

he did gradually and imperceptibly, but success- fully; dwelling upon all the hopes held out, he argued from them, even as Edmund's legal adviser had done, that they were not so certain as the fact that the sentence of the law should take its course, if the very personal appearance of Helen M'Neary did not occur to interrupt it. And by degrees Edmund's mind and spirit followed the arguments of the good clergyman; and in profoundest awe, and not without an occasional dash of wholesome fear, he at length brought himself to contemplate, almost exclusively, the tremendous subject of the change from life to eternity, through the gates of death, and the vastness, and the mightiness, and the mystery of a meeting with his Maker.

At about one o'clock in the morning, the clergyman bade him a temporary farewell, and Edmund was alone with his own thoughts—a prayer book in his hand, to which his eye often reverted.

His attention became distracted by a sudden and great tumult on the outside of the prison. There was a thundering and battering at the iron-sheeted door, and a clamor of many voices, over all of which, one voice, which Edmund thought he should know, pre-eminently bellowed. Then he heard the voices, evidently in the interior of the jail, and much confused tramping and stamping, and shuffling and dragging, near to him, and at a distance. Presently silence ensued. But the door of his dungeon was shortly afterwards unlocked, and Tom Naddy made his appearance.

Edmund Fennell had extended his hand to greet Tom's entrance, but he held it back upon perceiving what, under the circumstances, he could not avoid considering as an unnatural and brutal levity, on the part of his old acquaintance. Tom's hat was quite out of his general mode of wearing that appendage—considerably to one side of his head, and fixed, indeed, in an absolutely rakish position; an unrestrained broad grin ran over his face, and he was really, and truly, and heartily, and loudly whistling a jig-sar at intervals. Besides his usual cautious carriage, he assumed, too, as much of a swagger as his size and proportions permitted.

"Well, Masther Ned," said Tom, "an' how goes oats to-day?"

Edmund gazed at him, not in anger, but in greater horror and disgust.

"Very had accommodations they give here, Masther Ned, considering that they make people put up their quarters in id, agen the grain."

So utterly had Ned Fennell been absorbed in the contemplation of uncharitable matters, that his mere human reason proved dull, for a moment, to the meaning which, in a more disengaged frame of mind, he must have attached to Tom's buffoonery.

"You have absented yourself," he said, "all through my misery, and you are now come to insult me?"

"No, Masther Ned, I am not," answered Tom Naddy, now showing, by his tones and manner, that he could feel—had he had news to tell you, that "ill"—and he resumed his waggery—"that 'ill make you put that good book in your pocket, until daybreak, at laste."

Edmund began to apprehend. He gaped, he stared, he clasped his hands:—

"Well?—do not trifle with me one moment!"

"Masther Ned, I won a wager ov two ould gold guineas for you afore now; I have them two guineas yet—an' I'll bet you the same two agen ten more, that I'll make you eaper about this cursed hole ov a place—ay—an' afore you're much oulder—like a young filly through a clover-field."

"Tom!" was all Edmund Fennell could say, as he grasped tightly the fellow's arm.

"Ay, faith,—cover-the-buckle it must be, by the piper that played afore Moses."

"My wife—Tom—my wife!"

"Brave an' hearty, she thanks you kindly—would you like to see her, Masther Ned?"

Tom knocked at the dungeon door, and the next instant Helen M'Neary was embraced by her young husband. A description of their meeting shall not be attempted, by its present incompetent historians.

"By the great Gog, he's fond of her, shure enough, poor fellow," said Gaby M'Neary, who, unheeded by Edmund Fennell, had been looking on; and who, as he spoke, put his hand to his throat, as if to force down something which he felt stuck in it.

"Edmund! dear Edmund!" whispered Helen. "my father—my father is present."

"Your father, Helen?" He gazed stupidly around him. "Excuse me, sir," he said—"I did not indeed know that you were here."

"By Gog, you puppy, that's plain enough, and divil a much you care if I was in Dingle-dee-cooch, if you spoke the truth."

"Sir, sir, your presence makes me hope that I am the happiest creature the day ever dawned on—it makes me hope, sir, you forgive me."

