

leges of this House were not violated, in a manner which I am sure would be painful to all parties in this House. This, then, is the letter:—

"House of Commons, Feb. 21, 1862.
My dear Peel,—It has been suggested to me that the O'Donoghue may contemplate sending you a hostile message in consequence of what he considers your allusion to him in your speech this afternoon; and I think it right, therefore, before I leave the House to remind you that such a proceeding by the O'Donoghue would be a breach of the privileges of the House, and that if you were to accept such a challenge you would make yourself a party to that breach of privilege.

"Your duty, therefore, in such case would be to decline the invitation (laughter); and I should in such case deem it my duty to state the matter to the House at its meeting on Monday, in order that the House might deal with the matter in the manner which it has usually dealt with matters of the same kind on former occasions.

"It seems to me, moreover, that your official position renders it the more incumbent upon you to avoid infringing the privileges of Parliament and making yourself a party to what would be a public scandal. (General cries of 'Hear, hear!')

Yours sincerely,
PALMERSTON.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., &c. I wrote that letter late at night, and had it given to a messenger to deliver to my right hon. friend early on Saturday morning. In the course of Saturday communications took place which led to a request, not directly in the nature of the invitation which I had begged my right hon. friend to decline, but proposals were made to him that he should name a friend I requested my right hon. friend to refer to me (great laughter and cheering)—not with a view of making arrangements for a meeting (renewed laughter), but officially to refer to me the gentleman who had been commissioned to communicate with my right hon. friend. I saw that gentleman this morning; I explained to him the bearing of the contemplated proceeding on the rules and privileges of this House, and I stated that I should deem it my duty to bring the matter under the notice of this House, in order that you, Sir, and the House might deal with it in such a manner as might be deemed expedient. I also thought it right to inform the hon. gentleman the member for Tipperary that such was my intention, as he would probably think it right to be in his place at the time. I have now, Sir, done what which I think it was my duty to do (cheers); and I have only to say that, having brought the matter under the knowledge of the House, I leave it to you and the House to deal with it as you think fit. (Cheers.)

The Speaker—It now having been brought under the notice of the House that a distinct breach of its privileges has been committed by the hon. member for Tipperary, it becomes my duty to call on that hon. member to express his regret for the breach of privilege he has committed, and to give an assurance to this House that the matter shall proceed no further. (Hear, hear.)

Major Gavin—I beg, as the friend of the O'Donoghue (cheers), that the House will allow me to say a few words in explanation, and I think when hon. gentlemen have heard the statement they will agree with me that I have nothing to regret. I believe every one in this House read, if they did not hear, the debate on Friday night. In that debate very strong language was made use of in reference to my friend the hon. member for Tipperary. My hon. friend on hearing that language did not avail himself of the rule which enabled him to rise to order, but left the House very indignant and highly irritated. He called on me at the club on Saturday morning, and stated that he felt himself grossly offended. I begged him to put in writing the words which he felt hurt at, and he did so. I am bound to say that, having consulted with him, and having fully considered those words, I quite agreed with him in opinion. And for any act which may have been done by me, and I alone, am responsible. (Cheers.) As well as I can recollect the language which was employed, I referred to a meeting held at Dublin, and presided over by the hon. member for Tipperary, of which the right hon. gentleman the Chief Secretary said that it consisted of "manikin traitors" that it sought to imitate the "cabbage-garden" proceedings of 1848, but that he was happy to say the call was not answered by a single respectable person. I think those were the words (hear, hear); if I am in error let me be corrected. I thought over those expressions, and I arrived at the conclusion that they were words that no gentleman should rest under. (Hear, hear.) I had the honour of being in the army for 24 years, and I am quite certain that no such language would be tolerated in that honourable profession. (Cheers.) Entertaining that view, and having a very high opinion of the right hon. gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland, I was convinced that it would be only necessary for me to place before him the very injurious nature of the expressions made use of, and that he would give such explanations as would be satisfactory to my hon. friend. I went to Sir Robert Peel's house on Saturday morning. He had just left to go to the Irish office. I followed, and had an interview with him there. I told him my hon. friend's member for Tipperary felt that the language which he had made use of on the previous night was such as one gentleman could not hear from another. I added that that was my opinion also; that my hon. friend could not possibly rest under the words which had been used, and that I required an explanation. (Hear, hear.) I asked him to let me convey to my hon. friend that he meant no offence. I then went further, and tried to separate those words—I mean those expressions as to no respectable person having attended the meeting. The right hon. baronet said he would adhere to the words in their integrity. I then asked him to refer me to a friend. He said I must write to him on the subject. I did write to him, and if the House wishes it I will read the letter. (Cries of "Hear, hear," and "I read.") It is as follows:—

