rnaning stream. "Arrah," said an old woman sitting in the

corner, "did yes throw three handfuls of dust in their faces, spit over your left shoulder, and draw a circle round you three times?"

"Musha, you're talking nansense now, so you are," said he; "for if my hand had not gane like the crack of a whip, I could nat have orassed myself in time, for they flew at me like

Here was a general cessation from business, and one gazed on another with horror.

"And tneu," said Knogher, (Knogher O'Brady was the good man's name,) " and then," said he, "when I did get out of their clutches, such gafazing and laughing, with pipes, fiddles, and all kinds of music!"

of the corner on the other side of the fire, "it's sartainly the gentry; they have been in Sootland these three years, and I find they're returned. But they're ducent, quiet, harmless jantlemen and ladies, all of them," said ho, winking to those about the fire, as much as to say they were listening to him. "But," said he, in a low breath, and reaching forward his head, "where did you cut the brosney?"

"At the root of the ould Skeagh."
"Aw, Marra fastie," cried he, "bad luck to the gentler place in all the glen."

The old woman sat rocking off one side en

another, with inward groans, and at the same time watching the door closely.

The two benighted travellers had no other way of finding out the dwelling of Knogher, than by squeezing through all the thickets, jungles and brakes through which he passed, and arrived at the door during this colleguy. The windows were beaming with the red flame of timber, so that the reflection shot far in among the trees, whose broad canopies were closely interwoven together, and all leaded with snow, Tied to two large hollies, lay a couple of sleek milk cows, chewing their cuds, and near to them stood a small rick of hay, with a brown dog lying at the end of it. All the domestics were enjoying the light of the cottage windows, and no doubt were well the family. They again touched the wires, but rather to a solemn strain, when that instant they head the knocking of stools, chairs, pots, and paus out of the way, and every one endeavoring to get as near the wall as possible.

As they entered, all the voices like one saluted them-You're welcome, quality; you're welcome, gentry; come up, strangers, and take a glaze of the fire this cold night.

The family were engaged by this time knitting, spinning, and making baskets, and not seeming in the least concerned. However, they could discover a piece of iron near to each individual; and an old woman that sat close to the fire, on what in the Scottish tongue is called the hab, scourged three handfuls of salt over all their heads, muttering at the same time some incomprehensible crounn, then down their wicked administration came from England .on her seat, slipping the end of the tongues | The inference was easily arrived at by the Irish into the fire, and began to spin on a rock and spindle,\* keeping the tail of her eye glancing betimes over at the strangers, and asking, in a fair play. Hence, without condescending to notice loud unconcerned manner, if they had travelled rabid bigots, we would expostulate with the hencest far to-night, and then eyeing the rest of the English not to continue to scatter through their family slily. Having the rock stuck in her myrmidons the seeds of undying hostility between belt, and pulling out the flax a considerable the two nations called Sister Kingdoms. length, she would make the spindle twirl round between her hands; and thus she went on, but still watching the other side of the fire with a hawk's eye, and keeping up the conversation with them as if she was not the least afraid .-At length, seeing that all her incantations were to no purpose, and that the gentry had no appearance of leaving her, she slipped carefully from her seat, as if not wishing they should perceive her, and taking three nails out of a horse-shoc, three-elf-shot stones, a handful of salt, and a branch of rowan tree, she put them into a little pot, and boiled all on the fire effeetually, nodding at the same time to the family with importance, as much as to say, keep your minds to yourselves; for she had not the least doubt but this would send them either out of the chimney, or through the keyhole, in a flash of fire.

( To be Continued.)

. The rock and spindle was the former manner of spinning in Ireland, and in many other countries. It is generally practised in Portugal at this present day, and even in walking the streets, as females would practise knitting.

THE "SOUPERS" OF THE WEST DENOUNCED BY FATHER MACMANUS.

