

Lord Fielding has written the following letter to the *Times* newspaper, in answer to some remarks which that paper had made upon his recent conversion to the True Faith. It must no doubt be very galling to Protestants to see how, every day, the men most distinguished amongst them for piety and learning, renounce their heresies, and humbly seek admission into the One, the Eternal Church of Christ:—

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—I have this morning read in the *Times*, with no little surprise, an article upon what you are pleased to term my "Secession from the Church," in which there are some assertions which absolutely call for a denial from myself. I will comment upon them in the order in which they come. After a few prefatory remarks, it is stated that my "immediate motive" in seceding from the Anglican communion was the course of conduct pursued by his Grace the Archbishop of York and some other church dignitaries in reference to the Gorham case. In reply to this, I am bound to say that had this been my immediate motive I should certainly have waited for some time yet, with the hope of its being possible still to persuade the ecclesiastical authorities to do what might be in their power to re-establish the orthodox doctrine on infant baptism. This, however, is not the case. The late painful conflicts in the (so called) Church of England have only been instrumental in my conversion to the Catholic Church in so far as they proved to me the entire absence of a living definite authority in matters of faith, without which creeds and formularies, being liable to different interpretations, are mere dead letters. Such a living definite authority, conclusive and infallible as guided by the promised teaching of the Holy Ghost, I find alone claimed and alone exercised in the Church of Rome. For this reason, and from the firm and overpowering conviction that the Church of England at the Reformation had forfeited her Catholicity in separating herself from the centre of unity, I felt myself bound to leave her, being convinced that she is now only reaping the natural fruits of what she had then sown. My doubts on this point were not the growth of a day or a week; they had long harassed me, and the principal essays to prove the contrary appeared to me eminently unsatisfactory and inconclusive. At the time of the great meeting in July, my mind was far from easy on the subject, and I did not intend to have taken any part in the proceedings of that day, beyond recording my votes and signing the addresses. When, however, it was ascertained that one building was insufficient to contain the whole of the meeting, such numerous entreaties were poured in upon me to preside in another hall, and thus keep together those who would otherwise have been compelled to go away unsatisfied, that my requests to be excused from taking any prominent part were overruled, and I was compelled to submit. At that meeting you state, "His Lordship used these words:—'I have heard with pain some allusion to separation as a possible contingent, should the State proceed to further aggressions. That, I admit, might justify us in seeking relief from the trammels of the State. Secession from the Church is quite another thing. Is it for churchmen to desert their Church at her utmost need? When the enemy is at the gate, shall the soldiers of Christ, the Divine Head of the Church, violate their loyalty and allegiance by rushing into dissent, if not something worse?' The suggestion was made, I presume, merely in the hurry of discussion, but I faint hope that no true churchman, whether he be clergyman or layman, would seriously entertain the idea of secession from the Church." You conclude, "Such was the emphatic language used by his Lordship only two months back."

I do not boast of having a precise memory, and have no notes of my speech on that occasion. I can only, therefore, say that I have not the slightest recollection of using any such language. Indeed, I am firmly convinced I did not do so. If you quote from the report of the *Times* on that occasion, I can most unhesitatingly pronounce it to be an entire forgery, for I remarked at the time that the *Times* had made me up a speech of which I did not utter a single sentiment. However, waiving all this, no one will deny that I impressively said that it was the duty of every churchman to fight for the truth, careless of all obloquy, and the world's opinion, and that I was prepared to do so.

The step I have taken sufficiently attests this—as no one who knows me will think that I should have adopted such a course had I not been conscientiously convinced that it was for the sake of truth and duty.

I shall feel much obliged if you will suffer this letter to appear in the next edition of the *Times*.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

FIELDING.

Edinburgh, September 3.

### THE EXHIBITION OF 1851.

The *Morning Chronicle* aims at becoming the medium through which exclusive information concerning the Exhibition of 1851 shall be conveyed to the public. After Monday next, all important scraps of intelligence concerning the "Industrial Festival" will be published by that journal in French and German, as well as in English.