"15, Charles-street, St. James's, Saturday.
My dear Sir Robert,—As the explanation given by you to me regarding the words you made use of towards the O'Donoghue last night in the House is not satisfactory, and as the matter cannot possibly remain in its present position, I must request you at once to refer me to a friend.

Faithfully yours,
G. GAVIN.

"To the Right Hon. Sir R. Peel, &c.
Well, Sir, on Saturday evening I received a letter from the right hon. baronet, which was very short and sweet (laughter), saying that he had referred it to a friend. (Hear, hear.) I had naturally supposed that I would hear the name, but there was no name mentioned [laughter]; and, though the letter was written at 4 o'clock, I did not get it till very late at night. However, last night [Sunday], I got a letter from the right hon. baronet, stating what the House has already heard—that I was to be referred to the noble lord at the head of the Government. [Great laughter and cheers.] And the House will allow me to say that there is no one in the House who, I think, would so readily respond to anything of the kind. (Cheers.) This, Sir, is the letter:—

"Irish-office, Great Queen-street, Whitehall, Feb. 23, 1862.
Dear Major Gavin,—In consequence of a communication I received from Lord Palmerston very early on Saturday morning, I referred to him the letter you addressed to me yesterday afternoon; and I have this instant received a reply from him desiring me to refer you to him.

I am yours very truly,
ROBERT PEEL.

Major G. Gavin, M.P.
Well, Sir, I did myself the honour of waiting on Lord Palmerston this morning. I stated to him that Sir Robert Peel had referred me to him for an explanation of the words which the right hon. baronet had made use of on Friday night, and that I thought he

would agree with me that such words were not to be passed over. (Hear, hear.) The noble lord then told me what the rules of the House were. I said, "Oh, my lord; if this is to be taken up officially, there is no use in my taking up your time about it." (Laughter and cheers.) I then inferred that the whole matter had been taken up officially. In fact, it had been referred to you, Sir, before I felt it necessary to wait on the right hon. baronet the Secretary for Ireland for an explanation. The whole matter is very painful to me. (Hear, hear.) I did what I considered to be my duty towards my friend. (Cheers.) I had to vindicate his honour, and I went about it in the only way I understood. (Cheers.) The honour of the hon. member for Tipperary was placed in my hands. It has now been handed over to you, Sir, and the noble lord at the head of the Treasury; and I hope you will preserve it. (Cheers.)

The Speaker—The hon. and gallant gentleman the member for Limerick, speaking on behalf of the hon. member for Tipperary, has been permitted full latitude; but I must point out to the House that it would not be proper in the House to follow him to the extent he has gone, because one of the rules of the House is that any exception taken to words spoken in debate must be taken on the spot and at once, and no words spoken can be taken notice of after in the House if such exception has not been taken to them, and if the words themselves have not been recorded by the clerk at the table. The value of that rule must be felt on the present occasion, because the hon. and gallant gentleman has not professed to report to the House the exact words which have been complained of by the hon. member for Tipperary. It is now my duty to tell the House that no discussion can take place on the words which were used on Friday evening. The time for discussing them has passed. A breach of privilege has now been brought before the House; and it is my duty to call on the hon. member, who was guilty of what I must observe to him is an offence to this House, to express his regret that he has committed a breach of privilege, and to give to the House an assurance that the matter will proceed no further. (Hear, hear.)

