## THE TRUE WIFNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

THE CHURCH AND SECRET SOCIETIES. (From the Northern Times.)

If we are to notice the meriodical on stuglits of the societies of Freemasons. Again, when secret professant Press the nosition of Catholics in these that surely naving the way to she though the realing is unfortunated indeed. The good they do wife each the saw the danger and Benedict appears to their credit; but only let the evil XIV. extended the sentence followed manning at the sentence followed and th deeds of some unfortunate nominal Catholic come before the world, and they are immediately distorted and swollen with frightful malignity and to a gigantic extent, which raises the debtor side in the Protestant ledger to an amount it is hopeless to balance, in favor of Catholics in general. No more convincing, \_take of those agrarian - crimes - which have from time fit was possible for a subtile conception to use, in Spial Hospitality and virtue of our brethren in the sister-country. A landlord ejects a tenant, the people he goes on thus, "Societates omnes occultas tam resist, some one is shot, and immediately a rising is que nunc sunt tum que fortasse deinceps erumpent anticipated; and the deadly machinations of a secret denunciation, they are at once pointed out as aiders and abettors of rebellion, and silent approvers of corner? societies. Nothing can disabuse the ultra word a secret society, its members lie all and every Protestantism of John Bull of the impression that one of them under the sentence of excommunication. every act of revenge taken by an exasperated, be- Now; this sentence imparts that he on whom it is cause utterly ruined, tenant upon the landlord, is the passed be excluded from all participation in the saresult of a widely-spread secret organisation, the object of which is to wreak vengeance upon every owner of land who shall dare to do as he likes with his own. You may point out to him that the man has been born on the land, reared on the land, married on the land, has had all his hopes and affections centred on the land, has spent all his substance and energies thereon, reared thereon a family, for the support of which and the starting in life of its several members he looked to the land; and that this has been struck from under him by a mere act of the will, with the power of law to aid its execution, and no compensation afforded him for so severe and terrible a deprivation. Put the British farmer into such a position, and imagine how he would feel. But such terms. Not through ignorance, therefore, of the a thing cannot happen in England, from the security of tenure provided for the tenant. Show all this and picture his children scattered, his daughters exposed to the vilest temptations, his sons cast into the the heretic, because they want his sincerity in holding dregs of society, the wife of his bosom perishing before him,—the very means of existence snatched from his willing and industrious hands. It is of no use. Such a one is a Ribbonman-a plotter in secretone of a body of midnight assassins who have but one object, namely, the extirpation of landlords and owners of property.

We deeply deplore these awful outrages; we denounce all such revengeful acts with the strongest terms of reprobation; but we still more deplore, if it be possible, the existence of that injustice and of that unequal code of laws which is the only cause of such lamentable proceedings. But our present purpose is not with "agrarian outrage," although a subject upon which we have much to say; but with the miserable prejudice which, will ye nill ye, our poor self-blinded Protestants will persist in hugging to themselves delusions. We wish, then, to show how secret societies of all kinds, and therefore Ribbondism, stand with the Church; and this with especial reference to the Ribbond society, as it is to that only that late outrages have been attributed, and as it is that which, for the last half-a-century, has been made the ostensible excuse for a coercion act every three years to goad the people of Ireland to rebellion.

This confraternity is composed of men who profess themselves to be Catholics-who vaunt their tenets loudly, but seldom darken the church doors by their attendance at mass; who foolishly deem their and one supported and actively participated in by the Even at Kingstown things look bad enough already. society a sort of bulwark crected against heretical aggression—an outlying picket of the Church militant-and who may possibly think, in their hearts. that the religion of Christ is under some obligations to them for strenuous exertions used on her behalf. The world at large believes these professions. It never adverts to the broad distinction which lies between professions. It never adverts to the broad distinction which lies between professions and deeds -between theory and practice-but credits unreservedly the simple word of men whose principles make it lawful to sport with vows, and swear away, without remorse, the honor or, if need be, the life of an enemy. Hence it is, unfortunately, that by the ignorant press of Britain the foul deeds of these men. are imputed to the Catholic Religion; and while they glory in crimes which rouse, from the deepest depths, the indignation of society, the slur the rebuke, and the stigma of their black deeds are cast upon a Church holy in her doctrine, and irreproachable in