Clifden, Co. Galway, Sept. 13, 1873. To the Catholic and liberal public I respectfully

address the following observations. They cannot be with truth gainsaid:-It is now over a quarter of a century since a persistent Biblical barter between conscience on the one side and mammon and misrepresentation on the other part was introduced into Connemara by the agents of numerous anti-Catholic secieties whose wealth was enormous. The supporters of that system, judging others by their own material notions of religion, felt sure that a starving population would readily exchange poverty and the faith of their fathers for the gold and creature comforts, offered by the new reformers. Apostacy and not dire want was the rigorously enacted condition for the receipt of relief from those readers of the Blessed Word, who, like the Old Tempter, employed unappeased hunger as the medium of obtaining lasting beatitude for their disciples. Although the temptation was unremitting, and the sad and dark pioncers of the cruel missioners—postilence and periodical famine—were constantly recurring, still the good people, remembering that they were the descendants of those who were batchered and burned by Cromwell and other unroyal and royal Evangelists, refused to change their faith from the God of their fathers .-So persevering however was the war, that even some distant Catholics avowed their misgivings as to the result. Some of our British rulers, too, had adopted "Good News from Ireland," as the shiboleth of orthodox sanctimonious salutation. A most influen- an opposite direction, yet all anxious and willing tial Press, hostile alike to Ireland Catholicity, had storeotyped on its pages "Ireland's difficulty was cause which should be above every worldly and per-England's opportunity." Thus the notorious result sonal interest. In France and Spain—the old seats of alien legislation furnished an opportunity for the inveterate rank hatred, and "opened a door" to Eng-

having power to follow a human being over a , and their priests could have rot only withstood but signally defeated such a formidable hostile array, is but another proof of the indestructibility of the faith

—and ct Ireland too. May God save her! Even amongst Catholics the false statistics of the soupers, endorsed, as they were, by Protestant dignit-aries of high and low degree, and by peers of the realm also, found some small credence. But a few days ago the respectable Jesuit Father, who came to conduct the annual retreat for the Sisters of Mercy at Clifden, assured us that he had approached Connemara like a man who should prudently comport himself in the most gentle way lest his life should be in danger, for he had heard that many of the Connemara folk were deadly enemies to Catholicity in general, and to the Jesuits in a special manner. How the holy man's countenance lighted up with joy when he received most cordial tokens of respect wherever he turned, and when he discovered beyond all doubt that there were in the whole rising town of Clifden only three Protestant houses, and the same number of Presbyterian dwellings!-The very reverend gentleman remained nearly a be told which side he ought to take in such a fortnight, and preached nobly each of the two Sundays. He was astonished by the vastness of the multitudes he had addressed. Certainly he did not economise the warm, truthful language of cordial congratulation on the unfailing fidelity of the people of the West. I am bound to record one of his most emphatic sayings, viz., "Whilst the enemies are caluminating ye, and circulating every day that passes fabulous reports, why are ye silent? The Liberal Press will aid ye." In truth, only for the gulfed in the abyss of souper misrepresentations.-The mists of the wicked fraud are vanishing, and and Italy will combine their resources, and do their large measures of orthodox soup have failed to prove that those who tugged at oily ladles were truly babes of Grace, for many of them have given strong proofs of being still nothing more than brittle clay. About week ago a most respectable clergyman of St. Andrew's, Westland-row, besought me to recover the child of a Mrs. Ruby from the Bird's Nest at Clifden. Poor Mrs. Ruby had four children. The soupers in an evil hour got them all into their nets. But the significant terms of an attorney's letter brought three of them to their Dublin heme. But poor Katie, being over fourteen, was not given up until the widow came to Clifden. The mother was mentioned to the flock at Clifden after Mass, and the mether and uncaged daughter, having their fare paid by the good flock, went their way rejoicing to Dublin.

To the Holy Jesuit I am bound to record my thanks on behalf of the people for his approval of our new church, now not only in steady progress but far advanced. The time, we humbly hope, is not far distant when we shall have church room for four or five thousand, and a pious, learned member pleased with it as well as the homely voice of of some of the grand and great religious orders electrifying them with heavenly eloquence as they have often done already in the old parish church, too small by one-half for the pious multitude.

In the foregoing I have scrupulously avoided saying what might give offence to liberal Protestants, who hate swindle just as much as we do. Many of our Protestant brethren in Connemara have liberally subscribed towards the funds for the new church.-Moreover, disunion amongst patriotic Catholics and their brethren of the Protestant faith has been the rnin of old Ireland.

