

which had been made upon him!" Marvellous indeed, is the iron force of the Great Protestant Tradition.

THE LATE PROTESTANT MARTYRDOM

(From the Roman Correspondent of the Tablet.)

Rome, 10th Nov., 1853.

As I see by the English papers that the Miss Margaret Cunnigham affair in Tuscany is still making capital among the "saints," if you think it worth your while to revert to that ludicrous subject, I can give you a faithful narrative of the whole transaction from beginning to end. It was supplied to me a day or two ago, while sitting in the reception-room of the Irish College, by one of the Chamberlains of the Pope—an Irish gentleman, who was just returning from the baths of Lucca, where he had been spending the summer, and you may rely upon its accuracy. There is one thing certain, that Miss Cunnigham is neither a fool nor a fanatic, nor one of those unhappy young ladies of faded hopes who take to soul-savering in the evening of their days to revenge themselves on an indiscriminating world. On the contrary, she is a cool and calculating spinster, an accomplished *artiste*, a clever actress; and, while she has been doing the business of the knaves, she has succeeded admirably in befooling the fools of England. It has now been discovered by the Tuscan authorities that she was the principal of a company of five who for some time before this had been courting the crown of martyrdom in more than one of the Italian states by the distribution of heretical tracts, but it appears that they were unlucky in securing the requisite amount of attention upon themselves till they commenced operations at the baths of Lucca. I may here mention that the tracts professed to issue from Turin, but that it is probable they were executed in a private *stamperia* belonging to the party themselves, which has not as yet been detected.

The baths of Lucca, you must know, from three little villages, distinguished each by its own peculiar class of buildings, and a society of its own. One of these is remarkable for a very elegant edifice, which professes to be a house of worship, a very showy affair, something in the shape of an Italian palace.—The lower story forms a chapel, restry, and school-room, while the upper apartments serve as chambers for the officiating Minister and his family. This is the Protestant house of worship, where a Mr. Greene, brother, I believe, of the learned Irish judge of that name, lives like a lord, and with the full knowledge and permission of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, holds forth to his flock as often as he pleases, and how he pleases, without let, hindrance, or molestation, by night or by day. Around this edifice the dwellings of the Protestants have become so numerous in summer that that village is spoken of amongst the three as the village of Protestants, and to show you how sad their fate is under the tyrant of Tuscany, and how decent and well deserved has been the conduct displayed towards the latter by Lord Clarendon and her Majesty's government, it will be acknowledged by all the Protestants who resided there, not connected with Miss Cunnigham's clique (and they were the majority) that there was not within the wide circumference of Great Britain a village or hamlet where Protestants could read their Bibles or attend their church with more ease, comfort, freedom, and independence than in the little Protestant village of the baths of Lucca. Well, things went on harmoniously and quietly amongst all the visitors, till the time of the year approached when they generally think of taking their departure for their respective homes, and this was the time chosen by Miss Cunnigham for making her grand exhibition. A week sooner might be too soon for the comfort of her friends in Lucca, and a week later would be too late for local notoriety and for scenic effect. Accordingly, one morning she took a little basket or "sporta" of her tracts (and very insulting ones they were, as the *Morning Chronicle* has shown) and proceeded to one of the villages inhabited solely by Catholics. Here she commenced distributing them, and she took care on each occasion to intimate that she would wish that they should find their way to the Priest of the village. They did find their way, and the result was an intimation to her in turn from some quarter or other that she was violating the law and exposing herself to punishments. This, it appears, was very encouraging intelligence, for she repeated her conduct on another day, and had the gratification to receive on this occasion a further intimation that the authorities had their eyes upon her, and that it would be better for her to betake herself elsewhere. Due time was allowed her to take the hint, but she had no notion of taking it. At length a couple of officers placed themselves at the door of the Protestant church on a Sunday, in company with some of the persons to whom she had given the tracts, in order that, after service, they might identify her as she went out; but, *ex proposito*, no identification or arrest took place; and it was thought; after this unmistakable manifestation of the law, that she would have the prudence to retire from Tuscany, and give no further trouble. Some well-meaning persons, who deemed her conduct at first merely the rash act of a fanatic, advised herself and her friends to take a carriage and go beyond the frontiers to Modena, which she might do in a drive of three or four hours, or repair to Leghorn, where she might place herself under the protection of the British consul. But the lady knew better than all this. She did not feel disconcerted in the least.—Neither did her mother nor her sister, nor the other members of her party. The time marked out in their minds for taking alarm had not come yet; but when it would come, "just leave it to them for a manifestation."

