

THE SOUPERS IN CONNEMARA.

to the Most Rev. Doctor Trench, Protestant Archbishop of Dublin.

Jan. 21st, 1867.

My Lord,—It will be in your Grace's recollection, that in your letter to the *Times*, you stated how unaccountable was the imputation of bribery, in the shape of oatmeal, Indian meal, and all that sort of thing, as the medium of conversion in West Connemara.

Not to adduce here the few reports which have been sent into our hands of the receipts and disbursements of the enormous funds placed annually at the disposal of the soup agents, it will suffice to direct your attention to the sworn evidence of the Rev. Mr. Garry, at the recent trial, *Stephenson v. Ryder*. He more than there was an alarming deficit of £2,317 1s. 6d. with the consoling fact of an expenditure of 549 13s. 7d. over the sums allocated for the mission during the past year. If this be not a satisfactory proof given by the Secretary General of the missions of bribery to a fabulous amount was employed by the soupers, I know not what will remove your incredulity. You repudiated the idea of bribery, as your experience 'during five days in Connemara' induced you to scatter to the winds all material agencies for the work of enlightenment, which you said was steadily progressing, and had in it the germ of stability.

However, those agents to whom this rise or fall in funds was a sort of joy or grief thought it prudent to introduce the Alpha Beta scheme of reduction which showed, as a learned counsel observed, that the whole system ended in *Gammon*.

Your Grace's statement, made so deliberately, was contrary to the fact; it was false, but whether from ignorance or any other sentiment, I leave yourself to judge. It is as patent as that our hills and valleys are all covered with deep snow at this present writing that our soup system of conversion would not hang together one month or even a week without the agent of bribery; but you are ashamed to acknowledge that the yellow meal bag furnishes more convincing proofs to a starving people than can be found in your Bible. This is no new phase in the Reformation.

An able writer in the *London Daily News* of the 2nd of this month solemnly affirms that the Anglican Establishment consists of warring sects held together only by a common interest in the temporalities of the Church.

If such be the condition of a Church after an existence of 300 years, what new bond of unity or of cohesion have you discovered for keeping together the few lazy converts whom hunger first brought into your meshes? If, in your enlightened England, the Established Church consists of warring elements, like angry ferrets in a bag, only kept from tearing one another by the common provender of the temporalities of that same Church, what hope can you have that your converts can be kept together, unless by the bond of bribery.

I am so thankful to the noble Dissenter who sent me the *Daily News*. The writer of the letter, who is friendly to Catholicism, further affirms that 'the Anglican Established Church is the most chaotic society under the sun,' and further on he says that 'Dissenters no longer believe that the Anglican clergy are preaching Christ; and that they (the Dissenters) are getting ready for a war against the Establishment,' in which no quarter will be given. Again, the powerful writer says that 'no Dissenter in his senses has much desired, just at the present crisis, to thrust himself into the seething confusion of the Anglican Church.' Oh, murder in Irish! what a sick picture this of the Anglican Establishment!

Well, most reverend sir, let me ask, with profound respect, what specific comfort, what grace, what hidden light are we to find in the sister Irish establishment? You're claiming the close relationship of brotherhood with the Anglican Church, designated the most chaotic society under the sun, whose clergy according to the belief of Dissenters, 'preach not Christ,' whose votaries are so many heterogeneous elements in intestine hostility, and 'held together only by the participation of its temporalities,' and into whose seething confusion no Dissenter will thrust himself?

If all this be truly said of your Anglican sister establishment, she is the veriest Jeshabab ever recorded in the Bible or out of it; if all this be true, boys from the forest have committed sad havoc in the once glorious vineyard of St. Augustine, of Alfred, and Edward the Confessor.

Is it the twin sister of such an establishment you would induce us to adopt as the source of the unbroken unity of faith, the moral simplicity, the docility, and the unswerving love of the Redeemer, which the Catholic Church inculcates throughout the world?

As I may on this occasion count on a little more space from the generous Press, allow me to return to a letter in the *London News*.

