THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

The First Blessing.

The young priest stood before me, I kneit me down at his feet; Was there mystle power, I wonder, In the words which I heard him repeat?

His snered hands he lifted, And placed them upon my head; n a lowly murmared whisper, The benediction was said.

Did God look down from beaven When the holy deed was done? Did He bless me again, who had blest me, Through his newly anointed one?

Methinks "twas so, for my spirit Seemed lightened of all its woo; And over my frame, "God bless you," Tarilled, trembled, and seemed to flow.

"God bless you, my child," he mormured, And into my soul's deep cell Sank the words of the priest's first blessing, Ab 11 remomber them well.

And there stole in my heart a pleasure. So sweet, so sadly sweet ; Was there mystle power, I wonder, In the words which I heard him repeat ?

THE STATE TRIALS.

BRILLIANT SPEECH OF MR. A. M. SULLIVAN.

Mr. Luke Dillon having addressed the jury on behalf of Mr. Boyton and Mr. P. J. Gordon,

Mr. A. M. Suliivan-May it please your lordships and gentlemen of the jury-On me it devolves to speak the last words in their defence; and, with my gifted and learned friend Mr. Adams, I can truly say I rise to occupy a brief portion of your time, not with, but against, my personal choice, yielding only to the call of duty pressed on me by my clients and my col-negation. Langue for Ms. Data is beleagues. I appear for Mr. Patrick Egan, and for him I can but feel that he stands before you at some disadvantages to-d y, in that he has confided the justification of his conduct and the vindication of his aim his objects, his principles, to an advocate but poorly endowed for so serious a re-sponsibility. I ask some measure of your consideration for him. I ask for myself consideration for him. I ask for myself your kindly indulgence for ising to ad-dress you at this exhausted yet critical stage of the defence—unaccustomed to ad-dress you, now almost a stranger here. Speaking in this court to-day I exercise for the first time—and, in all human pro-bability, for the last time in my life—the privilege which I proudly prize, of be-longing to the Bar of my own country. That kindly indulgence I feel, gentlemen, I shall receive not only from you but know to-day what the highest legal and constitutional authority pronounced upon the rulings and the charges of that time, We know what universal history declares of the animus of that prosecution, of the verdict of that jury. In all, or nearly all, of these respects, I say in the sincerity of my soul that I believe the State Trials of to-day are destined to present a luminous contrast with that miserable exhibition of partizanship, passion, and subserviency. Gentlemen of the jury, I said that you sat Contrast with that miscrable exhibition of partizanship, passion, and subserviency. Gentlemen of the jury, I said that you sat in the box as the country. I believe it was the learned Attorney-General who remarked that my distinguished leader in this case went back as far as Magna Chorta—the Barons and King John. That is one of the artifices of debate and contention in a case like this, yet most revelant, most necessary may be to connect the past often with the present, and to ow how down through the stream of history great rights have come, and duties have accrued to men like you. He referred to a clause in the great charter no for the purpose of distracting your mind by retrospect of history, but of enforcing the Constitutional argument that to jure belong rights, privileges, duties, which no power in the land, no judge however il-lustrious, no monarch however powerful can ever take away-the right to judge of the innocence or guilt in criminal cases but especially between the subject and the Crown. Gentlemen, this is a composite tribunal. You sit in that box, their lordship preside upon the bench, and yet if any man were asked in all broad Britain or here in Ireland, by an inquiring foreigwhat consisted the pre-eminent ner in what consisted the pre-eminent glory of our jurisprudence, he would be answered: "Trial by jury." The man would be laughed to seorn who called it trial by jurge, and yet the judge is a necessary part of the tribunal. Why has ner in

judges on the bench, issues that require a breadth of view and a comprehension of the day when juries attempt to invade the domain that belongs to their lordships justice will be wreeked, though passion or faction may triumph for an hour. It is in the just conducted at the second the just and due observance by each portion of this tribunal of its own just portion of this tribunal of its own just rights that the ends of equity as well as law and public justice can best be at-tained. But, gentlemen, there are two subjects pre-eminent of all the subjects that devolve upon the jurors. Of all the questi ns and the issues that need their special vigilance and care there are pre-eminently two in which it behoved twelve jurors, to grasp firmly their side. urors, to grasp firmly their rights, and oart with them only with their life. Those part with them only with their life. Those two questions are political sedition, politi-cal conspiracy. Gentlemen, there are rea-sons why these two questions should be-long especially to the jealous care of jurors. Firstly, because these matters of political sedition, these charges of political conspiracy, arise in conflict between the Crown and the people. Secondly, because they are questions touching matters vague, indefinite—matters of optimen: because they are questions touching matters vague, indefinite—matters of opinion; because they require to be viewed in conjunction with the surrounding circumstances of the times. You cannot draw the line, it has ever yet been drawn; it can be drawn by no hard rule, it must always depend upor the elastic indement of a jury to draw the

