

A LEGEND OF GOOD FRIDAY.

Far back along Time's mighty tide, as quaint old legends tell,
O'er lower and stream of Innishall a wondrous darkness fell.
Twas spring's morning, but not the morning of the day,
O'er valley depth or mountain top there was no gleam of ray.

Yet fabled flames lit them up as for the night,
The sun that shone so brightly spread o'er the
The castle moaned, while fluttering wings, like
moths of restless dead,
Proclaimed the presence of air partook the
general dread.

And loosed and rank, with crashing might, rolled
down the mountain side,
And plashing, sank to hidden depths within the
inky tide.
The warrior trembled 'neath his shield; with
the mother gathered, motherlike, her children
to her breast.

King Connor stood with thoughtful eye, with
in the torches beam,
His bowmen, watching, mark his glance, now
hoped, now gloomed,
They boded fear, for where in sight, an
aged form appeared,
With steps that seemed to whither grow, as he
the monarch neared;

Who, stepping forward, bowed him low, that
haughty son of earth.
Before him, who, the whisper went, came not of
For human eye might never look upon the
signs of fear
That with him, in communion close, were ever
hovering near.

A Druid of exceeding lore and reverent mien
was he,
With silvery beard, like crested foam upon a
stormy sea,
And though his aged ear was dull, his waning
sight was dim.
The secret Mother Nature holds were never
locked to him.

The sky to him, like lettered page, revealed
fall many a tale,
The oak grove hid a presence wooed within
her sacred pale,
Each branch told a story, each leaf a
sounding tongue,
As with familiar foot he trod the mystic glades
among.

"Oh, say, thou wise and reverent man, why
hides the blessed sun?"
"Great King, this morn, in lands afar, a mur-
derous deed,
thorn-crowned Victim bleeding hangs upon a
shameful tree,
And sympathetic Nature shares His dying
agonies."

Hither on eastern Mount His form hangs mid
the darkened air,
A making crowd and singing around the cross—the
cross I saw them rear—
Hail deep within His quivering side, I see the
sharp steel go—
"Thy drawn! Up leaps the crimson tide—oh
King, see it flow!"

"I listen still, then Druid sage, tell what unholy
deed
This man hath done, that such a death is for
his doom decreed:
Sey, did He waste their fertile lands, enslave
their children,
Or sent their young men down in fight with con-
quering sword and spear?"

"Not so: His life was one long scene of peace-
ful ministry;
He healed the sick, He raised the dead, He
made the blind to see,
Not death can stain His tender love, nor bid
His mercies cease;
The Saviour of mankind in He, the gentle Prince
of Peace."

His lips divine are moved in prayer for His tor-
menters now,
Though drops, outwringing by agony, are standing
on His forehead,
A man might for his fellow die—might for his
fellow live,
A God alone could, hanging thus, his murder-
ers forgive."

"O! what would that this right arm were there,"
he angry monarch cried,
"This arm, or God, or whosoever He be, not un-
avenged had died,
For hear me swear, such deed should ne'er in
his my realm be done,
He—above his head, outburst the
blessed sun."

Its gleams played upon the blade that
Connor shook in air,
But soon a voice of wonder rose from all assem-
bled there,
His voice was stilled, his right arm fell, the
monarch fell (glorious fell),
His soul was with that new found God he fain
would serve so well.

Now what of us might hope to imitate that
Pagan worth,
Who owed his life—owed to a Druid's
That sweet, sad story that we—'neath infancy
have known
Wrings not from us one pitying sigh or one re-
pentant groan.

How far from us that living faith, that strong
unquestioning love,
Which poured upon that darkened soul like
sunshine from above,
Because we saw no wonders wrought, with these,
we mortal men,
When Christ lifted to her God her glorious
sacrifice.

Here on our knees, day by day, our Victim and
our Guest,
He beckons us to His feet for shelter and
for rest;
Oh! hither let us hasten and endeavour to re-
pay
His mercies manifold with such poor measure
as we may.

M. J. W.

AGRICULTURE.

Night-soil—Continued.

