

I was a richer man now than I was eighteen months ago; my foot was on the first step of the ladder, for I had painted a picture which had sold well. It was no longer necessary for me to carry about my worldly possessions on my back, or to seek out the poorest gashaus. The steamer landed me, with other passengers, on the quay, hard by a handsome hotel. I resolved to patronise it. The evening was cold; but all along the quay, outside the hotel, in the court yard, groups of people were standing, and talking with a slow, heavy power of speech; betokening that the native mind was moved by some topic of more than common interest. I caught a word here and there which aroused my curiosity. I asked the keeper who showed me to my room what the subject of such general public interest was? An execution, he replied; adding that executions were rare events there now, and that unusual interest had been excited by this one, from the fact that the persons who had suffered the extreme penalty of the law were two sisters, *murdresses*, whose crimes had long escaped undetected.

I must have turned white instantly, for the man looked at me with surprise. 'Did you ever see these women?' I managed at last to stammer out.

'No, mein Herr. I could not leave the hotel to attend either the trial or execution. But there is an officer in the Speisesaal who can tell you every thing about them, for he saw them in the prison, and commanded the troops in the Platz to-day.'

I said no more to the man, but went down to the coffee-room, a few minutes later, with my sketch-book in my hand. At one of the small tables a middle-aged Prussian officer was having his supper. Without more ado, I accosted him.

'Sir, you will forgive a stranger's intrusion, I hope. I am an Englishman just arrived in Cologne. I understand that you were present, in an official capacity, this day, at the execution of two women. You will oblige me greatly by giving me what information you can respecting them. The motive that prompts me to ask this favor is something beyond common curiosity as you shall presently learn.'

'Be seated, sir,' said the officer, politely, pointing to the chair opposite. 'I will tell you all I know concerning the sisters Strauss. You are acquainted with the nature of the crime of which they were convicted? It was the murder of one Hausmann, a young pedler. Not for the sake of his money, for he was poor enough, but for his hair and teeth.' (I shuddered, but said nothing. He continued.) 'This was by no means their first crime. They were discovered to have been driving their horrible trade for two or three years past. It is supposed that they murdered upwards of twenty persons, men, women, and children.—Numbers who disappeared mysteriously are now said to have been made away with by the sisters Strauss. Their victims were all strangers or friendless, to whom they offered hospitality, and touching whose disappearance no inquiries were likely to be made. Some few had money, perhaps; the generality were poor; but several watches and a considerable sum of money were found secreted in the house.'

'It had a garden,' I said, as though I saw it all again,—'a garden walled round, with a postern at the father end. In the house were three rooms.'

'Just so. All the world has been visiting that house within the last few days. A great number of skeletons have been found in the garden. The popular execration was so great that it was feared the women would be torn in pieces on their way to the 'galgen' (gallows) to-day.—Had it not been for the strong guard which I commanded, and that their terrible sentence,—one rarely pronounced now,—would, it was known, be carried out to the very letter, they would assuredly have fallen a prey to the fury of the mob. As it was, the savage satisfaction of the prospect of seeing them broken on the wheel—'

'Broken on the wheel! Good Heaven, sir, you surely don't mean that this sentence was carried out?'

'Yes. It is, as I have said, very unusual, now, for this punishment to be even recorded, still less enforced. But, in cases, of very rare atrocity, nothing short of it seems to satisfy the public. I saw even women to-day, looking unmoved; though I, a soldier, who have seen a good many bloody battle-fields in the great war, would fain have ridden away.'

'Some minutes elapsed before I could speak.—I opened my sketch-book, and turned over its pages.'

'Sir,' I said at last, 'I have one question more to ask you. Do these heads at all resemble the wretched women whose death you this day witnessed?'

'Assuredly they do. They must have been drawn from life,' he replied.

'I then told him my story, as I have now told it you. I need hardly say he did not doubt but that I had actually, in the flesh encountered the sisters Strauss, and had been in such imminent peril as very few men have survived. As to the hypothesis of a dream, which had taken such firm root in my mind that I could not lightly discard it, the officer laughed it to scorn.'

'Yet even at this distance of time, when I read and hear strange stories of prophetic dreams, a doubt crosses my mind, and I ask myself whether my adventure with the two sisters of Cologne was not, perhaps, of the nature of these. But you now know as much as I do, and I leave you to decide the point for yourself.'

