

having been called to these proceedings, and their opinion expressed that they were not justifiable, this would be a lesson to the party in question. And he (Mr. Ellice) hoped that the members for those remote parts of Ireland, in which they alone were likely to take place, would not hesitate on every occasion to denounce in that house by name the authors of such atrocious measures (hear). He was sorry to say that not only in Ireland had such acts been perpetrated, but in Scotland.

Mr. Disraeli—Sir, I agree that, considering the nature of the debate which has commenced, it is most desirable that no other subject should intervene. Nor should I have risen at all but for the very peculiar character of the subject which has just been introduced. Considering that in July the catastrophe which the honorable member endeavors to avert might be completed, and that the government could not make it convenient to give him a day to bring the subject forward, I think that great indulgence was due to him on the part of the house. The honorable member and those who are interested in the question must feel satisfied with the expression of opinion and of feeling which he has been the means of eliciting; and I hope they will now allow the debate which was pending to proceed (hear). The honorable member must feel that, under the circumstances, it is impossible that we can deal with a subject so delicate and so difficult at the present moment (hear). But no person who has listened to the statement which has been made, and not otherwise or personally acquainted with the painful history, can fail to feel what I am sure all of us feel—that whatever our opinion as to the state of the law, or the necessity for ultimately considering it, we must all feel that the exercise of rights under the law, in the manner which has been described to us, is an abuse intolerable in a Christian nation (loud cries of hear). I have always felt myself that on the whole the Incumbered Estates Court has proved of advantage to Ireland; but if anything could raise a prejudice against the action of that court it would be this, that strangers should, by means of its facile machinery have the power of appropriating large properties, and not becoming residents, enforce a system of depopulation throughout entire districts (hear). I observe, however, with pleasure, that it is not the Irish landlords—the resident gentry—who have been committing these outrages (hear). I will not now give any opinion upon the specific motion submitted; but I am sure that on any future occasion it will receive calm and ample discussion (hear).

The amendment of the noble lord was then agreed to, and the house passed to the orders of the day.

The above requires no comment. We recommend it to the attention however of those who attribute the occasional lawlessness of portions of the unhappy peasantry of Ireland to the influence of their religion, and the exhortations of their priests. These gentry will see that there are other causes, besides Popery, in operation; and that the real thing to wonder at is, not that agrarian outrages should be so frequent, but that under such a monstrous system of persecution, driven from home and lands, and left to perish like dogs, the people of Ireland should be so quiet and so lenient towards their brutal tyrants. This, which is the real moral, is indeed one of the fruits of the teachings of their church, and the councils of their respected clergy.

MINISTERS' MONEY—GOVERNMENT INCONSISTENCY.

(From the London Times.)

The imposition of rate called "Ministers' Money" was imposed by an act of the Irish parliament on the householders of the city of Dublin and of seven other of the principal towns in Ireland for the support of the parochial Clergy of the Established Church. Originally, no doubt, the burthen fell principally on the Protestants, who were the chief inhabitants of towns, but by degrees this incidence changed, and by far the greater burthen fell upon Catholics, the vast increase of whose numbers placed the Protestants in a very small minority. Here was a case for a Liberal government to deal with on the clearest and most unquestionable principles. First, there was the general abstract doctrine that it is manifest injustice and contrary to the spirit of modern legislation to compel one class of men to pay taxes for the purpose of supporting the religion of another class. Even if this ground be denied, there remains what appears to us the unanswerable argument derived from the relative positions of those who receive and those who pay. The recipients are endowed by law with the revenues of a wealthy Church Establishment, which they administer for the maintenance of a Clergy possessing every attribute of a national church, except parishioners to attend and congregations to preach to. The payers of this tax are principally Catholics, whose Church, while fruitful in children, is barren in substance, and whose ministers, however eagerly sought, are poorly rewarded, because the wealthy Protestant Establishment has engaged to herself the funds which were once devoted to the maintenance and support of the religion of the Irish people. A stronger case, in point of justice, can hardly be imagined; but the policy was as clear as the justice. In the present state of Ireland it is not only wise statesmanship, but the imperative duty of every government to avoid occasions of strife, and soothe the rankling wounds of faction and fanaticism which still grieve the land, and divide its races and its energies. What could be a more fruitful subject of discord than this periodical demand of a tribute, the badge of social inequality, superadded, by way of finish, to so long a catalogue of wrongs and grievances? Here are reasons, as it seems to us, more than sufficient to put the most phlegmatic government in motion, and to win the consent of the least liberal theorist. The result has contradicted those expectations. In 1854, Sir John Young, then Chief Secretary for Ireland, for the first time determined to meddle with the question, and instead of abolishing Ministers' money altogether, sought to palliate the evil. The owners of houses under £10 were relieved from the payment of the tax, its collection was taken away from the clergy and given to the municipal corporations, and the rate which they were bound to collect, was declared to be a debt due to the crown. The result has been what might have been expected from a measure of this complexion. The corporations, with much unanimity, refused to be tax collectors for the clergy of another faith, and left the government of the Lord Lieutenant to levy the arrears as crown debts from eight of the most considerable towns in Ireland as best they could.

