

We regret to announce the demise of the Dowager Vicountess Castlemaine, the mother of the present Lord Castlemaine. Her ladyship expired at her residence, Athlone, on the 4th ult., after a protracted illness.—*Catholic Standard.*

**NATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.**—The vacancy at the board, caused by the death of the Most Rev. Dr. Townsend, Bishop of Meath, has not yet been filled, owing, it is stated, to hesitation on the part of the government to appoint Doctor Singer, the new Bishop of that diocese, as his successor. It is rumored that the vacant commissionership will be offered to Dr. Dixon, the new Catholic Primate, who has been a supporter of the national system. On the occasion of the death of Archbishop Murray, Chief Justice Blackburne was nominated in his room. Since that time there has been no Catholic Primate upon the National Board.—*Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.*

**THE NEW PRIMATE.**—A correspondent of the *Western Guardian* furnished the following biographic sketch:—"Dr. Dixon was born near Duggan, within sight of the famous church where a National Convention once sat over the destinies of Ireland. He entered Maynooth at an early period of his life, with just enough of manhood to know the danger of the world from which he was escaping, and of youth, to have his heart untainted by any of that world's allurements or sinful follies. His early collegiate career was marked with unmistakable traces of the worth that so haloed his mature years, and enlightened and edified all who came within the sphere of his zeal, as well as the brilliancy of his many talents; and indeed, for the last thirty years, which he has spent within the calm seclusion of Alma Mater, there is not a virtue in the long roll of Christian perfection, of whose practise he has not been a shining model. From the Dunboyne establishment, to which the zeal with which he had hitherto pursued his academical studies raised him, he became Dean, and his uniform mildness and sweetness in governing soon endeared the Superior to the hearts of all; for he had practised all the virtues of the ecclesiastical state too long and too well himself, to render their enforcement upon others now, anything but a work of love to him and to them. But it was in the professorial chair finally, that his talents had ample room and verge enough to display themselves; and under his tuition many a young divine has been reared up for the Irish mission, and prepared for those functions in whose discharge the Irish priesthood has been so uniformly and faithfully zealous, as even to wrest the warmest laurels from Ireland's and Catholicity's sternest and blackest foes. In the science of Scriptural Hermeneutics, Dr. Dixon has few equals, and certainly no living superior. There was a vivid tenderness in his *Exposés* that dispelled all darkness from the most obscure passages of the inspired penman—that came like a flash of lightning, and at once struck home conviction to the understanding. Few who have ever listened to his lectures on Biblical Literature, need confirmation of the truth of what I am stating; and I have frequently heard theologians of Maynooth remark, that on him appeared to have been bestowed from above, the gift of interpretation, so frequently given in the earlier ages of the Church.—And in speaking of this subject, need I allude to the voluminous of his Hermeneutical Lectures which he has lately given to the world, and in the deep research and learning of which we cannot fail to see the revival of the spirit that guided the pen of a Jerome, and breathed over the labors of Maldonatus.

**THE HOLY SEE AND THE IRISH CHURCH.**—We copied last week from the Roman correspondence of the *Morning Chronicle* a passage in which it was asserted that Sir H. Biber's recent mission to Rome had terminated in the triumph of the British Minister over the Irish Hierarchy. According to the writer, the Archbishop of Tuam was censured by the Pope, the Irish Priests were to be reprimanded, and the Queen's Colleges to be absolved from the condemnation of the Church. Our readers will do us the justice to recollect that we expressed at the moment our own disbelief in this tale. We have it now in our power to state confidently that our surmise was correct. The correspondent of the *Chronicle* was grossly deceived or lent himself to a foul misrepresentation. The Holy Father has not censured the Archbishop of Tuam—has not promised to reprimand the Irish Clergy, and has not removed, or intimated an intention to remove, the condemnation that has been pronounced against the Colleges. The Holy See is not, of course, averse to a good understanding with the British Government, but we may rest assured that Pius IX. will never make undue concessions to the avowed enemies of Catholicity. Even the offer to rescind the Eglinton clause in the Diplomatic Relations Act, which, it seems, was the work of some Catholic nobles, could not induce His Holiness to swerve from the course hitherto adopted by the Holy See.—*Catholic Standard.*

Great enthusiasm prevails with regard to the erection of a monument to O'Connell noticed in our last publication. Several persons have expressed their readiness to come forward with their subscriptions to so laudable an object; amongst them a Roman Catholic Clergyman, residing near this city, has tendered a subscription of £20. This is as it should be.—*Limerick Reporter.*

The Moore Testimonial Committee have resumed their meetings at Charlemont House, and the general meeting of the subscribers will be called early in spring, to determine the site and form of the tribute to the memory of Ireland's most gifted poet.