From the questionable compliments interchanged with the Dissenters by the Vicar of Norwich and to the clergy of the English Establishment, we can learn how sublime are the notions concerning restrained sensuality that may be found amongst the religious teachers of the Anglican Church, and, consequently, of her Irish twin sister. The vicar and those whom he represents are guided all over by charity, and say that the Dissenters are not half so bad as they were supposed to be, and that they can conceive to love them, as the Dissenters are not so notorious adulterers and not so very much married as the Mormons—that is, the Dissenters have not each as many wives as Joe Smith or Brigham Young had! Verily, if a degree or two less than the latitude of Salt Lake shining morality be the horizon of the sanctity of the clergy of the Anglo Irish twin sisters, their ideas of bridled concupiscence are in perfect harmony with enormous wealth, and with biblical liberty; as a corollary too, they can prove from the Bible that they themselves are the salt of the earth; according to their judgment, in their assumed capacity as lights of the world, the Dissenters are to be loved, 'because they are not so very much married as the Mormons.'

Another turn, my lord, with your permission, to the letter in the *Daily News*, and then I bid your Grace good bye in sincere good feeling.

The able writer says that as long as the Anglican Church depends for support on the State the Dissenters will never join her, no matter what reforms she may undergo; nay more, that they would not worship even in their own churches if the State had any act or part in their erection. This is a noble resolve. The Established Church is notoriously the creature and slave of the State, hence we often witness the ignominious parade (by the clergy of that slave) of subsidized loyalty and piety, as the popular organ, the *Star*, calls it.

Do, in the name of goodness, try the voluntary principle, and give your Church fair play, 'what she never yet got.' If she be the work of God, it will be vain for man to gild her. Religious truth will diffuse itself, despite all opposition.

As the atrocities perpetrated on behalf of the Irish Establishment are stereotyped in every field and hamlet in Ireland, I will not now refer to them in detail. They have brought execration on your doctrine, and perhaps impeded their progress. Release them from your dogmas from pains and penalties, from breech-loaders and sabres, and try what efficacy there is in the means used by St. Paul in propagating the unfettered gospel of Christ.

Even the mystic tree that grew from the mustard seed, striking its roots down to the foundation of the earth, while it lifted its top to heaven, and extended its branches to the utmost limits of the earth; even this tree—the grandest type given by Christ himself of the future universality of his Church, and of her progressive mission, would have its massive trunk riven by the lightning of the widow's curse, and its foliage for ever blasted by her maledictions, if her only son were shot down and bayoneted under its

evergreen boughs, which were destined to give not death but shelter and spiritual food to the birds of the air.

Do join, I pray your Grace, the advocates of the voluntary system. You can now afford to do so, as you have (you say in your letter) gained so many converts, and, as according to your solemn testimony, the Protestant Establishment has made such progress in Ireland, and particularly in West Connemara.

See how the remnant of the flocks, which your mission of five days left us, are supporting the Catholic clergy who never will wear the livery of Government whether Protestant or Catholic.

The clerical costume, and the grave gait prescribed by our Church are far more becoming to clergymen than the red tunic and cross belts could possibly be, nor can we have any special desire to be trained to the primary balance step of a military march. Neither can our rubrics be ever exchanged for the new drill book that would infallibly be issued by order of the ecclesiastical quarter masters.—I am, Right Rev. sir, your obedient servant,

PATRICK MACDONNELL, P.P. &c. of Clifden.

On Thursday last a meeting was held in Dungarvan to express condolence with the widows and orphans of Captain Kiely and Bartholomew O'Brien, the victims of the Lancera. The conduct of the military on the occasion of the election was warmly denounced, and a subscription list for the relief of O'Brien's widow and children was opened. The *Cork Examiner* states that Sir Nugent Humble was on Saturday last, while attending the auction of Lord Hastings's yacht the *Halcyon*, in Dungarvan, served with a writ in an action of slander for £5,000 at the suit of Mr. De la Poer, M.P., the subject-matter of the action being the circulation of the statement accusing Mr. De la Poer of Fenianism.

