

marked the concluding years of the last half century, it must be pronounced wanting. W. S. D.

In all thy actions think God sees thee; and in all his actions labour to see Him; that will make thee fear Him; this will move thee to love Him. The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, and the knowledge of God is perfection.

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, March 31.

#### ENGLAND.

Two Blue-books of considerable size have just been issued from the Parliamentary printing-office, containing the report of the Maynooth Commissioners appointed in 1853, with voluminous appendices, and a report of the minutes of evidence. The report itself, which is dated the 1st of March, occupies some sixty pages, and refers to the origin and history of the College of Maynooth, its government and management, its discipline, its studies, the effects of the increased grant, and the means of effecting proposed changes.—Confining ourselves to the gist of the report—viz., the general opinions of the Commissioners on the present state of the college, and their recommendations, attention is directed to the following as the most salient points:—

“The Commissioners suggest a change in the constitution of the Board of Trustees (viz., that a certain number of trustees should vacate their places in rotation and be succeeded by others) as likely to infuse greater energy into the Board. They also object to the present constitution of the College Council, and advise the appointment of two councils, one of discipline and one of studies.

“As regards the discipline of the College, the system has been complained of as being defective in many respects—viz., that there is no effectual supervision—that there is too marked and wide a separation between the superiors and the students—and that larger and better regulated spiritual instruction is needed. The Commissioners, referring to the mode of training at St. Sulpice and All-Hallows, and its applicability to Ireland, reserve the point, and have contented themselves with supplying the trustees with the best means of coming to a practical conclusion, by circulating questions among foreign colleges for ecclesiastics.

“As regards the studies of the college, a chief defect is noticed in the entrance examination—viz., the want of an adequate test of the candidate's knowledge of English, and a remedy is suggested for it. The general course of study embraces the classics, English literature, the exact sciences, bible history, logic, ethics, metaphysics, natural philosophy, and divinity. The opinion, formed by the Commissioners upon the efficiency of the studies in the humanity and rhetoric classes under the present system, is, on the whole, unfavorable. The tutorial system is much required; as it is, there appears to be a vast amount of cramming by means of lectures, the students being very ill-prepared by previous education to appreciate them, while there is no stimulus to private study. It is recommended that the tutorial system be introduced into the lower classes, and that elementary instruction in Greek and Latin (translating and parsing) should be afforded by two assistant professors. The time allotted to physical science is pronounced to be too short. A biennial course of logic and physics is suggested, as also instruction in agricultural chemistry.

“As regards the divinity classes, the Commissioners recommend the rejection of the existing text-books as in many parts unsuited to this country, and the substitution of a complete series of text-books prepared by the professors and sanctioned by the college, adapted to the present condition and institutions of the country. The want of specific instruction in preaching is also noticed.

“And now comes the most important point of the report—the bearing of the teaching of the divinity classes upon questions affecting the interests of the State and general morality. The Commissioners refer to the evidence, which they leave to produce its own impression, although, as they observe, it is mainly that of the heads and professors of the college, and, so far, *ex parte*, adding:—

“We have, however, had the opportunity of receiving the testimony, on these and some other points, of parties who, having formerly been students in Maynooth, have become ministers of the Established Church, and entertain views adverse to the religious teaching of the college. We do not propose, as we said before, to discuss the evidence on this branch of

the inquiry. We should, however, be doing injustice to the college if we failed to report, as the general result of the whole evidence before us, that we see no reason to believe that there has been any disloyalty in the teaching of the college, or any disposition to impair the obligations of an unreserved allegiance to your Majesty.”

“On the delicate question of instruction as to preparation for the confessional, the commissioners report as follows:—

“The teaching at Maynooth with respect to those portions of moral theology which relate to purity of life, is a topic which we have entered into with great reluctance, partly on account of its own nature, which unfits it for public discussion, and partly from its being intimately connected with certain doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church on which it is not our province to deliver an opinion. Apprised, however, as we were, of the serious charges which have been brought against the college on this ground, we have thought it our duty to call the attention of parliament to the college to the subject, and to give them an opportunity of making such statements in regard to it as they thought desirable.

“In the first place, they fully admit that in Maynooth, as in all Roman Catholic colleges for the education of ecclesiastics, a portion of the course of moral theology is occupied with the discussion, in more or less detail, of sins against chastity, and that the discussion of such subjects, by the avowal of their most eminent authors, by no means devoid of danger to the mind and character of the students. But they state, in the first place, that such study is essential for the proper discharge of the functions of the confessional, which the Roman Catholic Church considers to be an institution of divine appointment; that it is deferred until the period of the student's career when his approaching entrance on the duties of the priesthood imposes the necessity of acquaintance with the subject; that it is then confined in Maynooth to a very short period (one professor fixes it at eight days); that the subject itself is always treated of in a learned language, and every security taken, which piety and prudence can suggest, that it shall be handled with reverence and reserve, and in no spirit of licentious curiosity.

“We are here bound to say that we have no reason to believe, from the evidence of any party, that these studies have had, practically, an injurious effect upon the mind and character of the students.”

As regards the effect on the character of the college of the increased annual grant, the commissioners regret they cannot offer any important information. They then suggest the means of effecting the proposed changes, both for improving the studies of the college and completing the buildings, &c. The funds already assigned by Parliament are likely to suffice for both purposes, if only properly distributed, by the adoption of a few financial arrangements suggested by the commissioners, and thus concludes this anxiously-expected report on the College of Maynooth.

