

any country from the charge you bring. Then, besides this, the world has witnessed and testified to the inherent valor and endurance of the Irish soldier. Their bones, by hundreds, have whitened every modern battle-field, and their arms and names aided every struggling cause.

'I am astonished, Miss Lambert,' said a gentle-faced, middle-aged lady, 'that as a Catholic you can entertain such sentiments; for the annals of your own Church alone are filled with the names of heroes and martyrs, and the British Isles owe their Christianity, in great part, to the Irish missionaries. Her schools not only preserved, but disseminated those great truths, and gave example by their lives and death, of their faith in the glory that was to come.'

'Oh please! here exclaimed Laura, 'don't say any more. I had no idea of stirring up such a host of witnesses, by an indirect remark, or making it such an exciting subject for argument.'

'But my dear young lady,' said old Mr. Jewel, 'we are not going to let you off so easy.—Come, now, make a candid confession, and say that you are convinced and repentant.'

'Never, never,' replied Laura laughing.—'All the credit due the list of great names you have quoted, is owing to their English education and surroundings. So, you see, there is no use to talk.'

'None, indeed,' said Mr. Banks, 'for a woman convinced against her will, is of the same opinion still.'

'I don't give her conversion up yet,' said Mr. Jewel; 'wait until some handsome young Irish man, with great estates, comes along; then Cupid will settle what reason woot.'

'The last and worst of all your chances, Mr. Jewel, for I have always determined never to marry either an Irishman or a fortune. Besides, it is a safe promise, at least in this country, for who ever saw anything nearer approach to one of their gentlemen than an Irish bog trotter.'

'Why, what a strange girl you are, Miss Lambert,' said one of the ladies. 'Do you mean to say that you would not accept a fortune if you liked the owner of it?'

'I never intend to run such a risk. As I am poor myself, I prefer to start in life on equal terms; it will be the best test of my love, and of a man's worth.'

'Well, certainly, you are an exception to the generality of American girls in your ideas.'

'Yes, but ideas are one thing, and actions another. Wait until we see Miss Lambert carry out her role; saying which Mr. Banks rose, and bidding the ladies good night left the cabin.'

'What a handsome man Mr. Banks is,' said Laura to Mr. Jewel.

'Yes, and a cultivated gentleman in the bargain. His present position is the result of circumstances, and not by any means accordant with his tastes. Talking of handsome men,' said Mr. Jewel, 'have you noticed that "distingue" looking man that never seems to mingle with any one. You should have seen his eager attention, Miss Lambert, during the progress of our Irish war. I rather think he would like to have taken a part in the discussion as a defender to my side.'

'On the contrary,' replied Laura, 'I am sure that he is an Englishman, and therefore would have been against you. Indeed, I almost wished at one moment, when you pressed me so hard, that I might call upon him as my knight, to do "devout" for my cause.'

The object of this discussion had meanwhile followed Mr. Banks down the cabin, and been in conversation with him for some time, each seemingly very much interested in their subject. After separating, the stranger beckoned to a young man who was indisputably Irish, and who had with him, but exactly of what nature, a casual observer failed to discover. Evidently there was some bond between them, and on the part of the younger man, one of great deference. He never approached the elder without removing his hat; always stood when speaking to him, and seemed rather to listen than to talk. On this occasion various shades of expression passed over his countenance, but as the elder one concluded he bowed respectfully, as if assenting to some proposition, and retired to the guards. The next eve, the clerk asked permission of Mr. Jewel to introduce the stranger to the ladies of his party, assuring him that he was perfectly "comme il faut," and would prove a pleasant acquisition to their circle. Accordingly, Mr. Hagan entered the cabin, and a very short time sufficed to convince everybody that Miss Lambert was the sole occasion and attraction of the visit. Mrs. Lane, a sprightly, restless little woman, proposed a dance, which was warmly seconded by others; but to the astonishment of all, Laura declined Mr. Hagan's invitation.—Thereupon she was pressed upon all sides to give her reason for such a strange refusal, but she silenced all importunity by saying "that she didn't feel so inclined, and must be excused."

