

shadow from her father's evil heart fell on my darling's life; and once more praying for blessing's on her head I say—
A merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

THE END.

LETTER OF JOHN MARTIN.

THE TRUE EQUALITY FOR IRELAND.

Kilbroney, Rosstrevor,
Jan. 20, 1869.

To the Editor of the Dublin Nation:

Dear Sir—The time is near when the English ministry are to undertake the conciliation of her Majesty's Irish subjects by a new policy. What is this new policy that Mr. Gladstone, supported by a parliamentary majority of above one hundred votes, intends to apply to the case of disaffected and unhappy Ireland? And what are the chances of success?—I mean, what are the chances for Ireland of becoming a contented and prosperous kingdom, at peace and in friendship with England?

I have been reading with great interest the speech of Mr. O'Neill Daunt, and the letters of several leading members of the Irish Catholic Hierarchy, in the report of a recent meeting of the National Association. Although this Association has not yet obtained much popular support, it cannot be doubted that Mr. Daunt and the Catholic archbishops and bishops are eminently qualified to judge of the political change required for the pacification and the prosperity of Ireland. And I find that all of them express themselves pretty nearly in accord upon the question and that their united judgment is given by Bishop Keane in these words:—Messrs. Gladstone and Bright have offered to Ireland terms of peace and friendship on the basis of civil and religious equality, and Ireland is prepared to accept those terms.

In my humble opinion Ireland is willing to accept those terms. But the equality must be real and no mockery. The subjects of her Majesty's Irish kingdom must not remain under the control of her Majesty's English subjects. I warn the English ministers—I warn the Irish bishops—the Irish people will never be content with the rule of England. Never! The armies and fleets of England may terrify a disarmed people into sudden and silent submission. The corruption of our natural leaders by England who has usurped the disposition of Irish offices and seized the Irish purse, may long prevent our people from organizing any formidable constitutional resistance. The internal feuds and dissensions planted and cultivated for ages by English policy; the poverty of robbed Ireland contrasted with the wealth of robber England; the feebleness produced in our population by the continual and exhausting drain of its youth and spirit by emigration; may keep the Irish people lying, as at present, at the mercy of their English masters. But the Irish people no matter how miserable, how helpless how crushed will never be content as subjects of the English. Good neighbors to the English we are quite willing to become, whenever the English please to give up their insolent pretensions to rule us or meddle with our affairs. As soon as the English become content to see us on terms of real equality with them so soon will her Majesty's Irish throne be established on the willing allegiance of the Irish people, so soon will there be peace and friendship between her Majesty's English and her Irish subjects.

I am repeating my words over and over. But the whole question of Irish disaffection is there, and I would that Englishmen such as Messrs. Bright and Gladstone whom I believe to be sincerely desirous of relieving their country's reputation from the load of disgrace which her crimes in Ireland have brought upon it, might learn the simple truth when they are undertaking to deal with our case. Real and perfect equality between us and the English will satisfy us. We must separate, no matter what misery of bloodshed and temporary anarchy we may have to pass through in order to obtain separation from England: or we must be really and perfectly equal with the English. Such is the truth of our case. And the case of England is that either she must cease to rob and harass and insult us, and must become content with her own rightful property—must consent to let us alone and to see us in full possession of our own rights and equal with her—or else she must continue to hold us in subjection by suspended *habeas corpus*, by a systematic perversion of the course of justice, by the gibbet and the gall, and the informer and the detective, by constitutional fraud and administrative corruption and legislative hypocrisy, by doing all that the devil can suggest for making and keeping us base, bad, feeble, and wretched, and by taking the consequences to her own national fame and to her national safety.