"What would be the use in laying this stick on your shoulders, until I broke it in pieces, as I ought to do? Confound the baggage, she wouldn't quit you now if I were to go whistle jigs to a milestone for it."

"He forgives us fully, dearest Edmund—and he loves us fully," whispered Helen.

"Sir," continued Edmund, while he and his bride knelt to old Gaby—"you will find me a grateful son; if ever I give you, or my darling Helen, cause to regret your great kindness, I pray that he who now blesses me so exceedingly, may punish me in proportion."

it laughing at me you are, you cross-grained cur?" he exclaimed indignantly, as he turned hastily round to Tom Naddy, and gave him such a tap on the head with his bludgeon as caused Tom to cringe, and rub hard the affected part—"By Gog alive, I'll crack your crown in pieces, before you're much older—ha! take that, and the devil be your apothecary; 'twas you brought all this about, you brat; I know the whole of it," he continued, re-addressing his son-in-law—"the grinning monkey had the impudence to tell me every word about it, and didn't seem a bit afraid neither;—'twas he schemed out this marriage between ye—and damn my buttons if ever I'd forgive the pair of ye, only that it was that whelp's doing, and not your own—ha! ha! ha!" by the boot, but 'twas a good joke for all that, stumping about in great glee—"he laid you a wager of two guineas that Helen would be married in a week—you thought the wager was that she should be married to creeping Dick Stanton; but the devil's bird there, to win his two guineas, worked his plan to marry her to yourself—never a better, ha! ha! Well, you brat, I'll give you your due—you're as cunning as old Bauff, the robber—every bit—ha! ha!—ay, by the great Gog—only 'twas that cur's doing, I'd never let ye within two acres of one another—one or the other of ye."

"Now my dear father, you would, you would, even for my sake?"

"Why, man," put in Tom Naddy, "he neither et, nor drank, nor slept, from the moment you left him, until he got you back again."

"By Gog, you lie, you curmudgeon! I ate two legs of mutton, and I drank a dozen of port; and I snored so loud, that you'd hear me from Cork to Dublin. But, you baggage, we'll have no more fighting, and no more parting; and when that puppy of yours goes to chuee! as I said before, and comes home an honest Protestant, we'll be as happy as the day is long. But don't think you'll escape me, you mongrel—I'll thrash you within an inch of your life, every day in the week—and by Gog you should never enter my doors, you brat, only you're the very fellow that has made us all so happy—lollo! abroad there!" he thundered at the cell-door with his bludgeon; the head-jailer appeared; he intimated that he was about to withdraw from the jail, and take his son-in-law, the prisoner, home with him; the man modestly demurred, stating that such a proceeding must occur formally, and that he could not risk his situation, to allow it to happen in any other manner.

"Gog's-blug-an-ages! Don't you know who I am, man? And won't I be your warrant?"

The jailer did know very well, and no one could respect Mr. M'Neary, and the young lady, and the young gentleman, more than he did; but—

Gaby M'Neary blustered again, and even raised his stick; all was useless; the man was firm, through not offensive; and until a reasonable hour in the morning, Mr. M'Neary could not expect to remove Mr. Fennell from the prison.

(Conclusion in our next.)

HOME RULE.—X.

THE UNION PROPOSED—REJECTED BY IRELAND.

