

THE MAYNOOTH DEBATE.—John Francis Maguire, M.P. for Dungannon and editor of the *Cork Examiner*, made a very able speech in parliament on the Maynooth Grant, in which he gave the following description of a Catholic priest's life in Ireland:—"Let me now give the house a description of what the Maynooth priest really is. (Hear.) If there be any clergy in the world eminently suited to their vocation, and better adapted to the scene of their missionary labors, it is the clergy educated in Maynooth. I admit they are not a dandified clergy—(laughter)—they are not ambitious and pretentious scholars, such as delight to shine at literary or scientific conversations, though many of them are profound scholars, and most of them are sound thinkers, clear reasoners, and thoroughly grounded in that knowledge which belongs to their profession. They were more than that—they were bold and courageous in the performance of their duties. See him tested in the hour of national trial, when the plague breath swept over the land, and men, and women, and children withered beneath its baleful influence—see him rushing into the midst of the contagion, and drinking in the fatid breath of his dying fellow-creatures while administering to him the last consolations of religion. (Cheers.) Nay, regard him in the ordinary circumstances of his laborious mission. He is the curate of a country parish. He has been occupied all day in going from village to village, from hamlet to hamlet, from house to house, visiting catechising, instructing, and he retires to bed wearied, jaded, but still cheerful. It is possible that his heavy slumber may be undisturbed, and that he may rise in the morning invigorated for a renewal of his missionary labors; but it is quite as possible that he may be roused up by the frantic appeal of a distracted father, husband, wife, or child, on the part of a sick or dying relative. Does the priest hesitate for a moment to respond to that passionate appeal? Not he; he rises cheerfully from the comfort of his warm, though humble couch, hurries on his clothes, and on horseback, but more probably on foot, he proceeds to the scene of his duty, over bog, and valley, and mountain, in winter as in summer, whether in rain, and snow, and storm, any distance and at any hour of the night. In fact, no soldier obeys with more alacrity the commands of his officer than does the Catholic priest the obligations of his duty and the dictates of his conscience. (Loud cheers.) The Catholic priesthood of Ireland, instead of being, as they were falsely accused of being, the foes of learning and the enemies of human enlightenment, were par excellence the friends of education. I myself know many Catholic clergymen who have beggared themselves, who are involved in almost inextricable embarrassments, in consequence of their efforts to establish national schools, in some cases as many as four or five schools in their parishes. To say, then, that those men were the friends of darkness and ignorance is the tonest slander that bigotry has ever concocted. Catholic gentlemen in this house have been especially exempted from the slanderous aspersions cast upon their priests and their religion; but in the name of the Catholic gentlemen here assembled I fling back with contempt those hollow compliments which are paid us at the expense of our priesthood, and to the dishonor of our religion. (Cheers.) I will tell the hon. member for North Warwickshire what I saw in the pages of the *Times* of yesterday, and how it exemplifies on the one hand the valor, and loyalty, and sufferings of Irish Catholics, and on the other the hypocrisy and dishonesty of their traducers. In one portion there was a list—a long list—of the killed and wounded before Sebastopol from the 4th to the 10th of June. I read over that list of nearly three columns in length, and I venture to assert that more than half, certainly not less than half, were Irish Catholic soldiers—'idolaters,' as they were insolently termed, even in this house—(hear, hear)—who had been instructed in their youth from Catholic altars, and had learned from the Catholic priest, the Maynooth priest, or from a Catholic mother, that catechism which, while it rendered him more moral, did not render him less brave and heroic. (Cries of 'Hear, hear.') But look to the other part of the *Times*, and behold the downfall of humbug in the person of one who brought sorrow and desolation to many a home, who plundered the widow and the orphan—but who masked his hypocrisy and rottenness by a pious horror of Popery, and a punctual attendance in Exeter Hall, whenever the iniquities of Maynooth were to be exposed, and a saintly chairman was required. ('Hear, hear,' and laughter.) What a splendid commentary on a barefaced imposture is the downfall of this modern St. Paul. (Loud laughter.) It is a warning to the world not to trust ambitious lawyers or saintly bankers, when they make a stock-in-trade of no-Popery."

In reply to a question from Mr. Butt, Mr. Horsman stated in the House of Commons, that it is intended to renew the provisions of the Act known as the "Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Acts" which expires on the 31st August.

