

IRELAND'S CASE.—JOHN MARTIN ON HOME RULE.

The following powerful letter has appeared in the Times:

The debate on Home Rule which was brought to a division on last Friday morning was rendered unsatisfactory by the impatience of the House, which prevented a reply to the speeches of the Prime Minister and the right hon. member for London University. I think it would have been more statesmanlike and more wise to have had a frank and full exposition before Parliament of the political relations between Ireland and England, and to have examined the principles of the Home Rule scheme. The Parliament and people of England might then, with knowledge of the facts, judge for themselves whether it is best to maintain the existing unhappy relations or to accept our proposals for national reconciliation. In a matter so vitally important to Her Majesty's Empire even ten days might well have been spent by Parliament in the task of bringing the people of Ireland and the people of England into a clear knowledge of the question which divides them.

The closing of the debate without a reply on the Home Rule side to the speeches of those two right hon. gentlemen rendered it abortive for the purpose of a fair and full discussion. The aim of both speeches seemed to be to draw off the attention of the House from the real question, and to bring the majority into a humor for laughing Home Rule out of court. For such accomplished masters in Parliamentary fence it was not a difficult feat, in a House prejudiced against Irish complaints, to hide the real issues and to present false ones as to persuade the majority that they might make an end of this Irish trouble by voting at once. But the trouble is not over, and as yet the English people but very dimly see the causes of it, very partially know the facts of it.

I believe that the sagacity which guides your paper must discern the truth of my allegation about this Home Rule debate—that its abrupt closing renders it partial, incomplete, inconclusive, and unsatisfactory for the objects for which, on both sides, it purported to be held. I cannot but perceive that *The Times* exercises very great influence on English public opinion, and that your influence seems independent of party. Would it not be a patriotic act, in the English sense, to assist in simplifying this great question between the English people and their fellow-subjects of Ireland, and to place it clearly and fully before the English people? It is with an anxious desire to let the English people know the truth, and the whole truth, of the case that I request you to let me supplement the debate with a few remarks, with which you can deal as you may think proper.

Had there been a reply on the Home Rule side to the speeches of the Prime Minister and the right hon. member for London University, my friend the hon. member for Limerick, and other advocates for Home Rule, would have endeavored to rectify the course of the debate and to point out that, as regards justice and reason, it was England who was on our defence, not Ireland. They would have pointed out that what we ask is the restoration of Ireland's Constitutional right—the right which, in 1782, England, by solemn Act of her King, Lords, and Commons, acknowledged and declared to be established for ever, and never thereafter to be questioned or questionable—the right of which, in 1800, by means of an infamous, England robbed her sister country. It would have been pointed out that from 1800 till now England has held Ireland in subjection, as if it were a conquered country, by force and in violation of the Constitution. It is notorious that the Irish people have never consented to the abolition of their National Parliament, and that in every year since 1800, had a free vote of the population been taken, it would have given a vast majority for self-government. It is now for the first time that the Irish people are enabled, without enormous personal sacrifices, to declare their real political sentiment in the form dictated to them by this Parliament. And they declare before this Parliament, by electing a majority of Home Rulers, what their real sentiment is. We affirm that had the Irish people as extended electoral right as the English, they would return nearly nine-tenths of their Parliamentary representation to declare for Home Rule. In Ireland only one in 25 of the population has the Parliamentary franchise. Let Ireland have one elector to every 11 of the population, as you have in this country, and it will not be 59, but 90 Home Rulers that will be sent to demand restoration of their country's right, and to offer reconciliation and friendship, provided only you will loyally accept them on honorable terms. More than this, frankly recognizing the facts of our geographical position, and of our connexion by the Crown, and of your superior strength, and anxiously desiring to avert from our country the dangers of violent revolution, we offer to bind ourselves by Constitutional guarantees to assure our connexion with England, and to let England continue to have the use of Irish intellect, Irish blood, and Irish treasure in support of her Empire.

