

to the common cause is the most sacred of duties.—The character, thus formed, has two aspects. Seen on one side, it must be regarded by every well-constituted mind with disapprobation. Seen on the other, it irresistibly extorts applause. The Spartan smiting and spurning the wretched Helot, moves our disgust. But the same Spartan, calmly dressing his hair, and uttering his concise jests, on what he well knows to be his last day, in the pass of Thermopylae, is not to be contemplated without admiration. To a superficial observer it may seem strange that so much evil and so much good should be found together.—But in truth the good and the evil, which at first sight appear almost incompatible, are closely connected, and have a common origin. It was because the Spartan had been taught to revere himself as one of a race of sovereigns, and to look down on all that was not Spartan as of an inferior species, that he had no fellow feeling for the miserable serfs who crouched before him, and that the thought of submitting to a foreign master, or of turning his back before an enemy, never, even in the last extremity, crossed his mind. Something of the same character, compounded of tyrant and hero, has been found in all nations which have domineered over more numerous nations. But it has nowhere in modern Europe shown itself so conspicuously as in Ireland. With what contempt, with what antipathy, the ruling minority in that country long regarded the subject majority may be best learned from the hateful laws which, within the memory of men still living, disgraced the Irish statute book. Those laws were at length annulled: but the spirit which had dictated them survived them, and even at this day sometimes breaks out in excesses pernicious to the commonwealth and dishonorable to the Protestant religion. Nevertheless it is impossible to deny that the English colonists have had, with too many of the faults, all the noblest virtues of a sovereign caste. The faults have, as was natural, been most offensively exhibited in times of prosperity and security: the virtues have been most resplendent in times of distress and peril; and never were those virtues more signally displayed than by the defenders of Londonderry, when their Governor had abandoned them, and when the camp of their mortal enemy was pitched before their walls.

#### “SIEGE OF LONDONDERRY.”

“No sooner had the first burst of the rage excited by the perfidy of Lundy spent itself than those whom he had betrayed proceeded, with a gravity and prudence worthy of the most renowned senates, to provide for the order and defence of the city. Two governors were elected, Baker and Walker. Baker took the chief military command. Walker's especial business was to preserve internal tranquillity, and to dole out supplies from the magazines. The inhabitants capable of bearing arms were distributed into eight regiments. Colonels, captains, and subordinate officers were appointed. In a few hours every man knew his post, and was ready to repair to it as soon as the beat of the drum was heard. That machinery, by which Oliver had, in the preceding generation, kept up among his soldiers so stern and so pertinacious an enthusiasm, was again employed, with not less complete success. Preaching and praying occupied a large part of every day. Eighteen clergymen of the Established Church and seven or eight nonconformist ministers were within the walls. They all exerted themselves indefatigably to rouse and sustain the spirit of the people. Among themselves there was for the time entire harmony. All disputes about church government, postures, ceremonies, were forgotten. The Bishop, having found that his lectures on passive obedience were derided even by the Episcopalians, had withdrawn himself, first to Raphoe, and then to England, and was preaching in a chapel in London. On the other hand, a Scotch fanatic named Hewson, who had exhorted the Presbyterians not to ally themselves with such as refused to subscribe the Covenant, had sunk under the well-merited disgust and scorn of the whole Protestant community. The aspect of the Cathedral was remarkable. Cannon were planted on the summit of the broad tower which has since given place to a tower of different proportions. Ammunition was stored in the vaults. In the choir the liturgy of the Anglican Church was read every morning. Every afternoon the Dissenters crowded to a simpler worship.

“James had been assured, and had fully expected, that the city would yield as soon as it was known that he was before the walls. Finding himself mistaken, he broke loose from the control of Melfort, and determined to return instantly to Dublin. Rosen accompanied the King. The direction of the siege was intrusted to Maumont. Richard Hamilton was second, and Puginan third, in command.

