Our schools can thus defy the opposition of those seek to uproot, those educational seminaries, which are in operation throughout the land, (Applause.) For instance, we heard of one of our teachers, a slater, who had his school on the roof of the house were he was employed, husy engaged in teaching a number of pupils, and preparing them for the periodical examination which was to take place in a short period." (Applause.) (19.) The extract is abridged. Educational seminaries in operation on the tops of houses !! What a subject for Punch. The schoolmaster and plasterer of the Irish Society seated on the ridge pole, with a trowel in one hand and ferule in the other, indoctrinating a number of pupils in the mysteries of the Apocalypse, and the art of plastering, as they climb the ladders and cross the roofs of houses. Could any body of sane men listen to and applaud such transparent folly and fraud without a strong suspicion that the whole proceedings of the society, of which Mr. Hackett is a deputy. were based upon falsehood, fanaticism, and deceit? Sir, your reports of the number of converts deserve special notice. That of 1854 states "that tens of thousands in Ireland have openly left the Church of Rome, and tens of thousands of frish emigrants have man and Dr. Cullen—of which, undoubtedly, they done the same in America." Where did you find the news?. In your last report, throwing aside your tens of thousands, you give in round numbers the converts of your Irish Society, not including what has been done by others, "at about 700,000, who otherwise must have remained in ignorance and supersti-tion." In everything you exhibit yourself more reckless in assertion, more hypocritical and canting, than your compeers. a dozen other societies-at least a dozen-claim to be equally as successful in the work of conversion as your's. Where, then, are the millions who have been emancipated from Popish errors. who have openly left the Church of Rome? Four out of every five Catholics in Ireland, according to these statements, have renounced their religion .-Where are they all? Where are the Irishmen who have deserted the faith their fathers held to God? Where are the three-quarters of a million which your own society has illuminated, and the millions which others have brought out of darkness? Such statements, if made bona fide, would justify a verdict of lunacy, in the proper court, against those who make them; and yet these monster falsehoods, which can deceive no body, were loudly cheered and applauded by a few laymen and a goodly group of parsons, in the Carlow Assembly Rooms. Your unceasing labors, not for the few who recognise your ministry, but for the many who indignantly repudiate it, and the intense love which you profess to bear your Catholic countrymen, demand, perhaps, a corresponding return at our hands. But what can we do? We can only offer a word of advice, which, perhaps, will be accepted in a friendly spirit. We shall give it freely and with candour. In matters of religion, rev. sir, I recommend you, above all things, to avoid cant, hypocrisy, and fanaticism. They are the very bane of true piety; they fill the rightly con-stituted mind with utter loathing. All your speeches and statements, which, as addressed to Catholics, you have forced under our notice, are deeply tainted with these vices. To give instances would be simply to re-write all you have written. There is scarcely a line of your report which does not slander Catholics and misrepresent their principles. You insiduate that they are disloyal to God and man-opposed to civil and religious liberty-slaves of spiritual tyranny, &c., and you invariably wind up these atrocious insults with a fanatical affectation of ardent love for those you thus injure. Oh! sir, if you could appreciate with what feelings of disgust sober-minded men read such things you would never again play the spiritual charlatan within their hearing. Your zeal for making converts is often ill-directed. It labors to subvert the unchanging faith of those of the ancient communion; with the infidel establishment it is forbearing and si-The denunciatory eloquence of the platform in which you excel is of no avail in the cause, a true change of heart is always the fruit of prayer and of God's grace. Your boasting in the Town-hall that "God is with you"—" that God prospered the work" -" that God is for you"-" that you are the fellowworkman with God"-that your society is owned by God-is honored by God! is blessed by God!-all this vain, unmeaning, and pharasaical puffing destroys your character with the Catholic public for prudence, sincerity, and truth; you can never make a convert by such means, whilst it lowers your character in the estimation of all moderate men. Again, I must observe that conversion ought to be-

