

her pale lips were relieved with a smile when Anna endeavored to alleviate her suffering. The first word on her lips when she awoke was the name of Anna, and during prayer the poor dying mother thought more of her child than of herself. Her feelings of affection were nevertheless alloyed by anxious thoughts; Madame de Vanvres feared that the heart of her daughter, although dutiful and loving as regarded herself, was not a Christian heart; she did not behold in either the faith, submission, or humility which characterise all true servants of God, and this sad conviction strewed thorns on the death bed of the poor mother. But she placed her trust in God, and resigned her life into His hands, with the confidence of a child throwing itself into the extended arms of a beloved father. When she prayed for Anna, she was filled with that firm reliance on His goodness which we see in the Saints, being fully convinced of His power to do what man might vainly attempt, and that He who wills the salvation of all would grant her request.

The summer passed, hope sometimes preponderating over fear; but in the autumn every glimmering of hope vanished, and the anxious friends of Madame de Vanvres beheld her sinking fast, like the sun on the verge of the horizon, or the yellow leaf fluttering slowly but surely back to its mother earth. On All Saints she appeared worse, and feeling that the Voice was at last to be heard which summoned her to the wedding-feast, she quietly made her preparation for that last journey. She confessed her sins—sins of which she had already accused herself so many times in the sacred tribunal, accompanied with tears of true repentance. She received in Viaticum that God Whom she had so often made welcome in her heart and loved from childhood, Who had been the companion of her pilgrimage and best friend in prosperity and adversity. She was anointed. Once more she expressed her last wishes with regard to the money she bequeathed to charity; and after bidding a most tender farewell to her afflicted husband, motioned poor Anna who was weeping at the foot of the bed, to approach. The heartbroken child obeyed, and overcome by grief, threw herself on her knees by her side.

“Beloved child,” said the Countess, in a weak and faltering voice, “I am about to leave you. I go to our good Father Who is in Heaven. It is as there we shall meet again, Anna, and for ever. Promise, my child, promise me not to forget God, that God Who will re-unite us one day.—Remember the precepts of your mother. Look upon me now: I am about to die and leave all; but the Cross of Jesus consoles me even in this hour—this hour which is so tremendous to nature. Ah, never forsake it; in it alone ever place your trust. Be a true Christian, my child; promise me this.”

“Yes, yes, dearest mother; but you cannot, shall not die.”

“May heaven bless you, my child, as I now bless you, and may he who is above hear your promise! My God, I give her entirely to Thee.”

She could not finish the sentence; tears coursed one another down her cheeks, which were already overshadowed by the pallid hue of death. The sobs of Anna and of the Count alone broke the fearful silence, when a third voice was heard. It was that of Nancy, who had glided into the room, and casting herself on her knees by the side of the bed exclaimed: “God-mother, beloved god-mother, you are going to Heaven; remember, ah, do remember to pray for me when you are there.”

“Yes, yes,” answered the Countess, in a scarcely audible voice; “for Anna—for every one.”

These were her last words. She joined her hands, and peacefully departed.

The bells were tolling for the Eve of All Souls: they resounded from every village; and their melancholy knell echoed along the banks of the Loire, and among the barren hills of Vouvray.

The death of the Countess caused great changes in the domestic life of Anna. The Count was so overwhelmed with grief, that he could hardly bestow a thought on his poor child, and consequently engaged a governess to finish her education. The lady he selected was highly accomplished, graceful in demeanor, and deeply read, every branch of literature being familiar to her. Had Madame de Vanvres been alive, her watchful and penetrating eye would have discovered the danger likely to arise from associating with this governess, whom the Count considered little short of perfection. The heart of a mother would have perceived the laxity of her religious principles, and have arrested the evil in the beginning, before it was too late. But the father, alas, remarked nothing; and this pernicious companionship soon destroyed all her fervor and simplicity of belief, although faith was not quite extinguished. She almost gave up prayer, and performed her other religious duties solely from custom, omitting them on the slightest pretext; so true it is that persons make infinitely less account of what regards their duty to God than what they owe to man. Dangerous books put the finishing stroke to the ruin of her poor soul. The governess did not allow anything to be read which was immoral, or directly against faith; but books filled with lying and calumnious accounts of the doctrines and history of the Church were sufficient to sap the foundation of her faith, which had never been strong. The remembrance of her mother for some time sustained Anna against these poisonous influences; but by degrees the impression wore away, and although a sweet feeling of love still remained, she quite smiled when she thought of (what she now termed) the simplicity of the good Countess with regard to religion.