**GENEROUS LANDLORDISM.**—John Foxall, Esq., of Forkhill, county Armagh, at a meeting of tenantry on his Killeavey estate, on Wednesday the 3rd ult., voluntarily reduced his rent 20 per cent., besides taking upon himself the payment of the whole of the tithe-rent-charge. This well-timed liberality caused the tenantry to come forward cheerfully with their rents. They afterwards returned to their homes happy and contented.

**SYMPTOMS OF IMPROVEMENT.**—There is at present a vigorous movement for the extension of railway accommodation in various parts of the south. Mr. Dargan is about to commence the line between Cork and Youghal, for which an act has been obtained; and he has caused a survey to be made of the line of country between Roche's Point at the entrance of Cork Harbor, to Middleton, through which the Cork and Youghal Railway is to pass, with the view of carrying out the suggestion of Mr. Vincent Scully, M.P., for establishing a "place of call" for all vessels at Queenstown, and completing the communication by railway to Dublin by the Great Southern and Western, and, in fact, to all parts of Ireland. Other projects in contemplation are—the extension of the Cork and Bandon Railway, for forty miles, to Dromoleague, the comple-

tion of the Limerick, Ennis, and Killaloe Railway, both by English capitalists, who, it is said, offer very fair terms to the parties locally interested.

**THE POOR LAW—PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT.**—A correspondence has passed between the managing committee of the conference, held in Manchester, on the subject of productive labor in poor law unions, and the guardians of the Emistymon Union, in Clare. The latter say in their reply:—"To the utter want of reproductive employment we have to trace the poverty of this union; to the habitual want of any employment we have to trace the indolent, incapable, and demoralized character of its pauper population. We have struggled as yet ineffectually against this tide of pauperism, and complain that our efforts have been, not aided, but controlled by the technicalities of an inflexible law, fettering the discretion of the respective boards in the adoption of those remedies or expedients which should vary with the characters and accommodate themselves to the exigencies of each locality."

The last intimation we have received of Mr. Napier's projected Landlord Bill is to the effect that it is to be a compensation Bill for all future improvements, of which due notice shall have been given by the tenant to the landlord, and the landlord's consent thereupon obtained. If this be true, the duty of the Tenant Right members of Parliament will be very plain. Such a compensation Bill will be the merest confiscation of past industry and impediment to the future.—*Tablet.*

**CATHOLICS IN THE CONSTABULARY.**—A correspondent of the *Dundalk Democrat* says:—"There are at present seven head constables in the county Louth, but there is not a Catholic head constable amongst them. We are now on the eve of a vacancy occurring by the promotion of Head Constable Scott, of Dundalk, who is to be appointed sub-inspector; and I hope when his place is to be filled up that the claims of the Catholic constables will not be passed over, for the purpose of satisfying a bigoted and intolerant spirit. I trust that Lieutenant Battersby, late of the 30th Regiment, and now county inspector for Louth, will not allow himself to be carried away by party or religious feelings, which are the curse of this unfortunate country."

**RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.**—Mr. Charles Townley, the member for Sligo borough, in the course of a letter addressed to Mr. George Henry Moore, upon the policy of the Conference, suggests as the safer course that they should confine themselves to the assertion of the principle embodied in the celebrated "appropriation" clause of 1835. The United Liberal party, he thinks, would recognise the right of Parliament to apply the "admitted surplus of the revenues of the Irish church to public purposes." As to the disposal of the spoil, Mr. Townley urges that it should be liberal and conciliatory, and merely stipulates that it should be an impartial distribution for the benefit of every portion of the Irish people, "excluding, of course, the established church, for which an adequate provision would previously have been made." The hon. gentleman further suggests that a slice of the surplus should be devoted to the providing of suitable places of worship for Catholic congregations.—*Correspondent of Times.*

"The census return published last week," observes the *Tipperary Free Press*, "evidence forcibly, the fearful loss which Ireland has sustained in the exile or death of the bone and sinew of the country. Within a period of ten years in the county of Tipperary alone there has been a decrease in the population of 104,066 souls! and in the year 1831 there were less houses in this county by 16,021!!! How wide spread must have been the ravages which produced such decimation—how vigorous the labors of the Crowbar Brigade."

