young friend could not make up her mind to a disclosure at the time, the aged dame gave up her inquiries, and told Catherine to think seriously of the propriety of confiding all to her.

Hannah conceived that, on mature consideration that Catherine would come to the resolution of seeking counsel at the cottage. And she was not wrong. In a few days after their late conversation, the young wife came to visit Hannah again, and after a little absent and embarrassed talk entered on the subject which was uppermost in the minds of both.

'Hannah,' said Catherine, 'I fear you can serve me nothing—I fear no living being can serve me. Oh, Hannah, good as my husband appears to be—good as he is—there is some dreadful weight pressing upon his mind which destroys his peace, and mine too. Alas! the gloomy fits which you as well as I noticed in him, are not, I fear, without cause.'

Catherine wept in silence for a minute, and continued,

'All that I know of this cause arises from his expressions—his dreadful expressions—while he is sleeping by my side. Hannah! he speaks in broken language of murder—of having committed a murder! He mutters about the "streaming blood" that his hand drew from the "innocent victim." Alas! I have heard enough to know that he speaks of a young woman. Oh, Hannah! perhaps, a woman deceived and killed by him.'

As Catherine said this, she shuddered, and buried her face in that of the babe which she carried in her arms.

Hannah was shocked to hear of this, but her good sense led her at once to suggest for the comfort of the poor wife, that it was perfectly possible for her husband to imagine himself a murderer in his sleep, and speak of it, without the slightest reality in the whole affair.

'Ah, Hannah,' said Catherine sadly, 'these dreadful sayings are not the result of one nightmare's slumber. They occur often—too often—'

Besides, when I first heard him mutter in his sleep of these horrible things, I mentioned the matter to him in the morning at our breakfast, and laughed at it; but he grew much agitated; and telling me to pay no attention to such things, 'as he sometimes talked nonsense he knew, in his sleep,' he rose and went away, leaving his meal unfinished—indeed, scarcely touched. I am sure he does not know how often he speaks in his sleep, for I never mentioned the subject again—though my rest is destroyed by it. And then his fits of sadness at ordinary moments!—Hannah! Hannah! there is some mystery under it. Yet, continued the poor young wife, 'he is so good—kind—so dutiful to God and to man. He has too much tenderness and feeling to harm a fly! Hannah, what am I to think or to do, for I am wretched at present.'

It was long ere the old dame replied to this question. She mused deeply on what had been told to her, and in the end said to Catherine—

'My poor child, I cannot believe that William is guilty of what these circumstances lay seemingly at his door. But if the worst be true, it is better for you to know it, than to be in this killing suspense forever. Go and gain his confidence, Catherine; tell him all that has come to your ears; and say that you do so by my advice.'

Hannah continued to use persuasions of the same kind for some time longer, and at length sent Catherine home, firmly resolved to follow the counsel given to her.

On the following day Catherine once more presented herself at the abode of Hannah, and as soon as she had entered, exclaimed—

'Dear mother! I have told him all! He will be here soon to explain every thing to us both.'

The old woman did not exactly comprehend this. 'Has he not,' said she, 'given an explanation then to you?'

'No, Hannah,' said Catherine, 'but, oh, he is not guilty. When I had spoken to him as you desired me, he was silent for a long time, and then took me in his arms, Hannah, and kissed me, saying, "My darling Catherine, I ought to have confided in you long before. I have been unfortunate, but not guilty. Go to kind Hannah's, and I will soon follow you, and set your mind at ease, as far as it can be done. Had I known how much you have been suffering, I would have done this long before." These were his words, Hannah. Oh, he may have been unfortunate.'

Hannah and Catherine said little more to each other until the husband of the latter came to the cottage. William sat down gravely by his wife, and commenced to tell his story.

