

have been over cautious, and over jealous in your desire to avoid notoriety, or fame, or whatever you please to call it; and perhaps your very humility on this point may have been unknown to yourself, soiled by a tinge of pride; and perhaps you merited the mortification. If an evil example be injurious to public morals and the public weal, a good example, by the rule of contraries, must have an opposite and happy effect; and, for the sake of your neighbor, you are bound to set a good example, and not to put your lighted candle under a bushel. Keep clear of vainglory and self-complacency, and just let things hereafter take their own course, and then you may be sure that all-evil will be destroyed, a charge that the ill-natured might very readily bring against your former course of procedure.

You are right, Father O'Donovan! Perhaps I have been too much bound up in my own opinion, and in that case I must admit there would be much of self-conceit—perhaps a deep, lurking pride. I accept the mortification, and will endeavor to change my course. For this purpose we must see O'Connell again, and solicit his counsel, even should it delay our return for some days.

We accordingly drove to the Four Courts, heard the great Barrister in his *stuff gown* (the badge of his serfdom, but equally the mark of his honest adherence to the faith of his fathers) make one of his best forensic displays, and when he could command a leisure moment, were favored with a private interview. I mentioned all about the paragraph in the *Evening Post*, and stated my views with regard to a change of tactics.

So, said he, with a droll, roguish smile, 'Freddy Conway has cured you. I rejoice at it, because, firstly, it makes you give over a course which, though you might conscientiously deem it based on humility, bordered, if not on pride, at least on absurdity. Secondly, it affords us time the better to mature your plans, (I will not bestow an epithet on them) and thirdly, that it gives me the pleasure of your company at dinner to-day, and will confer on you the honor of being presented to the greatest man of this or any nation, the celebrated J.K.L., the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, the first of our prelates, who, in the teeth of England's penal laws and haughty prohibitions, had the hardihood to assume his rightful title, 'James Kildare and Leighlin.'

I was delighted with the idea of meeting the renowned prelate, and accordingly Father O'Donovan and I gladly accepted the kind invitation. I knew I was to meet the loftiest of the lofty geniuses, the deep-read theologian, the profound logician, the zealous prelate, the uncompromising patriot; in a word, the master mind of Ireland's hierarchy; and I could not divest myself of the opinion that in him I should also meet a stern, chilling spirit, whose grave look would be sufficient to drive meaner souls back into their native insignificance. But my introduction to Dr. Doyle was scarcely completed, ere I discovered how false were the picturings of my erring fancy. His first sentence convinced me that I had met with a refined and accomplished gentleman, familiar with all the customs of polished society. Simple, but choice in his language, you at once felt there was so much of the deep scholar within as banished from his mind and conversation all the frivolous absurdities of pedantry. The humblest intellect felt at ease in his society, and yet no person could conceal from himself that there was a man with whom no liberty was to be taken, with whom no unbefitting freedom might be made. The *tout ensemble* of his countenance fixed you at once, and every separate trait or lineament was a subject for admiration. The lofty and expansive forehead told the combination of brilliant genius, and the deep, searching power of thought. The broad chin, and tight-set, thin lip, spoke of firmness and quick determination, and the bold brow formed as if to overawe the world, would have repelled the beholder, had not a dove-like expression of countenance, and an eye all beaming with love, invited to confidence.

After the cloth was removed, the conversation became varied and interesting. Of O'Connell's powers, it is unnecessary to speak. Always fluent and easy, gay and impressive, as his humor or his subject prompted, he was ready on all points, and convincing in every case; with what tact and kindness did he draw forth the knowledge and experience of Father O'Donovan, on subjects that with advancing years might be supposed to have lost their interest, or with the decay of his physical energies might be expected to be fading from the tablets of his memory!—In grave, philosophical subjects, the master mind of the great prelate displayed itself, and seemed to me of an order decidedly superior to the more practical intellect of the liberator. At first I thought I could trace the apparent inferiority to that delicacy which O'Connell ever paid to the sacerdotal character; but I was mistaken, for I soon found that he could argue with a Bishop as keenly as with an opposing counsel, and avail himself of all those aids which his deep reading and vast professional experience had given him, without losing a title of that respect and veneration so due to one of the most distinguished princes in the Church.

