

of their neighbours may afford it to them. Some of them are at this moment in sheds exposed to the fearful snow-storm. They would all have this year warm hearths, had they yielded to the "earnest desire" of the proselytising Bishop.

On their behalf, then, and on the part of the Committee, I appeal to every lover of common justice in England to contribute towards their relief. Already some have generously come forward; and I hope their example will be followed by others in a way to earn their bread in the land of their birth.

I beg here to tender my special thanks to Sir Justice Shell, and the Right Hon. W. Russell, who have each sent £10 towards the relief of the poor people; to Henry W. Riddell, Esq., £1; the Very Rev. Dr. Rossell, Liverpool, (supplementary contributions of the Young Men's Society of his Parish) £4 11s.; Rev. Father Rogerson, St. Oswald's, Birkenhead (do do) £2 15s.; Rev. Father Magrath, St. Joseph's (do do) £2 10s.; Miss Magor, Hatton-garden, (collected by) £2; Miss O'Callaghan, Manchester, £1; Mr. F. Coury, Manchester, £2 18s.; making in all, £20 18s., handed in by him as Treasurer of the Manchester Committee.

Let me here also once more record my heartfelt thanks to those many generous friends who showed me such practical sympathy during my stay in England. I am only waiting to have the lists complete in order to publish their contributions in *lectures*.

Begging, in fine, that all would for a moment make the care of my poor people their own, and thus not towards them as they would be acted by; praying especially those who have never known what gripping want is, or what it is to be homeless for religion's sake on Christmas Day. I remain, &c.,

PATRICK LAYELLE.

P.S.—I should have added £5 from the Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Anthony's Schools, Liverpool, per Miss Burns, collected by the School children.

The *Irishman* has some severe but appropriate comments upon Bishop Plunkett's disgraceful appearance in Court, and his detected perjury. The *Irishman* says:—

That wonderful person, the episcopal Hannibal whom his dreadfully patriotic parent did not sacrifice (as he had sworn he would) on the altar of his country, has again had the marvellous hardihood to present himself before the public. This time, after much painful hesitation, it would seem, he appears, not in the dock, but in the witness-box. Of course, our readers have not forgotten that this unfortunate man, whom the power of an English sovereign makes an Irish Lord, and whom men generally, in sarcastic humour, call "a Christian bishop," ejected, amid the horrors of angry winter, from the land over which English law gives the man a power despotic, certain poor families whose only known crimes were that they had refused to send their children to a proselytising school, that they had resented the insolence of some blackguard "souters," and that they had lent a horse or cart to their own poor priest. This atrocity—this outrage on the common Christian—this which we all, Protestants and Catholics alike, profess to revere—was so manifest, so revolting, that even Ireland's brutal enemy, the *Times*, was forced to disclaim all sympathy with this person—"Bishop" Plunkett. Not content with—let us rather say, not abashed by the degrading notoriety which he has already obtained, this man, this "bishop," has again come before the public, as prosecutor of a couple more of his unfortunate tenants. This time he appears in the witness-box, and we earnestly hope, for the honour of our common humanity, that even a "bishop" of the Church Establishment in Ireland never made so painful an exposition before. Here is a confession! This man, who dares to call himself a Christian Bishop—a shepherd and guardian of the poor, after the manner of the Divine Shepherd Christ—confesses that he hunted his unfortunate tenants in mid-winter, though they did not owe him a shilling of rent, and sent them forth upon the world to starve! Owed him no rent! What then was his motive? The remainder of his evidence proves this, as well as illustrates the man's regard for truth and the observance of his oath!—Here is a plain and palpable statement made by this "bishop," on his oath. "He did not interfere with the religion of his tenants—the only wanted 'to stripe' (which possibly means to re-divide) the land. Will it be believed that it was proved, beyond all question, on oath, that all the land, with the exception of a couple of patches held by two other tenants, had been already 'striped.' This was the fact; but the following evidence will sufficiently explain this pious 'bishop's' motives. (The evidence we give elsewhere.) Here is a confession. This man first swore that he ejected the tenants that the lands might be 'striped'—though it was known that they had been 'striped' already. Next, he swore that he would not interfere with the religious views of his tenants. And lastly, in direct contradiction of what he had previously sworn, he impressed the conviction on the court that he ejected these unhappy tenants, who owed no rent, solely because, on the advice of Father Layelle, they would not send their children to the Proselytising Schools! The clever lawyer who cross-examined him, asked this miserable man (for whom, after all, it is difficult to feel so strong a feeling as hatred,—for, among the power of doing some mischief which his change position gives him, he is below contempt,) whether he had ever read St. Paul's beautiful description of a Christian Bishop? And his answer seemed to indicate that he had not. But the Court overruled the question as 'irrelevant'; for, after all, it was not of the "bishop" but of the "landlord," that that Court could take cognizance. And what was the use of reading St. Paul? He never dreamed of a Church Establishment under which a few pretended "ministers of religion" could outrage and insult a people who despised them, and abhorred their teaching (if they ever taught) and who, homeless and starving, had been plundered of the rich fruits which those excommunicated "prelates and parsons" enjoyed. Most assuredly, St. Paul never dreamed of a Bishop Hannibal Plunkett, exercising his "landlord" rights in driving poor starving Irish peasants from their humble homes, amid the horrors of our northern winter. Up to this time no such hideous atrocities had been known since the time when the king of the kind have been known only in Ireland, under the paternal sway of our dearly beloved foe, England.—*Irishman*.