Such is the nature and principle of the Home Rule scheme. What has England to say in her own defence so long as she refuses to accept it? In the debate prematurely closed last Friday morning no speaker on the English side denied the facts as to the solemn promise of England to respect our right to our own Parliament, and as to England's violation of that promise. The matter was distastefully referred to as an accomplished fact. But it was alleged that the result must be good for us and is good for us. The Prime Minister, with audacity that might be amazing in any other politician of his eminence, but with much sarcastic power, told us that it was not English rule that caused the famine of 1846-1853, nor the exodus, that (added to the famine) has lessened the Irish population by more than three millions since 1845; that the Irish dislike manufacturing industry; that Ireland has been dealt with very liberally in the matter of franchise; that it is our morbid sentiment which makes some of us imagine ourselves a conquered people; that, in short, we must be joking when we demand the restoration of our Parliament and of Constitutional government in Ireland. As to the Home Rule scheme, he had not a word to say about the principle and the object of it, but he pretended to discover difficulties and absurdities in imaginary details and particulars which he attributed to it.

The Poles are kept subject by Russia; the Hungarians and Lombards and Venetians were kept subject by Austria till after Solferino and Sadova; the French citizens of Alsace and Lorraine have been recently made subject to the new German Empire. Poles, Hungarians, Italians, have again and again been shot down, put to death on the scaffold, imprisoned, banished, in penalty for their resistance to the rule of their foreign masters. And we Irish—have we not been treated likewise for attempting or contemplating resistance to English rule?

In so far the rule to which we are subject is like the rule which actual invasion and conquest might impose upon us. But the comparison becomes a sad contrast when we consider the treatment of the subject people unresisting. Under Russian rule the Poles have never starved, nor under Austrian rule the Hungarians nor the Italians; neither will Alsace nor Lorraine have a famine under the German Empire. But under English rule the Irish people, unresisting have been made to endure starvation—have had in my time a famine of six successive years, in every one of which Ireland produced more food than was needed for the abundant sustenance of every man, woman, and child in the Island.—Yes! Ireland and India are the two great dependencies of the English Empire. No countries on the globe more fertile, nor more abundant in the means of sustaining their populations in material prosperity.

Both are subject to the richest Empire of the world, and both are subject to occasional famines.

Not to trouble you with a letter of needless length, I take only one of the Prime Minister's arguments (one which seemed greatly to amuse himself and the House), and try to give it a serious answer. It is the argument resorted to by the witty statesman against the speech of my friend the hon. member for Louth. It is a mistake (we are assured by the Minister) to regard ourselves as a conquered people.—Now, my friend Mr. Sullivan did not say that the Irish were a conquered people. A people are not conquered until they consent to the rule of the would-be conquerors. What Mr. Sullivan did say was that English rule treated Ireland as if it were a conquered country. Now I assert that this is the fact and truth; and to prove it I ask you to suppose that English protection were away, and that some foreign power invaded and took possession of Ireland, and proceeded to rule the country as a conqueror. We should, no doubt, be taxed without our own consent. Our national revenues would be employed for the selfish purposes of our master. Should the conqueror think proper to rule us in form of law, the legislation and administration would disregard Irish ideas and Irish interests as far as they seemed to conflict with the interests or caprices of the ruling country. The civil and military officers administering our affairs and paid with our money would be made responsible, not to Ireland, but to the ruling country. The Irish would be kept disarmed, and the country would be occupied by military force under the command of our conqueror.—we should have no right to our properties or lives but at the sufferance of our foreign master and owner.

Upon the other hand, our foreign rulers—say the Germans, or the Russians, or the Turks—would kill none of us except for violent resistance to their rule. They would maintain also the ordinary administration of justice between man and man—so far as social order and common justice might not seem to hurt the interests of their domination.—Judging from the examples of Russia, Austria, Germany—all of them Empires which hold or have held foreign peoples in subjection—our conqueror would let us live in peace, let us prosper and multiply and grow fat upon the fertility of our soil and the abundant means and facilities for manufactures and trade which God has bestowed upon Ireland.