I'll dismiss the soup system for the present with one observation. The feelings between England and Ireland are, goodness knows, hard enough alrendy without being ombittered by the base, heartless, conduct of the missionaries accredited by England to Ireland. 'Tis a notorious fact that those hypocrites have suffered the starving orphan and weeping widow to endure the pangs of slow deathand that from hunger, because they would not consent to frequent their churches and soup dens .-Twas equally notorious that the funds entrusted to people that instructions of the donors prescribed the base conduct of the distributors. The English justly pride themselves on their love for honesty and

PATRICK MACMANES, P.P. of Clifden,

CHRISTIANITY AND MODERN POLITICS. Catholics may well feel an interest in the existing politics of Europe. It is not too much to say that on the result of what appears to be the inevitable events in the history of France, Spain, Italy and Germany for the next twelve months, depends-humanly-the sweeping away of error and disbelief, the conversion or England, the spread of Christianity over the whole world, and, it may be, the certain beginning of that peace and good will among all men for which end Christianity was originally instituted by our Divine Saviour, and which the devil and his agents have for the last eighteen centuries, been allowed to do their best to avert. Never since the Apostles commenced their grand work of converting the Universe, and of imparting to the nations of the globe a knowledge of the Creator and their Saviour, has there been such a mighty interest involved. Never has it been of greater importance that Catholics should keep their eyes carefully fixed upon passing events, and lose no opportunity of understanding them, and lending their individual and collective aids in the accomplishment of the difficult achievement of combatting successfully the myriads of emissaries of evil, who, in various plausible guises. are busily doing the hendish work of their implacable

and merciless master. To properly educate Catholics, it ought to be an easy matter to distinguish the good cause from the had in the impending struggle. It is not for their benefit that we are now about to point out the rocks ahead which all genuine Christians should avoid and the objects which they should not fail to assist by every means that may lie in their power. The few simple facts which we are now about to lay before our readers are intended for the benefit of those whose opportunities for education and constant reading may have been too few and far between to allow them to keep themselves properly posted up in a knowledge of the political and religious events of the past twenty years, and their present position and prospects. Let them take a map of Europe in

their hands and follow us in our observations. In the North they will find a nation "drunk with success," as our beloved Archbishop very justly and aptly described the other night hypocritical Germany, and busy at the sacrilegious and devilish work of insulting the Bishops and the priests of God, and in throwing every possible obstacle in the way of the progress of Christianity. In Italy they will find the excommunicated Robber-King, Victor Emmanuel aiding and abetting Germany in insulting and battling with the Almighty. In the city of Rome— the "Eternal City"—as it will with the help and assistance of God ever prove itself to be-abides the imprisoned head of God's Church, daily insulted, degraded, scoffed at and sneered at by the agents of the Robber-King and by his soldiery, as our Redeemer was more than once. In Austria they will find Catholicity general and zealous, as far as the people are concerned, but by a vacillating and cowardly semi-German monarch and Government, ruled in when the time shall come, to stand up for that holy and still the brightly shining seats of Catholicity -they will find truth and their Church, and the

represented and personified in the cause of monarchy and that true son of the Church, whom we hope soon to hail as Henri Cinq, and that undoubtedly Catholic Don Carlos. Run your finger across the British Channel, and you will see your own country, long benighted England, obliged for three centuries to tolerate one of the greatest and most expensive religious shams that any unfortunate country in modern times has ever been afflicted with, on the verge of awakening from her horrid hallucination, gradually opening her eyes to the great astional swindle Englishmen of many generations ago perpetrated and too securely established in this once happy land of ours, looking with intense interest upon what is passing or about to pass on the Conti-

nent of Europe, and hesitating what she should do. This is a real living picture, dear reader. The dullest comprehension can realize it; the most indifferent, the most stupid, can realize it. The consequences of what is at stake are equally dear, are equally glaring, are equally momentous. Need Catholics-need anybody who presumes to be a Christian,

struggle?-We hope not. It only remains to be said that there seems to be but little doubt that France and Spain will ere long be ruled by the present Compte de Chambord and Don Carlos; that immediately after, the Robber King will require the Governments of these two Catholic Kingdoms to recognise that of United Italy, and tolerate the persecution, the robbery, and the imprisonment of the Head of the Church: that neither of these Christian monarchs will ever consent patriotic Press we would have been long since on- to such a sacrilegious injustice; that Italy will make it an excuse for a war with France; that Germany best to extirminate Christianity in Europe; and then will come about a general struggle between Right and Might, between Truth and Error, between a Divinely created Christianity and modern Materialism, between God and the Devil .- Then will come that time when Catholics all over the world must be up and stirring. Then will come their time of trial. Should they be found wanting-oh, wee to Europe!-oh, wee to the whole civilized world !- Lodnon Universe

## IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE CLERGY AND HOME RULE .- Dean O'Brien, in reply to the assertion made by the Times, that the Catholic clergy of Ireland have been, up to the last few week's, unfavourable to Home Rule, has written to the papers requesting them "under the circumstances, to publish the following short notes:"-To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergymen who signed the Limerick Declaration:

"Gentlemen-Fourteen hundred of our body some three or four years ago signed a 'declaration' in favour of Domestic Legislation. We proved in that "declaration' that 'no settlement of the land question, or the church question, or of all of them together, would be sufficient to give England security and Ireland peace if this country were refused rational self-government.' There were fourteen hundred witnesses to the feelings of the Irish people, and fourteen hundred clergymen proclaiming their own convictions. Have we changed our convictions, feelings, or hopes? The Times newspaper-the most powerful agent of division, dissension and hate between England and Ireland -says we, the Catholic clergy, have changed. I think the time has come for us to prove to the world that we have no:-only in as far as our feelings and determinations are stronger. Many imagined that our quiesence signified indifference, but, many of those who know us, are well aware that we were biding our time,' in fact, awaiting the coming great conference in Dublin. Privately and publicly I have proclaimed that this was the feeling of numbers of our order; and privately and publicly I have been endeavouring to bring this about. Our time has come at last, and I am pretty certain the Times shall have evidence enough of its delusion, though I am quite as certain it will hold on its old way.- I am, gentlemen, yours most faithfully,

"R. B. O'BRIEN, D. D., Dean of Limerick, "Chairman of the Limerick Declaration."

WELCOME Wongs .- Under this heading the Nation says of Archbishop MacHale's pronouncement:he Great Archbishop of the West, "Lion of the Fold," pronounces on the Home Rule question today, and the English commentators, whose wrathful effervesence still overflows on the Cloyne declaration, will hardly find their temper improved by the letter in which the illustrious Prelate gives the sanction of his high approval to the movement .-There was, indeed, little room for doubt as to the light in which Dr. MacHale regarded the system under which the life-blood of Ireland was obbing away, or as to the spirit in which he would witness any legitimate attempt to terminate the disastrous arrangement in which the interests, the happiness, and the dignity of the nation were sacrificed. The Archbishop of Tuam is no recent convert to the political faith of the people. From the dawn of that political career which stretches across the years of a long and a glorious life, his pen has been employed, his voice uplifted, and the influence of his great intellect, of his exalted position of his solid cloquence, and of his stainless character, exerted on behalf of the best interests of his country and his race. He, at least, has never faltered; through changes and trials, in the darkest hour of national affliction as in the summer of the nation's hopes undaunted and unswerving, he has held firmly by the principles to which the heart of the patriot clings. Yet there are a peculiar importance and a peculiar fitness in the appearance at the present crisis of the noble declaration which we publish from his Grace to-day. The heart must be dead to emotion which can contemplate unmoved the thrilling spectacle which it suggests. The Irish masses silently defiling beneath the banner of Independence, while the hands of the venerated prelate, whose hairs have grown white in the service of God and of his country, are raised to heaven to hallow the patriot's work and bless the national undertaking! Clear, explicit, and emphatic are the terms in which the Archbishop responds to Mr. O'Neill Daunt's appeal to his opinion. No one can pretend that the voice from S. Jarlath's is pitched in a doubtful key, or gives forth an uncertain sound. There are prophesics which work their own fulfilment; there are prayers which answer while they ask; and we desire no better guarantee of the success of the Irish cause than the support which it receives, and the good wishes it evokes from the venerated Archbishop of Tuam. Of course we shall find this important pronouncement-after the manner of the Cloyne declaration-made a target for the calumnies and misrepresentations of the English press. When "the priests" are in question no line of observation is too unfair, no falsehood too scandalous for the taste of the journalists of England; and the article in which the Times discusses the action of Dr. Keane and the clergy of Cloyne, shows how bitterly the old rancorous spirit of sectarian bigotry still leavens political literature in England. But if the insults of the English press could weaken the influence of Bishop or priest in Ireland, or turn them from the path of honer and duty, their effects would be long ago read in the abandonment of national principle and in the surrender of our national rights; and there are few things better calculated to cement the union which has been the salvation of Irish society than the shameful attacks so recklessly levelled against the authors of the Cloyne declaration. The patriotic letter by which the Archbishop of Tuam has cheered the hearts and strengthened the hands

of the advocates of Home Rule may not escape the

felt and its importance manifested before long, beyond the power of misrepresentation to conceal, in the infusion of fresh energy, fresh courage, and fresh strength into the ranks of the nationalists of Ircland.