“The operations now commenced in earnest. The besiegers began by battering the town. It was soon on fire in several places. Roofs and upper stories of houses fell in, and crushed the inmates. During a short time the garrison, many of whom had never before seen the effect of a cannonade, seemed to be discomposed by the crash of chimneys, and by the heaps of ruin mingled with disfigured corpses. But familiarity with danger and horror produced in a few hours the natural effect. The spirit of the people rose so high that their chiefs thought it safe to act on the offensive. On the 21st of April a sally was made under the command of Murray. The Irish stood their ground resolutely; and a furious and bloody contest took place. Maumont, at the head of a body of cavalry, flew to the place where the fight was raging. He was struck in the head by a musket ball, and fell a corpse. The besiegers lost several other officers, and about two hundred men, before the colonists could be driven in. Murray escaped with difficulty. His horse was killed under him; and he was beset by enemies: but he was able to defend himself till some of his friends made a rush from the gate to his rescue, with old Walker at their head.

“In consequence of the death of Maumont, Hamilton was once more commander of the Irish army. His exploits in that post did not raise his reputation. He was a fine gentleman and a brave soldier; but he had no pretensions to the character of a great general, and had never, in his life, seen a siege. Puginan had more science and energy. But Puginan survived Maumont little more than a fortnight. At four in the morning of the 6th of May, the garrison made another sally, took several flags, and killed many of the besiegers. Puginan, fighting gallantly, was shot through the body. The wound was one which a skillful surgeon might have cured; but there was no such surgeon in the Irish camp; and the communication with Dublin was slow and irregular. The poor Frenchman died, complaining bitterly of the barbarous ignorance and negligence which had shortened his days. A medical man, who had been sent down express from the capital, arrived after the funeral. James, in consequence, as it should seem, of this disaster, established a daily post between Dublin Castle and Hamilton's head quarters. Even by this conveyance letters did not travel very expeditiously: for the couriers went on foot; and, from fear probably of the Enniskilleners, took a circuitous route from military post to military post.

“May passed away: June arrived; and still Londonderry held out. There had been many sallies and skirmishes with various success: but, on the whole, the advantage had been with the garrison. Several officers of note had been carried prisoners into the city; and two French banners, torn after hard fighting from the besiegers, had been hung as trophies in the chancel of the Cathedral. It seemed that the siege must be turned into a blockade. But before the hope of reducing the town by main force was relinquished, it was determined to make a great effort. The point selected for assault was an outwork called Windmill Hill, which was not far from the southern gate. Religious stimulants were employed to animate the courage of the forlorn hope. Many volunteers bound themselves by oath to make their way into the works or to perish in the attempt. Captain Butler, son of the Lord Mountgarret, undertook to lead the sworn men to the attack. On the walls the colonists were drawn up in three ranks. The office of those who were behind was to load the muskets of those who were in front. The Irish came on boldly and with a fearful uproar, but after long and hard fighting were driven back. The women of Londonderry were seen amidst the thickest fire serving out water and ammunition to their husbands and brothers. In one place, where the wall was only seven feet high, Butler and some of his sworn men succeeded in reaching the top; but they were all killed or made prisoners. At length, after four hundred of the Irish had fallen, their chiefs ordered a retreat to be sounded.”

(To be continued.)

#### IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

**LIBERALITY OF CATHOLICS TO THEIR CLERGY.**—We believe it will be found that a more successful appeal was never made by a bishop to his flock than that of the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy to the laity of Cloyne, for funds to found a diocesan seminary for the preparatory education of the priesthood. Let one instance suffice to exhibit the enthusiasm with which the laity has responded to the appeal of their good bishop. In Fermoy alone the sum of £350 has been already subscribed! When taking the population and resources of that town into consideration, such a contribution is most munificent.—*Cork Examiner.*

**THE O'CONNELL MONUMENT IN LIMERICK.**—The model of the statue by Hogan has been fully approved of, and the sum of £100 has been accordingly sent, by resolution of the Committee, to the Sculptor, as a preliminary of the contract for £1,000. Mr. E. O'Callaghan, J. P., forwarded the amount on the 6th, and he has received from Mr. Hogan a most kind and complimentary letter in acknowledgment, in which he thanks the Committee, and gives his assurance that no exertion shall be wanting on his part to render the statue the best and the most perfect of his works.