THE END.

ABSTRACTS OF CURRAN.—Mr. Curran one day riding by the country seat of one of the Judges, was struck by a group of lovely children, whom he perceived playing in the avenue. He stopped to enquire to whom all these fine children belonged; he was answered by the nurses, who had a beautiful infant in her arms; that they were the children of Judge—'

'Pray, my good woman, how many of them has he?'

'There are twelve playing about inside, and this one in my arms is the thirteenth.'

'Then,' said Mr. Curran, 'the Judge has a full jury and may proceed to trial whenever he chooses, and the young one will make an excellent crier!'

FLORENCE MARYAT, OR PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES IN INDIA.

We hear of the poorer classes of Roman Catholics in Ireland being 'priest-ridden.' As soon as I had made a few acquaintances in Bangalore, and commenced to look about me, I began to think that the larger half of its residents might truthfully be termed 'missionary-ridden.'

Quartered there at the same time as ourselves was a certain Major T—, who was particularly devoted to the missionaries, and who possessed a wife to whom nature had been very unkind; so much so, as to render her a noticeable object, even amongst other women who were old and ill-favored. Remarking the circumstance one day to a friend, I expressed my wonder as to the reason that had induced her husband to marry her.

'Why, don't you know the story of their marriage?' exclaimed the gentleman with whom I was conversing. 'As soon as Major T— was converted by the missionaries, they told him that if he wished to prove the truth of the desire which he expressed to lead a new life, he must marry, for no man could be a Christian who had not a wife. Upon this, he said he should be very glad to do so, but he didn't know any one who would have him. 'Oh! there will be no difficulty about that,' was the reply, 'for we will direct our people to send you a wife from the mission at home.' Accordingly, Major T— was provided with a partner free of expense, only, unfortunately for him, the stock-in-trade of good young women being low at the time, Mrs. T— was the result of the missionaries' application on his behalf.'

This story was, I believe, from after inquiry, strictly true; but a sequel which I heard affixed to it, renders it doubly absurd. It seems that another virtuous young man being in want of a wife at the same time, two girls were exported for their benefit; but the other fellow being sharper than Major T— got off to the vessel before him, and made the first choice. What a state of mind the second candidate must have been in, when he arrived on board, and encountered his share! Scarcely a suitable one, I am afraid, for the pet of the missionaries. And you these men, who profess to lead our steps heavenward, would entail upon their fellow creatures, in the cause of virtue, all the evil passions and misery which generally follow in the wake of that irreparable error—an ill-assorted marriage. Major T—, at the time I knew him, had grown-up daughters of his own, who happily had inherited more of his appearance than that of their mother. Yet, after his own experience, he could go to a young officer who had just been 'bestriden' by the missionary power, and say to him, as he had been told himself, 'Marry, marry.'

'But who am I to marry, sir?' was the echoed reply.

'You can marry one of my daughters; there are three of them: take your choice.'

'I don't know which I should like best,' the young man said, ruefully; 'however, I'll visit at your house for a few weeks, and when I've decided you shall have my answer.'

And so the choice was eventually made; and a bargain was concluded by two men who would have turned up their eyes at the mention of a goddess union between a couple of unbelievers. Whilst I lived in Bangalore, a German missionary lived there, whose name of H— is known throughout the length and breadth of Madras. He was a very singular person, endowed of a certain degree of cleverness, and a talent for coarse mimicry, which went down very well with the lower orders, and rendered him a favorite with the soldiers. He, doubtless, held great sway over them, and if he had confined himself to beguiling them into his chapel on week day evenings, to listen to his curious discourses, instead of drinking arack in the 'bazaar,' he might have done great good.

But he was self-sufficient and conceited at the same time, and tracing on his profession and his foreign birth, used to force himself upon the notice and into the presence of the people who had no desire for his acquaintance.

He spoke to everybody he met, stranger or not, and would take no denial when calling at houses where he wished to enter. He carried with him a number of picture cards, his favorite one of which was a dreadful red heart, with all the known vices transcribed upon it, which he would draw fourth upon a first interview, and inform you it was a faithful representation of your own.

Going one day into the house of an officer, whom he had never seen, he commenced with the abrupt question—'What is your name?'

'William —,' was the answer.

'How are you?' continued the visitor.

'Quite well, thank you.'