CALLAN CASE .- For the present popular hopes are dashed as regards an immediate settlement of the Callan case. The main facts mentioned by me last week are, however, borne out by subsequent events. Mr. O'Keeffe said two Masses last Sunday and addressed a small congregation of humble persons, commenting on the statement made in the papers, and giving his own version of the interview with the Bishop of Ossory at Kilkenny, and the subsequent proceedings. He also addressed a letter to some of the Dublin papers, which was published on Monday morning. According to Mr. O'Keeffe's own version, it is strictly true that, on Friday the 19th ult., he voluntarily went to Kilkenny, waited on his ness people, with what success it is impossible to Bishop, and sought and obtained an interview, when, as he admits, he was kindly received by his lordship. He states that he asked Dr. Moran upon what terms his submission to ecclesiastical authority would be accepted, and that his lordship informed him he would not give a specific answer to the question until the 24th, the following Wednesday. The promise not to say Mass on the intervening Sunday was then tendered. When the 24th came the Bishop informed him that he should ask absolution from the censures inflicted on him, and withdraw from the parish; when, should he continue to lead a satisfactory life, a pension of one-fourth of the income of the parish would be conferred on him. These terms, proposed by the Bishop, Mr. O'Kceffe says he rejected with scorn. To the audience on Sunday, and in the press, explaining his voluntary submission, Mr. O'Keeffe candidly states that he was driven to do so by the unexpected failure of that support which he had hoped from the country, in consequence of which he was unable to maintain legal opposition to parties with a large command of means; and while making this admission as to the motive for his capitulation, he is equally explicit that his grounds for refusing the Rishop's proposition were pecuniary also-namely, the status and the pension assigned to him. With these few remarks I may for the present leave Mr. O'Keeffe to the judgment of your readers. Matters however have not yet fallen through towards a becoming submission. All prudent Catholics will nevertheless suspend their opinion, and await events. I may add that I am in a position to give emphatic contradiction to the allegations made in Mr. O'-Keeffe's letter to the Daily Express, that it was the Bishop who sent to the press an account of the interview on the 19th inst .- Tablet's Dublin Cor.

TRALEE.—The people of this ancient borough are sadly disappointed at the announcement that there will be no election after all. The O'Donoghue will not vacate his scut, at least so say his friends, and the Home Ralers must bide their time. The large force of police with which the town has been flooded have been marched back to their different stations, and the place has once more resumed its accustomed quiet. The partisans of The O'Donoghue are very irate at his conduct, and they join the townspeople in complaining of the needless annoyance, trouble, and disorganization to which Tralee has been exposed by the shilly-shallying of the

PROPOSED CONFERENCE.—It is now supposed that the national conference suggested by the Bishop and clergy of Cloyne, with a view to found a broad popular association for the promotion of local legislation, will not be convened this month. The cucouragement that was hoped for the project has so Tuam, on being applied to by Mr. Daunt for a declaration of opinion regarding the political situation, has not given that meed of support expected. He declares his unaftered conviction that the Irish peohe prays they may win it by peaceful constitutional agitation. But his Grace says nothing of the means through which it may be won or the form of organization best suited to promote it, whilst he is silent as to the proposed conference. The Archbishop is emphatic, however in his demand for Catholic education. It is further believed that the Bishon and clergy of Cloyne would have preferred their declaration to remain for some time unnoticed, in the sense of founding action on it by the Home Government Association in Dublin. Had such been done, other Dioceses would probably in similar form have followed the example, but the precipitate interference of the Dublin Association scared many, who approbended that the conference would be wrested into the Association under a new name, and hence the Bishops and clergy have, as a body, held back. The requisition, calling the conference, is, however, in course of signature.—Corr. of Tablet.

DEDICATION OF ST. COLMAN'S CHURCH .- The new Catholic Church of St. Colman's in Dromore was dedicated on Saturday last. There was a crowded congregation. The ceremony of dedication was performed by Dr. Leahy, Bishop of the Diocese. The Rev. Dr. M'Gettigan, Bishop of Armagh, presided. Pontifical High Mass was said by the Bishop of Clogher (Dr. Donnelly), and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Burke, O.P. The collection amounted to £985, which sum does not include the cash given for admission tickets.