The contrast between English rule over my country and other foreign rule over subject peoples is that under English rule alone the result is so to drain away the wealth and produce of the subject country, so to impoverish the people under its yoke, and to make their lives miserable in the land that God gave for their home, that the population of Ireland, having lost three millions since 1845, goes on diminishing year by year, and by loss mainly of the young, strong, and virtuous of her population, while, *pari passu*, the population of England increases and her money multiplies.

All the calamities to which our country might become subject from foreign invasion and conquest she actually does suffer under the rule of this country and Parliament. We, Irish, are taxed without our own consent. The laws which bind us are made, not by our own Parliament, but by the English, and against our wishes. We enjoy no Constitutional right, no protection of law, no franchise, no freedom, save under sufferance and at the caprice of our English masters. All Irish officers of State in Ireland are appointed by you, to receive Irish pay and control Irish affairs at your bidding. You have, besides, excited and perpetuated feuds between race and race and creed and creed and class and class in Ireland, in order to prevent national union and strength. You deny us the right to possess arms, to be trained to the use of arms, to volunteer for the defence of our country. You feel that we ought to be disaffected, and you treat us all as suspect; and when you please you cast us into gaol without charge and keep us there without trial.—What worse could Russia or Turkey or Germany do upon us?

And you are not ashamed to pretend before the world that we are in a united kingdom with you and free subjects of the Queen like you, enjoying the rights of free men under the same Constitution.

Well, Ireland now offers us in this Home Rule scheme forgiveness and reconciliation, and a sure and guaranteed friendly connexion. We promise and bind ourselves to live under the same Crown with you and to give our support to your Empire, provided you will let us live beside you on honorable terms. Only give up your insolent pretension to be our masters in our own proper affairs—to be our owners, as if we were your slaves or your beasts of burden: admit our right to a free Constitution and to our own Parliament of the Queen, Lords, and Commons of Ireland. Thus may you happily end our national quarrel, removing from your national conscience the stain of a black crime, and making the Irish people your friends instead of your enemies.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I am well aware that no dominant nation, and least of all England, yields in a case like this to mere considerations of justice or generosity. It is only from considerations of her interest that I look for England's consent to Home Rule. Individual Englishmen there certainly are—the recent Division is proof of the fact—who do feel it their duty to inquire into even Ireland's complaint, and who are generous enough to bid their country give up a profitable iniquity because it is an iniquity. But the mass of the English people will hardly care to trouble themselves about the case of Ireland until the question seems to bear directly and immediately upon their material interest. Circumstances may soon bring the Irish question into such a position; meanwhile, it is best for both parties that each should truly know the other's mind.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN MARTIN.

ORANGEISM AND CONSERVATISM.

To English Catholics the intense political hatred felt by their Irish brethren towards Conservatism must often appear wholly inexplicable, when they consider the natural tendency of the Catholic mind to that school as opposed to Liberalism, which outside of Ireland is largely synonymous with revolutionary tendencies. Without unearthing buried tokens or producing connected links of historic evidence in explanation and justification of this Irish peculiarity, we would fix attention upon the proceedings of the last few days in Ulster as sufficient evidence of the attitude of Irish Catholics in this respect. We refer, of course, to the celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, which is kept annually as a political holiday throughout a large portion of Ulster. That event, which occurred some 186 years ago, ending in the defeat of the Irish arms, has ever since been annually celebrated with all the offensiveness and all the acrimony which can be imparted to a public demonstration. So far as we know, not alone Christendom, but the wider domain of Paganism, affords no kindred commemoration. These Orange demonstrations are alone in their shamefulness. The Scotch and English planters and undertakers obtained, not by the fortune of war or the rights of any conquest effected by their valour, but mostly through purchase or in payment of arrears of pay, the estates wrested from the native Irish after the wars of Elizabeth, Cromwell, and William III. The sons of this handful of aliens, who seem rather encamped than settled in the country, in defiance of every principle of civility and outraging every habit of Christian and social decency, come forward annually to celebrate the defeat, by the help of foreign mercenaries, of the people of Ireland, who rose in arms to defend the rights of their sovereign, though he had just lost the Crown of England.