The question of the poor-laws came upon the tapis, and holding directly opposite principles, each put forth his best power. What a gigantic encounter was that! The Bishop argued for the necessity of their immediate introduction, ever if attended with all the abuses of the English system; God's poor, starving amidst abundance, having an indefeasible right to the support of the land, at whatever cost to the so-called proprietor. O'Connell admitted the right, but would accomplish the desired end by a very different means. He showed the inapplicability of the English system to the wants of Ireland—its ruinous effects upon the property of the nation—its degrading influence upon the noble and independent spirit of peasantry, and its demoralising consequences to the people in general. With his usual skill in seizing points to strengthen his position or elucidate his argument, he appealed to the political experience of Father O'Donovan, who, with easy fluency, described what Father Edward Cahill had done to better the temporal

condition and elevate the minds of his own parishioners, and clearly showed that his plans were so rational and so practical, as to be easily applied to every other district in the land. Dr. Doyle admitted the clearness and force of the statement, but insisted that the ignorance, the apathy, the unwillingness of the great majority of the landlords to serve their tenantry, but above all their avarice and spendthrift habits, would generally interpose to prevent the introduction of such a wise and humane course, and consequently deprive the universal poor of Ireland of blessings similar to those that have resulted from the judicious application of funds in one locality.

'No, no,' said he, 'the landlords of Ireland are a doomed and despicable race; they must be coerced to the discharge of the duty they owe to Christ's poor. Feelings of humanity have no longer any force in their selfish and callous hearts. The legislature must compel them.'

'If the English system of the poor-laws,' said O'Connell, 'be ever introduced into Ireland, these results will inevitably succeed. The whole country will be pauperized. The spirit of the laboring classes will be depressed and degraded. Charity and independence will be banished the land; demoralization will spread like a plague over the country. The middle classes, poor enough already, will first be robbed and then consigned to the workhouse, and the landlords of the present day will be supplanted by the Jews and money-jobbers of England, within twenty years after the first rural Bastille rears its ominous head in devoted Erin.'

'Be it so, with all my heart,' said Dr. Doyle, 'but let God's poor in the meantime have food. Yes, let the landlords and others of hardened spirit meet their deserved fate. Let them be supplanted by any class of men, be they Jews, Turks, Infidels, or English mammon-worshippers. Worse cannot come to curse the land.'

'My lord,' said O'Connell, smiling, 'I revere your holy zeal more than I admire your views as a statesman. He who would legislate must not limit his exertions to the welfare of one class, but embrace, in his wisdom, the interests of all. Class-legislation has been the curse of Ireland, the very cause of her present overwhelming distress. Should poor laws be introduced among us, it will amount to an organic change. A transition from one state to another must take place. Have you thought, my lord, on the oppression, the coercion, the robbery, and the consequent misery that must be inflicted on our depressed middle classes during that transition? My plan would be to prevent all this—to preserve the mechanics, the laborers the farmers, the shopkeepers, the merchants, the gentry, every grade in society, from the consequent ruin; by this course I would retain the means for supporting the really destitute. If the legislature can compel a nation, at enormous expense, to build workhouses, to assess the land nominally for the support of the poor, but virtually for the payment of a happy staff of Commissioners and other officers, that will certainly swallow up three-fourths of the moneys raised surely the same legislature could compel the same nation to raise more limited funds, and distribute them to the poor at a cost amounting to a tithe of what the English machinery will compel us to expend. Of all things I would preserve that proud spirit of independence which has hitherto marked the character of our laboring population. I would provide work for every being capable of labor—I would offer the inducement of fair wages to every able-bodied man, and thereby instill into the whole people the saving spirit of industry. For the aged, the infirm or those who might be in any way incapacitated for labor, I would duly provide by compulsory parish assessment. The Scotch have acted upon this principle, and there is no real want in that country save what vice in one shape or other occasions.'

(To be Continued.)

CONFESSIONS OF A SECRET AGENT OF CAVOUR.

(From the Court Journal.)