The preliminary proceedings connected with the building in Hyde-park are being carried on with considerable vigor. The iron columns are being erected; several temporary sheds have been built within the space enclosed by the boarding, for stores—including a large one, 200 feet in length, intended to be used as workshops, and another, sixty feet in length, for the use of clerks, draughtsmen, and others connected with the works. This latter shed has a roof constructed upon the same plan as that designed for the building itself, consisting of five series and ridges and valleys, filled with glass of the same size as that intended to be used throughout the whole of the beautiful structure. Sheds have also been erected for the gate-keeper, and for visitors, and as a pay office for the men employed in the works.

Besides the opening of the register for persons desirous of affording accommodation to artisans who may visit the Exhibition, an important step has been taken in the appointment of Colonel Reid and Mr. A. Redgrave to communicate with the different railway companies, on the subject of the fares and accommodation to be provided for conveying the working-classes to London. The railway companies have shown a wish to co-operate with the Commissioners in this respect.

Several of them have already offered to reduce their fares to a very considerable extent, and to provide special trains on the occasion; but no definite conclusion has yet been come to with any of the companies.

Arrangements have been made for protecting from piracy the design of any article exposed to view at the Exhibition, and a circular, recently issued by the Commissioners, states that there are reasonable expectations that the Board of Trade will grant the right of provisional registration, free of charge to all exhibitors, of articles which would fall within the provisions of the Act for the Registration of Designs. It ought not to be forgotten that the 31st of October is the last day on which applications for space can be received from intending exhibitors. The space already demanded by the metropolitan districts is 27,774 square feet of floor or table, and 24,243 square feet of wall space. 10,000 square feet have been granted to Manchester, and we believe 80,000 to America. The total area of the ground floor and galleries of the building will be 855,360 square feet. Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., are confident that they will be able to complete the works within the specified time.

### DR. ACHILLI.

A long article has been published in the *Dublin Review*, placing this hero of Protestantism in rather an unenviable light. The writer draws his information from official documents which he went to the trouble of collecting, and to which he refers for every statement in the article.

It appears that this man's account of the various honorable posts which he occupied, is almost entirely unfounded, and that his life was but a series of crimes, for which he was subjected to sundry penalties, being forgiven at times on what was supposed sufficient evidence of repentance, again relapsing and aggravating former delinquencies, until he was finally suspended, degraded from the priesthood, and confined in a frontier town, from which he contrived to escape. The writer traced him from one police office to another, and procured authenticated extracts of the proceedings held in his regard. He follows him after his escape from Italy, and shows him even in Malta and the Ionian Islands to have been an adulterer, a thief, and probably a murderer, and this too by authentic documents. We have seldom seen so dreadful an exposure of a man occupying a high place in the esteem of any portion of the community.

As was naturally to be expected, the Doctor did not submit tamely to this castigation. The *Dublin Review*, and the writer, whose style was easily recognized in this article, were not like the Pittsburg Street Preachers, their party, and their organs, whose attacks can lower no one in the mind of any man whose opinion is worth having.

The Doctor has notified the editor of the *Review* that he would institute a suit for libel. The London papers tell us that a "distinguished Catholic Divine" avowed himself at once the author of the article. This "Divine" is evidently Bishop Wiseman. Achilli, we apprehend, will not have much to be glad of before the suit is ended, as Bishop Wiseman most assuredly knew well what he was about, and what was before him, when he sent that article for publication.

We have little doubt in saying that the Doctor's game is up, or at any rate that the only thing that now remains for him is a six months' tour through the United States. John Bull is gullible enough, yet, when it comes to a certain point he won't stand it. But there is no impostor so vile who cannot succeed in the United States in making a noise and being applauded in certain quarters for six months or a year, if he only be real—strong—truth don't at all matter, all that is required is that he be strong and heavy on the Pope. The pulpits that were occupied by Leahy will be offered, of course, and can scarcely be disgraced even by Achilli.

It is a curious fact that while Protestant writers make so much noise about the alleged corruption of morals amongst the clergy in Catholic countries, there are none of them, however corrupt, that are not received with open arms whenever they offer their services to Protestants.—The most degraded appear to do very well, and to become most popular as Protestant ministers.—*Pittsburg Catholic*.

DR. ACHILLI.—Authentic "Brief Sketch of the Life of Dr. Giacinto Achilli," containing a confutation of the misstatements of former narratives. Extracted from the *Dublin Review*, No. LVII., with additions and corrections. London and Dublin: Richardsons.