'Bill!' exclaimed the German missionary, emphatically, 'You're a liar!'

This not being the ordinary mode of address between English gentlemen who meet for the first time, 'Bill' was about to make some angry remonstrance at the accusation, when the missionary continued:

'It is not well with you; it is very ill. Your soul is sick unto death.'

And thereupon producing his cards, and various tracts, he proceeded to explain the supposed state of his mental interior to the astonished young officer, who, however, had the good-nature and good sense to pass over the silly affront, and only make a joke of what might very reasonably have been turned into a quarrel.

At another time, Mr. H— entered a house belonging to a friend of mine whilst her husband was absent, and talked to her in so coarse a strain of what, if they had their deserts, both she and he would deserve to be called, that she was frightened, and her account of the missionary's rudeness was so great that her husband vowed if ever he set foot in his 'compond' again, that he would order his horse-keepers to turn him out.

An excellent story was current of this man having met an officer driving rapidly down hill in a 'buggy' which had a vacant seat, and saying to him as he passed:

'You are driving to hell, sir. You are driving to the devil.'

'All right, H—,' was the unconcerned reply, 'jump in, here's a place for you.'

Another young fellow whom he used to visit was wont to excite his ire by calling out after him, just as he had left his bungalow, and in the hearing of the soldiers, to whom he was always preaching the doctrine of temperance and sobriety. 'Won't you have one more glass of brandy and water before you go?'

But these were the doings and sayings of the unregenerate, who could not be made to understand that the missionary spirit entitled a man to outrage all the rules of society and of courtesy. The followers of the German apostle were vehement in his praise and would hear nothing ever whispered to his disadvantage. His sermons I have heard described as extremely ludicrous; but as they were seldom delivered without allusions being made which were disagreeable to a lady to listen to in public, I never honored his lectures with my attendance. He used to imitate animals in the pulpit, when the subject of his discourse led him to wish to do so; and once when he was 'lowing' like the oxen, the imitation was so natural that some carriage bullocks which were tethered outside the chapel heard and answered him.

Mr. H—'s idea of the manners of European society is too good to be omitted; although some of it may be attributed to his foreign birth and breeding. There is a good hand-garden at Bangalore, and each evening the band of one or other of the regiments stationed in the cantonment plays there. The carriages are drawn up in order in their appointed position; the equestrians stand still, or canter their horses in the outer circles, as they think fit; and the gentlemen generally dismount and loiter about the

grasses and flower-beds, talking to their friends. The German missionary, on being asked what he thought of the institution of the band, and whether it was harmful or not, replied that he did not approve of it all—that was very well for old tried Christians, but very bad for the young man.

'They go to the band,' he said; 'they walk round; they say to the ladies 'my dear' and 'my darling' and that is all. It is very bad; it is not good.'

There was a very wicked story going the round of the Neigherry Hills the last time I was up there, with respect to this gentleman, by which it was affirmed that when a house which he occupied at Connor was accidentally burned down, a quantity of empty bottles and a lady's bonnet were conspicuous amongst the articles which were destroyed. Under the sway of the missionaries many of the ladies of Bangalore of necessity belonged to my second class, and were very religious, or thought themselves so. They held 'mother's meetings' for the native women, at which, by dint of stuffing them with a good deal of curry and rice, and promising them new clothes at the end of the year, they managed to secure the attendance of a few cunning natives, whom some of the ladies, to prove their philanthropy and sense of the feeling of universal brotherhood which should exist between Christians, used actually to kiss:— 'This I know to be a fact, as it was related to me by the very unsensible person who had performed the operation.'

I am no advocate of religion which casts, and the tract system possesses little charms for me. I believe strongly that a good man once told me that he believed, that the species of tracts usually disseminated—which are weakly worded and designed—have done more harm, by affording a subject for scoffing, than any really-written book has done good, for we are reluctant to admit to be taught by what we feel to be an offered insult to our understanding.

'Crumbs for the Craving Christian,' 'Bansons for the Unbeliever's Breaches' (these titles are real); I am not clever enough to invent such to suit my purpose; are not calculated to excite my reverence; and I know that the ladies alluded to above looked upon me as a lost sheep, whenever the subject of their missionary meetings, their tracts, and pictorial cards, and their converted natives were brought forward.