Mr. John Vance, late M.P. for Dublin, has addressed the electors of Armagh. He will maintain the Constitution and institutions of the country, and give unremitting attention to local interests. The address, it is said, has been well received by the loyal constituency of Armagh, and that notwithstanding vague rumours of opposition, Mr. Vance's election will be a walk over. The day has not yet been fixed by the sheriff.

We are all tired of the clap-trap of the Whigs, and Whig-liberals. They have deceived the country too often, Ireland has no cause to be in love with their treachery to her, and we sincerely hope, should a general election take place in March or April—and such an event is expected—that her people will have wisdom enough to discard the hollow Whig hypocrites who will appeal to them for support, and vote only for those who will sustain a government honestly resolved to serve the interests of their betrayed and bartered country.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

The *Irish Times* of the 25th ult. contains the following obituary notice of the good old Provost Macdonnell:

It is our painful duty to record the death of the venerable and venerated Dr. Richard Macdonnell, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. His death took place at two o'clock yesterday morning at the Provost's house. During the past week he suffered from slight illness, not sufficient to cause any apprehension of a fatal termination, but the intense severity of the weather affected a frame which advanced age had already weakened.

The late Provost obtained scholarship in 1803, Fellowship on the first trial, and at the early age of 21, in the year 1808. He became Professor of Oratory in 1810, and was co-opted as Senior Fellow, November, 1856, having fulfilled the duties of a Fellow for nearly thirty years. He was appointed Provost January 24th, 1852, and by a singular coincidence, died on the anniversary of his appointment. Attached to the University in which he had held so influential a position, he preferred to remain amidst the society he loved to the dignity of the Episcopate, offered to him by successive Governments.

The *Irish Times* is enabled to state that it has been determined to provide a residence for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in Ireland, and that the Prince will spend some portion of every year amongst the people whom he will yet be called upon to rule. Since the accession of the present Ministry to office the policy and wisdom of residing in Ireland for some time each year has been impressed upon the Prince, who cheerfully undertook a mission, which is in truth one of the first duties of Royalty. We do not desire to dwell upon past neglect, but we would ask is it natural that nearly six millions of people could be satisfied that Royalty itself should be the most persistent of absentees? Scotland is favoured with an annual visit of many weeks' duration. Coburg is visited and revisited, but in a reign of nearly thirty years her Majesty has not spent more than twelve days in Ireland. Yet we have scenery in this island as lovely and as romantic as any that Scotland can boast of; our mountains abound with game, our rivers and lakes with salmon and trout, and the people affectionate without being presuming. So long as all the members of the Royal Family avoided Ireland, as if the country did not belong to their dominions, it is not surprising that some should fancy that Ireland was not an integral portion of the Queen's empire, but a slighted and neglected dependency. Good sense as well as good feeling have at last prevailed, and, probably, it will be found that the residence of the Prince of Wales amongst us will be more effectual to allay differences, and to create content and self-respect, than all the efforts of anxious legislators.

Ireland abounds with princely mansions, many of them capacious and splendid enough to serve as Royal residences. The Prince Consort, struck by the nobility of the scenery at Killarney, intended to build a residence on the shores of the Upper Lake. It is strange that when no other wish of his was left unfulfilled, this one alone was neglected. There are hundreds of unrivalled sites in Ireland, whether the soft, lawlike pasture, the towering mountains, the lakes, embosomed amongst hills or woods or the shore of the vast sea, be preferred. Killarney has the advantage of mild winters and genial springs. A fine road has been constructed through the estate of George Preston White, Esq., so that visitors can drive round the Lakes, which they could not do hitherto. If the site for a Royal residence be selected, we are sure the Irish people will not seek the aid of Parliament to construct a palace fit, in all respects, to be the residence of the Prince of Wales. There is not a noblemen in this country who would not cheerfully place his mansion at the disposal of the Prince. They who thought that the habitual absence of Royalty was not deeply felt were ignorant of the Irish nature. Impulsive and affectionate, they feel what seems to be a slight more keenly than can be readily conceived by those who did not know them. They were silent because Ireland had for centuries been shunned by Royalty. A conqueror and an exile visited the island, and then it was forsaken. A hurried visit of three or four days, spent in seclusion, was our share of Royal presence, and the people fancied they were slighted or distrusted.