Now, what is 'civil and religious equality,' as understood by Mr. Gladstone, when proposing it for us Irish? Does he mean that in civil and religious matters we are to be placed on a level with the English? Or, does he mean that the various Irish sects and classes are to be equally under the feet of the English? That henceforth there is to be no favored sect of the Irish, petted and bribed to do the work of England against the rest of the Irish people, but all are to lie under the English chain in a dead level of slavery? If this be Mr. Gladstone's idea, I warn him that his policy is a grand mistake. The removal of the O'Connell Establishment will not increase the adherents of English rule, but will very seriously lessen their number. It will unite Irishmen, and encourage and strengthen them to resist injustice, to overthrow usurpation, to vindicate their country's rights, to place Ireland on a level with the proudest and happiest nation of the world. He will not succeed in pacifying Ireland by abolishing that old iniquity of the Church, galling and hateful as it is. It has long existed here for England's purposes. She placed it and kept it here as a means of rule. She thinks it a failure now, and as a means of rule she proposes to try its abolition. She deems herself strong enough, or we weak enough to rule us without the help of the Church. If such be the new policy of England towards Ireland, I say it will prove a failure. To rule us she requires the diligent use of all the means which she has hitherto employed—of the Church's iniquity and scandal, of jury-packing, of artificial famine, of forced emigration, of the destruction and prevention of industry and commerce, of a land system which makes the peasant animals of the class without a close season and which has no moderator but the assassin, of an army of occupation, of a public inquisition, of suspended *habeas corpus*, of jails empty, indeed, of real Irish criminals, but crammed with Irish political prisoners—in short, of every means that may prevent the growth of virtue and strength among the Irish population and may debase the Irish intellect, corrupt the Irish heart, and render the Irish people poor and feeble and unhappy.

But all this appears so clearly to my own judgment, that I cannot suppose it hidden from the minds of so eminent statesmen as Messrs. Gladstone and Bright. Do they, then, contemplate the admission of the people of Ireland to a real enjoyment of constitutional rights, on an equality with the people of England? Are they content to let the wishes and ideas of the Irish people prevail in the making and administering of the laws of Ireland? To a certain extent, and under certain conditions, I think they are. To such extent as may appear compatible with English interests, and under condition that Ireland remain in political partnership with—that is, in real subjection to—England. Those statesmen desire to maintain the Union of 1800, but they conceive that we may submit to it without coercion, if the English Parliament will abolish or materially correct some of the chief grievances which English rule imposes upon us.

To abolish the Church Establishment and the *Regium Donum*, and to place all the religious sects

in freedom and equality, will be a very valuable boon—if England will grant it. I do not think she will grant it at present, nor probably grant it till too late for her own benefit. But I believe that Messrs. Gladstone and Bright sincerely intend to attempt the realization of their policy of religious equality. And I would be rejoiced at their success in such an attempt. I shall be rejoiced, too, if they succeed in carrying some measure to give the tenants security in their farms; though neither do I expect them to succeed in that. I shall praise them if they have the courage to restore the *habeas corpus*, and to release immediately and unconditionally the Irish political prisoners. It might be too much to expect them to prove the sincerity of their professions about ridding Ireland by Irish ideas, by withdrawing the army of occupation and ceasing to employ the police as a political inquisition. It might be too much to expect them to let Ireland have the spending of her own revenue for her own purpose. I shall praise them for any generous or merciful measure towards Ireland.

But if they desire peace and friendship between their country and Ireland, the terms must be civil and religious equality of Ireland to England. The Irish people will gladly accept those terms. Let us be free and paramount over the civil and religious affairs of our country, as the English are free and paramount over the civil and religious affairs of their country. Let us make our own laws and administer them by our own authority, as the English do. Let the Queen call her Irish Parliament in Ireland, and let the Irish Estates deliberate and decide, under the light and the influence of Irish opinion, upon the measure that may be proper to give the Irish people relief, prosperity, honor, and content. This is the simple and sure way of settling the relations of the two countries in peace and friendship. There is no way of making peace and friendship between us and the English, but only Repeal.

I am, dear sir, sincerely yours,
JOHN MARTIN.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty, Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the Humble Petition of the Irish People praying for the Release of the Political Prisoners.

