

rials of certain events; and it is much to be regretted, for this reason, that extraordinary evidence is so little valued in the present day, as we thereby lose a most valuable chain of historical data. Amongst the peasantry who reside near them, we generally find some rambling and unconnected tale about the "auld stanes" in which names and principle features may be taken as correct, and thus, in some measure, guide our researches; but in consequence of the deteriorating view in which tradition is for the most part looked upon, it would be folly to rely upon it with additional and more convincing proof.

**2nd. Distinctive.**—At the commencement of this class boundary crosses present themselves; they are met with in the greatest abundance in wild, uncultivated tracts, dividing counties and parishes; in Cornwall, which is of this character they occur the most frequently, generally consisting of rude blocks of stone, with a cross carved in relief on one side; those which fix the limits of church lands or sanctuary are perhaps more ornamented.

In the vast fens round Crowland Abbey there were made use of; and which now, or formerly, stood there, had the following inscription:—

"Aio hanc petram Guthlacus habet sibi metam," severally translated by eminent antiquaries—

'This rock, I say, is Guthlac's utmost bound; and—

"I say that Cathlake this stone his bound doth make."

Whereas it appears by ancient records, that Abbot Toricul, in 947, made a perambulation of the bounds, and commanded stone crosses Jussit lapideas cruces to be placed at certain distances, whereon were inscribed the names of three or four monks who accompanied him, the last of whom was called Aio, in the translation converted into I say, in consequence of the upper part being broken off, the other names were lost. At certain seasons the clergy visited these boundaries in procession; the crosses then formed stations, where they halted to sing a litany, or hymn of thanksgiving, for the blessings of prosperity.

During the feudal period, when the nobles were accustomed to take law into their own hands, and to execute summary justice on offenders, the right of sanctuary was an inestimable privilege to a suspected party, and though in a measure it tended to encourage predatory habits by sheltering the really guilty, yet at the same time it proved a grateful protection to a man who might slay another unawares, and give time for explanation to his over-zealous pursuers. This privilege of sanctuary was granted by the sovereign to churches and convents, and extended in many cases for a mile or more on each side, the limits being defined by crosses. King Athelstane granted this right to the church of St. Wilfrid, at Ripon, Yorkshire, with the condition that whoever violated it, should forfeit both life and estates. It extended a circle of two miles round the church, and was marked by three crosses, going by the names of Kanzel, Sharow, and Athelstane. It appears from some of the early councils that any single cross fixed in the earth had the power of affording refuge to any who, being condemned or having escaped, might flee to it, equally with a church or holy place, so long as the criminal remained by it.

Almost every market town has, at one time, possessed a cross erected for the purpose of fixing a permanent spot for the sale and purchase of goods; these are still to be seen in many a secluded spot where the arm of the destroyer's innovation has not prevailed; single shafts of stone raised on two or three steps, and more or less decorated in proportion to the early opulence of the town. They vary from the square plain block to the towering structure loaded with tracery, buttresses, and pinnacles, like those which once stood in Cheapside, Charing, and Coventry. The two former of these perished by the hands of Sir Robert Harley, who was commissioned by the Parliament of 1640 "to take away all pictures, crosses, and superstitious figures within churches and without." At Winchester is a splendid cross that has escaped destruction. It was the opinion of Dr. Milner, that the larger sort of market crosses were chiefly erected by the monks of a neighbouring monastery, to whom often the tolls of the market belonged, and that they were accustomed to harangue the people from them. This may have been the intention of those that were arched, as at Glastonbury, Chichester, Gloucester, and Malmesbury, though indeed it seems more proper to receive as true

the simpler reason of Leland, who, speaking of that last mentioned, says.—"There is a right, fair, and costly piece of work in the market-place, made of stone, and curiously vaulted for poor market folks to stand drye when the rayne continueth. \* \* \* The men of the town made this peace of work in hominum memoria." The richest and most elaborate article of this kind on the Continent was at Nuremburgh. Rouen has one of exquisite beauty of proportion and detail.

It cannot be denied that gable crosses were in a degree distinctive, for we find them exclusively on churches, chapels, and other buildings dedicated to the service of God; they assumed an infinity of elegant forms, and are often found surrounded with a circle, representing the crown of thorns or the nimbus. The earliest in existence, that was discovered at Dr.isbury seems to have belonged to a Saxon church which existed there previous to the Conquest; it is perfectly plain with a circle round it the exterior diameter of which is indented.

Not even these escaped the furious zeal of the Puritans. The journal of William Dowling, visiting commissioner, contains the following entry:—

"January, 1640.—We took away two popish inscriptions with *Ora pro nobis*, and we beat down a great stoneing cross from the top of the chancel." There is a solitary instance of the figure on a gable cross at Than Church, Normandy.