In the midst of the studies and other pursuits which filled up her time and engrossed her attention, Nancy was rather neglected; but although no longer the companion of Anna's studies, she treasured up in her heart all they had learned together, content with that, and earned her whole attention to the perfect fulfillment of the various household duties which

devolved upon her. She spun, knitted, churned, and weeded the garden during the week, and on Sunday hastened to church, where she offered a heartfelt oblation of prayer. The love of God and filial duty filled her heart; and both mind and body were occupied in the performance of the duties allotted by Providence. She loved Anna most truly; but, as they seldom met, had no other way of giving proofs of affection than by offering up constant prayers for her welfare. Their first year had been passed almost side by side; but now each hour, as it glided peacefully by, appeared to separate them more and more.

At nineteen, Nancy, with the full consent of her parents, gave her hand to a respectable young man of the name of Gaspard, the steward of a large farm at Vouvray. Anna was married, a fortnight after, to Fabien d'Erourard, a young man of the most prepossessing exterior, of high family, and who had ever moved in the most fashionable circles. He possessed an estate in Franche Comte, as also a grand mansion at Paris. Her father was delighted with the match.

It is impossible to express Anna's love and admiration for her young husband; and the thoughts of the novelty of the position she was about to occupy completely intoxicated her.—She left the scenes of her happy and peaceful childhood without a sigh; a few tears were shed over the grave of her mother, Nancy received a warm embrace, her father a tender farewell, and she sprang into the carriage-and-four which was waiting to convey her to Paris in a perfect ecstasy of gladness, prepared to enjoy all the pleasures that the world can afford—pleasures which were in her case increased tenfold by that luxury denominated by lovers the perfection of bliss, viz. the constant companionship of her beloved husband.

Seldom it is that such bright hopes are realised; but in Anna's case they were so; her horizon remained for years unclouded. The similarity of tastes, and the sympathy which existed between herself and her husband, rendered the indissolubility of the marriage tie productive of the greatest happiness; they lived but for one another. The birth of a child, who received his father's name, Fabien, added another ingredient to the brimming cup of Anna's happiness, which she quaffed in total disregard of the future, wrapped up solely in the enjoyment of the present moment, and bent on the gratification of every whim. Her wavering faith was entirely lost in the midst of such worldly and dissipating pleasures. The example of her husband, who unfortunately was both irreligious and sceptical, not only made her more careless, but likewise caused her to turn every thing connected with religion into ridicule. A few bad books, and the conversation of some unbelieving female friends, consummated the ruin of the soul of Anna; and, as the passions which engrossed her mind were pure, and in themselves lawful, they did not cause feeling of either regret or remorse; consequently her heart was tranquil, notwithstanding this forgetfulness of God. She was perhaps ignorant, or more probably regardless of the fact, that God demands the first fruits even of our most lawful affections,—that he ever requires that we voluntarily consecrate to Him those thoughts which are naturally connected with Him, that will which is in conformity with His Will, and that love which He Himself has infused into us. Providence had bestowed happiness in order that her tranquil mind might be raised towards Heaven like clouds of incense, or the delicious perfume of flowers; but she remained deaf to this sweet call of Divine goodness, and it remains to be proved whether she will respond more faithfully to the harsh voice of adversity.

(To be Continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

On Thursday 9th ult., the solemn and interesting ceremony of receiving the vows of three young ladies and conferring on them the habit of the Sisters of Mercy, took place in the convent of this town (Dundalk), and was witnessed by a large number of the clergy and Catholic families of the county Louth. The young ladies professed were—Miss Farrell daughter of Joseph Farrell, Esq. Dundalk; Miss Neary, daughter of the late Dr. Neary, Dundalk; and Miss Keegan, Dublin. The ceremonies commenced at half past ten o'clock, in the chapel of the Convent; his Grace the Primate celebrated mass. At the first gospel, the Very Rev. Dean Kieran ascended the altar and preached a very able sermon on the ceremonies of the day. It was one of his most splendid efforts; so grand in style, so powerful in argument, that the enlightened congregation seemed entranced during its delivery.—Dundalk Democrat.