'The reasons of the unhappy exclamations in sleep,' said he, 'which have weighed so much upon your mind, my dear Catherine, may be very soon told. They arose from a circumstance which has much embittered my own peace, but which I hope to be regarded as a sad calamity, rather than a crime. When I entered the army, which I did at the age of nineteen, the recruiting party to which I attached myself was sent to Scotland, where we remained for a few months, being ordered again to England in order to be transported to the Continent. One unhappy morning, as we were passing out of a town where we had rested on our march southwards, my companions and I chanced to see a girl, apparently about fifteen years of age, washing clothes in a tub. Being then the most light-hearted among the light-hearted, I took up a large stone, with the intention of splashing the water against the girl. She stooped hastily, and, in so doing, fell on her head, and she fell to the ground, with, I fear her skull fractured. Stupefied by what I had done, I stood gazing at the stream of blood rushing from my poor victim's head, when my companions, observing that no one had seen us (for it was then early in the morning), hurried me off. We were not pursued, and were in a few weeks on the Continent, but the image of that bleeding girl followed me everywhere; and since I came home, I have never dared to inquire into the result, lest suspicion should be excited, and I should suffer for murder. For I fear from the dreadful nature of the blow, that the death of that poor creature lies at my door.'

While Hutton was relating this story, he had turned his eyes to the window; but what was his astonishment, as he was concluding, to hear old Hannah cry aloud, 'Thank God!' while his wife burst into a hysterical passion of tears and smiles, and threw herself into his arms.

'My dear husband,' cried she, as soon as her voice found utterance, 'that town was Morpeth.'

'It was,' said he.

'Dear William,' the wife then cried, 'I am that girl!'

'You, Catherine!' cried the enraptured husband, as he pressed her to his bosom.

'Yes,' said old Hannah, from whose eyes tears of joy were fast dropping, 'the girl whom you unfortunately struck was she who is now the wife of your bosom; but your fears have magnified the blow. Catherine was found by myself soon after the accident, and though she lost a little blood, and was stunned for a time she soon got round again. Praise be heaven for bringing about this blessed explanation!'

'Amen,' cried Catherine and her husband.

Peace and happiness, as much as usually falls to the happiest mortals, were the lot of Catherine and her husband from this time forward, their great source of inquietude being thus taken away. The wife even loved her husband the more from the discovery that the circumstances which had caused her distress were but a proof of his extreme tenderness of heart and conscience, and William was attached the more strongly to Catherine, after finding her to be the person whom he had unwittingly injured. A new tie as it were, had been formed between them. Strange as this history may appear, it is true.

THE END.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Church of St. Michael and John, the first Catholic church built in a public street in the city of Dublin after the removal of the iniquitous and odious penal laws is threatened with utter demolition, and not only the temple itself, but its parochial house and admirable schools; and the very vaults containing the ashes of some of the most respected of the city and venerated of the clergy are also threatened with annihilation by the proposed city railway scheme. Against this the parishioners have very justly petitioned in protest.

The Rev. Edmund McDonnell, Catholic Curate, died at Doneraile on the 8th ult. The Rev. gentleman was remarkable for the zeal he displayed in the discharge of his duties, as well as for his kindness and attention to the wants of the poor. The Rev. gentleman was in the act of preparing to attend a sick call, when he fell, and never rallied afterwards.

The friends of the Rev. Father Moriarty, of Mallow, will be glad to learn that he has so far recovered after a severe and prolonged attack of fever, from which he had been suffering as to be able to take a little exercise. It is expected that the respected clergyman will soon resume his duties.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. WM. HICKS, FERMoy. Our readers will see that the Rev. Wm. Hicks, for many years a Professor at St. Columba's College, Fermoy, is about to leave Ireland for California to collect funds for the Catholic University. We cannot too much admire the zeal and devotedness of the Rev. gentleman, which induces him to leave his native country, his friends and that institution to whose interests he was so deeply attached, for the perils and inconveniences of a long sea-voyage, and a still longer sojourn in a foreign land. The townspeople of Fermoy have, on the occasion of his departure, presented the Rev. gentleman with an address, which is accompanied by a valuable and substantial testimonial. The address and testimonial are a convincing proof of the high regard in which the Rev. gentleman's many estimable qualities were held by the people of Fermoy; but flattering as this address is, it is accompanied by another, which is, in our opinion, more flattering and interesting still.