But a different, and, let us say, a wiser as well as a more generous course will be adopted. The Prince of Wales spent some time in this country, and liked it well. The Princess Alexandra, on her entrance into London, proved she had a sympathy for Ireland. The more frequently they visit us, the more joyfully will they be welcomed, and the more they know of Ireland, the better will they appreciate a people most sensible of kindness.

THE DUNGARVAN OUTRAGE.—Mr. Michael Anthony one of the local justices, who, upon the occasion of a meeting to sympathize with the friends of Capt. Kiely and O'Brien, killed during the election in that town, addressed the following observations to those assembled:—If we live under the benign Constitution of Great Britain, as we are supposed to do, how was it that Captain Kiely was murdered, that O'Brien was slaughtered, and that others were injured?—

They charge us with Fenianism, but what has created Fenianism but the misgovernment of our country, which is regarded as an integral portion of the United Kingdom? They set soldiers loose upon this country, which they dare not do in England or Scotland (hear, hear). The government would not dare to send in troops to England or Scotland as they did in Dungarvan, or, if they did it would be more than their existence would be worth!—*Clonmel Paper*.

Mr. de la Poer, lately elected a member of Parliament in Ireland, has brought an action for libel and defamation of character against Major Wombwell for having called him during the election contest a d-d Fenian.

Now that a pin has been let into the windbag of Mr. James Stephens's reputation, I may tell you what a very great Irish patriot, whom I met in this city, said to me of him three months ago. 'What do you think of Stephens?' said I. 'He has a frodo talent as an organiser of conspiracy,' he answered, 'and it is something really wonderful, quite a gift, how he has been able to lead me abler than himself and get them to believe in him and trust in him.' 'But do you think,' continued I, 'that he intends fighting in Ireland this year—that promise is held out?' 'Pshaw!' replied my friend, with a curl of his lip—'he made the same promise a twelve-month ago.' 'Well, at all events,' I added, 'he has an opportunity of writing his name in history—he may end like Robert Emmet.' 'More likely to end like Robert Macaire' was the remarkable reply of a remarkable man, one who has written his name on history. I own I have been once deceived in that person's character I met him once, he struck me as wise, lofty, intelligent, truthful, bold; the next time we met either he or I must leave the assembly, for no Irish gentleman, whatever be his political views could be at ease in his company. But who or what is this James Stephens, whether traitor or coward, or neither or both?—*Cor. of Dublin Irishman*.

A man named Farrell was last night apprehended by one of the Detective police for laying 'fog signals' on Cork-hill, near the entrance to Dublin Castle, with the object, it is supposed, of crediting alarm in the minds of those attending the Drawing-room.—He was conveyed to Chancery Lane Police station.

The troops stationed at Spike Island, were yesterday at noon mustered on parade, to hear the finding of the court-martial on Private Kelly, who was tried on the 21st instant for using seditious language on the public street, Queensstown, on St. Stephen's Day. The prisoner was present in custody. The finding was read, from which it appeared the prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment at hard labour, which sentence was ratified by Major-General Bates, officer commanding the district. The prisoner was then, in the presence of the troops, stripped of his decorations, consisting of medals and clasps. He was immediately removed to the county jail, where he will undergo his imprisonment.

A THOROUGH IRISHMAN.—When some unhappy native of the Emerald Isle is brought up at one of the London police offices, charged with some petty felony, he is generally described by the penny-a-liners as 'a big ruffian-looking Irishman.' If he does anything that a man or a nation may be proud of, his unfortunate nationality is forgotten, and we hear of the 'ruffianly' Irishman no more.