Here is a cheap reprint of an article which most deservedly attracted great attention at the time it was published, and which people, not subscribers to the *Dublin Review*, have been very anxious to get hold of. They now have the opportunity, and all parties at all desirous of forming an opinion on the great Achilli controversy—if controversy it be—have now abundant materials to enable them to do so. Our readers are aware that, after due consideration, after receiving sundry pokes from friend and foe, Signor Achilli, or his wealthy patrons, are said to meditate an action against the *Dublin Review* for the various charges therein brought against the Signor; and that an illustrious Catholic Ecclesiastic, whose name many of our readers will guess without much difficulty, is also said to have avowed the authorship, and to be prepared to substantiate the narrative. Signor Achilli's friends paraded him all about the British Empire—from Torquay to Paisley, from Dublin to Belfast; they ostentatiously provoked inquiry into his history, and they cannot complain if this challenge has been accepted. It was naturally expected that Signor Achilli's friends would take some notice of this article in the *Review*, and we are very glad the affair has taken this turn. Those who have to maintain the charges made in this article, will, no doubt, put in a plea of justification, and the whole truth will be elicited before an English Court of Justice.

The article in the *Dublin Review* is certainly, from beginning to end, a very serious statement, evidently drawn up by a writer who is possessed of ample information and knowledge of Italian Ecclesiastical affairs, and who believes every word he writes. We have no wish to prejudice a cause so soon to come before a legal tribunal; and we shall only observe that the charges brought forward in this article comprise a list of crimes which, if they can be substantiated, would make Achilli out to be one of the greatest villains—one of the foulest and most contemptible impostors ever imposed on the simplicity of a public but too easily gulled.—*Tablet*.

### IRELAND.

#### ADDRESS TO THE THRONE—APPEAL FROM A PRIEST.

After the august ceremonies at the offering of the Synod were concluded, and as the prelates and bishops were about to enter council, the Rev. Mr. Sheehan, the gifted and revered pastor of Ennistymon, entered the great corridor, and respectfully approaching the bishops addressed them in the following most eloquent and feeling terms:—

"My Lords—An humble priest from the wilds of Clare, fresh from the graves and skeletons of that desolated county, assumes the liberty of throwing out most respectfully a few observations; not by way of dictation, but for the kind consideration of this great council. Ireland, my lords, is our country; it is the home of our sires and the land of our love. It is a lovely land, blessed by heaven with innumerable advantages.

"But, my lords, it is a land of suffering and sorrow. A combination of circumstances has operated for its ruin. Its children have been mowed down in thousands, and are dying still under the lawless power which crushed the energies of a nation and robbed it of its pride and independence. Extermination, sanctioned by English law—tyranny unheard of in the annals of earliest suffering—Whig systems, destined to kill and slay our countrymen—have nearly done their worst. Our poorhouses are crowded with the dying and the dead; our towns and hamlets swarm with hopeless victims, hunted from their mountain homes; and the roads and bye-ways are strewn with walking spectres whose groans and sighs drag a pang from the most callous heart. Oh, my lords, shall not this murderous system have an end? Will not the combined wisdom of this august council, led on by the representatives of the Holy See, influenced by the mighty eloquence of the star of Tuam, his country's pride and his people's treasure, make an effort to arrest our ruin? (The Archbishop of Tuam bowed his acknowledgments.) Oh, this day will form an era in the annals of the Catholic church. My heart swells with delight—my conviction whispers to my mind, that you, my lords, will remonstrate with English power—that you will address royalty itself in behalf of a people that would die for the religion that you adorn and glorify.

"And is it not for the heads and pillars of the church to denounce tyranny and oppression? St. Ambrose denounced the petty princes of his day; other illustrious divines in former ages have stood between the people and the tyrants who crush them in the dust. In our day also the people have advocates and friends—they have the noble and revered hierarchy of Ireland. And you the illustrious John of Tuam—you, whose eloquence and immortal name have made tyrants tremble and bigots and fanatics quail—you who have shed dignity on your country, lustre on literature and honor on yourself—(his Grace again bowed) let me implore of you and the other distinguished prelates—in the name of our common country—in the name of humanity, in the name of mercy, and in the name of the Lord that made us all, to draw up a remonstrance that will carry conviction, not only to the callous hearts of British statesmen, but to the very foot of the throne." The rev. gentleman, after having thanked the prelates and other dignitaries for the patient hearing afforded him—retired amid applause and admiration.—*Limerick and Clare Examiner*.