The Census of 1861.—The Dublin Correspondent of the *Weekly Register* gives the subjoined on this subject:—"A venerable and estimable clergyman of this city, the Very Rev. Dr. Spratt, Provincial of the Carmelite Order, deserves infinite credit for having founded the note of warning and alarm in reference to the forthcoming census. He has in the most unqualified manner stated his conviction that the proselytising party in this country will avail themselves of the occasion to swell the ranks of Protestantism, by presenting to the English public, and especially to the aged spinners who frequent Exeter Hall and swell the coffers of 'The Irish Church Mission to Roman Catholics,' the enormous results achieved by the missionaries' agents, Bible readers, soups, white-chokers, &c., &c., sent forth from that College of Apostles. Of course, this object can only be effected by falsifying the returns made to those whose duty it will be to collect information for the purposes of the census. I need scarcely tell you what facilities will present themselves for carrying out this on a gigantic scale. I will furnish an illustration, and then allow your readers to multiply the instances by tens of thousands. John and Betty and Kitty are in the service of a Protestant and proselytising masters. They are of course Catholics, but it formed a condition of their hiring (a condition, also, too often made and too easily yielded to), that as long as they continued in that employment they should attend family prayer, and hear a chapter read from the authorised version of the Bible. The poor

creatures have no option but to accede to the terms imposed, or to run the risk of starving in the street. The day for making the return arrives; the master of the house is called upon to fill up his form, and having before him the evidence that John and Betty and Kitty attend his family prayers (not troubling himself to remember the atrocious coercion imposed upon the consciences of the unfortunate, by that religion which boasts of its liberty of conscience) he easily arrives at the conclusion that John and Betty and Kitty are good stiff Protestants, and as such he returns them to the enumerators. Another instance:—Every child or every unfortunate tenant compelled by his harsh landlord (at the peril of that powerful landlord giving the notice to quit) to frequent a proselytising school, will be claimed as a trophy on the side of Protestantism. Every wretched inmate of a still more wretched hotel, who has been coerced to accept the loaf and the bowl of soup in one hand, on the condition—the hypocritical, degrading condition—that he will accept the Bible in the other—every one of these unhappy wretches will be set down to the account of Protestantism. Now, how are the results so disastrous to be guarded against? Simply by keeping in view, and acting on the principle, that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. The Very Rev. Dr. Spratt has discharged his duty in forewarning the Catholics, let them do their duty to their religion by forearming themselves. There is yet abundant time for vigorous action. The act of Parliament (23 and 24 Vic., c. 62) specifies the 8th of April, 1861, as the day upon which the census shall be taken. The first security for Catholics in a matter of so much importance is the appointment of a scrupulously Catholic census commissioner. I should think the Government will scarcely require so obvious a matter to be impressed upon them, but should it become necessary to do so, Catholics should insist upon it, both through their representatives in Parliament and the public press. Another measure I would advise is the local clergy, whose business it will be to watch with jealous vigilance the carrying out of the details in their respective localities. The 6th section of the census act authorises the enumerators to question all persons respecting themselves, &c. This should be insisted on in every case, so far as regards religion, so that a master shall not be allowed to put down his servant, or a landlord his tenant, as in the religion which he would wish him to be in. The 7th section of the act imposes a penalty of five pounds upon every person who shall refuse to answer, or shall wilfully give a false answer to any question. In carrying out the provisions of this section local committees will be of inestimable benefit, because the penalty may be recovered on the testimony of one or more witnesses, so that any member of a local committee may institute a prosecution for the penalty, and may prove, or procure proof, for the commission of the offence. The very knowledge of the existence of a committee, and the apprehension that the penal provisions of the act will be put in force, will act as a powerful check upon those who may desire to falsify the returns. I may add that if the present act is not sufficient to ensure fair play, a supplemental act can and ought to be passed. It occurs to me that the conferring on the public the right to inspect the returns, at certain times and under certain conditions, would strongly operate against attempts at fraud and falsification.