Ireland, at the close of the year 1798, presented a melancholy spectacle to the world. The members of a mad rebellion, to which the people had been purposely goaded, were being ruthlessly stamped out; terror reigned throughout the land; the Habeas Corpus Act suspended, and all the constitutional forms of law in abeyance; the sanguinary tribunals of courts-martial disposing of the lives and liberties of all who happened to come within the reach of suspicion; military law supreme; and human life at the mercy of wretches who knew not what the virtue of mercy was, in whose breasts all human instincts had been utterly stifled by the excesses of the time. The voice of the country scarcely dared to give expression to the national will. Public meetings of various counties, duly convened to deliberate on the projected measure of the Minister, were dispersed by military force, and all constitutional opposition was violently suppressed. Whilst the kingdom was thus held in terror and suspense, the intention of the Government was unequivocally declared; and though public discussion was only possible at the risk of being intimidated and put down by the officious zeal of some extra-loyal functionary of despotic power, still some meetings were held, whose proceedings will enable us to judge what was the general sense of the nation. Amongst the first may be noticed a meeting of the Bar, held on 9th December, 1798. At that time, the Bar of Ireland held a prominent position in the eyes of the country. It was considered the great avenue to parliamentary distinction and public preferment, and amongst its members there were generally to be found representatives of some of the leading families of the land. The eminent talents and high professional attainments of the body at that period lent additional weight to the importance of their opinions, and the names of those who signed the requisition to call the meeting included men of such splendid abilities as Plunkett, afterwards Lord Chancellor; of Saurin, who was Attorney-General for twenty years, and who refused the office of Lord Chief Justice; of Bushe, who subsequently filled that high office; of Peter Burrows, a great constitutional lawyer, and several other distinguished men. The authentic report of the debate which then took place lies open before us, and we wish we could feel at liberty to place the several speeches in extenso before our readers, as an expression of the voice of the country; but our space forbids us to do more than to give a few extracts from the sentiments expressed by some of the leading speakers on that occasion. Saurin, who opened the discussion, proposed the following resolution:—"Resolved, that the measure of a Legislative Union of this Kingdom and Great Britain is an innovation, which it would be highly dangerous and improper to propose at the present juncture of this country." In the course of his remarks, he observed that it was the duty of every great body of men, and particularly the duty of the Bar, as learned in the law and Constitution, to step forward and declare their sense on the subject. "In times of perfect tranquillity," he said, "it is their duty to do this; but at such a period as the present, when the public are rendered incapable, by the circumstances in which they stand, of considering so momentous a question, it becomes the duty of the Bar to declare whether it is wise or safe at such a crisis to discuss it. Was it not obvious to every man, that if, in case of a Legislative Union, Ireland should be suffered to send a hundred members to the united Parliament; yet the Parliament thus constituted with five hundred British members and one hundred Irish, might be influenced by every tie of inclination, and I will

add, of duty, too, to prefer the interests of Great Britain to those of Ireland, when they should be found to clash? . . . At all events it was not at the termination of a rebellion, if it was indeed terminated, the most alarming and savage which had ever scourged a country, that a question of such magnitude was to be discussed; it was not when a foreign army of 40,000 men were in the country, and military law scarcely yet suspended, that the people were to be asked on the moment, whether they would give up their Constitution, and transfer their legislative power to another country? Mr. Spencer, who seconded the motion, said he had heard it asserted that, from the great military force in the country, and the suppression of the public voice, that was the precise reason for the introduction of the measure, which could not be carried under any other circumstances.

"Good God, sir!" he exclaimed, "is it possible that such a sentiment should circulate, without circulating revolutionary principles along with it? Can it be endured to be said, that the season for introducing the most momentous constitutional question, to the consideration of the legislature of a free people is, when there is an extraordinary military force in the country, and when, from the impetuosity of circumstances, the public lips have been closed?"