Mr. Hagan, much to the disappointment of the ladies, resumed his seat by Laura's side.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Justice Keogh, as one of the Judges of Assize in Kerry, visited the Tralee jail on March 13, and on his return to Court expressed to the Grand Jury extreme displeasure at its condition and arrangements, censuring in very strong language the board of superintendence.

The state of Ireland is not quite satisfactory. Fenianism is much and approvingly talked of at meetings, and Riband outrages have become more frequent in some parts of the country.

ACTION FOR LIBEL.—Mr. McKenna, proprietor of the Northern Star newspaper, obtained a verdict for £250 damages against the proprietors of the Ulster Examiner for a libel, imputing to him that, being a writer on the Liberal side, he had covertly used the columns of the Conservative Belfast News Letter for the purpose of abusing the Catholic Bishop.

Robert Clarke, Esq., one of the coroners for the County Antrim, held an inquest on March 12, at a place called Castleside, near Bushmills, on the body of a woman, near 60 years of age, named Mary Howard, who was found dead in her bed on the previous morning, having gone to bed during the night in a state of intoxication. The jury returned

a verdict that deceased died during the night of the 10th of March from the effects of the excessive use of ardent spirits.

EDUCATION OF THE POOR IN IRELAND.—The return moved for by Earl Russell has been completed by the publication of an account for Ireland similar to that already made for England and for Scotland, but differing very widely from these in the proportion of State aid to the whole cost of elementary schools. In the last ten years the Parliamentary vote for public education in Ireland has amounted in the whole to £2,948,669; the amount raised by school fees has been only £360,363, and by local subscriptions and from endowment, &c., £111,437; the two items together amounting to but £471,800, or less than a sixth of the amount voted by Parliament.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin has been officially informed that Prince Arthur will arrive in Dublin on the 5th of April, and remain at the Viceregal Lodge until the 13th. The Prince will, it is stated, be present at the annual Irish Masonic Ball and at Panchestown races.

On March 13 at the early hour of three o'clock A. M. the house of a farmer named William Hourigan, residing at a place called Kill, near Glen, was attacked by a party of two or three armed men, who fired shots through the windows, but fortunately without doing any greater mischief than breaking several panes of glass, and shattering the window frame, although there were at the time in bed no less than eight or nine inmates. The cause of this outrage has not yet been ascertained, but it is believed to be connected with some quarrel about land.

The weather during the week has been very inclement. Yesterday there was a heavy fall of snow, succeeded by rain, and a piercing wind from the north. Agricultural operations are much retarded, but we hope fine weather will now set in and enable the farmers to crop their lands.—Dundalk Democrat.

RELEASE OF THE LAST OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS CONFINED IN IRELAND.—On the evening of St. Patrick's Day, Daniel Craven, the last of the political prisoners confined in Ireland, was released from Kilmunham Gaol. Mr. Craven was arrested on the 6th of March, 1867, and tried under the Whiteboy Act at the Special Commission in the following May. He was convicted, and sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour—the highest punishment in the power of the court to inflict for the offence of which he was convicted.