Last week we chronicled (or rather our friend Terence O'Daly did) the gallant conduct of an Irishman named Sheridan. We ask our readers to peruse the following case:—

At Marylebone police court on Wednesday morning a bricklayer's labourer, named John O'Donnell, attended before Mr. D'Eyncourt and said that on the occasion of the accident in the Regent's Park he brought out eight persons alive. The first six, when he got them to the bank, were hurried away and he saw no more of them. The last two he got out were brothers residing in Randolph street, Camden town, and they had presented him with half a sovereign. When he got them out one was almost dead. The applicant said he took the persons whom he rescued into a public house, where he got half a pint of brandy and for which one of them had to leave his scarf pin in payment. He rubbed the ears of the insensible one, and shook him, and then took him home in a cab. He hoped if this was published the other six would come forward and recognise him. Mr. D'Eyncourt asked him if he could swim, to which he replied he could well but there was no chance. He seized a rope from one of the icesmen and tied it round his body and went in. Mr. D'Eyncourt inquired what made him shake so? the applicant (who seemed very weak and shook in every limb) said he was upon the occasion in his wet clothes for an hour and a half, and he had felt numb and shaken like this ever since. Mr. D'Eyncourt said no doubt the Royal Humane Society would recognise his services. The applicant said he had their paper to fill up on which were the names of the brothers. They would give him a bronze medal; but that was of no use to him as it would not give his children victuals. He had left home morning after morning with only a bit of dry bread and a drop of coffee to seek for a job at anything. His children had had to fare the same way. When at Liverpool he saved eleven lives, and then did not ask for a medal. Mr. Young the secretary of the Royal Humane Society, said every attention would be paid to his claim. The reporter mentions that the applicant has partly lost the use of his right side through his efforts. Mr. D'Eyncourt granted him two guineas from the poorbox.—*Universal Express*.

DUBLIN, Jan. 22.—The new Bishop of Tuam, Dr. Bernard, was enthroned in his Cathedral on Friday. The interesting ceremony attracted many of the nobility and gentry of the surrounding country. When it was over, a large company partook of lunch on at the P-lace. Archdeacon Townsend, in the name of his clerical brethren, welcomed his Lordship to the diocese, and expressed their pleasure at knowing that their chief pastor had been a supporter of scriptural education and evangelical truth, whose family was known throughout Ireland for its loyalty to the Throne and Constitution, 'a member of the old Bandon family from the loyal city of Bandon Bridge.' The Rev. Dr. Trench repeated the welcome, and said that when he read the announcement of his Lordship's appointment his exclamation was, 'Thank God!' The Rev. G. H. Seymour, Provost of Tuam, also welcomed his Lordship, and Mr. D. H. Kirwan, D.L., did the same on the part of the laity of the diocese. The Bishop, in reply, promised to support all the missionary agencies in which his predecessor was interested, and said he would be always bold to speak in defence of Scriptural education, which he believed to be essential to the very existence of Protestantism. The Earl of Bandon, who was present, concurred in what his brother had said on the subject. He felt that the laity were part of the Church, and that their essential duty is missionary work, and that not confined to their own communion. It should never cease, his Lordship said, so long as there was a Catholic unconverted to the truth.

The diocese of Tuam has been ruled for a long time by members of the leading aristocratic families in the country. In 1822 the Hon. Joseph Deane Burke became Archbishop of Tuam, and afterwards succeeded his elder brother the Earl of Mayo. In 1794 the Hon. William Deresford was translated to this see from Ossory, as Lord Mayo has been from Feros, and was in 1812 created Baron Decies. The Hon. William de la Poer Trench, brother of Lord Clan carthy, was translated from Elphin to Tuam in 1819, and he ruled the diocese till 1839, when he was succeeded by the Hon. Thomas Plunket, who inherited the title of his father, Baron Plunket, formerly Lord Chancellor of Ireland; and now the son of another peer has succeeded to this truly aristocratic mitre. The net income of the see is 4,088l., with the patronage of 95 livings. The prelate rules over three dioceses—Tuam, Killybegs, and Achonry, which include the counties of Galway, Mayo, and Sligo, and a por-

tion of Roscommon—nearly the whole of the province of Connaught. The net income of the clergy is 17,409l. The total Church population in Tuam is 9,000 in Killybegs 4,724, in Achonry 3,302. The total Catholic population in these three dioceses respectively is—Tuam, 302,367; Killybegs, 81,337; Achonry, 105,200. It must be confessed, on comparing these numbers, that Bishop Bernard has heavy missionary work before him if it is not to cease till the last Catholic is converted. It is a remarkable fact that not only Bishop Plunket, but the last of the Archbishops, Dr. Trench, was full of this missionary spirit, and firmly believed that every soul in the diocese was committed to his spiritual oversight.—*Times Cor.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

During the last four months Archbishop Manning has, through the instrumentality of the Confraternity of St. Peter, transmitted to £2,200 to Rome.