Nor was this resolution as magnanimous as it appeared to be. Most of these corporations have no other property than their rates, which are appropriated by act of parliament to other purposes; and thus it seems extremely probable that the return to the process of execution taken out against them by the government will be "no effect." This was the position in which ministers found themselves placed, and in it they had nothing to do but to choose a principle and boldly act upon it. If they were resolved to maintain the rights of the Protestant Clergy, and disregard the wrongs of the Catholics, they should have introduced an act to substitute for the unworkable machinery of Sir John Young's bill a really efficient agency for collection, armed with legal powers ample enough to secure the intended object. If this would have been neither just nor merciful, it would at any rate have been intelligible and consistent. If, on the other hand, true to their liberal professions, and acting in accordance with the doctrines laid down by themselves, in this very session, on the subject of Church rates, they determined to give the relief to which Catholics are so unquestionably entitled, their course was equally clear; they should have repealed the impost altogether, and thus have obviated the necessity of an unseemly conflict between the government and the corporations. Either course we could understand, but the government of Ireland adopted neither of them. They professed, no doubt with perfect sincerity, the greatest dislike and disapproval of the tax, and having done so they followed up this decision by defeating Mr. Fagan's motion for its abolition, and declaring their intention of commencing a series of legal proceedings, which they admit will be utterly inoperative and inefficient, announcing their intention at the same time, when these abortive proceedings have come to an end, to reconsider the tax with a view to its abolition. They censure and disapprove the bill of Sir John Young, but continue to act under it. They agree in the justice of Mr. Fagan's measure, but they procure its rejection. We are often told that Irish questions must not be looked at from a strictly English point of view, that we must make allowances for the difficulties which arise in that remarkable country, and not push, in their application to the sister island, extreme doctrines to their extreme conclusions. But all this is no excuse for creating difficulties, and every active inconsistency committed by a government is a difficulty, and a difficulty of the most embarrassing and least honorable description. Mankind will acquiesce in much that grieves them if they thoroughly understand the rule under which they are governed; but pliancy without conciliation, and inconsistency without adaptation to the exigencies of the moment, confer neither dignity nor popularity, and, while they embarrass immediate action, give but a poor promise of anything better for the future.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