THE SEA SERPENT AGAIN.—To the Editor of the *Cork Examiner*.—"Courtmarsherry, September 3rd.—Sir—Since the day it was my good fortune to catch a glimpse of the great fish or serpent, as communicated to you in my letter of the 29th ult., I have been at considerable pains to watch his movements after his leaving the beacon on the 'Barrels' rocks, and to some extent I have been successful. On Saturday last, the weather having the appearance of being settled fine, I put out to sea, determined, as far as the capabilities of my little craft would permit, to go any lengths in finding out the position of the stranger, hoping by keeping a constant look-out in every direction to discover him. Nor was I disappointed—the animal lured, by the dense shoals of fish now off the coast, having remained within a comparatively short distance of the land. At about eleven o'clock, a.m., when off Dunworly Head, one of the crew on the look-out exclaimed, 'the sea serpent on the star-board bow'; and on looking in the direction indicated, I had the pleasure of at once recognising the same monster that I had before seen, and greatly do I regret, indeed, that you or some party conversant with natural history were not on board with me. We drew as close as I thought consistent with safety, and had ample proof of the creature being piscivorous, he being at the time engaged in bolting a number of large hake or conger-eels. I had now for the first time a view of his tail, which entirely differs from the usual form of that extremity in most descriptions of fish, being furnished with no fin, but somewhat resembling a huge elephant's trunk, or proboscis, with the end long drawn out, and curling and twisting in a very remarkable manner. I really feel afraid to hazard expressing in figures what I judge to be the dimensions of the animal, but I do believe that if it were stretched from head to tail it would be rather over than under thirty fathoms long, and of that length I am satisfied fully half is seven feet in diameter. The mouth is a most capacious organ, and opens somewhat like that of an alligator. The small size of the gills, for I could discover nothing like the blowing holes of a whale, rather surprised me. The nose, I think, is formed of a soft flesh-like substance, not bony—and from the broken condition of the external coat of scales, I am satisfied, as before observed, that the beast is now in its 'coating' state. After a little time it appeared evident that he had fallen asleep as we could perceive him rapidly drifting on the shore, at the east side of Dunworly Head; and I once more, although I now feel with more rashness than discretion, resolved to try the effect of fire-arms in capturing him. Four rifles were prepared, and brought simultaneously to bear on the animal's head, and giving the word myself, and directing all to aim for the eye turned towards us, bang went the pieces in a volley, the shots

taking evident effect. His first movement was to shake his head and wink the wounded eye in a rapid manner, and then, as if to cool the painful wound, he suddenly dived, since when I have not had the slightest trace of him either by my own observation or through others.—I am your obedient servant, ROGER W. TRAYNERS." Since the above letter was received, the following information on the same subject came to hand:—Monday last a party of gentlemen belonging to this city were enjoying a sailing excursion in the Antelope yacht, belonging to Mr. Wheeler, along the coast from Glandore to Kinsale. Passing the old head of Kinsale, the day unusually fine, they observed an extraordinary commotion of the sea apparent to every one on board. The bay of Kinsale was at the time filled with fish. In a few moments they perceived a large serpent-like fish on the surface, that could not be less than 120 feet in length. In shape it resembled the long funnel of an immense steamer. Unfortunately they were not sufficiently near the monster to give a description of the head and body. After lying on the surface for a few minutes, it suddenly dashed a-head with a velocity, as far as could be seen for a distance of two miles, of at least fifty miles an hour. It then disappeared. It was believed that the sea-serpent must have been in pursuit of the shoals of fish that thronged the bay. It is singular circumstance that, notwithstanding the unusual quantity of fish that was observable, the Kinsale hookers were most unsuccessful, as it was stated they did not obtain a single take during the evening. The gentlemen who have witnessed the visit of this monster, and whose statement is detailed above, may be relied on as above all suspicion.—*Cork Examiner*.

The sea-serpent has been seen off Kinsale by a Mr. Good, and a party of friends, one of whom fired at the monster, but without effect.