Mr. Peter Burrows, a man of great original genius and noble simplicity of character, a member of the Irish Parliament, and one of the ablest advocates of the Irish Bar, when that illustrious body was the representative of Irish wit, eloquence, and patriotism, declared himself unequivocally against the Union, in a speech of bold and manly assertion. "A legislative Union," he said, "with Great Britain upon any terms, which can be rationally conceived, is in its principle at all times inadmissible; at the present juncture the measure is peculiarly pernicious. What is in truth and simplicity the question? Whether the Irish nation should at all deliberate upon the terms and conditions upon which it should surrender a Constitution founded upon the soundest principles of human policy, which it has enjoyed for six centuries, and under which all its imperfections and abuses, it arrived at a state of great improvement, and was proceeding in a course of rapidly accelerating prosperity, until, in common with other countries, the political misdeeds which have late afflicted the world, had visited it with evils not ascribable to its Constitution? I say this nation ought not to entertain such a question. The measure is certain ruin." After exposing the evils that were sure to follow the passing of such an act, and which have alas! but too surely followed, in confirmation of his predictions, this great lawyer proceeded: "I hasten to that which is the grand pretence for this alarming innovation. The security of the connection of Great Britain, it is said, requires it. This is indeed a powerful appeal. Connected as we are by so many ties to that great and powerful people, there are but few things which we ought not to sacrifice to the preservation of that connection. But let not our zeal mislead us. I assert, I hope without contradiction, that the security of that connection must depend upon affection, and not force. Dissatisfaction is the only source of separation, and see whether, upon the whole, this measure be not more likely to extend than to restrain it." Then, discussing the question on the highest constitutional grounds, he asks the pertinent question—"Can it ever be credited that an Union carried now was founded upon national consent? And if the contrary opinion should prevail how fatal would the consequence probably be? How various are the impediments to popular discussion at present? Do we forget that assemblies of the people are under temporary restraint, at least, regulations not heretofore deemed necessary in our Constitution; that the Habeas Corpus Act is suspended; that extraordinary powers are vested in magistrates; that undefinable monster martial law still exists in parts of Ireland; that rebellion is but just subdued, and invasion still hovering round our coasts; and, above all, that a numerous English army exists in this country. I assert that there cannot be a free discussion of the question under such circumstances. But even though it were possible to devise a system of Union which ought to be adopted, this is a juncture the most unfit for propounding or discussing it. I am no metaphysician in politics. I do not derive my opinion from mere abstract reasoning. Yet I hold it to be indisputably certain that the ancient established Constitution of a nation like this cannot be justifiably annihilated without the previous consent of the nation, founded upon the freest and fullest discussion of the subject." The report of Plunkett's speech on this occasion is very meagre, and refers to it mostly in general terms, such as that he "very ably proved the extreme danger and impropriety of agitating the question of Union at such a time as the present. Should the administration, however, propose a Union now, he had no doubt but it would be carried. Fear, animosity, and want of time to consider coolly its consequences, and forty thousand British troops in Ireland, would carry the measure. But in a little time the people would awake, as from a dream and what consequences would then follow he trembled to think. For himself he declared he opposed an Union, principally because he was convinced it would accelerate a total separation of the two countries." Several other speakers followed in the same strain, but we will notice only one other speech, that of Mr. Gould, who uttered some bold and startling sentiments, which produced much sensation and considerable applause. After declaring against the Union in the strongest terms, he exclaimed: "I am enabled, by the visible and unerring demonstrations of nature, to assert that Ireland was destined to be an independent nation. Our patent to be a state, and not a shire, comes direct from Heaven. The Almighty has, in majestic characters, signed the charter of our independence. The great Creator of the world has given unto our beloved country the gigantic outlines of a kingdom, and not the pigmy features of a province. God and Nature I say, never intended that Ireland should be a province and, by G—, she never shall."

If such were the sentiments, thus publicly expressed and loudly applauded, of a man of high legal acquirements, and who afterwards held a distinguished position on the Bench, it is evident that the general feelings of the nation must have been as violently opposed to such an odious measure, and that the Union can never be considered as the act of the people of Ireland. They have never acquiesced in it, or consented to it. They submitted to it as the householder does to the robber whose pistol is at his head; but with a just reservation of all rights for the recovery of the property when he is again restored to the full liberty of action and free will.

Having taken the opinions of the Bar of Ireland, let us see what were the sentiments of the representatives of Irish commerce on this most momentous question for the trade of the country. On the 18th Dec., 1798, a meeting (referred to in previous article) of the bankers and merchants of the city of Dublin, at which the Lord Mayor presided, was held at the Mansion House, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the reported project of a legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland." The leading banker of the City, Wm. Digges Lutouche, proposed the following resolution amongst others:—"Resolved, that we look with abhorrence on any attempt to deprive the people of Ireland of their Parliament, and thereby of their Constitutional right, and immediate power to legislate for themselves."