A meeting was held at Enniscorthy on Thursday, the 27th Dec., to consider the propriety of presenting petitions to both Houses of Parliament, praying that all the powers now exercised by the grand jury, as to the levying, collecting, and expending the money of cesspayers for the maintenance and repairing of roads and bridges, and for every other public purpose, should be amended and transferred to a board elected by, and responsible to, the cesspayers—John Thomas Rosborough Collopy, Esq., High Sheriff, presided. The following are the resolutions and petition which were agreed to by the meeting:—Proposed by F. S. Flood, Esq., and seconded by T. Kibbin, Esq.:—"That the present system of levying rates for works in Ireland by the Grand Jury, a body neither elected by, nor responsible to, the cesspayers, is most unsatisfactory and unconstitutional." Proposed by Walter Breen, Esq., and seconded by Matthew Meyer, Esq.:—"That the present system renders it impossible that any proper control can be exercised either over the raising of the expenditure of the money of the tax payers, and is calculated to lead to a wasteful and improper application thereof." Proposed by E. A. Byrne, Esq., and seconded by E. A. Byrne, Esq.:—"That it is expedient and necessary that all the laws granting power to the Grand Jury to levy county cess should be repealed, and that new and ample power ought to be vested in a public board, elected by, and responsible to, the cesspayers." The petition was read, adopted, and signed by the High Sheriff. The following is a copy:—"To the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled.—The humble petition of the undersigned freeholders and ratepayers of the County of Wexford, in the Court-house of Enniscorthy assembled, sheweth.—That the present system of levying taxes for public works in Ireland by the Grand Jury, a body neither elected by, nor responsible to, the ratepayers, is most unsatisfactory and unconstitutional. That the present system renders it impossible that any proper control be exercised, either over the raising or the expenditure of the money of the ratepayers, and is calculated to lead to wasteful and improper application thereof. Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Lordships, that all the laws granting power to the Grand Jury to levy county rates be repealed, and that new and ample powers be vested in a public board elected by, and responsible to, the ratepayers."

The expiring year 1860, had a manifold musical farewell in Limerick, and its successor a greeting of the same complex character. The bells of St. Mary's broke the silence first, and the Band of St. John's soon after played their mingled valedictory and welcome to the dead and living members of the grand chronological roll. The iron tongues of the Cathedral were in the nick of time, and tune, we hope, for the baffling winds blew the sounds capriciously about—aud, listen as you would, you could not make head or tail of the aerial midnight minstrelsy. Some broken "bars" of the English "national anthem" was distinguishable amid the confusion and scattered resonance—but as some religious sort of psalmody was no doubt prescribed, we will not answer for it that the "anthem" was the sport of the lascivious breeze. Not so uncertain was the execution of the "anthem" performed by the band on *terra firma*. Vigorous, vivacious "Garigue" was given with unflinching precision, by the body of young native performers, to whom the strain was cordial, and by whom it was executed with *amore*, followed by a multitude of young men and women who adopted its lively outpourings as a cheering omen of the year to come.—*Quid tantum jellixque sit*, say we, and the winter of our discontent "once over, we doubt not that a favourable spring and a fostering summer will succeed."