For, if I dislike tracts, I dislike the natives of Madras still more.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

EXCITEMENT IN DUBLIN.—Numerous Arrests.—A telegram from Chester on Monday night informed the authorities in Dublin that about a thousand men had arrived in that quiet old city by trains from Liverpool and some of the large towns in Lancashire. These persons were suspected, with good reason, to be Fenians, and their object was supposed to be to seize on Chester Castle and take possession of the armoury and ammunition which are stored there. At a late hour on Monday night another telegram gave the unwelcome information that the destination of the rabble which had invaded Chester appeared to be Dublin. It was stated that a large body had left Chester for Holyhead, and had embarked on the Dublin steamer due at the North Wall yesterday morning.

Others, it appeared, had gone back to Liverpool, and had taken their passages by the St. Columba, which left the Trafalgar Dock about 8 o'clock Monday night. Immediate preparations were made to meet the state of things which these telegrams foreboded. The C Division of police was marched down to the landing stage of the North Wall, at two o'clock A.M.; but there was no appearance of the Holyhead boat, the Alexandra until after six o'clock, when she was seen coming up the river in the dim morning light. Her steerage was crowded, but nothing could be told of her passengers until she was moored alongside another steamer. At this moment about one hundred constables, ran down the gangway into the Alexandra, and about a score of detectives contrived unobserved, to mingle with the visitors. There was some short delay, but after a few moments the true character of the excursionists began to be discovered, as one by one they came slowly out of the boat crossed the other vessel, and landed on the quays. Each man had a companion policeman. Some carried bundles made up in handkerchiefs. Others had small carpet bags. Altogether they were the most motley assemblage that could possibly be conceived. No two men were 'got up' in the same style. Most of them looked very hungry; and when to their previous discomfort was added the sensation of downright alarm, they began to apprehend the full meaning of the Habeas Corpus Suspension act, the expression which their faces assumed was amusing.

Many tried to hide in corners, and were unearthed by the detectives; and not a few sought to pass for cattle drovers, but failed ignominiously. There was no attempt at resistance. The invaders brought very little luggage, and what they had in most cases consisted of the poorest clothes tied up, with crusts of bread in very dirty handkerchiefs. The four or five respectively dressed persons who were arrested had boxes or portmanteaus which were diligently searched by the police. In no instance has there been any serious attempt at resistance, and, in truth, the overwhelming force of police, which gradually increased as the morning broke, gave abundant reasons for avoiding a struggle. The passage had been somewhat rough, and probably sea-sickness had already tamed the courage of the passengers. There were about a score of the prisoners who had not sufficient physical strength to cope with as many well-fed boys. One Constable would have been a match for two or three. On the other hand, there were some tall, stout, and dangerous-looking fellows, who might have been formidable antagonists if a struggle had taken place. At any rate they all marched quietly into the shed prepared for their reception, and submitted to whatever examination was directed by the superintendent of police. Very few spectators, beyond the group of porters who waited for the arrival of the first steamers, saw the arrival of the first batch. But the news soon spread, and a crowd of dock laborers, cabmen, and other workmen assembled, whose laughter added considerably to the discomfort of the prisoners. At seven o'clock the Liverpool boat was observed and a body of police went round to the landing stage, which is about three hundred yards nearer than the place where the Alexandra was moored. The scene as the St. Columba swung slowly round was so similar to that previously enacted former description is quite unnecessary. The men were quite dispirited, and not a little surprised. Having been foolish enough to attempt the passage, they were also sufficiently ignorant to believe that they could get into Dublin without their arrival being known or anticipated. Those who were taken on board the St. Columba were also brought into the shed which was scarcely large enough to give standing room for the crowd and the attendant constables. At 7 o'clock the arrests had concluded and the whole Fenian force if such it be, were marched down to Sackville lane police station, each person in charge of a policeman. The object of this extraordinary attempt to disturb the peace of the city is easily guessed at. The Commission of Oyer and Terminer is now about to commence the trial of Fenian prisoners arrested during the months of December and January, and there is good reason to suppose that a plan had been formed for the rescue of Mr. Stephen Joseph Massey and his companions in captivity.

LATEST PARTICULARS.

