

ST PATRICK'S DAY.

We had prepared a lengthened report of the manner in which this great national festival was celebrated in Halifax, but for the reasons elsewhere mentioned we are reluctantly compelled to abridge it.

On the night of the feast, great crowds collected in the vicinity of the Parochial School Room. The night was unusually beautiful. At 12 o'clock the Temperance Band marched forth, and played several pieces opposite St. Mary's. They then walked in procession through the town accompanied by a large number of Irishmen, of whom carried torches. In almost every part of the city the first slumbers of the inhabitants were agreeably disturbed by the spirit-stirring airs of Old Ireland, and the tunes of several popular favorites were greeted with rounds of applause. Having made the circuit of Halifax the procession returned to St. Mary's, played Garry Owen, Patrick's Day, &c. opposite the Bishop's House, and after having given three deafening cheers for Dr. Walsh and the Clergy, retired to their homes in the most orderly and peaceable manner, to prepare for the celebration of the Day.

In the morning the Charitable Irish Society voted £100 stg. for the relief of Ireland, and afterwards walked in procession to St. Mary's Church headed by Joseph Howe Esq., M. P. P. who is President this year, and by the Officers of the Society. The Cathedral was most tastefully decorated for the occasion. Not only the splendid painting of St. Patrick appeared over the High Altar, but there was also a tasteful altar erected in honor of the Apostle of Ireland, in which was placed a beautiful statue of the Saint in his Episcopal Robes, and some relics of St. Patrick brought from Rome. The Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, assisted by the Vicar General as Master of Ceremonies, and the Reverend Messrs. Melbaac and Daly as Deacon and sub-Deacon. An eloquent and pathetic discourse, suited to the occasion was delivered by the Very Rev. Mr. Conolly, and a collection made.

In the evening one of the very best Public Dinners we ever witnessed took place at the Mason Hall, which was beautifully ornamented for the occasion. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor presided, and the Charitable Irish Society with his company at dinner, and was attended by his Suite. The Bishop and Vicar General, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Mayor, several Members of the Assembly, the Office Bearers of the other National Charitable Associations in Halifax were also present. We regret we cannot find room for the very capital speech delivered by the Governor, in which he most happily described from experience, some of the lights and shades of Irish character, and declared that not only is an Irishman "grateful for bare justice, but that if you add a kind word to this, or an expression of sympathy, his gratitude is boundless and everlasting."

On the whole the solemnization of St. Patrick in 1847 was worthy of the day, and worthy of the Irishmen of Halifax, who knew how to honour it. The anticipation of distressing news by the Packet obscured no doubt the joyful brightness of the celebration. But the consoling offices of religion, the consciousness that the Irishmen of Halifax had clearly manifested their feelings in behalf of their brethren at home in the most generous manner, and that they met again under the auspices of religion, to consolidate their glorious Institution and continue the work of charity and mercy for the ensuing year—relieved in some measure the painful emotions with which every true Irish heart was afflicted by the overpowering calamity which has fallen on our beloved Father Land,

IRISH DISTRESS—PUBLIC MEETING.

A meeting of Irishmen, and descendants of Irishmen has been called by a numerous requisition for Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock, in Mason Hall to form an association for the continued relief of our suffering fellow countrymen. We believe it is unnecessary to say one word in recommendation of this noble object. Much, no doubt has been already done by the Irishmen

They had subscribed many hundred pounds to the Relief Fund, besides their numerous private remittances.

of Halifax, but we must not withdraw our charitable assistance whilst the angel of death is hovering over the desolate plains of our beloved country. We have no doubt that many valuable lives may be yet saved by the continued relief which the Irishmen of Halifax are so able and so willing to afford. We have no fears for the result.

CATECHISTICAL SOCIETY.

Halifax, March 25th, 1847.

A Quarterly meeting of St. Mary's Catechistical Society, was held on Sunday evening last, immediately after vespers, in the vestry, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Walsh presiding, assisted by the Very Rev. the Vicar General.

The general routine of business having been gone through, the following returns were made by the committees appointed to provide clothing for the poor children attending Catechism, as also a return from the Committee appointed to superintend the distribution of the fuel stored for the relief of the poor. From those returns the number of children relieved were males 50, and females 60. In addition to which a large number of Poor women received valuable supplies of clothing.

The number of persons who received supplies of fuel during the winter, as per returns were 325.

A motion was made to appropriate from the funds the sum of ten pounds, towards the relief of the existing distress in Ireland which passed, and in addition thereto, a subscription list opened to which his Lordship the Bishop, the Vicar General, and members generally, subscribed, the sum so realized to be transmitted by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Walsh to Most Rev. Dr. Murray.

A very considerable number of new members were proposed and admitted, an adjournment was then moved and carried.

P. J. COMPTON,
Secretary.

RELIEF OF IRISH DISTRESS.

In the report of the proceedings at the Catechistical Meeting it is stated that the sum voted by the Society, as well as all contributions from Members, would be forwarded without delay by Dr. Walsh, to the Archbishop of Dublin. As it is his Lordship's desire to transmit this money by the next Packet, it is requested that all those who wish to subscribe, will do so without delay.

We also take this opportunity of stating that the Clergy at St. Mary's, during the continuance of the famine in Ireland, will be prepared to receive all sums, no matter how small, which the faithful may wish to send to their suffering fellow-countrymen in Ireland, and that the respective amounts will be duly acknowledged, and sent as frequently as possible to His Grace Dr. Murray, with a request to have them forwarded to the most destitute parts of our afflicted and beloved country.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The usual monthly meeting of the Collectors was held on the 9th inst., Very Rev. Mr. Conolly in the chair when a sum of between thirty and forty pounds was handed in. A further sum of £33 has been since collected. The persevering zeal of the collectors and the constant liberality of the faithful encourage us to hope that the works at St. Patrick's will be resumed with increased vigour at the opening of the season. The crowded state of our Counters for some weeks will account for our silence on this and other local matters of importance, as well as for the non-publication of the Subscriber's List. We hope our readers will agree with us in thinking that our space has been much better occupied in chastising the insolence of those who would, if they could, revive the Penal Laws, and in exposing the ignorance of brazen Journalists, shallow orators, and benighted bigots.

BERMUDA.

We are much gratified at being able to announce that the Rev. Mr. Nugent has arrived safely in Bermuda, and that his health had considerably improved during the voyage. Father Haunan will return by the first opportunity.