The O'Donoghue—Sir, I hope it is unnecessary for me to say that I should regret deeply to do anything to violate the privileges of this House; and I may say for myself that I would have been the last person in this House to wound the susceptibilities of any hon. member. (Hear, hear.) I hope, however, that the House will accord to me for one moment the consideration which they invariably extend to one who has a personal explanation to make. (Cheers.) Having received this afternoon an intimation from the noble lord at the head of the Government that he would feel it his duty this evening to make a statement with reference to me, I felt it my duty to attend in my place; and, as I took it for granted that what the noble lord had to say would refer to what passed on Friday night, I made a copy of the words used by the right hon. baronet the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and which I considered personally offensive to myself. (Hear.) In rising to offer a very few words of explanation, I am sure I do not erroneously estimate the character of this House when I expect all the more consideration from the fact that the right hon. baronet did all in his power to excite a prejudice against me. (Hear.) Perhaps the House will permit me to read the words which I considered offensive. Alluding to the alleged prosperity of Ireland, the right hon. baronet said:—

"Of the justice of that opinion no more remarkable proof can be adduced than that which took place the other day, when there was danger of rupture with America, and Ireland was filled with American emissaries, who tried to raise there a spirit of disloyalty. A meeting was then held in the Rotunda, at which a few manikin traitors sought to imitate the cabbage-garden heroes of 1848; but I am glad to say they met with no response. There was no one to follow. There was not a single man of respectability who answered the appeal.

I felt that this language was personally offensive to me, and I thought that I could not let it pass. I felt that the right hon. baronet had come down to the House, having made up his mind to disparage my social position; and I would not attach any importance either to assertions or insinuations that great allowance should be made for the excitement of debate and the heat of argument, for I am ready to do the right hon. baronet the justice to say that his speeches bear the marks of very careful preparation. (Hear.) The meaning of the right hon. baronet's observations was quite manifest, for his remarks drew the eyes of the whole House on me. (Hear.) What, then, was I to do? Could I submit to such an insinuation without forfeiting my claim to sit in the company of honourable men—without bringing disgrace on those whose honour I was bound to cherish, and entailing a legacy of shame on those who are to follow me? (Hear, hear.) What was I to do? I am quite aware that the ancient mode of arbitration has fallen into disuse; but, if it has, those unseemly manners which made it necessary have also disappeared. (Hear, hear.) What course was I to take? I consulted with my hon. and gallant friend the member for Limerick, in whose hands I felt that my honour was perfectly safe, and on whose judgment—matured as it has been by experience acquired in the most honourable of professions (Hear, hear)—I could implicitly rely. I consulted with my hon. and gallant friend; and he agreed with me that I was not only entitled to expect an explanation, but bound to demand, and, if possible, to obtain that explanation. (Cheers.) We did all we could to obtain an explanation. I am sure that the House will agree with me that there was nothing bullying in the tone we adopted. Well we failed to obtain it, and, if I am forced to come to the conclusion that the right hon. baronet is not in an eminent degree distinguished by those qualities for which his countrymen generally are remarkable, the fault is certainly not mine. I must say that whatever the right hon. gentleman may think fit to say with regard to my political conduct or course of action, with regard to that I have nothing to say. He may talk as much as he pleases about cabbage-garden heroes, and with all the more freedom from the fact that the inference which the right hon. gentleman wishes the public to draw are based on the most flagrant misrepresentation of facts. When I state that the right hon. baronet is perfectly at liberty to say what he likes of my political conduct, I may be allowed to explain it in this way—that I should consider myself perfectly justified, if I thought it worth while, to say that the right hon. gentleman's conduct when he went to Derry and spoke as he did of the Archbishop of Dublin was most discreditably. (Murmurs and loud cries of order!) But I do not feel myself justified in saying—

The Speaker (interrupting the hon. member).—I do not think this is an occasion on which it is competent for the hon. gentleman to enter upon a general discussion of this nature. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") The matter is confined in much narrower limits. (Cheers.)

