

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

CONDITION OF THE WEST.

(To the Editor of the Tablet.)

Ballinakill, Clifden, County Galway, Jan. 16, 1851.

Dear Sir,—At this period of the fifth year of famine, an apology is scarcely necessary for a Priest appearing in the columns of a public journal as the humble and suppliant advocate of his poor flock. If charity was not an essential ingredient in the constitution of the Church, and can only cease to be so when time is no more, the many and various calls made on the resources of the Faithful, almost every hour of the day, should have long since dried up all its sources.

To describe the hopeless condition of this part of the "desert of Connemara, or to give the public an idea of the hardships which the people are patiently enduring, is a task for which I am totally inadequate. To be called on in this cold season of the year, to give the last solemn rites of the Church to a man dying of want near a wall, and to see the poor-rate collector, on a Christmas Eve, scouring every cabin for means to pay the poor rates, are facts which would appear paradoxical in any other part of the civilised globe save misgoverned Ireland. The rates are collected without mercy, and the poor are allowed to starve without pity. Probably before this letter reaches you, about 240 human beings, old and young, are to be thrown naked and houseless on the world's waste, without any prospect of being able to live unless they can procure admission to the Union slaughter-house.

And—fearful to be told—it is when the poor people are in this forlorn state, that the Exeter-hall soul-monger comes up, and offers to relieve their various wants, if they abandon the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church. Such charity is unworthy of a savage or Pagan. They study, by this shameful system of bribery, to seduce the young children, knowing full well that their tender minds are susceptible of their wicked and depraved impressions. Every sect here—and their names are "Legion"—are united in this unholy warfare against the Faith of the people, and are aided by a phalanx of shipwrecked apostates from "the four winds of Heaven," who derive their mission (the money) from Exeter-hall.

When the Whig serpent has at length uncoiled itself in the memorable letter to the *Lew* Bishop of Durham, and exhibited its poisonous sting to the view of the world, so as to be despised and execrated, no man will be surprised to see its offspring, the "generation of vipers" with which this place is infested, actively engaged in advancing the work of their Lord and Master. A revival of the penal code would, no doubt, be agreeable to the feelings of a "malice fidei possessor," or sacrilegious robber.

I take this opportunity of recording my gratitude, and that of the poor people, to the charitable individuals on both sides of the Channel, who heretofore enabled me, by their contributions, to save many from a premature grave, and rescue their souls from the cruel fangs of the mercenary proselytisers; and I indulge the hope that "those who can make for themselves friends of the mammon of iniquity," will, for the time to come, in the distribution of their charities, select this wretched place and thrice wretched people as the objects of their sympathy and commiseration.—I remain, &c.,

WILLIAM FLANNELLY, P. P., Ballinakill and Boffin.

The following letter from His Grace the Catholic Primate of Ireland was read at the recent meeting of the Tenant League, Armagh:—

Drogheda, Jan. 24, 1851.

SIR—I beg to assure you, and your respected co-operators, that, in common with you, I feel most intensely for the sufferings of our agricultural population. No one can doubt that it is most desirable that some arrangement may be made to protect their just rights, and to better their unhappy condition. A measure, having such effects, would be beneficial to the country; and, in my humble opinion, no class of society would derive greater advantages from it than the landlords themselves. It is my fervent prayer, that you and your colleagues may be guided by such a spirit of prudence, moderation, and justice, in the steps you take, that you shall, finally, overcome every opposition, and succeed in getting measures adopted which will realize your hopes, and bring about a better state of things among us. But, whatever your success may be, it will be always a source of consolation to you to have labored in the cause of charity and humanity, and to have devoted your energies to redress the grievances of our poor and afflicted countrymen.

Wishing you, therefore, every success in your efforts to obtain an equitable arrangement of the relations between Landlord and Tenant,

I have the honor to be, with great esteem, your obedient, devoted servant,

† PAUL CULLEN.

Wm. Girdwood, Esq., &c., &c."

An Irish Protestant thus concludes a very sensible letter to John Bull:—

"Leave Catholics to conduct their own Church Government, and go among the thousands of your people who know as little of the Lord who bought them as we, Irish, know of your justice. Go to your factories, those smoking hells, and rub the sin-crust off your children's souls! Visit your coal-pits, where the soul is as dark as the skin is stained; travel through your rural districts, where brutality is not confined to four legs; peep into the breathing holes of perdition that open in your Tophet-Metropolis—view these things, friend John, and change them, and you have as much credit among your neighbors as if you railed at the Pope for ever. Besides, sure the Pope has usurped none of your fat preferences, where the mind of "stuffed theology" grows stagnant, and the Soul is smothered in its folds of flesh? Has the Pope seized on any of the bishoprics in which your successors of the Apostles roll in the wealth of princes?—has he claimed to be the head of your Church?

