

much needed. Margaret changed color, and hurried Lucy into the house, whilst I inquired the reason of his arrival.

'Because I require both money and food,' he replied.

'I felt my temper rise, but checked the angry words I was about to utter, and replied, 'Come into the house, and you shall have what you want.'

His clothes were much worn, his feet were sore; they were, indeed, bleeding: but who can pity, save for a passing moment, when idleness and drink are the cause of misery, when we are made the victims.

I sat food before him; I blushed at the evident astonishment of my maid, of whom he had vainly sought admission during my absence, and who yielded no credence to the assertion that he was Miss Herbert's brother. I brought him warm water, wherewith to bathe his sore feet, and then leaving him to a few hours' rest, went to confer with Margaret as to what should be done, for we well knew our fate, that though far from having yet settled our father's debts, and shackled, too, with Arthur and his family, that if Edgar remained in the village, our names hitherto spoken only with respect, would soon be bandied about by all the gossips of the village in terms of contempt when coupled with the conduct of our brother.

It was hard, indeed, to recognise in Edgar any trace of the once handsome and gentlemanly man, who had caused the misery of the unfortunate Kathleen—to so mean and abject a state does drunkenness and a dissolute life reduce its votaries. We both agreed that there was nothing to be done but to let him stay till the following day, equip him with a fresh change of clothes, and give him a little money, on consideration that he should immediately leave the village.

I had forgotten to mention, in an earlier part of my narrative, that Edgar's own account of himself during the three years that had elapsed since we had lost sight of him, was, that he had made his way to America as an emigrant, that he had had employment for some time, but that work was too laborious for him to continue engaged in it, and that he had therefore returned home as soon as he had saved up enough money to defray the expenses of his journey.

(To be continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Dublin journals of Dec. 20th contain a report of an excellent sermon on Fenianism, preached the previous Sunday, in St. John's Cathedral, Limerick, by the Very Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald of that city. Among others we find this passage:—

'I find,' says Dr. Fitzgerald, 'that the late arrests have created alarm throughout the parish; some fear for their lives and property; others for the safety of the younger members of their families. I hope that by dwelling on this subject from the altar I may give confidence to the lovers of peace, law and order, and that I may induce the young and thoughtless to withdraw from a career which is sure to bring ruin on themselves and sorrow on their families.'

Having referred to the doctrine of the Catholic Church in reference to such Societies, he proceeded:—

'These are laws over which I have no control. I am merely the minister of the law, and I am bound by it myself as well as you. Neither priest, nor bishop, nor cardinal, nor even the Pope, could give sacraments to a person who persists in a sinful career. If, for example, a Fenian became suddenly ill in this parish, and if I were to attend him, I should ask him was he sorry for joining the Society, and was he resolved to renounce it for the rest of his life. If he did not give a satisfactory answer to both these questions it would be my duty to advise him, to exhort him, to point out the danger to which his eternal salvation was exposed, but if all failed, I should let him die without sacraments. Yes, for if I gave him sacraments whilst in those dispositions not only would my absolution convey no pardon, but I should commit a grievous sin myself, and he would add to his guilt the awful crime of sacrilege. Don't break this law, I entreat you, for to break it is to risk your eternal salvation. No priest in any part of the world can teach any other doctrine to his flock. But now I ask you to judge the Fenian plot by your own common sense. I ask you can it have even a partial success? You know what the power of England is. With her feet she could sweep every sea; with her arms she could overrun every corner of this land. She possesses boundless wealth. She would exhaust all those resources, she would sacrifice her last man and spend her last shilling rather than risk the possibility of this country becoming the basis of attack against herself by a hostile power. These are insurmountable difficulties, but they are not the only ones against which the Fenians would have to contend. Don't you know that every one who has anything to lose—whether he be farmer, shopkeeper or landed proprietor—every man of prominent intelligence—above all, every man who is governed by religious principles—would band together, and are in fact now asking to band together, in order to put down a movement which, whatever may be the designs of the leaders, could only end in carnage and plunder? I ask you can a movement succeed which has arrayed against it the property, the intelligence, and the religion of the country? Go and ask the first sensible man you meet—a man who has established a character for good sense by the management of his private affairs, will he not tell you that there is as little chance of carrying out the Fenian design as there is of removing Ireland a thousand miles into the Atlantic Ocean?'