The death of the Right Hon. Lord Chief Justice Doherty, which occurred suddenly at his residence in Beaumaris, on the 9th inst., creates a vacancy on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas. It is rumored that this vacancy will not be filled up on account of the proposed abolition of the above court, but there is good authority for the statement now prevalent, that the present Attorney-General will be elevated to the bench, Mr. Hatchell, Q.C., to be Attorney-General, and Sergeant James O'Brien to be Solicitor-General. It is said that Mr. Baldwin, who lately accepted the Commission of the Insolvent Court, will be permitted the option of competing with Mr. O'Brien for the last-mentioned situation. The late Chief Justice was a high Conservative, and was related to Canning, through whose patronage he was made Solicitor-General in the year 1827. For a long period he was the vigorous opponent of Mr. O'Connell, in parliament, until his elevation to the bench, from which time his political life, of course, became extinct. Some years since he engaged very deeply in railway speculations, and thus lost a noble fortune. It is supposed that this circumstance preyed deeply on his spirits, and ultimately occasioned his death. The Chief Justice was descended from a branch of an ancient and celebrated Irish family in the county Donegal. He was the intimate friend of the distinguished Charles Kendall Burke, and had imbibed largely of his brilliancy and humor. His duties as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas have been for a considerable period almost a sinecure. The office of Law Adviser to the Castle will not be filled up.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES.—Dr. McHale and Dr. Slatery, Roman Catholic archbishops, have forwarded to Sir Thomas Redington, rejections of their nomination by the Crown as visitors of the Queen's Colleges of Cork and Galway.

PROGRESS OF THE TENANT LEAGUE.—We can only just refer to the admirable symptoms of progress which reach us from various parts of the country, in the arrangements for organising the Tenant League and the District Societies. Monaghan, Wexford, Kilkenny, and Meath—we can hardly say which of the four counties is most to be praised for its alacrity and zeal. The perfect business-like method of the preparations for the Monaghan meeting naturally excite our attention, and will serve, we are sure, as a model to many counties that have yet to commence their work. Kilkenny and Wexford are not less satisfactory, and Meath promises a splendid demonstration. In every part we hear that landlords, recognising their own interest in the just claims of the Tenant League, are giving in their adhesion to it. In Monaghan, more than one hundred—men unknown to all former agitations—have already joined this holy cause. In Meath the requisition has already received above a thousand respectable signatures, and these include several of the landlord class.—*Tablet*.

The Pope's Minister of War has forwarded a letter, of which the subjoined is a copy, to Lieut. Scully, son of Mrs. Scully, of the Crescent, Limerick:—"His Holiness has directed me to confer on First Lieutenant Edmund Scully, of Field Marshal Radetzky's Hussars, the rank and title of a Knight Commander of the Ancient Military Order of St. Gregory, for his brilliant services in the late campaign of the Romagna.—*Limerick Reporter*."

EMIGRATION.—On Thursday, as usual, the Liverpool steamers bore away some hundreds of persons bound for America.—*Waterford Mail*.

Such is the desire for emigration, that the *John Francis*, which left this port on Tuesday for Quebec, with emigrants, had to decline passages for no fewer than 100 persons desirous to go to that country. These disappointed parties left by steamer for Liverpool.—*Cork Constitution*.

SUNDAY REAPING IN THE COUNTY ARMAUGH.—On Sunday last, 8th inst., about 500 men assembled on the lands of Turrykane, within one mile of Armagh, and there cut down eight acres of oats, and carried them away, without any one to obstruct them. The oats were the property of a man named Robert Smith. The cheering kept up during the operation could be heard at Blackwatertown, and in Armagh, and in the adjoining villages round about. There were a great many spectators looking on.—*Armagh Guardian*.

The largest fleet of corn-laden vessels remembered this year entered the port of Limerick since Sunday. There are now sixteen ships at the quays discharging cargoes of wheat and Indian corn.—*Limerick Reporter*.

We are happy to be able to state that the cattle show of the Enniscomorthy Union Agricultural Society, to be holden on the 16th at Enniscomorthy, is likely to eclipse everything of the kind heretofore held in this county.—*Wexford Independent*.

The Province of Munster, referring to the great advantages of the Encumbered Estates Commission, says—"A case was mentioned in the Court, of a property encumbered, respecting which the first bill had