The matured and cautious opinions of men holding such a stake in the country, and usually so averse from taking any steps in opposition to the ruling powers, are much more weighty, and deser-

ving of consideration, than any more rhetorical flights of the professional candidates for popular favour; and hence the public declarations of such a man are significant in the highest degree of the full sense and spirit of the whole country, and of the most absolute and conscientious conviction, on the part of the speaker. Let us hear how this influential and responsible individual treated the bare idea of a Union, then only promulgated as a rumour of the intentions of the Government. Addressing the Lord Mayor, he says, "My Lord, there is not in Ireland a man more attached to British connexion than I am, nor any man who would make a greater sacrifice to promote the benefit of Britain and the strength of the Empire. I would almost put with everything for this purpose, but our free and internal legislation. It is my attachment to British connexion that renders me averse to the measure of an Union, because I feel convinced that instead of strengthening the two countries, it would eventually cause their separation." Then, having ably exposed the fallacy that the Union could be any advantage to Ireland, Mr. Lutouche concludes with the following important and impressive statement:—"In the opinions I am here uttering before the bankers and merchants of Dublin, I am not sacrificing reason to prejudice, or general to partial interests. Although this city and its vicinity would be greatly and peculiarly injured by a Union; although the prospects of industry and honest speculation might be blasted by the adoption of such a measure, I would not, however, be one of those to oppose it, if beneficial to the country at large, or to the empire; but convinced as I am that it would be hurtful to us, I cannot, attached as I am to our present connexion with it allow an inference merely advantageous to the sister country; and I trust that, if we were wantonly to favour a measure so injurious to ourselves, the people of England, when they should come to take the subject into consideration, would reject the measure, and humanly intipose between us and our criminal insanity. But, my Lord, I hope that the early and decided testimonies of public disapprobation which are directed against the measure will never suffer it to assume a more serious and confirmed form than at this moment; and as I look upon a separation of this Kingdom and Great Britain as the greatest misfortune which could befall either country, so I look upon their legislative Union as the most dangerous and impolitic idea which could possibly be indulged."

Another meeting, or Post Assembly, of the Lord Mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens generally of Dublin, was held on 17th December, at which the following resolution was passed:—"Resolved unanimously, that having boldly defended the Constitution, in King, Lords, and Commons, against the open and secret abettors of Rebellion, we are determined steadily to oppose any attempt that may be made to surrender the free legislation of this kingdom by uniting with the legislature of Great Britain."

Such were the sentiments of the people of Ireland with regard to this hateful measure, from the very first moment that the project began to assume definite shape, and come under the notice of the public opinion of the country. Such were also the sentiments of the nation when the Act was forced through Parliament by the most odious and unconstitutional means, as we shall show in our next paper. Such were the sentiments of the country after ten years of the disastrous results, which had been foretold, were passed. And such is the feeling existing in the heart of Ireland to-day, after the mournful experience of seventy years. English statesmen may fret and fume because Ireland refuses to be tranquil and submissive under English domination. All the tinkering legislation in the world to redress the grievances and right the wrongs of Ireland will work no permanent cure for the country's disorders, while the one great wrong—the cardinal iniquity of all—the Act by which Ireland was robbed of her legislative independence, remains unrepented on the Statute Book.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DUBLIN, Jan. 10.—The O'Donoghue has addressed an able letter to the *Cork Examiner* on the subject of Home Rule and the Kerry election. He notices an admission in an article of the *Examiner* that the great questions which for years had been agitating the mind of Ireland had been settled, or were about to be settled, in the Imperial Parliament, and he points out the importance of this, as illustrating the essential difference between the present time and the days of O'Connell. He argues that it was because O'Connell could not obtain justice for Ireland that he demanded repeal, but the followers of Mr. Butt, who echo the cry under a different state of circumstances, are unable to say what special evils they have in view. He observes that the acts of the Imperial Parliament are the best evidence of its sentiments towards Ireland, and he is unable to reconcile the testimony borne to the character of those acts and the anticipation of further beneficial measures with the assertion that "the very mention of Irish business raises the gorge of the House of Commons," and that the desire to do justice languishes sadly. He states that his own experience leads him to the contrary conclusion, and he reminds the *Examiner* that not many months ago it teemed with articles full of glowing laudation of what it now deprecates, and held up for public admiration the just and generous spirit which it then saw presiding over the conduct of Parliament. He pays a tribute of gratitude to the English and Scotch members with whom he has sat for years, and declares that he always found them the firm friends of this country. Their public action and the tone of their private intercourse have convinced him that there can be no failure of justice in the Imperial Parliament. He is filled with loyal attachment for England, and, above all, he is convinced that "the first duty of an Irish patriot is to advise his countrymen to accept the good offices of to-day in satisfaction for former misgovernment; to spurn, with the resolution of Christian men, the odious evils of revenge and national hate; to unite in bonds of the closest union with those who have all the disposition and all the power to make their friendship invaluable." It is true, he says, that this happy temper is of recent date, and that the evils long complained of have been only lately remedied; but it must not be forgotten that they existed for more than 100 years before the Union, and were the work of the Irish Parliament. He concludes his letter in the following terms:—"I cannot conclude without adding that Mr. Dease's candidature has my sincere support. I say this as a Kerry man, conscious of his having faithfully discharged his public trust, as one devoted to his native county, and bound to her people by every tie of affection and gratitude, and as an Irishman who holds that loyalty to Ireland is the first of his political duties. I see in Mr. Dease the supporter of a Government which has redressed the wrongs of ages, which has established the reign of equality and justice in Ireland, and which is prepared to place at her command all the guarantees of political freedom."