INLAND'S GRIEVANCES.—The Saturday Review which, a few weeks ago, told us that our grievances were merely sentimental, has now made the discovery that the land question is the true Irish difficulty. The educated Irishman suffers only the sentimental grievance, that, being ambitious and vain, he is disgusted that his country is subordinate to England; while the peasant has the true wrong to complain of that—

Their great sore and disquiet is the land question. Three centuries of English law have barely reconciled the people of the southern and South-western counties to that English tenure which, with its own special modifications, holds good in the North. They have legends of tribal rights, dimly connected with traditions of Celtic or half-Celtic families who forfeited their estates for treason. To this day pedigrees and titles to land are hoarded in families whose worldly condition is that of peasant-proprietors or tenant farmers. No small portion of this population believe that they have an hereditary and indefeasible title to the land of Ireland. They regard the legal proprietors, whether they be great English peers or Irish attorneys or rich retail-dealers, as intruders and oppressors. Some of them cherish the hope that the day will come on which they may resume the estates and position of their antient or ejected ancestors. Others, a larger number, without entertaining the wild hope of ousting the landlords, still foster the resolution of clinging to the soil, and its possession, in some shape or form. This passion is the secret of Whiteboyism and Terralryism, and every form of combination by which the Irish peasant, for more than a century, has defied or baffled a law which he detests. It is at the bottom, too, of Fenianism, which,

however, has an extraneous political element and aspirations of its own, arising from foreign suggestion and support. It is partly an instinct of the Celtic nature. But it is also in no small degree the result of the physical and social conditions of the country. There is but little coal in Ireland. There is no iron. Except in Belfast, there are no manufactures of importance. Consequently, there is no middle-class like that of England. There are none of those great ramifications of employment which in England furnish occupation and subsistence to the families of English tenant-farmers, and people in the same class of life. In Ireland a man with small means of his own must take to the land, for there is nothing else for him to take to. And he must take the land on such conditions as the landlord chooses to let it; and these conditions seem to be very hard.