DUBLIN, March 18.—The anniversary of St. Patrick's day was celebrated yesterday with various manifestations of popular feeling. In the diversity of these the promiscuous elements of which the national character is composed were fairly reflected. The deepest devotion and the wildest frolic were exhibited in singular contrast or still more singular transition. Its religious observance was not the less solemn or general that the anniversary happened to fall this year in the holy season of Lent. The Roman Catholic population, who regard the day as a solemn festival, however inconsistently they may keep it, attended their several places of worship with scrupulous reverence. Their attention to the solemn duties of religion which form a fitting tribute to the memory of the patron saint of Ireland has become of late years more earnest, or, at least, more demonstrative. In its social aspect the celebration of the day is becoming more creditable to the people, exhibiting as it does in their habits and demeanour most unmistakable evidence of an improved moral tone. Scenes of rioting and drunkenness are fast disappearing from the public view, and yesterday there was scarcely an instance of misconduct to be seen in the streets. The anniversary assumed this year in various parts of the country more of a political character than it has hitherto borne. An attempt was made by the friends of the Fenians to organize a public demonstration under the form of a collection for the families of the political prisoners. Thanks to the timely and energetic action of Cardinal Cullen, it utterly failed in the diocese of Dublin. The contributions in the Chapels were strictly confined to religious purposes. The promoters of the movement endeavoured to carry it out in spite of the discountenance which it received from the Cardinal, and opened receiving-houses in different parts of the city, where the public were earnestly invited to hand in their donations. Large placards were posted with the appeal of the 'Amnesty Committee,' and the significant words 'God save Ireland' attached, in order to make it more persuasive. The response was far from encouraging. There were few to notice, and fewer still to answer the appeal. Even at the head quarters of the organization, at the Mechanics' Institute in Lower Abbey-street, and the Irishman office in the vicinity, little or no excitement was exhibited by the populace. Whether the movement has been more successful in the provinces remains to be seen. In the city of Limerick the Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. Butler, allowed the collection to be made; but insisted that the amount contributed should be deposited with him for transmission to the committee. The fraternal spirit which animates the two sections of the 'National' party of which Mr. Sullivan, of the Nation, and Mr. Pigott, of the Irishman, are the respective heads, was strikingly exemplified in connexion with this proposed fund. Some insisted that it should be sent to the former, others to the latter, and ultimately the parties had a violent altercation. The disunion which prevailed, and the decision of the Bishop, had it is stated, reduced the collection, and a supplemental one is now proposed. In Cork the anniversary was commemorated by a grand national soiree and ball last night. Although no demonstration of such a kind was attempted in Dublin, there were not wanting indications of national feeling. Tatts of shamrock in the hats and bright green riband in the bonnets were everywhere observable. The chief event of the day was the relieving of the guard and trooping the colours at the Castle.—Times Cor.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT DUBLIN CASTLE.—On Wednesday morning, at the ceremony of relieving guard at the Castle there was a very large crowd of attendance. At half-past eleven the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess Spencer presented themselves at the balcony in front of the presence chamber, and were greeted with loud cheers. His Excellency wore a large bunch of shamrocks at his breast, and her Excellency, and Lady Bruce and Lady Sarah Spencer wore emerald green bonnet dresses and wreaths of Shamrock in their hair. The band played "St. Patrick's Day" and "Garryowen" and some other national airs amidst repeated cheers. The best humour prevailed amidst the vast throng during the ceremony.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—The only circumstances reported that at all mar the orderly observance of the festival occurred in the North, where a man was shot, it is believed fatally. The bloodthirsty spirit of Orangism, it would appear from this, is as rife as ever, notwithstanding all we hear about Protestant nationality, &c. The following are the particulars, abridged from the Newry Telegraph:—A party of men marched from Aughanarragh to Glen chapel, where they were met by another party belonging to Glen, and also by a third party from Barre. The different bodies had drums and fife, and they played about the district for upwards of four hours. The party entered Poyntzpass, and, at intervals, shouts of the most disloyal nature were made up by some of the throng. They halted at the public house of Mr. Rice, in the main street, and refreshed themselves liberally. They then resumed their march to the railway station, and proceeded as far as the Roman Catholic chapel, all the time playing fife and drums. At this point they held a consultation, and decided on returning to town, in the main street of which they remained about an hour. The party were well armed, a convincing proof of which was that shots were being continually discharged from the procession, and we understand that several shots were fired from the rear premises of some of the houses in the street. At