The *Examiner* replies at some length. It blesses the Church Act as a wise and noble piece of statesmanship. The Land Act, it admits, "as far as it goes, is also wise and noble, and will yet be rendered more useful by future amendment and improvement." An education system, "based on the foundation of Divine truth, is a prize for which every lover of his race should loyally strive; but the programme does not reach to the fulness and greatness of a national creed." The country has 70 years to pull up, and the Imperial Parliament is too cumbrous a machine for the work. The *Examiner*

quotes declarations of O'Connell to prove that he would have given up every measure, even Catholic emancipation, and submitted to the penal code, if he could have got repeal of the Union.

Mr. Dease, accompanied by some personal friends, visited Listowel yesterday, and made a canvass through the town. Some of the Catholic clergy went with him from house to house. An excited mob followed, groaning, hissing, cheering for Home Rule and Stennerhasset, and calling upon the priests to reject Mr. Dease. They reproached the priests for supporting him, and contrasted them with those of Ballylongford and Ballybunion, who went with the popular favourite. They pressed and jostled about Mr. Dease's friends, so that it became necessary for the police to interfere. The chairman of Quarter Sessions, in addressing the grand jury yesterday, alluded to the approaching election, and warned the people of the consequences, if any of them were brought before him for violent or disorderly conduct.—*Times Cor.*