SUPPOSED FENIAN ENGAGEMENT.—Many of the inhabitants of Skibbereen and neighbourhood were on Friday night aroused from their slumbers by a tremendous firing off this coast, and so great was the alarm that numbers flocked to the surrounding hills to ascertain the cause; and some most respectable parties assure us they saw the flashes from the guns. On Saturday the greatest anxiety was expressed to know the cause of this unexpected commotion, and many could not be persuaded but that it was caused through a Fenian engagement with the defenders of our coast. One gentleman of veracity assures us there were more vessels than one engaged in the firing. Whatever is the cause, of one thing we are certain, uneasiness is felt, and more than curiosity aroused, and our office is sought after by parties from every direction, to know if we ascertained the cause of this unusual thundering. We have just learned that the infantry were ordered under arms, and the dragoons were also aroused, so confident was the sentry that the game was up and fighting commenced. They were, we are informed, under arms the entire night. We have received a telegram from the Cape, but nothing has been heard there, so that up to the present the matter remains quite a mystery. Coastguards say the firing may be accounted for by the fleet now hovering off the coast “beating to quarters.”—Cork Paper.

The Government, it is said, have now determined to release or deal lightly with the scores of prisoners whom they regard as “minor offenders.” Already a very extensive “bailing” has commenced, and there is reason to believe no future action will be taken in the cases thus disposed of. Out of the two hundred prisoners awaiting trial, probably not one in ten will be deemed of importance sufficient to call for serious action. The Crown, we are told, having those whom it regards as the Chief Conspirators in its power, will concentrate its legal attention on a few of the principal offenders, admitting the rest to bail, or releasing them on some like compromise.—Dublin Nation.

AMERICAN FENIANISM.—A copy of a Fenian pamphlet with the title of “The Time has Arrived” has found its way into this country during the past week. The tract appears to have been printed in Chicago, and it lays down a kind of programme for the furthering of the conquest of Ireland. A hundred thousand men are to be raised in America forthwith; with these Canada is to be attacked and taken, the United States government remaining “profoundly neutral,” in imitation of this country during the recent Southern rebellion. With Canada as a foundation, ships are to be at once purchased from American ship-builders—just as the English ship-builders supplied the agents of the Southern Confederacy, the Americans being all the while “neutral,” as we were; the seas are to be scoured for British merchantmen, and, at a given time, a descent is to be made upon some chosen part of the Irish coast. Judging from the very sarcastic tone of the tract, it may be only some squib issued by persons not well disposed towards this country; although, from the title, it claims to be published under Fenian authority.

THE FENIAN PROSECUTIONS.—Every arrangement has now been made for the opening of the Special Commission of Oyer and Terminer for the county and city of Dublin, on the 27th inst. The necessary summonses have been issued by the Sheriffs for the attendance of grand jurors and petit jurors on that day.

We understand it is the intention of the Crown to send up bills for treason felony against all the prisoners, including James Stephens. The course is adopted on the grounds of expediency. The Treason-Felony Act of 1848 provided modified punishment for the treason of compassing to levy war against the Queen, but still a punishment sufficiently severe. Again, a prisoner charged with high treason had fourteen days to plead from the day of arraignment, a period which, if allowed to elapse now, would be productive of inconvenience. By preferring an indictment for high treason the Crown would be placed in the position of being obliged to prove each overt act by two distinct witnesses, a matter exceedingly difficult under the circumstances of the Fenian conspiracy.—Evening Mail.

The court of Queen's Bench in Ireland has refused the application for a writ of certiorari for the Fenian cases. The Court held that an impartial trial could be had in Dublin.

FENIANISM IN KILKENNY.—James Connor, a repentant informer, but impenitent Fenian, was brought up at the last petty sessions of Grace's Old Castle, county Kilkenny, charged on his own confession with having administered the oath of the “Brotherhood” to a man named Keatinge. He had been prosecuted on a previous day for the offence, and remanded for further examination. In the court, and subsequently in jail, he expressed a desire to make a clean breast of the matter, and at his request, Mr. Hort, R.M., had several interviews with him, in presence of the governor, and, after warning him not to criminate himself, received from him statements admitting the truth of the charge as regarded himself, and also implicating several other persons. He afterwards stated that he had changed his mind, and refused to come forward as a Crown witness. He was, therefore, reinstated in the dock, and the above facts having been disposed of, informations were received against him, and he was fully committed to take his trial at the next assizes.

