

DECREASE OF CATHOLICS IN IRELAND.—From a recent statement of Lord Glengall it appears that at the present time the Roman Catholics out-number the Protestants in Ireland by barely 500,000. "In 1821," His Lordship observed, "the Protestants numbered 1,900,000 in a population of 8,000,000; now in 1851, the Romanists have decreased 1,700,000; and in a population of 6,500,000, the Protestants are only a minority of 500,000. The Protestants did not die of famine and disease, and few have emigrated. The conversions to Protestantism have been numerous, and the huge fallacy of the numerical majority of the Romanists in Ireland will soon evaporate when the real truth becomes known to the English public. Romanism is on the decrease in Ireland, although among a particular class in England it may have some converts."

RENUNCIATION OF ROMANISM IN IRELAND.—A recent communication in the *London Times* contains some very important statements in regard to the advance of Protestantism in Ireland. The writer attended confirmations by the Bishop of Tuam in several places; he found that a large number of Roman Catholics were publicly renouncing the faith of their fathers. At Oughterard, for example, 99 persons were confirmed, about 10 of whom only had been originally Protestants. At Castlekerke, 96 received confirmation,—93 were Romanists by birth. At Salruck, 30 men were confirmed, 28 of whom had been Romanists. At Ballycouree, 115 received the rite, 40 of whom were adults, and all of them converted from popery. Of about 200 confirmed of Clifden, only 12 were originally Protestants. In another place, called Derrygimla, 119 were confirmed, all but 2 having been converts from the Church of Rome. At Sellaema, 84 received confirmation, only 2 of whom were formerly Protestants. The impartiality and trustworthiness are vouched for by the *Times*; and, if the statements are correct, there is certainly hope for poor Ireland. The same writer says: "It is reported by credible witness that, in the district through which I have traveled for the past week, nearly 5000 persons have left the Church of Rome." In one instance he was present at the admission of three gentlemen to priests' orders, two of whom had been Roman Catholics. The schools opened for the benefit of the children of Papists are described as flourishing.

Colonel Rawlinson (says the *Athenæum*) has succeeded in reading an inscription upon an Assyrian bull, lately excavated by Mr. Layard, and sent over to this country, and finds it to contain an account of the campaign between Sennacherib and Hezekiah, confirming in a remarkable manner the statements of Sacred and Profane history. This discovery will afford a tangible starting-point for fixing Assyrian chronology.

The British Banner announces the death at Southampton, on the 17th of September, of the Rev. James Crabb, aged 77. "He was well known throughout England for the interest he took in reclaiming the various Gipsy tribes. His origin was of the humblest kind; and from preaching in a room to a few acquaintances in Southampton he became the minister of a large chapel in that town, built from contributions which he himself obtained, at which rich and titled persons occasionally worshipped. He belonged to no sect, but from the forms of worship he practised, and the doctrines he preached, he was denominated an Episcopalian Wesleyan Methodist. We always understood, indeed, that he began his ministry among the Wesleyans." Mr. Crabb was in early life a Wesleyan traveling preacher, and in 1795 was with four or five others appointed to the Portsmouth circuit, his labours being chiefly devoted to Southampton and the Isle of Wight. It was under his ministry that year that Elizabeth Walbridge, "the Dairyman's Daughter," was converted, and joined the Wesleyan Society, as related in Carosso's "Further Account of the Dairyman's Daughter," appended to the edition of that admirable narrative, published by Lane and Scott.

POETRY.

ORIGINAL POETRY ON THE DEATH OF DONALD WATSON, A. B.

Hope's golden dreams his youthful bosom swelled
With expectation big of future days;
But treacherous are her smiles, and soon dispelled
The halo bright which round young fancy plays.
With generous ardour fir'd, with us he vied
To wreath a laurel round his youthful brow;
Such his distinction was:—but, ah! he died,
And vain are all his hard-earned honours now!

No more shall he explore the classic page,
Nor mathematic Gordian knots unloose;
No moral truths his powers acute engage,
Nor will he woo the coy capricious muse.
He homeward hied to taste the fireside joys,
Which give to home its thousand nameless charms,

To hear again a mother's, sister's voice,
And clasp the loved and loving to his arms.

Home, magic word! How does the bosom fill
With big emotion! Feelings undefined
At simple mention of thee, and a thrill
Of pleasing tenderness, entrance the mind.
He reached his home, did taste its artless joys;
But soon more arduous duties called him thence;
Soul-elevating study him employs
Till from his work his Master calls him hence.

Mysterious Providence! and shall we mourn?
Shall we for him let fall affection's tear?
Yes, from life's chequered scene so early torn,
We will lament round his untimely bier.
Like Him at Lazarus' grave, with streaming eyes
We weep will for thy fate, departed one;
Yet 'mid our tears our hearts will upward rise
To happier realms where tears shall be unknown.

Hope, seraph fair, a balm celestial bears
To close the festering wounds of every grief,
And through a vista in life's vale of tears
To Heaven directs the mourner for relief.
What then is death? A sleep, and we shall rise,
And we will meet him in the realms above,
Then ever bask in fair, ethereal skies
Mid uncreated light and joy and love.

A Classmate.

WHEN THE AUTUMN LEAVES ARE FALLING.

BY J. E. CARPENTER.

When the autumn leaves are falling,
And the flowers have lost their prime,
And the bird to his mate is calling
To soar to a brighter clime;
The heart, that is bowed by sorrow,
Now sinks in a deeper gloom,
For we know that the coming morrow
May wither some lingering bloom.

When the shadows of evening lengthen,
And we muse on each passing grief,
The hopes, that we strive to strengthen,
We feel, like our joys, are brief;
And the leaves, as they fall around us,
They tell us how short our span:
As the flowers that the spring-time found us,
So fades every hope of man.

Yet we know when the leaves are falling,
And the forest is stripped and sere,
That we have a higher calling
Than to live for this dark world here;
And the shadows of autumn chasten
The heart that is bowed by grief,
And we long for that spring to hasten,
That shall come to the soul's relief.

Died, at his father's residence, in March, on the 25th September, 1851, Matthew Weld Ker, only child of the Rev. Matthew Ker, Missionary of the Church of England to the Township of March and Huntly, in the vicinity of Bytown, aged 10 years. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord." "Wherefore Should I weep? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him; but he shall not return to me."

CONGREGATION OF M'CNAB AND HORTON.

We have much pleasure in announcing the arrival of the Rev. George Thomson, whom the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland has appointed to take charge of the Church of McNab and Horton, in the Presbytery of Bathurst.

FRENCH MISSION FUND.

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Ministers are requested to make their collections as early as convenient, and remit to

HUGH ALLAN,
Treasurer.

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