From the church spires float orange and blue flags; the bells ring a merry peal; a special ser-

vice is held by one of the chaplains to the Orange Lodges; the brethren all march thither in full regalia, preceded by standards and every species of bunting; while five and drum bands play "The Protestant Boys," "Croppies lie down," and "Kick the Pope." Nearly all the men go to church armed. The women and children rival the men in display of orange ribbons. The sermon is usually an inflammatory character, pointing out the glories of the Revolution of 1688, which secured for ever to the Protestant settlers in Ireland possession of their lands, an open Bible, and deliverance from Popery. After service, the procession reforms, the officiating ministers, dressed as Orange chaplains, taking their proper positions; "Kick the Pope" is piped by the shrill fife, and the sons of Dutch William march off to the place of rendezvous. Catholics are met on the road, or a chapel is passed, or a hamlet or street inhabited by Catholics to be marched through, and the signal is given to halt, draw their pistols, and let fly a volley of defiance. The drummer plies his muscles to bring out the deepest roll, and the fifer to execute his most expressive rendering of "Croppies lie down" on such an occasion; and should any sound of disapprobation be heard, or the challenge be accepted by Catholics, in a few minutes the chapel or the dwelling is wrecked, and probably a few corpses strewn the ground. When the assigned place of meeting is reached—it is generally a nobleman's or country gentleman's demesne—the monster assemblage often amounts to from ten to fifty thousand men concentrated there from all the district for many miles round. There is scarcely a locality in the Eastern or Orange half of Ulster that had not a meeting of this sort on Monday last; and on Sunday, the 12th inst., although they did not march on that day, the churches in Belfast and throughout a large portion of Ulster were all decorated, and the pulpits rang with the usual inflammatory harangues.

A strike, by which 40,000 persons are locked out all the mills and the factories in the flax and linen trade being closed, added to the dangers of the present celebrations, against which the Government made provision by concentrating in Belfast a large force of military and constabulary. Our main object is to explain to our English and Scotch friends who may be unacquainted with the peculiar local politics of Ireland the apparent anomaly of the intense hostility of Irish Catholics to Conservatives or Tories. At all the meetings this week in Ulster, besides the usual denunciation of Pope, Popery, Ultramontanism, Jesuits, Denominational Education, Cardinal Cullen, and Home Rule, with glorification of the triumph of the Conservatives at the late general election, and declarations that Tory and Protestant—meaning Orangemen—are synonymous terms, Mr. Disraeli's Government was condemned and denounced for its halting and timid policy in supporting Mr. Newdegate's motion regarding convents, and for its attitude in the matter of Father O'Keefe and the Callan Schools. It is to be recollected that there was scarcely one of these meetings at which several of the speakers were not clergymen, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, many of them magistrates. It may be gathered from all this, how much respect Irish Catholics feel for the large Orange element upon the magisterial bench.

As it is of deep importance that not only the Catholics in England and Scotland, but also the Conservatives generally, should fully understand the powerful opposition to every Tory Government which their Orange allies justly provoke from Irish Catholics, we will make an extract or two from the speech which Mr. W. Johnston, member for Belfast, and the leader of Irish Orangeism, delivered on Monday, near Lisburn, to 100,000, as he tells us, of the brethren. He says—

"Thanks to the kindness of a gentleman in the neighborhood, they were then assembled on a magnificent spot, 100,000 strong—the true Orangemen and Protestants of Ulster, rallying round the Orange banner of civil and religious liberty, that indicated no less the triumphs of the past than their hopes for the time to come. (Cheers.) They were assembled under the auspices of a Conservative Government—(cheers)—the Premiership of Mr. Disraeli—(cheers)—with no danger that any of them would suffer the same troubles and trials under his Premiership that some of them did when he last occupied his present position. They were there to let all whom it might concern know what the principles and politics of the Protestants and Orangemen of Ulster were." (Cheers.)