"Better, good Sir, convert your own people to Christianity, in some shape, before you denounce the Pope. Does not Sodom's fame brighten when your factory morality is mentioned?—does not the cloud pass from the memory of Babylon when your mines are described?—does not the moral state of your metropolis stand, the outflow of language, below the reach of description? "I wish you well; and I wish to remove the beam of pollution from your own eye, before you touch the Popish moat in your brother's."

THE VICEROYALTY.—The aggregate meeting at the Dublin Rotunda, on the Viceroyalty question, was held on Monday. The corporation of Dublin was there almost to a man: the lawyers and solicitors deserted the courts for the purpose of attending; the mercantile people seemed to make the case especially their own, and assembled in great numbers; and the tradesmen and operatives thronged the body of the meeting.

Lord Cloncurry has expressed his opinion in opposition to the abolition of the Viceroyalty, for the usual reasons, and for this singular one in addition:—"I do not myself think the office of viceroy or deputy so important as the character of the person holding it, and in that we have, in general, been very unfortunate. I have known about two dozen, of whom two or three only cared one pin for the country they had to govern, and of these the best were speedily recalled; but the office itself is part and parcel of the institution vouchsafed to us by England, and to plot its extinction is little short of treason."

The Drogheda Corporation has passed a resolution, calling upon Sir W. Somerville to resist in Parliament any attempt that may be made for restricting the religious liberty enjoyed by Catholics at present, and to exert his influence in procuring a repeal of any penal disabilities now affecting them.

Mr. Christian, Q. C., has resigned the office of Adviser to the Castle, and the appointment has been conferred on Mr. John Perrin, son of Mr. Justice Perrin, and son-in-law of the Attorney-General, Mr. Hatchell.

THE GREAT WILL CAUSE.—Miss Thewles, the now inheritor of the great wealth conferred on her last Saturday, by the Court of Delegates, is in her 63rd year, and descendent of a Protestant Huguenot family, which settled in the County Roscommon 150 years since. Lately Miss Thewles became a Roman Catholic. The suit, so completely in her favor, was sustained by Rev. J. Fitzgerald, P. P. of St. John's, Ardagh, and Walter Kelly, Esq., of Scroggy, who advanced the money to carry on the litigation. Mrs. Kelly, the impugnant, drew out of the English funds an immense sum, for which probate was granted at Canterbury.

Some of the "loyal Orangemen" of the village of Collon have set on foot a petition against the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England. An effort is being made in Drogheda with a like object, as the Rev. T. Gregg not many days ago held forth, for two hours, in the Protestant church of that town, calling on the "true blues" to bestir themselves.—*Louth Advertiser*.

CAPTURE OF SUPPOSED RIBBONMEN IN DUNDALK.—On the night of Monday last, Sub-Inspector Hill, accompanied by Head-constable Scott, Sergeant Carolan, Constable Campion, and others of the police force, went to a public-house in Bridge-street, in which they had reason to suspect a Ribbon Lodge was held. Having cautiously surrounded the house, they made an entry, and succeeded in arresting eleven men, some of whom had documents of a serious nature in their possession. The parties were in two rooms, eight in one room, and three in another. They were immediately handcuffed and marched to the county gaol, where they now remain awaiting an investigation.—*Newry Examiner*.

The *Derry Standard* describes Letterkenny, the town and district lately proclaimed under the Crime and Outrage Act, as in the hands of the police like a town stormed after a siege. They are searching for arms in all directions, and entering proceedings against persons with whom they are found. The *Standard* says—"Having succeeded in getting into the houses, they entered the bed-rooms, tossed beds unceremoniously about on the floors, broke open locks, and acted in every way as though they had been in a town taken after a sharp siege."

VIADUCT OVER THE RIVER BOYNE—ITS DIMENSIONS, &c.—It is intended that the centre span of this monster bridge will extend 250 feet, and the spans on either side 125 feet. Its height over high-water mark will be 90 feet, to allow vessels to pass to and from the quays of Drogheda.—*Newry Examiner*.

