THE GREAT DIFFICULTY. (From the Morning Chronicle.)

with the Irish people. As proof of this, I will say that no name in the world ever exhibited the same delicate regard for one in the world ever exhibited the same delicate regard for edication as the Irish exhibited in those days in their attention defection as the Irish exhibited in those days in their attention of the poor scholars. I at any one read the story of Carlton, entitled the "Poor Scholar was the Scholar," and he will find that the Poor Scholar was the scholar devery family, for no other reason but that he scholar did of every family, for no other reason but that he sloved the learning fave rise to the despised "hedge the same love of learning gave rise to the despised "hedge schools," showing that, in spite of all legislation of a corrupt schools," showing that, in spite of all legislation of a corrupt schools, and if that be the case up to the present time, in Ireland; and if that be the case up to the present time, and if at length the sword of persecution has been thrown away, and legislative strategy is now employed to ac-What is to be done with Ireland? It is a very old question, but there probably never was a time at which a Government was less prepared to give it a satisfacory answer. Such is the position of affairs which the Whig Administration have entailed on themselves and on the country: a doubtful war-a colony utterty disaffected, and all but dissolved-a vague promise touching the foundations of popular institutions, which is destined, we far, to be prolific of rash hopes and unguarded fears—and lastly, a quarrel between England

and Ireland on a religious question.

with the trish people: As proof of this, I will say that no na-

famine—the country is reduced to the lowest point, and it is precisely at that point that she should be made to seek the work

Notwithstanding, therefore, the predictions of the London

Times and its anticipated annihilation of the Irish race, I augur from this circumstance that Ireland lives and will live. "The

maiden is not dead, but sleepeth," and at the voice of the Soverign Pontiff, and of the Irish Hierarchy, she awakes to the

verign Pontifi, and of the 1918h Interarchy, she awakes to the consciousness of new vitality and energy which will prompt be to accomplish great and influential purposes in the world. The first movement will be the Irish Catholic University, from which, as in former times, learned and pious men will go forth, if they go forth at all from their own dear shore, to spread the light of science and religion in the North and the South, in the

light of science and religion in the worth and the South, in the East and the West. (Applause.) I anticipate no such concequences, therefore, as those which the English press has predicted in reference to the Celtic race and the Catholic religion, and I say once for all, that in my humble opinion, civil governments, if they would attend to their own business, to their own specific duties, and discharge them fully and honestly, would be a controlled the same controlled the same series of the same series

are enough to do without turning schoolmaster. Society is

family is sovereign in its own sphere as much as the state; and so I may say of the school; because, if the government under-

ake ducation, it steps in at the second stage of family re-possibility. It assumes things contrary to nature; that the parents, namely, to whom God has given such an instinct of affection, are incapable of promoting the interests of their

children, and that government, forsooth! must come in and take circ of them. Whence is this derived? It is surprising to me how it is considered an evidence of liberty. It com-

who thought he could manipulate society as he pleased—King

William Frederick. What was the object of that sovereign

It was to mould the rising generation into conformity with the principles of his dynasty and the interests of his family. Thence

under another form it found its way to France, and became

under the late government, a potent political means of perpe

tuating despotism. From such a descent I augur no good. I have studied the system long. I have buttled against it with sahonest heart and sincere convictions, that in doing so I was promoting the good of my country and the good of my fellow-

warkings lately, even in this country, where it is, perhaps, the last hutful, which are by no means favorable. I agree with the eloquent gentleman who preceded me. I would not force

have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been found in them, and hence the clergy must go after the people where they can find them. This, as I take it, is the effect of surenment education on the Protestant churches. We have

corement education on the Protestant churches. We have endeavored to take precaution against such causes as affecting. Catholics. I trust, with the blessing of God, we will endeavour to keep clear of it. We have not succeeded entirely; but we know very welf it is an unnatural connection, forthe State to step in between the family and the church, and undertake to educate the rising generation, except it be inconomity with the feelings of those whom God and nature intended as their legitimate guardians. To sow the seeds of science in a soil which has not been mellowed by the influence of religion is to give promise of a harvest of which no nation need be proud. If it were possible to institute schools on the sinciple of State appropriation for every denomination, but with certain universal enactments to secure the legitimate ob-

with certain universal enactments to secure the legitimate obicu of such appropriations, it would be much better, for there is little to be hoped for a nation that is destitute of the principles

pics on which moral conduct is founded. There is a sngacity in the Catholic mind, of which the willest un-Catholic statesman that ever occupied the woolsack never had any conception; for the Catholic church finds her mission to take charge of integrate the control of the woolsack never had any conception; for the Catholic church finds her mission to take charge of integrate the control of the woolsack never had any conception;

of interests that will be for all time; to harmonize the present

with the future, not running away with fine ideas, and specu-stive theories, but going surely and slowly, but infullibly, to-wards the great end for which God appointed her. Hence the church does sometimes what is called foolish; but notwith-mading that the wisdom of the church shall survive when line shall have swent her assemblants into oblivion; there will

to constituted that government is a separate department.