**A GENERAL ELECTION.**—One of the public events, possibly, nay, very probably, to occur within the present year is a dissolution of parliament and a general election. It is the common opinion that, with the termination of the war, the present House of Commons will break up into its old elements of party antagonism, fierce and inveterate in proportion to the long pressure kept upon all by the necessity of presenting a united front to the menaces of Russia. If we have peace we will have a dissolution. The Palmerston cabinet is a piece of speckled patchwork, that will fall asunder from its intrinsic incoherency. This is the public verdict, and the public is seldom wrong in its instinct regarding such matters. To the possibility, if not probability, of an election occurring within this year the members of the Irish parliamentary party, who met at the Council Rooms of the League last week, alluded in pointed language. There is little chance of anything being done for the tenant cause this session, nor, in fact, in any future session, unless the ranks of the independent party are largely recruited at the next election. This being the case, we deem it the duty of all who possess or take an interest in the cause of tenant right to gird up their loins for the coming opportunity. The pledge-breakers are actively engaged in seeking to make friends that will take their part in the day of need. The enemies of the people are never idle. It therefore behoves their friends to keep a sharp look out. It is not when a dissolution occurs they should be seeking for fitting persons to take the places of those who have openly violated the trust so confidently reposed in them by the electors. No measure must be held with pledge-breakers. They must be flogged with the scorpion scourge of popular vengeance. Through their apostasy the settlement of the land question has been postponed for the last four years. It would have been secured in the session of 1853 only for this shameful recreancy. No explanation, nor retraction, nor promise of amendment can be taken. Their only course is to retire with a good grace from a position which they have so signally dishonoured. The chief duty of the electors is to be on the look-out for the fitting men to take their places.—*Tuam Herald.*

**REPRESENTATION OF SLIGO COUNTY.**—We are informed on reliable authority, that Mr. Ball, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, intends offering himself at the next election for the county of Sligo, as a candidate for its representation.—*Roscommon Messenger.*

**THE IRISH ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.**—Two great emancipation acts were passed by the British Parliament within twenty years of each other for Ireland: the one was religious, the other was social in its character. They were both works of necessity, forced upon the governments who originated them by the unsettled state of affairs, and the benefits which have been derived from both are now shared by every member of the community. The Emancipation Act relieved the Catholics of Ireland from an intolerable state of inequality, and the Encumbered Estates Act relieved the farmers of Ireland from the oppressions of an insolvent proprietary. But while fanatical bigots are organising for an impossibility, the repeal of the Emancipation Act, the Government through their lawyers are about abolishing the Incumbered Estates Court. This court was intended at the time only as an experiment, and the almost marvellous effects of its beneficial operation came with such surprise upon the country, that the Government had a bill passed in Parliament for a continuation of its powers. Free from all the tedious formalities of the Court of Chancery, by its extreme simplicity of construction, it solved, by its working in the hands of able men, one of the greatest difficulties in Irish legislation. By its simple transfer from one proprietor to another, with an enduring title from Parliament, it relieved the sister country from the oppressive weight of a wretched proprietary, who from generation to generation, since the land was first seized by their robber ancestry, had become a social curse. This court has been in operation for six years, and according to the Irish Solicitor General, who delivered a glowing eulogy on the eve of its downfall, it has disposed of within that time, £17,331,668 worth of property, and distributed among creditors £14,080,034, having a balance undistributed amounting to £3,000,000; and all this at a cost of £15,000 a year. Ireland relieved in so short a time of the influence of a wretched set who held possession of such a vast quantity of land, and who had ground the poor people to the dust, to pay the interest on their mortgages and squander the remainder of their rents in idleness! The retribution was just. They had exterminated a race of people, and wate in their turn exterminated and made give place to small capitalists, who had by their industry placed themselves in such a position, and who form the nucleus of a race of proprietors, who will yet divide the land as it has been done in France. But this most useful court is about to be emerged into the Court of Chancery. All the powers that it possessed are to be handed over to the other court, but whether the Chancery Court will display all the energetic vigor of the other remains to be seen. If the Court of Chancery be stripped of those unwieldy forms and precedents, which have made its operation so tedious, and ruinous, it may continue the good already done by the Incumbered Court, but too much of the old leaven remains to enable it to carry out those beneficial improvements so greatly needed in Ireland.—*Glasgow Free Press.*

A petition for the sale of the Irish estates of the late lamented Marquis of Anglesey was presented to the Encumbered Estates Court. The petitioners are the Duke of Richmond, Viscount Sydney, and Lord Clarence Paget, as trustees to the will of the late marquis. The property is situate in the counties of Down, Louth, and Galway. The net annual rental is £5,338 and the encumbrances amount to £43,806 17s. 2d.