gin at home. You have none of the characteristics of an apostle about you—neither the learning, nor the piety, the prayer, the voluntary poverty, the fasting and mortification, the total disengagement of heart from the things of this life, nor any of the virbulance of the limit and the limit and the learning of the limit and learning are class of Mount Argus, waving an longer over the statued effigies of Heathen Mythology, shaded the chaste figures of the Immaculate Mary, or bent above some marble tablet, graven with words of prayer. tues which mark out apostolic men. You evidently mistake cant and pretence for religion and piety; the twaddle of the conventicle for the eloquence of the Christian pulpit; boasting for humility; and ascendancy in church and state for all Christian perfection. You are not in a position to gain the confidence of Catholics. You belong to an establishment which no honest man will dare to defend-an institution supported and endowed in lofty defence of justice, of our national poverty, of economy, of public utility, and religion. The verdict of civilised society is against it; the enlightened opinion of the nineteenth century has condemned it: Lord Macaulay, in the House of Commons, and the Chief Justice of England, in the House of Peers, have pronounced it the most absurd and indefensible institution in existence. The Protestant elergymen most distinguished for high intellectual power, for deep study, and research, have marked it with their reprobation, not, indeed, by denunciation from the mixed assemblies of men, but by doing quietly what conscience suggested and required -namely, by renouncing its riches, its honors, and its dignities. They have come out of it in hundreds to free themselves before (lod and man from all participation in its injustice and iniquity. With such testimony before us, Catholics cannot help thinking that your ranting about Romanism means nothing more than a vain and awkward attempt to direct public attention from the enormity of the institution under which you and others derive some hundreds of thousands a year, and for which, through evil report and good report, you will, of course, contend to the last. As a beneficial clergymen you are not wise in associating with those societies which owe their origin to bigory, funaticism, and hatred of truth. If itincrant readers be required to expound the word, or instruct your people, it is evidently because your church has failed to do its duty. No one has ever ventured to assert that your ordinary staff of parsons is not sufficiently large and abundantly endowed for all your purposes; neither can it be alleged that you are overworked; quite the contrary-your dignituries and rectors are in a great measure sinccurists. Your church is not only the richest, but also the idlest in the world; and, doubtless, it is so idle, mainly because it is so rich. Now, if a very large amount of Biblical work remains undone, as the secretaries of the Bible societies aver, it is manifestly a fraud and a deceit to ask the people of England to pay for doing it, as long as ample funds for the purpose are in existence. How can the Irish Churchman ask for money to pay Bible readers who do his work, while his church possesses in see, glebe, collegiate, and cathedral lands upwards of a million statute acres, besides an annual income from cent charge of more than £400,000? Instead, therefore, of appeals to England for more money, let your society, as honest men, ask the parliament for a just appropriation of the funds in existence to the wants of all the people. The establishment has, it is admitted on all hands, made no adequate return to the nation for the wealth it consumes. "There is nothing in its history (says the Times; June 1855), to appeal to; no great work to point to. Nobody could say that it diminished Romanism, or has done any remarkable service of any kind. Everbody felt, in

tion, and has been a feeble, an ineffective, and corrupt institution in practice." - How horribly ridiculous do men appear coming out of such an establishment, participators in so great an abuse, claiming commission from heaven to convert the world; and boasting that their hybrid society has been blessed by God with signs and wonders, and has brought myriads of Papists to the knowledge of the truth. Such evangelisers have long since been condemned. "We to you hypocrites, because you make clean the outside of the vessel, but within you are full of extortion and uncleanness." If, after all, you must preach the word-if your call to convert the Papist be such as that you cannot resist, in that case ! would counsel you to do the work by prayer, in private, for your public exhibitions, affording painful evidence of a weak intellect, bad taste, distorted views in religion, and irremediable confusion of ideas, most inevitably defeat the object you have in view. With the honorary secretary of the Carlow Auxiliary Irish Society I have now done. The topics introduced into the reports and speeches of your society, to stir up men to hate the ancient religion-vour stricman and Dr. Cullen-of which, undoubtedly, they have no knowledge—your libels on priests, monks, and nuns, are not subjects for discussion—they are only ingredients used by the witch of bigotry to fill the cauldron with which she seeks to intoxicate the weak, fanatical, and over-credulous in England .-These imputations, long successfully practised, are at last coming to be rightly understood. They scarcely deserve a reply, and if we do occasionally notice t hem, it is principally because

"A soul disdaining infamy Can ne'er endure, without a brave return, The lies of envy and the taunts of scorn."

