

A breathless silence pervaded the whole court when he began to speak. He behaved with intrepidity and composure, though several times contemned by the bench. He solemnly declared that he was ignorant of the contents of the papers that had been found on his person, complained of having been denied time to prepare for his trial, and called several persons to prove him a Protestant of exemplary piety and irreproachable morals.

It was of no avail; the papers, it was insisted, had been found in his possession, and thought it is an anxiety of the boasted English law that no man shall be deemed guilty till he has been tried, the judges and the jury had, however, convicted him in their own minds from the first, and sentence of death was accordingly passed against him.

The execution took place when poor Ashton was removed to the gaol, and received the visit of his distracted, heart-broken wife. Elliott was acquitted, without a trial, there being no evidence against him.

CHAPTER XVIII.—LORD PRESTON'S REVELATIONS.

The trial was over, but great alarm was felt by the queen and the government at the amount of disaffection betrayed by the conspiracy, which proved to have grown out of that in which Neville Payne had suffered.

The queen was at Windsor for a couple of days, and on rambling into St. George's Gallery, was surprised to see a lovely little girl, about nine years of age, standing there, and more surprised at her employment.

Mary had entered the gallery unheeded and unperceived by the child, who stood before a full length portrait of James the Second, gazing at it with wistful and tearful eyes.

Struck by the expression of the little girl's face, the queen said to her:

"What do you see in that picture, child, that makes you look at it so attentively?"

The child looked up fearlessly in Mary's face, recognized the queen, and replied:

"I was thinking how hard it is my father should die for loving your's."

The little girl had been left in the queen's apartments during the trial, for her father had held the post of chamberlain to William and had not been formally dispossessed of his office when the conspiracy broke out.

The little lady Catherine did not lose her father; his life was spared that he might betray others. The following day he appeared before the queen, and she held out hopes of pardon to him.

"Declare to me, Lord Preston, the names of the ring-leaders of this plot; render this service to the government, and it may, perhaps, be that you may save your own life by so doing."

Equally guilty in the eye of the law with those whom he was about to denounce, he was saving his own life by betraying his friends, a deed which cost poor, obscure, upright Neville Payne his life, because he would not commit what he considered to be a dishonorable action.

(To be Continued.)

ADDRESS TO THE CATHOLICS OF AMERICA.

In the name and on behalf of the National Catholic Temperance Convention, assembled in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 22nd and 23rd of February, 1872, we respectfully address you on the important subject of our anxious deliberations.

As the primary object of our assemblage was the advancement of the blessed cause of Temperance throughout the Catholic communities of America, so in our honest and zealous efforts to fulfill the noble task assigned to us by our several constituencies, we have striven to follow the light of truth and to avoid the darkness of error. We have tried to shun the Scylla of fanaticism on the one side and the Charybdis of supineness on the other, and thus to pursue that calm, moderate and conservative course, which alone promises assured success in any great reformatory movement. There is nothing partisan or political in our plans or purposes. Coming together solely as Catholic Temperance men, we have regarded the subject purely as a moral one appealing for countenance and support to the enlightened judgments and consciences of the Catholic people. In this spirit, and in this spirit only, have we labored, and do we prosper to labor.

Our motto is "moral union." Under this banner, as unfurled by the Church of God, we wage war against the demon of Intemperance. With prohibitory laws, restrictive license systems and special legislation against drunkenness, we have nothing whatever to do. We stand upon the solid and enduring rock of the ancient Faith, and wield only the weapons which religion places in our hands. We regard the temperance pledge, administered under Catholic auspices, as the initiatory step in the practice of the more solemn and sacred duties imposed by the Church, and in the faithful performance of these is our assured security for unwavering fidelity to the pledge of total abstinence.

As the result of our most earnest thought and careful consideration, and after a full, free and frank interchange of sentiments and opinion among the delegates to the Convention representing every section of the country, we present herewith the draft of a Constitution designed to secure the formation of Total Abstinence Beneficial Societies in every Catholic parish of America and to aggregate them in a general Union. We bespeak for this constitution your generous approval and hearty co-operation in the noble work of which it is intended to form the substantial basis.

That the proposed plan of organization will commend itself to the intelligent judgment and powerful influence of the reverend clergy we feel perfectly assured; and we, therefore, confidently rely upon them to guide and direct the movement now inaugurated to a grand and glorious success.