loftly the man. Now, gentlemen, the a breadth of view and a comprehension of loftly the man. Now, gentlemen, the popular instinct; and because the English people possess many inestimable contry of Christian Europe. What surrounds the names of their judges, and will ever attach to the bench of justice, yet the English people know, or have been made to feel, that in the hour of their agony, in their agony, in the deal of the low of the second their agony in the deal of the low of the second the low of the second the low of the English people possess many inestimable blessings of liberty—they have the reality of a free Constitution; the envy of the world. Its miserable parody is sometimes, seen on the Ivish shore. Gentlemen, ou their agony, in struggle against oppres-sion from the Crown, they leaned upon a language of prime propriety, was conduct the bench and administered laws which since the evolution, liberty more as protection of liberty upon a judge; and the status and the Hanoverian line ever since the evolution, liberty has found in ever since the evolution, liberty has found in the tithe war, much less in this truest bulwark. Gentlemen, I speak not that are committed to the Bench; and in the day when juries attenut to invade Palaces blazed then, the King was 1831 hooted in the streets, resolutions were passed which not even Mr. Nally's extravaant language could approach. Yes, reso-lutions were passed as extravagant as this —that for those who denied them justice they would prepare their powder and melt their lead. The Common Coancil of the city of London, the municipal Parliament of the British metropolis, passed resolu-tions calling upon the people to give the King no tax till the reform Bill was carried. Think of these things, and what do they mean? The struggle then was not not to this land agitation, and say if in t e eye of man or God these two can compare for a moment. And yet no officer of the Crown attempted to prosecute Lord John Russell or any of the other leaders of that movement. And why? I say fearlessly here in the responsibility of a humble member of the bar, that by a strict and technical holding of these hateful doctrines of conspiracy. Lor I John Russell would have been canvitation of the strict. <text><text><text><text><text><text><text> have been convicted on the decision of the judges—but he was not tried, and I will tell you w'y. Because right well the Atall countries this land question has been the cause of embitterment and strife be-tween classes. I shall not go back upon Irish history. I can imagine you shudder at it. I shall only ask you to take note of an historical fact-that the land system against which these men have agi ated was established in the last century. There have been conquests and confiscations in other countries, there has been conques and confiscation here; and, heaven knows, criminal should I feel if I were to rake up in every country in Christendom. Bu gentlemen, there is great distinction be But. ween the cases of Ireland as regards confiscation and as regards conquest. In all fiscation and as regards conquest. In all other countries the conqueror and the con-quered learned to fuse. In all these coun-tries what was done by the confiscation was soon obliterated in the memory of the people, because the new owners of the land assimilated with the population. In fact, gentlemen, it seems to be a natural law in other parts of the world that if men did come upon the land and confiscate it. did come upon the land and confiscate it, they did at all events assimilate in process of time with the people round about them. And if any class came upon the land from the Vistula to the Tiber, from the Danube to the Shannon, and sullenly isolated them-selves, and did not assimilate with the pop-ulation in the midst of which they were