Safer, until within a few years, from com-
mercial intercourse with the nations of the West,
the remarkable people, like the Chinese, main-
tained themselves in sober and industrious
prosperity, while they have achieved a civiliza-
tion different from those of the West, and to be
measured by a different standard, but which has,
far more successfully than that of America or
Europe, compassed the comfortable subsistence
of all classes of the population.
The secret of their ability to accomplish what
the agriculture of our more favored race has
failed to secure, lies in the fact that the
rule of their life and of their industry has
always been to allow no element of the fertility
of their soil to go to waste. Prohibited by their
religion from eating flesh, milk, butter or cheese,
and with farms so small as to forbid the use of
draught animals, almost their only source of
manure is found in the vegetable food and the
fish which they themselves consume.

Human excrement, which we name only in an
understandable, and which, we consider it all,
we generally hurry into the nearest stream of
water, is to them a treasure of the highest im-
portance. It is their chief drop in all of their
cultivation. Their methods of collecting, pre-
serving, and applying it are anything but deli-
cate, but they are safe and sure, and without
them, or their equivalent, Japan would long ago
have gone the way of ancient Rome.

Disregarding the fact that the (and of the
present, as shown in the East), the British Em-
pire is now preserving itself from annihilation
only by the commerce which brings bread and
meat from all parts of the world to supply
the enormous waste that swallows up nearly
every atom of the food of its population.
Equally disregarding the same lessons, we,
with a newer soil, and a more remote necessity
for economy, so long as the crops of our fields
bring present money, are heedless of effort want
for ourselves or for posterity.
In the "American Agricultural Annual" for
1888, there was published an article of mine on
"Sewers and Earth Closets, and their Relation
to Agriculture," from which article the follow-
ing is extracted:
"The average population of New York City—
including its temporary visitors—is probably
less than 1,000,000. This population consumes
food equivalent to at least 30,000,000 bushels of
corn in a year. Except a small proportion that
is stored up in the bodies of the growing young,
the food is fully consumed in the bodies of the
dead, the constituents of the food are re-
turned to the air by the lungs and skin, or
are voided as excrement. That which goes to
their excrement is originally taken from the air by
vegetation, and will be so taken again—here is
no waste. The excrement contains all that was
furnished by the mineral elements of the soil on
which the food was produced. This all passes
into the sewer, and is washed into the sea. It
is, to the present generation, is complete.
But the present half-developed condition of the
sea is no help for this. The first duty

of all towns is to remove from the vicinity of
habitations all matters which by their decom-
position would tend to produce disease. The
question of health is, of course, of the first im-
portance, and the only way to secure it is by
the perfect civilization, and its waste disposal.

Thirty million bushels of corn contain
about 1,000,000 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and this
amount is annually lost in the waste night-soil of New York
City. Practically, the human excrement of the
whole country is nearly as disposed of as to be
lost to the soil. The present population of the
United States is not far from 50,000,000. On the
basis of the above calculation, there are 500,000
tons of phosphoric acid, being about the amount contained in 800,000 tons
of bones, which, at the price of the best flour of
bone (for manure) would be worth over \$50,000,000.
It would be a moderate estimate to say that
the other constituents of food found in night-soil
are of at least equal value with the phosphoric
acid, and that the waste of the night-soil of the
United States is the waste of the value of \$100,000,000
of the United States.

In another view, the importance of this
waste of food is to be estimated in money. Money
values apply rather to the products of labor and to
the exchange of these products. The waste of
fertilizing matter reaches farther than the de-
struction of the bones and the loss of the phosphoric
acid, for it lessens the ability to produce.

If mill-streams were falling year by year,
and steam were yearly losing force, and the
ability of our labor to grow crops were yearly
diminishing, the doom of our prosperity would not be more
plainly written than if the slow but certain im-
provement of our soil were sure to continue.
Fortunately, it will continue always. So long
as there are virgin soils this side of the Pacific,
which our people can ravage at will, thoughtful
citizens will move westward, and till them.
But the good time is coming, when (as in
China and in Japan, men must accept the fact
that the soil is not a warehouse to be plundered
—only a factory to be worked. Then they will
save their raw material, instead of wasting it,
and aided by nature's wonderful loom, will
weave, over and over again, the fabric by which
they live and prosper. Men will build up as fast
as men destroy, and the decaying forests will
be replaced by new growth, and the decaying forests
will be replaced by new growth, and the decaying forests
will be replaced by new growth.