JAMES MAHER, P.P., Carlow.

[1]. Irish Society Record, 1856, p. 5, 6. [2]. Rep. Irish Ch. Mission, 1856, p. 83.

Irish Society Report, Ladies, 1856, p. 29.

Ch. Mission Report, p. 53. Hibernian Society, 12th Bible Rep., p. 25.

Monthly Extracts, No. 17.

14 Report, p. 71. Irish Society Monthly Extracts, No. 82, p. 567

Monthly Extracts, No. 82, p. 565.

[10]. Monthly Extracts, p. 566.

Ditto, p. 567. Ditto, p. 566. Rep. 1856, Irish Ch. Missions, p. 51.

Ditto, ditto, p. 70.

Ditto, ditto, p. 54, 55. Ditto, p. 54.

[17]. Ditto, p. 49.

[18]. Ditto, p. 48, passim. [19]. Report for 1856, Irish Ch. Mission, p. 83.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE VERY REV. MAURICE FITZGIBBON, V.F., P.P., KILFINANE.—We have to record with the deepest regret the death of the Very Rev. Maurice, Fitzgibbon, V.F., P.P., on Wednesday, the 1st inst. at his residence, Kilfinane, after a protracted illness which his many sincere friends had hoped would not have resulted in the melancholy event which it is our duty to announce, but which he endured with the Christian fortitude, the calm serenity, the perfect resignation to the Divine will, of the pious and zealous minister of religion. Kind-hearted, generous, with-out guile in all the relations in which he stood to society, honorable and independent, he was esteemed and beloved by a wide circle of attached friends who knowing his genuine goodness of disposition and sterling integrity of character, reposed the fullest confidence in his virtues, and who mourn the loss of one who was an honor to the sacred profession to which he belonged—who was a true Irishman in every sense of the word. On Friday the mortal remains of this admirable clergyman were consigned to their last resting-place, after a solemn high mass and office, amid the tears and lamentations of his mournful parishioners and the deep regret of many sincerely attached friends .- Limerick Reporter.

THE PASSIONIST FATHERS .- When eighteen months

ago, all Catholic Dublin hastened, " as to the shrine of a saint," to look upon the death-pale features of the "Dead Passionist," many for the first time, saw the temporary domicile which had sufficed as the centre from which radiated over Ireland, the labours of those sanctified soldiers of Christ-the Passionist Fathers of Blessed Paul, Harold's Cross. The old The old mansion, so unlike in its externals the House of a Religious Order, echoed no longer the chorus of festive revelry, but the Psalmody of Religion. The little chapel-newly erected, simple, humble shedlike; yet, of all the edifice, the only portion not reflecting the austere poverty of the Brotherhoodtastefully and beautifully fitted for the service of Him, the beauty of whose house they love. All must have then perceived, and, doubtless, did perceive. how ill-adapted were the premises to the requirement of such a body as those who, amidst its many inconveniences and imperfections, made it the seat of their labours in Dublin, and the centre from which their missions have been sprend all over Ireland. Of these missions little is ever stated in the public press. The custom, if not the rule, of the Order strictly forbidding the Missionaries to take any means of directly or indirectly praising their own efforts, their good works are left to speak the eulogy of those arduous and edifying ministrations. And the eulogy is spoken far and wide. The house at Mount Argus, has however, become by this time utterly inadequate to the necessities created by the increased and increasing claims upon the Order; and at a meeting of residents of the metropolis, and others, witnesses of the blessing conferred on our people through the hands of the Passionist Fathers, it has been resolved to commece the erection of a suitable Retreat. This is a good work; it will be a testimony of our gratitude to those benefactors of the poor, while it will confer, at the same time, no benefit on those who perform it. In a few days we hope to see a committee formed whose names will speak more for the undertaking than aught we may say. Already-a significant proof of the feeling on the subject-a sum of nearly fourteen hundred pounds has been promptly—in a few weeks—placed in their hands, enabling the building to be commenced forthwith. The pions generosity which has thus responded to a merely private proposition of the proect, will raise to a certain completion the Retreat of the Passionist Fathers at Mount Argus .- Nation.