Men of thought and experience have from the beginning doubted the prevalence of a general patriotic spirit among the Italians. Many well-informed persons knew that the votes for annexation were not to be altogether relied upon as the genuine expression of sympathy evinced by the different States for the Sardinian Government, and suspected the existence of truly loyal sentiments among the inhabitants of Modena, Parma, and Naples; but few men—at least, Englishmen—could have imagined how much sham and imposture have been in connection with the whole affair, and what a strange chapter of successful intrigue was the succession of Victor Emmanuel to the throne of the Italian Princes. A pamphlet, entitled 'La Verite sur les Hommes et les Choses du Royaume d'Italie' contains the 'Revelations' of the secret agent of the late Count Cavour. It is at present attracting the attention of the greater part of the Italian and foreign press, that in vain demand an answer and explanation from the Sardinian Government. The latter are silent for they have no answer to give—the wonderful facts brought forward being incontrovertible, and the position which the author occupied having rendered him *au fait* with every secret event of any importance planned by the Turin Cabinet—many designs, indeed, having been carried out under his own direction and by means of the extraordinary system of espionage that he established in every city in which he resided. His name and position are made known in private circles; but as he has chosen to write anonymously, it is not for us to lift the veil he may well wish to throw over the origin of several infamous schemes and actions of which he was the designer. Under the letters 'J. A.'—mere initials de plume—is hidden the name of a man whose notoriety is world-wide, and the facts which he states are mostly those in which he himself assumes a leading part. He is very explicit in his remarks, and commences at his first interview with Count Cavour, who was, throughout, his protector and employer, but against whom he scarcely imputes anything very dishonorable. The whole weight of his accusations has to be borne by Farni and his fellow-politicians, on whom he fathers one or two shameful occurrences, to which we need not more directly refer. Those who are not determined to hear merely one side of the question must read the pamphlet for themselves; we can do no more than draw attention to the many subjects on which the writer dwells, and to some extent show the extraordinary nature of the communication before us. Cavour first employed the author in the minor service of watching several of the political leaders at Turin, among whom were Rattazzi, Profiro, and Saint-Rond, though the latter was even at the time treated as an intimate friend by the great Italian Minister. When Napoleon disembarked at