In a succeeding number we hope to illustrate the third division, and show the adaptation of the cross to modern usages.—P. P.—*The Builder*.

## The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, APRIL 29.

### EUROPE.

The last accounts from Europe are still more alarming than the former. Important events succeed each other with so much rapidity that the calculations of the oldest politicians are baffled. The King of Naples has abdicated the throne of Sicily with a protest. The Pope has published a new and most Liberal Constitution. The Milanese after five days hard fighting have driven the Austrian tyrants from the capital of Lombardy. The minor Italian States have expelled their Dukes and petty Princes. Sardinia has declared war against Austria, and Charles Albert has entered Lombardy with a large army to assist the people in chasing away the Austrian troops. Venice is once more a Republic, and "Viva San Marco" is her war-cry. The Austrian garrison were glad to escape by sea to Trieste. Cracow has declared itself a Republic. Warsaw is in full revolt against the Russian Autocrat, the King of Prussia has placed himself at the head of an extensive Liberal movement in Germany, one of whose objects is the reconstruction of the Kingdom of gallant Poland as a barrier against Russian despotism. The King of Bavaria, the silly play-thing of Lola Montes the dancing girl, has been forced to abdicate in favour of his son. Even the hoary despot of Hanover has been obliged to capitulate with his discontented subjects. Meantime hostilities are threatened between Denmark and some of the German States including Prussia, and France is organizing THREE powerful armies. In England and Ireland the state of things is more alarming than at any period within the memory of man. The finances are in confusion, trade is languishing, the Chartists are bearing the Government, Ireland is arming, and in all the frenzy of despair daring England to do her worst. The Sister Country seems determined to take Ireland at her word, and to provoke a wholesale massacre before she gets involved in a foreign war. The English Aristocracy are foredoomed. Nothing will teach them wisdom. One short month has seen more revolutions in Europe than any hundred years since the flood. And yet there is no talk of concession to the discontented masses in England or the starving population of Ireland. Coercion by bullet and bayonet is the order of the day. But we will not speculate. Events now march with too rapid a stride for that. The fury of God seems let loose upon the nations—the worst demons of hell are unchained—and for England especially, this is but the beginning of the end. Oh! if our gracious Sovereign had one honest minister about her at this perilous time, he would say, CONSPIRATE IRELAND AT ANY COST if you wish to secure the integrity of your Empire!

## MORE NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The Chartist crisis is adjourned. The meeting at Kennington Common has passed over without disturbance. Some tyrannical measures have been introduced by the faithless Whigs to destroy the liberty of speech, and the dearest rights of the British subject. John O'Connell has had an interview with the Premier, in which he explained the measures that ought to be adopted at once towards Ireland. Lord John Russell would make no promise. The news from Ireland is decidedly good. The danger of any foolish or precipitate outbreak is over for the present, and the murderous intention of some in high places will thus be defeated. Government are patting the Orangemen on the back, but disaffection seems spreading amongst the police and the military. As for Repeal, we look upon it as certain, at no distant day. If the whole army of England, in every part of the world, were now stationed in Ireland, they could not long maintain the Union. The spirit of Irish Nationality, now aroused, it is impossible to subdue. The infernal spy system is in full operation, and has added, if possible, to the intense hatred with which the Government is regarded. The Premier will regret that he did not accede to John O'Connell's terms in time. The Bishop of Meath has offered to accompany the deputation with the Memorial to the Queen. The idea of petitioning an alien Parliament for Repeal or anything else, is abandoned as a gross absurdity, and we are not much surprised at the determination, when we consider the manner in which Ireland is robbed of her rightful number of Representatives in the House of Commons, whilst she is totally unrepresented in the House of Lords. There has been an exciting scene in the House of Commons in consequence of an open and manly avowal of his sentiments by Mr. Smith O'Brien, in the very teeth of the sneering and hissing Saxons, one of whom told him that he spoke with the halter round his neck. Lord French has published a letter, in which he warns England that if a drop of Irish blood be shed by Lord Clarendon in resisting Repeal, not only the parchment Union, but the whole connection will be at an end, and that Ireland will cry out for a Republic and a separate Government. It is said that some of the Catholic Bishops are about to publish Pastorals on the maintenance of order, &c., and the base Government, which so malignantly defamed the Irish Clergy on a late occasion, are now trumpeting forth their loyalty and invoking their assistance, with the same breath with which they applauded the ferocious Orangemen whose tongues are lapping the air from their thirst to lick blood. We should be happy to see the influence of the Clergy exerted to save their flocks from plunging into the hands of their enemies, but as for any active support to the Government, in its present career of oppression, we do not think they will furnish it. Of one thing we are convinced, by all the recent accounts, public and private, viz.: That since the landing of Henry II. in 1172, the hatred of England was never so intense and universal in Ireland as at the present moment. We repeat again our belief that in spite of all the formidable preparations, and empty boasts of England, the Repeal of the Union is certain.