Resolved—That the following petition to her Majesty be signed by the Lord Mayor, on behalf of this meeting:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

The humble Address of the Citizens of Dublin and others assembled, in Public Meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor.

We beg here to approach your Majesty's Throne respectfully, to represent to your Majesty the wishes of the Irish People upon a subject of deep interest to them.

A large number of Prisoners have been for some time enduring a very severe punishment under a sentence of Penal Servitude for Political Offences connected with Ireland. Some of them have endured this punishment for more than three years; many of them are gentlemen of superior intellectual attainments and culture.

A very general impression prevails among all classes in Ireland, including those most ardently devoted to the support of your Majesty's Government, in favour of remitting all further punishment upon men who have already suffered enough to prove the power of your Majesty's Government, and to vindicate the authority of the law.

A continuance of their imprisonment is looked upon as inconsistent with the liberal and humane policy which guides the conduct of free Governments in their treatment of Political Offenders.

A great National Petition has been already signed by more than persons, praying for the release of these prisoners, and many Petitions from Municipal and other bodies are conveying to your Majesty the sentiments of the Irish Nation to the same effect.

We pray of your Majesty to recognize in the Petitions the voice of the inhabitants of Ireland. We believe that the exercise of your Majesty's gracious prerogative of Pardon would be hailed with satisfaction by all classes in this country, and would be gratefully remembered by a people whose kindness has never failed to impress.

DUBLIN, Jan. 20.—The trial of the Drogheda election petition has terminated, as the public expected it would in the unseating of Mr. Whitworth. Mr. Justice Keogh delivered yesterday an able and elaborate judgment on the importance of which will be measured, not merely by its effect upon the return, but, what is of infinitely greater value, by the constitutional principles he has laid down and the lesson of liberty he has enforced. The trial was remarkable in many respects, but especially in the light it casts upon the influences employed at elections in Ireland, and the evidence it affords of the efficiency of the new law when administered by a firm, sagacious, and impartial judge. It has been conducted with unimpeachable propriety, and with unexampled rapidity. Had an inquiry involving the examination of so many witnesses—38 having been called for by the petitioner alone, and 17 or 18 for the respondent—been intrusted to a committee of the House of Commons the decision would not have been pronounced for several days, and the public, after all, would not have had the same confidence in its soundness and justice. It is not every judge, however, who, with the facilities given by the present system, would have completed so weighty an investigation in three days, and secured one of the most striking advantages of the new law, in the prompt and exemplary vindication of public rights, upon the spot where freedom of election was infringed. A salutary check has, it may be hoped, been given to the practice of intimidation, not only in the borough of Drogheda, but in other places where formerly it might have been indulged with impunity.

DROGHEDA ELECTION.—At a meeting of electors of Drogheda, Mr. Thomas Whitworth, son of the member unseated, has been adopted as a candidate. A resolution of sympathy with Mr. Benjamin Whitworth was passed, to which the assurance was added, that he would represent the constituency at a future time. Of the judgment it was declared, "That the decision made by Mr. Justice Keogh has taken the great majority of the people of Drogheda by surprise, but on this occasion this meeting considers that they will best consult the dignity of all concerned by abstaining from commenting on that most unexpected judgment."

LONDON, Feb. 6th.—Benjamin Lee Guinness, M. P. for Dublin, has been unseated.

The offer of £300 reward by the Government for information likely to lead to the discovery of the murderer of the late Mr. Baker has not as yet elicited any response.

The agitation on the land question has not seriously impaired the value of property in the north of Ireland. At the last sale in the Landed Estates Court a property situate in the county of Antrim brought 20 years purchase.

