

VISITATION.

On Tuesday, the 1st instant, the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Church of Hammond Plains. Nearly all the Catholics of the settlement were present. High Mass was sung by the Rev. Mr. Phelan, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Hamman and Madden, and an appropriate Sermon preached by the Very Rev. Mr. Connolly. A subscription was entered into and arrangements made for completing the Church and the enclosing of the Cemetery, and we have reason to hope that both will be accomplished before the close of the summer. The settlement of Hammond Plains is a very populous one, and would be much more prosperous than it is, if there were a greater facility of communication between it and the Capital. The old road is circuitous and from the head of Bedford Basin both hilly and rugged. Some time since a grant was obtained for the commencement of a new road, which when completed will shorten the distance by three miles, and confer a lasting benefit on the settlers at the Plains. We have heard that a considerable portion of the road is already finished, and that this new line will commence at Birch Cove.

CATECHISTICAL SOCIETY.

The annual celebration of the Catechistical Society of St. Mary's was held on Tuesday last, and with such remarkable success that all with whom we have conversed, pronounced it to be the most splendid affair of the kind which was ever got up in Halifax. The procession from St. Mary's Church to the wharf was composed of about 1200 well dressed and orderly children of both sexes, with flags, banners, appropriate mottoes, rosettes and insignia of various kinds. They were marshalled and led by their zealous teachers, and were preceded by the fine band of the 7th, which was obtained through the kindness of the gentlemanly and gallant Colonel Farguharson. Three trips were made in the Steamer from Halifax to McNab's Island, the use of which was handsomely given by the worthy proprietor. The long passage leading from Water-Street to the wharf between Messrs. Ring and Cochran's was most tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers. In fact it was transformed into a very beautiful avenue of trees. The landing place of the Island was excellent, and there were more than 3000 persons on the ground during the day. The children were plentifully regaled by the excellent members of the Catechistical Society, and were indulged in various amusements. After this the members dined together, the Bishop as President of the Society (which he never loses an opportunity to praise and compliment as it deserves for its invaluable services to the Catholic youth of Halifax) being in the Chair. The Vicar-General and the other clergymen were also present, and afforded their valuable assistance to the members of the Committee. When the third boat arrived from Halifax, the children were all drawn up on the brow of the hill in two lines and welcomed the visitors in the Steamer with three joyous cheers which made the welkin ring. Temperance was the order of the day and hence every thing went on in decorum and order. The consumption,

however, of those innocent beverages 'which cheer but not inebriate' such as lemonade, ginger and spruce beer, &c. was, we understand, enormous. It was on the whole a proud and glorious day for the Catholics of Halifax, and a spectacle which would do honor to the greatest Catholic city in Europe. We regret we were not present to report the particulars of this interesting fête, but we do trust some member of the valuable society by which it was conducted, will favour us with a more detailed account.

EUROPE.

The Steamer arrived at an early hour on Tuesday. The news from Rome is brighter than usual. Order is beginning to be restored. It is fortunately, the interest and policy of the President of the French Republic to conciliate the great Powers of Europe, and French interference in Rome may end more favourably than was hoped for. Of this however we are not so certain. From an official report, as well as the concurrent testimony of private Letters, it appears the damage done to works of art has been wonderfully small. Of all the Churches, that of S. Pietro in Montorio suffered most, but the exquisite Temple of Bramante which is built over the spot where St. Peter was crucified has escaped all injury although three bomb shells fell in the Court Yard of the Monastery on which it is erected. It is said that the damages of the beautiful Pauline Fountain in the same neighbourhood can be repaired for a few crowns. The Pope's authority has been formally proclaimed by the French, and the Papal colours hoisted with a salute of 100 guns and a *Te Deum* at St. Peters. Garibaldi and his brigands were at Terni levying contributions and committing dreadful excesses. But as the French have occupied Viterbo with 3000 men, and the Tuscans are hastening to protect their frontier, and the Austrians marching from the North. Garibaldi will have a poor chance of escape, for, if he flies to the South the Neapolitans and Spaniards are ready to receive him. Lord Minto's pet, Ciceroacchio has taken to his heels, having learned there was an order for his arrest. The Eternal City has already been delivered from thousands of the foreign robbers and murderers who preyed upon her vitals. The Queen of Naples is near her confinement, and it is said the Pope has resolved to baptize her child in person, in order to testify his gratitude for the munificent hospitality he has received from the King and Queen. It is now said that the chief difficulty of the Pope on his return to Rome will be a financial one, in consequence of the enormous quantity of fictitious paper which was issued by the late Government. A Treaty has been concluded between Sardinia and Austria, another favourable omen for the peace of Europe.

There are rumours of great victories gained by the Hungarians over the Russians, &c. We put very little faith in them, nor do we believe that it is possible for the Hungarians to succeed against the power of Russia and Austria.

France is more tranquil, but who can tell how long France will be quiet. Never, we believe, under Louis Napoleon whether as President or Emperor.