A JUDGE'S REMORSE.—When Father Thomas Flannery was a young clergyman in Clonmel, he was summoned to attend the execution of a young man who was to die forty-eight hours after sentence had been passed upon him. He was tried by Baron Smith, then a very young judge; and who, with his father, a judge also, frequently went circuit together, the son going into the courthouse where his father presided each morning, and asking his blessing before he took his own place on the judgment seat in the other court. The young man was arraigned for murder. No sooner did he present himself in front of the dock than the judge, who in subsequent years was so pre-eminently remarkable for all those tender and merciful qualities which elevated him to the highest place in the estimation of the bar and of the public, conceived a strong prejudice against the prisoner—a prejudice for which he could not account, but which had its bad effect in overpowering and biasing his judgment during the trial. The witnesses for the defence were treated with a supercilious disregard as to what they swore to. The judge charged home against the prisoner; a verdict of guilty was returned by the conventional jury without delay. The Clerk of the Crown read the verdict, exclaimed in the usual parlance of the day, 'Look to him, gaoler!' and then, without the loss of a moment, having asked the usual set routine questions as to his having been heretofore indicted, pleaded, put himself on God and his country, which country found him guilty, he demanded what now he had to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, and why execution should not follow? 'I am not guilty,' exclaimed the young man, with a flush of indignation burning his cheek, and a strong sense of his own innocence, 'I am not guilty, I declare in the presence of this court, of the judge who has tried me, of the jury who has condemned me, of the great God who is to weigh in the scales of justice and truth my innocence!'—'Put up your right hand,' said the Clerk of the Crown. The prisoner did so, as was the custom of the time and to a period within my own memory, while the terrible sentence of death was being pronounced against a convict. The judge then, after expatiating on the crime, and throwing aside the 'defence,' after again and again stating his concurrence in the verdict, passed the awful doom on the young man, who again reiterated the expression of his innocence, but who was led out to execution on Gallows-hill within forty-eight hours after the final words of the judge had been pronounced. He was attended to the fatal tree by the Rev. Thomas Flannery. Calm, resigned, trusting in God for a more righteous judgment than frail and feeble man had given, he ascended the ladder, spoke a few words to the crowds that gathered about the apparatus of death, again and again declared his innocence, patiently submitted himself to the creeping manipulations of the executioner, and ceased to live, after a few struggles in a short time afterwards! 'He is innocent,' exclaimed the crowd, as they knelt in front of the gallows and prayed heartily. The young priest appeared to think so, too; and in a few years after Judge Smith going again the rounds of the then Munster circuit, begged to see the young curate, Father Flannery, who at once came to his call. The judge said that he entertained serious misgivings as to the case of the young man who had been convicted before him of murder; he could not ask him as a clergyman what he knew of the case; but he would ask simply, outside his position as a priest, what was his opinion? 'My lord,' answered Father Thomas Flannery, 'as you have asked me the question, that young man was as innocent of the crime for which he suffered as your lordship; I know it.' The judge shuddered, grew pale, trembled, buried his face in his hands, sobbed and cried; and ever afterwards, as I am aware, he never tried a capital case without taking the greatest possible pains to sift the evidence out, to lean to the side of mercy, to make the utmost possible effort to stretch every incident; and point in favour of the prisoner. And it was said, so strong and powerful had become the effect on his mind of the fate of the innocent young man—which fate he mainly attributed to his own prejudices—that the idea ever haunted his mind, until in latter years it almost mastered his mind, and caused him to sit up at night, and to dissipate if possible the sting by resources which induced Daniel O'Connell to bring his case before the House of Commons, but without success.—Limerick Reporter.

CATTLE PLAGUES IN IRELAND.—Much obscurity has existed in reference to the ancient cattle disease of Ireland which an attempt has been made to remove in a treatise on the rinderpest by Dr. T. M. Madden, M.R.I.A. Dr. Madden's object is to establish the close connection which he holds to exist between epizootic and epidemic diseases. He believes that if this law had been recognised and suitable sanitary precautions and some efficient system of quarantine adopted immediately on the recent appearance of cattle plague in England, the mortality from subsequent cholera would have been diminished, if not wholly prevented. Respecting Irish murrains, an investigation of ancient documents and of the news papers of the last century shows the first recorded epizootic to have occurred between the years 240 and 280. In a MS. in the Irish Academy this is described as the great 'cow destruction' of the reign of King Cormac Mac Art. In 561 a murrain ravaged Meath, and was attributed to the sudden appearance, per hælum terra, of a poisonous pool in the locality. In 580 a mortality among all animals broke out in Ireland, which lasted three years. The frost was so intense in that year that, according to the apocalypsts, 'the sea between Ireland and Scotland was frozen.' In the 'Annals of Clonmacnoise' the plague of 695 is declared to have been imported from England, and it also raged three years. In 901 an epizootic of great violence, principally confined to the county of Longford, lasted for some months. In 701 a general plague prevailed, and the symptoms given then for the first time, were lameness with diarrhoea. In 775 cattle dyentery, which deserved the ancient Irish title of such maladies—Bo ar, a 'cow slaughter'—destroyed the flocks. In 980 a great murrain, commencing in the west of the country, was considered preternatural and ascribed to the influence of demons. The entry in the Four Masters for 1085 is remarkable: 'In this year there was destruction of men and cattle in the country to such an extent that certain rich people were made husbandmen in it.' In 1313 a third year murrain, which had previously ravaged parts of England, began. It left, according to the Four Masters, but a small remnant of cattle in the island. The same authorities state that in 1224 'a strange and awful shower fell in Connaught, followed by terrible diseases and distempers among the cattle which grazed on the lands where it descended; their milk produced in the persons who drank it extraordinary internal diseases.' A variety of distempers more or less fatal occurred during the next three or four centuries, which are not specially referred to in any document that survives. Last century epizootic were fatally frequent in Ireland. The news papers of the time record a murrain in 1747 which, though very fatal, was unlike the present plague. In the year following, however, the cattle disease which had been then raging in England for two years, appeared in a modified form in Ireland; the cattle

when seized swelled suddenly in the neck and head, and soon died. In almost all these records mention is made of an unusual amount of sickness among men and the smaller animals during the plagues, and Dr. Madden derives from the circumstance support for the theory of the 'epidemic constitution of the atmosphere, or morbid tendency of the season.'