her teachings and practice.
Wherefore, in order, if huge prejudice will permit. us, to check this popular error, and remove; from ourselves its odious consequences, we here declare, the last five years but mainly within the first three that these Ribbonnen as they are called, are not Catholics they are not members of our Churchthey have no participation in her prayers, or in her sacrifices, but are outlaws of heaven. The censures of the church have blasted them in their iniquitous courses, and they hang in existence blackened and sapless branches, fit only for the fire. Hence it is that in our present heading we say, "The Church and Secret Societies;" not in the sense of things allied, or bearing friendly relations, one to the other, but in the sense of things directly contrary and antagonistic. And that we interpret aright the spirit of the Church, will appear from the following consi-

The Catholic Church has through all the phases of the world's history shown herself equal to every, emergency. The principles which from to time have sprung up threatening the disorganization of society, she has always been the first to assail. Thus we find week last .- Dundalk Democrat.

her in 1731, excommunicate by the mouth of her Pontiff, Clement XII., all persons enrolled in the

passed by Clement XII. to all secret

soever. To mark still more emphatically the Church's determination to root out from society those gangrenes which were yearly eating deeper and deeper intofits vitals, we bear Pius VIII. in 1821 confirm the above acts of his predecessors. Heo XII., howillustration of this is needed than in the view people ever, in 1826 seems to have shut the last door which to time formed a blot on the fair fame and prover- order to evade the gensures; for, after confirming the Bulls of his predecessors against secret societies, .....quocunque tum nomine appellentur nos organisation is at once blamed for this. Should the perpetuo prohibenus sub iisdem," &c. According clergy, as defenders of the people, seek by explana- to this, therefore, every secret society that was in tion to ward off the hitterness and severity of public existence in 1821, was forbidden under pain of excommunication, and every secret society that has arisen since that time, is subjected to the same law. these "stabbers in the dark," of these "hole and Ribbondism, therefore, being in every sense of the craments of the Church, that, when enforced in its full rigor, the faithful be forbidden all intercourse with him-that, should death overtake him ere he has foresworn such societies, and been absolved from the incurred censures, his body be denied the rites of christian sepulture. Such are the effects of the censures under which every member of the Ribbon Society lies. And can, we would ask, such men be believed when they profess themselves Catholics? or can the Catholic Church be said to encourage them, when she visits them with such punishments? Again and again, have we heard the Ribbon Societies denounced from our altars-and the heavy censures under which its members lay, exposed in the plainest consequences, do these men hold fast by their secret oath—they disregard and ignore the authority of the Church by their acts, and are in this worse even than that the Church has no such authority.

It has ever been the study of the secret societies to shut out, from the dark recesses in which they plot and plan, the light of Catholic truth, and the reason is apparent. They know well that the noisome vapors with which they are surrounded would ignite at to destruction. The Ribbonmen, be it understood, studiously eschews the confessional—which if he be any benefit from it. We throw out this hint to our Protestant friends that they may act upon it when examining the pretensions of a Ribbonman to a membership with the Catholic Church, and ask him if he has been to his duty lately"—that is, if he has complied with those obligations to which every Christian is bound, to keep himself in the grace of God, and in reply in the affirmative, call him not a Catholic; if. he says "Yes," and yet declares be is a Ribbonman, call him, without fear of disproof—a liar.

But ere wet conclude, let us caution those who live in glass houses, not to throw stones." Ribbon Society was called into existence, in the first place, as a matter of sheer self-defence, to oppose highest and noblest of Protestants in the land. We mean that great concentrations of merciless bigotry and intolerance which sought to emulate (and whose spirit is the same as ever, though controlled by circumstances.) the brutal fanaticism of Japanese or Chinese paganism in persecution of the children of Society . Mark the difference: The Church condemns, with the unsparing severity we have above nountrayed all secret societies, and Ribbondism with the rest. The Establishment of Great Britain approves openly, or at all events allows unblushingly; the existence of this diabolical secret association, and the great ones of the earth whom she acknowledges as her children, are active and energetic members thereof

## IRISH INTELLIGENCE,

We are happy to state that the Archbishop of Cashel is improving in health. - Limerick Reporter.