The stupendous sewers which have just been
completed in London, at a cost of \$24,000,000 and
which challenge admiration, as monuments of
engineering achievement, are a great blessing to
that fifth century town, and in the absence
of anything better, they might, with advantage,
be imitated elsewhere. They have had an ex-
cellent effect on the health of the population, by
removing a prolific cause of typhoid fever and
other fatal diseases. As affording needed relief
from malaria, they are of immense importance.
They are a great triumph of modern engineering,
inasmuch as they wash into the sea the annual
product of 3,000,000 people, to supply whom
with food requires the importation of immense
quantities of grain and manure.

The wheat-market of one-half the world is
regulated by the demand in England. She
draws food from the Black Sea, and from Cal-
ifornia; she uses most of the grain of the Pacific
islands; she even ransacks the battle-fields of
Europe for human bones, from which to make
fertilizers for her people; and, in spite of all
this, her food is scarce and high, and bread-riots
break out in her towns.

(To be continued.)

Latest Irish News by Mail.

PARLIAMENT—OBSTRUCTION AGAIN.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday,
March 5th, Mr. Biggar gave notice of his in-
tention to prefer a charge of drunkenness
last year against the colonel of the Antrim
Artillery Militia. Replying to the Marquis
of Hartington, the Chancellor of the Ex-
chequer said it was absolutely necessary to
pass the supplemental civil service esti-
mates that night, and he would not ask
leave to bring in the Redistribution of Seats
Bill after half-past eleven o'clock. He
would propose on the 25th instant that the
House should adjourn for the Easter recess to
the Monday week following. Messrs.
Smithwick and Whitworth took their seats as
members for Kilkenny and Drogheda. The
House having gone into Committee of Supply
on the Civil Service Supplemental Estimates,
Messrs. O'Donnell and Biggar offered great
resistance to the vote for extra expenses of
the police engaged recently in protecting
process-servers in the West of Ireland, but
the amendments, of course, were negatived
by large majorities. In the discussion Mr.
Shaw referred to the language used at land
meetings as "arrant nonsense," words which
Mr. O'Donnell, who allowed him, said would
cause deep displeasure in Ireland. At
length the estimates were got through, but so
late as to prevent the Chancellor of the Ex-
chequer from bringing in the Redistribution
of Vacant Seats Bill, and the Obstructionists
carried their point.

THE IRISH NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE.

(From the Irish Times (5th March).
The League met yesterday at their offices,
Middle Abbey-street. Mr. Kelly occupied
the chair.

Amongst those present were:—
Messrs. T. D. Sullivan, Kettle, Davitt,
Egan, Sexton, T. Brennan, St. John Brennan,
Cummins, &c.

Mr. Egan, the treasurer, announced that
since Tuesday's meeting they had received
over £620 in subscriptions, including £200
through the Montreal Post, and £400 from
New York.

Mr. Sexton said there was an important
paragraph in Mr. Muffney's letter in regard to
the Duchesse of Marlborough's Committee. It
was as follows:—

"We have of this (labouring and conacre)
class over 400 hundred in this town and starva-
tion staring them in the face. Strange to
tell you, they are also debarred from getting
any of the relief supplied by the Duchesse of
Marlborough Fund, as that is also for the
poor tenant-farmers in this district and a good
deal of them are paying well for the relief
they are getting, as they have to lose a day or
two before the can get their ticket, and an-
other day going to the meal depot to get their
three or four stone allotted to them—the
landlord, 'agents, and whippers-in' running
through these unfortunate rack-rented crea-
tures telling them that if they do not pay the
rent before a day named the relief will be
stopped from them. This new law is work-
ing well, as a great number of tenants sold
everything they could get money for and paid
a portion of their rents so as to be kept on
the relief list."

Several grants were then made in relief of
the distress, after which the meeting ad-
journed.

Mr. Davitt reported that the entire sum
received for relief purposes since last meet-
ing was £11,144 14s and for the Land League
Fund £351.

It was resolved that a committee, consist-
ing of the chairman, Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Sexton,
be appointed to prepare an address to be pre-
sented to a deputation to Mr. Parnell, who
is expected to return from America immedi-
ately to take part in the general election, ex-
pressive of the thankfulness of the Irish
people for his noble efforts in America on
their behalf.