Well, in Tuscany, I am sorry to say, that the authorities are not enlightened enough to allow their

noses to be pulled by a young woman without taking any notice of it, and since she would provoke them they would certainly put the law in force. They do all these things in Italy with great pomp and form, and one fine evening a carriage drove up to Miss Cunnigham's door with two imposing looking policemen upon it heavily clad in armour, for the purpose of guarding her to the penitentiary, which was a considerable way off. The Martyrs of old used to welcome the hurdle on which they were to be dragged to the stake, and Miss Margaret welcomed her cushions. Sisara's mother never looked out of her window with more longing anxiety for the chariot of her son than she did for this government carriage, and, as my informant tells me, who was present at the affecting scene, she stepped into it with all the dignified resignation of Mary Queen of Scots ascending the scaffold. Now was the time for hysterics and hartshorn. One party of her friends immediately waited on the Grand Duke, who was then at Lucca, and protested against this outrage on a lady and a British subject, another hired carriages, and drove off in the middle of the night to keep vigils with the martyr in her dungeon. Her mother would have fled, but took so ill in a hotel in Lucca, that she would surely die and would not live; and the sister, in company with a Mr. Gordon escaped to Leghorn, where Mr. Gordon places himself under the protection of Mr. McBean, the British Consul, while the lady fled to an English ship of war that was lying in the harbor, and insisted on being received into it, much to the annoyance of the captain, who had not sufficient accommodation aboard for his own wife and daughter; and at this stage of the proceedings the news reached Exeter Hall that the "miscreant of Tuscany" (*sic*) was again in arms against the saints.

Of course you have heard the true account about the dungeon, and how the whole affair ended; that the dungeon was a sweet little parlor, provided with every comfort; that the martyr was allowed the society of all her friends, and the use of all the delicacies they could bestow upon her; and that ultimately, when the authorities would gladly be rid of her, she would not leave them till they actually compelled her by gentle force. By this piquette Miss Cunnigham has recommended herself to the affectionate attention of all the devout young gentlemen of Great Britain. She will likely get united in the holy bonds of matrimony with some lawyer, or doctor, or probably a Parson, and this lawyer or doctor, or more probably the Parson, will drive a good business and thrive in the world under the patronage of Eardley, Shaftesbury, and Company; and if they will live happy, I hope we may live happier; and other fathers and mothers in England and Scotland will henceforth send their daughters to Tuscany to learn to make impressions and create sensations, just as some now send them to Paris to learn the millinery, or to Rome for the fine arts, and Tuscany will become a great country. But what will the world think of England, imperial England, that allowed herself, in the person of Lord Clarendon, to be dragged through the dirt of this filthy little puddle at the heels of Peg Cunnigham?

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The *Tablet* states on authority that the inauguration of this institution will take place long before next autumn, "in fact, the early portion of the year 1854," is fixed for the ceremony.

The Right Rev. Dr. Keane, Bishop of Ross, has left for Rome with the statutes of the Munster Provincial Synod at Thurles, for ratification by the Pope.

CATHOLIC CONVENTS.—LIBERALITY OF LORD LISTOWEL.—Mr. Maurice O'Connor, of Rushy Park, Ballylongford, in a letter to the *Munster News*, states that the Earl of Listowel, during his recent visit to his estates—visited the Listowel Presentation Convent in company with his respected agent, Major Home, and having satisfied himself, from a personal inspection of the schools attached to it, of the incalculable public benefit of such an establishment, he, in the handsomest manner, gave a contribution of £50 towards the completion of an additional schoolroom now in progress of erection there, and for which funds were greatly needed.

The bigots of Belfast are indignant at the notion of a convent being established in their vicinity.