KILMARNOCK, Dec. 31.—The Session of this town were opened on Friday last, before Christopher O'Leary, Esq., Q.C. and as usual in the morning, high offences were the rule, calling for no animated version from the learned Chairman. There were two criminal cases, and out of those there was one conviction for larceny of 2s 6d. The offence was committed at the Killinure by a boy, whose habits, like those of Scott's Last Minister, "seemed to have known a better day." The parties in the other cases who were rural delinquents, were acquitted. Most of these cases were such as might be more appropriately investigated at Petty Sessions, and summarily disposed of. Why are such unimportant proceedings transferred by magistrates, at an expense to the ratepayers, to be tried at our Quarter Sessions court. These petty cases, placed upon the calendar, must necessarily exercise an unfavourable influence upon hostile Englishmen. Surely some practical reform in this particular, now that reform bills are the order of the day, is much required.—*Master News*.

THE PAPAL ARMY—THE WAR MEDALS.—The *Morning News* has the following announcement:—"We are enabled to state, for the information of the soldiers of St. Patrick's Battalion, that in a few weeks the medals ordered by the Roman Government for the late campaign will be ready for distribution.—12,000 medals are now being struck off. A small portion have reached Ireland, but none will be distributed until the entire number for St. Patrick's Battalion reach this country. This will, we understand, be in about a fortnight. We shall inform the members of the battalion at the earliest moment of the arrangements for the distribution of these honours."

LIMERICK.—Captain Gavin thankfully acknowledges the sum of £35, from the Hon. Mr. Justice O'Brien, to be distributed to several charitable institutions in Limerick.

Mr. Matthew H. Franks, of Dublin, agent over the late Major-General Drummond's estates in Kerry, has notified to the tenants of Ballyline, who hold under a lease of thirty-one years, that he will not collect in his rents early in this year, owing to the failure of their potato crop.

Amongst the various *on dits* on the subject of the Viceroyalty, we find the following, which we take from the *Cork Examiner*, giving it, of course, merely as one of many rumours in circulation:—"The intention of the Government to abolish the office of the Viceroy is questioned by politicians whose authority is of considerable weight, and an altogether different solution of the difficulty—at least for the time—is talked of as probable. It is said that the appointment will be vested in a person of no less importance than the Prince of Wales. It will at once be seen that the present position of his Royal Highness is different from that of the heirs apparent to the throne in many preceding reigns, as his rank gives him precedence of his father, who is only Prince Consort. By placing the Prince of Wales in the office of Viceroy of Ireland an awkward situation would, it is said, be got rid of, and a compliment paid to the people of Ireland. We only give the above as the opinion of persons who are well informed on what we may term political probabilities."

The patriotic men of skibbereen have transmitted about 4,300 signatures to the National Petition.—Another Petition is placed before the people of Ireland: a Petition to his Holiness, to repeal the Bull of Adrian, granting the Crown of this country to England.—*Irishman*.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—A RETROSPECT.—Crime—crime of the deepest and darkest dye has increased to an awful and alarming extent in England. Murder, varying in atrocity and barbarity, has been of more than daily occurrence. The most thrilling prospect of gain has been sufficient to induce men, and women too, to take the lives not only of strangers, but of their nearest, and what should have been their dearest ties. In the broad noon day, as well as in the dark and dreary night, the assassin has plied his bloody craft, and sent his victim headlong to his long account. Parents have done this to their children, children to their parents; the husband to the wife, and the wife to her concurring husband. The precious links which are wont to bind the human family together have been cruelly and remorselessly snapped asunder, and the gibbet has terminated the guilty career of a more than ordinary number of the miserable wretches who have embraced their cruel hands in the blood of their unoffending victims. But whilst crime has thus rushed on with accelerated speed in England and Scotland, the Irish calendar has only here and there contained a charge of a capital offence against the laws. Judges and juries have been spared the performance of that painful portion of their duty which compels the one to declare the culprit guilty, and the other to pronounce the awful sentence of the law upon his crime. White gloves have supplanted the black caps which indicate the criminal's doom, and the judge has been employed in congratulating juries on the absence of crime in their districts instead of delivering lengthened charges to them on the shocking and atrocious character of the foul deeds perpetrated by reckless violators of the laws of God and man.—*Dublin Telegraph*.