CONVERSIONS.—Our informant on the subject of conversions during the past year, has—no doubt unintentionally—led us into the commission of a very great error. We stated the week before last that the number of Protestants that had been received into the Church within the last twelve months, within the limits of the Diocese of Westminster, amounted to three hundred and sixty-seven; but we must now correct this statement. Upon the best possible authority we can now say that in only three of the London churches—Farm street, the Oratory, and Baywater—there were upwards of four hundred admissions, and that the total number throughout the diocese during the past year was very close upon one thousand; next week we hope to give the exact figures.—*Weekly Register*.

Sir Robert Peel has been addressing his neighbors in Tamworth on 'The Church' as by law established, and the best means, of making it useful to the people.

The season continues so wet in England that although the city of Liverpool is using forty millions gallons of water, more than usual per week, it has in its reservoir two thousand millions of gallons more than at the corresponding period of last year.

At last accounts there were 140,000 tons of shipping lying idle in the Mersey docks; and in consequence there was much destitution and suffering among those classes which depend for employment on activity in the shipping trade.

Two thousand flannel weavers have been on strike since the beginning of January at Millrow, Rochdale, England. Efforts to compromise the matter had up to the end of January failed, and the manufacturers generally were at that time about to go on the strike also, closing all the flannel mills in the district.

THE FLOODS.—It is 20 years since any approach to the scene of desolation now reigning in the Yorkshire valleys has been witnessed; the sudden thaw has caused such an inundation as exceeds even the disastrous flood of 1861.

Cholera has suddenly reappeared in a very malignant form in the North. The pit villages of Oxbow, Killybegs, and Torrington Hill, in the neighborhood of the city of Durham, have been in a somewhat unhealthy condition of late, and last week cholera appeared in a malignant form at Oxbow. On Saturday last 23 persons were attacked by the disease, and several have since succumbed to it. Every precaution has been adopted to stop the ravages of the disease, but it is likely to spread. As has been the case with all recent outbreaks of cholera in the North, impure water is blamed as the cause.

The distress still continues among the operatives in East London. Of a population of 23,000, at least 10,000 are laboring people ordinarily in the receipt of daily wages, and hundreds are represented as standing idle about the entrances to the docks from day to day waiting for employment. The Local Relief Committee are spending about £100 a day in sustaining the starving people.

An important decision was given lately in the English Court of Exchequer affecting the liability of public bodies for the results of negligence on the part of their servants. The vestry of Barmsey were making a sewer in Blue Anchor road, when a Mr. Juniper stumbled in the dark over a heap of dirt left by the workmen, which caused his death. Mrs. Juniper then brought an action, and obtained a verdict, with 287s damages, which the vestry appealed against, and now moved for a rule to set aside. In giving judgment the Lord Chief Baron said that recent decisions had finally settled the principles of the law as applicable to cases of this nature; and it was now authoritatively decided that the members of a public body created for public purposes, although having only public duties to perform, receiving no salaries, and having no funds out of which to pay damages, were liable for the damages caused by the negligent performance of their duties. The rule was refused, and the verdict therefore stands.

WANTED A JOUENNYMAN.—The Vicar of Mitcham has advertised for a Scripture-reader, who must be a 'consistent Christian man, who is accustomed to deal with scepticism and nothingarianism.'

The *Pail Mail Gazette* is informed that the protest of the London clergy against ritualistic practices is now complete. It has received 423 signatures, and its promoters state that the incumbents and curates in charge of parishes who have signed have the care of more than 1,101,600 souls, according to the census of 1861. By the same census the whole population of the diocese was 2,570,073.