The O'Donoghue.—I bow to your decision, but before I sit down I wish to say that I begin to be afraid that the mind of the right hon. gentleman is not quite so hollow, and that there is much more of craftiness and cunning in his disposition than—. (Loud cries of "No!" and "Order, order!") Then, in conclusion, I must say that the right hon. gentleman is much mistaken if he supposes he can force me here to withdraw from a position that I occupy elsewhere, or to renounce opinions that I conscientiously hold, and which I conscientiously believe are held by the great majority of the Irish people. In conclusion, I have to thank the House for the attention they have accorded me, and I thank the right hon. gentleman for the opportunity he has afforded me of exhibiting him in his real character. (The hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid laughter, murmurs, and cries of "Oh!")

The Speaker.—I trust the hon. gentleman is aware that the matter in question lies not between himself and the right hon. baronet, but between himself and the House, (cries of "hear, hear," and I hope he will

not conclude this speech without some reference to the position in which he has placed himself with regard to the House.

The O'Donoghue, again rising, said.—I thought that I had already apologized to the House for committing a breach of their privileges. (Cries of "No!") I think I may add, although after what has passed it is almost unnecessary to say so, I am ready to state the matter shall go no further. (Hear, hear.) The matter then dropped.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

LENTEN PASTORAL OF THE PRIMATE OF IRELAND.

JOSEPH, by the Grace of God, and favor of the Apostolic See, Archbishop of Armagh, to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Armagh.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN—As the holy season of Lent is now at hand, it becomes our duty to dispose ourselves to enter with a penitential spirit on its observances. It ought to be our chief care now to remove every obstacle that might prevent the Divine Grace from descending into our souls, in that abundance with which it is given during this acceptable time, to all those who are duly prepared to receive it.

The existence of secret societies in this diocese, is an evil, against which we think it our duty to raise our voice on this occasion. Freemasonry, reprobated by the Church of God at all times and in all places, has, we believe, but few followers among our Catholic people; but we have reason to fear that another unholy combination, generally known by the name of the Ribbon Society, counts many members in a certain portion of this diocese; all of whom, being debarred from the Holy Sacraments, lead ungodly lives. Unrestrained by a sense of religion, they easily fall into the habit of drunkenness, and become ready instruments of iniquity in the hands of the designing men, who are at the head of this wicked association. Yes! the leaders of this society hold a very high place among those, who do what they can to bring disgrace on the religion which they profess. Yet wonderful is the influence which they possess over the misguided men, who submit themselves to their direction. Their voice is obeyed rather than ours, although their lessons can only lead to everlasting perdition. They are looked up to with respect, almost veneration, whilst they are ever ready to betray into the hands of justice their wretched followers, as soon as it may appear that their own self-interest will be promoted by doing so. To doubt their word would be unpardonable disloyalty, whilst at the same time, their calumnies against the Catholic clergy of this and the neighboring countries of England and Scotland, abundantly prove that they have an utter disregard for truth. They hesitate not to tell their followers in this country that the Irish clergy, in excluding them from the sacraments, act not in accordance with their brethren, the clergy of England and Scotland; and, on the other hand, their wretched dupes in England and Scotland are made to believe that in Ireland at present the members of the Ribbon Society are tolerated by the clergy—nay, even viewed with favor by them. Now they who say such things either of the clergy of other countries or of Ireland, are guilty of the grossest calumny. There is no approved priest who would not in a way that would justify any such assertion. No priest in any country could, without making himself an accomplice in a frightful sacrifice, admit to the Sacrament, any Freemason, Ribbonman, or other member of such societies, unless on the indispensable condition of previously breaking off all connexion for the future with such unholy associations. We trust that the clergy in their zeal for souls will do everything in their power to detach from such societies any members of their respective flocks, who may have had the misfortune to give their names to any of those bodies; and that they will be particularly careful to guard the young men committed to their care, who are still free from all connexion with the aforesaid societies, against the snare which the designing persons of whom we have spoken, may have laid for them. For we pastors of souls must attend well to those other words which we read in the book of the prophet Ezekiel:—"Moreover, if the just man shall turn away from his justice, and shall commit iniquity, I will lay a stumbling block before him: he shall die, because thou hast not given him warning; he shall die in his sin, and his justness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but I will require his blood at thy hand. But if thou warn the just man, that the just man will not sin, and he doth not sin, living he shall live, because thou hast warned him, and thou shalt deliver thy soul."—(Ezech. iii. 20, 21.) Let us earnestly, and, through the intercession of the most holy immaculate Virgin Mary, beg of our good God, who is rich in mercy, that He would vouchsafe to visit with His holy grace, and convert, during this holy season of Lent, all those who may be engaged in the evil courses here specified, or in any other evil habits or sins, whereby they are kept in that state of enmity with Him, which, for those who persevere in it, ends in the everlasting ruin of soul and body.