Some of the Catholic and Liberal papers in the North of Ireland have found great fault with the Government for not having directed the removal of the flags and banners which floated and flaunted from the churches and other places in Londonderry on the occasion of the late Orange anniversary of the Prentice Boys. In doing so, they have written in ignorance of the provisions of the Party Emblems Act of last Session; and both as regards the past, and more especially as regards all future celebrations of the same kind, it is right that no misapprehension should exist, but that Catholics should be informed of the steps they ought to take, to secure their feelings from outrage. It must be borne in mind that the Party Emblems Act is a very considerable step in the direction, not only of restraining liberty of action, but of suppressing customs and practices which had heretofore been perfectly legal. It was therefore necessary to guard against too summary a resort to its extraordinary and unusual powers. Consequently, the Act provides that, "on an information sworn before a Justice of the Peace that the exhibition of any party flag or emblem, &c., is likely to lead to a breach of the peace, the Justice may direct the constabulary to enter the place, and to remove the flag or emblem." This provision is precisely similar in principle to that upon which a search-warrant is granted, as that, too, requires to be grounded on a sworn information. At the late anniversary in Londonderry no person, either Protestant or Catholic, came forward to set the authorities in motion by such an information, and therefore the Government could do no more than they did do, and they appear to have discharged their duty both wisely and well in having despatched to the spot not only an effective but an overwhelming force. I am happy to announce that Mr. Josiah W. Magee, a most respectable Catholic solicitor, has been appointed to conduct Crown prosecutions at Quarter Sessions, in the Orange county of Down. The entire merit of this most creditable and manly appointment belongs to the Attorney and the Solicitor-Generals. Mr. Magee has been a most useful and consistent, but, at the same time, a most inoffensive Liberal, and he holds the office of Coroner for the county of Armagh. The emoluments of the office are not very large, but, as regards the administration of justice, it is an office of very great importance; indeed, having regard to the county for which it has been made, its importance can scarcely be overrated, inasmuch as three-fourths of the criminal business of the county are now disposed of in the Courts of Quarter Sessions. The meeting convened by the Dominican Fathers for the purpose of arranging the details of the opening of their new church (a perfect architectural gem in its way) was a complete success. The Solicitor-General (better known as Mr. Thomas O'Hagan) not only attended the meeting, but made a most brilliant and suggestive speech. It is a cheering indication of the times in which we are living to see that a distinguished Catholic gentleman, holding a high and responsible office under the British Crown, is neither afraid nor ashamed to throw himself heart and soul into a movement having in view the interests of his religion. Major O'Reilly was there, and got a reception which proved to him, as it did to everyone else, that in faithful Catholic Ireland the name of Pius IX. is a name to conjure with. Mr. Errington, always first among the foremost in every good work, presided over the meeting. In connection with this meeting, I may point to it as a curious and interesting coincidence that Mr. Errington, who presided over it, Major O'Reilly, who was called to the second Chair, and Mr. Gernon, upon whom devolved the duty of moving the former out of the first Chair and the latter to the second, were all three ex-Alumni of St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw.—*Dublin Cor. Weekly Register*.

ADMISSION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY AS NURSES TO THE LIMERICK WORKHOUSE.—We are rejoiced to find, by the report of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians on Tuesday, as given elsewhere, that the further opposition to the admission of the Sisters of Mercy has been at length withdrawn, and, moreover, with a good grace. The noble stand made by the majority of the Board has been rewarded by their having obtained for the poor of the Limerick Union Hospital nurses who will throw heart and soul into their onerous duties.—*Dublin Telegraph*.