The English Parliament has closed its Sessional labours, and the Queen is now in Ireland. We have read with much care every thing relating to this ill-timed visit, and it only confirms our former opinion on the subject. The Queen has gone to Scotland several times, she has travelled in various parts of England. She has visited France, the low countries and the Rhine; but during the

twelve years of her reign she could never spare a week to visit Ireland, the fairest jewel in her Crown. And now she goes to that stricken land after three years' famine and pestilence, and whilst the Habeas Corpus act is suspended. Is it to behold the desolation of the country with her own eyes and to apply a remedy? No such object is avowed; no such merit claimed. Is it to stimulate trade, to revive manufactures, to bring back the absentees? No; the visit is not to be one of royal state, or of any useful duration. What then can be its object? Oh! if it were not avowed by the wretched unfeeling government themselves, we should not dare to insinuate a motive for the visit, so heartless, so indelicate, and so insulting. The Queen is going, or is gone to Ireland on a "pleasure trip!" a mere private excursion en route to her favourite Castle of Balmoral. Only think of a party of pleasure at such a time, to the poor emaciated skeleton of famished and murdered Ireland! It is horrible, revolting. The Queen should not pay her first visit to Ireland after that fashion. She should go as a Queen and with the Queenly attributes of mercy and parental compassion and justice for her suffering children, or not at all. She ought to have gone to enjoy her amusements in Scotland, without *stinging en passant* as it were, the cold bones of that contemptuous visit to hungry Ireland. But when we say this we arraign, not her, (God forbid!) but the shameless men who by their evil counsels have placed her before the world in this false and indelicate position.

Poor Ireland! this mockery of a Royal visit in the midst of thy tears and sighs and groans, is the climax of thy misery, and unless thou art true to thy old spirit, will be the crowning of all thy degradation!

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

A new weekly Paper called the *St. John Freeman* has been just started in New-Brunswick, and certainly not before it was very much required in that Province. The first number was issued on the 4th instant, and it presents a very creditable appearance, both as to matter and form. It will be devoted to Catholic, Irish, and Liberal interests, and if it performs the promises contained in its manifesto, of which we have no doubt, it should command the hearty support of every Catholic in New-Brunswick. We have often lamented the political condition of our fellow Catholics in that Province, who though powerful in numbers and in influence have been kept perpetually in the back ground by intolerant exclusives. We have often wondered that in a Catholic city like St. John, the low Orange vagabonds of New-Brunswick should ever dare to parade the streets in the offensive manner they have done on a recent occasion. The Catholics of St. John are powerful enough to drive every one of them into the Bay of Fundy. If they were united and directed by an intelligent, spirited press, the Orangemen would never attempt to insult them by their offensive exhibitions. It is evident that on a late occasion the Catholics acted without organization or concert. We deprecate from our hearts all hostile collision between man and man; but if the authorities either in Ireland or America will suffer this blood-thirsty gang to assemble in public armed to the teeth, and to wad up their wicked orgies by conflagration and murder, we do not see why Catholics should not be

well prepared, aye, and well armed to defend their lives and property. Catholics should never be the assailants, but they ought to be well prepared to defend themselves if unjustly attacked. One of the best modes of ensuring peace, especially with Orange ragamuffins is to be always ready for war. After the late sanguinary riots the want of a local, independent press must have been sadly felt by the Catholics of St. John. We therefore earnestly hope that they will sustain the new journal as it deserves.

FATHER MATHEW again administered the pledge yesterday in the school-room adjacent to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mulberry street. Great numbers of every description, high and low, rich and poor, and of every religious denomination, filled the room from morning until late in the evening. He received them with all his usual kindness, and conversed with them in his own affable manner, asking their names, what country they came from, &c. Having learned their intention of becoming sons of temperance, he then made mention, in a few, brief words, of the great obligation they had of being true to their cause, and of the great responsibility if they proved refractory. The zeal and anxiety which they evinced in pressing forward to receive the pledge from his hand, must have been highly gratifying to his benevolent feelings; and it will be with no small degree of pleasure and delight, that he will observe the prodigious effect of his unremitting labors in his own favorite cause. With joy and gratification he must also have perceived, that the great bulk of the American people are as much if not more, in favor of the cause of temperance as the people in the old world; and we may assert, without the slightest hesitation, that the day he landed on these western shores will ever be to him a day of sweet recollection. To upwards of several thousands he has already administered the pledge in this place, and, as we understand, will continue to do so until his departure from this city. Having greeted Father Mathew, they then knelt down, while he recites the following words—"I promise through Divine assistance, to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, cordials, ciders, fruit liquors, and to prevent, as much as possible, by advice and example, drunkenness of every kind," which they then repeat after him. This being finished, he now lays his hand on their heads, makes the sign of the cross on their foreheads with his thumb, and says, "God bless you!" They then pass to another part of the room, where the clerks are situated, in order to get their names enrolled, after which they receive a ticket and medal. He administered the pledge to 2,000 yesterday, giving them a cordial shake of the hand.—*N. York Paper.*

"Is this a time for the gratification of religious animosities? We know a poor girl absolutely driven, from the house in which she had been hired, though suffering from sickness, because she wished to be visited by a Catholic clergyman! We know of another left to suffer from the want of those ordinary attentions due to the sick, because she had requested the visit of a Catholic clergyman, being told, in addition, that when able she should leave the house. And this has been done by long faced psalm singing bigots!"

The above is from the Catholic Telegraph, but our friends at Cincinnati, are not the only ones, who have received pain at the sight of the wrongs inflicted upon a most worthy class of people. We could point to instances of inhumanity or rather of brutality worse, if possible, even than these. In our own vicinity, persecutions, threats and once even personal violence have been used to induce young and unprotected girls at service to violate the wise and salutary discipline of their church. We, by no means, mean to assert, that these instances are frequent. Protestants, though out of the pale of the Church, have many honorable sentiments and too much humanity so as to outrage the rights of conscience. We only allude to the subject in order to hold up to execration those individuals of the community, who after appearing in public as the most pious of men, retire into the recesses of their families and become guilty of conduct such as that recorded above.—*C. Herald.*

FATHER MATHEW has left New York for Boston. Since his arrival in America he has administered the temperance pledge in New York and Brooklyn to nearly 20,000 people.—*C. Herald.*