One of our chief aims in gathering and consulting in general convention has been to devise some simple and feasible plan whereby all the Catholic Societies of America may be aggregated, consolidated, bound together in the holy bond of charity, united and harmonized in a common brotherhood, having but one thought, one hope, one object, the spread of temperance throughout Catholic communities. This is our great, our primary purpose, and as incidental to and promotive of it, there is blended with the proposed plan of organization the attractive feature of mutual relief. Thus Temperance and Benevolence, lovely twin sisters, go hand in hand together along the bright and beautiful path over which we invite our Catholic fellow-citizens to walk with us in peace and security.

Shall our invitation meet with a cheerful, a hearty response? Will the Catholic community of every parish in America, headed by its pastor, at once establish a Temperance Society upon the basis indicated in the accompanying Constitution, form a State Union and ally itself to the grand Central Union founded by this Convention. We hope and believe so, because we have observed, with inex-

pressible gratification, that in almost every Diocese of the American Episcopate through all the pastoral addresses recently issued, the authoritative voices of our reverend Bishops have been lifted up in emphatic warning against the terrible vice of intemperance, which, like a mighty flood, is sweeping over the fairest portions of the United States, marking its course with the wrecks of a once noble manhood, filling the land with desolation and death, and threatening to undermine the very foundations of society.

No wonder, then, that the Catholic Hierarchy of the United States, seeing the great evils which, of late years especially, the curse of intemperance has inflicted upon a people so bountifully gifted with all the elements of prosperity and happiness, send forth their wise counsels and solemn warnings against this monster iniquity. No wonder that the distinguished Bishop of New Jersey sounds the key-note of alarm, and that his emphatic utterances are echoed by pulpit and press from the centre to the circumference of the Republic. No wonder that under these auspicious influences a new impetus has been given to the Temperance Cause. No wonder that Catholic Temperance Societies are springing up in various sections of the country. God grant that wherever established, they may prove to be insurmountable to the angry pillows of intemperance.

To the Catholic, temperance is no new theory. It is as old as the Church herself, and for upwards of eighteen hundred years she has inculcated it both by precept and example. It is a cardinal virtue and one of the brightest gems in the diadem of religion. If all men were temperate there would be no necessity for total abstinence societies. But, unfortunately, human nature is so weak and temptations are so strong that comparatively few, amid the present vicious customs of society, can keep, at all times, within the bounds of moderation in the use of intoxicating drinks. Hence, for most people, total abstinence is the only security against drunkenness. The first great danger lies in the allurements of the social glass, and this danger is made more imminent by the foolish custom of reciprocal treating. Hundreds of young men who were moderate drinkers in 1871, are drunkards in 1872, and there is not a confirmed inebriate in America to-day who was not at one time a moderate drinker. Hence, while total abstinence is essential to the liberation of the slave of this debasing appetite, is none the less efficacious in preventing others from becoming the victims of an inordinate thirst for drink. The pledge, therefore, is good and desirable for all—for the drunkard that he may be saved, for the moderate drinker that he may guard against the dangers of excess, and even for the abstemious man that, by identifying himself with this blessed cause, his salutary influence may be more prominent and widespread.

We need not enlarge upon the manifold evils of intemperance. They are painfully visible all around us. We see them alike in the palace of the rich and the hovel of the poor, in the high and the low places of the land, in every city, town, village and hamlet throughout the wide expanse of the Republic. The miseries that follow in the train of this curse are as countless as the sands of the sea shore. It is the prolific source of poverty, misery, wretchedness and crime. It fills our penitentiaries, jails, almshouses, reformatory institutions and insane asylums. It affects all classes. It is the bane of youth, the blight of manhood and the degradation of old age. Unnumbered premature graves denote its desolating march, and afflicted husbands and wives, sorrowing fathers and mothers, weeping sisters and brothers, mourning widows and orphans, are the living witnesses of its remorseless tyranny over the hearts and minds the souls and bodies of its unfortunate victims.