We regret having to announce the death of Mrs. Harriet Butler, of St. John's Place, in this city, aunt of Cardinal Wiseman. She departed this life on Tuesday, the 30th November, aged 68 years. It was to see Mrs. Butler that his Eminence visited Kilkeny recently, and it would seem as if her prayers were granted-"That she might see him and die."-Kilenny Journal.

On the night of Sunday, Nov. 28, the Catholic Chapel at Johnstown, county Kilkenny, was forcibly entered and some locks and boxes broken, without however, any success to the burglars as they found nothing worth taking away. A similar burglarious entry was made, it is supposed, by the same party, nto the National Schools at Johnstown, but with a like result.

On Tuesday morning, Nov. 30th, at about 3 o'clock daring attempt was made to rob the Presentation Convent in the town of Carlow. It appears that about the time above mentioned, one of the Sisters, whose dormitory was directly opposite the children's schoolroom, was awoke by a violent ringing of a bell attached to the door of the schoolroom, which conshort, that the establishment was an anomaly in tinued for some time, and the lady fearing lest theory, as representing a small part of the popula- robbers might have forced admission into the house,

immediately after rose and proceeded to an adjoining room, where the Rev. Superioress slept, and in-formed her of her apprehensions, who also dressed and proceeded with some others of the Sisters, who had by this time been awoken, to the reception room. When they arrived here, the bell again rang, as if some persons had just closed the door. This circumstance left no doubt as to the fact that robbers were in the house, and the Rev. Superioress then had the alarm bell wrung, and in a short time a number of persons living in the vicinity were attracted to the convent-but ere they arrived, the sacrilegious burglars had decamped, but, however, we are happy to add, without any plunder. There can be no doubt as to the fact, that robbers had entered the house, as one of the Sisters, who sleeps in a room quite adjacent to the schoolroom, actually heard the speaking in rather a low tone in the room. No clue has as yet been received as to the parties who attempted to perpetrate this sacrilegious deed. One of the burgiars dropped a cap in the garden, but in the hurry to escape neglected picking it up, and it was found on the ground the following morning.—Car-

SECRET SOCIETIES-GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATION .-The Gazette contains the subjoined proclamation from the Lord Lieutenant, offering a reward of one hundred pounds for the conviction of any person who has been guilty of administering an oath in connexion with any of the secret societies, and of fifty pounds for the conviction of any person on the charge of being a member of such society. The following is the proclamation :-

HEY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL GOV-ERNOR OF IRELAND. PROCLAMATION.

" EGLINTON AND WINTON.

"Whereas we have been given to understand that societies or associations of persons exist in several parts of Ireland, the members of which are bound together by oaths or obligations of a seditious or treasonable character: and whereas many unwary persons may have been induced to become members of, or otherwise to connect themselves with, such societies without being fully aware of the penalties which they have thereby incurred. Now, therefore, for the information of all persons concerned, and for the better prevention and suppression of all such societies or associations, we, the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, do hereby declare and make it known that all societies or bodies of persons associated under the pretended obligations of an oath unlawfully administered are illegal, and that any person who shall administer or be concerned in administering any oath or engagement, binding or importing to bind the party taking the same to be-long to, or be connected with, any such society or association, or to aid or abet the unlawful objects or purpose thereof, and every person who shall unlawfully take the same shall be guilty of felony. And all persons belonging to or members of any such society or association, or maintaining correspondence therewith, or with any officer or member thereof, as such, are guilty of an unlawful combination and confederacy, and may be punished accordingly.