We find, from a recent article which appeared in the *Daily News*, that the average receipt of letters by Cunard's line of packets is nearly as follows:—Out of every 73 letters, 9 are for Liverpool, 7 for English and Scotch places to the North, and 27 for English places to the South of it, while 30 are for Ireland. From these figures, of which we have no reason to doubt the correctness, the great inconvenience and sacrifice of Irish interests which are experienced must be manifest.—*Nation*.

O'BRIEN.—The statement in the English papers that O'Brien has been offered, and accepted, a ticket of leave, is unhappily not true. By the latest letters we learn that he is a close prisoner at Port Arthur since the attempted escape. May God strengthen him, for he is pressed beyond human endurance by unnumbered misfortune and rancorous enemies! May the prayers of the suffering poor for whom he devoted himself, hover like guardian angels round his solitary bed, to preserve his reason and fortify his trust in God and his country.—*Nation*.

The lead-mine recently discovered near the town of Galway has now a number of hands employed on it at full work, and the results promise to be of a most profitable nature.

A LUCKY SCAVENGER.—A singular instance of the caprice of fortune is related in the *Cork Examiner*. For several years back, one of the most miserably poor of the poor of Skibbereen, was James Kane, who contrived to eke out existence by disposing of a few bones and old rags, and, now and then, a handful of grass plucked from the roadside. On one occasion, his precarious means of livelihood utterly failed him, and he was driven to the shelter of the workhouse. This same James Kane is now on his way to London, in company with an eminent solicitor, to receive a legacy of £10,000, and property to the amount of £500 a-year.

WRECK NEAR WICKLOW.—On Thursday the brig Richard Browne, of Liverpool, from the West Indies, laden with rum and sugar, for Liverpool, was driven ashore, about eleven o'clock, at Five-mile Point, near the coast-guard station, and became a total wreck. The captain, the two mates, and the two boys were drowned, and the remainder of the crew (seven in number) were saved.

INCENDIARY FIRE.—The reflection in the clouds of an immense glare of fire, in the direction of Connagh, on Thursday night week, between eleven and twelve o'clock, having attracted the attention of the police in this city, the strong party under Sub-inspector Williams, at once repaired to the scene of conflagration, a distance of three miles, where they discovered three great ricks of hay, containing over 50 tons, in a fearful

body of flame, and the roofs of two thatched houses had to be pulled down to prevent its spreading to the slated dwelling of the owner, John Madden. The whole of the hay was consumed, and from the fact of the two ricks being on fire together, though apart, it must have been the work of incendiaries. This occurred at Meelick, on the property of David Leahy Arthur, Shanakeil, Cork.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

A MAGISTRATE AGAINST THE LAW.—A report appears in several of the papers, of resistance offered by a Mr. Nagle, of Ballinamana Castle, county Cork, to a service of law documents, by the bailiff of the Incumbered Estates Court preparatory to an absolute order for the sale of the estate. The bailiff was assaulted by two servants and six others of "the castle." His papers were taken from him, and he was turned off well pleased to get leave to escape. He next came with the police, and a search-warrant in quest of his papers, but two sons of Mr. Nagle with arms refused him admittance, at the same time that they admitted the police, and one of them afterwards followed him with a warrant for his arrest. These young "rebels" have since been committed for trial at the assizes, and the absolute order for sale has been made in the court.

The *Kilkenny Journal* remarks—This case, just to contrast it with that of the Shirleys—once of Burnchurch, in this county, now transports—thanks to Baron Pennefather, and the whisperings of "wayside" and other not more honored gentry about here. The Shirley party did not actually assault the tenant—who had been put into their land at a less rent than had been screwed out of them. They broke and burned some farm implements, and set fire to some hay or straw. This was their offence. Contrast the county Cork organised scenes with this; for such acts could not have followed each other, unless by arrangement. The man at the back door—the second man—the six men—the muffled man—the lantern—the guns, bludgeons pitchforks; all this was "by order"—we don't say of whom. If a tenant party, like the Shirleys, had committed only half of it, they would have been sentenced to transportation for life. Now, we shall anxiously await the fate of the landlord aggression; and the decision of the erminent Judges who will try them—Judge Jackson and Judge Ball.

A few nights since, says the *Westmeath Guardian*, as Mr. James Haggerty was returning from Killucan to his residence at Knockshewbawn, a party of eight men armed with bludgeons set upon him. He drew out a large clasp-knife, and cut and hacked away at his opponents so vigorously that they were compelled to escape from him, and it is believed that the majority were severely wounded. Mr. Haggerty had 200*l.* on his person.