Such, fellow-Catholics, is the gigantic evil that we have banded together to combat, and you will admit with us that its overthrow requires not only herculean effort, but is worthy of the highest intellectual and moral energy. We earnestly appeal to you, therefore, men and women of the Catholic faith not only to encourage us by your approving smiles, but to assist us by your active exertions in resisting the inroads of this devastating vice. We appeal to you by all the holy teachings of your religion; by all the sacred memories of the past; by all the cherished considerations of the present; by all the brilliant hopes of the future—we appeal to you by every generous emotion of the heart; by every noble thought of the mind; by every lofty aspiration of the soul—we appeal to you by every motive and impulse affecting your property here and your happiness hereafter—we appeal to you by the love you bear for God, for country, for family, for self—we appeal to you by all these, and by every other thought and sentiment that can touch the hearts and influence the judgments of men, to aid us in planting the beautiful banner of Temperance in every Catholic household from the icy regions of the North to the sunny plains of the South, and from the blue waves of the Atlantic to the golden sands of the Pacific.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DUBLIN, March 2.—A general feeling of indignation has been excited here by the report of the cowardly attempt to intimidate the Queen. It is not confined to any sect or party, but is expressed on all sides, and is the more intense because the person who committed the outrage bears an Irish name. His nationality, however, is repudiated, and Irishmen of every class protest against any stigma being cast upon the character of the country on account of the folly or wickedness of a lunatic or desperado with whom it has no connexion or sympathy. Among the first and the most anxious to disown him are the extreme Nationalists, who claim credit for a chivalrous spirit, and regard as an insult the suggestion that any one of them would be so unmanly as to make a personal attack upon the Queen. The sentiment expressed by Lord Spencer at the banquet in the St. Patrick's Hall last evening will elicit a response from the heart of every true Irishman. Lord Carw, the new Knight of St. Patrick, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, spoke warmly on behalf of the country with which he is connected, observing that a feeling of consternation had been excited when the people read in the telegrams and the daily papers the account of what had happened to the Queen. They felt intense grief that Her Majesty should have been subjected to such annoyance and to such an insult. In saying so he believed that he expressed the feeling, not only of the people in his own county, but in every part of Ireland. The journals of every shade of political opinion are unanimous in expressing regret at the outrage, and denouncing the perpetrator. The *Northern Whig* observes:

"Had Her Majesty on a similar occasion shown herself to the Irish people in Dublin or Belfast, she would, we have little doubt, have been as enthusiastically received, according to the numbers of the population. A similar attack upon her life here would just as strongly have been condemned in Ireland as in England, notwithstanding all that those who live on propagating sedition and disaffection could say or do. All denominations, and all classes, would have felt and acted in the same loyal and generous spirit." The *Limerick Reporter* devotes a long article to the subject, in the course of which it says—

"Every Irishman worthy of the name will deplore the abominable act of the silly youth, O'Connor. We are sure, though we are not in their secrets, that the Fenians themselves will be able to deny all knowledge of his wicked intentions. We still hope an amnesty will be granted, notwithstanding Mr. O'Connor's lunatic enterprise, and despite the equally

silly projects which his sympathizers in America are at present resuscitating, in a view of an Anglo-American war, which we hope and expect will never take place."

Others papers, in the provinces as well as in Dublin, write in a similar tone. The *Irishman* to-day, in a second edition, has an article headed "Petition and Pistol," in which the character of the class which it represents is vindicated in the following terms:—

"Queen Victoria never received an insult in Ireland. She and her family have passed through vast multitudes of the Irish people, even in times of great political excitement, with safety as perfect as hers who travelled round Ireland in the days of King Brian. Of the Irish in London the number is as great as that of the inhabitants of Dublin. But there also, though she was assailed more than once by insane men, she never received an insult from an Irishman. In view of a rule so remarkable and so well-attested, we cannot admit that the act of a London-born boy constitutes an exception. What ever be said, it cannot be concealed that his conduct was contrary to Irish interests, and to the welfare of the Irish prisoners. To none, therefore, can it have appeared more objectionable than to those who desire the perfecting of the amnesty and the advancement of the cause of Ireland. His act, in truth, seems one of wretched folly, the deed of one whose mind was turned by romance-reading, but not warped to deadly intent. It is wrong and impolitic to speak of the attempted assassination; when a crack-brained boy, in wild flurry, presents an empty broken pistol, when, it is said, he intended to present a petition. The Irish people know well that the Royal power has so decreased in England that even petitions are matters for the Ministry. In any case, nothing could be more repugnant, nothing more odious, nothing more loathsome to the spirit of the Irish people than a cowardly assault on a defenceless lady. They have ever had a high chivalrous respect for women, and none must stain their honourable fame. Queen Victoria may rest assured that, if ever she fall a victim to unadvised hate, it shall not be by the hand of an Irishman." This is creditable to the *Irishman* and the populace whose feelings it expresses.—*Times Correspondent*.

