

having power to follow a human being over a running stream."

"Arrah," said an old woman sitting in the corner, "did you throw three handfuls of dust in their faces, spit over your left shoulder, and draw a circle round you three times?"

"You're right enough," said an old man out 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 decent, quiet, harmless jantlemen and ladies, all of them."

"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 on 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 Knoegher, than by squeezing through all the thickets, jungles and brakes through which he passed, and arrived at the door during this colloquy.

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 loaded with snow.

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, scoured three handfuls of salt over all their heads, muttering at the same time some incomprehensible crowan, then down on her seat, slipping the end of the tongues 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 loud unconcerned manner, if they had travelled far to-night, and then eyeing the rest of the family slyly.

(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.

and their priests could have not only withstood but signally defeated such a formidable hostile array, is but another proof of the indestructibility of the faith—and of Ireland too. May God save her!

Even amongst Catholics the false statistics of the soupers, endorsed, as they were, by Protestant dignitaries 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.

Patrick MacManus, P.P. of Clifden, and Dean of Tuam.

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.

To properly educate Catholics, it ought to be an easy matter to distinguish the good cause from the bad 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Comte de Chambord and Don Carlos; that immediately after the Robber-King will require the Governments of these two Catholic Kingdoms to recognize that of United Italy, and tolerate the persecution, the robbery, and the imprisonment of the Head of the Church; and that neither of these Christian monarchs will ever consent to such a sacrilegious injustice.

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 weeks, unfavourable to Home Rule, has written to the papers requesting them "under the circumstances, to publish the following short notes:"

"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.

"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 encouragement that was hoped for the project has so far not been realized.

WELCOME WORDS.—Under this heading the Nation says of Archbishop MacHale's pronouncement:—"The Great Archbishop of the West, 'Lion of the Fold,' pronounces on the Home Rule question, today, and the English commentators, whose wretchedly overdone 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."

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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 Ireland.

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.

THE APPROACHING GENERAL ELECTION.—KING'S COUNTY.—The members of Parliament for the King's County have already taken the field in anticipation of the early approach of the event.

LOCK THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT AN ENGLISHMAN, much less a gentleman, should plead against freedom. It was, he said, hardly "to be conceived."

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.

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.

DECLARATION OF ST. COLMAN'S CHURCH.—The new Catholic Church of St. Colman's in Droimore was dedicated on Saturday last. There was a crowded congregation.

DEATH OF MR. O'CONNELL.—The following is from the Loose Leaves of a Literary Leaguer, and is taken from a tomb-stone in the old churchyard of Ballyturk, Ireland:—"Here lies John Higley, whose father and mother were drowned on their passage from America.

SWINDLES IN DUBLIN.—A musician named Robert Reed, employed in the Queen's 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 discovered.

A daring 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.

REPRESENTATION OF COUNTY CORK.—A discussion in reference to the representation of County Cork took place at the meeting of the Bunnahall Farmers' Club, Kanturk, on Saturday. Some dissatisfaction was expressed by a few members with some of Mr. McCarthy Downing's votes, but it was unanimously declared that Mr. Smyth Barry was doomed.

Repeat 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 Rulers were moderate and practicable, and that the Government were not prepared to oppose any serious resistance to their passage through Parliament.

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