The result of the examination held yesterday in Sackville lane police station is that the police authorities are convinced that the majority of the men arrested in the morning on the arrival of the steamers at the North Wall, had anything but a legitimate purpose in view in coming in such a body to this country. The sixty-seven prisoners were separately examined. It has transpired that some of the men, who, as already stated, are in general of a poor class, are military pensioners. These parties could not

readily conceal from the police, what had been their former calling. Four of the prisoners were discharged on custody on giving a satisfactory account of themselves. The other sixty three in number, were removed in the prison van last evening about five o'clock to Richmond Bridewell, being escorted by a number of the police on cars. A large crowd had assembled in Sackville lane to witness the departure of the prisoners, and a very great deal of excitement prevailed. It has not yet been ascertained what course will be adopted with regard to the prisoners.—*Irish Times Feb., 13.*

ARRESTS IN KILLARNEY.—Yesterday evening three parties were arrested in Killarney, on a charge of being implicated in the Fenian conspiracy. The prisoners are Capt. Moriarty, Thomas Garde, and J. D. Sheehan. They were brought this day to Tralee, by the 12 o'clock train under a heavy escort of police, under command of Head-Constable Addis. About six o'clock last evening the police proceeded to the house of Captain Moriarty and took him into custody on a charge of Fenianism; they subsequently, at about 8 o'clock, arrested Thomas Garde (the carpenter who some short time since was charged with the same on the information of the shoemaker, Glisano, and acquitted, the evidence being insufficient); and next, at 12 o'clock, they seized upon the person of J. D. Sheehan. The three prisoners are now in the county jail. I am told that an investigation into this case will take place in a few days. A rumor is afloat that other important disclosures are expected.—*Trade Correspondent of Cork Examiner.*

DUBLIN, Feb. 14.—In consequence of urgent communications from the Magistrates of Killarney, representing that a Coastguard station had been sacked and the arms taken, and that a mounted orderly carrying despatches had been shot, his horse and his arms taken, and the town threatened by large bodies of armed men, the Government immediately sent troops from Cork, who arrived at Killarney last night, and by 2 o'clock to-day a force of 1,000 men, including cavalry and artillery, from the Curragh and other places, under Sir A. Horsford, will be concentrated on the Malin Junction Station. The body of men which threatened Killarney has been diverted from that object, and by the latest intelligence were moving on Kenmare, followed by the troops.

KILLARNEY, Feb. 14.—The Fenian raid is an abortion. Some parties of armed men are wandering on foot—sore hungry and exhausted—among the mountains bordering the Lake district; but troops have been poured into Killarney, and by the energy of the Government, seconded by the local authorities, all danger may be considered as ended. One thousand men have arrived in Killarney during the last twelve hours, the whole under the command of General Sir Alfred Horsford.

The annexed communication from our special correspondent, which has reached us by express, will be read with interest:—

Having only just arrived I am not in a position to give you much particulars of the Fenian demonstration which has taken place in this locality during the past few days. I am, however, able to assure you that a feeling of confidence has been created here that the measures already adopted by the Government and the local magistracy are sufficient for any immediate emergency that may arise. I understand that complete ignorance exists, even in circles that should be informed on the subject as to who the men are who have thus audaciously attempted to disturb the peace, or where they have come from.—It seems that they have come inland from the coast district of Valentia and thereabouts, and according to the latest intelligence received here, they number between eight and nine hundred. It is also understood that when within fifty miles of the town, the other day having learned that troops were being poured into the place, they wheeled off through the Gap of Dunloe, *en route*, it is supposed, for the town of Kenmare—about eighteen miles hence. When this fact became known a body of one hundred soldiers was at once mounted on cars and driven at a rapid pace in pursuit along the mountain at the police barrack. Others assert that the mission of this cavalcade was to gain possession of a bridge over which the Fenians should pass if they persevered in their march on Kenmare. Troops were also despatched to other points to which the party might turn, and also for the purpose of cutting off a retreat.