We extract the following from a late Pastoral of His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, in which that Prelate alludes to the termination of hostilities in Europe:—"We are not to delude ourselves by the vain hope that with the return of peace all our troubles shall have an end. Even at present, though one war is at an end, disturbances of another kind are springing up. Peace is not yet solemnly ratified; and yet the bigotry and intolerance of a violent party, which scarcely showed themselves in the time of war, have already commenced fierce attacks on the Catholic Church, and have doomed to destruction, as far as in them lies, the only public Catholic institution which receives aid in this country from government. The hundreds of millions paid by the Catholic population of Ireland to the Protestant Establishment—the source of so many evils in this country—are forgotten; but it is declared to be an intolerable grievance that a small subsidy should be granted for Catholic education. Has it not also been announced that attempts will soon be made to render the public system of education more hostile to our religion, and to convert National Schools into nurseries of proselytism? And is it not asserted that plans will be devised to turn away the private endowments of Catholic schools from their original purposes, and to introduce into them a mixed system, dangerous to the faith and morals of children? We repeat, dearly-beloved brethren, that such trials may be expected. We are to be prepared to meet them with a spirit of Christian fortitude, ready to make every sacrifice rather than allow the education of the little ones of Jesus Christ to be tampered with, or expose their faith to danger. What shall we say of the gigantic efforts made by the enemies of our religion to pervert the poor? Under the direction, as it appears, and with the sanction, of a great dignitary of the Protestant Establishment, whose professions of liberality and moderation so long imposed on the unsuspecting confidence of Catholics, and induced them to confide to him the superintendence of the education of their children, perverts and apostates, street preachers, tract distributors, and ignorant Bible-readers, have been collected in this city, from every part of Ireland, and commissioned to assail the ancient religion of its inhabitants. Their placards and their vile tracts disgrace the walls of our city; and insult us on every side. The credulity of the people of England, imposed on by repeated assurances that all Ireland is on the eve of apostasy from the true faith, supplies those emissaries with ample funds to encourage them in their work of perdition; and the vast wealth of the Establishment, principally derived from the pious generosity of our forefathers, is perverted from its original purposes, and lavishly spent in promoting hypocrisy and infidelity. Not only Catholics, but all liberal and fair-minded and enlightened Protestants, condemn this unholy traffic in human souls. It is indeed a vile and degrading traffic. Occasion is taken from the miseries of the poor to rob them of the only precious inheritance transmitted to them by their fathers. We will give you food and clothing, such is the language of the proselytiser, if you renounce your faith: come to our schools and our conventicles, trample on the dictates of your conscience, sacrifice your immortal souls, and we will provide for your temporal wants. What a sad perversion of charity—what a want of all Christian feeling is manifested in such proceedings! If you are animated with true sentiments of humanity, relieve the wants of the poor, but do not interfere with their religion. Your own opinions are varying every day; you are divided into a thousand sects; you have nothing fixed or certain in your principles; your Church is decaying away and falling into pieces; where its influence is greatest, as in England, infidelity and immorality abound to an alarming extent; the Protestant Bishops of England

assure us that there is yet a mass of unenlightened, unconverted, unregenerated heathenism, professed unbelievers, or practical unbelievers." (Report of Church Pastoral Aid Society, May, 1855, p. 18)—among their flocks. Is it desirable that a system which, after an experiment of 300 years, after the expenditure of innumerable millions to promote its interests, has produced such poisonous fruits, should be introduced among us and forced upon our poor? We cannot look with indifference upon the working of the agents of proselytism. It is a sad spectacle to see men so zealous in so degrading a cause—it is afflicting to see the poor persecuted and exposed to danger—it is a source of regret that the peaceful relations which should be cultivated between fellow-citizens should be interrupted by the mercenary doings of fanatics and bigots; but yet in all these we have nothing to fear—there is no ground for alarm. The efforts of these wolves-in-sheep's-clothing are unavailing—the means they employ unscrupulous—the funds at their disposal immense; but they have no mission from Heaven, their work is not blessed by God, and at the end they will be obliged to admit "that having labored all night, they have caught nothing." The curse of sterility is on all their undertakings, whilst, on the other hand, everything undertaken by the Church of God prospers and succeeds. Thanks to the unshaken faith of our people, and to the unbounded zeal of the Clergy, the cause of our holy religion was never more triumphant. Convents, colleges, schools, and churches are springing up every day; and if our progress for fifty years to come be equal to what it has been for the past, we may expect to see Ireland at the end of another half century one of the most Catholic countries in Europe, and again worthy of the name of the Island of Saints.

SHAMEFUL OUTRAGE UPON "THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL" BY OUR FRENCH ALLIES.—We read in the Nation the following account of the reception given by the French to His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, which shows that our Allies have but little respect for the late Penal Laws against Catholic Ecclesiastics:—"On the 26th April, the Archbishop of Dublin paid a visit to the French war vessels now in Kingstown Harbour. His Grace was received with the honours paid to the visit of an Archbishop in the French navy. Having been most courteously conducted through the various parts of the vessel by the commander, the ships company were paraded before him, and knelt to receive the archiepiscopal benediction, which he pronounced from the altar of the naval chapel. On leaving, his Grace was honored by a salute of thirteen guns."

