

The Irish Presbyterians have just issued a long address, signed by the hon. secretaries of the Presbyterian Representation Society, demonstrating by copious statistics the efficiency of their form of church government and the practical tendencies of its Calvinism, upon which they rest their claims to a more favorable position than has been assigned to the body by the ruling powers.

PEACE PROPOSITION.—In the Cork journals there appears a notice from the Earl of Bandon, in accordance with a requisition presented to him as Lord-Lieutenant of the county, convening a meeting of magistrates to take into consideration the expediency of withdrawing the extra police force stationed in that quarter. Referring to this movement the *Cork Examiner* pertinently remarks:—"When those who are directly appointed to preserve the public peace, and who in their private relations have a strong interest in tranquillity, and are in many cases influenced by excessive and unreasonable jealousies—when these come forward to demand an abatement of preventive rigors, their petition may certainly be granted with safety. Irish magistrates are prone enough to suggest an increase of penal and police restrictions; and, therefore, when they take the opposite course, and approve a relaxation, the case may be considered perfectly clear. And that it is such must be obvious to every one at present. There is not the least ground, in the circumstances of the country at this time, for the maintenance of a large police force. Profound tranquillity prevails everywhere, crime has diminished to an unprecedented degree, and, in such a state of affairs, to keep up, at large expense, an array of idle terrorists, such as this extra police force, is both unjustifiable and insulting to the community."

We find the following important announcement in the *Cork Examiner*:—"It is with the utmost pleasure we feel authorised to announce that it is the intention of a company of high mercantile position, to establish a line of steam vessels which will ply regularly between Cork and New York. It is intended that those steamers shall sail once a week for New York with passengers and merchandise—and here it is, we should suppose, scarcely necessary to remind those passengers who embark at Cork that they avoid all the inconveniences, the delay, and dangers that are incurred in channel navigation during the winter months—and when this line has commenced its operation it is fully expected, when the present contract with the proprietors of Cunard's line has expired, the packets belonging to that firm will make this harbor a port of call for the conveyance of goods and passengers."

IRISH RAILWAY PROSPERITY.—The Irish lines of railway—or, at least, the majority of them—are reported to be in a most satisfactory state, both as regards management and the steady increase of traffic. The receipts of the Great Southern and Western—one of the best conducted in the three kingdoms—for the present year exceed those of the preceding year by nearly 50,000.

EVICIONS IN THE WEST.—All the occupants of Mr. Pollock's newly acquired property, near Ballygar, were served with ejectments during the past week. A large police force was kept for three days in attendance on the bailiffs engaged in the "work of mercy." Some manifestation on the part of the people was apprehended, but through the energetic remonstrances of their excellent pastor, all passed off very quietly.—*Roscommon Weekly Messenger.*

THE CONFESSORIAL.—In the course of his speech to his constituents at and of the borough of Enniskillen, Mr. Whiteside narrated the following particulars in connexion with the trial and conviction of the Eastwood conspirators:—"When a law officer of the Crown, I had to prosecute for a conspiracy to murder Mr. Eastwood at Dundalk. An incident occurred during this trial worthy of mention. A decent washerwoman, whose cottage was near the scene of the intended murder, and who identified the prisoners, was a principal witness. She was cross-examined for the prisoners, and asked, had she not before the magistrates first declared and afterwards sworn that she did not know the prisoners? She admitted she had done so. She then explained how she came to give her evidence as she had given it. She swore that, having gone to confession in order to obtain the rites of her church, the priest, horror-struck at her disclosures, refused to administer the consolations of her religion unless she first went before a magistrate and disclosed truly all she knew. She swore in consequence she did so, and she was by the jury believed. The name of the good priest did not transpire, but we would all agree that he performed his duty in his conscience, to the laws of man, and to the law of God."

IRISH CRIME.—A paper drawn up by the Rev. Edward Clarke, local inspector and chaplain of the county of Donegal gaol, supplies some interesting information respecting the progress of crime in Ireland during the year 1854, as compared with the previous year. From this it appears that in all the various species of crime, ranged in a tabular form under six different heads, there is in Ireland under all the heads but one a most remarkable decrease. In 1853, the number of offenders was 16,144; in 1854, it was only 11,788; thus showing a decrease of 6,256, or at the rate of 38.5 per cent. In other words, Irish crime taken as a whole has, during the course of last year, disappeared to the extent of more than one-fifth.