"And we do hereby caution and forewarn all persons against becoming, being, or continuing to be, members of, or in any way connected with, any such society or association, under whatever pretence or pretext, or with whatever object or purpose the same may have been founded or established, or profess to be continued or conducted. And we do hereby announce and declare that is our firm determination to use all the means in our power for the suppression of such societies and associations, and for the punishment of the persons belonging thereto. Accordingly, we solemnly admonish and require all peaceable and loyal subjects, to the utmost of their power, to discountenance such societies or assemblies, and to he aiding and assisting the magistrates, constables, and other authorities, in the suppression of the same, and in the detecting and bringing to justice of those who shall be found to belong thereto, or be connected therewith. And for the better carrying into effect these our intentions and purposes aforesaid, we hereby offer a reward of

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS for such information as will lead to the conviction of any of the persons who shall have administered any such oath, and a reward of

FIFTY POUNDS for such information as will lead to the conviction of any of the persons who shall be found to he members of, or in anywise connected with, any of aforesaid

er Majesty's Castle of Dublin, the 3d " Givan day of December, 1858.

" By his Excellency's command,

" NAAS." ILLEGAL OATHS AND ILLEGAL ARRESTS .- The Countess of Haussonville, in her admirable "Life of Robert Emmet," remarks with singular truth that the Habeus Corpus act never has been in Ireland. other than a pure fiction." We have startling evidence of the truth of this statement in the extraordinary conduct of the government officials in the South of Ireland, who are making illegal arrests and administering illegal oaths with a reckless defiance of all law or semblance of justice. Every day, humble men are seized, clapped into prison, bullied and frightened with illegal efforts to extort from them confession of complicity with secret associa-tions; illegal oaths are forcibly administered to them and, when nothing is made of the affair, they are discharged at length, after suffering days and nights of imprisonment, and moral and physical torture .-About a dozen persons have been arrested in and about Skibbereen, and subjected to this torturing inquisition since last we wrote on the subject, but discharged again after refusing to confess where they had nothing to confess and make false oaths for blood-money; and now, we have just received a letter from a correspondent who informs us that in Bantry, three respectable men of irreproachable lives have been arrested "on suspicion," dragged out of their bods at night, handcuffed, and hurried off to Cork County Jail. Fifteen young men in Skibbercen have been treated in a similar manner. The whole thing is done without the smallest regard for the ordinary forms even of law; and this is the " British Constitution" in Ireland. The same correspondent says that the windows of the minister's and police-inspector's houses were broken the other night in Bantry; that much clamour was raised thereupon about the Ribbonmen; but that the perpetrators of the offence have since been discovered to be the two female servants of a police functionary. Society seems to be topsy-turvey down there in Bantry.-Irishmen.

Conn, DEC. 3 .- At half-past eleven o'clock this day, fifteen prisoners charged with being members of an illegal society arrived by the Bandon train under the escort of a large body of police. They are all young men, and of a respectable position in society. Twelve of them are from Skibbereen, and three from Bantry. The captures were effected last night, while most of the parties were in bed. They are members of the Phonix Society, and the informations have been sworn against them by one of their body named Sullivan. The object of the society is said to have been for the purpose of obtaining an invasion of our country by American fillibusters .- Daily Reporter.

The Tablet warns its Irish Catholic readers against Secret Societies" in the following energetic language :- " And one word finally to the members of these secret societies. You are, of all the enemies of Ireland, at once the most malignant and the most effective. You would rob your country of that one bright jewel which she has held through blood and suffering untold and unremembered, except at the foot of God's throne, which shews your hateful malignancy; inasmuch as you succeed, render any amelioration of her state impossible, for you would array against any amelioration associated with such champions and instruments every instinct of religion and order. You will be dragged on from bad to worse, from one infraction of law of God to another, until perary Examiner.

you become assassins. You, who have not the holy courage to face the Priest in the Tribunal of Penance, nor to present yourclf at God's Altar, will be seized with the frenzied and impious courage to break his laws, and, usurping his prerogatives, to say that vengeance is yours. Your one only safety lies in turning from your present path, and the only effectual way of turning is to confess your sins to the Priest and the Court of Heaven, and so reconcile yourselves to God whom you have rebelled against, and to your country which you have injured. if you persevere in wrong doing, the best thing that can happen to you is a short shrift and the death of a dog, that your punishment may not be an eternal one, and that the land may be cleared of the guilt of