this stage of the proceedings the constable despatched a messenger to Mr. R. Q. Alexander, J.P., of Acton, with a note of informing him of the circumstances. Before, however, the magistrate arrived in town the party left, firing shots, going in the direction of Glen. On reaching Demone Wood they were interrupted in their further progress. Here, it is said, some of the Protestant party were assembled, and three shots were fired. One of these, we regret to say took effect. A young man named Hugh McNally, one of the leaders of the drumming party was shot in the breast and mortally wounded. The bullet passed in at one side of the chest and lodged in the other side. A number of the wounded man's companions then carried the man into Poyntzpass, where his wound was attended to by Dr. McDermott. The medical gentleman did not consider it proper to attempt to extract the bullet in the weak state in which the man was then in, and consequently it still remains in his body. The police visited the houses of some parties suspected, and arrested in their beds Wm. Clarke, Thomas Robinson, and Thomas Olements, and lodged them in the police-barrack cells during the remainder of the night. On the following day a magisterial investigation was held in the police-barrack of Poyntzpass, before Wm. M. Tier, Esq., R.M.; and R. Q. Alexander, Esq., J. P. County Inspector St. Leger, and Sub Inspector G. O. Black, were present on behalf of the Crown. A great number of witnesses were examined, after which the court decided on admitting Robinson and Olements to bail, and remanding Clarke for a week—refusing to accept bail.—Dublin Irishman.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—I have just seen Mr. Mathews, M.P., and Mr. Cashel Hoey. They informed me that the list of the names of Fenian prisoners whose sentences have been remitted has not been returned to Parliament. I was told as much, at an early hour in the evening, by my friend, at the Home Office; but I determined to make sure doubly sure, and here is the result. Before the list sees official light you shall have it.

This afternoon, an influential gentleman by no means opposed to Irish interests, delivered himself in this wise:

'They [the Fenians] wanted to have their friends set at liberty. See what a likely way they have gone about it. We were not dissatisfied to be as liberal, as far as it lay in our power; but what infatuation must have possessed the men we let loose in making speeches which, for the present at least, have tied up our hands, and render it impossible for us to act as generously as we desired. You call these friends of the Fenians I entertain a converse opinion.'

'I regret all this,' observed a gentleman who was present, 'Did you see that the Times announced this morning that Kichham, Luby, and O'Donovan Rossa are at liberty and making violent speeches against the Government. Now, Luby is, I believe, at Portland, and O'Donovan is eating away his heart at Obanham.'

The diplomatist shrugged his shoulders and gave a little smile. 'I know,' he said, 'that O'Donovan and Luby are still confined; they may thank their friends for that.'—London Cor. of Dublin Irishman.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—The Irish Conservative journals take various views of the position of the Church, in reference to the majority on the second reading of the Government Bill. The Evening Mail regards the division as 'the opening of a long struggle,' and advises an obstructive course in Committee on every clause. The Irish Times says the 'representatives from Ireland must now be watchful to secure the estimated surplus of £7,300,000 for exclusively Irish purposes.' Saunders News Letter observes that 'even in the face of the Government majority, wholesome and timely energy on the part of the bishops, clergy, and people would achieve much towards blunting the sword of destruction now suspended over the Church.' The Daily Express, also a 'Conservative paper, remarks, 'The principle of the bill being now adopted, the struggle upon its details will commence in the House of Commons, and no one can anticipate how far it may be modified in Committee. The liberal journals welcome the result of the division with the highest anticipations. The Freeman's Journal believes 'the Lords will think a second time before disregarding the decision 308 representatives of England, Ireland, and Scotland.' The Northern Whig considers the decision 'all that the best friends of religious equality and national unity desired.' 'The Irish State Church,' it continues, 'is virtually disestablished and disendowed; to refuse to acknowledge this great fact might lead to that very revolution which Mr. Disraeli, deprecated, and as he said, 'England cannot afford another revolution.'