ENTRY OF THE LORD-LIEUTENANT INTO DUBLIN.—His Excellency the Earl Spencer, K.G., made his public entry into Dublin on Monday, to inaugurate a new regime and to give effect to the new Ministerial policy in Ireland. There were no enthusiastic demonstrations such as have been witnessed in former times when a popular idol comes before the multitude to receive their hearty homage, but the conduct of the people was remarkably decorous. Not the slightest expression of political ill feeling was heard, and their exclamations were received not, indeed, with rapturous acclamations, but with profound respect. The music of the bands mingled pleasantly with the

cheers which were given as their Excellency, at twenty minutes to one o'clock, entered the Upper Castle-yard, followed by the civic procession.

THE LAW CHURCH SUBSIDIZED.

To the Editor of the Dublin Freeman:

Dublin, Jan. 16, 1869.

Sir—On the entrance of the various Lords Lieutenant into Dublin the joy bells of St. Patrick rang on all former occasions, but they were allowed to remain silent on this day when Earl Spencer made his public entry into Ireland. This appears to me very significant. The Church authorities by the silence of the bells of the cathedral admit that the Protestant Episcopal Church is no longer to be even the so-called 'national' church, and the bells are not to be rung on Viceregal displays, as they are to be no longer 'national' property. The significance of this cannot be misunderstood. There is to be a new method of dealing with Ireland, and as the 'ascendancy' system is to be abolished, of course 'ascendancy' bells ought not to be rung on the initiation of this new system. But is not the silence of the 'joy bells' an acknowledgment of the 'surrender' on the part of the Church to the new state of things about being inaugurated?

Yours truly,
J. A. MOWATT

P.S.—Might they not have arranged to have rung a muffled peal, as appropriate to the Church's position?

J.A.M.

THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION.—The *Daily News* in exposing the devices which the supporters of the Irish Church Establishment are having recourse to, with a view to defeat the intentions of the Legislature, maintains that public policy demands that the religious question in Ireland shall be settled finally and completely. There must be no seeds of dissatisfaction left behind by which the work may be to some extent undone. The Irish Establishment stands condemned, not only because it violates those political principles on which alone the government of a free country can be consistently carried on, but also because it breeds discontent on the one side, and the arrogance of ascendancy on the other. Whatever social prestige may continue to attach to membership of the Irish Church cannot, of course, be touched by legislation, but the utmost care must be taken not to add to this the smallest iota of political prestige. There must be no pretext given for the notion that in Ireland Protestantism is still the religion of the rulers, and Catholicism the religion of the ruled.

At the Naas petty session, a woman named Catherine McDonogh was brought up in custody, charged with using threats towards the Rev. S. G. Cotton, Rector of Caragh, and patron of the Caragh Orphanage (a Sonnet Institution) on the 15th December last. On the Testament having been produced for the swearing of the first witness, Mr. Cotton objected, as it bore a paper cross on each side of the cover; and asked to be allowed to have her sworn on one produced from his pocket (great laughter and sensation). Mr. Lewis, Clerk of the Court, said all the Testaments used at the assizes bore the cross at each side. The Chairman said he was an old magistrate, and never heard such an objection raised before. Mr. Cotton then said he would not object if his witness were sworn on the open leaves and not on the cover! The case was subsequently dismissed.

On the opening of the Limerick Quarter Sessions, on the 11th ult., the Chairman, John Leahy, Esq., Q.C., in addressing the grand jury, said that 'out of nine cases for trial for grievous assaults, no less than seven were of a heinous type, accompanied by stabbing with the knife an offence of a most treacherous nature, and which he regretted to state seemed to be on the increase very much. This was of recent origin, and to his mind attributable to the increasing intercourse of the people with Americans, so many of whom now come over to this country.'

The litigation in the Probate Court, arising out of the will of the late Thomas Dumphy, of Kilkenny, has been renewed by Mr. Butt, Q.C., having obtained a conditional order to set aside the late verdict taken before Judge Keatinge; and which annulled the entire will, because the executor, Rev. Mr. Kelly had exercised undue influence on the mind of the testator. The new trial will be brought alone in the interests of certain illegitimate children to whom, by the will, bequests have been made, and whose interests should not be nullified by the alleged undue influence brought to bear for the bequest of £50 per year, for 100 years to the Catholic Bishop of Ossory, to be applied to cases of destitution. The fact is, the good Priest had refused absolute restitution were made for illegal charges confessed to have been made for loans by testator, who was a species money-lender or pawn broker. The priest being executor, as well as confessor and adviser, made the restitution bequest null and void, as the heir contested the entire will.