DECREASE OF PAUPERISM.—The *Kilkenny Moderator* says, that owing to the small amount of pauperism in the Castlecomer union, and to the scant number of inmates in the workhouse, it is proposed in the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners can be obtained, to close the institution; and have the few poor whose maintenance from the rates is still necessary transferred to Abbeylisk workhouse, the union of Castlecomer thus saving the expense of keeping up a staff of officers.

The following unobtrusive little paragraph tells a sad tale for the proselytizers:—"Irish Church Missions. We regret to learn that, in consequence of the considerable diminution of their usual receipts, the committee of this society, in accordance with their fixed rule not to incur debt, are taking steps to make such reductions in their missionary operations as we fear may materially injure the work of reformation still evidently progressing in Ireland.—*Record.*"

A man named Thomas Boyce, and a native of Newtown, in the county Louth, has been fully committed to take his trial at the next assizes, charged with being one of the two men who waylaid and attempted to murder Messrs. Beecham and Reamsbottom.

A REMINISCENCE OF SOUPERISM.—In the report of the Society for Irish Church Missions, read at the fourth anniversary meeting in Exeter Hall, 29th April, 1853, the treasurer being Sir John Dean Paul Bart., it is stated that their missionaries "had access wherever they went, and found everywhere Roman Catholics eagerly listening to the Gospel which had been so long hidden from them, and gradually gathering into congregations from Roman thraldom." It says that "the peculiar position of the Roman Catholic mind requires that a uniform system of Christian aggression be made upon the whole power of Romanism."

A Clonmel Correspondent furnishes the following communication:—"A case which has excited much interest, and in which figured the Rev. H. E. Prior, the Ranting Rector of St. Mary's, in this town, occupied the attention of our local justices at Petty Sessions last week. The facts are these:—A young woman named Maria Longworth, who was under his care in Dublin, came down to prefer a special claim on the sleek parson. He had her arrested, and after three days' false arrest, he consented to a compromise, paying £6 to hush up the delicate affair. He paid her before £34. But this, it seems, did not suit her pretensions. The matter has placed the Soupers of this locality in deep gloom, particularly as the parson, by his overtures, admitted the claim of his fair protegee, who is the mother of a love-bairn aged a year and five months. She lives, when at home, in Bride-street, in your city. The parson was represented in court by Mr. Jerold Fitzgerald, and the lady by Mr. Prendergrast, who, through sympathy, took up her case. The denouement of her visit to rare Clonmel is anything but agreeable to our local saints, though it is profitable to herself; and however sore the impost may be in the opinion of others, she has no cause to find fault with a modicum of ministers money, of which she is the recipient as a Christmas gift. The affair is likely to occupy the attention of the long-robe folk in another quarter.—*Nation.*"

MODERN MISSIONARIES.—Among the numerous organizations which the plethoric Pagans of England support, for what they are pleased to call the "evangelization" of this "benighted" country, perhaps the most audacious and insidious is "The Society of Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics." There was a meeting of this body a few days ago in London—a "large proportion of those present being ladies"—venerable ones, we presume. Among the speakers was one Major General Alexander, who had the modesty to observe, that the object of the meeting was "simply to promulgate the pure Gospel amongst the Roman Catholics of Ireland; that the efforts of the society in those parts where lately the Gospel was almost unknown and where crime and demoralisation were paramount, had already produced a very beneficial change, and that the opposition which it encountered was chiefly from the priesthood. He referred to the late case of Bible-burning at Kingstown, and said the Roman Catholic population was not to be held accountable for the acts of those fanatics, the foreign friars and others, who, under the direction of Dr. Paul Cullen, were attempting to stir up the bad passions of the people, and who had hitherto been unsuccessful in promoting the errors which they advocated." Fancy this military apostle standing up in the centre of the modern Babylon, and gabbling about "paramount crime and demoralization in Ireland!" Fortunately, even English prejudice is beginning to revolt against this kind of thing; however. The subscriptions are not coming into "the society" it seems—the concern is not paying, and there is some danger that Ireland will have to mourn over its decay. Parson Dallas announced at the same meeting "that although much success had been obtained in many localities, there was a great falling off in its funds; the money entrusted to the committee in the year 1854, amounted to £39,489, but up to the 20th November last, the money received by them in the present year had only been £29,651, being a diminution of nearly one fourth of their income, which must involve a proportionate reduction of the Society's operations." Fancy nearly thirty thousand pounds expended by this Society alone, in attempting to proselytize our poor countrymen—and the "missionaries" not satisfied with even that!—*Nation.*