In the course of his lectures at Cork, the Rev. Dr. O'Brien stated that, on a recent occasion while returning from the Sanctuary of the Carmelite Church, in Angier-street, Dublin, a lady presented him with a paper, simply adding, "pray for me." On arriving in the Sacristy, the Reverend Gentleman found an enclosure of Fifty Pounds, towards the funds for sending Priests to the Emigrants. He who "sees in secret" will reward this noble charity.

THE VERY REV. BERNARD O'NEILL.—With very sincere regret it becomes our duty to announce the death, last week, at the Augustinian convent, Brunswick-street, Cork, of this excellent and respected clergyman. Mr. O'Neill was for thirty-four years a member of the Augustinian order, of which he had been Prior for several years before his demise, and for twenty-one years officiated in Cork.—*Nation*.

The Hon. Richard Gilbert Talbot, of Ballinelen, is appointed deputy-lieutenant of the county Dublin, in place of the late Lord Cloncurry.

A company for spinning, bleaching, and manufacturing flax is about being established in Cork.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—We have reason to believe that Mr. Dargan, in compliance with innumerable requests, purposes to convert it into a winter promenade, with military bands occasionally performing in it, and that a very moderate charge will be made for admission during the period it will continue open.—*Nation*.

The regular operative sawyers of Dublin have contributed £10 towards the Dargan Institute.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.—For the encouragement of the study of the Irish language the Board of Trinity College have placed the sum of £20 at the disposal of the Professor of Irish, to be given in premiums to such students as shall distinguish themselves in the Irish language. They have also granted one sizarship, annually for the same purpose.

THE COTTON TRADE IN BELFAST.—The Belfast papers state that almost all the mill-owners of the town and neighborhood have agreed to work "short time," commencing on the 28th inst., and the following notice has been put up in their several mills:—"We hereby give notice that we shall work three quarter time, or forty-five hours per week, until further notice, commencing on Monday, the 28th day of the present month." The determination is almost unanimous, as only two firms, out of thirty one, in Belfast and its suburbs, have hitherto withheld their signatures. It may be added, that those signing comprise three fourths of the entire Irish trade, or about 375,000 spindles, and five sixths of the entire spindles in Belfast and a circle of ten miles round. It is greatly to be regretted that the state of the trade requires that this course should be taken; but the extensive concurrence of opinion may be regarded as the best proof that it was felt to be necessary thus to limit production for a time; we trust only for a short time.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.—From the provinces we have cheering accounts of the advanced state of preparation for putting down seed, for which purposes the ground has been well prepared by the late fine frosty weather. We are delighted to perceive by a report in the *Cork Examiner* of Wednesday, that a move is being made by some of the influential men in the county Cork, headed by Mr. E. B. Roche, M.P., to complete the good work already successfully commenced in the growth and preparation of flax in the South of Ireland. Flax has been grown there with great success already, and there is no reason why it may not be spun, bleached, and woven also. Notwithstanding the fears that existed that the supply of potatoes would fall far short of the demand, we have great hopes that the quantity in hand will amply meet the necessities of the market.—*Nation*.

The endeavor of the principal landowners and stock masters of the county Meath to establish a half yearly fair at Navan, under the style of the Great Leinster Fair, has met with a success that its well wishers did not anticipate. The fair this week was largely attended by all classes of stock, save those of which there were so few at Mullingar, the high priced horses and fat cattle, met with a demand fully equal to the supply.

ELECTORS IN IRELAND.—From a return to Parliament it appears that the number of electors on the register of 1852-3, in Ireland, was 179,488, of which 149,852 were in counties, and in cities and boroughs, 29,636.

Mr. Henry Herbert, M.P., has been appointed to the Lieutenancy of the county Kerry, vacant by the demise of the Earl of Kenmare.—*Nation*.

The Duke of Bedford has become an Irish landlord. He has purchased a part of Mr. Kirwan's property in Galway for £40,000. The total sum realised by the estate was £88,850, equal to seventeen and a-half years' purchase. It is said that a few days before the sale took place, a sum of £107,000 was offered for this estate on the part of the Duke of Bedford.

The magistrates of Tyrone have applied for reduction of the constabulary force in that county.