Adverting to Home Rule, and the identity of Orangeism and Toryism, he said—

"They were assembled there that day with a right to be heard, with principles to uphold, with privileges to guard, and no misunderstanding on the part of their rulers as to what their privileges were, or what were the privileges which they upheld. They, the Orangemen of Ulster, and the Orangemen of Scotland and England, especially Lancashire, put their shoulders to the wheel and returned, by a triumphant majority, a Conservative party to the House of Commons. And why did they do so?—What was it personally to the 100,000 individuals before him whether Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Disraeli was Prime Minister? but it was everything to them whether they were ruled by a Protestant Government or not. (Hear, hear.) They wrought for Conservatism, because they believed it would support the Protestant religion and constitution. They had a word of friendly warning to say. A mistake was made in opposing the motion of Mr. Cartwright to enquire into the case of Father O'Keefe in the Callan School business, and a mistake was made by the Conservative party in opposing Mr. Newdegate's motion. They had a word of advice to give on the part of Orangemen; namely, that if the Orangemen were to support Conservatism, they would do so because they expected Conservatism would support Protestantism—(hear, hear)—and the moment Conservatism ceased to do so, it would cease to have the support of the Orangemen of Ulster, Lancashire, and Glasgow." (Hear, hear.)

We now ask our readers whether Irish Catholics would be human, or would they not rather be superangelic, if they did not feel inclined to detest a party that is recommended to them thus, and by such arguments? Until the Conservatives break with their Irish Orange contingent, there is but little hope that they can soften the opposition of Irish Catholics.—*London Tablet*, July 18.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

From South to North of Ireland, the Judges, in their addresses to the Grand Juries, congratulate them on the peaceful, moral, and generally crimeless condition of the country.

There are still five millions and a-half in the land, and yet the Judges have little to do except to congratulate the Grand Juries that the country is in its normal state, or in other words, that crime is at as low an ebb as we can expect it to be amongst the best community of fallible men. It would be vain to hope for perfection, though we should strive towards it. Still we may rejoice that our country approaches nearer to the highest standard of morality, in so far as deadly crime is concerned, than any other with which we are acquainted.

From the addresses of the Judges which have been published we take the following extracts. In the South, before the Grand Jury of Waterford, Mr. Baron Dowse (who is a Northern Protestant) bore this emphatic and manly testimony to the state of the whole country:—

"Gentlemen, I am happy to congratulate you that there is no bill to go before you, a circumstance which should not be mentioned without an expression of high approval. In answer" (he continued) "to the reckless calumnies as to the crime of this country, I think I may say that in ONE ENGLISH COUNTY THERE IS

MORE CRIME THAN IN THE WHOLE OF IRELAND."

In the South, again, Baron Deasy, addressing the Grand Jury of Kerry, at Tralee, remarked:—

"I am very glad to find, on my return to your county, after an interval of twelve months, that it is in its normal state of tranquillity. Your business will be very light. The bills sent up to you are very few, and not of a serious nature. The County Inspector's report confirms the favourable state of your county; and I may say, as far as the official documents are concerned, that I can congratulate you on the condition of your county."

In the North, Judge Keogh thus addressed the Grand Jury at Carrickfergus:

"It is now, I believe, six years since a single prisoner was returned for trial charged with any offence in the district which you represent. There is, I understand, one prisoner for trial at the present assizes, but the charge against him, although it is one involving the death of a fellow-creature, really involves no moral turpitude. The circumstances, as I have been informed, are these—that the driver of a carelessly left his horse unattended. It ran away, and in doing so, ran over a person who was killed. This is the only offence charged against any of the community of Carrickfergus."