THE CATHOLIC CLERGY AND HOME RULE.-The voice from the West-the lion-note from Tuam's venerable and venerated Archbishop—has aroused the jackals of the press. For a moment it appeared as if they had been too stupified for realy-" silent arrectisque auribus adstant"—but having recovered from their first consternation they proceeded to make response but in such weak and half-hearted style, as to make it appear that they are conscious of the weakness of their defence. "The United Kingdom," says the semi-official Telegraph, "has survived O'Connell and Repeal; it will probably survive Home Rule, Dr. McHale and Mr. Butt. This is a consoling reflection. and we hasten to add our acquiescence in it. We trust the United Kingdom will survive the realization of a Home Rule Kingdom—united by friendship, not held together by force. The feeble opposition of the Government organ is a good augury for the success of the movement to restore to Ireland her Legislative Independence, and indeed this weakness is perceptible through all the utterances of the English Liberal prints. It is only in the bigoted organs of Torytsm that we find the expression of the dogged spirit of resistance to the just claims of Ireland which may be expected from that perverse, obstinate party. In the phrases, "dismemberment of the Empire," "disloyalty to the Throne and Constitution," " sedition," et parious dictis, we discover the bugbear with which it is intended to fright the English mind from the work of restitution. The Times, on the other hand, endeavours to combat the movement by the old weapons of covert sneer and suggested doubt, essays to point out to

his Grace of Tunm, and to those "converts" to Home Rule who can remember the time when they were not converts that is a farce in which they are at present engaged in performing on a great public stage. Then, with a spice of its ancient cunning, it endeayours to sow the seeds of distrust between the people and the clergy by a wholesale accusation of gross hypocrisy against the latter. "Some of the most conspicuous persons on the stage," it proceeds, "have no personal faith in Home Rule." "The Roman Catholic clorgy," it adds "do not trust or believe the Home Rulers," "the Home Rulers are laughing in their sleaves at the clergy," " each side is convinced that the other side is guilty of a convenient dishonesty." The shallowness of this device is too patent to require indication. The life-long devotion of his expences, and, if necessary, a salary while attendthe great Archbishop of the West to the cause of ing Parliament to be provided by public subscrip-Independence, and opened a door to lang power and the glory which should belong to them, same censorious criticism, but its weight will be National Independence, whether propounded as tions.

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Repeal or Home Rule, is as well known as the fact that the great majority of the Irish clergy have ever been attached to the cause of Fatherland. But the hollowness of the arguments of the great journal is too familiar to our readers, and it would not surprise anyone to read in its columns, in a week or two hence, that the demands of the Home Hulers were moderate and practicable, and that the Government were not prepared to oppose any serious resistance to their passage through Parliament,-Freeman.

THE APPROACHING GENERAL ELECTION—KING'S COUNry .- The members of Parliament for the King's County have already taken the field in anticipation of the early approach of the event. Sir Patrick O'Brien and Serjeam Sherlock have been to the principal towns in the county, and the latter learned gentleman, has canvassed the houses of the busiascertain; but it is certain that whoever is returned to represent the King's County will not have a walk over, several candidates being already spoken of, some of whom will be packed by those having powerful landed influence.- Evening Mail.

Lock thought it strange that an Englishman, much less a gentleman, should plead against freedom. It was, he said, hardly "to be conceived." We are equally at a loss to conceive how it is that Irishmen and gentlemen of the present day can plead for slavery. Every point of objection against Irish Independence has been met by arguments, facts and figures, so full, complete, and convincing that one cannot help wondering how the most crotchetty ingenuity can invent pretexts for adhering to the English interest. The claim fer Irish Independence has been viewed, argued, and completely proved from every point of view—the moral, the religious, the financial; its justice, and even it expediency, have been made clear as the light of day. But of what avail are arguments and proofs? When men choose not to be convinced they will cling to their own notions and prejudices—we cannot call them opinions, much less principles; for we should suppose opinion and principle should be founded in reason, and be capable of support or defence. In a few days will be put a test to the sincerity or falsehood of Irish politicians generally and of Irish patriots in particular. A crisis is fast coming, and the action of the country in this crisis may decide our destiny for ages. If Irishmen can now only be true to themselves, they can reverse the destiny which the most diabolic ingenuity, treachery, cupidity and fraud have made for them .- Wexford reo-