**THE RECENT EARTHQUAKES.**—The *Dublin Evening Post* says:—"According to various statements that have reached us, it commenced a few minutes after four o'clock, and the tremulous motion continued about fourteen seconds. At Salt Hill, near Kingstown, the shock was sufficiently violent, at its crisis, to shake the windows, the beds, and furniture of the houses. In Kingstown, Blackrock, and along the southern side of the Bay of Dublin, people were awoke by the force of the concussion, and arose from their beds in alarm. In various parts of the city the shock was felt, accompanied by a rumbling subterranean noise, and the shaking of doors, windows, and furniture. On the north side, the effects of this remarkable phenomenon were still more decided. At Phibsborough a stack of chimneys was thrown down by the violence of the shock. At Raheny, Clontarf, Malahide, and along the northern verge of the bay, the shock was quite as distinct as at the south side. The shock had been felt at Carlow—forty miles off. The following are extracts from two letters from Kilbride, county Wicklow, S.W. of Dublin, and at an elevation of 700 feet above the level of the sea:—"We are all astonished that you have not been down here to talk of the dreadful earthquake last night. We can think of nothing else this morning. The house rocked in a most fearful manner—the bed pitched like a ship at sea—the clock stopped on the mantelpiece—jugs and basins danced a fearful jig. It occurred at a quarter-past four this morning." The effect at Ranelagh we have thus detailed by a correspondent:—"At four o'clock a. m. this morning, there was a smart shock of an earthquake. It lasted for about three seconds; it shook this house, which is a square strong-built two-story building, very much. There was not any very rumbling noise, but a sound throughout the house as if a strong man was endeavoring to rock a closed or fastened door. I was awake in bed; the motion appeared trembling and undulating; the direction was from about NNW. to SSE. For several days and nights back there have been very heavy and strong winds, but last night and this morning there was a perfect calm. The planet Mercury was in conjunction with Jupiter, and Venus nearly so with Pallas. The sun in 17 degs. of Scorpio, and the moon in 16 degs. of Libra, or nearly so." The Drogheda Railway terminus was strongly affected. One of the watchmen was moved in his box, and saw the chains attached to some of the railway carriages shaking; at the same time he heard a noise which resembled the rolling of carriages; immediately afterwards he was joined by another watchman, who had left his box, situated at some distance from the terminus, under the impression that some part of the building had fallen.

**SHIPWRECK.**—We regret to learn that a large Austrian vessel, the *Louisa*, with a cargo of corn for Messrs. Cardwell and Holden, of this port, was, during the gale on Sunday evening, driven ashore on Cranfield Point, and wrecked. Crew saved.—*Newry Telegraph.*

**SAVAGE ATTACK ON A CHILD BY A DONKEY.**—About three o'clock on Sunday last a young child, about three or four years of age, strayed into a field in the neighborhood of the Military Barrack, where a donkey and its foal were grazing. The child in wandering about the field, approached the foal somewhat closely when it was instantly rushed at by the older animal, knocked down, and bitten rather severely about the head. The infuriated animal endeavored several times to trample it with its fore-legs, but from the position in which the child fell, under the belly of the animal, it could not well carry its savage intentions into effect.—It then caught the child by the head, and lifted it several times from the ground, all the time endeavoring to trample it with its fore-legs. The circumstance was fortunately observed by some young men who were passing along the road, and who, with the utmost promptitude, hastened to the rescue of the child just in time to save it from any serious injuries. The circumstance is rather remarkable as an instance of extreme excitement, and watchfulness over its young, in an animal which is generally known for its dull and impassive qualities.—*Cork Examiner.*

**ROBBERY AND SACRILEGE.**—A most audacious robbery was committed on Thursday night in the house of the Rev. Thomas E. Gill, P. P., Oranmore, by a man named Brogan, from Tuam. The robber gained access to the house, by raising a window. He carried away all Mr. Gill's wearing apparel, a tablecloth, and some other articles. In the pocket of a coat was the oil-stock, which contained the sacred chrism used in the administration of Baptism and Extreme Unction. Next day information of the transaction was given to the police, and on that evening about eight o'clock, Sub-Constable Blundell succeeded in arresting Brogan in a cellar in High Street. The activity with which this arrest was effected is highly creditable to the police force, and to Constable Blundell individually, who deserves the more praise, as the robber was previously unknown to him. The stolen articles were all found in the possession of Brogan, who is a notorious offender, being only a short time out of gaol.—*Galway Packet.*