In the North again, Judge Fitzgerald summed up the happy experience of his colleague and himself in these remarkable words:—

"My learned colleague and myself, to whom have been entrusted the execution of the Queen's commission for the North-East Circuit, have now arrived at the last assize town upon that circuit, and I am happy to inform you that every county through which we have passed has presented the same features—namely, a nearly total absence of crime, and a prevalence of peace and good order. With regard to your own county, I have now before me the official reports, and I may tell you that Antrim has, since the last assizes, been remarkable for the absence of any crime of magnitude, or anything at all to excite alarm for the public safety. There has been no agrarian crime, or crime of any kind that would strike at the foundation of Society. I may say that here life and property are secure, the law is observed, and everything indicates the prevalence of prosperity and peace."

These are testimonies which are not novel—and are therefore all the more valuable. They do not surprise us, by any originality—we have heard similar testimonies borne year after year, and here the want of originality redounds to the greater credit of our country.

God forbid that we should gloss over crime, or fail to smite down criminality in the country. To none more than to us can it be distasteful. We wish to see our nation prosper, to see it elevated, to see it honoured among the nations of the earth. Crime would be a stain upon its name, an obstacle to our efforts, a power that pulls back and down and therefore the greatest enemy of those who wish to raise and to press forward. We would clear the country of crime, repression, put an end to riotousness, turbulence or rowdiness with the strong hand of order when necessary. These we look upon with no lenient eye—these we regard as domestic enemies, which must be rooted out of the sacred soil of Ireland. With them sympathy would be sinful. We abominate them more in Ireland than elsewhere, for here they are more hurtful than in other nations, because they injure the cause of liberty and true order. Hence, we abhor them for other reasons besides their intrinsic ugliness.

Therefore, also, we rejoice with a more fervent joy than others, when we find such unimpeachable testimony borne so generally and so continuously to the admirable conduct of the People of Ireland.

We say that hereby the Irish nation has furnished a most potent argument for the advancement of Liberty.

Had they been all that their maligners say, there would have been a superficial excuse for the imposition on them of Coercion Laws, whose rigour was greater than ever was known in the land since the Martial Law that ruled in '68.

Now, there is not the vestige of an excuse for such enactments. If now the Coercion Laws be reimposed upon the country, the world can judge between it and its Government.

The Government which would impose an exceptional Coercion Code upon a county, which is exceptionally characterised by concord, peace, and order, deals a blow at the cause not of that county, but of that Government. It is the most unwise act that it could do from a true statesman's standpoint.

Whatever be the course it resolve upon let our Representatives make sure that the irrefutable testimony of the Irish Judges shall be set out fully in Parliament, and contrasted pointedly with the charges of the English Judges. By that means the truth of Baron Dowse's statement will be graven on the public mind, and the world taught that "IN AN ENGLISH COUNTY THERE IS MORE CRIME THAN IN THE WHOLE OF IRELAND."—*Dublin Irishman*.

THE DECAY AND DECLINE OF IRELAND.