It is understood that Mr. Morgan John O'Connell again aspires to a seat in the Imperial Parliament. Recently he has been testing his chances in the city of Cork in the event of a dissolution, Dr. Lyons having determined not to permit himself to be again put in nomination. It is further stated that there will be a second vacancy, owing to Mr. F. Beamish's impaired health.

Dr. BULLEN.—The Cork Examiner of Saturday last announces the resignation of Dr. Bullen. This will spare the Government a painful duty, as no one supposed he could continue to hold the office after the confession he made about the fabrication of charges against the president. A letter from Cork, in the Dublin Evening Mail, states that the students, as a body, resolved not to enter his class-room, and that only three or four of them were present at his lecture on Thursday, although the entire class were within the grounds of the College.

SLIGO GOING!—On Wednesday week, the steamboat Laurel sailed from Sligo for Glasgow, having on board over one hundred emigrants; and on the evening of the same day the Sligo sailed for Liverpool bringing about fifty emigrants en route to America. On Friday night the Shamrock sailed for Liverpool with more than five hundred emigrants, chiefly from the county Mayo, and many also from the neighborhood of Glenties and Olfoney, in this county. It was truly heartrending to witness the leave-taking of the emigrants and their friends who remain behind for the present. Six hundred and fifty for one week; from one port, in addition to the hundreds who have gone before them from Sligo.—Sligo Champion.

BALINASCLO.—The number of persons leaving the country is, perhaps, less than it was some weeks ago, which may be accounted for by the fact that the shipping agents are unable to forward passengers on application, the number already booked with some lines being more than can obtain berths for the next fortnight.—Star.

MAYO.—The numbers who have left by the train this week amounted to over 650 emigrants—204 from this district, 60 from Claremorris, and the residue from Ballyhaunis.—Constitution.

Fifty-seven agricultural laborers and servant girls left the neighborhood of Waterford within the last week, also twenty-seven young sailor lads took their departure for Liverpool, to seek for berths in foreign ships. The mail car for Cork is filled daily for Queenstown, all destined for America.—Waterford News.

The number of emigrants leaving our port (Derry) weekly, or rather almost daily, are immense, forming an 'exodus' of really alarming proportions, while no end to its progress is apparent. The ships of Messrs. W. McCorkell & Co., and of J. and J. Cook, are regularly crowded with passengers to the full extent of their accommodation. If nothing shall be done to encourage home colonization the country will soon be depopulated.—Derry Standard.

The tide of emigration still continues to flow from this port. Every steamer carries away large numbers of healthy, active, blooming young women, who comprise fully three-fourths of those seeking a better home in the New World. On Wednesday last nearly three hundred sailed, and their appearance bespoke that they belonged to the class which have been accustomed to look on as 'comfortable.'—Dundalk Examiner.

A late number of the Mayo Constitution says:—The numbers who have left by the train this week amounted to over 650 emigrants—204 from this district, 60 from Claremorris, and the residue from Ballyhaunis. As to agricultural prospects, we are glad to see that a large number of the tenantry on the estates of O. L. Fitzgerald, Esq. W. H. Rhodes, Esq. Stephen Gibbons, Esq. J. J. Joyce, Esq. R. Kearney, Esq. L. Carney, Esq. and several other proprietors, adjacent to this are preparing their lands for extensive flax culture.

THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE.—It is the duty—the bounden duty of every representative body in Ireland—of every man of influence—of every man who feels that a struggle should be made to keep at home the remnant of the Irish race—to give an early consideration to the means whereby that object can be best achieved. We think there is much sound sense in the suggestion of Alderman Dillon, that a conference should be held, composed of members of all the representative bodies in Ireland, with such members of parliament as would attend, and that, having considered maturely our rights and our grievances, it should place before parliament and before Europe an authentic statement of the demands of the Irish nation. Such a proceeding would be of immense importance, and we trust the suggestion will receive every attention at the hands of those who are entitled to move prominently in matters of this kind.—Tipperary Free Press.