An abstract of the accounts of the Catholic Univer sity has been published, and it appears that within of them-the sum of Fifty-four Thousand Pounds has: been collected-in Ireland, America, and Great Britain. Ireland has contributed half of this sum—£27,615—the Irish in America, £16,244—the British Colonies, £970 - England and Scotland, only £4,166.

The Rev. D. Flanigan, C.C., has been appointed by the Commander in-Chief as Catholic Chaplain to Queen's county militia, at Mountmellick.

The Right Rev. Dr. Moriarry has organised a movement at Tralee to withdraw the children from them under the care of the Christian Brothers, at 1d. per week each child.

We are glad to be able to state that the new Catholic, church of Hackel's Cross, in the parish of Clogher, the foundation of which was laid about four months since, is now roofed, and that considerable progress has been made in plastering the interior. Mass was celebrated in it for the first time on Sunday

Mrs. C. Mahony was received into the Catholic hurch at Adare, on Sunday last, by the Rev. Mr. Cregan - Munster News.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PADE - The Society o Survive of St. vincent Dreams - The Society of St. Vincentia one of those instructions to which every man of reflection and good sense, not matter what his peculiar of monotogreed, ought wish success to; but it is as peculiarly and pre-eminently Catholic, in its epirit; his objects, and its operations, that its active ground by a Catholic community should be, as indeed it is to Cook, a matter of pride as well as duty it is to Cork, a matter of pride as well as duty. deals with a class of destitution, which must abound in all communities, see long as they are subject, not merely to vicissitudes of the to accident, sickness, as human beings are hable to accident, sickness, decay and death. This destitution is of the class ber domestic calabilies far outnumber the proportion which can find no remedy, but a more terrible aggra- of her people to the entire population of the county, various in the work hopse; An industrious man falls Their name is legion. In every rank and grade of the county of the struck down by some accident which life, in every town and village from County or mainteent and the county of th maims a limb, or deprives him of his strength for a time. He and his family soon become destitute. Is his a case, is their's a case, for the workhouse? Compel him and them to seek that last of all asylums, and you degrade him, and perhaps destroy them. At any rate, you fasten him and them as paupers on the overburdened shoulders of a heavily-taxed community.-But what does the Society of St. Vincent do? It inquires into the case, it visits the family, it examines into all the particulars, it satisfies itself thoroughly that there is no fraud, no imposition; and if it arrive at the conclusion that real and aubstantial good may be done by taking it up, it is at once attended to, and relief is afforded. With what result? With thisthat the sick man is nursed into health, that the family are fed and otherwise assisted during his illness, that the spirit of none among them is debased, and that the renovated head of that family returns to his honest labour, grateful to God, and grateful to the agents of God's bounty, his own better-circumstanced fellow-citizens. Here, then, by a small outlay, a valuable member of society is saved, to add, by his rewarded industry, to its wealth and its prosperity.-This is one of the thousands of cases which the Society annually takes up; and we ask, what wiser, or better, what more Christian succour could a community afford? Then the widow is assisted in the hour of her deepest misery and wildest despair—helped on with kindly hand, until a better day opens on her dreary onth. The orphan is sheltered in its feebleness educated, and directed to some useful pursuit. Old age, perhaps the old age of those who once were prosperous traders in our, city, is protected from many of the afflictions to which poverty and human decay are subjected. It may be that a struggling son, strong alone in filial piety and a spirit of industry, is put in the way of doing something more, or that his scanty earnings are judiciously added to with the view of enabling him to keep the wolf of hunger from a parent's breast. It is in works of this kind, which can rather be imagined than described, that the Society administers the funds entrusted to it by the public as well as the funds which it supplies from its own the touch of the torch she bears, and consign them to destruction. The Riphonnen be it understood are well repaid for what they do, and what they give. They have the blessings and gratitude of the poor hovering like angels, about them; they have the a Catholic he must visit once in the year-at-least— hourly consciousness of being engaged in a duty of and he eschews it because he knows that he must the sublimest charity—and, greater benefit still, they formally renounce his society before he can derive gather strength and fortitude for their own!trials, from which no mortal is free, in the contemplation of human misery which no pen has ever painted, and of the wonderful patience and regignation with which the poor endure their hard lot and bitter privations.—Cork