### UNITED STATES.

We deeply regret the announcement of the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Quarters, Bishop of Chicago, Illinois. His Lordship was appointed in 1834 to that important and laborious mission, and during the brief period of his Episcopacy, has left behind him enduring monuments of his piety and zeal. Dr. Quarters, we believe, was a native of the King's Co., Ireland, and before his elevation to the Mitre had laboured on the mission of New York.

We have received the last No. of Brownson's Review, and beg to recommend it most warmly to our readers. It fully sustains the well-earned reputation of its able editor.

The good Catholics of Philadelphia are prosecuting with vigour the collections for their splendid Cathedral.

A property consisting of a large building with seven lots has been lately purchased in New York for the use of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Washington Repeal Confederation called a meeting in that city to express their feelings upon the late movement in Italy and France, and also to encourage Ireland in the hope that the day of her deliverance was nigh. The meeting is described as one of the most glorious and enthusiastic ever held in Washington, and was attended by a large number of Senators and Re-

presentatives, amongst whom, Senators Cass, Hannigan, and Allen, as well as Messrs. Tompkins, Barringer, Stewart, and Cabell, of the House of Representatives, delivered able and impressive speeches. Only four resolutions were adopted, two of which related to Ireland. It is cheering to see the friends and sympathisers of our dear Country coming forward in her behalf, throughout the world. If England imagines she can long continue her brutal and savage career in Ireland, she must be demoted indeed. There is some talk, it seems, of a withdrawal of troops from Halifax, &c., to meet emergencies elsewhere. But, in our poor opinion, England cannot spare a single man from this continent at the present moment. If she wants to stifle the cries of a famishing people for their just rights, she must send for Hessian and Hanoverian mercenary cut throats as she did before, in 1798.

It is said that Dr. Martin, the Charge from the United States to Rome is a Catholic, and a pious zealous convert.

## HALIFAX CATHOLIC LITERARY INSTITUTE.

On Wednesday evening last we were favoured with a rich treat in the eloquent and instructive Lecture on Church Music which was delivered before the Institute by Mr. J. P. Hagarty, the Organist of St. Mary's Cathedral. Mr. Hagarty proved that he was quite at home in his subject, and spoke like a fervent enthusiast on this heavenly science. A healthy tone of Catholicity pervaded the entire Lecture, and for the gratification and improvement of those who could not attend at its delivery, we think the Committee of the Institute would act wisely in publishing either the whole or a considerable portion of this interesting essay. The thanks of the Meeting to the Lecturer were moved and carried by acclamation.

It was announced that a Lecture on Botany would be delivered next month by the Honorable L. O'C. Doyle.

We copy from the Sun the following brief notice of the death of Mrs. Hackett, a lady whose amiable virtues had endeared her to a large circle of friends, and whose loss is a severe bereavement to her afflicted family:

"Suddenly, on Wednesday morning, Mary, wife of Bartholomew Hackett, Esq."

Though her demise was rather sudden, her last moments were cheered by the consolations of her holy Faith, and she had the happiness to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Her funeral obsequies were solemnised at the Cathedral on yesterday morning. The Requiem High Mass was sung by Rev. Mr. Hannan, attended by Rev. Messrs. McIsaac and Daly, as Deacon and sub-Deacon. At the close of Mass the *Liberia* was intoned by the Choir, and the Bishop, attired in Black Cope and Mitre, performed the Absolution, &c. over the remains, which were borne in funeral procession to the Cemetery of the Holy Cross.

### THE CROSS.

A friend has kindly sent us some numbers of an interesting London Periodical, called *The Builder*, in which there is a valuable communication on the venerable sign of the Cross which contains so much genuine Catholic feeling, though written by a Protestant, that we transfer it with much pleasure to our columns.

A solemn Mass was said last Monday at St. Vincent de Paul's Church, in New York, for the souls of those who were killed for their country during the late Revolution in Paris. *M. La Font* delivered an appropriate discourse upon the occasion. The French Guards assisted at the solemnity dressed in their uniform.

Mr. Ferguson, editor of the University Magazine, has joined the repeal ranks; as have also Mr. Butt, Q. C. (the antagonist of Mr. O'Connell in the Dublin Corporation discussion on Repeal); Mr. Graves, F. T. C. D.; Dr. Graves and Dr. Hollis, two of the most eminent Dublin physicians, and, according to some rumours, the Earl of Roden, ex-Master of the Orangemen of Ireland. Sir James C. Anderson, Bart., of Manchester, and late of Fermoy, has addressed two letters to his former schoolfellow, Lord John Russell, urging him to grant a Repeal of the Union before it be too late.

"Hope is the anchor of the soul—the brightest star in the poor man's firmament.