national history and political instinct in a free people fastened upon the phrase "Trial by jury" rather than "Trial by judge" or "trial by judge and jury." Gentlemen, it is because that, in the wis-dom which has shaped the development of legal institutions in these countries, it has been not only most wise but found most necessary to commit to the twelve judges on the bench, issues that require a breadth of view and a comprehension of terable, of suffering unknown in any other ernment a fair and honest chance of doing their duty by them. Let us see how that is. In 1819 a select committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the condition of Ireland. That committee took official evidence and reported to the house—" That the state of things was calamitous to the last degree and called for immediate legislation." What was done? Nothing. Four years passed by. In 1823-I seek by these facts to fasten knowledge, and official know-ledge, on the Government of a state of the country, which in any other country would have led to a revolution-in 1823 another committee was appointed, and it said—" The condition of the people is wretched and calamitous in the last degree. The people live in a state of the ut for siture in their miserable calons, usi gas the bededothes a little flannel and a quantity and the galastone, the Minister of to-day, stated sty that such a state of things as that was enough to forfeit the right of the Turk to govern Bulgaria. Gentlemen, nothing was done on the report of 1825. A few years in ore passed, and in 1829 another crisis more passed, and in 1829 another crisis the arose, and another committee reported that the state of the use of thorugh. Never redress. The committee reported this work. In the crowded fever-sheds of these workhouses, as well as at the gate, the workhouses, as well as at the gate, the workhouses, as well as at the gate, the arose, and another committee reported to ranchises that the lifts people were waiting—as the reformers of 1830 an-other committee makes its reports on the reforms in the odinary com-dition of human exigtence. In 1830 an-other committee makes its reports on the rade legislation; yet, owing to the maintee of genting a bill passed through. The table, but the people were left in the isse work source as that the lifts work-new to the reformers of 1831—it was only for lea e to live in the odinary com-idition of human existence. In 1830 an-other committee makes its reports on the rable but the people were left in the insery and distres, as if to tempt them insery and distres, as if to tempt them table do und the work house gate. He knew that perhaps in and sow the heap of dead humanity go by ing that the strong armed power of Eng. human, bedier. It is on the as in the source is more thangen the table as the strong armed power of Eng. Hand could tr mple out the revolt in blood. lestitution, with scarcely an article of fur Government to do their duty, the gloom by education, fortune, position and op-portunity. The might have been so here. They would have found a kindly, warm hearted, grateful people, ever dis posed to render the tribute justly pav-able to virtue and to birth. All the world over such men are the first to scent danger o the people-the first to meet it. When the gloom of a terrible famine fell upon our shores what did the landlords do? Many of them, no doubt, nobly did their shores what did the landlords duty when the distress was in its full force. But what is the history of the people at this time? There were some of them who, like the popular leadars of 1880, cried out that the famine cloud was over the land. How were they met? They were met by incredulity. They were charged with exaggeration. A member of Parliament, who is every day attacking the Land League made a public speech in 1847 in which he described the warnings of famine as the language of "panic mongers"—there was no famine coming. Oh ! gentlemen, famine was coming. We

dem ralization of a profligate expenditure without result. I must pass rapidly over duct of a murderous result. In the Irish Poor-law, modelled, and framed, and passed for the Irish landlords, there the workhouse meant the destruction of the home—the destruction of all future industry and effort. Once a man who held a acre or half an acre of land left his cabin door and came to the portals of the workhouse, he might read overhead the words of the great Italian poet-Abandon hope, all who enter here. Gentlemen, of the conduct of the land-lord class at this time of awful calamity

lord class at this time of awful calamity we could give ample evidence. His lord-ship kindly told us, to facilitate our defence, that public statutes were passed to restrain the fell work of the landlords. No sooner was the faint and exhausted farmer obliged to seek the relieving officer

Western counties felt that the hour of their doom was near. And when almost the last meal of tood was gone from them, the Government appointed inspectors to inquire. Ah ! when their report came in it was too late; the measures that were taken in precipitancy to mitigate that which all men worthy of being of a Gov-ernment should have known was com-ing, only plunged our country into the dem ralization of a profligate expenditure without re-ult. I must pass rapidly over without re-ult. I must pass rapidly over this nortion of my statement. They said too crude for the magnitude of the evil it this portion of my statement. They said the destitution could not be extreme be-cause the workhouses had room for more, and workhouses were built while the peo-ple were dying. Let the Pashas of Turkey study the story, which will show that even kindly-hearted land. Iosis when they come to act as mem-bers of a system will fall into con-duct of a murderans vesult. This when they come to act as mem-bers of a system will fall into con-duct of a murderous result. In the Irish Poorlaw, modelled, and framed, and passed for the Irish landlords, there was a clause called the "quarter act clause," by which no man who held more than quarter of an acre of land could re-ceive relief. Our people did not fill the source of the protection the Land Act gave. Yet it was gratefully received by the people, and not one word shall fall from my lips disparagi g the effort, but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a clause called the "quarter action of the protection the land fall from my lips disparagi g the effort, but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall from my lips disparagi g the effort, but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall from my lips disparagi g the effort, but no sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall from sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall from sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did it pass than the tenants a fall for sooner did the fa was a clause called the who held more clause," by which no man who held more than quarter of an acre of land could re-ceive relief. Our people did not fill the workhouses; God bless them for it. They did not fill the workhouses for reasons every m n of humanity and right feeling will sympathise with, because going into the workhouse meant the destruction of the home—the destruction of all future the home—the destruction of all future of lawyers was set to work by the Lord Leitrims and Dukes of Leinster of the day to devise leases that might cheat the tenants out of the benificence intended for them by the Government of England.