SUSPICION OF MURDER.—A man named James O'Gorman has been twice remanded at Kilkree, on suspicion of having strangled his wife in bed. In the ordinary course a coroner's inquest had been held, it having been supposed that the woman's death arose from natural causes, but some suspicious circumstances having come to the cognizance of the police, it was considered necessary to sift the matter and a private inquiry was accordingly held on Monday, before Colonel Vandeleur, M.P., R.W.O. Reeves, and John McCullagh, R.M. Esqrs., which was adjourned to the 23rd instant.—Limerick Southern Chronicle.

WANTON OUTRAGE.—As the fire clock train from Kingstown was nearing Eooterstown station on Sunday evening, those seated in the last, a second class carriage were startled by a loud report, as if some accident had occurred to the carriage. On examination it was found that the central back window was smashed, and the glass was thrown about in the carriage. Fortunately a young lady and child who were seated before this window had left at Blackrock. On the arrival of the train at Westland-row, the officials were made acquainted of the fact and had the carriage detached for examination.

TERRORISM IN PENON.—Punch, which has of late unhappily exchanged its original character of an impartial and genial humorist for that of a political organ, published the other day a cartoon entitled 'Physic for a Fenian.' Brian was presenting a case of Fenianism to be cured by John Bull. The figure of John Bull was the familiar picture of English greatness—the complacent self-portraiture of a cockney mob who hector and swagger about the British lion, and who would crawl under their beds if they thought a bullet was coming within a mile of them. Fenianism was depicted with the scraggy, misshapen form which bad food (one meal a day of potatoes mixed with seaweed in some cases) has made too common among the Irish peasants, and with the low brow typical of the intellectual degradation produced by the diversion of the national property from national education to the maintenance of an alien church. John Bull, as the physician, was made to tell Brian that the best cure for Fenianism was that which had been administered to the Sepoy mutineers in India. A paragraph in the same number of Punch pleasantly suggested blowing away from guns. From India to Jamaica, from Jamaica to Ireland, from Ireland to England—such are the stages by which martial law travels, such is the course by which atrocities committed in the far East find their way home to the country which connives at their commission. If this cartoon could be supposed to represent the feelings of any large section of English society, we might be on the brink of great crimes. The bloody suppression of the Indian mutiny is a page of our history which all who care for the honour of England would gladly consign to forgetfulness for ever. If any one is under the impression that the atrocities committed during the suppression of the rebellion in Ireland in 1798 fell much short of those committed in India, a perusal of most authentic histories and documents, especially of the letters of Lord Cornwallis, will convince him that he is mistaken. No individual incident, perhaps, occurred so horrible as the burning of the men alive by the Sikhs but there was enough both of wholesale and indiscriminate butchery, and of fiendish cruelty in the infliction of torture, to leave an indelible stain on the English name. And now the grandsons of the same Orangemen who revelled in massacre, halting, pitch-capping, picketing, and logging under Camden and Beresford, who shot the son before his mother's face, and scourged guiltless clergymen with instruments which were the counterparts of the piano wire whips of Jamaica, are straining like hounds in the leash, eager to play the same game over again. An English minister who, with abundant military means provided him for the maintenance of public order, should call in the aid of Orange-Marauders, and launch their vengeance on the Irish people, would more than deserve impeachment. Every loyal, every sane man, is determined to support the Government in the repression of Fenianism. But all who really love their country couple their promise of support with two conditions—first, that repression shall not be followed by measures of healing; and secondly, that the honour of England shall not be sullied by inhumanity. It is enough that already our prisons are filled with Fenians undergoing the punishment of felons for offences which we are obliged by the dire necessities of the case to treat as theirs, but which history, judging not by a legal but by a moral standard, will, perhaps, set down as much to our account. Among a certain class of our literary men a corruption of sentiment on the subject of justice and humanity appears to have set in the causes of which we do not care at this moment to analyse. But there is abundant proof that these writers, whomsoever they may represent, do not respect the people. The people are and will remain with the Government in the course of temperate and merciful, though efficient repression, in which it has happily so far persevered.—Daily News.