SEARCH FOR ARMS AND DOCUMENTS.—On last Tuesday Mr. John Shea was searched by the coastguards and Constable M. Lean, at the Sampsires, in Tralee Bay, as he was leaving for Liverpool, but nothing of a treasonable character was found in his possession, though his pockets and his trunk were rifled, and the documents found in them read and examined carefully. Mr. Shea was a shipwright for many years in America. It has been observed that lately he paid frequent visits to Tralee, and disappeared from amongst us suddenly. When the authorities first commenced the search he protested emphatically against it, and declared they had no right to adopt such a proceeding, he being an American citizen. It is said that one of the constabulary remarked that “they cared no more for American citizens than they did for dogs” upon which Mr. Shea declared his intention of reporting the matter to the American Consul, as also the expression uttered. He was then allowed to proceed on his journey.—Kerry Correspondent of Cork Herald.

THE FENIANS.—It is stated among those who would first hear of such a circumstance that a person whose name is unknown was despatched towards the latter end of September from New York, furnished with “credentials” authorising him duly to install another “Head Centre” in Ireland in place of Stephens. The individual in question came to this country via Bremen and Havre, and his mission having been accomplished, he is supposed to have returned by the same route. The person chosen to fill the office of Irish Chief of the Fenian organisation is kept a secret, but in all probability in a brief period everything concerning him will have been discovered by the police.—Dublin Evening Mail.

THE ACTION AGAINST THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—We understand that counsel for Mr. Luby are not satisfied with the judgment recently pronounced by the Court of Common Pleas, ordering the proceedings to be stayed in the case of Luby v. Lord Wodehouse, and they have it in contemplation, by the service of a new writ to take the opinion of either the Court of Queen's Bench or the Court of Exchequer upon the law affecting the maintenance of such an action.—Mail.

The Mail of Tuesday says:—A rumor is current in town to-day to the effect that the sudden determination of the government with reference to putting the Pigeon house Fort into a state of defence was occasioned by a communication from the commandant, saying that three large vessels were observed lying in the offing, and that he would not be responsible for the safety of the fort unless he received reinforcements. We give the rumor for what it is worth, as we have not received any authentication of it. We may observe, however, that it is so uncommon a thing for vessels beating up or down channel to approach pretty near the Irish shore. The magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park is guarded at present in a similar manner to the Pigeon house, and the greatest care is exercised in allowing none but authorized persons to enter the military barracks.

DUBLIN, Nov. 18.—The Treason Felony Act of 1848, which provided a modified punishment for the crime of compassing to levy war against the Queen, is the law under which the Fenian prisoners will be arraigned at the approaching commission. The old law against high treason was found to be altogether incompatible with the spirit of modern civilization, like the penalty of confiscation which followed conviction for that crime and which visited the sins of the fathers upon innocent children. The sentence pronounced against Mr. Smith O'Brien and his companions was not only that they should be hanged, but also drawn and quartered. Even if they had been hanged the latter part of the sentence would not have been executed. Besides, persons charged with high treason had 14 days to plead from the day of arraignment, and each overt act must be proved by two witnesses, although evidence of another kind might be sufficient. In addition to these facts a modification of the law was rendered necessary in order to deprive persons guilty of treasonable practices of the importance, celebrity, and sympathy occasioned by the imposing formalities, pomp, and circumstance of State prosecutions. All the considerations which made a change in the law expedient in 1848 apply with greater force to the circumstances of the present time, and to the parties now about to be tried. A simple and effective process which will afford to evil-disposed and morbid minds the least pretext for glorifying felons will be the best adapted for preventing a repetition of such crimes.—Times Correspondent.

Saunders's News-Letter says, the admission to bail of so many of the prisoners who have been arrested on the charge of Fenianism, appears to indicate an intention on the part of the Government to confine the prosecution to those persons who are believed to have occupied a leading position in the conspiracy.