PETITIONS AGAINST MINISTERS' MONEY.—With becoming spirit and energy, the Town Council and citizens of Waterford have adopted a petition, forcibly remonstrating against the continuance of that most obnoxious impost, Ministers' money, so oppressive upon Protestants as well as Catholics. The Mayor of Waterford, the Right Worshipful John A. Blake, has forwarded a circular, with a copy of the petition, to all the mayors and chairmen of boards of guardians, in order that petitions should at once be forwarded to the House of Commons, previous to the motion of Mr. Fagan, fixed for the 6th inst. Already a petition has been adopted by the corporation of Clonmel.

At a meeting of the tenant League, Mr. Dunlevie, in reference to the recent vote of the House of Commons on the Maynooth endowment, said he thought the time had arrived for acting on the resolution adopted at their last general meeting, that they would agitate against the church temporalities. He would, therefore, give notice of his intention to move, on the next day of meeting, that the question of the temporalities of the Established Church should be brought forward at the Navan Meeting. The learned gentleman expressed, in strong terms, the bigoted and unjust conduct of the House of Commons in reference to Maynooth.

THE CROPS.—A glance over the surface of the country is just now cheering. The amount of tillage, the promptitude with which it has been done, and the superior mode of doing it, compared with that which existed only a few years, since, speak well for agricultural progress; the unexampled breadth of land under potatoes, oats, and wheat, leads us to hope there will be in the coming year food enough for "universal Ireland," and some what to spare.—Westmeath Guardian.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—The following petition on the subject of the Government project for the establishment of Reformatory Schools, has been adopted and signed by the Right Reverend and Reverend the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese of Clonfert, at their recent synodical meeting in Loughrea:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of the Right Reverend John Derry, Catholic Bishop, and of the Catholic Clergy of the Diocese of Clonfert.

"HUMBLY SHOWETH.—That petitioners have heard with great regret that a bill has been introduced into your honourable house for the purpose of establishing reformatory schools in Ireland on principles inconsistent with, and dangerous to the religion of Catholics. Your petitioners are far from being opposed to the erection and endowment of schools for the reformation of juvenile offenders, but as these will in Ireland be most generally the children of Catholic parents—the great bulk of the population being Catholics—your petitioners take leave to claim that the institutions designed for their reformation be not only protected from the insulting annoyance of aggressive Protestant proselytism, either open or covert, but be moreover so organised as to give full scope to the employment of the Catholic religion—the only adequate instrument for the reformation of Catholic juvenile offenders.

"Your petitioners also desire to call the attention of your honorable house to those unjust and mischievous provisions of the bill now before it, which require that magistrates should first send to the common jail the offenders whose reformation is professedly sought, and which authorise detention in the reformatory prisons during periods utterly disproportioned to the offences, without regard being had even to the amendment that may take place, and that may be ascertained to have taken place in the convicts after their consignment to the reformatories.

"Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honorable house to refuse its sanction to the bill before it for the establishment of reformatory schools in Ireland as well as to every other project, however plausibly designated, that will not secure for Catholic juvenile offenders thoroughly Catholic organisation and management.

"And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—MEETING AT THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, DUBLIN.—A meeting, called by public advertisement, was held last evening in the theatre of the Mechanics' Institute, for the purpose of inaugurating a society to be called the Irish Literary and Speaking Society, the object of which is to promote the extension of the Irish language. There was a numerous attendance, and a great deal of interest was manifested in the proceedings. The chair was taken by M. A. O'Brennan, Esq., who explained the objects of the meeting. Letters of apology were read from Rev. Dr. Todd and Rev. Dr. Graves. The chairman, in a very interesting and lengthened address, laid before the meeting numerous reasons in favor of the establishment of such a society, showing the importance of cultivating the study of the Irish language. In order to illustrate and point out its beauties and richness of expression, he read extracts from various publications in Irish, accompanying them with poetical translations, and as he went along, pointed out the clearness, grace, and force of our native language. He referred to the exertions made by various distinguished scholars to preserve and promote the language. Amongst the rest Dr. Mac-Hale, Dr. O'Donovan, Mr. Curry, and Mr. O'Daly, and he paid a well-deserved tribute to the labors of those gentlemen. Resolutions were adopted expressive of the importance and necessity of studying the language, and for the establishment of such a society, and declaring the determination of those present to support it. It was stated that the society would have regular meetings, at which conversations would be held in Irish, to which the members would be admitted free, and would also be entitled to receive the publications of the society at half price.—Freeman.

