

towards Rome, and, making a large effort over age and over misfortune, he set out in the simplicity and in the joy of a pilgrim. But it was too late—the breath of life departed from him on the shores of the Mediterranean, when he almost saw in the distance the cupolas and the horizon of Rome. All Rome expected him, and prepared arches of triumph for his reception. He heart alone arrived in the city, where Pius IX received it. The Pontiff, placing his hands on the son of O'Connell, said these words to him—"Since I am deprived of the happiness, so long wished for, of embracing the hero of Christianity, I have at least the consolation to embrace his son." Seek not the tomb of O'Connell elsewhere than, brethren, it is not in Ireland, worthy though she was to possess him eternally. The tomb of O'Connell is in the arms and in the soul of Pius IX. It is there we must look when addressing to the Liberator our last words, the words of prayer and of adieu.

Let us recall our attention for a moment. My brethren, the interests of the Church are those of humanity, and the interests of humanity are those of the church. Christianity of which the Church is the living body, arrived at its present degree of lofty power by means alone of the profound relations which exist between it and humanity. Modern society is the expression of the wants of humanity, and in consequence, it is also the expression of the church; these few words give you the key to the life of O'Connell. O'Connell has been in our age of dissensions, the first mediator between the church and modern society, which is the same as to say—he was the first mediator between the church and humanity. We must follow his footsteps, my brethren, if we wish to serve God and man. Without doubt, it is the world which has separated itself from us which wished to exist and govern itself without us; but it is of little moment how the evil arose, or whose was the pride which led to the separation. We perceive to-day how much we need each other—let us make advances to the world which seeks and expects us. The admiration it pays to the memory of O'Connell, the encouraging cheers it raises around Pius IX. are vows made in the face of heaven, and a proof that it is not insensible towards him who understands its afflictions and its necessities. Let us understand these things—let us march at a distance, but with faith, on the glorious foot-steps we have this day contemplated; and if now you perceive in yourselves a will—if the vain shadows of the past are dissipated—if strength returns to you, and with it a presentment that you will not be useless to the cause of the church and of humanity, give credit to the true cause—say God spoke to you once by the soul of O'Connell.

## The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, APRIL 6.

### NEWS FROM THE U. STATES.

The accounts of the progress of our Religion in the States are most cheering.

Several Jesuit Fathers have arrived at New Orleans as Professors for Colleges in Mobile and Louisiana. Four of them are of English birth.

The Bill for a Chergship to Rome has passed the House of Representatives by an immense majority. When introduced into the Senate, Mr. Brenton, a Senator of great influence proposed an Amendment: that instead of a *Chargé a Full Minister* should be appointed. Hon. C. J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania and General Shier's are spoken of as the most likely to be appointed.—Both were present at the St Patrick's Dinner at Washington on the 17th ult.

Rev Francis Ashe, O. S. A., a native of Cork died lately in the Augustinian Convent at Philadelphia. He was greatly respected by all classes for his piety and zeal.

Three Sisters of Mercy died in one week lately in Pittsburg. Two of them were Irish and one German.

The Legislature of Louisiana unanimously adopted a most complimentary resolution and Address to Pius IX on the 15th of March. True liberality is beginning to be firmly established on a solid basis in the neighbouring Republic. How the little narrow-minded bigots of this Province ought to hang down their heads for shame at the contrast! No matter what situation a Catholic receives here, they raise their paltry, selfish cry of Popish Ascendancy. We only regret that they dont get reason to squeak more loudly.

There were 126 Adult Converts to the Catholic Faith last year in Texas. When Bishop Odin was sent there eight years ago, there were but 2

priests. Now there are 15. There are 12 Catholic Churches completed in Texas, 5 in progress of erection, and 42 different stations are visited by the Clergy.

The amiable and respected Editor of the Catholic Herald of Philadelphia announces with great happiness in a recent number of that valuable Journal the conversion of one of the members of his family. The Editor had been an Episcopalian Clergyman himself before his conversion and that of his Lady to the Catholic Faith.

There was a High Mass and Sermon on St. Patrick's Day at St Patrick's Church, Washington. The Sermon was delivered by the Rev Mr Ward, S. J. of Georgetown College.

The Rev Mr Shaw of Boston preached an eloquent Sermon on Faith in St Matthew's Church Washington on the First Sunday of Lent. Mr. Shaw is a convert to the Church and the son of a very wealthy and respectable citizen of Boston.