THE OUTRAGE MANUFACTORY. - Since last we wrote the Daily Express has done another stroke of business in the outrage line, not a bad thing either though by no means up to the Gason mark; however, now that the machinery is being perfected and permanently fixed, we are satisfied that the manufacture will go on well as to quantity and quality for the future, and, in fact, defy competition. An account appeared in the Dublin murder journal some days since of the "Attempted assassination" of Mr. Dudley Byrne; no woner did Mr. Byrne see the falsehood than he wrote to contradict it-the contradiction was refused insertion! More need not be said on this affair. With reference to the Gason romance the Express publishes a letter addressed by the cilitor to the solicitors of the famous Mr. Gason requiring them to commence their threatened legal proceedings on the following day and declaring that should they not do so he (the editor) would at once bring Mr. (inson's conduct fully before the public. Having received no reply, the editor of the Express has published his letter to the legal gentlemen with some introductory remarks, in which he says that-" The details of the alleged outrage fell far short of Mr Gason's extraordinary statements, which he confirmed by affecting to faint in the railway carriage from loss of blood, and thus he succeeded in completely deceiving two gentlemen who travelled with him to Dublin in the train." But however this may be, the man was not murdered or attacked, and why did not the Express say so, or allow him to say so, and thus remove the slander from the character of the people? And Mr. Byrne was not attacked-why deny him the opportanity of contradicting the report in the journal in which it first appeared? But, perhaps, there is no occasion to contradict anything which appears in that quarter, where the outrages that most frequently occur are outrages on Christian feeling, assassinations of the truth, and attacks on common honesty.—Nation

THE POTATO CHOP OF 1858 .- The Northern Whig publishes a valuable statement respecting the yield of the potato crop of 1858, from which it appears that, as a whole, it has been one of the finest raised in Ireland since 1840, that is, five years before the fainl pestilence developed itself :- "It would be difficult," says the writer, " to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the exact proportion of loss in the entire breadth of Irish land under potatoes this season. Taking the round extent at 1,200,000 acres, we may safely assert that the gross average exceeded any yield for several seasons past-that is, including the sound and infected portions of the crop. An enterprising farmer in the next county raised 300 tons of potatoes off 30 acres of land, but that was an extraordinary yield, perhaps one-fourth above the average. The lea lands produced very large crops this season, and on such soils there were only rure instances of the malady to any appreciable extent.— Granting, however, a very large margin of loss from the gross produce, the actual value of the crop of 1858—that is, the marketable worth of the potatoes fit for human food—runs up to a figure very far above that of the highest amount ever produced off Ireland's potato lands in the days previous to the virulent appearance of the disease. A vast amount of suffering arose out of the failure of the potato crop in 1846, and even in succeeding years; but, since those days, the cultivation of this variety of produce has been the most profitable department of husbandry. Twenty years ago, farmers seldom received more than is 6d per cwt. for the best qualities of their potatoes, and there were seasons in which not half that amount of value could be realized. In 1833 the prices had fallen to 6d or 8d per cwt., and, in many cases, the crop was left in the bins, as not being worth cartage to the markets. During the past month, there have been 1,000 tons shipped from this goes having been about £3,000 The quality of this season's growth is excellent, and, as we have said, there can be no ground of complaint from the growers as to price. Whatever fluctuations may have taken place in the rate of breadstuffs, transactions in potatoes have been unquestionably remunerative; and, even granting that one-fourth of the gross produce were unfit for food, growers will still pocket 50 per cent. above the amount realized in days previous to the existence of what the croakers call the destructive malady."

Potatoes are keeping well, and we hear no com-plaints of the disease making any progress. The crop was one of the most abundant ever seen in this district, and if they continue safe they will be cheap throughout the year .- Dundalk Democrat.