THE ATTEMPT TO SHOOT THE POLICE.—Acting Inspectors Smollen and Dawson, of the G Division, assisted by other members of the force, have been making active inquiries for the purpose of trying to discover the person or persons who fired at Acting Inspectors Hughes and Doyle on Sunday evening at Exchange court, but up to the present nothing has transpired that would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of the outrage. Doyle is now so much recovered from the effects of the injuries he received that he is able to resume his duties.

THE FENIAN TRIALS IN CORK.—The precepts to summon jurors for the county and city of Cork to try prisoners at the special commission have been signed and duly forwarded to the sheriffs. The 14th December is the day named for the return, and on that day it is expected the special commission will be opened in Cork.

NOTICE EXTRAORDINARY.—A specimen of police literature, in the shape of an accurate copy of a legal and official notice, posted, with all due prominence, in Belfast, runs thus:—“The owners of all dogs found at large on the public streets of Dunganoo, without being properly logged or muzzled, will be prosecuted!”

EMIGRATION FROM TIPPERARY.—Emigration has greatly increased within the last few weeks from this county. Almost daily numbers of healthy, strong young people quit their homes to seek a home in America or Australia. No fewer than twenty-six persons, all of this class, left Newport and its vicinity within the last week. More than an equal number left this town and neighbourhood within the same period bound for America. Rumour has it that many of the sterner sex have left through fear of being implicated in the Fenian conspiracy.—Nenagh Guardian.

NOT QUALIFIED TO MANAGE OUR AFFAIRS.—General Sir De Lacy Evans, G.C.B., and Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, who has for the last fifty-eight years served in the English army with such distinction, having served in India and the Peninsula (being in nearly all the engagements in Spain and Portugal), in North America (being at the capture of Washington), in Belgium (having two horses shot under him at Waterloo), in France (he was on the staff of the army of occupation of Paris), and in the Crimea (receiving for his services there the thanks of the Parliament), is an Irishman. He is son of the late John Evans, Esq. of Miltown, where he was born in 1786. We bear much to the effect that Irishmen could not, if let, manage their own affairs; but reading the life of this distinguished man, who, both as an officer and an M.P., has earned an enduring fame we must be excused if we treat all such statements with the most profound contempt.

THE IRISH SECRETARSHIP.—The public will learn without surprise that one of the offices in which a change will be made is the Irish Secretariat. We understand that Sir Robert Peel has resigned his post and if we are rightly informed, Mr. Chichester Fortescue has been chosen as his successor. We cannot condole with Sir Robert Peel, and we may honestly congratulate Mr. Fortescue. The former has held for four years an important post, and may reasonably desire either promotion to an office of higher dignity, or those opportunities of distinction in debate from which office is held to preclude all except the members of the Cabinet; while Mr. Fortescue, who has been for not less than seven years Under-Secretary for the Colonies, may well claim, after this weary apprenticeship, an opportunity of proving that he is capable of better things than supporting at second hand the policy of his Chief. Nor is the Irish Secretariat likely to be by any means a sinecure. The promise which the Ministry made towards the close of the last Session to admit the Catholic University to a share of the advantages of the Queen's University must involve negotiations of the utmost nicety. It reopens the questions of National Education, which some of its friends not unreasonably fear will perish, unless great care be taken to prevent such a catastrophe. The educational question is, however, only a branch of the Irish Church. The skirmish of last Session and the opinions then enunciated by the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have evidently alarmed the Irish clergy some of whom, with an easy logic which only those who are at once Irishmen and clergymen can follow, have persuaded themselves that the Irish Establishment is to be saved by large doses of Archdeacon. Through discussions of these difficult subjects, not to mention the Tenant Right agitation, which will probably survive the Fenian rebellion, the Chief Secretary for Ireland will have to steer, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue will have ample opportunity of displaying the ability his friends attribute to him. It is perhaps doubtful whether the fact that he is himself an Irish member will recommend his appointment to other Irish members, but his zeal and discretion are alike unimpeachable.—Times.