Genoa, 'J. A.' was told to watch his slightest movements, and even gestures; and he continued to spy the proceedings of the Emperor until he left Alexandria. He informs us that his task was rendered easy by the communications which he received from the inspector of police attached to the Imperial household. After this he was sent to Florence, where, with eighty carabinieri in disguise, he procured a popular demonstration by instructing his men to shout, 'Vive l'indépendance! A bas les Bourbons!' At Parma he was equally successful; but the most remarkable are the extraordinary results which he and the other Sardinian agents brought about at Modena. He observes that the democratic party in the duchy were completely astonished at the departure of Francis IV., and that he thinks the Duke must have been deceived as to the true state of affairs. 'Je suis convaincu, pour mon compte, qu'il suffisait d'un coup de fusil pour faire avorter la conspiration de Modena, comme du reste celle de Florence et celle de Parme.' These are the words of 'J. A.' as he calls himself, who, at the installation of Farni as Governor of Modena, was appointed the chief of the political police. 'J. A.' was the author of the article which appeared in the Italian papers asserting that the unfortunate Duke of Modena had carried with him all the plate and valuables in the Chateau d'Este. The fact, as he confesses, is that Farni and his wife took the whole of them, and that even the dresses of the Duchesse were appropriated by Mme Farni. The wardrobe of the Duke would not fit Farni himself, who is very corpulent, so the clothes were given to the secretary, and they suited him exactly. Farni was especially fierce against the priests. 'Pas de pitie pour ces canailles' was his frequent expression to the chief of the police and the well-dressed secretary. Both of them, of course, took advantage of this encouragement, and incessant and heavy extortions were laid upon all the priests and other ecclesiastics who had the misfortune to fall into their hands. But, at last, Napoleon, anxious to preserve appearances, required that before the vote of annexation took place, all Piedmontese officials should leave the newly occupied provinces; and had this request been strictly complied with, Farni and 'J. A.' would have been compelled to quit Modena. However the latter soon hit upon an expedient to prevent this difficulty; and on the day fixed for the departure of Farni, he assembled all his carabinieri and police agents, and disguising them as Modenese citizens, set them crying out, 'Vive Farni! Il ne partira pas, notre pere a nous!' As soon as the governor made his appearance at one of the city gates, these worthies unbuckled the horses, and dragged him in the carriage back again to the palace. Here was met by the members of his own government, who soon got up a *process-verbal*, naming him citizen of Modena and dictator. So he stated. The author remarks—'Le soir chez Farni, on rit beaucoup de la scene bouffonne de la porte de Parme. Au moment, ou la voiture fut detele, j'eus a deux pas du nouveau dictateur; je la voyais garder, a grand peine, son sérieux.' One of the most valuable portions of the pamphlet is the account of the national ballot-voting in Modena, which followed soon after the loving detention of the popular dictator. The author, 'J. A.' was present at Modena, and assisted in causing the revolt to be completely favorable to Piedmont. And as the voting was in Modena, so, too, was it in Parma, Naples, the Papal States, and Tuscany; everywhere official deception and fraud have falsified the real wishes of the population in the eyes of deluded Europe. The invaluable chief of the political police and his well-instructed carabinieri prepared the voting billets, and stood round the place of voting. Only a few persons appeared to receive and to use them, so that, at the moment before closing the ballot-urn, 'J. A.' and his friends threw in the remaining and overwhelming number of billets, all into the Sardinian side of the box. In some places this was so successfully done that the number of votes given actually exceeded those registered on the list of voters. In the Papal States more than four-fifths of the inhabitants never even approached the urn. After the vote of annexation, Farni returned to Turin, and 'J. A.' was forwarded by him to Rome, where he entered upon a new sphere of intrigues and almost laughable deceptions. On Victor Emmanuel's entrance into the Romagna, the author managed to impose upon that monarch as well as upon the people of the district—of course solely for the good of the common cause of Unity and Revolution. He dressed his carabinieri up as peasants, and stationed them at every spot near which the King had to pass. They received them with cheers and acclamations; and, at some receptions, Piedmontese officials were even venturesome enough to take the parts of native dignitaries, and so to welcome their own master. At Bologna, the Archbishop refused to chant a *Te Deum* on his Majesty's visit, and was seconded in his resolution by the inferior ecclesiastics. 'J. A.' ever ready at an emergency, commanded three regimental chaplains, and twelve scholars of the seminary of La Sapienza, to assume the position and duties of the orthodox clergy, and, preceded by the pontifical ensigns that they took from the sacristy, these shameless impostors advanced to meet the King at the cathedral of San Petronio. Victor Emmanuel was completely satisfied. But the carabinieri had other work to do besides cheering the Piedmontese Sovereign. Their leader was successful in getting them enlisted in the Papal and Bourbon armies, with instructions to persuade their comrades to desert, to utter 'Sauve qui peut' in action, and 'se debarrasser des officiers pendant l'action. On sait comment ils remplirent leurs instructions a Castel-Salfidoro.' We must merely call universal attention to the author's extraordinary statement in the manner in which General de Pimodan met his death. Strange things are here brought to light concerning the departure of Garibaldi for Sicily. In spite of the remonstrances made by France, and the repeated denials given by the Piedmontese government of their having afforded him any support, it appears that he procured his powder, arms, and other warlike stores through an order written and signed by Fanti, the Minister of War. A whole regiment was raised for him by the government, who took care to dress them in Garibaldian costume, and passed them off as his immediate followers. In common with all who have had any intimate acquaintance with Italian men and affairs, the writer of these 'Revelations' does full justice to the activity and honorable purposes of Garibaldi; but still he tells us that, after the occupation of Naples by his adventures, the General was wholly changed, either by success or the climate, and when not satisfying his passion for popularity confined himself to the society of one or two newly-made friends, amongst whom, of course, was Alexander Dumas. Garibaldi 'ne voyait rien, ne s'occupait de rien, et laissait les choses aller a vau-l'eau.' Altogether, the information concerning the Neapolitan revolution is of a startling character, and so, indeed, it has been thought by men of all parties, and both by those enabled to authenticate the words of 'J. A.' and those astonished and confounded that the Italian government have not as yet found it possible to return even the shadow of a reply. The author had so many original and such copious sources from which to derive his accounts that he has reserved much for a future pamphlet on Naples only, and one that will be anxiously expected by those who have been thus astonished by the 'confessions' contained in the first. We do not thus prominently attract our readers' notice to a pamphlet—which has, however, already been perused by a whole political world on the Continent—from any sympathy with the former state of Neapolitan oppression, or from concern for the temporal power of the Pope; but we do think that when a minor Sovereign, with no exceptional, and as it were a *priori* claims to an extended dominion, attempts to make himself master of the possessions of neighboring Princes, he should prove himself capable of governing his new subjects in a manner at least equal to that of the exiled families. Moreover, there should be a genuine and unanimous wish, on the part of those subjects, to receive him instead of their former