Mr. Davitt said that, since their last meet-
ing he had seen a letter published by Mr. La
Touche, of Harlowtown, county Kildare, in
reference to the case of 'the man Keegan,'
brought before the League at a recent meet-
ing, and he found that the letter almost bore
it in its entirety the statement made by
poor Keegan. There was another case of
hardship in the neighborhood of Drumnam,
in the county of Leitrim. He wished also to
report the case of a tenant of Lord Gormanston,
who was to be served with a notice to
quit in a few days. The rent of the man's
land was £80, and the Government valuation
£52 10s. The man offered the Government
valuation this year, but it was refused. He
found by a letter from a priest in the West of

Ireland—whose name he could not give, as
the letter was private to himself—that the
vessel the Government officers had placed at
the disposal of the Duchesse of Marlborough's
and the Mansion House Committees
to take meal to the West coast of Ireland had
recently been employed by the landlords in
Westport to carry constabulary and ejection
men to Clare Island. While the Govern-
ment were prepared to accommodate the
Duchesse of Marlborough's and the Mansion
House Committees it was at the same time
ready to facilitate the conveyance of pro-
cesses and the constabulary to the island.
However, the weather came to the assistance
of the poor people, and neither constabulary
nor processes were able to be landed (hear,
hear).

Mr. Sullivan—That just bears out Mr. Par-
nell's statement in America, that the real
head of the committee were distributing re-
lief with one hand and ejections with the
other (hear, hear).

Mr. Sexton—Mr. Parnell's statements have
been bore out over and over again.

Mr. Sullivan—There was a vessel chartered
with Indian meal and processes simul-
taneously (laughter).

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

MANIFESTO OF THE ACTIVE SECTION OF THE IRISH PARTY.

To the Electors and Non-Electors of the Irish
Constituencies.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.—We are face to face
with one of the most important crises in the
history of Ireland. A Government whose
administration of our country is synonymous
with falsehood, insult, and neglect is engaged
in seeking fresh means to overwhelm the op-
pression of our patriotic representatives in the
Imperial Parliament. We must unite as
one man to meet the emergency and baffle the
calculations of our enemies.

In the absence of our leader, Charles
Stewart Parnell, it has been deemed expedi-
ent to take certain provisional steps and to
make certain provisional preparations. An
electoral committee has been formed to op-
erate with the Home Rule League and the
National Land League in promoting the
candidates of supporters of the active
policy of patriotism in the coming Parliament
and in the country. It will assist by every
means in its power the work of useful agi-
tation during the electoral period, and will
receive the subscriptions of such well-to-do
Irishmen as may be willing to advance in
this way the practical furtherance of the na-
tional cause. Mr. Biggar, whose name is a
watchword and a guarantee, has consented to
act as treasurer. Messrs. O'Connor Power,
M. P.; Justin McCarthy, M. P.; Lysaght
Flanagan, M. P.; The O'Donoghue, M. P.;
Arthur O'Connor, M. P.; John Barry,
and other distinguished Home Rulers, have
been placed upon the committee, which will
shortly include all the leaders of the patriotic
party in every district in Ireland. Though
most unworthy to fill so arduous and respon-
sible a post, I have consented—at the request
of the member for Cavan, whose right to
demand my services I cannot disregard—to un-
dertake the duties of acting president of the
committee pending the arrival of Mr. Parnell
from the United States. Within a few days,
or at most a couple of weeks, the acknow-
ledged leader of the Irish people, returned
from the glorious labors which he is now
obliged to interrupt, will bring among us the
authority of his splendid services and his
honored name. In the meantime I rely
upon my countrymen to assist me in the pe-
formance of my temporary trust by their
generous indulgence and patriotic co-operation.

Thanks to the attitude of the active sec-
tion in Parliament, whom an absurd and
tyrannical gagging law has entirely failed to
intimidate, the Government have been pre-
vented from carrying out their design of
springing a mine upon the country, and have
been obliged to announce at a long
state before their intention to appeal to
the electors. If they had not made this de-
claration of their intentions, they would not
have been permitted to pass estimates and
bills without the deliberate criticism to
which maladministration invariably object.
They have, accordingly, been obliged to aban-
don all the bills and other measures with
which they hoped to disguise their plans, and
the Irish constituencies have obtained the
needful time to prepare for an electoral con-
test fraught with such momentous conse-
quences to the right of our nation to self-
government, and the right of our people to
dwell in security upon the lands which they
have tilled, and which are the lawful inheri-
tance of the Irish race.