THE "AUTHORISED VERSION."—If the Protestant Bible was not burned at Kingstown assuredly it might as well be burned for any good use which Protestants make of it. How is it possible to believe that Protestants read the Bible when they rob the poor Irish—the victims of famine and misery—of £360,000 per annum in the form of tithes rent, to support lazy Parsons, who, in addition to this tithe rent, possess 132,782 statute acres in the form of glebe lands, and 669,247 statute acres under the name of see lands, besides college lands, and chapter lands to no end. Now, one or other of two things; if they do read the Bible, and still practice robbery, it must be useless for them to read the Bible. The Protestants of Ireland are the last people in the world who should complain of the destruction of a book which seems to be to them a shut book, whose counsels they never obey, and whose precepts they set at naught. Let them practice any one of its precepts on the subject of honesty, and then we shall believe that they lament its destruction; but while, with a robber's hand, they wrench Ministers' money from the poor, and tithe rent from the rich, and glebe lands from all, it is impossible to suppose them sincere in lamenting the destruction of a volume which denounces them as cheats and robbers, and as deserving of eternal punishment. That book curses those who "drive away the ox of the fatherless (that is, the Parson), who take the widow's ox for a pledge, who cause the naked to lodge without clothing; that they have no covering; in the cold, they are wet with the showers of the mountain, and embrace the rock for a shelter," &c., that is, it denounces Irish Protestants, and particularly the Parsons, and it is impossible to suppose that Protestants are really sorry for the alleged destruction of a book which denounces their Parsons as worthy of damnation. This is perfectly incredible. Is there not from one end to the other of the "New Testament" line upon line, and precept upon precept, establishing this point, that without charity there is no Christian virtue for man?—that all faith is worthless if charity be absent? Yet this "New Testament" is the book whose alleged destruction Protestants profess to be sorry for. This book, which inculcates what they neglect and denounces what they observe! The Bible denounces robbery and inculcates charity, and the Irish Protestants neglect charity and practice plunder, and yet they profess to be sorry for the alleged destruction of the Bible. Their inconsistency seems to be quite unaccountable. That inconsistency may, however, have its origin, not in the

people, but in the corrupt nature of the version itself which the Irish Protestants use. Some glimpse of this may be found in their own writers. Dr. Whately told them long since that among the many delusions with which the Protestant laity are gullied, one of the most extravagant is the preposterous supposition that they ever do or can read the Bible: "Generally speaking," he says, "they never read the Bible; they read merely a translation of it."—*Tablet.*

THE CONFESSORIAL.—About two years since a young lady residing in the house of Thomas Studdert, Esq., J.P., Kilkishen, county Clare, lost a valuable gold watch and chain while riding out. Every exertion was made at the time to recover it, and a reward was offered, but to no purpose. On Saturday last the Rev. Mr. Quaid, P.P., Callaghan's Mills, in whose parish it was lost, received the watch and chain by post from the Rev. Mr. de Buggenoms (Superior of the Redemptorist Fathers in this city) and immediately gave them to Mr. Studdert for the owner.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

THE BROTHERS CROTTY.—A great shout of triumph was raised a few years ago, when two unhappy Priests, the brothers Crotty, of Birr, abandoned the Catholic Church. Let us see the edifying converts they were. One is now in gaol, in England awaiting his trial for obtaining money under false pretences. The other affectionate brother thus publicly repudiates a connection with him in a letter to the *Conservative Press*:—"I beg to state that the connexion between the Rev. Michael Crotty and myself was dissolved in the year 1839, and that from that period up to the present time I have had nothing to do with him. I have been labouring as a missionary in connexion with the Presbyterian Church in the county of Galway for the last fourteen years, and have only made one visit to Birr during that period. I deeply regret the necessity that compels me to call public attention to these facts.—I am, sir, your obedient servant. W. CROTTY. Galway, December 18, 1855."