ruiner; and, if we admit the right of universal suffrage to decide the question of annexation, we ought to be assured that that right fairly used, and not corrupted by official means. Parma, perhaps, Tuscany, but above all Modena, no more desired the rule of Victor Emmanuel than that of the Emperor Napoleon or of the King of Naples; and in Modena, at least, there was a real feeling of attachment to the Duke, who both obtained and deserved the good wishes of his people. Of Naples we shall not now speak, though certain it is that the return of Francis II. would be hailed as a providential escape from Piedmontese misrule by more than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the kingdom. But in Modena there is scarcely a man, woman, or child who would not welcome with joy and gratitude the day on which Duke Francis IV. returned to the dominions of his ancestors. In short, to use the words of the pamphlet, 'Piedmont is everywhere regardé comme un étranger et comme un conquérant.' Liberty is still, we hope, in store for the Italian nation, and we should be among the first to rejoice in its bestowal on the Italians; but assuredly it is not to be obtained by any farcical endeavors to arrive at an impracticable unity, for which the different peoples of Italy are not, and perhaps never will be intended either by nature or themselves.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Catholic clergy of Galway, secular and regular, have written to some of the Dublin papers contradicting as calumnious the statements of their correspondents that the local clergy had signed addresses in favour of the Rev. P. Daly, or in any way countenanced his opposition to the Bishop.

STAFF OF THE WEST—THAM—OUR ADMIRABLE POOR LAW SYSTEM.—In the course of the proceedings of the Town Guardians, at their meeting held on Wednesday, the following letter was read, addressed to Wm. Gannon, Esq., a watchful and efficient local guardian by the Rev. James M'Gee, C.C. We recommend it to the earnest attention of the public. It forcibly portrays the miseries endured by the poor of that locality, and shows that, by the aid of the unceasing exertions of the gentlemen who compose the Relief Committee, are developing their results in sickness and death. There has been already a great increase in the rate of mortality among the poorer classes, and from the inability of the friends of the deceased to procure them means of decent interment from their own resources, were it not for the charitable contributions collected for the purpose, they might have gone coffinless to their graves. One of those thus buried by charity lived and died in one of the miserable hovels of which Lord Plunket is landlord. His Lordship's charity appears to be wanting in this instance also. It is one of the defects of the Poor Law system, it appears that there is no provision for supplying coffins in such cases. We shall look to the manner in which the Commissioners will deal with the subject. It is too bad if our boasted Irish Poor Law does not provide for the Christian burial of the poor who have not left the purchase of a coffin.—

Preabtery, Tuam, 22d Jan., 1862.

Dear Mr. Gannon—Will you kindly bring the case of the late Widow Burke, of Tullendally-road, before the Board of Guardians at their meeting on this day.

You know the circumstances of this sad case, and can detail them with the view of ascertaining if there be any provision in the poor law authorising the outlay of a few shillings to procure coffins for the interment of the multitude of persons who prefer suffering hunger, sickness, and death outside, rather than prolong a miserable existence within the workhouse.

It was heartrending to witness the friends of the deceased, themselves perfectly destitute, up to approaching sunset of the day of interment, applying to the work-house officials for a coffin, and meeting with a refusal on the ground that such an expending would be disallowed by the Poor Law auditor, and you are aware had not a coffin been otherwise provided and paid for, the remains of poor widow Burke would be probably still decomposing in the wretched hovel (one of Lord Plunket's) in which she died.

Were this likely to prove a solitary or exceptional case, I would not require of you, as one of our most vigilant and faithful guardians, to take such formal notice of it. But alas! it is not so; for I would most respectfully submit that of the 626 families at present, and for many weeks past, receiving weekly relief through the Tuam Relief Committee, but few could, of their own means, afford the luxury of a coffin to one of their departed members. I doubt not that the humane gentlemen who form that committee, and who visited the cold, hunger, and poverty-stricken people in their wretched dwellings, to which they cling with the proverbial tenacity of the dying, and thus formed an intimate and personal knowledge of their real condition, will bear me out in this assertion. A sad commentary this upon the statement, as heartless as false, that the operation of the Poor Law is sufficient for the awful crisis—I am yours very sincerely, JAMES M'GEE. Wm. Gannon, Esq.