Mr. Lever, of the Galway Transatlantic line has paid another visit to Belfast, with important objects in view. On Thursday, Dec 2, in company with several other gentlemen he inspected the harbour, and the dock accommodation provided by Belfast, as he is desirous that the repairs of the vessels of the Transatlantic Royal Mail Company (now comprising a numerous fleet) should be entrusted to the workinen of this port and Cork. The party, accompanied by Capt. White, harbourmaster, examined the patent slip, with the details of which Mr. Lever seemed to be perfectly familiar. They next visited the works at iron shipbuilding yard on Queen's Island. The visitors then proceeded to the premises of Mr. Victor Coates, and, when shown some of the large boilers in the course of construction there, Mr. Lever expressed his surprise at the fact that a considerable number of Boilers are constructed in Belfast for the shipbuilders on the Clyde. In the afternoon, a meetng of the council of the Chamber of Commerce was held, to which Mr. Lever was invited, and at which he was introduced to the members. A conversation took place on the subject of steam communication between Ireland and foreign countries; and in order to have an opportunity for a full statement as to the influence of mail steampacket Transatlantic communication on the trade and manufactures of Ireland, a resolution was passed that a meeting of the chamber should be held on Thursday, next, for the consideration of the subject. At that meeting representatives of the Galway line will attend and show the commercial position and future prospects of the line now under the management of the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company. Mr. Lever left Belfast on Friday, Dec 3.

A STRANGE LUNATIC. - Thursday last the police arrested, near Summer-hill, an aged woman almost destitute of clothing, whom they discovered in that ocality carrying about a knife which she brandished in the face of those who passed by. She was evidently of unsound mind, and fearing that her rashness might be fatal to herself or others, the police had her conveyed to town. Being taken to the police-office, in Richmond-street, she was locked up in the female cell, where, mounting the wooden guard-bed, she indulged for more than a hour in intermittent fits of singing and dancing. When questioned by the constable as to her name and occupation, she said her name was Margaret Donoghoe, that she was born in the Irishtown, and then turning an imploring look on her interlocutor, she besought him to inform her if he was not the Archbishop of Canterbury. She was committed for examination.—Tip-ence from the corrupt body of the Church Establish-perary Examiner.

Messrs. Hart, Potter, Smithwick, Power, Cullen, Callanan, Hyland, Murphy and O'Neil have been reelected members of the Kilkenny Corporation.

The increase in the custom-house revenues of Galway for the last three months is £500 over the receipts of the corresponding three months of last year the increase for this year over last year is estimuted at £2000. So much for the traffic created by the Lever line of steamers. What will the increase be next year, when a steamer will leave Galway overy week?

It is reported that General Sir George Browne is to be shortly appointed commander of the forces in Ireland.

An action has been commenced in the Court of Queen's Bench by Mr. Vincent Scully, against Mr Ingram, M.P., for having misrepresented the value of an estate in Ireland. The name of Joha Sidleir is mixed up with the case.

THE GREAT GAME OF RACKETS .- This long-looked for event came off at the Cork Racket Court on Tuesday. So great was the excitement that, though the seats were one guinea each, the places allotted for spectators were full, and an immense crowd surrounded the entrance. The result of each game was regularly announced to those outside. The game was for £100, and the parties contending were Mr. Mitchell, the Champion of England, and Mr. Devitt, marker at the Racket Court of the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, against Mr. John Byrne, and the marker of the Cork Racket Court, Thomas Hill. The rubber was six games out of cleven. The Cork players won six games, three being the number that the champion and the celebrated Dublin player were able to achieve against them. The Cork men not alone succeeded in the greatest number of games, but in those which they won it will be seen that they beat their adversaries almost to "love" in the majority of instances, or at least when the others had the first hand they retrieved their position in a manner still more singular. The cognoscenti have informed us that the delivery of the balls was of the most excellent character, the Cork champions having tossed them in a style that astounded their pretentious adversaries. Hitherto Mr. Mitchell has boasted himself to be the premier player in the world, but he was on Tuesday offered more than one single match by our townsmen, which he prudently declined. It is to be remarked, that our racket court is probably the largest in the empire; so that the thews and sinews of the men were thoroughly tried; and it is evident that it was not by mere knack, but by plack and science that the victory was gained. The score was kept by an amateur, himself a distinguished racket player, quite as good as any one who stood in the court. His award was never appealed against, and the result is as follows :-CORK. MITCHELL.

Aces. Aces. lst game 10 to 4 .. 10 to 2d game 3d game (set game) ... Cork won by one acc. tth game (won by Mitchell) 11 to 5th game (love game) ... Won by Cork. 6th game (set game) ... Won by Cork.