GREAT BRITAIN.
The Rev. W. Wheeler, for many years Vicar of Old and New Shoreham, in the county of Sussex has within a day or two left the Church of England, and embraced the doctrines and become a member of the Catholic Church. For a long period this gentleman has held high Tractarian principles.
PROGRESS OF CATHOLICITY IN SCOTLAND.—If the progress of religion is satisfactory abroad, it is equally so at home. Scotland—thanks to the good providence of God—has not been behind in the great march onward to the re-Catholicisation of the world. Amid the greatest difficulties, and despite the stolid prejudices of the country against our venerated Bishops, Priests, Nuns, and teachers, 1855 has been an eventful year for the Catholic annals of Scotland. Several new missions have been established; two chapels have been purchased from the Sectarians; six new churches have been opened in the eastern and western districts, and others enlarged, and several are now in course of erection; twelve new labourers have been added to the vineyard; several large schools have been erected, and others are in the course of erection, in several congregations more efficient and trained teachers have been introduced. The Marist Brothers of Christian Education have taken a house in Glasgow, which is to be the head quarters of the Order for Great Britain and from whence religious teachers will be sent to other places. Six young men's societies have been established; and now number nearly 1800 members, each pledged to improve himself, religiously and intellectually, and use his influence for this end wherever he may go. Thus hath progressed the great cause in 1855 in Scotland.—If we may be permitted, we take the liberty to allude also to the establishment of a second Catholic journal in Scotland, as a movement in advance, and one which we humbly trust, shall not be without its influences in the right direction.—*Northern Times.*

OUR COAST DEFENCES.—A correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* states, that at several meetings of her Majesty's ministers recently held, the most animated discussions have taken place upon the necessity of putting our coast defences into a state of greater efficiency; and that, in consequence of those deliberations, means will be forthwith taken by the War Office for the purpose of carrying out that important object.

EFFECT OF THE WAR.—The *Manchester Examiner*, one of the ablest of the English provincial papers, says that the increase of pauperism in Manchester has been nearly fifty per cent in 1855 above the numbers in 1854. The fact is mentioned to illustrate the influence of the war upon the industrial interests of Great Britain.
The *Times* learns with satisfaction that Admiral Dundas has been directed to haul down his flag. "Such a direction is no censure, but it gives an opportunity for considering whether a more efficient successor cannot be found, and breaks the claim which is so apt to grow up out of the command of one year to the command in the next. The English navy has its laurels to win, and for the English navy not to win those laurels in two years is, in fact, to lose them."

EMIGRATION FROM LIVERPOOL.—The emigration returns for the present year will exhibit a diminution in the number of persons sailing from this port to the extent of nearly one-half as compared with last year's return. The total number of ships which have sailed hence for all foreign ports during the year, including "short ships," or those which do not come under the surveillance of the Government officers, has been 576, carrying altogether 122,480 souls, against 957 ships, which took their departure hence for all foreign ports in the year 1854 with 210,742 souls on board. Of this number about 90,000, or two-thirds, have proceeded to the United States, and about 27,000 to the Australian colonies, the bulk of the remainder being equally divided between Canada and New Brunswick. 113,037 of these emigrants went in passenger-ships under the inspection of the local emigration agents, and of that number 59,025, or more than one-half, were Irish, 32,108 English, 14,543 Scotch, and the remainder, with the exception of 1,364 who were cabin passengers, and were not classified, were natives of other countries, but chiefly Germans. Of the 27,000 who sailed for Australia, 9,859 were English, 8,158 Irish, 3,482 Scotch, and the remainder natives of other countries. It is expected that next spring there will be a great influx of Germans into Liverpool for the purpose of emigrating to the United States.

It is intended by the Government to effect a further increase in the Army Works Corps. This contemplated augmentation will consist of 750 men, comprising persons of every trade, but principally of masons, bricklayers, carpenters, bakers, butchers, smiths, collar makers, and excavators. There are at present ready for embarkation upwards of 300 men for this corps, and who only wait for vessels to convey them.

Within the last month a charge of a most startling nature has been put forward against Lord Palmerston! The extraordinary and dangerous nature of this charge caused its first utterance to be in whispers, which, notwithstanding proof pointed out of a rather irrefragable kind, had nearly died out in an atmosphere of incredulity, were it not that, within a few days past, proof has begun to leak out from the most unexpected quarters in the most unexpected manner, and in quantity sufficient to attract at least considerable attention. Even still, we can scarcely bring ourselves to an acceptance of the testimony. Lord Palmerston is actually accused of treason, and, worse still, of corruption—of selling to Russia his services as friend in the British Cabinet, at a juncture when Russia needed such a friend. Who makes the charge? Mr. Urquhart; but if now rests upon evidence corroborating in a great measure, if not entirely, his statement. As far as we can unravel the affair the indictment is, that, in 1826, the famous Russian spy, Princess Lieven, had Lord Palmerston in her pay—that, mainly by her secret influence and intrigue, he was promoted to the Foreign Office—that he received sums of money from her, through her agent, a Mr. Hart, who, by arrangement, "lost" the money to Lord Palmerston at play, and that this same Hart was appointed by him British Consul at Leipsic. Truly a most extraordinary story, we must once again exclaim. By Lord Palmerston's supporters it is, of course, set down as a "delusion," and a proof of the insanity of Mr. Urquhart. That gentleman asserts that the late Mr. Porter, of the Board of Trade, sent for him, and that, in the office, in presence of two other persons, whom he names, and who are still living, Mr. Porter informed him, Mr. Urquhart, of the transaction, with the object of having it exposed.—*Nation.*