IRISH FEELING ON THE CHURCH BILL.—The Irish Roman Catholics, says the English Independent, have said very little yet about Mr. Gladstone's Bill. The truth is, we suppose, that they do not like to examine the gift horse too closely, though they somewhat suspect that the animal is not in all parts sound. The Bill is so generous and large-hearted, when compared with all other English dealings with Ireland, that they are unwilling to seem cool; yet they cannot be enthusiastic, for it is not the perfect undoing of the grand old wrong of the past. We have reason for thinking that such is the feeling in high ecclesiastical quarters. What the Irish Catholics feel to be the minimum of justice is that, after 300 years of spoliation, their equality with Protestants should be rendered absolutely perfect, and that the State should not stir a little finger to aid any future Protestant Ascendancy. Mr. Gladstone's Bill does not seem to hold the balance perfectly level. For instance, the twelve cathedrals built by Catholics for Catholic uses, is it perfect equality that these should be still supported by the State for Protestant uses? Is it not rather a perpetuation of the very injustice under which Ireland has so long suffered? Again, to the governing body of the disestablished Protestant Church are given the rights of a corporation; from the governing body of the Catholic Church such rights are still withheld. Mr. Gladstone is far too large-minded to wish himself to withhold these rights; and the inequality is so obvious, that English feeling would, we are sure, go with him if he at once put the two Communion, on this point at least, upon the same footing. Once more the facilities afforded to the expiring Establishment for purchasing glebe lands and houses, and so re-endowing itself, seem not wholly unlike the permanent continuation of a great wrong under cover of an act of justice. Very admirable indeed, under the circumstances, is the proposal to apply the surplus funds to purposes of efficacy. But even here the balance inclines somewhat in favor of the Protestants. Among charitable institutions are included the county dispensaries, which are entirely in Protestant hands, and used as engines of Protestant propaganda. It is said that in all Ireland there is not a single Catholic doctor employed in connection with these dispensaries. The Government cannot intend to spoil the best Irish measure ever introduced by leaving the seeds of future party discords, and we trust that ere the Bill becomes law, the principles of perfect equality and the overthrow of ascendancy, may be carried out to their fullest extent. By no other means can the gratitude of the Irish nation be obtained, or deserved.

A thousand Deputy-Lieutenants, Magistrates, and gentlemen of Ireland had pronounced in favour of the Protestant Declaration, to which some fifty Peers had before attached their names. The document thus supported by the Lords, Deputy-Lieutenants, and Justices of the Peace of Ireland is a singular production. Truth and error are mixed together in it so innocently, and so confidently that it may be doubtless taken as a faithful mirror of Irish Protestant judgment. Unfortunately, the truth which is in it is irrelevant, and the propositions which, if they were sound, might be pertinent to the defence of the Irish Establishment are erroneous. We wish we could submit the Declaration to the occupants of the front Opposition bench, and ask them to go through it paragraph by paragraph, and to write their opinions

of each sentence succinctly on the margins. We can tell pretty well what Mr. Disraeli and Lord Stanley would severally add by way of comment.—Times

The sudden shock and wrench of the Disendowment Bill has shaken society. The foundations of our small world are out of course. Even Mr. Goldwin Smith foretold that the crash of Disestablishment would cause this Anglican garrison to gravitate towards the greater mass of their countrymen. Is not the prediction coming to pass rapidly? Already men of high station and intellect think that Mr. Gladstone, that friend of Nationalities, dreams of yet another, and advocates his party to assent to the inevitable. Already, too, there are not wanting Statesmen to say that the eight millions of surplus plunder is to be the consolation to England for Irish Legislative independence, and that a money-loving people will allow us to distribute our own revenues hereafter when the splendid pile of eight millions of sovereigns can be pointed at as so much saved from fire. A very remarkable passage in a speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone so recently as Wednesday night, throws strong light upon this peculiarity of thought as to the controlling and guiding power of his policy. Speaking of his own former connection with the Colonial Office he said:—'On the other side of the water, also in every British Colony, there was a party which, I rejoice to think, has been totally extinguished under the title of the British party—words nearly synonymous with 'Anglican Garrison.' We were taught that upon this British party, which invariably represent an insignificant minority, depended the whole hope of maintaining the connection between England and her Colonies.' But the destruction of this British party brought with it almost complete legislative independence of England. The colonies manage their own finances, fix their own tariffs, appoint their own Ministers and the Executive, with the exception of the Governor General. Like care like rule, we say. The English settlers in Ireland are said to have become more Irish than the Irish themselves. Their descendants may again prove the truth of the saying; but if the destruction of the 'British party' in this country is to work as it did in the colonies, it must be followed by legislative independence. The passage we have cited is a curious one, and may explain much of Mr. Gladstone's policy which appeared to be hitherto inexplicable.—Irish Times.