The *Tyrone Herald* of a late date says:—The Sub-Sheriff was near being put to the expense of purchasing a pair of white gloves for presentation to the Chairman. This division, so far as relates to the Quarter Sessions calendar, has been wholly without crime during the winter quarter, and a quarter furthermore in which there had been the excitement and stimulus of a general election. Erris alone is accountable for the assembling of juries, of gaol functionaries, and the rest. But Erris could scarcely offend less than she has on this occasion.

A working-man (name not given) recently committed suicide on the O'Connell road, Belfast. It is said that he separated from his wife after the birth of his child, and that for nineteen years they heard nothing of him; then, some eight or nine years ago, he reappeared and gave the wife £20, after which he again vanished and was unheard of by the wife till his death was announced. Previous to committing suicide he deposited £180 in the hands of a Priest for the benefit of his wife and daughter. It is said also that throughout his life he was of a most miserly and penurious disposition.

The *Kings County Chronicle*, of a late date says:—"For many years we have not seen such an alarming flood as at present overflows the banks of the Shannon. At and about Lough Derg the whole country is an expanse of water, and at Portumna the water has left the approaches to the bridge, on both sides, depending on the retaining walls for the safety of the roads. The railway station there appears as if projected out into the middle of the water occupying, as it does, the raised embankment on the low land near the bridge."

A man of about sixty years, named James Campbell, died on the 12th ult., from the effects of a severe burning he received on Christmas night, when his clothes accidentally took fire while in a state of intoxication, no assistance being at the time near him.

FLAX IN ULSTER.—The flax report of the Ulster Society shows a falling off in the cultivation of the crop in Ireland in 1868 of 46,811 acres. During the same period the demand for a supply of the fibre has been increasing. The diminution in cultivation was caused in a great measure by the scarcity of seed.

A publican named Samuel Doyle, of Greystones, was arrested on the 13th ult., for obstructing a sheriff's bailiff in the discharge of his duty, by presenting a gun at him, and subsequently firing it over his shoulder. Sution is the bailiff's name. Doyle will be tried at the next assizes.

The Mayor of Cork continues to profound novel views of the duties of the police and the proper mode of administering justice. In a case brought before

him on Monday he expressed a wish that the police would be less active. The prisoner when arrested told the constable he would set the Mayor to 'talk into him.' In another he blamed them for prosecuting where an assault had been committed upon a soldier, who stated that he did not himself wish to prosecute, but that if he could have caught the prisoner he would give them a good 'hammering'—a course which his Worship commended. In another case a man was charged with using seditious language. He declared that he was a Fenian, and did not care who heard him say so, and that he would die for his country. The Mayor pronounced it good national language, 'saw nothing seditious in it,' and observed that if a man said he was a Fenian when under the influence of drink there was no harm in it. His brother magistrates expressed their dissent from this doctrine and imposed a fine. The *Express* comments strongly on the injurious tendency of such magisterial conduct in a city like Cork, and asks, will the Government do nothing to restrain him? The *Cork Reporter*, an independent Liberal journal, has an article earnestly deprecating the proceedings of the unhappy gentleman who presides over the destinies of Cork.—Times Corr.