The Dublin Corporation have done their duty well, and it now remains for the Provincial Municipalities to do theirs. Alderman Dillon advises a Conference in Dublin on this all-important subject. Why should there not be a Conference? Why should not something be done for Ireland?—Limerick Reporter.

Let us make due allowance for the party traditions which the gentleman had to follow who moved the amendment to Mr. Dillon's petition, and, instead of blaming them, give them credit for the candour which prompted them to admit the foundation of justice upon which that petition rested. Let us regard the declaration of opinion given by the Dublin Corporation as all the more valuable, because it was not that of a section of the body declaring views in accordance with their general political principles, but that which in the main was assented to by the municipal representatives of the metropolis.—Cork Examiner.

The effects of the mild genial warmth of the present season are everywhere perceptible over the face of the country—the trees are putting forth their delicate buds, and the winter crops are exhibiting a soft, rich verdure. The spring's work is actively progressing, and now that it has been so far advanced the proverbial April showers will be ardently wished for. So far as we can learn, an abundant harvest may be expected.—Wexford People.

The Ballinasloe Star says:—Though a considerable amount of rain fell towards the end of the week, the weather has, on the whole, been as favorable as could be desired, and the operations of the season are quite as far advanced as could reasonably be expected. The planting of potatoes by the small farmers is now in progress throughout the country, and on large farms preparation is being made for the sowing of other green crops. The number of persons leaving the country is, perhaps, less than it was some weeks ago, which may be accounted for by the fact that the shipping agents are unable to forward passengers on application, the number already booked with some lines being more than can obtain berths for the next fortnight.

The last few days have been of the most genial character, and vegetation has progress rapidly in consequence. The spring work with farmers is much advanced. Potato planting, will, we understand, be carried on to a very extensive scale this year, as already the area devoted to this excellent crop varies near the limit under potatoes last of other years, whilst little better than half the amount that is intended has yet been put in the ground. The scarcity of hands has already been felt at home. Farmers have some difficulty to secure men, because they are not in the country.—Carlow Post.

A Carlow paper, rejoicing over the genial weather, says:—The crops in every direction present a very encouraging aspect, and the whole country is now clothed in a rich green. On every side we turn we see the probabilities of reaping a bountiful harvest; and, indeed, should the present favorable weather continue for any time our hopes will amount almost to a certainty. It is wonderful, therefore, that with the glorious prospects before them—more so, than, perhaps, we have had for many years—so many of our countrymen are hurrying from their native soil.

Still emigration proceeds, and the country is becoming, in population, a desert, though likely to be blessed in every other way by the hand of the Almighty.

The weather during the past week has been very fine, and well suited for getting down the crops. The Spring work is progressing rapidly in most districts.—Roscommon Messenger.

ARRESTS IN FERRAMAGH.—The Enniskillen Mail says:—Several arrests have been recently made in Ferramagh for what is popularly termed Fanaticism, but which is probably no more than the old Ribbonism, with the name of which, at least, we have all been long familiar. Arrests have been made at Tempo, Lisnakea, Derrylin, Monagh, Belleek, and in Enniskillen, and there are now said to be about ten in Enniskillen jail, charged with being connected with some secret society.

The Irish Times says:—We are enabled on most reliable authority to solve the mystery of the sudden departure of Garibaldi. A telegram was received at the Foreign Office, London, from the Austrian Ministry, to the effect that 'the representative of Austria would not attend the Conference so long as Garibaldi was permitted to create excitement in England.' The Prussian Government joined implicitly with that of Austria. Immediately a very sudden anxiety for the health of Garibaldi affected the British Ministry. Mr. Gladstone was called in as State Physician, and discovered that Garibaldi needed quiet and repose, not in England, but in the air and isolation of Capri.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The Registrar General has issued his 'Agricultural Statistics, Ireland,' showing the estimated average produce of the crops for the year 1863, and the emigration from Irish ports, between the 1st of January and the 31st Dec. for the same year. We have still presented to us the same sad picture of land no longer cultivated, and men and women flying from our shores never to return. These statistics have been, as usual, collected by the Constabulary, and out of the returns for 3,438 electoral divisions, the yield for 2,269 has been revised by the guardians, and pronounced to be most correctly stated.