DUBLIN, March 4.—A petition was lodged to-day against the return of Mr. Blennerhassett for Kerry. The petition charges that Mr. Blennerhassett, by himself and his agents, made use of and threatened to make use of force, violence, and restraint against voters, and otherwise practised intimidation; that by abduction, duress, and fraudulent contrivances he prevented and otherwise interfered with the exercise of the franchise; that he corruptly provided meat, drink, and entertainment for voters; and that he illegally provided for voters and other inhabitants cockades, ribbons, and other marks of distinction, bands of music, flags, and banners. The petition further charges the delivery within a few days of the election of exciting and inflammatory speeches for the purpose of fomenting a spirit of intimidation; that Mr. Deane and his friends were assaulted; and a widespread feeling of terror generated by speeches and threatening letters; and that many persons were prevented from going to the poll by attacks of organized bands. The petition prays that the election be declared void. Security for costs was given by recognizances.—*Times Cor.*

DUBLIN, March 7.—A trial of exceptional interest occurred at the Donegal Assizes, and lasted for two days. It was a prosecution of two brothers named Bernard and Charles McCallag for the murder of a woman. The case presented some of the most revolting features of agrarian crime. The prisoner Bernard McCallag, when called upon to plead, said, with an air of solemnity, "Not Guilty. No, thanks to God, I never murdered any one." His brother pleaded "Not Guilty," and, in reply to the usual question, said he was ready for his trial any minute. Mr. Johnston, Q.C., who represented the Crown, stated the circumstances under which the murder was committed. Edward McCallag, a brother of the prisoners, and Owen McFadden, husband of Ann McFadden, the murdered woman, were married to two sisters. The former lived with an old man named Magee, but a quarrel having arisen, McCallag had to leave the house, and the old man then took into his house a widowed daughter named Sally McFadden. Magee died on the 6th of January, 1871. All the parties then met about the house, and the prisoners were heard to threaten Owen McFadden. Their animosity to him was not diminished when they afterwards found that he had induced Sally McFadden to sell the interest in the farm to him, and to eject the McCallags. They were further exasperated by the seizure of their cattle for the costs of the ejectment proceedings. Owen McFadden went into possession on the 9th of June. On the night of the 1st of August he and his family consisting of his wife and three children, were in the house, which contained but two rooms. They were preparing to go to bed, between 8 and 9 o'clock. Owen was getting his bed ready, and his wife was seated beside another, with a candle in her hand, looking over some clothes, when a man entered the room and fired a pistol at the woman, who immediately fell. She afterwards got up and struggled to the door. Her husband seized the man and a desperate encounter ensued between them. Owen McFadden seized the pistol with his left hand and held it firmly, and the two combatants, when other means of inflicting injury failed, then used their teeth against each other's faces, and endeavored, as it was sworn, to bite off each other's nose. Ultimately, McFadden, being the stronger of the two, contrived to get his antagonist down on the bed, and lay over him. Meanwhile another man, believed to be Charles McCallag, had come in immediately after the shot was fired, and he followed the woman out and discharged another pistol. On returning to the house he found his companion, who was alleged to be Bernard McCallag, struggling with McFadden, and, coming to his rescue, struck the latter on the temple with some blunt weapon. McFadden with difficulty crawled away from them and got into the house of a neighbor, where he fell on the floor exhausted. There were five or six young men in that house, but not one would put forth a hand to aid him. The woman was afterwards found outside the house still breathing, but expired in a few minutes. The police were communicated with, and on searching the prisoners' beds found clothes with stains which on chemical examination were proved to be of blood. Owen McFadden at once identified the prisoners after they were arrested. He swore to the facts stated, and two of his children, both very young, corroborated his evidence, and positively identified the prisoners. The defence was an *alibi*, and the evidence to support it was that of a sister of the prisoners, who swore that on the night in question they met with an accident, that the shaft of a cart having broken struck Bernard McCallag on the cheek, and that neither of them went out of the house afterwards. She gave her evidence in Irish, and it was communicated to the Court through an interpreter. Counsel for the Crown applied for liberty to produce rebutting evidence as to the breaking of the cart, but Mr. Justice Keogh objected to that course as unfair to the prisoners, after the case for the Crown had closed. The learned Judge delivered an elaborate and impressive charge, to which he devoted three hours. After four hours' deliberation the jury stated that there was no chance of their agreeing to a verdict, and one of them being seriously ill, they were discharged.—*Times Cor.*

