

than 700,000 inhabitants, should get an increase of 10 members.

5. With respect to the towns and cities, it is proposed that the city of Dublin, having more than 200,000 inhabitants, should have 8 representatives; 4 for the parts south of the Liffey.

That the University of Dublin should continue on the basis of its present constituency, to send 2 members.

It is proposed that the city of Cork, having more than 100,000 inhabitants, should have 5 members.

That the city of Limerick and town of Belfast, having respectively more than 50,000 inhabitants, should send 4 members each.

It is proposed that the town of Galway and the cities of Waterford and Kilkenny, having respectively more than 20,000 inhabitants, should send each 3 members to Parliament.

That other towns having about 7000 inhabitants, should each send 2 members to Parliament, and that 49 other towns, next highest in the ratio of population, should send 1 member each.

A schedule of the different places to return members to the Irish Parliament will show their relative population, and the number of members to be assigned to each was then set forth, and the report proceeded as follows:—

The population is taken from the returns of 1831, which, having been made for a different purpose, and without any reference whatever to the repeal of the Union, furnish a scale of unquestionable impartiality.

6. It is proposed that the right of voting should be what is called "household suffrage," requiring six months residence in the counties; with the addition in the towns of married men resident for 12 months, whether householders or not.

7. It is proposed that the mode of voting for members of Parliament, should certainly be by ballot.

8. The Monarch *de facto* of England at all times hereafter, whoever he may be, shall be monarch *de jure* in Ireland. And so in case of a future Regency, the Regency *de facto* of England to be Regent *de jure* in Ireland.

9. The connexion between Great Britain and Ireland, by means of the power, authority, and prerogatives of the Crown, to be perpetual and incapable of change, or any severance or separation.

The foregoing plan to be carried into effect according to recognized law, and strict constitutional principle.

Signed by order,  
DANIEL O'CONNELL  
Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. O'Connell next brought forward a motion to the effect that the Repeal wardens throughout the country be requested to do their utmost to put down faction fights, and, in all cases where it was in their power, to prosecute the ringleaders and bring them to justice. The persons who took part in these fights were traitors to their country, unworthy of liberty—and in future none of them should be admitted as Repealers, and any that were so at present, should be expelled from the association. (Hear, hear.) The motion was carried.

## PASSING EVENTS—SPAIN AND THE CHURCH.

Parliament being now in recess, political discussions do not crowd upon us as they have done hitherto. We shall have breathing time to look round upon the world about us, and examine a little more attentively the progress of events that are as important to our interest as those that occur nearer home, but from which our attention is apt to be distracted by the bustle that strikes more directly upon the ear.

The arrival of Espartero in England naturally draws attention to the state of things in Spain, and the general unsettlement the ex-Regent has left behind him. What has recently occurred in the Peninsula is certainly one of the greatest wonders of the time; and we agree most fervently with Mr. O'Connell in believing it no superstition and no presumption, either, to behold the finger of God in this sudden deposition of a chief, who had just conquered all his difficulties, but was stricken with the censures of the Church of God. When Pope Pius, hurled an excommunication against Espartero's prototype, he, too, laughed and scoffed at it. It had not struck the arms, he said, out of his soldier's hands, and he therefore valued it little. Three short years after this impious boast came the Russian campaign, when, by the agency of "hail, snow, ice, and stormy wind," which, in the words of the Psalmist, "fulfill His word" the arms did fall from his soldiers' hands—as Cardinal Pacciwell remarks—not only metaphorically but literally. The over-weighed veterans, pursuing their march amidst the fury of the elements, found their arms too heavy for them, and in innumerable instances did actually throw them away as incumbrances to their speedy retreat. Thus, in a most signal instance was the strong man taken with the boast upon his lips, and punished to the letter in the words of his own extravagant vain-glory. Those who do not own a moral Government of the world, may sneer, at this coincidence as a proof of a weak and childish imagination. Let them do so. It may be well for them not to discern God in the chances and changes of this transitory life. For us and for our readers it would not be well, and as, on the one hand, we do not believe that God interferes to punish the crimes of men of genius, only allowing dullards to escape unpunished; while on the other, we do not hold Espartero to be too insignificant for the Divine vengeance—so we cannot but reverently treasure up in our minds for comfort, when we think of oppressors of the Church seemingly more prosperous and stable—that the power of Espartero seemed stable too; that no man could have foreseen his downfall; that few men can now, after the event, trace the steps and degrees of his ruin; but that hard upon the censures of the Church, and the prayers of the faithful, he has seen his power melt away without visible cause, his fame blackened, and his person thrust out into a foreign land. "I have seen the wicked highly exalted, and lifted up like he-

cedars of Libanus. And I passed by, and lo he was not; and I sought him and his place was not found."