Not even at the twelfth hour would these men swear to bury in kindliness and goodwill with a grasp of the hand this record of strife and contention. 1870 to 1880 there were introduced into 1870 to 1880 there were introduced into the House of Commons eight and twenty public measures for the reform and amendment of the insufficient though well-intended Land Act of 1870. Who of Ireland's wrong; and so my young friend, Mr. Brennon, and so all his com-partriots, who if too young to have seen the famine scenes know the famine story, and the first act of the Land League was to determine that human life must be preserved. They looked abroad, and they saw in no other country the husbandthey saw in no other country the hasband-man slaughtered by these of trecurring tamines. They could not see in the fair land of the Rhine, in gallant France, that land system which, though it might have been admirable in its day was unsuited in its present age. They saw that in these lands the tiller of the soil was the lord of his little natrimour, and then other his little patrimony, and they set about winning for the Connemara tenantry his fittle patrimony, and they set about winning for the Connemara tenantry that which had made frugal and loyal and contented the Frenchunan and the German. Was it for the purpose of guilt, for hateful greed, or as hateful slaughter, as the London Press would have it? We spar. They conspired, not in the tech-nical language of the law, but in the daring of men who were ready to spend their lives to have an end to this dreadful system. Again, we have the terrible panorama of Irish misery history before us at Green-street—the con-viet dock and the cell chackful again with through the tens of thousands of the aud ience and begs alms for the suffering. Roused by the ex mple of the Land League the noble, kindly hearted organisation arose one of them headed by a noble womanbless her all the same, because it was the act of a woman -the Duchess of Marlbor-ougu. She did nobly and well. Better still your Chief Magistrate and you the citi-zens of Dublin. There was seen at that on their track, and the peasantry of our ment of theoretical public life but some Rev. Dr. Trach, a man of European fame



justice to exaggeration. Sleeping and waking his anxiety was to teach the people that within the law, and within reverence for law, right might be done. Yet even then this miserable resort of conspir-acy was potential, and the co-operation of acy was potential, and the co-operation of obtained-of jurors who had been reduced from a sense of duty in response to appeals that never should have been made to them. Gentlemen, it was agitation that has protected your interests and industries, and secured your franchise which you now enjoy; and i see before me merchants of this city of high position— you have not a right—you have not a possession of property and of political en-dowment that has not been won for you by agitations that might have been cushed by prosecutions for conspiracy. But you may hear when I have done it is right to agitate, but you must agitate with pro-priety and decorum—your language must be within certain bounds, and your conduct should be regulated by drill. Yes, gentlemen of the jury-yes, that is true, and it

show how persistently the Irish landlords resisted justice—that they resisted it from day to day. I pass on. Soon came the gloomy shadow of a terrible calamity. In 1846, in the midst of this long-continued story of the utter fallure of the Parliament and Communent to do their down, the above Indian on the banks of the Hudson, and of a deeper shadow fell on our land. In other countries—would it were so in our own—the gentry class discharge noble func-tions in social and public life. hey are the natural leaders of the people, selected the natural leaders of the people, selected shores, there arose a cry of exultation and execration, and the shout of derision and laughter from those who exulted in their fail, and there was gladness and peace in the country—such peace as would gladden the heart of an Irish Attorney General. The people, driven from the public arena f agitation, took what I call, even at the risk of misunderstanding from my coun-trymen, whom I love, the politics of de-spair. They conspired, not in the techwich dock and the cell chuckfal again with men whom I fearlessly say, whatever their guilt before the law, showed themselves m guitt before the law, showed themselves in that terrible hour animated by feelings and aspirations as noble as ever animated the human heart. Did these things arouse the numan neart. Did tness things arouse the generous impulses of English states-men? What aroused them? I stake upon this fact the justification of the Land League. What awakened, what stirred, what moved, the fatal torpor of England that requires not only the and and more read that by a sort of instinct; even the lower animals feel that the hunter's foot is that requires not only the ordered move-