A very modest and concise little Bill for the repeal of a statute little known to Englishmen has been introduced by Mr. Patk. J. Smyth and six other Irish members of Parliament. This statute, entitled "An Act to prevent the election or appointment of unlawful assemblies," but more briefly described as the Irish Convention Act, was passed by the inde-

pendent Irish legislature in the eventful year 1793. The preamble recites that assemblies purporting to represent the people, or any description or number of the people of Ireland, under pretence of preparing remonstrances or petitions for alteration of matters established by law or redress of alleged grievances, may be made subservient to seditious ends and the disturbance of the peace. It is then enacted "that all assemblies, committees, or other bodies of persons elected, or in any other manner constituted or appointed, to represent, or assuming or exercising a right or authority to represent," the Irish people, or any number of them, or the inhabitants of any province, county, or town, for the purpose of procuring an alteration of matters established by law, are "unlawful assemblies," which it shall be the duty of the magistrates to disperse, and which it shall be a high misdemeanour to promote or attend. The rights of the Irish Parliament and Convention are expressly reserved, with a caution which will appear superfluous; and there is a saving clause for elections to be made by bodies corporate, as well as for bona fide petitions addressed to the Crown or Parliament for the redress of grievances. The manifest object of the Act, though its preamble does not perfectly correspond with its enacting part, is to put down political Conventions, professing to be representative, and usurping the constitutional functions of the Irish Parliament. It was upon this ground that it was vehemently opposed by Mr. Grattan, who argued that had it been in force, neither the Revolution of 1688, nor the Hanoverian Succession, nor the independence of the Irish Parliament, nor the emancipation of Irish Catholics would ever have been effected. Whether the same line of argument will be adopted by Mr. Smyth and his friends, or whether they will be content to denounce the Convention Act as obsolete and useless, is more than we can venture to predict. The Bill now before Parliament consists of a single clause, and merely promises that "it is expedient" to repeal the Irish Act 33 George III., cap. 29, without stating why it is expedient to do so. It may, therefore, be of service to recall the circumstances under which that Act was passed, and to consider the probable consequence of erasing it from the Statute Book.—*London Times*.

In answer to a question as to whether in his reply to a memorial by the Catholic Bishop of Cork, on the subject of education in Ireland, the words—"When Her Majesty's Government find themselves able to make any proposal upon any portion of the education of Ireland, it will be framed in accordance with the declarations heretofore made by them on various occasions"—may be interpreted as a declaration in favour of the National system of education as opposed to the denominational system. Mr. Gladstone said, "while, before taking office, and since taking office, we have pointed to the system of higher education in Ireland as requiring some material change in the educational arrangements of the country to be introduced, in order to do justice to all portions of the population, we have never made any such declaration in regard to the National, or primary education in Ireland, judge, it did not call for anything in the shape of a fundamental change." The questioner, when speaking of the National system, appears to have forgotten that the National system is Denominational. What Catholics ask, is that where a school is exclusively Catholic, it shall not be trammelled with vexatious restrictions, which are worse than useless, where there are no Protestant pupils. To accede to that just demand would necessitate no "fundamental change."

The trial of "Poynter v. Porter," which was the principal case on the calendar for the Fermanagh Assizes, has at length, it is believed, come to an end. It was a prosecution for an assault of a very aggravated character, as may be remembered, committed, as the traverser alleged, under circumstances of great provocation. The prosecutor, it will be remembered, was carried off in a boat to the residence of Mr. Porter, in Lough Erne, and there tied up to a tree and hogged. A trial was held 12 months ago, but the jury disagreed. At the last assizes the prosecutor did not appear, and it was stated yesterday on the part of the Crown that every effort had been used to procure his attendance at the present assizes, but without effect. Mr. Butt, Q.C., who was specially retained for the defence, applied for a postponement of the trial. Mr. McCausland, Q.C., who represented the Crown, explained the steps which had been taken to induce Captain Poynter to attend, and stated that if he were not present at the next assizes they would proceed to trial without him. Mr. Justice Keogh thought it would be unfair to the traverser to go on without the presence of the man who was assaulted. If even the Crown got a verdict of guilty he could not and would not pass sentence. The case, in his opinion, had gone on quite long enough, unless the Crown wished to keep it standing over, in order that there might be at least one case at the Fermanagh Assizes. He allowed Mr. Porter to stand out on bail on his own recognizances. Captain Poynter's recognizances were extracted.—*Times Cor.*

TEMPERARY (NORTH RIDING).—Mr. Baron Denby opened the commission of assize here. His Lordship said he was very glad to be again able to address the grand jury in terms of congratulation, as with the exception of one almost unprecedented case in the modern history of this country, the calendar was remarkably light for such a large tract of country as is embraced within this riding. That exception was the case of the outrage perpetrated upon the gentlemen of the National Bank, and in which bills would be sent up against two men of the name of Palmer and Kirwan.