Mr. C. Dennehy, writing to the *Irish Times* on this subject, says:—

A very clear illustration of how the Government may promote industry is shown by the action of the French Government under the late Emperor Napoleon. His Government instituted two great banks, designated respectively, the credit Mobilier and the credit Foncier. The one to aid industrial operations connected with trade and manufactures, the other with all such connected with land and agriculture. The astonishing progress made by France since 1852 in the expansion of trade and in the acquisition of wealth, is due to this and to other similar measures of the French Government during these past 20 or 22 years. If we look to Italy, to Prussia, or to every other country in the civilized world, except Ireland, we find a similar course has been adopted for the promotion of their material interests. In Ireland, on the contrary, means have been taken to make industrial progress almost an impossibility. In proof of this assertion permit me to call attention to the fact that the first condition of industrial success in any country, the first element of material activity, must be a proper and liberal system of banking. No matter what the material resources or the natural wealth of a country may be, unless there be a liberal system of banking to give currency and circulation to those resources, and to this wealth, it is outside of the nature of things that that country can make any progress in agriculture or manufactures. How, may I ask, has Imperial legislation during the past 70 years dealt with Irish industry, with reference to our banking institutions or the monetary resources of our people. The Bank of Ireland was established in 1782, the subscribed capital was £800,000, this was at once taken by the Government on a loan. The capital was increased in 1791 by £400,000 which was in like manner taken in 1797, by £500,000, taken in 1808, £1,000,000 taken in 1821, by £500,000 again taken. In all £3,000,000 (Irish), which is to this day in the hands of the Government on a loan. Now, no one can, for one moment, suppose that this money, the capital of an Irish Banking Establishment, was actually required to be borrowed by the English Government—the richest and most powerful Government in the world. Now, the object in so doing was to enable the Executive to control the policy, and to direct the management of this concern. This bank, from 1782 to 1825, had a monopoly of banking in Ireland, and always strictly enforced it. No bank having more than six partners was permitted to trade as a bank in this country; yet up to the latter year the bank never opened a single branch outside of Dublin—a further proof of the policy I have mentioned—but when the law was altered in 1825, and the Provincial Bank commenced business, and opened branches in

several Irish towns, branches were then started, by the Bank of Ireland, to oppose the Provincial, and not for benefit of Irish Industry. In the year 1844 Sir Robert Peel introduced into the House of Commons his Banking Act—the one dealing exclusively with England and Wales. Neither the Irish or Scotch Banking Acts were brought forward until the following year. Yet into that English act of 1844 was introduced a clause most damaging to Ireland, and to Irish Industry. This was the 10th Section of that act, 7th and 8th Victoria, Cap. 32.

It is as follows:—

"And be it enacted that from and after the passing of this act no person other than a banker who on the 8th day of May, 1844, was lawfully issuing his own bank notes, shall make or issue bank notes in any part of the United Kingdom." Why, let me ask, was "United Kingdom" introduced into this section. This was an English Act relating to England and Wales only. The Irish or the Scotch Banking Acts were not brought forward, as I said before, until the following year, the reason was plain. Sir Robert Peel, had resolved that the two Dublin Banks of non-issue—the Hibernian Bank and the Royal Bank—should not be allowed to benefit and promote the Irish industry, by having an authorised issue of notes—and from that hour to this the same policy has been carried out. These banks, as is well known, had been prevented previously by the monopoly of the Bank of Ireland—from issuing notes, the policy of the legislation being to abolish such monopolies. These banks would have been in the same position, as the other banks, with respect to an issue of notes, in the following year, when the Irish Act had been passed.—This was therefore anticipated, and the means I have mentioned, taken to prevent these two Dublin Banks being in a position to afford to the various industries of Dublin, and the other localities where they might have opened branches, the real assistance which banks of issue only can afford. The Bank of Ireland, the Government Bank, had secured to it an issue of notes.—The two Irish Banks managed by London Boards of Directors, had their note issue.—The three Northern Banks had also secured to them their monopoly of issue—but the two Dublin Banks—the Banks of the "more Irish," were, by this penal Law, to be prevented from making available in any way their banking credit, for the benefit of our people. I think I have thus given the explanation and the cause why Ireland since 1800 has never entered upon the path of progress or prosperity like all the other nations of the world, and how it was that a country so favorably circumstanced in every way for the successful promotion of industrial operation, should exhibit at the present day such unmistakable evidence of decline and decay.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE MOST REV. DR. BUTLER IN ABBEYFEALE.—LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE CONVENT OF MERCY, &c. &c.—On Thursday last the Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Lord Bishop of the Diocese, visited Abbeyfeale for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to the youth of the parish. The splendid brass band of the Temperance Society, headed by the Rev. Dr. Coghlan, P.P., and accompanied by a multitude of the parishioners cheering heartily, met the reverend Prelate outside the town, and escorted him to the site of the Convent of Mercy, where his Lordship was met by the Rev. M. Malone, P.P. Glin; Rev. F. Fitzgerald, P.P. Fedamore; Rev. D. Green, Rev. M. Conery, C.C.; Rev. William Casey, C.C. and Mr. James Brown, C.C., Limerick; who conducted him to the school now in course of erection. His Lordship having assumed his robes went through the usual religious ceremonies of blessing the site and boundaries of the new buildings. He also laid the foundation stone of the new schools in connection with the Convent, a handsome trowel being presented on the occasion, by the builder, Mr. Hayes of Limerick. At eleven o'clock, Mass, was celebrated in the spacious and beautiful parish church by the Rev. William Casey, C.C., Miss Sealy, Abbeyfeale, presiding at the harmonium, the sacred music, vocal and instrumental, was rendered in a manner highly creditable to that talented and accomplished young lady. An eloquent and highly impressive sermon was afterwards preached by the Rev. John Fitzgerald, C.C., Loughill, after which the Lord Bishop addressed his congregation, remarking on the many blessings that would be conferred on them by the establishment of the schools and residence amongst them of the pious community. He dwelt on the great exertions that should be made in order to complete the good work—efforts which he felt assured would be joined in, and duly appreciated by the good people of Abbeyfeale. His Lordship next proceeded to examine the children, which he did in a most searching manner, notwithstanding that the number presented (close on three hundred) was very large. He was pleased to say that the answering was highly creditable to the clergy and the others entrusted with the important work of instruction, taking into account the vast numbers to be prepared. The good Bishop and upwards of twenty of the neighboring clergy were that evening entertained at the hospitable board of the Parish Priest. The band in front of the tasteful parochial residence discoursed several beautiful airs.—*Limerick Reporter*, July 14.