PARLIAMENT—FRUITS OF THE SESSION TO IRELAND.—Mr. Duffy's journal gives the following beggarly account of the Session as regards Ireland. The Session will end in about a month, without a single Irish measure having passed. Irish bills have been kept on the paper, indeed, and shifted, by some thimbling practice, from morning sittings to midnight sittings, and vice versa. Irish members have been compelled to be on the watch at the most inconvenient hours, and harassed with an exhausting and disheartening duty which produces no results. But, except to have our burthen of taxation increased (Parliament), as far as Ireland is concerned, might as well not have met in the year '55. What wonder? Her representatives were too busy learning the militia drill, or the severer drill and discipline enforced on their recruits by the Treasury, to attend to public business. Private business, however has gone on flourishingly. Yet Mr. Duffy hangs on by the British Parliament as tenaciously as the rest of them, all the time, imagining or calculating believe he is doing something for Ireland.—*Citizen*.

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—A blue-book of 130 pages or so, contains the first volume of the 21st report of the National Education Commissioners in Ireland for the year 1854. It appears that at the close of the year there were 5,178 schools in operation, attended by 556,531 pupils, showing an increase in the number of schools of 155, and in the number of pupils of 73. The number of schools struck off during the year was 57. There has been a steady increase in the attendance at the National Schools every year, except in 1847 and 1849, and the total number gives an average of 107,48 to each school. The average diurnal attendance of pupils for the half-year ending the 30th September, 1854, was 267,099.

CLONMEL.—The approaching assizes promises to be extremely light. At present there are but six or eight prisoners in our gaol awaiting trial. The most important cases will be that against John D'Alton, architect involving a charge of forging the Marquis of Waterford's name to three bills of exchange, amounting altogether to over £16,000; against Patrick Daniel, otherwise Edward Keane, a Militia man, for bigamy; Michael Hegarty and Thomas Quirke, for manslaughter; Thomas Hickey and Edmund Ryan, for burglary and robbery; and but three for larceny. Our County Gaol contains at present 252 prisoners, 30 of whom—10 males and 20 females—are under sentence of penal servitude.—*Clonmel Chronicle*.

At the county of Limerick Quarter Sessions Peter Gill, printer, of Nenagh, brought a process against Messrs. George Morgan Goggin & Sons for £45 for loss and injury sustained by reason of the defendant not having printed for him, within due time, 3,500 copies of the Rev. Dr. Cahill's letter to the seven Protestant clergymen of Sligo. The plaintiff swore that he supplied the paper but did not get the work done in time; he had only got 500 copies, and the interest in it was then passed away. One Catholic clergyman in Limerick had offered to take 500 copies 2d each, in it was done in time. Mr. Goggin or his witnesses not having been in attendance, the Barrister granted a decree for £10 and £1 expenses.

HARVEST PROSPECTS.—In the midst of a desolating and, it may be, a protracted war, with all its miseries necessarily aggravated by the pressure of increased taxation, it is peculiarly a subject for congratulation that there is this year every reasonable prospect of a harvest of more than average abundance; and further, that the splendour of the recent weather in Ireland holds out hope that, far from being a late one, the sickle will be at work fully as early as in seasons when the ripening of the crops was not retarded by a spring of such unusual severity as that of 1855. The reports from all quarters of the kingdom are most favourable—not a single complaint of any failure; even the potato has so far wholly escaped the incipient symptoms of blight which since 1846 have been generally observable about this period, and altogether there is a marked cessation of the discontent which annually pervades the agricultural mind during the critical months that precede the cutting of the harvest. The following is from the *Mail*:—"Up to the present moment nothing can be more cheering than the promise of abundance which greets the eye from every description of growing produce. The corn crops have made surprising advances in the course of the last month, and, contrary to the opinion that prevailed in the spring, an early harvest may be now anticipated. Wheat presents an unusually fine appearance. The plant is vigorous, with a good healthy hue and large ear. A great breadth of land being sown with this grain, the total supply is expected to exceed the average of late years by at least one-fourth. Oats, which a month ago appeared stunted and discolored, have sprung up rapidly. The potato crop is almost too luxuriant, the dimensions of the leaves and stalks surpassing all precedent, and offering—as the croakers presage—a highly absorbent surface to the dreaded disease. No symptoms, however, of that mysterious visitor are reported in any quarter. The experienced mitigation of its virulence within the last four years, and the well-known influences, 'kindly, but frosty,' of such a winter as the last, give good ground to hope that Providence has decreed the gradual removal of the scourge. But the produce will be later than usual in coming into market, owing chiefly to the same atmospheric causes which have occasioned the remarkable luxuriance of the plant above ground. The tubers have not yet, generally speaking, attained any considerable size; they are, however, more numerous than in ordinary years, and, if permitted to reach maturity, will yield a most abundant crop. A large extent of ground is planted with our national favourite. Other green crops are forward, and it should be mentioned as a satisfactory proof of agricultural progress, as well as additional ground of good hope for the supply of the ensuing year, that, notwithstanding the greatly extended culture of the potato, preparations have been made on a very large scale among farmers of every class for the production of that true 'root of plenty,' the Swedish turnip."