The Cork coachmakers are endeavoring to secure for themselves the benefit of the nine hours system.

In the course of the long speech delivered by the Minister of War, when laying the estimates on the table of the House of Commons, Mr. Cardwell referred especially to the satisfactory progress and condition of the Irish Militia, which, he said, had been supplied with the best weapons, and had exhibited a desire to be efficient, which entitled it to the warmest thanks of the country.

Six persons were drowned by the upsetting of a boat on Lough Mast, in Mayo.

The Lurgan police have arrested a man called Maguire, whose name is supposed to be Lynch, for the murder of a man named Havey, in the North of England, in 1861.

HOME RULES IN PARLIAMENT.—A correspondent of the *Express* writes: "There was an incident in the discussion on Home Rule in the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon. The subject under debate was Mr. Dillwyn's Salmon Fishery Bill. The rejection of the bill was moved by Mr. McMahon. Thereupon Mr. Liddell got up, and, with some warmth, objected to the interference of an Irish member on a matter entirely English. This presented too tempting an opportunity for the Home Rulers to be neglected. Captain Nolan happened to be in his place, and he rose to indicate the right of Irish members under the present system of Government to discuss English measures. He pointed out that, though this bill was an English bill, it might be made a precedent for Irish legislation. Sir P. O'Brien observed that those observations would be noticed in Ireland, and that they would rather tend to strengthen the demand for Home Rule, which was rising in that country. He also complained of the exclusion of Irish members from committees on Imperial questions. Mr. Winterbottom suggested that it was inadvisable to discuss Home Rule on a Salmon Fishery Bill, and the interlude, thereupon, came to a close.

DRAINAGE.—The lands on the banks of Lough Erne and its tributaries are all inundated; the same

may be said of the Stuck, Shannon, and most of the other lakes and rivers, though they have good outfall to the sea, our lake being 128 feet over it, so that there is every facility for drainage—while protecting the navigation. Let us see how they do in Holland where there is no natural outfall—the country being ten to twenty feet under high water mark, yet the drainage is so perfect that not once in a hundred years is there such an overflow as we have annually. The finest pastures in Europe with the best dairy farms are in the drained fens, lakes and polders of the Netherlands, though under sea level. At present 14,000 acres are in process of drainage, with water ten to sixteen feet deep along the line of the new ship canal from Amsterdam to the German Ocean. When this will be finished, the Dutch are about reclaiming from the sea—the Zuyder Zee—its depth ten to twenty feet, with over 600,000 acres; the success of the Haarlem Lake drainage—43,200 acres, about 17 miles long by 7 to 8 wide, 13 to 15 feet deep—encouraging the Government to go on, as this great national undertaking proved very remunerative. They began the pumping after forming a ship canal, 120 to 150 feet wide, 10 feet deep, round the lake in 1840, into which the water was and is pumped by three Cornish steam engines of 500 h.p., nominal each—one at each end of the lake, and the other at the centre, on the bank of the canal, being about six miles distant from each other; the engines, boilers, buildings, &c., of the three, cost £150,000, the total grants from the Dutch Government being £234,000. Now there is a population of 11,000 industrious people with several small towns, eight churches, and eleven schools in the bottom of the old lake, the lands being let in farms from 40, the smallest, up to 300 and 400 acres, averaging about 100. The drainage tax is 7s. an acre. There are several large canals 120 feet wide—and smaller ones length-ways and cross-ways, with excellent roads at right angles—every mile or mile and a-half in the reclaimed ground, which may be said to be almost wholly devoted to butter and cheese making. When the Hollanders can do such work it is rather a disgrace to our Government, land owners, and engineers, that the richest valleys in Ireland are almost useless and unproductive from annual inundations, while many estuaries and bays along our coast might be made most fertile lands. Over 232,000 acres of lakes or meers in Holland have been thus turned into the richest dairy farms.—*Fermanagh Reporter*.