**A TRAIT OF "CELTIC" NATURE.**—Some years ago, a boy named Edmund Wallace, at the time employed by Mr. Henry Barry, of Barry's Lodge, County Carlow—at the humble wages of 4d a day, left this country for California. He got engaged as a seaman, prospered, and is now trading between Panama and St. Francisco, at £15 a month pay. During the last twelve months this Celtic emigrant has sent home to his mother £120; and this week his former employer, Mr. Barry, received from him a small tin case, enclosing, as a token of remembrance, a massive ring of pure gold, richly chased, and bearing the American Eagle in bold relief on a handsome shield, as also a very graceful brooch consisting of a golden stalk, with little branches, to the ends of which are affixed small "nuggets" of the metal, as leaves, in their rough state, the main stem bearing one calyx-shaped nugget, with three pearls set in it, as the flower. This latter was sent for the youth's mother to wear. There is a touch of "Celtic" nature, we think, in all this, that the *Times* might study with profit.—*Cork Reporter.*

**IRISH FEMALE CHARACTER.**—"From the morning on which I had visited the Great Model National School in Dublin, to the hour of my arrival in Galway, I have remarked in the Irish female countenance an imitate or native modesty, more clearly legible than it has ever been my fortune to read in journeying through any other country on the globe. Of the pure and estimable character of Englishwomen I believe no one is a more enthusiastic admirer than myself; nevertheless, I must adhere to the truth of what I have above stated, and I do so without apology, because I am convinced that no man of ordinary observation can have travelled, or can now travel, through Ireland, without corroborating the fact. But I have lived long enough to know that outward appearances cannot always be trusted, and accordingly, wherever I went I made enquiries, the result of which was not only to confirm, but to over-confirm my own observation; indeed from the resident commissioner of the board of national education, in the metropolis, down to the governors of gaols and masters of the remotest work-houses, I received statements of the chastity of Irishwomen, so extraordinary that I must confess I could not believe them; in truth I was infinitely more puzzled by what I heard than by the simple evidence of my own eyes."—*A Fortnight in Ireland, by Sir F. Heald.*

**THE NEWMAN INDEMNITY FUND.**

(From a Correspondent of the *Dublin Tablet*.)  
A general notion has been entertained in Ireland and in France, that while a great deal has been done out of England to provide the funds which are to indemnify Dr. Newman from the expenses of the recent trial, very little has been done in England where the principal exertions ought to have been made.—On the other hand it has been stated that the collections out of Ireland were not needed, because Dr. Newman was already indemnified by one or two wealthy persons, who had undertaken to bear him harmless, and that the effect of raising subscriptions was rather to save their loss than his. Both these assertions are incorrect, as will be seen from the following statement.

It is estimated that the expenses of the trial, exclusive of any fine that may be imposed, and of the costs of the other side, are at least £8,500. What the costs on the other side may be is not yet accurately known, but they probably may make up £10,000.—Of course no one can guess what the amount of the fine will be. Of this large sum about £1,500 have already been received from France, and about £850 have been received or announced from Ireland.

In England has been already received between 6 and £7,000, and additional subscriptions are even now coming in and will be needed. It has been thought proper to proceed quietly in this collection, and the result is what I have stated. The English Catholics have very properly considered that the chief burden of this obligation devolves by right upon them, and that it was their business to meet it. This, it will be seen, they have done very effectually. They looked for aid to their friends in Ireland and on the Continent; but they never expected to relieve themselves of the main portion of the debt, and they are most thankful to the Irish and French Catholics more especially for the sympathy they have shown and the help they have rendered. Nor is it true that this large

sum has been raised from one or two individuals. On the contrary, the highest subscription that has been received is one sum of £500; there have been one or two subscriptions of £300; several of £100; and so on in smaller sums of £30, £20, £10, down to the penny subscriptions. In fact, the collection has been very general, embracing with very great unanimity men of all classes and descriptions of Catholic society in England. The instinct of Faith has moved all to do their duty in this respect from the highest to the lowest. Even the poorest Irish inhabitants of the towns (along with their countrymen generally in England) have been, as usual, extremely zealous, liberal, and prompt on this occasion. In many congregations they have come forward of their own accord, and have urged the setting on foot a penny subscription to protect the great champion of the Faith. At one chapel as much as ten guineas was collected in penny subscriptions alone, without reckoning the larger donations given by wealthier persons. Amongst the rich the collection has by no means been limited to those who are supposed to sympathise more particularly with the converts. All have come forward generously and spontaneously—the rich and the poor—the English and the Irish—old Catholic and new—there has been no difference. This will be shown when the subscription list is published, which, of course, will be done as soon as the subscription is completed. In the meantime the list is still kept open, and fresh subscriptions are looked for to cover the costs of the other side and the possible amount of the fine. It seems to be considered here that imprisonment is certain.—This is not pleasant, to be sure, but I fancy that Dr. Newman contemplates the inside of a dungeon with a good deal of Christian philosophy, and is not a man to be frightened or hurt by a punishment which reflects, and will reflect, honor upon him to the latest posterity, and disgrace upon nobody and nothing except upon the prosecutor, the judge, the jury, the spectators, and a very large portion of the British public.