### CATHOLIC ASCENDANCY.

In three successive Sessions the Catholics of this city have sent numerous signed petitions to the Legislature praying for assistance to the schools at St. Patrick's, in which district several hundreds of Catholic children are deprived of the benefits of Education. This year the matter was referred to a select committee, who reported favourably to the House, and recommended the small grant of £50 per annum for the Education of 800 poor children. The report was brought before the House this week, and the paltry sum recommended by the committee was refused by a large majority. There may be motives of selfishness and expediency in thus defeating the just claims of a large body of the people, but at all events it is amusing to hear the cry of Catholic Ascendancy raised in the face of a fact so disgraceful as the above to the character of a Liberal House. We will return to the subject, and meantime will feel obliged to any one who will favour us with a list of the division on this subject. We have heard that the late Attorney General, Mr. Johnston, both in the Committee and the House, voted in favour of the grant, and declared his belief that the claim was fully established. The account of Common Schools at present stands thus:

Total sum voted for Halifax,	£600
To various Protestant Schools,	500
To Catholic School's of St. Mary's,	100

The Catholics forming nearly one half the population of the City, and having twice more poor children to be educated than those who receive the £500. This is Catholic Ascendancy and Liberal Government with a vengeance!

### RECENT NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The English Mail Steamer arrived yesterday. An outbreak was recently apprehended in Ireland. Mr. Smith O'Brien, Mr. T. F. Meagher, and Mr. Mitchell have had informations sworn against them for delivering certain speeches and publishing certain articles calculated to excite unlawful opposition to her Majesty's Government. Maurice and John O'Connell attended and offered to become securities for Messrs. O'Brien and Meagher. The troops in Ireland are ordered to carry their arms to their places of worship. The accounts from France are gloomy and betoken no good for the peace of England. The intonation of the Republicans to provoke a quarrel with England was made manifest by M. Lamartine the Foreign Minister, who, in a speech to the Irish residents, announced that "the heart of France was never closed to Ireland," and predicted the speedy triumph of the Irish political and religious agitation. One thing is certain, that the oppression of Ireland by England will for the future cost the latter country more dearly than ever.

The Earl of Miltown has attended the Repeal Association.

Her Majesty has been safely delivered of a Princess in Buckingham Palace.

There has been a Revolution in Austria, and Prince Metternich has been dismissed.

The reports from the provinces of Ireland as to destitution, are very painful. Distress exists, to a great extent, in many parts of the south and west.

The Rev. Mr. Thomas, an Anglican clergyman, formerly of Exeter College, Oxford, was received into the Catholic Church at St. Edmund's College, Herts, and confirmed by Dr. Wiseman on Sunday fortnight.

The Hon. Mr. Robie has resigned his Seat as President of the Legislative Council, and the Honble Michael Tobin has been appointed by his Excellency to the vacant chair.

### THE REVIVAL OF THE POTATO.

For the benefit of our country readers we copy from the *Dublin Weekly Register* some very practical observations on this important topic. The Editor, Alderman Staunton, late Lord Mayor of Dublin is exceedingly well informed on Agricultural as well as financial subjects, and has been an extensive cultivator of land for many years. Some modifications of the following plan should of course be made in this Province, to suit the difference of climate, but we think the general principles are as applicable here as elsewhere, and we have no doubt that if skilful farmers in Nova Scotia should apply themselves for two or three years to the production of sound, healthy seed potatoes, they would be well remunerated for their industry.

"We prophesied at the first appearance of the Potato blight that the effect would be but temporary. When there appeared an almost universal agreement that "the Potato was gone for ever," we anticipated its re-appearance, and hazarded the assertion, that those who would not die very soon would see it as abundant as ever in Ireland. We were guided in our conclusions by some facts in the history of the root which chance threw in our way. We had heard that it was universally destroyed by a blight in the year 1765, and that a few years restored it. We remembered a statement of the late George Ensor that several failures occurred within his own memory, and that he has known a few months to make such a difference in the price of this vegetable that the same quantity of it which was bought at the beginning for one penny sold in the end for twenty. We were aware that the Potato degenerates rapidly, and that its powers of production require to be often stimulated. We had no doubt that the visitations of 1846-7 would set every appliance in activity capable of reviving so favourite an esculent, and we are by no means surprised to hear that, in the present season, "every body seems determined to try the Potato again," and that there is likely to be as general a plantation of it as has been witnessed in our times.

We know something practically of Potato cultivation, and can, we think, supply a few hints on the subject that may be generally useful.

The best seed is an *unripe Potato*. The imported seed, which has been most successful, has been derived from districts in Scotland, where it is grown in an elevated, ungenial soil, not affording heat enough to force it to full maturity. There are Farmers whose habits have been to *sow late and dig out early*, that the seed might be less ripe. The Potato best for eating is generally worst for seed. An experienced purchaser, in making his selection for planting, will prefer the Potato through which his knife will pass with the greatest ease. The *hard* Potato, which will present greater resistance to the knife, he will avoid. If the hard Potato be boiled it will, probably, be found dry, mealy, and well flavoured. It has arrived at maturity. The *unripe* Potato, on the contrary, will be wet and unpleasant to the taste, but it will possess a great superiority in its productive powers. The ripe Potato will grow, except it be placed in unfavourable circumstances, but the produce in point of quality and quantity will be far inferior to that derived from the unripe seed.