In the House of Commons, Mr. P. J. Smyth gave notice that he would ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland if the circumstances of the discovery in a mound at Ardagh, in the county Limerick, of a double-handed chalice, described as being of great antiquity and of exquisite workmanship, had been brought under the notice of the Government; whether the Government will take steps to secure for the nation so interesting an object, and add it to the collection of the Royal Irish Academy; and if it be the intention of the Government to introduce a bill to provide for the better preservation of historical monuments in Ireland.

It is stated that a supplemental force of twenty-five policemen are to be stationed in Killarney for the next month. It understood it is the intention of several of the ratepayers of Killarney to oppose the granting of the tax which will be levied on them as expenses of the extra police force, as the reasonable and orderly demeanor of the inhabitants in general is such as not to necessitate further police being stationed in the town.

THE MULLAGH FENCIBLES.—A most interesting and significant scene took place at the Bill of Mullagh recently. An advertisement had been issued inviting the people of the surrounding district to meet at Mullagh and till the grounds of the tenants threatened with eviction. The gathering was an enormous one, upwards of ten thousand persons being present. Eighty ploughmen were at work from early dawn, and many of the stalwart ploughmen came from a distance of eighteen or twenty miles. The fields of the tenantry having been ploughed in thorough style—and it may be remarked that the hill is an oasis of tillage in a vast green desert given up to flocks and herds—a number of rural sports were indulged in. These included a stag-hunt, horse races, and cognate amusements. All went merrily as a marriage bell, and the greatest good humor prevailed. At the conclusion of the sports the Rev. Mr. Higgins addressed the assembly, and the crowd then separated.—*Freeman*.

The most important intelligence from Ireland is the fact that the Judges on circuit, in their charges to the grand juries, are able to congratulate them upon the satisfactory condition of the several counties; the list of crimes being unusually small. At Armagh, however, Mr. Baron Hughes commented upon the increase of drunkenness and the numerous convictions for misconduct arising from intoxication.—*Times*.

Public opinion in Ireland is divided upon the merits of the Bill introduced into Parliament for the reform of the Grand Jury system. The Conservative press approves the measure, but the Farmers' Clubs regard it as insufficient, and require that a greater proportion of the local burdens should be borne by the landlords.

THE SHIRLEY ESTATE.—It is reported that a tenant on the Shirley estate is bringing an action against his landlord. The report states the farm, in the parish of Magheracloone, occupied for some years by the late Rev. Father Carolan, P.P., was given to a man named M'Bride, a Protestant, after Father Carolan had gone to the parish of Clogher. Mr. M'Bride was married in some time after, and, we believe, had fifteen or twenty acres more to the farm. Late, however, he wished to sell his good will of the entire, amounting to about 45 acres. Two Catholics, we learn, were anxious to purchase it, but when Mr. M'Bride consulted his landlord on the subject, it is reported that the reply he received was, that the farm would not be given to a Catholic. Mr. M'Bride then introduced a Protestant, who was willing to pay £800 for the farm, but the landlord would not accept him, and the last we have heard of the affair is, that Mr. M'Bride is determined to commence legal proceedings against Mr. Shirley, who, we well remember, stated in the Dundalk court-house, that he made it his study to give all vacant farms to Protestants, if he could find them.

Mr. Synan intends, on the second reading of the University Tests (Dublin Bill), to move the following resolution:—"That this house, desirous of dealing with the subject of University Education in Ireland, is of opinion that any measure relating to this question should be established upon a secure and permanent basis, and for that purpose should be brought in upon the responsibility of her Majesty's Government; and that no measure of University Education to Ireland can be satisfactory, just, or permanent, which does not afford to all her Majesty's subjects in the country the right of attaining university degrees without the violation of their conscientious opinions."

A KNOWN INSECT.—A correspondent of a New York paper relates a touching instance of insect instinct as follows: "I found a cockroach struggling in a pail of water. I took half a peanut shell for a boat. I put him into it and gave him two wooden toothpicks for oars, and left him. The next morning I visited him, and he had put a piece of white cotton thread on one of the toothpicks and the toothpick up on its end as a signal of distress. He had a hair on the other toothpick, and there that cockroach sat a fishing. The sight melted me to tears. I never had to chew leather to get a soul; I was born with one. I took that cockroach and gave him a spoonful of gruel, and left. That animal never forgot that act of kindness, and now my house is chock full of cockroaches."