Turning now from those painful subjects, and from speaking of those who are an exception to the great body of our people, we must address ourselves to the latter, who are our joy and consolation. While exhorting them to perseverance, we have to praise them in particular for the truly Catholic spirit, which they evince by their readiness to contribute to every work of religion and charity, that appeals to them for aid. Another proof of their great Catholic spirit is found in the deep affection which they bear—and which they are ever ready to show by their acts—towards the supreme Pastor and Pontiff of the Church. Yes, dearly beloved brethren, of you who form the great body of our people we speak. We are aware that it is a great source of joy to you to know, that our beloved Pontiff Pius IX. continues to enjoy good health, to the great disappointment of the enemies of religion—that he still holds temporal sway in Rome; and that the wishes of those who have already, by the most wicked and infamous means, deprived him of a great portion of his states, appear to be farther from their accomplishment now than they were twelve months ago. You have rejoiced to witness the signal failure of the attempt which was lately made in this country, to get up a demonstration on the part of a certain class of our Catholic people against Pius IX. in favor of those colleges which he has condemned. The appeal made to the Catholic clergy of Ireland for this purpose, has, in many cases, been met by severe and public censure on their part. In other cases they have treated it with silent disregard; and on the whole, the only result of this futile attempt has been to demonstrate to the world that the Irish Catholics of the Laity, who are distinguished by their rank and education, yield to no class of their fellow-countrymen in attachment to the See of Peter, and humble submission to the decision of him who presides there.

In fine, you will rejoice to hear, dearly beloved brethren, that the great Catholic work of the collection of the St. Peter's Pence, is about to be permanently established in this Diocese. We now hereby declare that the canonical establishment of the Confraternity of St. Peter's Pence in our Church at Armagh, will date from the approaching feast of the glorious Apostle and Patron of Ireland, St. Patrick, the 17th March of this present year. We invite all the faithful of the Diocese to unite themselves to it. The sole conditions of aggregation are:—1. To recite each day, the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary," the "Apostles' Creed," and "Glory to be to the Father," to beg of God that he would vouchsafe to put an end to the calamities which afflict the Church—in particular that he would hasten the triumph of the Holy See over all its enemies: 2. For all those who have the means of doing so, to give at least one penny each month or one shilling yearly, to relieve the necessities of our Holy Father. We shall take an early opportunity of making arrangements with our beloved Clergy respecting parish collectors, as well as treasurers of the fund in each parish, and diocesan

treasurers. As many, no doubt, will prefer giving their contributions on some one occasion yearly, we fix for that purpose the Sunday within the octave of St. Peter and Paul, which for the future shall be named in this Diocese St. Peter's Pence Sunday. We hope to have this Confraternity soon aggregated to the Arch-Confraternity in Rome, and to obtain for the members of it in this Diocese a share in those spiritual treasures, wherewith the Holy Father has enriched the sodality in other places. Those indulgences we shall, in due time, make known to you. Already, dearly beloved brethren, you have shown your readiness to unite with your brethren in other places in this great work of the collection of the St. Peter's Pence. We have not long since forwarded to the Holy Father, the sum of one hundred and fifty-six pounds, as the first fruits of the Diocese of Armagh. He has been pleased to receive it most graciously, and he sends his Apostolic Benediction most lovingly to you all.

