

most influential of his followers are every day abandoning him, and that the pretended German Catholic Church is falling to pieces. Two priests, and two editors of newspapers, whose biographies are given in the French papers, have renounced the absurd schism, and sought for reconciliation in the bosom of the true Church. Even the most infidel French papers admit that Rongeism has latterly made no progress whatsoever. And yet, how confidently the London *Times* predicted that Ronge would be found another Luther, and that the days of the Church of Rome were numbered in Germany. There is however a divine vitality in the Church of Rome which all the powers of earth and hell can never destroy. If Luther himself appeared in Germany at the present moment, he could do very little injury to the Roman Catholic Church. The real character, of that mis-called Reformer, and his impious associates, is now thoroughly appreciated by the enlightened historians of his native country, many of whom can give no other explanation of the disgusting vagaries of this sacrilegious vow-breaker, than that he was a *maniac* for several years. Indeed we have always considered this to be the most rational solution of his religious ravings. However, Ronge is a mere butterfly when compared to Luther.

Perhaps the most comical episode in the whole history of Ronge, during the present year, is an account of a message sent to him by the Free Church of Scotland with offers of money and assistance, but complaining at the same time that the doctrines of the new German Church were rather vague and undefined. We have no doubt that 'the Luther of the 19th century,' as an English paper facetiously calls him, will gladly accept as much money as the Free Church can afford to give him, but, we hear, their zeal has outrun their discretion, in this instance.

The solemnities of Christmas commenced at an early hour on Thursday morning, at St. Mary's—and at all the early Masses, both at the Cathedral and St. Patrick's, upwards of seven hundred persons approached the Holy Communion. At eleven o'clock a Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Bishop, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Nugent and Hennesy as Deacon and Sub-deacon, and Rev. Mr. Conolly as Master of Ceremonies. The singing in the choir was very effective throughout the day, and a new anthem composed

for Christmas was sung at the Offertory. Besides the usual decorations there were at each side of the altar two brilliant Crosses formed of variegated Lamps, and the venerable words *HOMO FACTUS EST*, were traced with similar lamps over the Altar Piece. An Indulgence of 40 days was given by the Bishop, at the conclusion of the High Mass. Solemn Vespers were chaunted in the evening, after which there was a Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament.

The rite of Tonsure was conferred, by the Bishop, on Mr. Edward Daly, of St. Mary's College, on Christmas day.

### ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

The business of the College was suspended on Tuesday, 23d instant, for the Christmas Holydays. The vacation however will not last long, as the regular studies will be resumed soon after the commencement of the New Year. An examination will then take place, which will be followed by a distribution of premiums. We feel much pleasure in being enabled to state that this useful Institution has since last vacation succeeded beyond the most sanguine hopes of its friends, and that the pupils have made considerable progress in their various studies. Those who wish to join the classes at the opening of the new year would do well to make an early application to the President, or any of the rev. gentlemen connected with the College.

### CHRISTMAS.

The holy Season of Advent—half joyful, half mournful—has passed away. The sighs of the ancient patriarchs have been removed, the prayers of the ancient just for the coming of the Messiah have been repeated, by the Church. The oracles of the ancient Law are accomplished, the vows of the saints of old are heard, the heavens have dropped down their dew, the clouds have rained the Just One, the earth has opened and budded forth a Saviour. Now cometh the Desire of the everlasting hills, the Expectation of nations, the Root of Jesse, the Star of Jacob, the Rising Sun of eternal light, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace. All nature welcomes its approaching God. The earth is fill-