THE IRISH EXODUS.—The Cork Herald says: “The best evidence of the extraordinary vitality of the Irish exodus is the still increased competition amongst steamship owners for a share in the enormous passenger traffic between this country and America. The six lines of ocean steamers making Queenstown a port of call on their passage to America have just been supplemented by a seventh, which promises to afford advantages that will place it on a par with those already engaged in the trade. Messrs Guion and Co the extensive brokers of New York and Liverpool, who have hitherto shared largely in the business of the National Company's line, have severed—or are about to sever—their connection with that undertaking, and have started an independent line of first class steamships. For the present they have chartered four of the Allan Company's Canadian steamers, pending the construction of a fleet of new vessels, of great size and superiority, the first of which will commence to ply in the spring. The departures will be weekly (every Thursday) from Liverpool, calling at Queenstown every Friday to embark passengers. Hopes are entertained that the owners' large influence on the other side of the Atlantic will enable them to secure the privilege of conveying the United States mails, as at present enjoyed by the Inman line. The first of the chartered steamers, the Moravian, called at Queenstown on Friday, bound out, having made the run from Liverpool in twenty-one hours, although her engines were slowed for some time. She had on board nearly her full complement of passengers, and about fifty additional cleared and embarked from the wharf of the agents at Queenstown within half an hour of the steamer's arrival.”

Information Wanted of Agnes and Catherine Long, who emigrated to Canada in 1853. When last heard from (about four years ago) they were living in Hamilton, Canada West; but are believed to have since gone to the United States. Any information respecting them will be thankfully received by their mother, Catherine Long, South Dublin Union.

NEW TRANSATLANTIC LINE.—A new transatlantic line of steamers calling at Cork, in competition with the National and Inman lines, is about to be started by Messrs Guion, of Liverpool. It will have a weekly sailing, the first of which is to take place on Thursday, the 9th November. Until the 1st March, 1866, the service will be performed by the Moravian, St. David, St. Patrick, and other vessels chartered from the Montreal Company, by which time it is expected that a fleet of new steamers will be arranged.—Cork Examiner.

Captain George Noble Roe, of Ballyconnell House, Ballyconnell, has been appointed to the commission of the peace for the county Cavan.

AN IRISH PRINCE IN THE CELTIC TIMES.—The tributes were either of natural products or home made materials. To state an idea of the amount furnished we will give the revenue of one of the small provincial princes. The King of Uladh, who held territory comprising the modern counties of Antrim and Down was entitled to 500 beaver, 1,150 cows, 450 oxen, 850 hogs and pigs; 300 fat wethers, and 800 cloaks of various colours. It might be instructive to notice the number of cattle, sheep, and pigs at the present time in the same territory. Down and Antrim, a few years ago, by the Parliamentary return, contained 248,000 cattle, 103,000 sheep, 92,000 pigs. The amount of the revenue of the King of Uladh, if the animals were reared at the modern valuation, would amount to 15,347l. per annum, rejecting fractions and details. He would be an ingenious statistician that could show that Ireland had not improved since the so-called “good old times,” even then if we disregard the fact that the cattle, sheep, and swine of the Celtic tribes were wild and kept in herds in the forests and on the mountains.—Once a week.

THE IRISH STATE CHURCH.

To the Editor of the London Times.

Sir—Your paper recently contained a long letter, headed, “How to save the Irish Church,” the writer of which, a benefited clergyman of the Protestant Establishment in Ireland, suggests what may be termed a total reconstruction of that institution and a redistribution of its dignities and revenues.

With the merits or demerits of the proposed changes as affecting the spiritual or ecclesiastical interests of the Establishment, I, as an Irish Catholic, have no concern. How its beneficiaries divide the booty among themselves is a matter of total indifference to 88 per cent. of the people of Ireland; indeed, I may say to more than 88 per cent.; inasmuch as a considerable section of the Irish State Protestants themselves do not deem the spiritual interests of the body to which they belong promoted by the endowment which at present it wrongfully possesses.