REPRESENTATION OF DROGHEDA.—Drogheda, Dec. 27.—Francis Brodigan, Esq., J.P., of Pilton House, Drogheda, has returned from London to his residence here, and has commenced an active canvass of the electors of this town in anticipation and acting on the belief of some of the best informed circles, of an early dissolution of parliament. Mr. Brodigan, who is a moderate Liberal, and a member of the Reform Club, London, is connected long by family with Drogheda, where he has considerable influence and property, to which by recent purchases he has gained some acquisition. His friends feel a great interest in his success, believing him eminently entitled to the position he seeks, and one in whom they would have a representative desirous and willing to do his duty. I understood that many electors, who under pressure, remained either neutral, or voted against him on the last occasion, are now desirous for his success. It is a matter of notriety here, that Mr. Whitworth, should he bare the temerity of again offering himself, which it is rumored he will not, his most determined opponents. Even yet our county courts have not ceased to be the arena, where his agents pursue their squabbles about the settlement of the election accounts of 1865, and some matters disclosed which drew out strong observations from the going Judges of Assize.

A young man named Henry James Corry, who was some time since a pupil teacher in the Trim model school, was arrested on Saturday, by Constable Grey on suspicion of being connected with the Fenian movement, and lodged in the county prison. After leaving the model school he taught a school in the county Longford, but for the last year he has resided with his parents here.—Irish Times.

CAPTURE OF AN ESCAPED PRISONER.—Drogheda, December 26.—On Yesterday, about three o'clock p.m., Constable Meighan, from private information received by him, proceeded, accompanied by Mr. Murtogh, governor of our county prison, and six of the police belonging to the Bullring Station, to Balmarino, a mile from this town, in search of a notorious ticket-of-leave man named William Brady, who it will be recollected by the readers of your journal effected his escape from Drogheda jail about about a week ago, he having been committed to take his trial for burglary and robbery at our evening quarter sessions. Constable Meighan posted some of his men outside the boundary of Mr. McDonchy's garden, which they thoroughly searched. The fugitive was discovered concealed in an old house in the garden, the door of which was so well secured

that it had to be broken. On entering the place Brady was found armed with a large case knife and a sword, but on Constable Meighan presenting a revolver to his breast he quietly surrendered.—His beard was entirely shaven off, and his hair, which was originally red, was dyed a jet black.—Under a flight of stairs his bed of straw was discovered, and in no other part of the dilapidated building were a number of cooking utensils, candles, and matches. The garden or orchard in which he was found is remote from the public road, near the romantic old church yard of Balmarino. Before leaving the orchard, which is surrounded by a high wall, the police discovered that the prisoner had erected a temporary scaffold at a remote end, by which in case of being surprised, he could manage to escape over the wall. He was at once handcuffed and securely lodged in the prison from which he had escaped, to await his trial.