But though we gather this striking lesson from Espartero's downfall, the order of recent events suggests to us also another lesson which it may be well to mark. Why Espartero should be hurled from his dignity just one year before the legal termination of his stewardship, and without any visible cause to provoke rebellion, we cannot tell, unless we refer to the invisible causes above specified. But the manner of his ejection is not therefore the less pregnant with instruction. Does not the whole progress of this late revolution show—what all Spanish history combines to teach us—that the central power of the State, as such, is exceeding weakness, and that the respect paid to law when it has its being merely from a parliamentary majority, is exceedingly small indeed? Espartero, a mere soldier of fortune, upheld partly by armies and partly by parliamentary majorities, and law made by such majorities, has in himself no root. The King or Queen—the heir of the crown—occupies a very different position. He is no mere creation of a parliamentary majority, but he holds his power by virtue of those same local and provincial traditions from which, in the estimation of a Spaniard, law derives its chief binding force. In England, indeed, we have acquired the habit of obeying law without reference to tradition, and merely considered as an emanation from the will of a parliamentary majority—a poor, barren, and unsubstantial doctrine.

In Spain they still hold stoutly by those traditional laws and usages which bind without an enactment, and consecrate by the sacredness of age the very foundation of law itself. Centralization has managed to get the narrow end of the wedge inserted into Spanish life; and in Espartero the principle of centralization, the absolute power of a majority of Congress to annul and annihilate the most cherished traditions of the country, was personified. Upon this central majority-begotten authority he stood unfirmly enough. The first breath of wind has served to displace him; and the manner in which each province set to work upon its own basis, and according to its notions, to work out his destruction, without any very palpable reference to a common purpose, or a national resolution—shows that in this all-but inexplicable turn of affairs the principle of local traditional administration has for a moment prevailed over the modern central notions. How long they will continue to prevail it is not easy to say. Barcelona is still unsettled; and there really seems little chance of finding any one at the helm with vigour sufficient to coerce into submission the intractable spirit of local independence, wherever it may choose to display itself. One aspect of this question is highly interesting to us Catholics. Many of the localities have declared for the Church; have spoken out loudly in its favour; and have protested against the sale of the Church lands. In many parts of Spain the ecclesiastics seem to have become of late personally decidedly popu-

lar—as Seville, Barcelona, Biscay, &c. have already given proof. To this feeling even the ultra-Liberal Government of Lopez yields so far as to welcome back the bishops exiled by Espartero's tyranny. On the other hand, the Ministry runs counter to the wishes of many provinces by directing the sale of Church property to be proceeded with—with a paltry deduction, indeed, for purposes of worship. How all this will end it would take a wise prophet to foretell. But in these days of reviving nationalities that were once thought extinct, would it be a matter of wonder if we were to see the old kingdoms of the Peninsula by degrees resuming something of their old independence, and wearing the tight girdle of Madrid a little more jealously and loosely? At any rate, we cannot see that such a change would in any manner prejudice the interests of the Church, which are so intimately bound up with local and provincial traditions.

We had a few words to add on some other matters connected with foreign affairs, but we find we must postpone them to a better opportunity.—*Tablet*.

## The Protestant Church of Ireland in account with the Catholic people of Ireland.

Credit	£452,123
Dr.	

The destruction of industry, the propagation of feuds, the shedding of blood, the expense of collecting tribute	£8,000,000
Interest upon one half of the National Debt, law expenses, Stipendiary Magistrates, &c. &c.	17,000,000
Frightened out of the country by Protestant Parsons and their Orange Staff	5,000,000
Loss from bad cultivation, and uncertainty of tenure	20,000,000
	£50,000,000
From which deduct	432,123

And we find the balance due by the Church to the Catholic people amounts annually to £17,567,877

In this calculation we are very much under the mark, not having set down any thing under the usual comprehensive head " sundries ;" and shall now conclude with a bit of spiritual tit for tat. We shall be glad to know then if the noble lords consider the complaint too loud for the amount of injury sustained? and if the whole question is to be merged into pounds, shillings, and pence, why are the Irish Orange members, and the English PLUMETTES allowed to make such a ferocious noise, about a grant of a few thousands a year to the College of Maynooth? We would say much more upon this unholy subject, but as the putrid monster is in the death throes we refrain from disturbing that quiet which it has ever denied to its victims. When the monster perishes, the only wonder will be that it was allowed to live so long; and when it is interred, the proper epitaph upon its dry tomb and unhallowed memory will be—

"Here lies the Irish devil,  
The last reptile  
That infested the land"

—From the Northern (England) St