We cannot conclude, dearly beloved brethren, without inviting you to return fervent thanks to the Lord for having inspired His faithful people to come to the assistance of His Vicar on earth, by means of this admirable work of the St. Peter's Pence. When the enemies of the Holy See had succeeded, by the most infamous means, in depriving the Pontiff of by far the greater part of his temporal possessions, and had imposed an enormous tax on the introduction of the necessities of life into the remaining portion of his States, they vainly imagined that the Pontiff would soon be compelled, by dire necessity, to cast himself at their feet and beg for bread. In other words, they thought that the poor plundered Pope would soon be glad to resign those temporal possessions, which were now inadequate to his support, and become a pensioner on their bounty. But they have been signally disappointed, owing to this work, which God has inspired his people to do. Those who have unjustly seized the possessions of the Holy See, now gnash their teeth in despair, when they perceive that the means of the Pope are not exhausted; that instead of diminishing they are increasing, and that the public credit of the Holy See at this moment is far in advance of their own. You, dearly beloved brethren, the faithful people of the See of St. Patrick, will not fail to co-operate in this great work; and the poorest man amongst you who gives his penny monthly to this fund of the St. Peter's Pence must rejoice to think that he has a share in confounding the enemies of the Holy See, who are the enemies of order, the enemies of justice, the enemies of religion, the enemies of God.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the charity of God, and the communication of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."—(1st Corinth. xiii. 13.)

JOSEPH DIXON, Archbishop of Armagh, 24th Feb., 1862.

LETTER OF HIS GRACE THE LORD ARCH-BISHOP OF DUBLIN.

TO THE CATHOLIC CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE. Allow me to call your earnest attention to the Poor Relief Bill for Ireland, lately introduced into the House of Commons by Sir Robert Peel. This bill is most defective.

First—It makes no provision for the proper classification of the inmates of our workhouses, where the young and the innocent are corrupted and degraded by continual contact with all that is vicious and corrupt in the country.

Secondly—It leaves the poor Catholic without a chapel exclusively devoted to Catholic worship, and deprives him of the advantages granted to felons in our jails, who, in those recesses of crime, have a place to which they can retire to pour out their hearts in prayer to their Creator, to visit our Lord concealed under the sacramental veils, and to avail themselves of the consolations of religion.

Thirdly—It makes no provision for an improved dietary, thus leaving the meritorious poor in a worse condition than the felon in the jail—guilty, perhaps, of robbery or murder.

Fourthly—It does not reduce the number of "ex-officio" Guardians, or give a proper influence to the occupiers of property.

Fifthly—It does not provide for an equal taxation over all the country, or, at least, over each union, but leaves the burden of supporting poverty on the poorest districts, whilst many rich electoral divisions, the property of one or two wealthy landlords, are altogether exempt from taxation, or pay only a nominal poor rate.

Sixthly—It still leaves the poor of Ireland at the mercy of English and Protestant Commissioners, ignorant of the religion and feelings of the poor Irish; sent over, not only to teach the poor Catholic to live on starvation fare, and to pine away in a corrupting idleness, but also to uphold a system calculated to extirpate, to degrade, to demoralise, and corrupt the poor in Ireland.

Seventhly—The new Bill still leaves our Poor Law a striking contrast to that of England, where the poor are treated with humanity in the workhouse, where out-door relief is the general rule—where the Poor Law is administered by Commissioners of the same country and religion as the poor, English and Protestant, and where attempts at least are made to give a proper education, moral and physical, to poor children.

There are many other defects in the Bill now before Parliament, which I pass over in silence, in order to direct your attention to the 11th clause, which is particularly obnoxious and oppressive. You will recollect that in the original Poor Law, 1 and 2 Vic. c. 56, p. 63, the following words are read:—"No church, chapel, or other building exclusively dedicated to religious worship, or exclusively used for the education of the poor, or any burial ground or cemetery, nor any infirmary, hospital, charity school, or other building, used exclusively for charitable purposes, nor any building, land, or hereditament, dedicated to or used for public purposes, shall be rated, &c."