Since our last issue the publication of the Irish agricultural returns for 1873, dated the 24th ult, have added further confirmation to the conclusions established in our article of last week. In husbandry and in tillage, in breadth of land under cultivation. Ireland continues retrograde; the decrease of the area under crops this year, as compared with 1872, being 217,154 statute acres, or about four per cent, of surface in a single year. The decrease under cereals alone is 159,990 acres-an enormous amount, the value of the crop considered-and that under green crops proper, 101,814 acres; while the breadth under flax increased 7,446, and under mendow and clover, 37,210 acres. In Great Britain no such change in extent of surface under cereals took place this year. If we now turn to live stock, although there has been an increase of cattle and sheep, there has been a slight decrease in horses, and a considerable decrease of pigs, leaving a net increase that is however no counterpoise to the enormous decrease in the value of of tillage-produce, especially of cereals. In Great Britan cattle increfar not been realized. His Grace the Archbishop of ased 6, and in Ireland only 2 per cent. this year as compared with 1872. Sheep increased 5.4 per cent. in Great Britain, and only 5 per cent. in Ireland. Pigs decreased less than 10 per cent. in Great Britain, while they decreased 25 per cent. in Ireland ple have the clearest right to local legislation, and These facts do not indicate that Irish agriculture, the main source of the national wealth, is progressing at the same rate as that of Great Britain .-

> An article in the Morning Post directs attention to the difficulty of obtaining soldiers for the army. We confess our surprise would be if we found any man in his senses capable of doing anything whatever willing to become a soldier. The days of overpopulation are gone; the value of labour has enormously increased; the life of the soldier is out of all sympathy with the spirit of the age; and his pay is miscrably small. During the past few years we have had evidences that no man or intelligence or spirit could possibly be happy undergoing the servitude of routine military life. Officers with the resources of education, society, and at least some prizes of ambition, are not happy men; and too often betake themselves to such courses as make bad soldiers and unpleasant gentlemen. The truth is, barrack life is intolerable to human nature; and the philanthropist who supposed that the cultivation of garden plots would meet the hideous preportions of the grievance was more sanguine than sensible. As a rule the ranks of the army have been recruited from young men who have been foolish, very extravagant, very useless, or very wicked. Ignorance often disabled a man from getting a decent living, and he went into the army. But ignorant young men are not so plentiful as they used to be, and tho tendency of the time has happily checked the spirit of desperation which ten or twenty years ago was the ordinary accompaniment of bad conduct. If the Government want more soldiers, they will have to fit out their expeditions better than they titted out that which now lies perdu on African shores; they will have to consult human feeling in some degree; and pay men more than a shilling a-week pocketmoney .- Dublin Freeman.

TOMB STONE INSCRIPTION .- The following is from the Loose Leaves of a Literary Lounger, and is taken from a tomb-stone in the old churchyard of Belturbet, Ireland :- " Here lies John Higley, whose father and mother were drowned on their passage from America. Had they both lived, they would have been buried here."

Suicide in Dublin. - A musician named Robert Reed, employed in the Queen' Theatre, committed suicide on Saturday morning last. He was found suspended by a rope fastened to a nail driven into

the wall at the back of his residence. A shaft has been sunk about eighty feet on the shores of Strangford Lough, County Down, in search for coal, but the treasure has not yet been dis-

A during burglary was committed at the Augustinian Convent in Cork on Thursday morning. The entrance was effected by a window, but a watchman on duty promptly gave the alarm, and the burglars escaped. Several articles removed to the outside of the building, were left by the thieves, when surprised. Among the articles discovered were a military cap and a pair of boots; and shortly afterwards a private of the 43rd Regiment made his appropriate at his harmest articles. pearance at his barrack-gate minus those necessary articles of a soldier's apparel. He was, of course, at once arrested, with two companions from the same corps, against whom suspicion of complicity in the burglary exists.

REPRESENTATION OF COUNTY CORK .- A discussion in reference to the representation of County Cork took place at the meeting of the Duhallow Farmers Clur, Kanturk, on Saturday. Some dissatisfaction was expressed by a few members with some of Mr. M'Carthy Downing's votes, but it was unanimously declared that Mr. Smyth Barry was doomed. Notice was given of a motion in favor of bringing forward at least one tenant-farmer at the general election,