**THE FERMOY PEERAGE.**—The Earl of Derby, in the House of Lords drew attention to the Fermoy peerage, to which he had referred last season. He believed that the crown, in creating that peerage last year, was acting in opposition to the articles of the act of Union, and the question was now about to be referred to a committee of privileges, who had power to decide in matters concerning the exercise of the Royal prerogative. Earl Granville said he would not discuss the question; the subject would be shortly considered by the committee of privileges. The peerage was lately granted E. B. Roche, then M. P. for Cork Co.

**IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LONDON AND DUBLIN.**—We have much pleasure in stating that government have, within the last few days, concluded arrangements for the future, by which the communication between London and Dublin will be greatly improved. The time required for passing from one metropolis to the other will be only eleven hours, instead of between fourteen and fifteen hours, while the sea voyage will be performed with much greater comfort than at present. The journey from London to Dublin will thus be accomplished in an hour less than from London to Edinburgh, although in the latter case no sea or water communication intervenes.—*Morning Advertiser.*

Steamers now run between Glasgow and Westport, which latter town is attaining a high commercial position.

Patrick Brannigan and John Tanzie, were killed by the fall of a bridge in course of erection over the river Doon, on the Moybole line of railway.

**SOCIETY FOR MISSIONS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.**—A deputation from the above society, which has for its object the protection of the poor Irish people, has lately been making a tour for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the unholly crusade, and among other places have visited the Royal borough of Windsor. The proceedings of the meeting there has brought forth a most able letter to the *Windsor and Eton Express*, from the Rev. Augustus Applegath, the respected Catholic clergyman of Clewer, in which he demolishes the arguments and alleged facts of the speakers. The society had had the hardihood to speak of the sincerity of their “converts,” and a Dr. Montgomery affirmed that he had never met with “a single instance of one of its converts going back to Romanism.” Mr. Applegath, however, declares that the contrary is notoriously the case. Indeed, the Catholic papers, as our readers are aware, have frequently contained the names and addresses of those who have happily had the grace to make public reparation for the scandal they had caused by too readily yielding to temptation in times of poverty and distress. Mr. Applegath also administers a dignified rebuke to those speakers who indulged in irreverent allusions to the doctrine of the Real Presence. He further exposes the fallacy of the statistics of the society, and confesses that it is not a matter of regret to hear “that the income of the society last year decreased to the extent of £10,000.”

The High Sheriff for the County Antrim, Mr. A. O'Rourke is a Catholic. He is the first of the kind since the ‘Reformation.’

Her Majesty has conferred a pension of £100 per annum, on Mr. Samuel Loyer, well known for his Irish songs and stories.

An annual pension of £50 (or 2s. 9d. per diem), has been granted by government to Mr. John D'Alton, the author of several works on Irish history.

**AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.**—All the provincial reports complain bitterly of the long continuance of the rainy season and the consequent backwardness of spring fieldwork. The ground is everywhere said to be completely saturated with moisture, but as within the two last days there has been a favourable change in the weather, a cessation of the complaints may be speedily expected.

Two papers respecting the agricultural produce of Ireland in 1855 have been issued. One relates to tillage and the other to live stock. Comparing 1855 with 1854 it would appear that the total increase of land under crops is 112,382 acres of which 87,000 were under cereal crops, 25,000 green crops, and 53,000 meadow and clover. There was a decrease of 54,000 acres on flax. As regards live stock the increase in number from 1852 to 1855 is as follows:—Horses, 30,448; cattle, 461,000; sheep, 984; pigs, 101,000. The value of stock in 1855 was estimated thus: horses, £4,444,288; cattle, £23,118,004; sheep, £3,958,318; pigs, £1,457,780; total value of live stock, £32,988,390.