By these returns there appears to have been a total decrease of 94,980 acres in the extent of land under tillage in 1863 compared with 1862. How many men would find employment in tilling those 95,000 acres? How many horses would be required to plough the land and carry home the produce? How many little mouths would be fed by the toil of the husbandman?—the answer to these questions would give the true idea of the loss sustained by the lapse of 95,000 acres from tillage into bog and water, or unprofitable pasture. This is, moreover, only one step in the descending scale. Year by year there has been less tillage, and, as a consequence, less labor and less wages.

The total decrease in cereals was no less than 143,534 acres. Even turnips and mangel wurzel decreased by 32,075 acres—there were fewer cattle—and as these crops do not answer for exportations, they were not required. There was a trifling increase of 3,583 acres in cabbage, and 5,303 acres in potatoes. The only redeeming feature is the increase in flax to the extent of 640,039 acres, the produce of which is worth at least one million of money. In meadow there has been an increase of 7,714 acres, but, notwithstanding this, there is a decrease in the quantity of hay produced.

We had a succession of disastrous seasons, and last year was, in some respects, an improvement. At one time we had every reason to hope for a most abundant harvest, but it was not to be. The rain descended, and the winds blew, and the golden harvest partly failed. Still the year 1863 was better than any of the three preceding years. Wheat produced 1,893,541 quarters from the diminished acreage, more than in 1862. Potatoes yielded 1,297,547 tons more, and these of a better quality. In turnips there was an increase of 390,900 tons. The increase in the yield of flax was 18,388 tons. The decrease in hay was 19,496 tons. The county of Dublin exceeds all other counties in the average yield per acre in wheat, oats, and potatoes.

To guard against mistakes and misstatements respecting the real amount of emigration from Ireland, it is necessary to perceive, that the Registrar-General's returns only give the number of those who departed from Irish ports, declaring their intention never to return. All the emigrants who, though Irish, departed from English ports are excluded, as well as all those who did not expressly state that 'it was not their intention to return.' Now, it is evident that numbers do depart with an intention of returning, who never come back. Above 80,000 Irish-born emigrants departed from English ports. The Irish statistics, therefore, only afford an approximation to the real amount of the emigration which has taken place.

And yet the figures are sufficiently startling. The total number of persons who departed from Ireland, who stated it was not their intention to return, amounted to 117,820. Of this total 61,690 were males, and 56,130 females, and as compared with 1862 there was an increase in the number of emigrants to the extent of 45,090. The greatest number of emigrants proceeded from Munster. That province sent away 55,870 souls; Ulster, with her tenant-right and her manufactures and her industry, ranked next, and sent forth 22,497; from Connaught departed 17,915; and from Leinster 18,020. The total number of emigrants who departed from Ireland since 1851 is set down at 1,431,125, or about the number of the entire population of the kingdom of Denmark. Of this and total 394,200 departed from Ulster. Of those who left this country last year 19,966 were under fifteen years of age, and there were 56,130 females.—Irish Times.

A whisper is abroad in well informed quarters to the effect that the customary term of his Lord Lieutenantcy having expired, it is the wish of the Earl of Carlisle to retire, and that he possibly may not return to Ireland in that capacity.—Evening Mail.

ANCIENT IRISH BELL.—The Rev. G. H. Reade, Iniskeen, county Louth, contributed at the last meeting of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society a drawing of an ancient Saint's bell, in his possession. It was constructed of iron, with a bronze covering riveted on. It was eight inches high, two feet round the mouth, and the greatest diameter seven inches and a half. It was an abjuration bell, and might have belonged to St. Columbkille, as it was found at Gaolen, county of Donegal, and had been preserved in a family there from time immemorial, being also used as a medicine bell—a drink of water out of it being the panacea. In 1847, the potato failure drove the family of its possessor to America, and he sold it to the person from whom the Rev. Mr. Reade obtained it, for £3. The rivets were bronze, the handle iron and the outer covering of bronze was nearly perfect. The inside lining of iron consisted of four plates, and he fancied that it was 'put inside' in order to keep the venerated bronze together, as there were rivets indicating that purpose. The iron did not line the top, which was convex. The bronze outside, was one casting.