in Ireland; and it may be the sword of persecution has been thrown and if at length the sword of persecution has been thrown and if at length the sword could not; in commencing the complish what the sword could not; in commencing the omplish what this time; when the Catholics of the Emulairersity at this time; when the Catholics of the Emulairersity at this time; when the mastit was not formerly; and prevent again rising in intelligence and in property; and prevent and specially under the guidance, of the illustrious Hierarchy now in the British Empire,—I do believe that we may see a sign and pledge that, so long as that Empire shall last there also no annihilation of the Celtic race, as we have already a higher warrant for believing in the perpetuity of the Catholic hith. I say at this time, because there is something peculiar hith. I say at this time, because there is something peculiar hith time. It might be asked, if education is required, why do to the bishops take steps fifty years ago? or why should ther not allow the colleges which the government at last providel; why not allow them some chance? I say, on the contrart, that there is something significant in the very time when the colleges when the colleges which the government at last provided; why not allow them some chance? I say, on the contrart, that there is something significant in the very time when We do not profess to penetrate the mysteries of the Cabinet deliberations, but it is no secret that the Irish question has been, and is, the source of serious discussion. Lord John Russell has placed himself in that position which is so common to rash men, and so fatal to statesmen-a position in which to advance is impossible, and to retire unsafe, dishonorable, and selfdestructive. He has not even the excuse which might be alleged by the feeble head of a disorganised party, that he had been forced into a path which his judg-ment condemned. He was not driven into the diffiried; why not allow them some chance? I say, on the contrar, that there is something significant in the very time when the Hierarchy and people of Ireland have been inspired with the Bought of founding a University where they can educate their sons without bartering their souls for the advancements and honors of this world. The country is after passing through a famine—the country is desolated by disease consequent upon the country is reduced to the lowest noint, and it is culty for any popular clamor-for he himself, by his Durham letter, evoked the clamor which has created the difficulty. It was in vain that Sir James Graham and Lord Aberdeen pointed out to him precisely the dilemma on the horns of which he is at this moment famine—the country is reduced to the west point, and it precisely at that point that she should be made to seek the work of God. There is something more, in the circumstances that the idea was suggested by the Holy Father. The British government employed every means in their power to obtain his suppoval of their plan; and at one time by threats and at another by the offer of great advantages. And it was precisely the moment when by British intrigue and trenchery the Holy Father was an exile, which was selected to obtain a favorable suswer in approval of the Queen's Colleges; in return for which England might have carried him back to Rome, as she had carried his predecessor Pins VII. But, showing that the Pope is guided by a wisdom other than that of human governments, at the risk of his life, at the risk of the fortunes of the church, so far as connected with his person, contemning all that England, appeased, could do for him, and all that, exaspentel, she might effect against him; that was the very moment when he said to the government of England as John Baptist said to Herod, "It is not lauful." But if this was not lawful, what was to be done? The Holy Father recommended the Bishops to try and establish a University like that of Louvain in leigium. writhing. It is not often that political predictions are so literally and speedily fulfilled as in this instance.— Over and over again, through the weary course of the debates on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, we urged upon the consideration of the Government that, when the question arose of applying it to Ireland, they would be reduced to the alternative of either throwing that country into violent civil commotion, or degrading the law itself by permitting, with impunity, its ostentatious violation. The time is come when this bitter alternative is forced on the attention of the Ministers, and they cannot long postpone their determination.