**THE PATRIOTIC FUND COMMISSION.**—The Commissioners have issued a circular (to take effect from March 2nd) setting forth the scale of allowance for the widows and orphans of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Army and Marines, and petty officers and seamen of the Navy:—

The widow of a staff non-commissioned officer, without children, is to receive 6s. weekly; if with one child, 7s.; two, 8s.; three, 8s. 6d.; four, 9s.; five, 9s. 6d.

A sergeant's widow, without children, will receive 5s. weekly; if with one child, 6s.; two, 7s.; three, 7s. 6d.; four, 8s.; five, 8s. 6d.;—if a colour-sergeant's widow, 6d. additional.

A corporal's widow, without children, 4s. weekly; with one child, 5s.; two, 6s.; three, 6s. 6d.; four, 7s.; five, 7s. 6d.

A drummer's, trumpeter's, or private's widow, without children, will receive 3s. 6d. weekly; with one child, 4s. 6d.; two, 5s. 6d.; three, 6s.; four, 6s. 6d.; five, 7s.

The corresponding ranks in the Navy are as follows:—

Staff non-commissioned officer, 5th class; sergeants, 6th class; corporal, 7th class; and private, 8th do.

Sixpence additional per week, will be given to every infirm person. All allowances are to be subject to the condition stated in the Royal Commission, that the recipients are unable to maintain or support themselves, and in general these will not be made or continued to orphans after they shall have attained the age of 15.

As the foregoing scale for widows and orphans must necessarily be influenced by the various circumstances of every case, although the scale is to be the general rule, the committee are to be at liberty to deviate from it in cases calling for the exercise of their discretion; sickness and lying-in, for example, will admit of exception.

The allowances are in no instance to be transferred

or assigned, and their continued payment must depend on the circumstances of the parties and the sufficiency of the fund to answer the demands upon it.

That the allowance to widows cease upon their second marriage, unless continued by any express order of the committee; but during any subsequent widowhood the widow is to be at liberty to apply to be replaced on the fund; but no woman is to continue to receive an allowance if she shall, in the opinion of the committee, by profligate conduct, dishonour the memory of her husband.

The Royal Commission has confined relief to those who are unable to maintain or support themselves. This shows the necessity of industrial pursuits by the widows of soldiers, sailors, and marines; and the executive committee, desirous of encouraging and rewarding those who endeavour by honest industry to gain a livelihood, have resolved that, where any widow not receiving relief from this fund for herself, shall in the month of January in any year, produce to the secretary of the Royal Commissioners a certificate signed by her master or mistress that she is in their service, or a certificate signed by the clergyman of the parish that she is maintaining herself by carrying on any business or other occupation, the committee will present any such widow, upon every such certificate, with a sum not less than two guineas, nor more than four guineas, according to their opinion of her merits.

On Tuesday morning the flying squadron of the Baltic fleet consisting of the *Imperieuse*, 51, *Euryalus*, 51, *Arrogant*, 47, *Tartar*, 21, *Archer*, 15, *Conflict*, 8, and *Cruiser*, 17, lit fires and got up steam. At three o'clock the *Fairy*, with the Queen on board, was seen making for Spithead, from Osborne Palace, when a royal salute was fired from the fleet. The *Fairy* steamed slowly alongside each vessel under orders, the ships manning rigging and heartily cheering the Queen; many of the men from the mainmast trucks. The royal vessel then lay-to off the *Neptune*, and signalled for Captain Watson, commanding the flying squadron, to repair on board, which he did, and was presented by Rear Admiral Seymour to the Queen. Signal was then made for the *Imperieuse*, Capt. Watson's vessel, to get under weigh, and the *Fairy* proceeding to between the *Warner* and *Neb* light vessels, the vessels passed her in succession, manning the rigging and cheering. On parting the Queen hoisted the signal “Farewell—Success,” which was kept flying till the fleet, with the *Imperieuse* several miles ahead, had passed entirely out of sight.

Dr. Cumming, at the Scotch Church in Crown Court, talked of our army being sacrificed by the Puseyism of warfare, which prefers regard to a military rubric to a victory without it, or in defiance of it; and in another part of his discourse added:—“It is no wonder that the similarity of name—Sebastopol being in Greek what Armageddon is in Hebrew—should suggest to many a student of prophecy the probability that these words in the Book of Revelation, xvi. 14, the ‘gathering together to the great war of Almighty God,’ and verse 16, ‘He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon,’ and in the Greek tongue Sebastopol, and in the English tongue the August City, allude to our times.”

The Government has completely swept all the English and some of the continental ports of large steamships for the transport service. Upwards of 200 of the largest ships in the world are now in employ, a number which is estimated would carry at one time an army of 200,000 to 250,000 men.

We are enabled to state that the long-expected visit of their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of the French to the Court of St. James's, may probably take place during the ensuing month of April. The date is not fixed.—*Morning Post*.

Many who desire that the blessings of the Gospel may be extended to the masses of our population who are now without them, are beginning to see the evils of the “pew system.” We are happy to record any instance of the removal of this great hindrance to the Church's work; and we trust Christians will soon cease to tolerate a system which gives place to selfishness, pride, and exclusiveness, in the very sanctuary of God. We observe with much pleasure that the congregation of St. Peter's at Sudbury, have, in this respect, set a noble example, by having, with a few exceptions, the doors removed from their pews, and the seats declared, by public notice, free and unappropriated. Several liberal contributions have been received by the incumbent (the Rev. J. W. Molyneux) towards opening the west entrance of this ancient and beautiful church.