

of the first grade in Irish society) are strenuous advocates for Catholic emancipation.

I remain,

REV. SIR,

Yours, fraternally,

C. S.

January, 1828.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN IRELAND TO HIS FRIEND
IN QUEBEC.

Having related so much of our former friends, school-fellows, &c., permit me, now my friend, to say a few words on a subject of much greater consequence. One that deeply interests all well-wishers of our dear country; one on which we warmly argued last winter, but differed only with respect to the means to be used in bringing it about.

The conversions continue to gain ground daily, and within the last few days, no less than seventeen persons conformed to our Church, many of whom are highly respectable, and all of them persons of good character; great caution being used that no others be received, or that their change proceeds from pure motives.

In the County of Sligo seven recanted last week, and a highly respectable family possessed of considerable property in the same County, it is reported, will come forward next Sunday.

On the whole the reformation continues to progress rapidly, and I can only assure you that fear alone prevents its being more general. I mean fear of an enraged and bigotted Priesthood, who view, with the greatest alarm, the general spread of the true light of the Gospel, and are now making a desperate, but I trust, a last effort to extinguish the light of reason and pure religion, but our poor deluded countrymen are now becoming too enlightened not to perceive the errors of Popery.

Schools and Education are rapidly spreading throughout the country, and the increased demand for Bibles and religious works is truly astonishing; this is what the Roman Catholic Clergymen dread most and they are daily using every means possible to suppress the circulation of Protestant works among their wavering hearers.

The Ministers of Popery have been constantly worsted whenever they dared to meet in open discussion, and so thoroughly are they convinced of this now, that they avoid all public disputation.

Controversial Sermons are to be daily heard in some one of our Churches, and I believe Dublin never was blessed with more pious or able Clergy than at the present moment. Our friend Jones intends to publish a small work about March, giving an account of the number of Conversions for the last three years, the number of