

by each member, and relief is afforded as the necessities of the applicant may require. During the past year \$918 had been paid to the Treasurer by the members, at the rate of two cents per week; out of which sum \$482 had been expended. Dinners had been given to 58,000 persons, and soup to a number that could not be counted.

The costermongers determined to make the noble lord some testimonial in proof of their obligations to him for the many ways in which he had assisted them. Accordingly, at their late anniversary meeting, they presented his lordship with a donkey. The occasion was one of great hilarity, but when the noble lord acknowledged the gift by saying that "all through life he had done his duty as donkeys generally do theirs, with unmurmuring patience and unmurmuring resignation to everything put upon them," the applause of the hundreds of his humble friends was unbounded.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has taken great interest in the welfare of the artisans, in their attempts to get better dwellings. There is an estate called Shaftesbury Park, which has been divided into building lots and sold to the working classes at a small figure. The noble Earl, though a Churchman, has always been on the most friendly terms with Dissenters; and, therefore, he has not inflicted a condition upon the occupants of lots on the estate, that they shall attend the Established Church; nor has he set aside sites solely for that Church. There is a large hall in which a Sabbath School is taught, and all denominations have free access to hold services in turn. But this does not suit certain intolerant bigots, who think that the whole population is given over to heathenism, simply because "*the Church*," has not exclusive right there, as in some other places.

#### SUNDAY CLOSING IN IRELAND.

FOR some years past it has been the growing conviction of many, that

the Temperance cause was making more progress in Ireland than in England; in proof of which, the conduct of the Irish members on a very important question was referred to. Petitions, numerously signed, from all parts of Ireland had been presented to the House of Commons, asking that public-houses should be closed on the Sabbath. A bill to secure such a desirable object was introduced in Parliament. The various political parties measured their strength, and the bill was defended or assailed according to the views of the different speakers. It was well known that a large majority of the Irish members were in favour of the bill, which was purely of a local character; and a similar bill having long been in existence in Scotland, it might have been supposed that it too would have been allowed to become law. But the Conservative party gave their undivided opposition to the bill.

It is believed that the Premier of England, in thus acting, has offended a great number of his supporters, and that he may suffer for the course which he has pursued, in a way that he does not now anticipate. Legislators, as a body, move very slowly in favour of those measures which improve the social condition of the people.

#### CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

BRIBERY at Elections has always been looked upon as an unmitigated evil, but there is reason to fear that great numbers who have denounced the practice have done not a little towards keeping it in existence. Many plans have been adopted with the design of extirpating this evil. It was thought that when the ballot system of voting was introduced, and all the elections were held on one day, and all places where intoxicating drinks were sold were closed, that the days of purity had at last dawned. Recent events have proved the contrary. Election after election has been declared void. We are glad to record the fact that only a