Father Vladimir Petcherine, the priest charged with burning Protestant Bibles at Kingstown, is a Russian by birth, and a native of Odessa. The other fathers the fellowship of His Holy Church. If he cannot of the same order are also foreigners, with one or two exceptions. Fathers Buggenome and Vanderaa are Belgians, Fathers Thounis and Leon are Greeks, Father Bagshaw is an Englishman, and Father Harbison an Irishman, and we believe a native of Dungan non. The Irish house or convent of the order is at Limerick, and if this prosecution were carried out in that city it would require all the troops in Ireland to suppress an insurrection there, such is the reverence an organization, il possible more deadly and malignant, in which these priests are held by the people at large. Even at Kingslown things look bad enough already, sion and contempt. From all of which it is quite Their chapel is open from 5 o'clock in the morning clear that the British Empire is doomed; that its destill nine, for the accommodation of the working people, and at every hour of the day is crowded with de-vout worshippers. It is rather unlucky that the only member of the order who is a Russian should be the man against whom this prosecution is directed. For it will excite Russian sympathy in the people. (On) the Faith—the "base, bloody, and brutal" Orange, the whole we consider it a most indiscreet prosecution; for it will create a general, feeling of indigna-tion throughout Ireland, which will not be allayed for a long time, and perhaps not without unpleasant con-sequences.—Newry Examiner.

THE MEATH ELECTION.—A most influential and enthusiastic manifestation of the feeling of the people of Kells, Navan, and the surrounding districts of the county, in fovour of Edward M Evoy, Esq., the popular candidate for the representation of the ever patriotic and independent county of Meath, took place on Sunday at Kells. The meeting was held in the extensive grounds of the fine Catholic church, and was in every respect a decisive and effective demonstration in support of Tenant Right, religious equality, and independent opposition, to which the people of Meath are as devotedly and warmly attached as ever. There could not have been less than five thousand persons present and the enthusiastic spirit evinced by the speakers and the people was worthy of the county. which returned the late lamented Frederick, Liucas to, parliament in so triumphant a manner, and which now deplores his loss. - Nation.

Poor Mr. Canden!-The Nenagh Guardian states that "The Lord Lieutenant, has refused to comply with the prayer of the memorialists on behalf of Mr. John Carden, stating that that gentleman on a former occasion was offered sufficiently liberal terms by the government for his liberation, but having declined them, his Excellency would not now interfere with the sentence awarded him, and that the law should therefore take its course. Mr. Carden's period of imprisonment will expire in August 1856. them, his Excellency would not now interfere with the local National Education schools, and to place therefore take its course. Mr. Carden's period of imprisonment will expire in August, 1856.

MILITIA IN IRELAND. - The Dublin Mail states that Government, have resolved on sending upwards of 50,000 English militia to Ireland. It is well known that a great paucity of barrack accomodation, exists in England, while in Ireland there are buildings going to ruin capable of containing a vast army. The billeling system in England has become so unpopular, | vengeance, when the enemy of our race and country that Government are forced to put a stop to it.

THE LEITRIM RIPLES. - The complaint of the Town Commissioners of Naas against this regiment has had its effect; they have been removed to Cork, and matched from Naas on Ingestays morning. A second investigation look place at Maas Harracks on Morday last, before 147 the French Esq., R.M. Hawas abject directed against Lieut. Betty, and the picquet under directed against Lieut. his command, who so wantonly stabbed the man and boy on the night of Sunday, the 18th November, Several informations were taken, and Lieutenary Betty was bound over to stand his trial at Maynooth Quarter Sessions .-- Packet.

When Ireland comes to sum up her share of the blood and treasure laid down as the price of the present war, observes the Express, it will be found that life, in every town and village from Cork to Antrim, and from Wexford to Mayo, the outward symbols of inward suffering denote too plainly the havoc made amongst the peaceful! Homesteads of this fair island. Irish soldiers, it is generally admitted, are among the most devoted in the world; on the scene of action, is the presence of the enemy, or overtaken by the severities of famine, tempest, or pestilence, no difficulties can dannt, no hardship unnerve or discourage them. To this fact may be attributed, in a great measure, the unusually large, returns of killed and wounded in all Irish regiments actively engaged du-