Until the actual dissolution of Parliament
many of the members of the active Home
Rule party will be busy in the great centres
of Irish population in England and Scotland,
giving and leaving directions for the co-
operation of the faithful and indomitable
Confederation in the common work of the Irish
nation. Mr. Biggar proceeds without delay
to Ireland, where he will join Mr. O'Connor
Power and the chiefs of the popular party in
the Home Rule League and in the National
Land League.

With your permission I would mention a
few suggestions which seem to me not to be
irrelevant or inappropriate in the present
conjuncture.

1. Remembering that there is time for a forth-
right or so at any rate, constituencies might
be better occupied in carefully examining the
nature of various candidatures than in fixing
precipitately upon any particular candidates.

2. In choosing between candidates, a con-
stituency would do well to give a prominent
place to the consideration of regular and
constant attendance in Parliament. It
should be borne in mind that a member of
Parliament does not discharge the duties for
which he is elected, except when he is in the
place where he can alone discharge those
duties. Between two candidates equally good
in other respects, the choice should be de-
termined by the question of attendance in Par-
liament.

3. The first object of the popular party
should be to expel from the seats they mis-
use every supporter of the Tory administration,
no matter whether professing to be
Home Rulers or not, and no matter what
pretensions they parade religious or so-
cialist as a palliation of their political
hostility or treachery. Between the Irish
People and the Government of Britain, be-
tween the Irish People and the adherents,
however disguised, of the lovers of our
homesteads, there can be neither truce nor
quarter. The man or the constituency who
could vote at this crisis for the supporters of
Lord Beaconsfield would deserve to be set
upon a pillory of shame for the execrations
of the Irish race throughout the world.

4. Though it is undoubtedly necessary to
clear the ranks of the Home Rule party of
several incapable or mischievous members,
nothing in the demagoguery of the popular
party should lead a colour to the skillfully
spread assertions of a wholesale intention to
attack the seats of the present representative
body. On the contrary, wherever a member
of Parliament has been fairly or tolerably ob-
servant of his pledges and attentive to his
duties, the greatest circumspection should be
used before supporting an untitled candidate

against him. The conscience of the country
and the knowledge of the particular con-
stituencies will easily point out the bad Irish-
men whose seats should be taken from them,
both for the purpose of making a just example
of traitors and of giving their places to ear-
nest and energetic defenders of our suffering
country.

Finally, with an especial view to the false
and peridious reports which, judging by re-
cent experience, are likely to be set in cir-
culation by the party of active and
practical patriotism, I feel it incumbent upon
me to take a step which I believe will be
commended by the common sense of all my
countrymen. It is to formally declare that,
pending the return of Mr. Parnell to Ireland,
no statement or description of the policy or
aims of the active party will be considered
authentic or in any way binding upon us
until it has appeared in the public journals
signed by Mr. Biggar and by myself as acting
president of the electoral committee.

When the member for Meath returns to the
country he loves so well, and which bears
him such love in return, my tenure of respon-
sibility will end. In the meantime my coun-
trymen will help me in my efforts to promote
energy without factionalism, and to defend
against misrepresentation, to the extent of
my humble ability, the cause of our dear
country, and the lives, property, homes,
and liberty of our persecuted people. I have
the honor to remain, my fellow-countrymen,
your faithful servant.

FRANK HUGH O'DONNELL,
Acting President of Committee of
Electoral Co-operation.
House of Commons, March 9.

The Parliamentary news of the week, ex-
cluding the announcement of the impending
dissolution, is not unimportant. For one
thing, the latest new rule against obstruction
has already been shown not to be worth, for
the purpose for which it was intended, the
paper on which it is printed. On Thursday
night week, in the House of Commons, when
some of the Irish estimates came up for dis-
cussion, it utterly failed to stay the hands of
the members of the active section. These
latter incorrigible persons criticized the votes
presented for their consideration with the
same freedom and pertinacity as usual, at-
tacking *inter alia* the management of its busi-
ness by the Board of Works and the conduct
of the Government in sending the police to
aid the landlords in the service of ejections
on the starving peasantry of the West. The
Government and their partisans looked on
amazed, but the "Eternal Raikes," who occu-
pied the chair, and for whose use the new
rule was specially designed, never once ven-
tured on the terrible process of "naming,"
and the final result was that the sitting was
"wasted," and that the Chancellor of the
Exchequer was deprived of the opportunity,
for which he had been waiting all the even-
ing, of introducing his bill for the distribu-
tion of the six vacant seats. The new rule,
in short, was trampled on, but with such
masterly subtleties that no one dared to say
that the discussion which took place was not
perfectly legitimate.—*Nation*.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

JESUITS IN ENGLAND MAY BE IM-
PRISONED FOR LIFE.