This enactment was fully conformable to the Poor Law of England, where churches, chapels, poor schools, &c. are not rated, and it was dedicated in a spirit of humanity, tending to protect the interests of charity, and to encourage the labors of those who devote themselves to the relief of indigence. I may add that it was dictated in a spirit of religion, which taught, not only all Christians, but even Pagans themselves, to look on churches and temples as the property of the Lord of Heaven and earth, and to exempt them, accordingly, from taxation. But our English Protestant Commissioners, in their wisdom, thought fit to recommend last summer to a Parliamentary Committee on Poor Relief in Ireland, that all exemptions in favor of religion and charity granted in England and in every other civilised country, should be withdrawn in Ireland. Lord Nass, one of the committee, proposed the adoption of the views of the commissioners, and his motion was carried by a small majority. Those who voted for Lord Nass's motion, to tax religion and charity in Ireland, were:—1st—Sir Edward Grogan, representative of the 200,000 Catholics of the city of Dublin. 2ndly—Mr. George, M.P. for the Catholic constituency of Wexford. 3rdly—Mr. Herbert, M.P. for the Catholic county of Kerry. 4thly—Mr. Gregory, M.P. for the Catholic county of Galway. Lastly—Mr. Quinn and Lord O. Hamilton, M.P.s for Newry and Tyrone.

The motion of Lord Nass was opposed by Messrs. Cogan, Monsell, Waldron, Magnius, Lord George Browne, and Sir J. Armitage. Gratitude is due to those gentlemen for having, though infelicitously supported the right of charity and religion; but I trust that when an election comes on again the Catholic constituencies above mentioned will oblige their members to give an account of their stewardship, and to explain why they supported the odious proposition of Lord Nass. Sir Robert Peel was not at all slow in adopting the recommendation of the committee, and accordingly, we read in his Bill the following words:—"Be it enacted, that in every rate to be made for

the relief of the poor, after the passing of this act, all property now exempt from rating as aforesaid, on the ground of its being for, or dedicated to any religious, charitable, educational, or public purpose, shall be rateable to the relief of the poor, in any act to the contrary notwithstanding."