HONOUR TO A BRIGADIER.—On Sunday last Sergeant Synan attended chapel in the full uniform of the Volunteers of the battalion of St. Patrick, of which he is yet a member, and subsequently a procession to compliment him on his return to his native town, preceded by the Trades' Band, promenade through the streets, accompanied by some thousand persons. Nowhere has been more honour done to the men of the Brigade than in the capital of Tipperary.—*Tipperary Free Press*.

COAL FUND IN DONEGAL.—A correspondent writes as follows from the town of Donegal:—"May I request you will notice in the next number of your journal the highly praiseworthy and charitable conduct of the leading inhabitants, of every denomination, of this town. Seeing the great privation and sufferings of the poorer classes from want of fuel, and the very great difficulty of procuring turf during this snow storm, they got up a subscription for the purpose of purchasing coal, and were most successful. The town was partitioned out into districts, and in each district two of the principal inhabitants (who most willingly co-operated) were asked to visit the dwellings and rooms of the poor and labouring classes. Great credit is due to Messrs. M'Loone, Davies, Hughes, &c., for this prompt and timely relief. This is not the first time for these gentlemen to show their humane and charitable feelings towards the poor of Donegal. I beg you will insert this note hoping that when other see it they may be actuated to go and do likewise. We are most happy to comply with the request of our correspondent, and trust the humane exertions in question will not only do good to Donegal, but inspire other small towns to follow the example."

PRUDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN SHROUBOURGH.—The *Shroubourgh* publishes an official correspondence, which promises to improve that borough, and afford its working people profitable employment.

FLOOD IN THE LEE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The weather which we noticed in our publication of Friday has since continued with but very little intermission. During the entire of Saturday the rain fell heavily and without a moment's cessation, while a very heavy gale blew from the S.E., which gradually fell to the west; and continued to blow until long after dark on Saturday evening. Yesterday and to-day have both been very wet, though the rain did not fall so heavily or incessantly as on Saturday, and the violence of the tempest has considerably abated. The river has been flooded to such a degree as to overflow its banks, and its fields on both sides have been covered to a depth of several feet with water since Saturday. On Saturday evening also the lower part of George's-street, and some portions of the low streets branching off from it were flooded, but when the tide fell the flood disappeared from them and has not since reappeared. We regret to say that the flood in the river has resulted in a fatal accident to a poor gentleman, named Donohue, residing in Sunday's Well. It appeared that Sunday evening he was returning home with his horse and car by the way of Wellington-bridge, and on passing the slip between the bridge and the police station, where parties are in the habit of watering horses; he drove in there for the purpose of washing the wheels of his car. The strength of the current, however, and the swollen state of the river, it is supposed, caused the horse to lose his footing, and the horse, car, and driver were swept away. The poor man, on finding himself going, called loudly, and a gentleman who heard him ran up to the police station and gave information. Some policemen immediately ran down, but horse, car, and driver had disappeared; and though they procured a flat-bottomed boat without delay, and examined the river closely to a considerable distance below, they could find no trace of them. This morning the horse and car were found in the dead water under St. Vincent's chapel, Sunday's Well, but the body was not found up to a late hour to-day.—*Cork Examiner*.

The *Derry Standard* reports that Bernard Hagan, aged about the twenty-four years, and the son of William Hagan, a small farmer, residing in Crevagh, in the Upper Liberties of Derry, was shot in an affray at Bine Head lately. Six men were arrested, pending the inquest. Some of these are themselves very severely beaten, and state that their wounds were inflicted with large stones, which were employed on both sides. The names of the men in custody are—Haghs Magrath and Edward Doherty of Crevagh; with Thomas Gould, Alexander Matthews, David McGregor, and James Gallagher, of Bine Head.

THE RECENT HOMICIDE IN LONDONDERRY.—Thomas Gould, who had been liberated after the inquest, was this day brought before the magistrates, and upon sworn information tendered on behalf of the next of kin of deceased, was committed to take his trial at the next assizes for the homicide of Bernard Hagan, and, at the same time, David McGregor, James Gallagher, and Alexander Matthews, were on similar informations also committed for trial for the assaults alleged to have been made by them on the deceased and his brother.