DUBLIN, Jan. 22.—His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant yesterday received a deputation from parishes of the counties of Sligo, Roscommon, and Galway, who waited on him for the purpose of representing the actual and impending distress of those localities, and to urge the adoption of timely means of relief. The deputation comprised the Rev. Dr. Gillooly, titular Bishop of Elphin; the O'Conor Don, M. P.; John Wolfe Flanagan, D. L., Drumdoe, and several other gentlemen of those counties. The O'Conor Don read a memorial, numerously signed by gentlemen of property in the counties of Roscommon and Sligo, in which they stated:—'That very great and general distress exists among the poorer classes in the West of Ireland, both from the want of fuel and food, there being in many districts a total absence of the former, and an increasing scarcity of the latter. That there has been an extraordinary failure of the potato crop, and that the oats and other cereals have yielded a return inferior in quality, and in not a few districts diminished in quantity. That, in consequence of the insufficiency, as well as the unwholesome nature of the half-cooked food now partaken of by the poor, much misery and disease are to be apprehended. That the present Poor Law returns cannot be taken as a criterion by which to judge of the state of the country, as the small landlords are excluded from any relief, unless on the condition of relinquishing their holdings and entering the poor house, and that it is unjust and impolitic thus to force them into utter pauperism. That the repeal of the clause known as the 'Quarter Acre' clause was most desirable, and that a loan from the Treasury to the more distressed unions would, with advantage, be granted.' A great number of petitions to the same effect, from the parishes in the counties which they represented, were presented by the gentlemen composing the deputation. His Excellency replied, that the matter deserved the most serious consideration of the Government, but that the Government had reason to believe that the distress would not be so formidable as had been apprehended. With regard to that part of the petition which had reference to the limitations of loans under the Landed Improvement Act to 5,000l., any change would require legislation. In conclusion his Excellency assured the deputation that the Government would bestow their serious consideration on the matter brought before him.

THE WORKING TRADESMEN OF DROGHEDA.—We regret to be informed on the best authority, that several of our most skillful masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, and weavers have been for some time unemployed. We trust this unpleasant state of affairs will not long continue, and that some suitable public works will be speedily commenced, to give a fair amount of employment to our intelligent and industrious artisans.—Drogheda Conservative.