The greatest difficulty is now experienced in procuring men to enter the Constabulary, in lieu of those who resigned for the purpose of emigrating. In a circuit of six miles round Tuam, two young men only could be found who were eligible. Such is the state to which scanty pay and extensive emigration have reduced a force, to obtain a situation in the ranks of which, formerly, interest and solicitation were absolutely indispensable.—*Galway Vindicator*.

The ratepayers of Corofin union are in a very enviable position this half year, no rates being required except in one electoral division, to meet the requirements of which a rate of 8d. in the pound has been struck. The workhouse has a very lonely aspect, so few paupers remaining in the house, and they only infirm, sick and children.

James E. O'Donoghue, one of the 48 men, left Ireland, on Tuesday, by the Hermann Roosen to join his brother in New York, taking with him the wife and daughter (a most interesting child of some twelve years old) of the latter.

Mrs. Meagher's return from New York with her father-in-law has excited much gossip in Waterford.—There is, we hope, no truth in the report that she found her exiled husband betrothed to another. The fact of her speedy return from New York is ill-health, the climate not agreeing with her constitution.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

We (*Banner of Ulster*) have heard some strange tales relative to certain proceedings set on foot in Lisburn during the present week. It appears that those of the electors who voted for the independent candidate at the recent election, and who hold property at will under the Marquis of Hertford, have been noticed to pay greatly increased rents; and this, too, though some of them had expended large sums in improvements, on the faith of that tenant-right which was once the boast of Lord Hertford's agent.

THE LATE FLOODS.—The total damage which the Killarney Railway has suffered by the flood will not exceed £300. In Cork county the destruction of bridges is exceedingly great, and the amount of injury is not yet officially made known. It is believed that £20,000 will not repair the damage.

We read in the *Nation* of the 26th inst., that Garret Farrell, the notorious Ribbon informer, died, a few days ago, in the Mountjoy prison.

The house and landed property of Wm. Burke Kirwan, the convict, was this week sold for £4,505, which goes to the crown.

The paupers in Gort union workhouse have decreased within the last four years from 3,500 to 658.

The total number of persons charged with crime in 1852 were, in England 27,510; and in Ireland 17,678. The numbers charged in 1845, were, respectively, 30,349 and 38,522, showing a wonderful improvement in Irish criminal reform compared with that of England.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland assembled in Dublin last week. The attendance is said to have been large. The Earl of Enniskillen presided. His lordship was assisted by Lord Duncannon. An address, applicable to the circumstances of the Protestants of the empire, was adopted.

MELANCHOLY REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—Limerick house, the family mansion of the Earls of Limerick, has been purchased by Messrs. J. N. Russell and Sons, and is to be converted into counting house and offices for their extensive and various concerns in this city.

TRANQUILITY AND EXTRA POLICE.—For some months past there have been occasional meetings in some of the counties, with the object of applying to the government for the removal of what is termed the extraordinary police force, whose services are rendered wholly unnecessary in consequence of the peaceable condition of the country, and the continued diminution of crime. Not long since the magistrates of Kilkenny held a meeting on the subject, which led to a communication from the government that the extra police force would be removed. Last week a similar meeting took place in the county of Cork, where, it appears, the charge for extraordinary police amounts to £6,000 per annum. Nothing could have been more complete than the case established by the promoters of the movement, and yet, strange to say, the proposal for dispensing with the extraordinary police force was stoutly opposed by some of the magistrates in attendance. Mr. Duncombe, who brought forward a resolution for reduction, declared that the county of Cork is now in a state of profound tranquility, enjoying freedom from crime such as had not been known for a number of years; and he proved the accuracy of this statement by figures from official returns—On the 31st of February, 1849, 1,705 persons were in confinement for offences. At the date of the meeting there were but 373. In 1849, the committals amounted to 6,833; in 1851, 5,914; in 1852, 5,065; in this year, to the 3rd of November, 3,217. And, while the numbers thus diminished, the character of the crimes were comparatively light. Surely, £6,000 a year for extra protection, in such circumstances, is a wanton waste of money. The result was that a considerable majority of the magistrates assembled voted for the resolution.—*Evening Post*.