DUBLIN, Feb. 14.—No less than 37 persons were arrested on suspicion by the Dublin police yesterday morning, in addition to 67 taken on the previous day. The police had been informed by telegram from Holyhead that a great many Irishmen had come down by the London and North-western Railway, but had not embarked for Dublin. On the arrival of the Hibernia from Holyhead during the night only three men, named Sheehan, Donovan, and Walsh, were arrested as likely to be connected with the Fenians. But when the Trafalgar came alongside, about 5 o'clock, 20 men, who stood in a body, and tried to get ashore as speedily as possible, were taken into custody. Not aware that the Hibernia was still suspended in this country, they were loud in their complaints at having their freedom interfered with. Others were arrested on board the Sea Nymph. The *Freeman's Journal* says:—

'It would be hard to bring together a more daring and reckless-looking lot of men than the prisoners. Some of them had been in the late American war, others were discharged soldiers, but the majority stated that they had been operative tradesmen, millworkers, and dock laborers. A few of them had money, but by far the greater number had none; but there appears to be no doubt if they had succeeded in escaping the vigilance of the police they would have had all their wants supplied by persons in the city on whom the detectives are keeping a close watch. Orders have been issued by the Government to the constabulary stationed at all the seaports in the kingdom to exercise a strict watch on all incoming steamers from America and from across Channel, and to arrest all suspected persons who cannot give satisfactory accounts of themselves and their movements. A few of the persons who had been arrested at the North-wall this morning were released from custody on proving to the police that they had legitimate business in this country.'

The prisoners have been removed to Richmond Bridewell. The reason generally assigned by the prisoners for their coming over in such numbers just now is that they were seeking employment, but it is stated that many of them are known to have given up employment with 6s. or 6s. a day before leaving for this country. Some who were able to give a satisfactory account of themselves were discharged, 22 were detained in custody. A watch is still kept on the quay by the police, under Inspector Devine, for any further arrivals of suspicious characters. At Drogheda yesterday morning a body of 35 police boarded the Colleen Bawn, from Liverpool, and arrested five men, who, like those arrested in Dublin appeared to be laborers and mechanics. Two were discharged by the magistracy. The steamers arriving from England at Belfast have been searched in the same way for Fenians, but no arrests have been made. At first people were disposed to think 'the movement on Chester's bank, or merely some tentative manoeuvre to try what the effect would be of a real rising; but there seems to be now no room to doubt that mischief was intended, and that this affair is another abortion of the Fenian conspiracy. It must be confessed that the unprotected state of the military stores in Chester Castle was almost an irresistible temptation; but it is hard to imagine what rational men, ever so well armed, could have hoped to do against the garrison of Dublin.—*Times Cor.*

The pointed stone forming the apex of one of the most curious of Irish Round Towers, that of Ardmore, in Waterford, which had withstood the storms of many centuries, was blown down in a gale a month ago.

THE RECENT WATERFORD ELECTION.—It is believed that the editor of the *Waterford Citizen* purposes bringing an action against the editor of the *Waterford News* for a letter which appeared in the latter journal. The cause of action is that in that letter the *Citizen* is stigmatized as a Fenian print.—*From Irish Times Correspondent.*

EMIGRATION.—From Ireland as well as from Germany, emigration promises to be very large during the present year. A Cork paper says that a very sensible increase has taken place in the emigration through Queenstown, and it is expected the numbers will gradually increase as the spring comes on.—The emigrants now leaving are said to be of a more respectable class than usual, and from their comfortable, contented appearance it is difficult to understand why they should emigrate.

THE LAND AND THE CHURCH QUESTIONS.—We gather from the *Cork Examiner* that a scheme for the amendment of the land laws was submitted by Mr. James Cooper to the Mill street Board of Guardians, on Thursday, in the form of resolutions. Mr. Cooper proposes to give to tenants sixty of tenure for terms varying from 61 to 100 years, according to the proportion of reclaimed and un reclaimed land on their farms; and to settle rent by reference to the poor law valuation, the rent being always from a fourth to a third higher than the valuation, to give the tenant the right of selling the good will of his term during its continuance, allowing the right of pre-emption to the landlord, and to divide county cess equally between landlord and tenant. The resolution was adopted. Mr. Cooper also moved that the legislature be petitioned to withdraw the State endowments from the Established Church, and devote one half of them to defraying the cost of supporting the poor, and the remainder to some useful national purpose. This resolution was also adopted.

The 32d report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland has been issued. There were 6,263 schools in operation, which had on their rolls for the year then ended 570,401 children, with an average daily attendance, for the same period, of 315,108 children, and an average number of children on the rolls for the year of 572,486. At the close of the year 1865 the number of schools in operation was 7,356. The average daily attendance of children for the year was 321,296; the average number of children on the rolls was 598,403; while the total number of distinct children at any time on the rolls for the year was 922,084. As compared with the year 1864 there is an increase of 109 in the number of schools in operation for the year 1865; while in the daily average attendance the increase amounts to 6,105, in the average number on the rolls the increase amounts to 22,924, and in the total number of pupils enrolled during the year the increase amounts to 51,632.