When the Catholics were emancipated, in
1829, the last 11 clauses of the Relief Act
were directed towards the "gradual suppres-
sion and final prohibition" of Jesuits and
other male members of the Catholic religious
societies in the "United Kingdom." Any
member of these societies is liable to banish-
ment for life, and in case of disobedience to
such a sentence, to penal servitude for life.
These penal clauses Mr. F. J. Smith, M.P.,
proposes to repeal. His bill also provides
that no use, trust, or disposition of real or
personal property for pious or charitable use
shall be deemed void or unlawful on the
ground that it is superstitious, or for a super-
stitious object.

THE URSULINES OF QUEBEC.

THEIR RECENT LOSSES BY DEATH—RECENT OF A
REMARKABLE CONVERT FAMILY, THE BARBERS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE—THE LATE P. J.
CURRAN.

QUEBEC, March 5.—The Ursuline Monas-
tery of this city, "the eldest daughter of edu-
cation in North America," has been visited
severely by the destroyer—Death, within the
past week. On Friday, the 27th ultimo, the
Reverend Mother Celina Dore, in religion
Mother Mary of the Presentation, a native of
Laprairie, near Montreal, rendered her pure
spirit into the hands of the Spouse whom she
loved so well, at the early age of thirty-three
years and the twelfth of her religious profes-
sion.

A SINGULAR CHAPTER OF CATHOLIC AMERICAN
HISTORY.

On Tuesday, the 2nd instant, one of the re-
markable amongst the many remarkable
women who figure in the annals of this vena-
ble institution, Miss Anna Abigail Barber,
in religion Mother St. Francis Xavier, re-
ceived this life at the allotted span of three-
score years and ten, after having served her
Divine Master in many capacities within the
cloister, as a professed daughter of St. Angela,
for the long space of fifty-two years. It was
not alone in her powerful intellect, her love
of study, nor yet her great aptitude in con-
veying her young charges the result of those
studies—a duty which falling health only too
soon obliged her to relinquish—that she
was remarkable; she also stands forth as a
prominent figure in a family history
positively unparalleled, at all events, rarely ex-
celled in the history of Holy Church; as wit-
ness the following sketch, for which the writer
is indebted to the facile pen of a venerable
lady who has largely contributed to that
valuable work, *Histoire du Monastere*, itself not
only what it professes to be, but also a valu-
able compendium of the history of early Cana-
da. Born in the State of New Hampshire, in
1811, Anne Abigail was the second eldest
daughter of an Episcopal Minister, Reverend
Virgil Horace Barber, whose father had also
received the ordination given in the same
church. His mother, Miss Booth, was a
person of rare endowments who
studied the Greek and Latin classics, and
spent all her leisure moments reading, with
her husband, the profound and beautiful
writings of the Fathers of the Church, parti-
cularly those of St. Cyprian. Thus, both
husband and wife became well versed in
Catholic doctrine, and equally desirous of
embracing it; but what was still more extra-
ordinary, they had a mutual desire to follow
the Evangelical counsels. Their young
family consisted of four daughters and one
son at the period alluded to, and Mr. Barber,
who had removed to New York, was there en-
gaged as Professor in the University. Here,
after many severe trials, Mr. Barber, relinquish-
ing his brilliant position to become an humble
member of the Society of Jesus, and Mrs.
Barber entered the Visitation Convent in
Georgetown, taking with her the three eldest
daughters, whose education she continued to
superintend, whilst the youngest was kindly
taken in charge by Mrs. Fenwick, mother of
the venerable Bishop of that name. The
whole family had previously been received
into the Church by Bishop Cheverus in 1817,