The crops in this neighborhood look delightful, and give every promise of an early and abundant harvest. Very good new potatoes are already selling in our market.—*Athlone Sentinel*.

The cattle malady has lately shown itself to some extent in various localities in this county, and several farmers have suffered from its ravages. Mr. Henry Barry, of Barry's Lodge, has lost several valuable cows, and Major Tisdall, who is an extensive landed proprietor near Mallow, has also lost to a serious extent.—*Cork Constitution*.

THE 12th OF JULY.—The recognised leaders of the Irish Orangemen have wisely decided upon recommending the "brethren" to abstain from all outward demonstrations upon the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. None, therefore, says one of their press organs, will be identified with any observance incompatible with deference to the injunction conveyed in the following resolution of the Grand Lodge, unanimously adopted at the half-yearly meeting held in Armagh:—"That, as the anniversary of the 12th of July is now approaching, the Grand Lodge warn the brethren that any outward demonstration, by procession or otherwise, is illegal, and affectionately request that the master of each private lodge will undertake the responsibility of arranging that the commemoration of our loyal institution be conducted in an orderly, legal, and consistent manner, and for the benefit of the brethren."

"DUNCANNON, D.G.M., Chairman.
"JAMES H. MOORE, D.G.S."

In reliance, it is to be presumed, upon the subsidence of party spirit, and the prevalence of a more kindly feeling among the hitherto hostile classes, the authorities have this year thought it unnecessary to despatch any extra military or police force to prevent disturbance in the northern counties.

WHAT AMERICA OWES TO IRELAND.—REPAYING AN OLD DEBT.—In A. D. 1676, after King Philip's war, Dr. Increase Mather, of Boston, Mass., "did by his letters procure a whole ship load of provisions from the charity of his friends in Dublin, Ireland." So that when Boston sent, by R. B. Forbes, Esq., a ship load of provisions to Ireland, a few years ago, it was but the payment, without interest, of a debt contracted a century and three-quarters before.—*Providence Journal*, July 18th.

AN IRISH MILITARY COLLEGE.—It appears that an application has been made to the Horse Guards by the heads of the Queen's College in Galway to sanction the addition of a military school to that institution, in which certificates or diplomas, as in the case of Woolwich, would be granted to the successful students entitling them to commissions in Her Majesty's service. As yet it is not known whether the authorities at the other side have taken the matter into favourable consideration or otherwise. This it was that gave rise to a silly report that the Government were about to convert the Galway College into an institution for exclusively military instruction.

On Saturday morning draughts from five infantry regiments, to the number of above 700 men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Neyne of the 62d Regiment, proceeded from Dublin to Kingstown, and were embarked on board the ship *Lillies*, in which they will be conveyed to Malta on their way to the seat of war.

The *Sligo Rifles* have given a number of volunteers to the line during the past week—all smart, able young men, who have attained a high degree of efficiency in their military duties.

All the volunteers from the Armagh Militia for the 68th Light Infantry left during the past week.—Those for the 27th and 46th are still in Armagh awaiting conducting sergeants. After having thus given its quota to the line, the regiment numbers considerably more than 600 rank and file, fit to do duty in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.

An old Irish pensioner, named Armstrong, and his wife, Julia Armstrong, received £19 sterling at the Provincial Bank, Sligo, lately from the private secretary of the Emperor Napoleon. Armstrong served 30 years in the English army, and happened to be on duty at St. Helena while Napoleon the First was confined there. Here Julia Armstrong acted in the capacity of washerwoman to the Emperor for a length of time; and this fact having been brought under the notice of the present ruler of France, by memorial, the remittance of £19 was the result. Armstrong was in eleven battles against the late Emperor, and by strange turn in the wheel of fortune, he has received a gratuity from his successor.

