

It would be well if the leading Catholic Journals of America, arrived at something like a united opinion in the character of Mr. Davitt's scheme for "nationalizing the Irish lands." While some laud it to the skies, others call it utopian, and a few pronounce it decidedly communistic. Why should not the Irish leaders steadily persist in the movement to obtain a national parliament? Home Rule would do more than any thing else to remedy the national ills.

THE Presbyterian congress recently held in the States have decided in favor of instrumental music in their churches. Shades of Calvin and Burleigh, what a tremendous leap towards Rome have the degenerate sons of the sour minded Covenanters made by this decision! A few more changes like this and our austere puritan friends will say that Mary Stuart was dethroned and Cardinal Beaton murdered in vain.

WHEN our Protestant brethern express their fears for the welfare of their co-religionists in Ireland in case Home Rule became an accomplished fact, they do not reason from existing things. They forget that Dublin, which could elect a Catholic mayor annually choses a Protestant in alternate years, and that Belfast never elects a Catholic. Here in Canada, Catholic Montreal frequently chooses a Protestant mayor; how often has Protestant Toronto elected a Catholic? Not once.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED.

Scientific American, McGee's Illustrated Weekly, Ave Maria, Notre Dame Scholastic, Montreal Spectator, Donahoe's Magazine, Catholic Fireside, Vick's Illustrated Monthly.

BOOK NOTICE.

Record of a Suffering Soul, written by Miss Rose Howe, and published by the *Ave Maria* Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, pamphlet form. This is a beautiful tale illustrative of future life in the intermediate state, and highly conducive of pious thoughts. It is represented in the form of a vision, but under such circumstances as to fully establish its actuality.

THE virtue of sincerity is efficacious only when applied discreetly. Human nature has many prejudices and humors which it will not do to cut through too abruptly, lest the ties which bind others to ourselves be also severed and the friendship of years fall to pieces in a day. The prudent surgeon in the exercise of his best skill is careful not to lacerate, lest the patient die of *mortification*. In order to be sincere it is not necessary to say the whole of what we know. In the character of our best friends there are many weak points, which require our most tender care. Sincerity should be the pruning-knife of friendship not the monster scythe of an unfeeling rudeness, which for one weed that it eradicates mows down a dozen most tender flowers.

THE custom of saying "God bless us!" when a person sneezes dates from Jacob. The Rabbis say that, before the time that Jacob lived, men sneezed once, and that was the end of them—the shock slew them; but the patriarch, by his intercession, obtained a relaxation of the law, subject to the condition that, in all nations, a sneeze should be consecrated by a sacred aspiration.

NEW MUSIC.

WE have just received a copy of a popular piece of music called the "Verdict March," composed by Eugene L. Blake. It is written in an easy style, so that it can be played on either piano or organ. The title page is very handsome, containing correct portraits of Hon. Geo. B. Corkhill, Hon. J. K. Porter, and Judge W. S. Cox; also a correct picture of the twelve jurymen who convicted the assassin of the late President. Price, 40 cents per copy, or 3 copies for \$1. Postage stamps taken as currency. Address all orders to F. W. Helmick, Music Publisher, 180 Elm Street, Cincinnati, O.