THE IMMORAL PRESS.—It appears from the *Edinburgh Review*, that the total number of immoral publications issued is 29,000,000 millions annually, being more than all the publications of the different religious societies, and the seventy religious magazines. The present circulation in London itself of deeply immoral publications amounts to 4,000,000 weekly, and in one large manufacturing town alone the weekly issue of an impious, blasphemous paper exceeds 23,000; the editor and proprietor of the paper both deny the existence of a God.

We have now reached that advanced stage of civilization in which it is discovered that drowning a fellow-creature, or cutting his throat, or pouring hot lead into his ears, or poisoning him coarsely like a rat, is utterly vain, detection following guilt with fearful accuracy. If the thing is to be done, it must be done scientifically. The darkest deed of blindest passion must be accomplished with the patience and clear-sightedness of a cold intellect; the last stroke of enmity, the unkindest cut of all, must be dealt as Isaac Walton recommends the angler to impale a frog on his hook—"tenderly, as though you 'loved him.'" Burke and Courvoisier and Rush and Mrs. Manning were vulgar wretches belonging to a past epoch; here we have men carrying assassination to a pitch of refinement that leaves little to be desired, being only a few degrees behind the perfection of that Oriental art which destroyed life with a kiss, with a nosegay, or with a book the leaves of which could only be turned with a wetted finger.

A SOVEREIGN.—A London police-report presents a similar example of detected hypocrisy:—"Harriette Lindsey, a pretty modest looking woman, about nineteen years, was charged by Jonathan Hill a tall sanctimonious looking man, a dealer in antiquities in Whitechapel, with an assault. Complainant said defendant was formerly an acquaintance of his, and that he had assisted her in some pecuniary troubles—that he had not seen her for some time till Friday night, when he met her in Oxford street. Instead of reciprocating to his kind enquiries after her health, she called him a villain, her soul destroyer, and then seized him by his coat, and beat him about the head and face with her fist. A constable came up and took her to the station. Magistrate—Your tale is an extraordinary one. There must be something in the rear of all this. On what terms have you been with the defendant? Complainant—Upon my honour only on the terms of friendship. Magistrate—Oh nonsense! I cannot believe that is all. (To defendant)—What is your answer to this charge? Defendant (in tears): Oh, sir, I am innocent of this charge. The man Hill has been my total ruin. Two years ago I was living with my parents in the country, when the complainant came there, as a local preacher. He attended this chapel and assisted in his school. We became intimate, and, under the most solemn promise of marriage, he effected my ruin. Fearful of the consequences, he prevailed upon me to leave my parents, and come to London with him; I did so, and after living with him for several months, as his wife, I discovered that he was a married man, with a large family. A few days afterwards he suddenly left me, and I saw no more of him until last night, when, as soon as he saw me, he rushed upon me, and felled me to the ground. That is the whole of the truth, sir. A witness who was passing swore that the complainant was the aggressor, and that his conduct was brutal in the extreme. Magistrate—This is just what I expected—let the "respectable" complainant take his place in the dock instead of the defendant, who, in my opinion, has been wrongfully charged. The man then charged with assaulting the late defendant, and the charge having been fully proved, the magistrate committed the sanctimonious fellow for two months.

THE MORMONS.—At the forthcoming Dover Sessions the question will be brought forward for the Recorder's decision, whether the Mormons are Protestant Dissenters. This arises from the charge recently preferred against a young man for disturbing public worship in a Mormonite meeting-house when the magistrates held the offender to bail. At the West Bromwich Petty Sessions, lately, the justice, in a similar case adjudged that Latter-day Saints are not Protestant Dissenters within the meaning of the acts of parliament passed for the protection of the latter, notwithstanding that they had registered their chapel as such, and consequently the charge for disturbing them was dismissed—a step which was at the time generally thought to be intolerant, if not contrary to the spirit of the English law.—*South Eastern Gazette.*