but it was not until the 2d of February, 1820,
—Feast of the Purification of the B.V.M.—
on Mr. Barber's return from Rome, that these
devoted converts pronounced their religious
vows together in the
Convent chapel at Georgetown. A few
years later young Samuel Barber joined his
father at the Jesuit's College, and three of the
daughters became Ursulines. Mary, who
pronounced her vows in 1828, and died at the
monastery in Quebec on the 9th May, 1848, a
refugee from the hatred of the native Ameri-
can party when they so bravely attacked a
lot of inoffensive and defenceless women
in their quiet convent home in Charle-
stown, Mass., which they reduced to
ashes; Anne the subject of the present
notice, and Susan, who made her pro-
fession in the monastery at Three
Rivers in 1831, and died there in 1837. Mrs.
Barber, who took the name of Sister Mary
Austin, died at the Visitation Convent in
1880, and her son, Father Samuel, died
about the year 1850. Father Barber, him-
self, died in 1847 at the College of Geor-
getown, after having been Pastor of Claremont,
N. H., where he spent several years and
built the first Catholic church; it was there
also that his own aged father became a Catho-
lic, entered holy orders and died a deacon.
Mother Josephine Barber is a professed nun
of the Visitation Order, and the only surviving
member of this family, of whom it may in all
truth be said—"The Hand of God was there!"

The third beloved sister whom the Ursu-
lines are just now mourning is the venerable
Mother St. Agnes (Miss Catherine Cote), a
native of the neighboring parish of St.
Augustine, who received her reward on Wed-
nesday, 3rd instant, at the very advanced age
eighty-six years, sixty-two of which she
passed as an Ursuline nun.

The extreme age to which many of the
nuns of the Cloister of the Ursulines in
this city have attained is noteworthy. In
November last Mother St. Ursula died after
fifty-two years of religious life, and there
are there presently one venerable lady
who pronounced her vows sixty-six
years ago; one of fifty-six years of religious
life; one of fifty-two and two of fifty years.
This is a nut to crack for those who decry
the monastic life. I may add that whilst
many of the nuns who died between the
years 1761 and 1875 (the only record now at
hand) exceeded the patriarchal age of seventy,
and some even went into the eighties, the
average age was over fifty-one years.

MR. P. J. CURRAN.

But whilst the grim destroyer has been
busy in "the cloister," he has also been doing
his fell work in "the world." It is my sad
duty to record the death of a young Irish
Catholic—Patrick Joseph Curran, Assis-
tant English Translator in our Local Legis-
lature. When I say that he was a
"Curran" in fact as well as in name, and
that he possessed all the best
attributes of his famous namesake—genius
of a high order, wit and repartee and literary
ability in music and poetry and prose, and
what may seem paradoxical, a mathematician
at the same time—I only give your readers a
truthful, but I feel at the same time a feeble
pen and ink sketch of the brilliant and gifted
young man who now lies awaiting his return
to mother earth, in the hope, however, of the
glorious morning. Mr. Curran would have
attained his thirtieth year on the 29th of the
present month, and he leaves a widow and
two children, the eldest of whom is only a
little over two years, and a widowed
mother. The deceased was educated prin-
cipally at the Ottawa College, and his
last moments were comforted by the assiduous
attention of one of his whilom teachers, Rev.
Father Tortel, O. M. I., presently Superior of
the Oblate Fathers and pastor of St. Saviour's
parish, adjoining this city. He was the young-
est of four sons of the late Mr. Chas. Curran,
of Montreal. His eldest brother is Mr. John
J. Curran, the well known barrister and Queen's
Counsel, another brother is a member of the
Order of Christian Brothers, and his
three sisters are nuns. Although resident
in this city only since his appointment to the
position which he so worthily filled, some
three years ago, he made for himself hosts of
friends amongst all classes and creeds and
nationalities. The members of the St.
Patrick's Literary Institute, above all, can
never forget the many obligations they owe
his memory; his services were always, during
health, at their disposal, whether as an orator,
a conductor of their concerts or amongst the
rank and file at their weekly readings. He
conducted the literary and musical soirees
in their hall (Victoria) last
Saint Patrick's night, possibly one of
the most successful ever held on a like
occasion in this city. St. Patrick's congre-
gation generally will also remember him for
his readiness on many occasions to lend his
assistance as well instrumental as vocal, in
the organ loft. All will heartily join in the
prayer: *Ere, Domine, animum ejus!*

The Biddulph affair is closely watched
here. The brutal conduct of the Globe and
other such prints toward Father Connolly is
fully appreciated, but the Globe could not
disappoint in this respect.—*Catholic Review*.