EXTERMINATION NEAR DUNDALK.—On Monday last, the bailiffs of Lord Roden, accompanied by one of the sheriff's officers, evicted three families from their holdings situate in Upper Merches, within two miles of this town. At the time the unfortunate people were turned out, the rain was pouring down in torrents, and we are told that their cries were heartrending in the extreme. One poor old man named Joseph Rice, and his grandchild, who occupied one of the holdings, were in a most miserable condition.

THE SHIRLEY BRIGADE.—A number of the members of this celebrated force were out, on Tuesday last, levelling some houses. One of those party, named Marrin, after they had gone some distance from a house they had nearly prostrated, said that one of the walls was yet too high, and that the family they had evicted might return and build a shed against it. He then went back to the ruins, and commenced to pull down the wall, and while doing so it fell on him and nearly crushed him to death. We are told that there is no chance of his recovery.

EVICTIORS IN THE COUNTY OF DOWN.—The *Dundalk Democrat* publishes a formidable list of landlords who are preparing to take out ejectment decrees at the Newry quarter sessions now sitting. Among the applicants are Lord Bangor, the trustees of Lord Kilmorrey, General Meade, who obtained decrees against eight of his tenants, and Lord Clanwilliam against five. The Marquis of Downshire obtained a vast number of decrees against tenants whose rents varied from £10 to £30 a year. Lord Roden was an applicant for one decree only. "Here," says the *Democrat*, "are preparations for wholesale extermination in the county of Down, by marquesses, earls, lords, parsons, and squires; and averaging the family of each person to be ejected at five persons, about 600 human beings may prepare very soon to walk forth from their homes in the county of Down before the forces of those landlords whom we have named."

STATE OF TIPPERARY.—On referring to the charge delivered by Mr. Serjeant Howley to the Nenagh Grand Jury, the gratifying fact will be perceived that crime has all but disappeared from our county. The number of prisoners for trial was 113 only, out of a population of 200,000; and last Quarter Sessions—nearly four months—and the privations and distress under which our population have labored, it will not be considered too much when we say that the calendar presented but a small amount of crime. There was no offence of an aggravated nature to occupy the serious attention of the Court or jurors.—*Clonmel Chronicle*.

A SINGULAR REDUCTION.—The tenants living on the estate of Lord Blaney sent a memorial to him, a few months since, praying for a large abatement in their rents. The reply they received was, that the subject would be taken into consideration. Nothing more was heard of the matter till the time came for paying the last gale, and then the tenantry received an abatement of just one shilling in the pound! Much of the estate is let at £3 and 5*s.* per acre, which we consider to be three times its value; but the beggarly reduction made by the proprietor beats all we have heard of as yet.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

A REWARD FOR TREACHERY.—On Friday, ejectments were served by Mr. Eyle Lloyd on the tenants of Ballyneety, in the parish of Templebrady. Some of these very men voted for Mr. Lloyd's friend, Mr. Gould, at the late election.

Ejectments have been served on over one hundred families near Emly, on the property of General Vincent, for rent due up to the 1st of last November.—*Limerick Examiner*.

A poor man, named Maloney, died the other day, of exhaustion and starvation, near Clonmel. He was refused lodging by his brother, and was found dead in one of his out-houses.

DEATH BY STARVATION IN ABBEYFEALE.—Last Monday an inquest was held at Abbeyfeale, by Mr. Cox, coroner, on the body of a wretched creature named Mannix, who died in a field at Portenare, in this parish. The poor man was frightfully emaciated, and presented the appearance of a real skeleton. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was ex-

tremely destitute; that on the evening of his death he called into some houses, in one of which he procured some food; that he had a few turnips in his possession, and that, owing to his feeble and debilitated appearance, the people were unwilling to give him a night's lodging, as they supposed him to be laboring under some severe and infectious disease. He then proceeded towards another house, but before he reached it he fell down in a field, where he was found when expiring. Some warm milk was then procured for him, but the poor creature was too far gone to use it. He died immediately after. A verdict in accordance with these facts was returned.—*Limerick Examiner*.

In answer to the application to allow an extension of time to the Messrs. Hutton to prepare new carriages for the Great Exhibition in place of those destroyed by the late fire, a letter to the following effect has been received by the Committee of the Dublin Society:—"I am instructed by the Executive Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to say that, cordially sympathizing with your resolution, they will make every effort to meet the case. They cannot at this distance of time say which will be the latest day, but considerable time is promised to Messrs Hutton, beyond that advertised, viz., the 1st of March."