NOVEL METHOD OF RECRUITING IN IRELAND.—The following strange colloquy took place in the Cork police office a few days ago. A car driver named McCathy was brought up before Captain White, a magistrate, for the criminal offence of obstructing the street by turning his horse's head sideways. The "crime" was proved, and his worship was about to pronounce sentence, when this conversation ensued.—Captain White: Would you not like to enlist, my man, to fight the Russian? Defendant: No, Sir. Captain White: I will let you off the fine, if you enlist.—The defendant: I would rather be playing with the farm awhile, Sir. (Laughter.)—Captain White: The fine is ten shillings, and I will let you off if you enlist.—The Defendant: I would be afraid, Sir. (A laugh.)—Captain White: Do you think he is tall enough, sergeant?—One of the recruiting sergeants who were in the Court replied that he was. Captain White: Take my advice now, and enlist for a soldier, and you may be a General officer before you die (a laugh). Sergeant: Give him the shilling into his hand, and see if he will take it.—One of the recruiting sergeants here came forward and reached a shilling to the defendant.—The Defendant turning away in a fright: I will not, Sir (laughter). Acting Constable Kilbride: He says he is very sorry now, Sir, for having caused the obstruction.—Captain White: Well, as I find you have no courage, it would be a pity to fine you. If you were a courageous fellow, I would fine you ten shillings; but as you are only a cowardly rascal, afraid to fight for your country, I will only fine you a shilling. Have you a shilling?—The Defendant (taking a shilling out of his pocket): I have, Sir.—Captain White: The sergeant will give you a shilling to pay the fine (laughter).—The defendant here paid the fine himself, and left the court.—*Kilkenny Journal*.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES MARRON OF BALLIBEAR.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this excellent Irishman, who departed this life on the 5th instant, at the advanced age of 80 years. Mr. Marron was secretary to the late Monaghan Independent Club, and in that capacity rendered valuable services to the cause of this country.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

THE LATE MARQUIS OF THOMOND.—His lordship, though thrice married, has left no issue, and the marquisate is become extinct; but the barony of Inchiquin reverts forthwith, by right of descent, to Sir Lucius O'Brien, Bart., Ormaland Castle, Lieutenant of the county Clare, several years its representative in Parliament, and now Lord Inchiquin, as lineal descendant of the Hon. Donough, third son of Murrough O'Brien, the first Baron Inchiquin. The estates of the late Marquis of Thomond devolve to the four married daughters of his elder brother, the former marquis, who has no male issue.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

We find in the *Weekly Register* a letter to the editor illustrative of the process by means of which bad Catholic are converted into good Protestants. We give some extracts:—"We all know that nearly all the gentry of Ireland are Protestant. A large proportion of them are of Irish descent, and their families were Catholic, in many instances a very short time ago. The instrument of conversion used was even more shameless and wicked than that now so freely used to corrupt the Irish poor. The poor are assailed by the same temptation with which the Evil One first ventured to assail even their Divine Master and Lord: 'Command these stones that they may be made bread.' Against the gentry, upon whom, as a general rule, the world has so much more hold, the other temptation was used: 'All the world, and all glory of it, I will give thee, if, falling down, Thou wilt adore me.' But the world had no more power to make sincere converts, than has hunger. Apostates for wealth, or a peerage, were as little likely to be earnest in the Protestant religion, as apostates for soup and bread. How is it then? Those who notoriously conformed for the preservation of their estates, or to obtain social distinctions, are their children Catholics or Protestants? I need hardly say that the representatives of families which fell away even in the last generation, just before the penal law; were repealed, in that cold hour of night which precedes the dawn, are among the most bigotted families of Irish Protestantism. It is not wonderful, for they have been bred up without the Sacraments or means of obtaining grace; and by those who, in many cases, reviled and calumniated the Church more than others, that they might save themselves from the suspicion of being still Papists in heart. From this I infer that we must not fancy ourselves secure against great mischief being done among the poor, merely because we believe, as I do most