ORANGISM IN SKIBBEREEN.—The Cork Examiner contains the following serious article in proof of its assertion that the Orangemen in the west of the county Cork are being armed:—Various attempts have been made to cast discredit upon the report we published from Skibberreen respecting the large importation of arms, and the formation there of a special organisation supposed to be intended to put down the Fenians. The Constitution quotes ostentatiously a contradiction from the Skibberreen Eagle which says there was no Vigilance Committee formed, and there was no seizure by the police.—Literally, the latter part of the contradiction is correct; the weapons were escorted from the train to the Barracks by a party of military; but the police, though they did not actually seize them, followed them until they saw them brought up to the workhouse where the troops are stationed. But the contradiction as to the formation of a Vigilance Committee is a quibble. We did not say there was a committee formed under that name, but that something of the sort had been organised, and this the Eagle does not attempt to deny. To resume the broad facts of the case, which are substantially as we first published them, there has been an organisation got up in Skibberreen for the purpose of arming a certain knot or section of the inhabitants, that they may be able to terrify and overawe the rest. Now for the sequence of the story, which will help to show whether we were right in our condemnation of the 'Special Constable' policy, and in our prediction that the present panic would be made use of for party purposes. On Friday, about eight o'clock in the evening, Skibberreen was alarmed by seeing about thirty civilians going from the workhouse where the troops were stationed into Skibberreen, all bearing arms, manifestly part of the cargo that had come from Cork. Those persons, of course, had been granted licences by the stipendiary magistrates but he had not been in Skibberreen for the ten days previous, his residence being in Bantry, and it is conjectured that he gave them, in a batch, without personal examination of the parties, and on the recommendation of some local magistrate. However this be, and it is a matter the truth of which will probably be examined into, the parties thus selected as guardians of law and order were for the most part apprentices and shop-boys, some of them about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and singular to say, all Protestants. They are probably the nominees and followers of some few gentlemen, who go swaggering about the town, and into the news room, with a brace of revolvers openly clapped into their belts. The result of the whole proceedings, of course, is a great deal of bitter and angry feeling.—The Catholics of the town, who comprise not only the vast mass of the population, but also the bulk of its respectability and property, feel outraged at the insult thus openly put upon them by the little knot who desire to revive the Orange ascendancy of the pistol, and the latter of course feel that too times are propitious to them, and that their season of insouciance has come round. When writing upon the subject of these amateur guardians of the Crown, at the time the proposition of special constables was first put forward, we ventured to point out that the plan would be made use of for the purpose of keeping in the hands of a certain set the power of 'riding roughshod over the people.' Here we have proof even sooner than we anticipated. To prevent any misconception, it may be right to say that the highly respectable local firm of Richardson and Son, who supplied the arms, neither did nor would be capable of doing anything illegal. They had carefully ascertained the legal right of the consignees before despatching them.

It is understood that the Irish law officers of the late Government, by whom the supplemental charter was prepared, are determined to bring the question of its validity to a final judgment as speedily as legal forms permit.

James Mulligan, who said he was a native of the county Louth, was brought up before Mr. O'Donnell, at Chapel Street Police Court, on Wednesday, and charged with using treasonable and seditious language on the previous night, in Barrack street. It appeared that the military picket was hused by some person and that one of the men presented his rifle at the prisoner and another and that both declared they had bided; the picket then left, and the prisoner was alleged to have said—'No matter, we will be ten to one against the British yet.' His companion then called a policeman and Mulligan was taken prisoner. He denied that he made use of any such language. He was remanded.

At the request of a meeting of local magistrates the Government has consented to place a ship of war at Killybegs, in Donegal Bay, as that county presents a very extensive seaboard, offering great facilities for the landing of disaffected people, who, if provided with arms and ammunition, might be joined by a sufficient number to cause great mischief before repressive measures could be enforced.

The Irish military authorities, says our correspondent, are directing their attention to the improvement of several of the Dublin barracks which have heretofore been imperfectly defended. At Portobello, for instance, a barracks in the suburbs, the surrounding wall has been loopholed and strengthened, and a ditch is to be dug round the portions exposed to the open country. At Baggin's Bush barracks similar improvements are being effected; and the Pigeonhouse Fort—commanding the entrance to the Liffey, and Dublin Bay, on the opposite side towards Kingstown harbor—has been supplied with an increased number of cannon and other munitions of war. The most perfect quiet prevails in Dublin; the city, indeed, is more than usually orderly for the time of year. There is, under these circumstances, a fear that the police authorities may relax their vigilance, and the closest observers are of opinion that this would be imprudent, as there is no reason to believe that they have yet succeeded in apprehending all the turbulent characters who, last winter or this, have joined the Fenian Society and provided themselves with arms. It is understood that the Government will put forward for trial at the ordinary commission all the Fenian prisoners against whom they have such a case as will secure a certain conviction, and retain the others under the powers obtained by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. Whether a further renewal of those powers will be sought will depend on the course of events between the present time and the meeting of Parliament.—Weekly Register.