What will the Lords do? Is the question that now occupies the public mind. In view of the triumph of the carriage of the Bill in the Commons, will those hereditary senators reject it? We think not. They see, impending, the ballot; they see a Land Bill looming that recognizes rights in the occupier as well as in the alleged owner of the soil; they see feudal privileges abolished, and the popular strength felt in every department of the State. The country is becoming 'Americanized,' and the Peers are too wise, and too clearly discern the jeopardy of their position as a legislative element, to precipitate a crisis that might abruptly abridge their highest functions. Though not rejecting the Bill, they may, and probably will, so mutilate it that the Commons cannot accept the deformed measure; and thus produce a result equivalent to its simple rejection. This would bring into immediate collision the Crown and its Ministers, with the House of Commons, on the one side, and the House of Lords on the other. Should such an untoward contingency arise, the struggle would be brief, and the result free from doubt. In the interest of peace and social concord in the interest of industry, in the interest of Irish Churchmen especially, the question must be finally settled during this session of Parliament. If postponed, through the blind opposition of the supporters of Ascendancy, are there no possible emergencies, no international, no domestic complications impending that might solve the Irish Church Question by a process as simple as Alexander did that of the Gordian knot? Under such a contingency, would the proposal now made to confiscate a large portion of the soil of the kingdom, the great Church lands, to a few episcopal families, be listened to, much less discussed? Would a religious sect forming less than an eighth of the population, after being convicted of a gigantic plundering for ages, be sent away by the jury with seven or eight millions of the spoil in its sack, while the victims, the seven-eighths who were robbed of the property, are jeeringly told to be grateful for £300,000 and a College house? The longer the question continues unsettled, and under discussion, the worse for the Established Church. Daily and hourly the feeling deepens in Ireland that the measure should be far more equitable. The proposal about the cathedrals, the ruined churches, and the burial grounds, excites marked hostility, and hurts the most tender of the popular susceptibilities. The restoration of those cathedrals erected by Catholics is demanded. Anglicans have no congregations to fill them. Their Bishop's utterance there is the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Their ritual is as foreign to their fabric as that of Brahminism. Beneath their demolished altars and desecrated sanctuaries repose the ashes of lines of Bishops, and round their walls fell thousands of brave men battling in defence of their possession. Gabriel, Oromenochie, Malfoit, Monasterhouse, Bectve, Kells, Kildare, Lismore, Holycross, Trim, Jerpoint, Quin, Tintern, Grandanough, Fore, Mayo, Tuam, & these, and all the great ecclesiastical ruins of the kingdom, the very joy on whose hallowed walls is venerated by the people, must be restored to them directly, and not handed over to the Board of Works. This, it may be said, is only 'Celtic sentiment.' It must at least be profound and deeply-rooted, since no feature of Mr. Gladstone's scheme has excited more vehement dissatisfaction, nor done more to lessen his just claims to Irish gratitude.—Tablet.

NO SURRENDER.—The speech of the Protestant Bishop of Down and Connor, addressed to nearly 2000 Irish Protestants, lay and clerical, was remarkable in itself, and still more in the vehement disapprobation which greeted it. The prelate was to enlighten his audience, and their 'loud hisses' and shouts of 'no surrender' must have convinced him of the fact. Counsels of wisdom and moderation were thrown away upon such hearers. 'The nation's voice,' the Bishop told them 'has cast its shadow across our path, and each hour of fruitless obstruction will only lengthen and deepen its shade; Hises, groans, and ironical laughter responded to this unpopular statement, and he lifted the respect of the clergy and laity towards a Bishop who dared to tell them unwelcome truths. How would English men like to endure the 'ascendancy' of a handful of men animated by such a spirit? Yet this has been the dismal lot of Irishmen for centuries. Is it not time that they should exchange it for a better?—[Tablet.