firmly and fully believe, that there are among them no sincere converts to Protestantism. To avoid misconception, I must add that, for myself, I believe the Proselytising movement will, in the end, do more good than harm; but this is not the ground of my confidence. Having premised this, let me remind you how converts were actually made in the higher classes of Ireland. One instance was brought before the world the other day by an article in the *Rambler*, which gave an account of the late Earl Nugent, father of the late Marchioness of Buckingham. He was the representative of a long Catholic line, and conformed because, having become utterly profligate, he saw that he was losing this world without gaining the world to come. What is to be observed is, that in his conversation he was more bitter than any invectives against the Church. Thus was his saintly daughter bred up. He received the gift of repentance before his death, although, to avoid the law, his return to the Church, was not made public. You published the other day an extract from the *Life of Lord Cloncurry* showing that the first lord openly avowed that his change was to enable him to hold real property and advance himself in life, and that he had risked for it 'body and soul.' The family is still Protestant. The last Lord Dunsany is another instance of one who returned to the fold in his old age—the family still Protestant. Lord Dunboyne who founded the higher part of the College of Maynooth, was another example, but has left no heirs. I could multiply instances, but I will pass to one less publicly known the circumstances of which I have examined and can answer for their accuracy, and which took place in another sphere of life. James K— was the younger brother of a worthy parish priest in the county of Clare, who, like an Irishman, having risen above his family, wished to raise them with him. He therefore sent his brother James to college, to the study for priesthood, towards the latter part of the last century: He was I think to go to Spain. James passed through Dublin on his way, and meeting some Protestant schoolfellows who were at Trinity College, and who knew his talents, was persuaded by them to stand for a scholarship at Trinity, 'for the fun of it,' as he expressed it. The joke became serious, for James was elected a scholar at T. C. D.; a situation, not then only, but now, closed against 'Papists.' How long he went on in 'fun' I cannot tell, but the world was soon too strong for him, and he rose, step by step, till he became a Protestant clergyman, and one of the most rising and promising of the younger men of that profession. The elder brother had no suspicion of all this; for there was no easy and rapid communication in those days, and James, who did not write often, managed, when he did, to represent himself as being in a Catholic College and preparing for the priesthood. At last, however (they do things in an original manner in this country, I suppose for the fun of it) James was sent down as Protestant curate to the very part of the country where Patrick was parish priest. The two brothers met, and James explained his position and views, and asked the congratulations of his brother on his rise in life. Patrick was not sparing of his denunciation of hypocrisy and fraud; words got warm, and ended in blows, and James got off worst of the two. The belief of the county of Clare was, that he had unintentionally provoked his brother (like the attorney in Dickens's novel), that he might make a good thing of his beating. This notion most likely grew out of the result, for so it was that he was considered a martyr, and promoted to the wealthy Archdeaconry of E—. James was now a great man; he married an hereditary Protestant, and had a flourishing family. But, clever as he was, there was one enemy he could not master—Death was too strong even for the prosperous Archdeacon. He was about fifty when he found himself on his death-bed. At once he began, as my informant, a near relative, described it, 'Roaring and bawling for a Priest.' The astonished wife thought herself convinced, as a sincere Protestant should be, of the folly and wickedness of the demand, yet could not bring herself to refuse it, and the Protestant-Archdeacon of E— was formally reconciled to the Catholic Church. And now, contrary to all expectation, he recovered his health. To be a Catholic, was to resign the position and property he had won, and to stamp his whole life as an imposture; his courage failed, or rather it returned, as death was out of sight, and the Venerable Archdeacon of E— was as good a Protestant as before. So things went on for ten years, and the world had almost forgotten the incidents of his former illness, when, at the age of 60, he found himself a second time on his death-bed. Again, his cry was for a Priest; but his wife refused. She assured him he would regret it as soon as he was better; that to see a Priest was only a mockery, in one who had no notion of being a Catholic except on his death-bed; that his being reconciled would forfeit the property and interest of his children, and blight their character—they were now grown up. In a word, children and wife alike refused, and James K— died a Protestant and an Archdeacon, with cries for a Priest upon his dying lips. The family are still Protestants.

A RELIC OF THE IRISH PARLIAMENT.—Accounts have reached town of the death of Mr. John M'Clintock, of Drumcar, in the county of Louth, and formerly Sergeant at Arms in the Irish House of Commons, for the loss of which office he had been in receipt of a pension of £2,000 a-year for upwards of half a century. The deceased had attained the patriarchal age of 85, and was (says the *Carlow Sentinel*)—"the contemporary of the most distinguished men at the time, when the brilliancy of Irish genius was the theme of admiration throughout Europe. He was a patriot in the true sense of the term, being consistently opposed to the Union when peerages, honours, and decorations were lavished on those who supported the measure. He was (says Sir Jonah Barrington) the last who left the house, accompanied by the Speaker on the night the measure passed in March, 1800; both seemed impressed with the solemnity of the occasion—when at the door they turned round and took a last view of that house which had been, as Grattan observed, the glory, the guardian, and the protection of the country. He was first married to Miss Bunbury, of Lisuevagh, sister to Colonel Bunbury, of Moyle, by whom he had issue, Major M'Clintock, who succeeds to the estates, and Captain W. B. M'Clintock Bunbury, M.P. for this county. He was married, secondly, to the Lady Elizabeth Le Poer Trench, sister to the late Earl of Clancarty, who survives him, and by whom he had a numerous issue."

INCENDIARY FIRE.—A destructive fire, caused by an incendiary or incendiaries, took place, in a dwelling-house, occupied by Edward Kennedy, at Clonin, King's County, on the property of David Kerr, Esq. The flames were fortunately observed about eleven o'clock, and the inmates escaped.—*Leinster Express*.