**EFFECTS OF PEACE ON THE IRISH FARMER.**—A common impression prevails that, with the return of peace, a crash will take place in the prices of farming produce, and farmers who speculated on a continuance of the war are beginning to be alarmed. There would seem to be no good ground for such alarm. The wool article, which, with graziers, is a heavy and valuable item, has risen instead of fallen in price, with the prospect of peace, and will probably rise higher if the war altogether ceases. Looking to the average prices of beef and mutton for the last seven years, we see no change during war years. Corn is high, and, we believe, high on account of the war; and if any article of farm produce will fall, it is the one most likely to come down. On the other hand, money will become more plentiful with the cessation of the war. The banks will relax their discounts, and gold will become again abundant. The income tax, for whose imposition we have to thank our recent pledge-breakers, will be lightened, and the increased duty imposed upon several articles not only of luxury, but of necessity, will, we suppose, as a matter of course, be removed. It is the opinion of men of experience and intelligence that the stimulant which the return of peace will give to the manufacturing enterprise of England, will more than counterbalance any derangement to follow from the cessation of the war. The most steady and permanent standard of prices for farm produce will be always found to be the activity of manufacturing industry in England. In writing thus we have fully before our mind the evils entailed upon grazing and tillage farmers by an insane competition for land. If they will gamble in rent speculations in times either of war or peace they must be prepared to abide the results. Many have suffered sorely, and we fear will suffer sorely still, by playing a game of such hazard. Rents have been running up these few years past to a figure too high for leaving a fair margin of profit to the tenant. The tenants will do well to pause in that course, as a crash, if it comes, will be ruin to them. Landlords will do better by confining themselves to fair settings than, by over eagerness to grasp at rackrents, incur the risk of severe losses.—*Tuam Herald.*

**BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.**—The following amusing breach of promise case was disposed of before the Court of Common Pleas, Dublin, on Saturday last. The plaintiff, Charlotte Richardson, a young and pretty girl about twenty years of age, residing near Dundrum, in the county Dublin, sought to recover £500 damages from the defendant, Michael Maher, a grocer by trade, and a man upwards of forty years of age, for having broken his promise to marry her.

Mrs. Mary Cunningham, a sister of the plaintiff, proved that the defendant frequently proposed for her sister, and promised to marry her when spoken to on the subject. On one occasion it was supposed that he was courting a Miss Sutton, and when asked about it he said he never would eat a bit in the Suttons' house, and that if he did he hoped it would turn into poison in his stomach. (Laughter.) In about six weeks after this conversation, he married Miss Sutton. The plaintiff refused to marry a Mr. Langley, a clergyman's son, who proposed for her.

To Mr. Curran—The plaintiff and defendant went to the Strawberry-beds, and witness was with them. He was not drunk when he came in from the Strawberry-beds; I know that, for when he came in he said, ‘Now, Charlotte, mind I am not drunk.’ (Laughter.)

Mary Smith examined—I recollect the intimacy which existed between the plaintiff and defendant. He was her suitor in 1850, and proposed for her, and she accepted him. I recollect going with them to Kingstown one day, when he proposed to get up a picnic, and gave the plaintiff £1 to buy the prog. (Laughter.) We arranged to go to the Baldoyle races the next week, and we went there on a car, and the plaintiff's brother was with us. The defendant drank no whiskey at the races. He said it was always his study to remain sober until he left us at home—(laughter)—but when he came home he drank punch and got drunk. (Laughter.)

To the Court—It was not that night we put him to bed. (Renewed laughter.)

To the Court—I was present one evening when he proposed for her. He came in, and bid the candles to be put out. (Laughter.) I said, ‘if he was in dread, he had better have done with it.’ He then proposed for her, and she accepted him, and we arranged to go to the Rev. Mr. Ennis to have them married, but he died upon it. (Laughter.)

To Mr. Curran—I often saw him drunk. He proposed for her when drunk and sober. He was not drunk when he died on it. (Laughter.) I have been in public-houses with him. We were in O'Neill's public-house in Kingstown, and Charlotte was with us. I never heard that Marne was courting her; but heard that Langley proposed for her, and she refused him. The plaintiff had no quarrel with the defendant, and said she would not marry him.

The plaintiff's case having closed, Mr. O'Hagan Q.C. replied:

Mr. Curran then addressed the jury for the defendant, who, after some short deliberation, found for the plaintiff £100 damages and costs.