GLIN, Dec. 28.—General Frost whose advent is generally unwelcome to the poor elsewhere, is always hailed here as the forerunner of a merry Christmas. Friday and Saturday last presented a very animated scene at the several ice houses, six of which are in and about Glin, where may be seen, like ants round their granaries, men, women and boys delivering their brittle ware, by baskets, boxes or carts. As much as five shillings should be earned per diem, by an active boy or girl; a horse and cart from 20s to 40s; and so much as £6 has been realised in one instant by a farmer's son who poured the water in the immediate vicinity of a depot. Thus a sum over £120 was circulated in two days, which obviated the necessity of a fuel fund in this locality.—On Christmas morning it was announced that Col. Dickson M. P. had forwarded \$15 towards the completion of the new Catholic Church of Glin. He has also directed that £50 be expended in remodelling one of the handsome brick houses, lately built on his property in the neighbourhood of Clonahard, for the purposes of a National School, under the patronage of the Rev. Mr. O'Kennedy, P. P., Longhill.—On Christmas Eve, the Coroner of the district, Dr. Enraght, was engaged holding an inquest on the body of a man named McCreight, at Slanid, who died suddenly, after a drunken orgie in the village and on yesterday, another inquest was held by the Coroner in the next townland, on a young man named O'Connell, who, after returning from excessive practice at a night dance, got acute inflammation, and only lived a few hours. In both cases a verdict was returned of "Death from natural causes."—*Cor. of Munster News*.

The *Northern Whig*, in a second article, supporting its views previously expressed, as to the general increase of Irish prosperity within the last few years gives the following statistics, not quoted in the first instance:—"While the number of emigrants from Ireland in 1859 was considerably less than in 1858, the amount expended in Poor Law relief in 1859 was less by £3,283, than that in the previous year; the number of persons receiving indoor relief was less by 23,334, and of those receiving outdoor relief less by 426 in 1859 than in 1858. Valuable property had risen from 12,091,563, in 1858 to 12,213,620, in 1859; and the average poundage had fallen from 9d. to 8d. Further crime had decreased and edu-

cation had increased. The number of commitments in 1859 was fewer by 443 than in 1858; and there was an addition of 85 to the number of national schools. The amount of land in cultivation was, it is true, less in 1859 than in 1858 by nearly 30,000 acres. But they were exclusively acres devoted to cereal products. On the other hand, the value of stock had increased nearly a million in 1859 over that in 1858. And Ireland is rather a grazing than a corn-growing country. The facts which we have collected and put together show a decrease of poverty and distress, witnessed to by a falling off in the number of emigrants, and in the amount of poor-rates and number of paupers; an increase of the value of property, a decrease of crime, and an extension of the means of education between the last year of which the returns are before us and its predecessor. We do not, it is true, venture to lay much stress upon slight fluctuations from year to year. National progress or decline must be judged of by the average of much longer periods. But the details which we have adduced are satisfactory, in so far as they show that the general causes of prosperity which have made the Ireland of 1860, physically and morally, another country than the Ireland of 1850, have not, during the late year, been subject to any, even temporary, suspension or disturbance. We need not at present say more. Figures of arithmetic do not require figures of speech to enforce them. The eloquence of facts dispenses with the necessity of other works than those barely necessary for the statement of them."

THE IRISH IN THE RIVER PLATE.—It appears from a recent number of the *Commercial Times*, the journal of the British residents in Buenos Ayres, that the prosperity of the Irish settlers in the River Plate, of which so much has been heard from travellers in that region, enables them to support a female college, with other educational and charitable institutions. The college, the establishment of which is due to the Rev. A. D. Foley and Dr. Cullen, is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. There are upwards of forty boarders in the college, who are under the constant care of four of the Sisters, whilst a separate school for poor native children is conducted by others of the community. There upwards of 150 of these poor children receive a gratuitous education. There are also, in connection with the order, apartments for poor girls who may be out of employment, and poor orphans who may be thrown helpless on the world. The whole of the money paid by the boarders is expended upon them, the Sisters being prevented by their vows from receiving any remuneration. It is in contemplation to establish a school for boys, to be conducted by two clergymen who are expected early next year from Ireland. The land for this institution has been secured, and the success of the female college encourages the anticipation that it will be equally useful. There are many thousands of Irish on both sides of the Plate, and these schools are a gratifying indication of their condition and prospects. General O'Brien, well known by his services in the wars of South American Independence, and who has resided fifty years in that region, has expressed his conviction that in no country can a competence be so readily acquired, with so small an outlay, as in the River Plate, a few years' industry securing a certain independence to all, while, as fast as capital can be accumulated, there is an assured field for immediate lucrative investment in land and live stock, the produce and profit exceeding anything known elsewhere.—*Tablet*.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