MELANCHOLY SCENE IN COBK.—On Wednesday morning Mr. William Tate, jeweller, of Patrick street, was found dead in his bedroom, having committed suicide. The circumstances of this lamentable affair are of an unusually sad character. Mr. Tate had been suffering for over two years previously with an affection of both legs; during that time he was more or less an invalid, which caused him at periods dreadful agony. For some days before he had labored under a recurrence of the disease, which had, it appears, reached a pitch of intolerable suffering on that day. Beyond intense physical anguish, nothing peculiar was noticed in his condition by the members of his family who saw him for the last time alive. Next morning one of his sons, entered his bedroom, was horrified to find the body of his father dead and cold, life had been apparently extinct for some time. Deceased had hung or rather strangled himself with the bell rope, the body half lying on the floor. It is supposed he had risen during the night, and rendered insane with pain, had put an end to his life. Mr. Tate was a man in the prime of life.—Cork Examiner.

A suicide of a most lamentable nature occurred on Wednesday evening in Steven's Lane, Dublin. The unfortunate victim was Mr. James Duffy, who had been for many years stationmaster at the King's bridge terminus, and who was well known and respected for the courtesy and efficiency with which he discharged the business of his responsible situation. It appears that for some time past he had been in failing health, and was prevented from discharging his duties. He was lately confined to his house, and it is supposed that the fact of having to resign his situation, coupled with a domestic affliction, preyed upon his mind, and he sunk into a gloomy and depressing state of mind. At between five and six o'clock on Wednesday evening, it would appear, that, availing himself of the opportunity of being left alone in the kitchen of his residence, the unfortunate man placed a pistol to his head, and blew off the entire portion of his skull. On hearing the report a number of persons in the house rushed in and found the body lying on the floor, presenting a ghastly and horrifying spectacle. The deceased leaves a wife and four children.—Sunder's News Letter.

WRECK OF THE PRINCE ALFRED.—The steamer Prince Alfred, on her passage from Fleetwood to Belfast on Friday night, struck in a fog on rocks, close to the Isle of Man, and sank. One boat left the wreck with passengers on board, who succeeded in getting on board the Liverpool steamer for Belfast. Another left for Ramsey, but whether it reached its destination is not known. As far as is known, none of the passengers have been drowned.—Belfast Paper.

We are happy to be able to record a steady decrease in the criminal statistics of our country. At the Quarter Sessions for this division for Fermanagh, held last week, there were only two cases for trial, and one trial only took place; while at Newtownbutler, a few days previous, the duty of presenting the Barrister with a pair of white gloves (not the first time he had to perform it) devolved on the substitute, Mr. H. Morphy, Esq.—[Mail, January 21.]

It is understood that J. F. Maguire, Esq., M. P., will visit Newtownlimavady Magherafelt, and other towns in the county Derry next week, with the object of receiving statistics from the tenantry of the London Companies, for use in the House of Commons, when he brings on his motion. We have heard it is in contemplation to entertain Mr. Maguire at a public dinner at Newtownlimavady, or perhaps in the city of Derry.—[Derry Journal, January 16.]

DUBLIN, Feb. 12.—The Mayor of Dublin will take advantage of the first public levee to present Queen Victoria the monster petition for the pardon of the Fenian prisoners, which has been so extensively signed by the corporate authorities of cities and towns throughout Ireland.

According to the returns, obtained by the enumerators, the number of emigrants who left the ports of Ireland during the quarter ending 30th September last, amounted to 14,259, 7,144 males and 6,515 females—being 4,216 less than the number who emigrated during the corresponding quarter of 1867.

On January 16 the Waterford police arrested, on suspicion, a well dressed young man, answering the description in the *Hue and Cry*, of a young doctor from Belfast, who is wanted for trial on a charge of manslaughter, for causing, by his neglect, the death of a woman whom he attended in her confinement. The prisoner gave his name Nathaniel Brahms.