7th game (won by Mitchell) 10 to 6 8th game (won by Mitchell) 11 to 3 9th game (won by Cork) 11 to 3 Two lighted tar-barrels, followed by a showing

crowd, were borne through the streets on Tuesday night, in celebration of the great victory wan by Cork over the Champion of England. -- Cork Reporter.

THE SOUP SWINDLE IN IRELAND .- That foul and degrading fraud—so pregnant of sordid hypocrisy and falsehood—is the spawn of the Church Establishment, which, in reply to the taunts of English journalists and statesmen that for all the wealth it drains from the heart of Ireland it gives no return in the spread of Protestantism or English influence, can only produce this foul traverstic upon religion to degrade Christianity, propagate perjury and sin, and spread anger and heart-burning throughout this poor oppressed and libelled country. What honest man, that reads the public journals, does not feel his sense of truth and justice outraged by the scandalous exhibitions which the propagators of this soun-swimble make in pulpit and on platform? Who, with intelligence to think and honesty to guide him, is not shocked by the mixture of hypocrisy, fraud, and wholesale falsehood, by which the creditous families so numerous in England are housed out of their money by the audacious mountebanks who befool them with their lying representations of the fabulous conversion of Ireland? A hundred times over this port in two days, the aggregate value of those car country has been "converted from Popery" by this organisation of pious swindlers. A bundred times over has "true evangelical Protestantism" been made triumphant in the land; and yet Ireland is at this hour as thoroughly " Popish" as she was fifty years ago. If one-tenth part of the lying statements of these disreputable knaves, who fatten on the blind funatic credulity of English dolts, were true, there ought not only to be no vestige of Catholicism in Ireland to-day, but the Protestant population should be double the number of human beings of every creed now living in this island. Yet, in the face of the fact, that Catholicism is more flourishing than ever, and stately churches, built by the hard-earned money of a devout people, rise proudly over crowding worshippers, these conscienceless mountebanks still send forth their lying reports of boundless conversions from Popery, and still, with the clever audacity of the swindler, fool the dull bigots of England out of their gold to maintain their sordid juggling in fat and prosperous operation. Where, under God's son, but here, could so villainous a system of falsehood and fraud flourish so long? From London every year come the funds to maintain this fraud: from London that festers to the heart with sin and crime. Here, for example, is the picture which a Protestant missionary, lecturing in Belfast, gives of that modern Babylon :- "There was a larger amount of spiritual destitution to be found in London, comparatively speaking, than in any other population in Great Britain, with the exception of Birmingham .-It had a population of 2,800,000; so that, supposing every house of worship in the metropolis was filled on Sunday, there must of necessity, be, at least, 2,000,000 of souls who could not find admission, and so small was the aggregate attendance at these churches and chapels, that, every Sunday morning, or evening, a number of persons larger than the entire population of all the other cities of England and Water added together wilfully never crossed the threshold of the house of God in London. This awful calculation was alarmingly true; yet they even left out of account all those persons who, through age or infirmity, could not attend worship, The population of London, analyzed, would show that there were as many Jews in London as would fill two ordinary-sized towns of 10,000 inhabitants each, ten towns similar in size of persons who wrought on the Sabbath, fourteen towns with habitual gin-drinkers. Well authenticated statistics showed that there were more fallen women in London than would fill a town of 20,000 inhabitants, and as many persons connected with them as would fill six towns, of the same dimensions." And in that huge city, now, where religion is dead and vice flourishes in such horrible luxuriance, the British Government has furnished a new agent of iniquity, in the shape of a court for cheapening divorces and putting a premium upon domestic licentiousness and martial infidelity: a court whose labora already are so excessive, and whose revelations of the hidden social leprosy of English life are so terrific, that moralists and statesmen stand aghast' with horror! From this centre of all-infecting corruption the gold is gathered for the "conversion to Protestant truth" of the moral and virtuous peasantry of Ireland: the gold which is squandered in maintaining a gang of hypocrites and knaves corrupting the country by the example of their successful roguery and impicty. For the sake of our common country, should not all houset Protestant nationalists liberally aid in exposing and extinguishing this foul excres-