The Right Hon. Baron Deasy, during the recent assizes in Limerick, accompanied by Thomas Boyce, Esq., J.P., visited the noble church of the Redeemerist Fathers. The learned Judge said that he never beheld a more beautiful or a better ordered church on any part of the Continent, and that it reflected the highest possible credit on the city in which it was built, and on the religious order who preside over it. Visitors from every part of the world on going to Limerick visit this church.—There is a confraternity of the Holy Family under the guidance of the Director of the Order, which number over 3,000 men, and they attend on every Monday and Tuesday evening at the church to hear a lecture from the Director, and for prayer.

CONSECRATION OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH.—The pretty little church at Corastown was consecrated on Sunday, 19th of July, by the Most Rev. Dr. Nulty, Lord Bishop of Meath, in the presence of a very large congregation. Built in the Gothic style, the sacred edifice will contain about 800 or 1,000 persons, and it has been erected at a cost of £2,200, part of which still remains unpaid. A large number of the clergy assisted in the ceremonies of consecrating the graveyard and High Mass, which afterwards took place in the chapel. In connection with the former, the Bishop officiated. Afterwards the Very Rev. Thomas Burke, O.P., preached an eloquent sermon in the graveyard (the church not being spacious enough to contain the large number present), in the course of which he alluded to the cause which they all had to rejoice in seeing so fine a temple raised by the people to the glory of God. At the conclusion of the sermon, a considerable sum was collected towards paying off the debt due on the church. A large number of visitors were entertained at *déjeuner* and also at dinner most hospitably by the Rev. Thomas O'Reilly, P.P.

DEATH OF THE REV. WILLIAM M'CAHART, C.C., KANTURK.—We regret to announce the death of the above esteemed clergyman who died on the 8th ult., at his brother's residence in Dublin. His remains were interred on Saturday, the 11th, at the parish church of Kanturk.—R.I.P.

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—Since the 1st of May, 1851, more than two millions and a quarter of people have emigrated from Ireland. In the first six months of the present year the number was a little over fifty-five thousand, which is a decrease of 14,355 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.