In Mr. Trench's recently published work the proper designation of which would probably be 'The Unrealities of Irish Life,' he refers with peculiar complacency to the deportation of four thousand six hundred human beings from Lord Lansdowne's property in Kerry to the United States during the famine years. This gigantic clearance operation appears to have been done by contract. The people were despatched—in every sense of the word—at £3 10s. per head. Mr. Trench contemplates the result with Pecksniffian satisfaction. No accident, he says, ever occurred in a single ship which carried out the Kenmare emigrants. Almost all, down even to the widows and children, found employment soon after landing, and escaped the pestilence of the workhouse; and to this hour I can never experience any other feelings than those of pleasure and gratification on at having been the means of sending so many miserable beings to a land far richer and more prosperous than Ireland. Upon the 'quays of America,' Mr. Trench takes leave of the fortunate emigrants, leaving the reader to picture for himself the pleasing vision of their prosperous existence in the fertile plains or thriving cities of the United States. The *Dublin Review*, in its trenchant criticism of the book, takes up the story at the point where Mr. Trench leaves it, and tells us what became of the happy community expected at £3 10s. per head under the benevolent auspices of Lord Lansdowne's agent. 'In one of the principal hospitals of the city of New York,' says the reviewer, 'there is a ward which is called the Lansdowne ward, and the reason why it bears this name is that for months and months together it was crowded by the emigrants from the Lansdowne estate, who left it commonly in their coffins.' And the writer, after stating this appalling fact, suppressed for obvious reasons by Mr. Trench, naturally observes that 'America must be a generous country to tolerate such a thing as this—that one Irish absentee landlord, wanting to reduce his rates, should summarily disembogue 4,500 half-starved, penniless, and diseased carcasses on one of its ports.'

LORD GRANBY ON AMNESTY.
To the Editor of the Daily Express.

Sir,—Allow me a few words as to the proposal to release the Fenian convicts.

I hold that a clear distinction should be made between resident Irishmen and filibustering adventurers. The former have a right to a voice in the government of the country; they have a right to be Nationalists, though, for the preservation of order, they must be punished if they attempt 'unsuccessfully' to carry out their views. But foreigners, whether Americans or Irishmen settled in America, are merely freebooters and land pirates. They are enemies of all order, and should be treated accordingly.

Your obedient servant,
GRANBY.

January 22, 1869.

The *Irish Times* in reviewing the 'Vicissitudes of Families,' by Sir Bernard Burke, says:—The histories of great families are bound up with the history of the country, and the fall of a dynasty often works out the ruin of the nobility. These volumes contain many a sad record of Irish history, and many a mournful narrative of individual and family misfortune. Take first, for instance, the story of the O'Neills, which we select because a stray notice in this journal led to the discovery of the lineal descendant of that Royal House in the person of a bankrupt coffinmaker, in Cook-street—a position from which he was relieved by the generous aid of those who revered the old line, even in its misfortune:—

THE DESCENDANT OF THE O'NEILLS

Retiring into the village of Slane, Sir Francis O'Neill, 6th Baronet, the descendant of a kingly race, and the hinganon of the lords Mornington and Dunsany, rented a cabin of four apartments, and kept in it a small huckster's-shop and dairy, the produce of two cows, whilst his horse and cart, last remnant of his stock, attended by his second son, John O'Neill, carted flour for hire from the mills of Slane to Dublin. In that humble cabin the aged and poverty-stricken baronet was visited in the month of May, 1798, by John, the first Viscount O'Neill and his two sons, Charles and John, the late earl and the late viscount, on their way to Shance's Castle—for John, the first Lord O'Neill, princely in mind as he was exiled in station, never turned his face from a poor relation. On that occasion Sir Francis O'Neill took a melancholy pleasure in showing his lordship the last remnant of his family plate, a silver cream-ewer and table-spoon, engraved with his crest, the hand and dagger, also the patent of baronetcy, with its large, old-fashioned wax-seal, and his parchment pedigree, tracing his descent from the Kings of Ireland. And in a little outhouse or shed, open at three sides, in that humble yard, he also pointed out the pane of a broken carriage emblazoned with his arms:—

THE RED HAND OF O'NEILL.