CONDITIONAL LOYALTY OF ORANGEMEN.—At a meeting of the other day a Church of England clergyman, the Rev. O. F. Langley, D.D., said, 'Our allegiance to the Queen, is binding only so long as she maintains Protestant rights,' and, as reported, 'declared him self in favour, if the necessity arose, of active resistance.' This is really exhilarating. [By the by, is this gentleman to be prosecuted, and if not—why?] On the other hand, the appeal of the Hon. Mr. Parnell was quite pathetic. 'I implore of you,' he said, 'irritated as you justly are—increased as you may be—swell not the hateful chorus of disloyalty.—And be finished by trying hard to rouse a loyal feeling towards the 'old flag.' The attempt was truly pitiful. The need of such a humble prayer to Orangemen was very humiliating to a certain upper class whose reliable but thankless support in many a dangerous hour they were. Besides, its necessity is a very ominous thing! This Orange faction is—however much its leaders may dislike it—is still alive to the absurdity of petitions unbacked by threats—a thing always fatal to the English parliamentary capacity, and now recognised as very funny by loyal Irishmen too. But their self-called spokesmen will not speak as they wish them. In fact, there has been no expression of the present real

thought of Protestant Ireland. The prophetic gift, in any great degree, is not, we think, necessary to tell men that England is about breaking the reciprocally binding contract entered into with this country sixty nine years ago, and which unjustly favoured the Protestant Episcopalians; and the time is very near for it to be made clear whether the much-vaulted pluck of Orangemen be a reality. We shall see.—[Dublin Irishman.

TWO ENGLISH MEMBERS.—Two English members stood up this week in the House of Commons to make their protest against a complete amnesty. Sir G. Jenkins, one of the members for North Wiltshire, gave and acted on the following notice:—'That he intended on an early day to call attention to a political meeting held in the city of Cork on the 17th of the present month, at which the mayor presided, and at which a person named Colonel Warren, who had been sentenced to eighteen years' penal servitude for Fenianism, used strong language; and would ask whether the attention of the Government had been called to a meeting which had been held in Ballinacree, at which a person named Ostell, sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude, also for Fenianism, had made a speech, in the course of which he said he would, as long as he had breath, conspire and plot against the English Government and whether those convicts had received their freedom subject to any condition as to their future good conduct. Colonel Annesley immediately after rose to ask whether a man named Smith was created for Fenianism in Cavan, having documents dated 1869; and whether the Government intended to liberate any more 'Fenian convicts.' The Irish Chief Secretary said it did not. The Birmingham Post declares that this decision is due to the recent conduct of the released Fenians, which has caused the Government to stop all further steps in extending the Royal clemency. It likewise asserts that 'the Irish Executive was investigating the claims for the pardon of several other persons; but the conduct of the released men caused a stop to be put to that proposal.'—[Dublin Irishman.

NO FURTHER RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.—The recurrence of agrarian crime and other outrages in Ireland, as well as the violent language used at public demonstrations by some of the released Fenian convicts, have caused the Government within the last few days to alter their determination with respect to any further extension of the Royal clemency. Mr. Maguire and Mr. W. McCarthy Downing, who had given notice of questions in the interest of political prisoners still confined in our convict depots, and of the Fenians who had fled from justice, were respectively asked by the Irish Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General for Ireland to withdraw them and to leave the matter in the hands of the Government, on the understanding that they were not indisposed to consider it favourably in all cases where guarantees or assurances could be given of the convicts and refugees resolve not to renew their attempt against the public peace. The Irish Executive had actually commenced an inquiry into the circumstances connected with three of the convicts not comprehended in the first batch who received pardon. But the fact has gone forth that further liberation cannot be sanctioned, and ministers refuse listening to all representations on the subject. I may mention that Captain Stackpole's motion for a return of the names and sentences of the Fenian convicts not proposed to be released has been agreed to and the information ordered.