THE VARRY RESERVOIR.—Those who reside near the Varry in its course from Roundwood to the sea will not soon forget Friday the 8th of February, 1867. It transpired that the leak in that embankment, which had been pronounced 'perfectly safe,' could not be stopped, and no one seemed to know where it was. It was known that the County Surveyor considered the danger serious, and it was rumored that some of those who had heretofore ridiculed the possibility of any accident happening were now advising precautions on the part of those who might suffer if the embankment gave way. Policemen were placed with rockets to give notice if the danger increased and those who stayed in the houses near the river had horses and cars at their doors ready to fly at the first signal. People could not forget, that though many escaped from dangerous positions when the Sheffield disaster occurred, yet as the engineers pronounced the embankment safe before it gave way, many perished who either believed those assurances or considered themselves removed from the direct influence of the flood, even if they were let loose. In fact, a few trees or the ruins of a bridge may divert a body of water in quite an unlooked for direction. The Roundwood reservoir is nearly seven times the size of that above Sheffield; but if it only took the course of the Varry the damage done would be much less. Were the waters let loose they would rush down to the Devil's Glen, probably leaving this beautiful and striking scene a frightful mass of bare stone.

Mr. J. Kelly, owner of extensive gardens and orchards at Rathmullen, county of Meath, has died, in consequence of being ridden over accidentally while looking at a hunt near his own house, by P. Dalton, the whipper in of the Louth Hounds.

Mr. Smith Barry has addressed the electors of the County Cork, as an independent Irish gentleman, pledged to no party. He is for 'a frank and statesmanlike solution of the land question.' He is a firm supporter of the rights of property, but he counts among the plainest and clearest of those rights 'the right of the tenant to the enjoyment of the fruits of his own industry.' On the other points, also, he goes the length of the Catholic Bishops.

Some notion will be formed of the dreadful sufferings of the poor in Dublin when it is known that in the twenty-four hours preceding Saturday morning, forty-two deaths took place in the South Union Workhouse, and that over thirty deaths in the house were reported on Monday morning. These poor people were principally those who had been recently admitted.

It is understood that the Fenians are but partially armed; but who they are or whence they come continues to puzzle every one, and just now I am not able to dissipate the mystery which hangs round this desperate, wicked, mad and hopeless enterprise.—*Cor. of Dublin Freeman's Journal.*

The Belfast magistracy seem determined to punish with severity all persons brought before them on a charge of using party expressions in public thoroughfares tending to a breach of the peace. A number of both women and men have been fined in sums ranging from 2s. 6d. to 40s. for shouting in the streets, some in favor of Fenianism, others against the Pope.

A late Dublin paper records the death at Milford, County Mayo, Ireland, of Peggy Walsh, aged 12½ years, a servant in the same family, Miller, since 1757. Also the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Kinley, of Coleraine, County Antrim, at the age of 107.

The *Daily Telegraph* states: We understand that the Irish members of the Liberal party held a meeting on Thursday to confer upon the course which they should take during the present circumstances. The attendance was not large, but it was understood that many who had intended to take part in the proceedings had not arrived in town. Among those present were some gentlemen who held office under the late Government. It was determined that the business of the meeting, and of all others similarly convened, should be private, and that no note of it should be communicated to the press. However, without violating any confidence, we may state that, after considering the intention of the Government to allow the Habeas Corpus Suspension to expire, and the promise of a good land bill, the Irish members resolved that they would not determine upon any course of action in the House until they should hear the whole Ministerial programme respecting Ireland. With respect to future action, a committee of seven was authorized to call assemblages of Irish members for the consideration of all questions affecting the political, social, or material interests of their country.

THE TAXATION OF IRELAND.—The following is the notice of motion given by Mr. McKenna M. P. in the House of Commons on Wednesday, in reference to the taxation of this country:—'Return of the gross revenue of Ireland for the years 1841, 1851 and 1861 respectively, and of the population of Ireland in each of these years; and a computation of the amount of such revenue raised in each of those years respectively for each head of the population.'

The *Irishman* says that since the Union, now 66 years ago, £396,000,000 have been drained out of Ireland by absentee landlords.