

is in conformity with the spirit of the Church as manifested in her Canons and Ordinances. But no matter how just, or holy an undertaking may be, the devil is always sure to excite some opposition, and the holier the work, the greater is the violence of his agents. We should like to look into the faces of the would-be disturbers at St John, and to have the gratification of asking them a few questions. Perhaps our esteemed contemporary could satisfy our curiosity on such simple interrogatories as the following :

Are these men good scholars? Can they read and write? Do they know their catechism, or understand the principles of the Catholic Religion? Do they observe the commandments of God and of his Church? Are they moral, chaste, temperate, and honest? Are they good fathers, faithful husbands, and dutiful children? How often do they go to Mass, and approach the Sacraments? And, as they presume to have more knowledge than the Bishop, clergy and people, in religious matters, do they approach the Holy Communion at least once a week?

Our last question shall be of a more temporal nature.

*How much do those men contribute yearly to the support of their Pastors?* We confess we ask this question, because we know from experience that in Ireland itself, the most violent scoffers against the O'Connell Tribute were those degenerate and ungrateful Irishmen who never contributed a farthing to the Emancipator of his country; and those also, who made most noise, and affected most indignation at the proposal for pensioning the Irish Catholic clergy, were miserly wretches who never gave a voluntary shilling for the support of Priest or Church.

If the above questions cannot be answered satisfactorily, we would recommend the good Catholics of St. John and Portland to hire a vessel (she won't cost much, as she need not be large,) and to offer those creatures a free passage to Gibraltar. They will find some congenial spirits in the Junta there—men whose hearts are harder than the Rock of Gibraltar itself—who will receive them with open arms. If the vessel should touch at Halifax on her way to the Pillars of Hercules, and if she have sufficient room, we could add four or five to the passengers whom we could well

spare—persons of kindred genius and dispositions, who, with no religion themselves, will not suffer others to enjoy theirs—restless beings who will not allow their neighbours to live in peace.

• In days of yore, no expression was more common in the old country, when any one was troublesome, than to say *I wish he was in Halifax, or I wish he was sent to Nova Scotia*. Whenever we shall hear again, at this side of the Atlantic, of any brainless booby under the name of a Catholic attempting to disturb the peace of the Church of God, our prayer will be: *I wish he was shipped off to Gibraltar!*

#### THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY.

It will be seen elsewhere, from a report of the Secretary, that this most useful Society has just held its Annual Meeting, and elected its officers for the ensuing year. We feel very great pleasure in recording our opinion on the time-honoured and charitable career of this excellent body. Year after year has it distributed its generous and timely relief to the afflicted children of the Green Isle, and like an Angel of Mercy, cheered many a drooping heart in the stranger land. It has done more; beneath its charitable banner it has on every recurrence of the National Festival collected together in the Temple of God, as well as at the festive board, our fellow-citizens of all climes, creeds, and politics, and thereby contributed to the promotion of social harmony. Most fervently do we wish all manner of prosperity to the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax, and in order to ensure it a long career of usefulness, we would conjure the respected Members to adhere on all occasions to the very letter and spirit of its constitution, and not to suffer the turbid waters of political or personal strife to enter for a moment into the pure fountains of charity. May we hope that St. Patrick's Day in the morning will shine upon an united Body of Irishmen in Halifax, that all past misunderstandings will be consigned to a generous oblivion, that with 'one heart and one soul' they may meet before the holy Altar of their Ancient Faith, and return suitable Thanksgiving to the God of their Fathers for the blessings bestowed on Ireland through the ministry of its sainted Apostles.