In order that your countrymen may correctly estimate the value of proposals to diminish the scandal of such an Establishment by what is called “internal reform,” I beg of them to make our case their own in the following manner.—Let them suppose a Roman Catholic prelate installed in every diocese of Protestant England, enjoying its State revenues, and possessing the status and the privileges annexed by law to the episcopal position; let them suppose, also, a grand array of Roman Catholic deans, archdeacons, parish priests and curates, quartered by the law all over England on the pockets of your Protestant nation, and frequently seeking professional promotion by the display of furiously vituperative zeal against Protestantism. Would England, or would she not, tamely submit to the monstrous pecuniary wrong as well as the national insult inflicted by such a condition of things? Would she—and here now is the point—would she deem the sore healed or the wrong redressed by a project for redistributing the dignities and emoluments of a Papal State Church in her midst, while that Church still monopolized the ecclesiastical State property of England? So long as your countrymen were plundered and their honor insulted by the system I have imagined, pray what would they think of any clerical quack who should gravely propose to preserve such a system by giving the Roman Catholic Bishop of London a little less of the spoils and the Roman Catholic Rector of Long Newton a little more of them? or by shifting the Papal Dean of Gloucester to some deanery in Lancashire where his co-religionists were more numerous than in Gloucester?—by clipping here, and adding there, while the great radical wrong—the Establishment of the Church of a fraction of the English people as the dominant State Church of England—should still survive to defraud the nation and to outrage and exasperate the national mind? Would you not cry out with one voice from Berwick to Land's End—“Away with the accurst injustice! away with its root and branch!—We care for no clippings, nor twistings, nor shiftings.—We care for no change; which would still leave the monster wrong untouched, inasmuch as they would still leave the religion of the small majority the monopolist of State-Church privileges and of ecclesiastical State revenues.”

Well, Sir, what you would not endure you ought not to inflict. The wretched quackery of prescribing “internal reform” as an adequate salve for such a sore as ours cannot possibly impose on your acuteness. It is something like the consolation which a man whose house had been robbed might be supposed to derive from being assured that the burgars were determined for the future to mend their ways in apportioning the plundered property; and that although on former occasions Jim had got too much, and Jack too little, yet henceforth the division of spoil was to be made on the most unimpeachable principles of equity.

In Ireland the State Church Protestants are, by the census of 1861, only about 12 per cent. of the whole population. English writers on Irish subjects occasionally reproach our people with being divided. How can we be united when such an institution as the State Church—the Church of 12 per cent. or so of the Irish people—is upheld to set man against man and to render our fusion impossible? I know all the trumpery fallacies which are alleged to show that it is not a source of disunion. I content myself with asking your countrymen this one question—Would, or would not, an analogous Papal State Church in Protestant England promote disunion among Englishmen? If they can believe that such an institution would be quietly accepted; that it would work smoothly; that it would excite no resentments, no hatreds, no heartburnings; that English Protestant flocks, being in an overwhelming majority, would contentedly pay their money to, and cheerfully submit to the doctrines of, a Catholic State clergy—if, I repeat, your countrymen can believe all this, why, perhaps, they can also believe that Irishmen can be satisfied with the incorporated insolence and dishonesty of the Anti-Irish State-Church.

Mr. McCulloch, speaking of the 1st and 2nd Victoria, chap. 109, says:

“This Act, by relieving the tithe-collector from the necessity of coming into contact with the great bulk of the occupiers, has obviated a prolific source of predial disturbance, and been, in so far, advantageous. Still, however, it must not be supposed that either this or any other device should ever reconcile the Irish people to the appropriation of a large revenue to the use of the church of a small minority of their number. The effect of this preposterous arrangement is to insult and alienate the bulk of the population, who, we hesitate not to say, would be more or less than men if it lacked to encounter their rooted hostility.”—McCulloch's British Empire, vol. ii., p. 303.

And their rooted hostility it never will cease to encounter until it shall have been consigned to the tomb. That hostility has never for one moment slumbered, although a thorough popular distrust in the desire of the Imperial Parliament to give ecclesiastical justice of Ireland produced for a time an inertia which the friends of the grievance were happy to mistake for apathy. But the cheering voice of the English Volunteers encourages us to persevere, and to hope with their aid for success. During the last Session of Parliament the signatures to petitions from Ireland against the anti-National State Church amounted 146,119, although there was comparatively little agitation. No tinkering, no patching, no efforts to make the detestable nuisance less unpalatable by softening down its particular or minor scandals can ever be accepted as a final settlement.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN IRISH CATHOLIC.

Nov. 15, 1865.

£9,333 have been collected for the erection of the O'Connell monument in Dublin.