**THE ENGLISH FLAG STRUCK.**—France is attaining to a position novel in these latter days, but not unprecedented, at least relatively; and another state understood its ground against that power in its proudest supremacy. It is not to be therefore denied that Louis Napoleon is now building up a power which may become available in various ways, according to circumstances and opportunity. He is trying it to his hand. Travellers in France remark the incessant accumulation of resources, and of experiments in their efficiency. Besides the votes to be taken on demand out of the official ballot-boxes, he has in store, we hear on credible authority, an artillery of not fewer than twelve hundred guns in readiness for instant service—many more than the aggregate of the forces on both sides at Waterloo. At Toulon, the experiment has been tried of embarking a large body of troops in one of the great steam war-ships recently launched, and the experiment was perfectly successful; the number of troops thus embarked was five thousand! There was to have been a reduction of the army; it has not taken place; but these augmentations of navy and artillery are perhaps the substitutes. Against what are these vast forces to be directed? Who knows? Much may depend on others. "Who will buy?" To offer the alliance of a force so mighty and so handy, is tempting; to threaten hostility, alarming. "Accept me, and be safe," their master may say; "refuse me, and your blood be on your own head. Enthroned 'Order' in Paris, or dread the crusade of revolution against you, directed from Paris?" In the face of peril, alarm is in itself the worst danger, as slumber is the next worst. The slumberer may awake to resistance and to victory; the coward's very vigilance is paralysis. Has England united both weaknesses? We believe not yet. Preparations are made, or in progress; but they are made *sub rosa*, lest the timid take offence. France is ready; we are to have completed our preparatives some years hence! Now, non-defence is actual temptation for an invader. If not still so, it is only through the latest precautions of Lord Hardinge that England is not almost an irresistible temptation to any neighboring adventurer richer in material power than in cash or renown. The temptation is almost the greater when non-defence is backed by precautions like that of taking down the flags in Chelsea Hospital, when the corpse of Wellington lies in state, lest the foreigner "take offence!" A land defended only by a timid people, and that land called "England?" By the same rule, it would be best to dispense with the funeral pageant altogether, as that also might "give offence." Or let a funeral oration declare that the English flag is buried with the hero, and that the series begun at Crecy ended with Waterloo. Perhaps the proud invader might grant to pity what he would refuse to defiance? The forbearance of any foreign potentate, however, is but poor reliance for a state. There is only one real safety, and that consists in rendering invasion impossible.—*Spectator.*

**THE APOSTATE GAVAZZI.**—The Rev. E. Tighe Gregory, Protestant Rector and Vicar of Kilmore, county Meath, has published a letter on the subject of Gavazzi's mountebank exhibitions at the Round, Dublin, in which the Rev. gentleman says—"That reflecting Protestants should be seduced to unbecoming levity, in reference to religion, even though dissenting from the tenet, appears to me as extraordinary as it is unwise; and the mingled 'applause' and 'laughter' which appear as a relief to the lectures of Padre Gavazzi, while inconsistent and uncalculated, are calculated to do essential injury to the cause of the Reformation; nor can anything justify the coarseness exhibited in the second lecture particularly, or the derogatory manner in which Christ is mentioned when Transubstantiation is treated of. Ribaldry and argument are essentially different, and the one unworthy of the other. 'Cardinal Wiseman, remember you lie,' may excite the 'laughter' of the unthinking, the illiberal, or the unreasoning, but, as a rude assertion, weakens the position maintained by the lecturer. 'Impostor' and 'imposture' are terms not likely to convince, and, even hypothetically used, startle and offend when placed in juxtaposition with the Apostles; nor will the serious-minded of any persuasion approve of the Waterloo dinner at Apsley House being used as an illustration of the Paschal Lamb, or the holy feast, which is still commemorated; and few will esteem as otherwise than bordering on blasphemy to say that, speaking of the consumption of the consecrated wafers, 'I found my digestion so bad after this breakfast of wafers, that I determined, with my companions, that I never again would breakfast upon the body of Christ or it is a very indigestible thing.'"