The Rev. John Purchas, incumbent of St. James's Chapel, Brighton, who discontinued the use of the eucharistic vestments a few months ago, has, since the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (the 25th March) resumed them, together with the burning of incense, apart from 'the censuring of persons and things' and other observances, so as to bring the services of his chapel as far as possible into harmony with the present 'Use' of St. Alban's, Holborn. 'I have done this,' writes the reverend gentleman to a friend, 'as I not only feel it a duty to run all risks for the sake of a great principle, but because I am disgusted at the unworthy use made of my charitable concessions in opposing other Ritual churches in this diocese.'—*Pail Mail Gazette*.

The 'Great Eastern' is to leave England on the 20th of March for New York. The intermediate shaft of paddle engines has been condemned, and Messrs. G. Forrester & Co. are to put in a new one, which is being forged by the 'Mersey Steel and Iron Company,' and is to be finished by the 12th of Feb. Six new screw engine boilers are also being supplied. The 'big ship' when she again leaves the Mersey will have accommodation for no less than 2,800 passengers. She is to run between New York and Havre during the Summer in connection with the Paris Exhibition.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Take the case of the Church one does not like to say much against the Church, because the Church always says that she is in danger, and I would not add to her fears; but the Church just now reminds me very much of that old woman of whom the doctor asked what was the matter with her, and she said that she did not know, but she felt very badly in her inside. (Laughter.) I am not referring to any assaults upon the Church from the outside; but I see every day in the newspapers accounts of the fearful conflicts waging within the borders of the Church itself; and when anything comes to a crisis it goes to a court of law, to the Committee of the Privy Council, or somewhere else, and a number of Judges with wigs on decide what is or what is not orthodox in the Church of England. But if any churchman gives himself the trouble to read what I am saying, I beg to remind him that nothing is so perilous for an Established Church as religious zeal, and I should not be surprised if some within this building who are listening to me will witness a tremendous catastrophe in that venerable institution—the Established Church of England.

THE REFORM LEAGUE AND THE LAW.—The effect tumultuous petitions upon the changes which place under Charles I. was acknowledged, after Restoration, by the statute of Charles II., which was framed avowedly to repress them for the future—a statute the language of which is wise, though the policy of its framers may have been servile. The Act of Parliament which the League propose at present to set at naught was passed in the thirteenth year of that monarch, and some of its provisions are operative at this moment, though more than once attempts have been made to impugn their validity. By way of securing the independence of the Crown and the Parliament, it expressly limited the right, claimed up to that period by the country at large, to threaten the Legislature at pleasure. It forbade the procuring of more than twenty signatures to petitions to the King, or either House of Parliament, for 'the alteration of matters established by law in Church or State, unless with the consent of a quorum of justices of the peace, or the majority of a grand jury. It also enacted—and this is the most essential part of it—that no persons should repair either to his Majesty or to either House of Parliament, on the pretence of presenting such petitions, with an excessive number of people, or with above the number of ten persons at a time. It is the fashion to urge that this enactment has been repealed by the Bill of Rights, which was one of the first fruits of the accession of the Prince of Orange. No proposition could be more unsound. If the Bill of Rights is examined, it will be found to contain no single word which invalidates the statute of Charles II. so far as petitions to Parliament are concerned.

The *Glowworm* says that 'in these days of universal suspicion, when even we are accused of being under the special patronage of the Pope—to say nothing of the College of Cardinals, the Brompton Oratory, and Mr. Whalley—one cannot be too careful. And yet a couple of lines in Dr. Daubigny's letter to the *Times* of to-day seems a little too 'alarming' for the Year of Grace, 1867. Says the learned author of 'The History of the Reformation in Europe:—'The Papal aggression was not so dangerous as are the covert but persevering efforts of the Jesuits, working, as they do in England, with the help of Continental Romanists.' Now, any one can see the London Jesuits at about eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, at Farm-street Chapel, where most of the Roman Catholic 'fashionables' do congregate; and those who have the curiosity to seek them there will find about a dozen quite old gentlemen, as prosy as they are eminently 'respectable.' And yet, these are they who are suspected of dressing up as butcher boys, walking about with dark lanterns, and behaving generally as if they were rehearsing the parts of 'Second Villains' for forthcoming melodramas at the Surrey Theatre! Still, as we cannot be too cautious, perhaps Mr. May, the costumer, and Mr. Clarkson, the theatrical perriquer, will kindly throw some light upon the subject. In conclusion, if Dr. Daubigny's suspicions are well founded, 'A Jesuit 'making up' as a charwoman in the nineteenth century' would form an excellent subject for a historical cartoon.'