We do not hazard a theory on this subject un sanctioned by high authority. We have ourselves seen it proved, so as to admit of no doubt; but three or four years ago a writer in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England wrote an Essay, in which the opinion as to the preference due to unripe seed is advocated, and to that Essay was awarded a premium by the first Agriculturists in Great Britain.

The Potato will, of course, succeed best under the most favourable circumstances. But what are the circumstances which are favourable? Well tilled ground, wide drills, fresh seed placed under the manure, sowing in droppy weather, and between the middle and closing of April, are all important. *Sappy* seed is best. That the sap should be as little as possible diminished, it should be as little as possible exposed to the air. It should be cut on the day it is put into the ground. It is well to put it under the manure for two reasons—first, to allow of its being immediately covered, and secondly, to place it in a position giving the tubers the best chance of becoming full and abundant. They stretch themselves horizontally, and it is obviously of importance to give them room. If the season should be dry and warm, they require to be protected from the heat of the sun. We have no

seed two fields of Potatoes in a dry season equal in every thing but this—that there were small and shallow drills in one, and wide and deep ones in the other; and when the produce was dug out, there was in the former only one fifth of the usual produce, while in the latter the crop was abundant.

We think it very likely that the desire to "try the potato again," understood at present to be so universally prevalent, will induce many, to use any seed that may come within their reach. It is a season, however, in which caution is now more than commonly necessary. Though reliance may be placed on good seed, it is very probable that the missing of the root will be more common than in ordinary years where the seed is inferior. Above all things care should be taken that the seed, whether it be ripe or unripe, should not exhibit the least tendency to decay.

Mr. Hogan, a member of the Dublin Society, has translated from the German a memoir on the cultivation of the Potato, by which it appears that the root has been produced, in Germany, from what we will call the apple, or *berry* seed, with great success, in a single year. The following passage will be read with great interest. The writer is M. Zander, of Boitzenberg—

For many years a kind of dry rot and pock-mark has been observed amongst potatoes in consequence of which many of them were quite unfit for food; this suggested to me the idea of obtaining them from seed, and I directed my efforts to the procuring of fully-grown potatoes in one year, in which I have succeeded. The raising of potatoes from seed is nothing new; the attempt has often been made, but it required three or four years before they came to perfection.

I first raised potatoes from seed six years ago. I sowed an eighth of an ounce, and obtained nearly seven sacks of fully-grown perfectly sound potatoes, although in the same year almost all the potatoes in my neighbourhood were affected by pock-mark and dry rot.

I have regularly raised potatoes from seed ever since, and they have remained sound during the whole time; and last year (1845), when the disease had spread over all Europe, and attained the greatest virulence in this neighbourhood, those potatoes which I had previously raised from seed, as well as those of the preceding year, continued perfectly exempt from disease. I have also given potatoes raised from seed to my friends and acquaintances, and these have also remained perfectly free from the universally prevailing disease. The Minister of the Interior took notice of my proceedings, and sent two officers to investigate on the spot the facts I had communicated to the government respecting my potatoes. These officers were present when I caused some potatoes to be dug out, which I raised from the year before, and amongst them was a plant which produced 280 potatoes; many stems produced from 100 to 130; the smallest produce from one plant was half a metze,\* and the majority of the plants produced from one to one and a half metze. Potatoes raised from seed are very mealy, and have a peculiarly pleasant and fine flavour; they produce a richer crop in the second year, and it increases in the third; there is then no further increase, and they have attained their greatest perfection.

From an ounce of seed you may raise upwards of fifty sacks of potatoes; the smallest crop I ever had from half an ounce was twenty-four sacks. You will find the following description of the manner of raising potatoes from seed more complete than that which the government has published: for in that everything is given too superficially.

My views of the potato disease, which has spread so universally for some years, are as follows:—With all plants, propagation by seed is most in accordance with nature. We have propagated the potato for a century in a mode that is unnatural, and in a climate which is cold and foreign to it. This has now caused a complete degeneracy. In one word, our potatoes have become weakened and degenerated by a long continued unnatural mode of propagation, and they cannot, during their growth, bear any sudden change of temperature, drought, or moisture; and I have the firm conviction that the potato diseases which have now prevailed for some years, such as pock-marks and dry rot, and the disease of last year, which was formerly unknown, were caused amongst our weak and degenerate potatoes by sudden changes of temperature. A

\* The metze holds 3½lbs of potatoes.