THE MILITIA.—A Dublin journal, announcing the arrival of the Tipperary Militia Artillery in that city, says:—"In physical appearance they are generally far before even the Guards. In marching the band plays no other than Irish airs, and it is the only corps which still persists in being played to mass every Sunday, almost all the men and several of the officers being Catholics. The regiment has been for some months, we understand, almost without crime, and on the march not a single man was absent, tired, or drunk—an unprecedented fact in military annals."

EMIGRATION TO QUEBEC.—The Albert, the property of Alderman L. Forristal, sailed from Waterford for Quebec. She has on board 170 emigrants. The Jane Black and Prinrose have also sailed from Limerick, the former with eleven passengers, and the latter with one; and the Jessie was to leave with fifteen passengers.

The total number of paupers relieved in the 51 unions of Ireland, for the year ending the 29th of September, was 30,692; of these 30,162 were maintained in workhouses. The expenditure for the latter was £46,807, exclusive of salaries of medical officers and all other establishment expenses.

THE MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.—This protracted investigation was resumed at Moate on the 23d ult. Mrs. Kelly's maid, and coachman, Ellen Bryan, one of the girls in the field at the time of the murder, and who was examined at the coroner's inquest, and one of the constabulary who had searched and found articles supposed to be part of the disguise of the murderers, were examined at considerable length. We understand that nothing material was elicited beyond the facts deposed to on the first day, with this exception that the girl Bryan proved that the veils which the murderers wore were brown, and that the veil which was found in the house of one of the parties accused did not resemble that which the murderers wore. It was produced and was black. Two pieces of earth with the impression of knees and stocking marks were produced to the bench. The magistrates, at a quarter to seven o'clock, decided upon discharging from custody Owen Waters, the brother of Biddy Dolan whose name has been mentioned in the progress of the inquiry, remanding Kinahan for eight days, and committing for trial Mr. George Strevens and James Bannon, leaving the parties to apply for bail to the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Heron intimated his intention of applying to the Court of Queen's Bench at once for Mr. Strevens's discharge on bail.

Writing of the swindling Proselyte Societies now infesting Ireland with their pestilential schemes, the Evening Post of the 24th ult., observes:—"The one thing that strikes us is the enormous expenditure of money yearly transmitted to Ireland by Protestant zealots, and expended here with nothing to show for it. Where are all the Catholics they profess to convert? We don't find them, for Ireland is still as Catholic as ever, and so she will remain. Of these societies alone of which the avowed object is to convert Catholics, the income is more than £130,000 per annum, and we do not think that the other societies together can possibly have an aggregate income of less than £70,000 per annum. So that altogether we may fairly say, without fear of contradiction, that £200,000 is spent upon this object, besides large sums secretly devoted to proselytism. Alas! for poor Ireland to be so overrun; and yet she keeps her faith, the faith for which her fathers have suffered from the Penal Laws and the sword of the invader. Yet she keeps her faith. Why will they not see this, which every reflecting Protestant knows well. Why will they not see—these rabid proselytisers—that they are not teaching God's truth or it would prevail. So said Gamaliel, learned in the Scriptures, and so we say. We say that the whole system of those pecuniary proselytisers is an insult to common sense, and a reflection upon Protestantism, which all enlightened and right-minded Protestants deeply deplore.

MAGISTERIAL INVESTIGATION AT KILKENNY.—We (Evening Post) are anxious to fix attention upon the following, for which we are indebted to a Conservative journal, the Kilkenny Moderator—a very decided advocate of the proselytising society concerned. It is the report of the magistrates who held the recent investigation at the Tholsel, in that city:—

"At a meeting of magistrates of the city of Kilkenny, held on the 23rd day of April inst., at the Tholselrooms, touching a complaint made by the members of the Irish Church Missionary Society, that the windows of a dwelling-house belonging to them situate at Collier's-lane had been broken by a number of persons unknown, on the night of the 22nd or morning of the 23rd instant:—It is our unanimous opinion that any injury done to the windows of the house in which Mrs. Cashin and the boys connected with the Church Missionary Society reside in Collier's-lane, in this city, was committed by the inmates of said house; and we believe that Michael Cashin was the principal in this outrage; and we further find that the allegation of a number of persons being in the lane at the time mentioned is wholly unfounded."