ing the late Crimean campaign.
The Downfall of the British Empire. - The folowing extracts is from an article in the new National paper, the Dublin Tribune :- 15 Stricken down from being a first-class to the position of a second or thirdtate military power, she is now completely at the mercy of her 'august ally,' France, her ancient tival, and still her implacable, and deadly foe. She is threatened with invasion from the North (Russia), and from the West (America), either of which, if successful, would seal her destruction as a commercial State, and neither of which she could repel without immense loss, perhaps total ruin. Her Colonies, too, are in to With a Santhal insurrection, troubles in Ouds, Scinde meditating another spring, with the fanaticism of the Mahomedan population excited almost to frenzy, we know not the day on which we shall hear that British rule in India is extinct. Australia is on the watch for the proper moment to seize her independence. A net-work of secret societies covers Canada, China takes unkindly to her poison, and Ireland-lieand is for the present tranquil-that, we believe, is he usual phrase. And it England has rebellies abroad, she has discontent threatening worse than rebellion at home. All the premonitory symptoms of a revolution, the like of which from the degradation, poverty, and vice of her urban, and the brutality, and gnerance of her rural population, the world has never witnessed yet: a fierce social war raging in her bysom, the gulf between ther aristocratic, monied and lower classes ever growing wider, deeper, and most massable. These lower classes, maddened and resdered desperate by low wages and famine prices, while stagnant trade; decaying commerce, increasing taxation, and overwhelming debt, all portend an approaching commercial crisis, inevitable bankruptcy, and an universal smash. Even our boasted Consti-ntion has been proved to be what we always knew it was, a delusion, a mockery, and a snare. Witness the recent expulsion of the French Refugees from Jersey, by order of Louis Napoleon; even the clast plant has been taken from under their feet. And we request all men to take notice that there is now in these countries, no laws no liberty, no constitution save and except what Louis Napoleon, or his faithful Hench man, Lord Palmerston, may graciously permit. So that we expect it will be some time before we shall be some time. hear again of our f glorious Constitution, and it is well to have this miserable delucion dispelled for ever-Tried by the stern test of war, the British government in every department of the State-turns out to be a grand imposture—an imposing sham—a gigantic lie. in the presence of an imperious necessity, the whole system has collapsed and failed-utterly, ingloriously, ignominously failed. Until, in every part of the civilized, aye, and of the uncivilized world, her Government, and Constitution, and power, have become a laughing stock and a bye-word a mark for deritruction is near, is at hand, even at our doors. And now, in the crisis of England's fate, in the hour of her stern calamity and of her sore distress, she has no quarter to turn for sympathy and support. She has no stateman, or general, or man, to whom she car look up, or look upon whom she can rely. Smitten with paralysis, struck with judical blindness, laden with the curses and executious of the nations she has plundered, and the kingdoms she has oppressed. she reels to and fro, and staggers like a drunken man; and the prediction of the most philosophic of her statesmen sceme about to be fulfilled. When neither God nor man will longer endure her, nor will she long endure herself; but she shall be cast out in the fact of the sun; a bloated and noisome carcase, full of sterich and poison—an offence, a horror, a lesson to the world! Thus, then, this war has done, up to the present, what weither famine, nor bankruptcy, nor Chartism, nor Repeal agitation, nor monster meetings, could effect. It has dealt a mortal blow to the vilest system, of despotism that ever cursed this earth-a system which, not content with rapine, plunder, and spoliation, must needs rob and muriler under the pretence of advancing the interests of Civilization and Religion-and it has given to the victims of English misrule in every part of the world an opportunity of recovering the rights, and dignity of Freemen. But to the noisy demagogue, to the brawling agitator, 40 the shrinking coward, such Heaven-sent opportunities ever come in vain. For the last fiffy years we Irishmen have been for ever blustering about our wronge, for ever, like beaten spaniels, whining our complaints; for ever reciting the tale of our miseries and our woos, until the world grew sick of us and them; for ever accusing late, fortune, circumstances, leaders, Engand. Blaming every body, and everything, but ourany, or deserved to have any); or, like bravdes, we

were for ever boasting of our numbers, our intelli-

gence, sour strength, cour respectability, our moral

force; or we were for ever threatening | England that:

her difficulty was our opportunity, and what dreadful things we would do, should that difficulty ever arise.

And now, now! when that difficulty has come, with a

is in her death-struggle, we stand by with folded