On the 19th ultimo while some laborers were digging in a field at Ballinasloe, near Limerick, they turned up a human skeleton, which evidently had been buried for a great many years. John Gleeson, Esq., city coroner, held an inquest on it, at which a medical gentleman was examined, but the bones were so considerably decayed that he was unable to form an opinion as to what sex they belonged to. Within the memory of some of the oldest people in the neighborhood no one has been missing from the locality.

TAS. CORONER.—Sir Robert Kane. The Dublin Correspondent of the Times writes:—Sir Robert Kane has resigned his office as President of the Queen's College, Cork, because the Government required that the President of the College should be no longer non-resident. It is likely that Sir Robert will now devote his time and energies to his favorite institution—the Museum of Irish Industry, if the Treasury can be induced to give up the idea of amalgamating the institution with the Royal Dublin Society.

DUBLIN WATERWORKS.—The recent fearful catastrophe at Sheffield has excited some not unreasonable apprehension among the citizens that the embankment of the reservoir of the Vartey Waterworks at Roundwood might also prove too weak to withstand the pressure of the immense body of water that will be confined within it. The corporation, therefore, to satisfy themselves, and allay public anxiety, resolved to make a personal inspection of the works. Accordingly, the Waterworks Committee, with Sir John Gray, the chairman, and about forty other members of the town-council, the city engineer, and the contractors, enjoyed a very pleasant country excursion lately, in delightful weather. Starting at 10.30 a.m., they proceeded by train to Bray, and thence on cars and in carriages to Roundwood. The chief features of the waterworks at Roundwood are a great storage reservoir, having an area of 400 acres, capable of holding, when filled, 2,482,810,483 gallons of water, or 200 days' supply for Dublin—12,000,000 gallons daily; a vast embankment some 1,600 ft. in length, greatest height 68 ft., the depth of water inside, which will be about 60 ft., and a covered conduit pipe and tunnel, together three miles in length. In the construction of this tunnel some unexpected engineering difficulties have been met, in consequence of which the contractor has been allowed a year additional. The embankment is 500 ft. wide at the base and 23 at the top. It is a mountain of 'puddled' earth, faced with granite. The cost of the works will be about £280,000; 1,500 men are employed upon them, and it is expected that they will be completed in January, 1865. The Waterworks Committee and the other gentlemen made a minute inspection of the works, with which all expressed great satisfaction, except two.

CULTIVATION OF FLAX.—This is the month when flax should be sown, if the weather is at all favorable. We are glad to say that in the lower part of this county, particularly, the people are busily preparing the land for the seed, and so extensive has the movement become, that flax seed has been difficult to get in Durdalk, during the last few days. Enterprising persons, too, are preparing scutch-mills in all directions, and the farmers may rely upon it that they will not have anything to complain of in that respect. An advertisement in another column informs us that Mr. O'Hare, of Ravensdale, is about to erect a Scutch-mill, which will give much accommodation in that part of the country. There is also a scutch-mill being erected at Cooley, and Mr. Brown is getting up very superior scutching machinery at Philipstown, which together with Sir John Macneill's mill, and two mills at Forkhill, will do an immense amount of work in preparing flax for market. Rely upon it that those who are sowing a reasonable amount of flax are acting wisely; whilst those who have not resolved to cultivate some, will have reason to regret their want of spirit an energy.—Dundalk Democrat.

A copper mine has been discovered in the immediate vicinity of Dungarvan, to the rear of the church-yard, by Mr. Edward Allen, watch-maker, Main st. Several samples of the ore have been shown by him, and it is considered superior in quality to that raised at Bonmahon. A silver mine has also been discovered on a farm in close proximity to the aforesaid mine, and large lumps of the mineral were found when cutting drains through the land from time to time, and it is positively stated by persons well experienced in this ore that it is of excellent quality.