The wife and four children of John Mitchell, the Irish political convict, have arrived in Liverpool from Dublin on the way to join Mr. Mitchell in Australia. Father Kenyon accompanied them, and started them on their voyage in the Condor, on Thursday.

The result of the registry for the borough of Sligo shows a total of 333 votes—of whom 199 are Catholics, and 135 Protestants, giving to the former a majority of 65. Mr. Townley, an English Catholic, means to contest the representation with Mr. Somers on the first occasion that may offer.

ENGLAND.

LETTER OF THE BISHOP OF DURHAM.—SUGGESTED MEASURES OF PERSECUTION.—In a letter, dated January 6th, and addressed to the Archbishop of Lisdisfarne, the Bishop of Durham (Lord John's correspondent) says:—"In order to prevent such evils" (Papal aggression, &c.) "it may be necessary to provide some restrictions upon the introduction and circulation of Papal Bulls in this island; and to prohibit the assumption of Episcopal titles conferred by Rome, and deriving the name from any place in this country. It may also be desirable to forbid the existence of monastic institutions, strictly so called; nor can the residence of any Jesuit appear otherwise than injurious among Scotch and English Protestants. I am sure you will agree with me, that a body of men whose principles and conduct have been so justly reprobated in Catholic countries, cannot be looked upon as desirable neighbors among Protestants like ourselves. To some such measures as I have pointed out, it may in all probability be found necessary to resort; and they may not improperly be referred to in petitions presented to Parliament in the ensuing session."

The Roman correspondent of the *London Standard*, under date of 20th Dec. last, says:—"There had previously, as is well known, been no place of public Protestant worship within the walls of this city, the large English chapel being just beyond the Porta del Popolo. Mr. Cass, the American Consul, petitioned his Holiness not long since to allow of public worship for the Presbyterians of the United States; the prayer was granted (Mr. Cass being a man highly esteemed by the government here) and a chapel opened, I believe, about two months ago, in a central part of the city, at which Mr. Hastings, already chaplain of the Embassy, officiates to a congregation of about 200 at the average. Some opposition was subsequently raised by timid, and in this case (I think) very short-sighted parties, headed by the Cardinal-Vicar, who, being a man of extremely advanced age, must be excused for an excess of innovations after the experience of the last three years; but the generosity, may I not say the enlightenment, of Pius IX. would not yield to these instances, and Mr. Hastings was assured, through Cardinal Antonelli, that his Holiness had no intention of withdrawing his protection from the infant establishment."

THE IRISHMAN AND THE GORHAM CONTROVERSY.—The other day, says the *London Catholic Standard*, Mr. W.—, the Collector of our great Metropolitan River Company, called upon a poor "Green Island" man for the usual quarterly rate, and after some cavil about the amount, the Irishman in the richest and drollest brogue replies—"Well, thanks be to God, the Protestants have done away with baptism, and clane wather will soon be getting cheaper in spite of you."

An advertisement, in the *Morning Chronicle*, from the London Union on Church matters, stated that information had reached the Committee, from trustworthy quarters, that measures are in contemplation by those who took part in the meeting of the 5th December at Freemason's Hall, under the chairmanship of Lord Ashley, to procure a Royal Commission for a latitudinarian revision of the Prayer-Book; and therefore called true Churchmen to take instant measures to resist this new attempt on the faith of the Church. Lord Ashley has published this contradiction:—

"It is not in contemplation by myself, nor, I firmly believe, by any of those who took part in the meeting of the 5th December, when I had the honor to be a chairman, to procure a Royal Commission, or any other authority, for a revision of the Prayer-Book, either latitudinarian or otherwise."

In a subsequent leader, however, the *Chronicle* reiterates the substantial point of the contradicted statement:—

"It is understood that one of the chief ingredients to be thrown into the cauldron of religious confusion will be contributed by Lord Ashley, in the form of an address to the Crown for an interference, by virtue of any prerogative which it may possess, to reform and purify the Church."

The same article intimates another probability, still more alarming to High Churchmen:—

"The intentions attributed to a statesman more highly placed than Lord Ashley are, if true, even more rash than the violence of the philanthropist, and in their consequences they may be far more dangerous. It is said that the Premier, in a desperate attempt to conciliate the Roman Catholics whom he has insulted, and to unite discordant colleagues in a course of policy against which they have not been openly pledged, is meditating an attack on the harmony of the Church, by proposing to undertake a modification of the Prayer-Book, with the aid of an excited Parliamentary majority."—*Spectator*.