CHARLES LOWNING O'CONNOR.—The extensive pasture fields bordering on the River Barrow—especially on the Queen's county side—presented this morning an extraordinary appearance, being one vast sheet of water. The effects of the heavy rains of Friday and Saturday were not developed to an unusual extent until yesterday, when a flood was becoming rather alarmingly apparent. The smaller rivers in the neighbourhood had all overflowed their banks, deluging the lands surrounding them, and strange to add, casting numerous fish through the fields, and even on the roads, to which the waters had penetrated. But still it was not expected that the Barrow—although swollen to an unusual height—would rise above the substantial embankments by which it is encompassed—nor was it apprehended that it would prove so disastrous as unfortunately it has been to the poor people who reside in its vicinity on the Graigue side. Unprepared, as they were, therefore, it caused most of them no little surprise and consternation to be disturbed in the midst of their rest on Sunday night by the unexpected rush of water into their little homesteads. Their cabins were completely inundated and the floors completely covered with water. A change of quarters becoming thus necessary, the unfortunate occupants were forced, with their children in their arms to seek temporary homes elsewhere, and endeavour to secure, as best they could, the little property, which principally consisted of potatoes, which they had pitted in the fields in the rear of the houses. These they tried to save from the ravages of the rising waters, and the faint gleams emitted by the torches which shed a feeble light on the work, as well as exhibiting the grim figure of the explorers, rendered the scene extremely grotesque. It need scarcely be said that their efforts to preserve the staple support proved almost unavailing, and what they were unable to extricate from the pits will, of course have been completely rotted by the time the floods will have subsided. The river is still rising, and it reaches a few inches higher, the quays will be inundated—indeed, as it is, the water has penetrated some parts of them.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—To the Editor of the Catholic Telegraph.—Arklow, 8th January, 1862.—Sir—I maturely believe that Daniel O'Connell was the greatest and wisest Irishman that ever lived. He found the great majority of his countrymen prostrate and trampled on; he lifted them up and combined them within the law, and gained for them the respect of the whole world. I have always admitted his principles, and followed his rules, and the consequence is, I find myself, under God, in the care of a preserved and prosperous people. It is my decided conviction that our rights and liberties can only be maintained and extended by similar means. As long as the Irish people were guided by his counsels they were respected; but when they followed other leaders they were despised at home and abroad. When famine struck the land he asked from parliament a grant of thirty millions to repair the loss of the potato crop and its consequent scarcity. He got a grant of eight millions, with a public pledge from the minister that as long as there was a guinea in the British Treasury no one should die of hunger in Ireland as far as the law could prevent it. I found the labour act adequate to the preservation of my people, and there were thousands of them as destitute as those of Skibbereen. When there was delay in setting on public works I appealed to the government, and its officer at once declared that work should be given, and thereby money and food to the people—even if no other could be found but that of tossing one sand hill into another. When an attempt was made to prevent work or food being given to any one having more than four acres of land, I again appealed to the government, and I got the quick response that the act was not an ejectment process, and that no amount of acres, in the absence of food or other means of getting it, disqualified the tenant for receiving work or rations. The decision preserved scores of small farmers in the Wexford portion of this parish. Let every man talk of the law as he found it—but I would misstate the truth if I did not declare the fact—that by means of the law, as interpreted and enforced by the government, I was able to preserve the lives of four thousand people. I always exhorted the people to be of good heart, to put their shoulder to the wheel, not to emigrate unless they had no back door but the poor-house; to violate no law, human or divine, and to shun men as deadly enemies who would advise pikes, pikes, and broken bottles as a means to redress their grievances. I told them then, and I tell them now to shun secret societies as they would the plague, and if any man proposed to them to join any such society to denounce him at once to the next magistrate as the worst enemy of themselves, their religion and their country. From my own experience I am prepared to say that if the people have been dispersed or perished, it has not been so much from the want of good laws as their bad administration. There is the poor-law, more favourable to outdoor relief in Ireland than in England or Scotland. Why, then, is it given so largely in the two last, and scarcely at all in the first? I maintain the last harvest is far shorter than is generally supposed. I look with dismay at the revelations of the next eight months. I apprehend a progressive rise in the markets, and an increasing want of employment. What will become of the poor labourer who cannot get work, unless he get outdoor relief? He must perish, or go with his family into the poor-house, and become three times a greater burthen on the rate-payers. I call on the government, the landlords, and poor law guardians to look to the labourers. They are already too few for the wants of the country. I am your obedient servant, JAMES REDMOND, P.P.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—On Sunday last, after last mass, the respected Parish Priest of Castleisland, the Venerable Archdeacon O'Leary denounced, in strong language, but in the spirit of a father, the parties who, in that neighbourhood as well as in other parts of our county, have been endeavouring to swear in the young and unwary for alleged revolutionary purposes, visionary and impracticable, but in reality to make merchandise of them. Several parties, it would appear, from the Archdeacon's address, had been sworn in.—Tralee Chronicle.

A correspondent at Ballyprofery states that the inhabitants of that town and neighbourhood were alarmed on Wednesday morning on hearing that 11 prisoners had been taken by the police and sent to goal. The offence charged is supposed to be illegal combination, and it is rumoured that an approver is in Lifford Gaol at present.—London Times.

Sir Robert Peel in his flying tour through the West of Ireland, was unable to perceive any evidence of distress, and therefore concluded, per se, that there was no distress, and that the peasantry had abundance of food and fuel. That false inference and bold assertion has since been unfortunately exploded by lamentable facts that can no longer be disputed, and we are glad to perceive that Lord Carlisle, in his answer to the Connaught deputation, headed by the Bishop of Elphin and The O'Conor Don, M.P., which waited upon his Excellency on Tuesday, now admits that the poor are suffering severe privations in the West, and that the Government are disposed to come to the relief of the resident Clergy and gentry, the latter of whom, in general, are we are gratified to find, discharging their duties well in the present emergency.—Weekly Register.

THE RIOT IN ENNISKILLER.—Summonses have been issued against twenty three persons charged with being concerned in the riot on the 9th inst, and which was caused by the insane proceeding of introducing a person with a foreign title of Baron to lecture an Irish audience on controversial topics, announced in a manner the most offensive to the Catholic population. It appears that the 'Church party' went to the lecture on religion arranged by themselves with blackthorn sticks concealed under their coats.—Evening Post.