That is, Sir Robert Peel, if he can carry his measure, proposes to tax our churches, our chapels, our poor schools, our asylums for indigence and destitution, and even our last resting-places, our burial grounds and cemeteries. Hence, the churches which you have erected for the worship of God, without any assistance from the State or any other public sources, out of that poverty to which you were reduced by ages of confiscation and penal laws, shall be taxed according to their extent and value. The more generous you were in building up the House of God, the more heavily shall you be taxed. I need scarcely add, that this taxation must be a most serious burden on such magnificent churches as we see in Marlborough street, Gardiner street, Dominick street, Meath street, Francis street, James street, High street, Westland row, Phibsborough, Rathfarnham, to pass over many others in silence, the erection of which must have cost the Catholics of this city, to say little, £200,000. Your innumerable poor schools, erected at an enormous expense, and the two magnificent hospitals, St. Vincent's and the Mater Misericordiae, even the resting places of the dead, and the splendid Cemetery of Glasnevin, if Sir Robert can carry out his views, are not to be spared. They, too, are to be valued, and subjected to an enormous taxation. And here, let me ask, why are the Catholics of Dublin to be oppressed by this vexatious taxation? Why are we to be treated differently from the people of England? The only object is to give more extensive support to the huge battalions, those wens of corruption that disgrace the north and south side of our city; so that true charity and true religion are to be oppressed in order to promote that system which is effectually destroying, and demoralising our poor workhouses, and to lessen the means of support for them in our admirable hospitals and asylums, driving them to take refuge in places destructive not only of religion and morality, but of life. Having now called your attention to the oppressive legislation with which you are menaced, I need scarcely exhort you to protect yourselves against it by recurring to the constitutional means placed at your disposal. Raise your voices in defence of your religious and charitable institutions; send petitions to both Houses of Parliament, calling on them not to deprive religion and charity of the few privileges they enjoy, and praying that your churches and chapels, your poor schools, the schools of the Sisters of Charity and Mercy, the schools of the Christian Brothers, your burial places and cemeteries, and all other places used for the public good, shall continue exempt from all taxation. The good sense and charitable dispositions of the people of England, and the majority of the Legislature, will lend a willing ear to your representations. But the urgency of the matter will brook no delay. Sir Robert Peel is active, and reckless, as he has shown in his flight through the West; and he may force his oppressive bill through Parliament without allowing sufficient time to canvass its merits. From his past deeds we cannot imagine that he will act in a friendly spirit towards the Catholics of Ireland. Whilst condemning, as degrading and humiliating, the spontaneous offerings of charity to the relief of the frightful destitution prevailing in many parts of this country—whilst hurling his invectives against those who in a Christian spirit are endeavoring to preserve the poor suffering members of Jesus Christ from starvation—he does not hesitate to avail himself of his official position to send round begging letters, even to the Catholic nobility and gentry of Ireland, endeavoring to collect money, not for the purpose of relieving indigence and saving the lives of many, for that in his opinion would be humiliating, but with the view of obtaining funds to poison the sources of education in this country, to rob our people of their ancient faith, and to spread a direful and devastating spirit of indifference to all religion through this Island of Saints. May God preserve us from such patrons of morality and education. The attitude now assumed by Sir Robert Peel, attempting, as he is, to prevent the charitable and benevolent people of England from stretching out a hand to relieve their suffering brethren in Ireland, reminds me of the account given by a distinguished French nobleman of the right honorable baronet's exploits in Switzerland, in the year 1847. At that period the Radical of Switzerland, under the direction of Ochsenbain, determined to assail with a powerful army, commanded by Gen. Dufour, the Catholics of the Sonderbund, who, a short time before, had bravely repulsed a treacherous attack on Luzerne. The Catholics were few in comparison to their enemies, but they were brave and determined, and it was not improbable that the Radicals might again share the same fate which they had met with at Luzerne. Besides, the French and Austrian governments had expressed their wish to preserve the rights of the Catholics, who were only armed to repel the aggression made upon their liberties, their homes, and their altars. Whilst negotiations were going on regarding the means of terminating the contest, Sir Robert Peel, then acting for Lord Palmerston in Switzerland sent privately his emissaries to the Radical camp, encouraging them to strike a final blow before the treaty between the Allied Powers could be finally ratified, or the Catholics properly prepared to resist. "When," said he, "the final blow has been struck, negotiation will be of little avail." The bearer of this treacherous message is said to have been a Protestant chaplain. According to the suggestion thus given, the Catholics, who were unprepared, and who had been lulled into a false security by the hopes of a peaceful issue of their troubles held out to them by the representatives of the great powers, of whom Sir Robert Peel was one, immediately assailed by the Swiss Radical General, were totally defeated, and robbed of all their religious and civil liberties. The history of the part taken by Sir Robert Peel is most graphically described by Baron D'Hautouville in pages 376 and 371 of his history of the external policy of France. The words used by Sir Robert Peel according to our French authority, in explaining this honorable exploit, were as follows:—"J'ai vu dire au General Dufour d'un air vif: 'The poor of several parts of Ireland are now reduced to the misery, and they have no means of repelling the roads of hunger or famine. The benevolent Christians of England and other parts of the world, like the allies of the Sonderbund are willing and anxious to come to their relief.' 'Pray, no hurry,' says Sir Robert Peel, 'your interference is not required.'—In the meantime, famine, like the Swiss Radicals, may bring its victims to destruction, and then the interference of charity will be fruitless. In the circumstances in which we are placed, it is identically our duty to act with energy and solicitude, and, above all, to avail ourselves of prayer, the most powerful of weapons, imploring of the Almighty in His mercy to bring the enemies of the poor and the enemies of Christian education to a sense of their duty, or at least to defeat their wicked designs, and to preserve us from their snares.—Believe me to be yours, &c.,

PAUL COLLIER, Archbishop of Dublin, Feb. 23, 1862.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE—THE QUEEN.—The following beautiful address of condolence with the Queen is from the President, Vice-President, Professors, and Students of the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth:—

"TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY. May it please your Majesty—We, the President, Vice-President, Masters, Professors, and Students of the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth, humbly approach your Majesty's throne, and diffidly offer to your Majesty our respectful condolence in the overwhelming affliction which, in the inscrutable designs of an all-wise Providence, has unexpectedly fallen upon your Majesty in the death of your Royal