WHY DO ANY PROTESTANTS GO TO CHURCH.—The really interesting thing would be to know, not why working men do not go to church, but why so many gentlemen do go there. If you could walk into one of the churches in Tyburn some Sunday morning, impound all or any considerable part of the well-dressed males between thirty and sixty years to be found there, and extract from them, by home questions which must be supposed to be honestly answered, their real reasons for coming to church, some very curious results would probably be obtained. A large proportion would no doubt answer that they came simply from the force of habit—not a few would be obliged to admit that they did it to please their wives. This would be considerably qualified in others by an impression that it was a necessary part of the education of their children, and almost every one would be more or less influenced by the consideration of the general respectability of the institution and the propriety of supporting it on the ground of its respectability and social utility. So strong is this motive thatquires who, when they are in London, never by any accident see the inside of a church, will constantly go in the most regular manner, at least to morning service, in the country by way, as they say, of setting an example. It may not be good or required for themselves, but they have no impression that it is good for their inferiors. It must also be observed that to abstain altogether from going to church would be rather a marked and singular thing in a gentleman, and there is nothing on which people so much hate to be singular as matters of that kind. It would be unjust to represent these motives as the only ones which take the gentry of London and other great cities to church though we have no doubt that if they were all to cease to operate at once congregations would be strangely thinned. Most men probably have a sufficient degree of true religious feeling to like to join periodically in some form of religious worship, and the strength of the Church of England, regarded as a religious body, no doubt lies in the fact that its liturgy is singularly well suited as a whole to the tastes of educated men.—*Pail Mail Gazette*.

THE INCREASE OF INFANTICIDE.—The Home Secretary received a deputation yesterday to suggest the necessity of some legislation by which the crime of infanticide might be lessened. Mr. Walpole stated in reply that a bill would be brought in next session dealing with capital punishment, and he could promise no legislation beyond that without much more consideration.

REAPPEARANCE OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The *British Medical Journal* states that the cattle plague has reappeared in the very same cowshed in Islington in which it first manifested itself on the former outbreak, and it is unfortunately spreading with increased vehemence throughout Holland.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Princess Alexandra has been confined and safely delivered of a girl.

UNITED STATES.

Concerning Barum and his Congressional aspirations, a Connecticut paper says that 'sewing a monkey's head and a fish's tail together, to make a mermaid, is a performance well calculated to make a man notorious, but it affords no evidence of statesmanship.'

A NEW YORK JUDGE.—On Wednesday, when Superintendent Kennedy, of New York, was brought before Judge Downing at the Tombs Police Court to answer to a complaint of libel preferred against him by Judge Michael Connolly, it was suggested that the defendant should give his personal recognizance for appearance for trial. Connolly objected, and the following scene occurred:—

'If a mere creature,' Judge Connolly said, 'an appointee of a board, could override the majesty of the people and insult and malign an officer elected by their suffrage; and if that miserable creature could with impunity assume and exercise authority and powers in this city of New York, which would not be permitted in Russia, or in the most despotic country on the face of the earth!—'

Here Mr. Kennedy became excited and interrupted Judge Connolly.

Mr. Connolly replied—This shows the impertinence—the positive impertinence of the man.

Mr. Kennedy—Close your big mouth.

Mr. Connolly—I knew you thirty years ago—you cheated your—

Mr. Kennedy (standing up, very much excited)—And I knew you, too, when you sold rum at two cents a glass.

Mr. Connolly—And you drank it without paying for it. Go and pay your sister-in-law and her orphan what you owe them.

Here the Court called them to order.