Which was almost effaced and illegible from exposure to wind and rain. Fit emblem it was of the broken fortunes of his house! The noble viscount did not live to fulfil the promise he then made to better the condition of this reduced gentleman of his house, for in a short month afterwards he was in his grave, barbarously and treacherously murdered at Antrim by the rebels of Killead. Sir Francis O'Neill, himself shocked by the event, and by the feeling that the last reed on which he depended was broken soon followed, and in the year 1799 was placed beside his father, Sir Henry, inside the ruins of the old church of Mount Newton. In a year and a half after his interment, his wife, Lady O'Neill, was laid by his side. Sergeant Major Bryan O'Neill, whom I well remember was a tall and distinguished looking man, in whom the appearance and manners of a gentleman, despite his age and poverty, and the ordeal through which he had passed bore evidence to the gentle blood of O'Neill. His eldest son, Francis O'Neill, a Coffin-maker in that same Cork-street, did his best to stem the tide of misfortune, but all his efforts in vain. His wife, a most respectable woman, and his large family of fine children, in whose handsome features the old race might still be traced, sank to absolute misery and want, from which they were at last rescued by the benevolent interference of my excellent friend, the Right Hon. Alexander MacDonnell, Commissioner of National Education in Ireland, himself the representative of an ancient Gaelic house, who provided the poor man with a comfortable appointment that of care-taker of the Cork Model School—and in that situation O'Neill has since remained, doing his duty meritoriously, and seeing his children improving and being educated around him.

A SPECIMEN OF RED TAPE—A BRITISH OFFICER ON THE CIRCUMSCRIPTION OFFICE.—An English paper says a soldier has replied to the question, 'Can any single officer, non-commissioned officer, or man in the British service, tell us how, if private Brown runs out of cartridges in action, he can get any more?' He says:—'Nothing is so simple, and I can not only explain to you the process, but also give you a case in point. I happened to form one of the storming party at the Quarries [an advanced work of the Russians, in front of the Redan] on June 7, 1855. On this occasion, there was a slight mistake in the orders given to our supports, who instead of supporting us as soon as we took the work, at 5.30 in the evening only arrived to relieve us at 9.30 the next morning. Owing to this little error, private Brown of my company, as well as most of his comrades, ran out of ammunition. I thereupon sent a sergeant and two men to the rear, with orders to bring a supply as fast as possible. They returned with a polite message from the officer in charge of the magazine, to the effect that I should have what I required if I would send the proper requisition in writing. In the meanwhile, we had been driven out of the Quarries and were holding on by the reverse of the work, and just when my messengers returned we had recaptured the work at the point of the baronet; but I have no reason to suppose that the officer would have fulfilled his promise had I sent him the proper document, which you will observe I was only prevented from doing because I happened to be otherwise occupied. You will see from this sir, that nothing is simpler than the process of supplying ammunition to British troops when in action. The only point I am not quite clear about is the proper breadth of margin of the paper on which the necessary requisition should be written, but I have reason to believe that "half margin foolscap" is the proper form of the document, and I will state my reason for thinking so. After the fall of Sebastopol, I was one day on guard in the Redan, and shortly after I was relieved, I discovered that one of the unexploded Russian magazines was on fire. I placed my guard and sentries in safety, warned the officer who relieved me, and as soon as I returned to camp, wrote a hurried report of the circumstance, which was returned to me because it was written on quarter-margin foolscap instead of half-margin. I am therefore of the opinion that the proper form of a requisition for ammunition for British troops in action is 'half-margin foolscap.' I have omitted to state that on the occasion referred to private Brown was unfortunately killed while engaged for the third or fourth time, I forget which, in retaking the work at the point of the bayonet. As he was dying he requested me [verbally, not in writing] to send his prayer book to his mother at home, which I did.'

In some of the R'nalistic churches in London the services have been modified in accordance with the late judicial decision, but in a few changes have been made. The Rev. Dr. Lee, on Sunday, at All Saints, Lambeth, read a formal protest from the pulpit against the recent decision.