A POISONING CASE IN CARLOW.—About a fortnight since I forwarded particulars of an inquest which had been commenced touching the death of a young farmer named Townsend, who died in the month of March, 1868, at Slieve, near Leightonbridge in the county of Carlow. At the time of Townsend's death many of his neighbours appeared to have entertained a suspicion of foul play; but this gradually died away, and was only revived about a month ago, when a woman named Anne Nolan who attended Townsend during his last illness, gave information to the effect that the deceased man had been poisoned by his wife, who, two months after his death, married a man named Hayden. Acting upon this information the police communicated with Mr. Campion, coroner, and an inquest was opened, and the remains of Townsend exhumed for the purpose of having the contents of his stomach analysed. The result was that Dr. Bigg, of Cork, discovered four grains of arsenic in the stomach. In the meantime warrants were issued for the arrest of Hayden and his wife, who were hiding from the police, and managed to evade the pursuers until the 24th ult, when they were found at night concealed in a farmer's house. The inquest was held the next day, and again adjourned until yesterday. In the course of the inquiry the nurse, Anne Nolan, gave evidence to the effect that Townsend's wife told her that she had administered poison to her husband, and that she procured it from Hayden (her second husband). This witness also accused Mrs. Townsend of having administered poison about the same time to her aunt, a Mrs. Todd, who died soon after. Dr. Scott, who attended Townsend during his last illness, deposed that shortly before his death he had had leading symptoms of poison. On the cross examination of the nurse (Nolan) by Mr. Thorp (who with Mr. Mulhall appeared for the prisoners) she contradicted herself in some essential points, and her evidence against the accused was unimpeached. The jury, after brief addresses from Mr. T. O. Butler, Sessions Crown Prosecutor, for the Crown, and Mr. Thorp for the prisoners, returned a verdict, to the effect that deceased died from the effects of poison, but by whom administered they had no evidence to determine.

HURRICANE IN LIMERICK.—On Monday, between 10 and 11 o'clock, it commenced to blow a dreadful hurricane from the northwest, varying, in the intensity and fury of its violent gusts, by south east squalls, which roared like peals of distant thunder. The waters of the Shannon rolled in upon the land and quays, inundating fields and houses to even a greater extent than the gigantic floods experienced here on the 1st and 2nd ult. Trees of the largest dimensions were either uprooted or snapped asunder in every part of the city. Chimney flues were blown down, house-tops stripped, and window glass shattered, the debris being hurled in the air like straw. The large chimney shaft in connection with the milling concerns of the Messrs. Russell, merchants, in Henry Street, was struck by lightning and the top of it shivered to atoms, and in the suburbs the lightning did much damage. Some hay stacks were set on fire, but blown away in burning volumes, and scattered harmlessly throughout the surrounding districts. The roof of the new barracks was stripped to a great extent of slates and tiles, as also the County Infirmary, St. Mary's Cathedral, Redemptorist Church, and various other places. In three parts of the old town houses were blown down, but the inmates escaped uninjured. The embankment at Monabrother, in which breaches were made by the last floods was nearly entirely washed away, and the Corkinnee embankment again sustained much damage.—[Correspondent of Dublin Express.

ONE WILLIAM BROWN recently entered, with burglarious intentions, a Baptist church in London. It happened that several adults had been baptized on the previous evening, and that after the ceremony the cistern had not been covered up. Groping furtively along in the dark, therefore, William came upon the watery snare, and soured in head foremost. Thus unexpectedly baptized, and, as Mattaili had it, 'drowned damp,' he wandered on into the vestry. Here he found a bottle of sacramental wine, which was very acceptable after his bath, but of which he partook with a rash freedom—for it went 'in his head'; and he was found next morning lying in a state of helpless intoxication, and most uncomfortably moist outside as well as in.