THE NATIONAL BOARD AND CONVENT SCHOOLS.—In answer to several correspondents, we beg to inform them that the alleged 'mutilation,' 'burking,' and 'suppression' of Mr. Head-Inspector Sheridan's Report on Convent Schools, are only feints got up by the Orange and Presbyterian party, in the interest of instead of hostility to their friends in Tyrone House. The facts are these. It has been the practice, since 1848, for each Head Inspector to draw up and furnish to the Commissioners, for publication, in their annual proceedings, various general reports, on the several classes of duty which occupied them during the year—thus Examination of Teachers, Working of Model Schools, and Inspection of Ordinary Schools. Mr. Sheridan, under this practice, submitted to the Board a report, for 1860, not on Convent Schools, as is improperly alleged, but on Ordinary National Schools, making therein, however incidental allusion containing anything detrimental to the character of Convent Schools for merit and efficiency, the Inspector is forced to admit they surpass all other schools, but he pointed out two circumstances which, in his opinion, tend to operate against their higher utility. One is, that the convents rarely contain members who had, what he deems, the benefits of Model School training; and, next, that the convents are impatient of the opposition of lay Catholic schools, to a degree which Mr. Sheridan indignantly rebukes as intolerant.

As to the first charge, just fancy the gentle daughters of Vincent de Paul, the band of noble women raised by God and Nanno Nagle, the Presentation Nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, or any of the holy women that conduct these schools, seated in Marlborough-street amongst their Irish, Presbyterian, and Anglican fellow-schoolmistresses, and enjoying the blessing of Professor Sullivan's coarse jokes, Caledonian Rintoul's Calvinism, Anglican Young's Protestant hymns, and Peryett Savage's account of his conversion! The answer to Mr. Sheridan is, that while all the teachers of the ordinary National Schools have been trained in the Model Schools, and while neither nuns nor Christian Brothers enjoyed such blessed advantage the Nuns' Schools, as Mr. Sheridan and all his colleagues reluctantly admit it, and the Christian Schools, as sworn Royal Commissioners declare, are pre-eminently the best schools in the kingdom. As to the second charge, Mr. Sheridan must have known it to be false, confounding as he does, the natural preference shown by parents, pupils and pastors for Convent Schools, with intolerant hostility, on the part of the nuns, few of whom ever quit the convent walls, and none of them would be capable of the conduct here uncharitably imputed to them. The Orange party accuse the Board of having compressed those passages in the Report. No; but they omitted, the whole of the Report; nay, what is more, they omitted, in that year (1860), all the Reports of the Head-Inspectors—Patten, Sheehan, Newell, Kernan, Hunter, and Sheridan—on Ordinary Schools inspected. So much for the 'mare's nest' discovered by the Ulster Presbyterians through the agency of our contemporary, the Londonderry Standard.

The following additional testimony to the efficiency of monks' and nuns' schools is from the not very friendly report of Inspector Sheridan. The census shows that more pupils go into the upper classes in these, in proportion, than in National Schools. These teachers are not classified by the Board, nor are they required to submit to an examination, as the Commissioners take for granted that they are sufficiently well educated to discharge the duties of national teachers efficiently; and in point of fact, it is undeniable that the majority of them—of the nuns especially—are infinitely better educated than the teachers of ordinary National Schools, while it is equally true that they bring to the discharge of their duties, disinterestedness and devotedness to which even the most zealous of the lay teachers can have no claim. It is also undeniable, that their pupils receive a moral and religious training of the highest order, they are educated to habits of 'truth-telling, modesty, order, and cleanliness,' and such of them as attend with fair regularity, and continue at school till they reach the upper classes, are sure to receive an excellent literary education.

The great question for Ireland, the Landlord and Tenant question, has once more been brought before Parliament by a petition which was adopted by the Corporation of Dublin, and presented to the House by the Lord Mayor.