SANITARY STATE OF DUBLIN.—We are glad to learn that endeavors are now made on a large scale to improve the sanitary state of Dublin. A society is about being formed for this purpose. Their first object will be an attempt to raise a fund sufficient to enable them to purchase ground and a house in the Liberties of Dublin, and to erect a square or streets of model dwellings, having regard to the comfort and necessities of the inhabitants. Should their plans succeed—as they have ample ground to hope—it is also their intention to provide schools, libraries, and reading-rooms, a dispensary, medical superintendence, &c. No doubt the amount of funds required for such an undertaking will be a great difficulty, requiring a large extent of co-operation, and clear evidence of the practicality of the project. We understand that a committee is in course of formation. Looking on this as a laudable endeavor to improve the condition of the working classes, we heartily wish it every success.—*Evening Post*.

THE ARMS ACT.—By a proclamation received in town to-day, says the *Galway Packet*, all the districts in the county of Galway in which the keeping of arms was prohibited under the arms act, are now relieved from the restrictions hitherto imposed. Every man who pleases can now keep and carry arms, without the permission of government officials. His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in council on Monday, issued a proclamation revoking those of January and July 1848, which apply the provisions of the crime and outrage act to certain parishes in the baronies of Longford and Leitrim, county of Galway, and also the proclamation of March, 1851, affecting part of the parish of Garraby, barony of Iveagh, county Down.—*Nation*.

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF A CHURCH BY LAW ESTABLISHED.—The system of rent charges in Ireland has recently attracted much attention from the landowners of Ireland. To abate the high rates charged on the lands from the compositions entered into from 1823 to 1832 is attended with much legal difficulty, as the clergy pertinaciously adhere to their legal claim. Landholders must be very special in their proceedings. One very striking instance has been reported to us. The parish of Ballybracken, or Kilbracken, in the diocese of Kildare, being under composition, estimated at 36s. 8d. per barrel of wheat, steps are being taken to appeal for an abatement. It will be actually necessary to appeal to the Queen's Bench to enable the landlords to obtain a hearing in the quarter sessions court. Notices should be posted on some place of public worship in the parish. Now, it so happens, that there is not any place of public worship within the parish of Ballybracken. The tithes are collected certainly, but there is neither a Protestant church, a Catholic chapel or a Dissenters' meeting-house through the length and breadth of the parish!! So much for the useful appropriation of tithes for the support and promotion of religious worship in Ireland. It is possible this is not a singular case.

THE GREAT TRACT CASE.—The memorable case of O'Brennan and Smith has at length found a resting place in the Court of Queen's Bench. On Friday the whole affair was ripped up by Mr. Whiteside, Q.C., who on the part of the tract distributor, moved for a conditional order, directing to Mr. Hugh O'Callaghan a police magistrate, to lodge in court certain orders made by him, obliging the applicant to enter into a certain recognizance, the recognizance itself, and any information or affidavit upon which the decision was founded. The learned gentleman concluded by reading two affidavits in support of the motion, and the Court granted the conditional order. It is now more than ever probable that the next Parliamentary session will be enlivened by some smart discussions on the merits of Dublin police justice as it affects the privileges of handbill distributors in general. There is a clear opening in perspective for a great senatorial display.

The driver, O'Brien, of the Eagle hotel omnibus, at Westport, was killed on Wednesday night by the upset of the vehicle near Colbooney, when full of the shipwrecked passengers of the California packet, to Sligo.

The town of Carrickfergus was the scene of excitement on the evening of Monday, owing to a fascinating young heiress, not yet sixteen, who left home without her waiting maid, and not returning her fond mother became uneasy, and alleged "her darling only daughter was kidnapped." A search was made in all directions, and it was discovered that she had made her escape to Belfast, in a close carriage, with her Lothario, a policeman.

A large portion of the potato crop in the neighborhood of Tubbercurry is now dug, with which the farmers generally feel well pleased. It is considered the return will not be inferior to last year's. Butter and oats advanced on last market—the former about 3s per firkin, and the latter 1s per sack. Potatoes remain stationary, at about 2s 8d per cwt. Store pigs still continue dull.—*Sligo Chronicle*.