

The Rev. Canon Wilberforce hopes to return to England from Quebec early in April.

About a million of the people of Ireland still speak the Irish or Erse language, and more than 160,000 do not speak English.

In a recent speech made in King's County, Mr. Parnell indulged in a considerable quantity of what on this continent is known as "tall talk." He said "Mr. Forster intends to put all my police into prison in order to put down our unwritten law. My police are five-fifths of the Irish people, at home and abroad, and if he is going to put them all into prison, he will have to find a very big prison, he will have to find a prison that will hold 20,000 people; and the unwritten law that he has to put down is the public opinion of the Irish nation, which is very fast becoming the opinion of the whole civilized world."

Mr. Biggar, having stated that "every tenant farmer in Ireland, without regard to creed, is in favour of the Land League, the following declaration has been signed by about three thousand people in County Cavan:—"We, the undersigned Protestants of the County of Cavan, hereby repudiate all connection or sympathy with the Land League. We declare that we adhere to the glorious principles of our forefathers, and that we will now as we ever have done, oppose every attack upon the Crown and Constitution. As ever, we abhor assassination, we abominate agrarian crime of every description, and we loathe and detest the very idea of a man seeking his ends by murder, by outrage, by Boycottism, or by any of those brutal and degrading expedients which are now making Ireland a byword among the nations, and a disgrace to Christianity."

The Church in Ireland having for ages totally disregarded its mission there, in preaching the Gospel to the native population, a society called the "Irish Society" was established in the year 1818, for the purpose of doing what the Church had and still has so shamefully neglected to do. This society has been established "for promoting the Scriptural education and religious instruction of the Irish speaking population, chiefly through the medium of their own language." People are naturally led to ask two questions; the first is, What did the Established Irish Church do in the way of ministering to the wants of the native population of Ireland—the original Erse population? The only answer to this question we have been able to obtain is, "Nothing." Should it be contended that this answer is not correct, and that something was really done by the Established Church in Ireland to supply the spiritual needs of the aboriginal population, we should like to see another question answered: How many of the Irish clergy, outside this "Irish Society," ever made any attempt of the kind; who are they, and where were their efforts made?

The "Irish Society" is sadly in need of funds, in consequence of the political and social condition of the country. It is therefore now appealing to the Church in other parts of the world, for aid in carrying on its operations. Agents for receiving subscriptions and donations for the society have been appointed in England, Ireland, Canada, and the United States of America. The Agents appointed for Canada are the Rev. W. T. Smithett, D.D., Rural Dean, Lindsay, Ontario, Secretary; and Henry O'Brien, Esq., 68, Church street, Toronto, Treasurer.

M. Henri Lereret, the French African explorer, has been murdered, with all his suite, by the Galla tribes.

It is a curious coincidence that, while the late Bishop of Melbourne (a "returned empty") has headed the memorial versus Toleration, the present Bishop of Melbourne is endeavouring to obtain the Revs. W. Knox-Little and G. Body to go out to Australia to conduct a Mission there; offering them a hearty welcome, guaranteeing all expences, and promising his moral and episcopal influence, in "language worthy of a great Bishop who loves the souls committed to his charge."

The Nihilist conspiracies have at length been consummated by the assassination of the Czar of Russia. On the 13th, instant as the Czar was returning from parade in the Michael Manege, about two o'clock, a bomb of thick glass filled with nitro-glycerine was thrown, which exploded under his carriage. The Czar alighted unhurt, but a second bomb exploded at his feet, shattering both legs, and inflicting terrible injuries. He was conveyed unconscious to the Winter Palace, where he expired in an hour and a half. A Cossack and a passenger were killed on the spot. The Grand Duke Michael and others were also injured; some have since died. The two assassins stood on the opposite side of the road, and have been arrested. The last word spoken by the Czar was the name of the Czarewitch, the heir apparent to the throne. The reign of the Emperor Alexander has been liberal. The heir apparent is, like his grandfather Nicholas, Muscovite in sympathy. His policy towards the Nihilists will doubtless be one of merciless oppression; and his assassination will most probably be delayed no longer than the Nihilists can help.

#### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.

THE deeply seated sympathy of human nature with evil, the necessity of guarding against its approaches, and stretching forth the right hand of the Divine Majesty as the only Defence against the assaults of the spiritual enemies, which are the chief organizers and supporters of the evil most detrimental to man—these form the important subjects the Church now brings before us. Man's sympathy with the evil most injurious to his prosperity, is abundantly taught in the remarkable parable of the seven other spirits more wicked than before, which make the last state of that man worse than the first. Man indeed, although he is not so totally depraved as to be irrecoverably lost, is "very far gone from original righteousness." The early narratives of Holy Scripture inform us that Adam begat a son "in his own likeness after his image," as though in contrast to the fact that he himself was formed in the image of God, and indicating the degrading tendency which had been introduced and perpetuated by guilt. And then comes the pertinent inquiry of Job, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" and the inquiry of Bildad, "How can he be clean that is born of a woman?" Afterwards comes the confession of David, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." And then the statement of Christ, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh;" and further on, in the stream of time, "The old man is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." This strong sympathy with evil is sure to be productive of bad results; it always

produces practical transgression. It is a solemn and affecting consideration that whatever may be the modification of human character, whatever amiable features of character may be exhibited, whatever may have been achieved by learning, by literary or scientific institutions, or by example, yet the fact remains unalterably the same in all parts of the world, and in all ages, that man's sympathy with evil is one of the most prominent features of his character. Ancient and modern times, civilization and barbarism, ignorance and philosophy,—all equally bear the same stamp, that of alienation from God, and consequently of transgression against His laws. "All flesh has corrupted his way upon the earth;" "There is none that doeth good, no not one;" "The heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil;" "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Most unquestionably therefore do we need the incorporation of the humanity as well as the Divinity of the spotless Redeemer with our nature, and the union of the individual man with Him in His Sacraments, in order to repair the ruins of the fall, and to lead him on to future and eternal happiness.

#### THE JESUITS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

THE Jesuits having been expelled from France have many of them taken refuge in Great Britain; but the contiguity of the Island of Jersey to the French coast and the ready means of transit to and fro, make that island a favourite refuge for large numbers of the Jesuit body, and to cause it to be looked forward to by members of other religious fraternities as a similar retreat when compelled to leave their native country, as they evidently anticipate having to do so before long. Several valuable properties have been purchased by, or on behalf of the Jesuits, and additional purchases continue to be made. They have had several requests to open places of instruction in Jersey for the reception of youths from French families, but hitherto they have declined to do so. In this matter, they appear to be acting under advice, and are anxious to do nothing that would tend to wound the susceptibilities of the inhabitants, by whom the order is not regarded with particular favour, and is carefully watched lest any open attempts should be made to proselytize. The Jesuits are perfectly aware of this fact, and disclaim any intention or desire to act in any way that may bring them into conflict with the authorities. All they request is to be allowed to remain in the enjoyment of the great retreat the island affords them. As they expect an ejection from their establishment, a body of Trappists in Brittany have already made provision by securing the large property known as Rockmount at Bouley Bay, on the north side of the island, which overlooks a large portion of the French coast, and was formerly in the possession of Judge Le Bailly. The Carmelite Friars at Niort, who also anticipate being under the necessity of exiling themselves, have made provision for their reception by securing suitable premises at Bagot. The large residence purchased some months ago for the accommodation of the Trappistines, a sisterhood whose quarters are at Loyal, has not been occupied by them, as they have not yet been obliged to leave their present abode. The monks of the world-renowned monastery of La Trappe are not without fear and apprehension that they too will be compelled soon to find for themselves an asylum, and are with the others, looking about for