MODERN PROPHETS AND INFORMERS.—We think we need hardly inform the young men of our town and neighborhood, that the eyes of the worst specimens of fallen humanity—detectives, and informers, and spies—are upon them; consequently, good hours and good company are requisites to their safety. We would not give a week's purchase for the liberty of any man between the age of 18 and 60 who frequents public houses and other public places at unreasonable hours; these ticklish times. Nor would we expect the safety of those who indulge in the society of the loud, boisterous, expounders of the

current prophecies touching the last Viceroys of Ireland, &c., &c. These loud talkers and ready-made prophets are on the look-out for dupes. They want money, and they know that the readiest way to get it now is to trap some foolish expression. There never was a time when the adage, 'A wise head keeps a close mouth,' had more force. It is the nature of illegal confederacies that their proceedings come prematurely to light. The history of such bodies in every age proves this. It is rare to find an instance where virtu was too strong in all concerned to be tempted. An instance where a secret society embracing large bodies of different characters contrived to carry through its objects without betrayal, would only prove the general rule. The vicious element preponderates too much in poor humanity to make it safe for the virtuous to trust where all is not clear and open. The student of history will remember how easily Jugurtia could manage the Roman Senate when he had plenty of cash to bribe his judges. Philip boasted that an ass properly loaded could take the strongest fortress of Greece; and it requires no ghost to tell us that the English Government reached all the designs of its enemies in this country and the colonies at all dangerous periods by the same means. Patriotism serves one—avarice unmans two. Love of country prompts to deeds of heroism hundreds—love of filthy lucre drags down to deeds of baseness thousands. In Ireland, thank Heaven, there never was a death of noble, disinterested, and unselfish hearts during any struggle, but it would be affectation to deny that there ever was, on the other hand, a scarcity of craven-hearted scoundrels to snatch at the lucre held out to betray. This year of grace is fertile in such characters as the latter, however it may abound in examples of the former. The agency of the ruffians who have intrusions from the Castle to insinuate themselves everywhere for the purposes of treachery, is incessant. We defy a score of firemen to meet the second time by concert in any place without having in their train or their midst one or more of these sordid miscreants. And does not the history of the last commission that tried the Fenians disclose the astounding fact, that the men in the pay of the police were the very same who were always the loudest at public meetings for armed opinion, armed action, and war to the knife with England? These characters are the modern prophets of the downfall of English domination. They are to be found in all public places administering oaths, taking oaths, and transacting the business of the confederacy they are paid for urging on. The way to render their work a blank is to shun all occasions of meeting them.—Mylro Telegraph.

A correspondent writing from Kilkenny, under date 28th ult., says:—Within the last ten days so unusual number of letters have been received in this county (Kilkenny) from the United States, and almost in every case containing cheques for sums varying from two to eight pounds.

On the morning of the 17th ult., Constable Hyland, with Sub-Constables Frazer, Gillespie and Hughes, of the Glenore Constabulary, proceeded on Inland Revenue duty to the Sperin Mountains, and in the townland of Golees they came within sight of a still-house, where the 'mountain dew' was in an advanced state of preparation. On the advance of the police the distillers fled, taking with them the still, still-head and worm. The Constables seized on what they could find, and destroyed the liquor in process of preparation.

A Nenagh correspondent, under date 19th ult., says:—I am sorry to have to report a fatal case of cholera from this town. A travelling hatter who has been working here for the last few days has taken suddenly ill last night and died this morning. Drs. O'Shaughnessy and Quinn attended him all the day in his power, but to no purpose. They state that the cause of his death was most decide by Asiatic cholera. This, thank God, is the only case of the kind that has yet occurred in Nenagh.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE LONDON TIMES'S STATISTICS OF 'PETER'S PENCE.