CATHOLIC STATISTICS.—The *Weekly Register* states the present number of Roman Catholic Priests in England and Scotland to be 1342. Churches and Chapels, 993; Communities of men, 47. Convents, 158; Colleges, 12. These numbers show an increase during the past year of 111 Priests, 43 Churches and Chapels, 10 Communities of Men, and no less than 32 convents.

In the absence of political excitement general interest was felt in the successful visit of the Prince of Wales to North America. The loyalty which is founded at home on custom and on conviction seems to be idealized into a stronger personal feeling in the remote possessions of the Crown. The inhabitants of the colonies received the Prince with a welcome, but slightly interrupted by the abominable perversity of the Orangemen in Upper Canada. The Duke of Newcastle, by his steady refusal to sanction party demonstrations conveyed a valuable lesson both to the obtrusive faction and to their local opponents.—*Times*.

The English papers announce that Mr. Otto Russell, the officious representative of the English Government at Rome, has protested against the refusal to allow the passengers of the *Kennard* and the *Hullar* to land at Civita Vecchia. What makes the impudence of such a protest amusing is, that the same papers report the freight of those vessels to have been 600 Garibaldians from Naples.—*Weekly Register*.

John Coen, the policeman, Rosecommon, charged along with a pensioner named Drully, now undergoing a sentence of two years' imprisonment, with imposing on the police force at Frenchpark, of which he was a member, stories of Molly Maguire meetings and who absconded forfeiting his recognizance for £20, entered into by Mr. P. Davis, has surrendered himself to the authorities.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Christmas Day the Tyne was frozen over, a very rare occurrence. The picture presented to the view was interesting from its rarity; the vessels safely moored, with their bare masts and cross-tees—and fastened still more securely by the "thick ribbed" ice, made Newcastle quite look like a Norwegian harbour in the depth of winter.

MALTON.—It is a great number of years since so severe a frost has been experienced here. The bands which usually play on Christmas mornings were obliged to desist, the valves of their instruments freezing up when in use. The water in the pipes of the engine, and in the tender of the mail train from York, froze when about ten miles on the journey, and the train came to a stand at Malton. The journey of twenty miles, from York to Malton, occupied more than four hours.

GLASGOW.—The *Glasgow Herald* says—"We are now suffering from a degree of frost, the intensity of which has, we believe, been without a parallel since the memorable winter of 1812. The large thermometer exposed at the foot of Jamaica street stood at 4 deg, although the level there is low, and the locality in the very heart of the city. In the suburbs, on Monday morning, the thermometer exhibited 10° below zero. The snow lies firmly consolidated, and is rendered crisp by the frost. Much annoyance has been felt by all classes by the general freezing up of the water pipes. The Clyde, above Hutcheson-town-bridge, was completely frozen over."

VERY "FAIR DRINKERS."—The following anecdote is an amusing sample of Scottish servant humour and acuteness in measuring the extent of consumption by a convivial party in Forfarshire. The party had met at a farmer's house not far from Arborth to celebrate the reconciliation of two neighbouring farmers who had been long at enmity. The host was pressing and hospitable; the party sat late, and consumed a glorious quantity of whisky today. The wife was peevish, and grumbled the outlay. When at last at a morning hour the party dispersed the lady, who had not slept in her anxiety, looked over the stairs and eagerly asked the servant girl, "How many bottles of whisky have they used, Betty?" The lass, who had not to pay for the whisky, but had been obliged to go to the well to fetch the water for the toddy, coolly answered, "I dinna ken, mem, but they've drucken sax gaug o' water."—*Arbroath Guide*.