DUBLIN, Jan. 11.—The Cardinal Archbishop has issued a circular convening a meeting of Catholics residing in or connected with the metropolitan diocese, to be held on Wednesday, the 17th inst., for the purpose of urging the Government to grant a system of education in accordance with the resolutions lately passed by his Eminence and his episcopal colleagues. This meeting was announced for a much earlier date, but was postponed in consequence of the illness of the Prince of Wales. It will be held in the Cathedral, Marlborough-street. Meanwhile, the agitation is proceeding in the provinces. A county meeting was held yesterday in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wexford; the Right Rev. Dr. Furlong, Bishop of Ferns, presided. Lord Gerard and the county members, with a number of Catholic clergymen, were among those present. A letter of apology was read from Mr. McMahon, M.P., in which he promised to uphold in Parliament the principles embodied in the resolutions of the Prelates. The chairman denied the truth of the statement made by the opponents of denominational education, that the laity were indifferent or apathetic on the question, and that the agitation was got up by the priests. He said the priests were bound to the people by the dearest ties. They were the Divinely appointed custodians of the faith, and would be traitors if they did not warn the people against any insidious attempts that might be made to filch it from them. It was not a clerical action; it was the result of the good sense of the people. It was the value which they attached to their faith in Catholic instruction which induced them to send their children to denominational schools. There were 300 children in the convent and other schools of the diocese whose education was paid for. They were sent there by the will of their parents. How many Catholic children, he asked, were in the model school of Enniserry? There were just two, and they were the children of the head master. There had been 1,200 expended in building that school, and its annual cost was 472. He enlarged upon the evils of godless education, and observed that the University of Oxford sent out men every day who absolutely denied the existence of the Supreme Being. In reply to the argument that the effect of the mixed system was to soften sectarian asperities, he contrasted the state of the North with the county of Wexford, where there was practically a denominational system, and yet Protestants and Catholics exchanged civilities. He charged the Presbyterians with being animated with the same puritanical spirit which they had shown from the commencement. Referring to the speech of Lord Hartington, he said he was sorry the Chief Secretary had descended to the use of language which smacked too much of Exeter-Hall, and was neither manly nor statesmanlike. He rejoiced that the priests did not seek for any control over education, but they discharged an imperative duty, and a perfect understanding existed between the priests and the people on the subject of education. They were not ungrateful to Mr. Gladstone, and he felt glad of the opportunity of expressing his gratitude. He believed there was not another man in the empire who had the will and the power to do all that Mr. Gladstone had done for them, but at the same time they could not afford to be grateful at the expense of their religious interests. With respect to the Queen's Colleges, he said the Government were at the public cost supporting nurseries of irreligion. The Minister who refused denominational education, the only barrier in Ireland against an International Society, would not be true to the Queen. Lord Gerard proposed the first resolution, which declared that it was an invasion of the right to religious freedom to force on the Irish people a system of education dangerous to their faith and opposed to their religious convictions. He said the time was come when they must force the subject of education upon the attention of Parliament. He asked, was it a small grievance that the symbol of their faith was prohibited in the schools? The same feeling which prohibited Catholic emblems permeated the whole system, and every allusion to the glorious traditions of their country was excluded. He alluded to the Civil Service examinations, which, he said, had given the greatest impetus to Protestant schools, and he complained of the disadvantage at which Catholics were placed in not receiving such aid as would enable them to compete. The Very Rev. James Roche, P.P., in seconding the resolution, pointed to the town of Wexford, in which there were 2,000 Catholic children attending denominational schools, and yet there was no discord or want of friendship between Protestants and Catholics.—Mr. D'Arcy, M.P., and others then spoke, and resolutions were adopted to the effect that denominational education alone afforded sufficient security for the purity of their faith; that, contributing their full proportion to relieve the burdens of the State, they had a claim to an adequate share of State patronage; that their self respect and their conscience revolted against the direction of a small minority, and they should ever abide by the teachings of their pastors; and that they called upon their representatives to maintain those principles in Parliament.

THE INCREASE OF INTERFERENCE.—The following important letter of the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin to one of the parochial clergy of his diocese will be read with the deepest interest at the present moment.

Dublin, 29th December.—"MY DEAR F. COLLIER—It grieves me to hear that a young man has met with a sudden death in your parish since Christmas, and that, at the coroner's inquest held over his lifeless remains, the jury brought in a verdict that excessive drinking had caused his untimely end. An occurrence of this kind is well calculated to afflict all good Christians, and to make them reflect with fear and trembling on the direful effects of drunkenness. What calamity so great could have befallen the unhappy young man as to have been hurried into eternity in a state of intoxication, and to have been called before the judgment seat of God at the very moment when he was destroying reason, the most precious gift of Heaven, violating the Divine commandments, and insulting the All-powerful Judge, to whom it belongs to decide upon his fate for all eternity? Call upon your parishioners, whilst they have this appalling fact fresh in their memories, to protect themselves and their children against the dreadful scourges and punishments which drunkenness would bring upon them, both in this world, and in the world beyond the grave. Half the actual evils of Ireland have their origin in intemperate habits; and, if you examine the history of families reduced to misery and starvation, you will generally trace the cause of their ruin to the same disgraceful source. But what are these temporal evils when compared to the harvest of sin and iniquity to which drinking gives rise! 'Almost all the crimes—the dissensions, the fighting, the swearing, the constant

drunkenness, the fighting, the swearing, the constant