To the Editor of the Weekly Register.

Sir,—The inconsistency of the Times is so proverbial that it would serve very little purpose to draw public attention to it, save when the subject involved is connected with the Holy See. Unfortunately, prejudice and bigotry are so strong in this country that upon that subject and everything connected therewith Protestants are too apt to overlook its well-known peculiarity, and to regard it as an oracle to be relied upon.

I therefore think it well to draw the attention of your readers to the following facts of recent occurrence. The Times, on Monday, December 9, gave the statistics of 'Peter's Pence' collected all over the world, as follows:—To 1861, 2,636,585 crowns. Total for the last six years—43,000,000 francs, or £1,720,000. On the following Wednesday, it gives another statement upon the authority of its Roman correspondent, in which it makes the total amount from 1859, 53,000,000 fr., or £2,120,000. I probably regards a discrepancy of 19,000,000 fr. as a trifling matter in a question affecting Catholics. But its contradictions do not rest here; for in 1861 it gave the figures to my memory very nearly as it now states them to have been at that date, only with the slight difference of pounds instead of crowns. The following reference thereto was made by Mr. Pope Hennessy at a public meeting held in September, 1861, in honor of Mgr. Nardi's visit to England.—It is well worth the perusal of every Catholic at the present time. In proposing a vote of thanks to Mgr. Nardi, Mr. Hennessy said:—

'I have recently read in a Protestant newspaper that the total amount of 'Peter's Pence' collected throughout the world amounted to £2,800,000, and I believe these statistics to be perfectly correct. This sum is more than equal to the revenue of the kingdom of Portugal; it is twice as much as the revenue of the kingdoms of Hauever, Denmark, Saxony, or Sweden, and more than twice the revenue of the surrounding wall has been loopholed and strengthened, and a ditch is to be dug round the portions exposed to the open country. At Baggin's Bush barracks similar improvements are being effected; and the Pigeonhouse Fort—commanding the entrance to the Liffey, and Dublin Bay, on the opposite side towards Kingstown harbor—has been supplied with an increased number of cannon and other munitions of war. The most perfect quiet prevails in Dublin; the city, indeed, is more than usually orderly for the time of year. There is, under these circumstances, a fear that the police authorities may relax their vigilance, and the closest observers are of opinion that this would be imprudent, as there is no reason to believe that they have yet succeeded in apprehending all the turbulent characters who, last winter or this, have joined the Fenian Society and provided themselves with arms. It is understood that the Government will put forward for trial at the ordinary commission all the Fenian prisoners against whom they have such a case as will secure a certain conviction, and retain the others under the powers obtained by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. Whether a further renewal of those powers will be sought will depend on the course of events between the present time and the meeting of Parliament.—Weekly Register.

It exceeds the revenue of all the British possessions in North and South America and Africa taken together. That vast accumulation of British capital called the funds contributes to the income tax only £1,500,000; yet what grumbling we hear every day from the fund-holders about the weight of taxation. It is only by a comparison of this kind that we can appreciate the financial value of the voluntary offerings from the Catholic world. But the financial results of our association, starting and successful as they have been, furnish us with a collateral cause of congratulation only. That which brings most comfort to the heart of the Sovereign Pontiff is the great moral achievement indicated by these figures. It is to that achievement his children should look. In it they will find the inspiration of example—Those who have not worked in our ranks before will no longer hesitate to volunteer, and we shall all gather from it a cheering incitement to future labor. Now, I will ask why was all this money sent to Rome? Why it was sent to maintain the independence of the Holy Father. Every corner of the world contributed and sent not only their money, but their allegiance also. This it was that produced the great moral effect in question.'

I may add that to ascertain correctly the total amount of the contributions of the Catholic world to the Holy Father during the last seven years is not so easy a matter as the Times may possibly think, for although the 'Peter's pence,' paid through and recorded by the Arch-Confraternity in Rome, has been very considerable, very large sums have been sent through the Propaganda and other channels, without being carefully recorded. I am exceedingly desirous to receive an account from the

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