If ever any man was pledged to a definite course of political action, Lord John Russell is pledged to prosecute the Irish bishops under his own act. He called forth popular excitement against the Roman Catholics, and stimulated it by hopes of a strong repressive measure: he ultimately brought in a bill which fell far short of the expectations he had aroused; and the question now arises, is he prepared to give effect to the modicum of coercion which he induced Parliament to sanction? Incredible as it may appear to any man of common sense, we believe that the Premier flattered himself with the fond anticipation that the Irish bishops would submit to be stripped of their titles without resistance. Such an expectation was, on the face of it absurd. Even if we gave those prelates no credit for religious zeal, it is impossible not to see how great an accession of influence is open to such of them as may be willing to make themselves martyrs for £100. The Romish ecclesiastics would have forfeited for ever their reputation for astuteness if they had missed so fair an opportunity of aggrandising their power. When James II. was thwarted by the seven bishops, he exclaimed, These men are determined to be martyrs, and so they shall be.' William III., on a similar occasion, said I see that these persons are bent on being persecuted and I am bent on disappointing them.' Mr. Macaulay justly observes that these dissimilar answers accounfor the different fates of the fwo monarchs. The Whigh Lord John Russell has chosen the policy of the Stuart Prince.

We return to the question, Will Lord John Russell enforce his bill against the Irish bishops? Can it be that the early assembling of the Cabinet has anything to do with a determination of Lord Clarendon not to be the instrument of such a policy? We could readily believe this. Lord Clarendon has had to deal with one Irish rabellion, in which the vast power of the priesthood was ranged on the side of Government and law. It would be no matter of wonder were he to shrink from a contest in which such a body would the loquent gentleman who preceded me. I would not force on any man a principle or system of education which he was not willing to accept. I have no idea of that; but, I say, in the present situation of the world, the man must be short-sighted indeed who does not see the approaching evils to society, from rolles popular education. I will call attention to a fact which is of recent occurrence, and, no doubt, novel. It is, that among the Protestant clergy of this city, but a few days ago, an agreement was made, that since the people would not come to the laughter.) Churches they have in abundance. In their churchs there is no want of room, and it is an easy courtesy to provide a stranger with a seat. It is not for the want of church room, that they go into the streets to preach, but is it for want of the people. (Continued laughter.) The explanation is, as they say, that for fifteen or twenty years past revivals have become exceedingly rare, that the Holy Spirit has not visited their churches. (Renewedd laughter.) Perhaps, when they said this, it did not occur to then that, if the Divine Spirit has not visited their churches have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people, the masses, have not been have been thinned; the people and the great was a beauty to an acceptance with the present and the great was a body with the hard and the resistance. If the master standing the head of the resistance. If the master standi be not only not with him, but would be at the head of prayed for a more hopeful cry. Twenty years back the taunt of the Whigs against the Tories was, 'What will you do with ireland?' We now retort the question on Lord John Russell. We tell him publicly what Lord Clarendon has probably told him in Council, that his legislation of last session has made the government of Ireland impossible.

It is a grave evil, no doubt, that a law passed after long discussion, and affirmed by large majorities, should be openly and ostentatiously defied. But the dilemma is the work of the ministers. Reason and toleration contended against the bill which they forced upon the Legislature; it was protested against in every stage and the perplexity which it has produced was abundantly forefold. The country is beginning to recover from the infatuation of last winter, and to understand

'How nations sink by durling schemes opprest, When vengeance listens to the fool's request.'

Lord John Russell has thought to play the part of both the impersonations in this drama. We leave him does not take away some sufferer for medical aid. A to settle with the country for the false position into judge of one of the lower courts in San Francisco has which he has led it, by making the maintenance and dignity of the law incompatible with the peace of the empire..

DR. NEVIN.

(From the United States Catholic Miscellany.)

tanding that the wislom of the church shall survive when time shall have swept her assailants into oblivion; there will emain the beneficent wisdom of the Fathers of the Faith,—the test of the folly, as the world calls it of the Sovereign Pontifi, and those subordinately associated with him in the great charge of souls. I look on the institution of the Irish Catholic University, at this time, and under actual circumstances, as a sign and pledge, that whatever may happen, asiher the Celtic race nor the Catholic religion will be extinguished in the British empire. And although allusion has been made to the fall of that empire, which I don't wish to hasten, for I am cautioned not, to wish the destruction of the sinner, but rather that he may be converted and live; yet other and steater empires have fallen, and when England does fall, there will be enough of the Celtic race to sympathise with her calmit, and to commence again, under their holy religion, the toonstruction of society, to be regulated by better principles of justice, truth; and honor; than those which have prevailed in the country for a long period. Dr. Nevin is recognised as one of the ablest Pro-tostant Divines of the United States. He is Professor in the German Reformed College at Mercersberg; and in his lectures, in his published works, and in the Merceraberg Review has for several years past advanced views of Theology based on a study of the History of the Early Church. The necessary result was a tendency to admit much that the Catholics hold as truth delivered from the beginning of Christianity, of the middle ages.

the unfolding of these views, that the Professor was | dreams of boundles wealth by shocks which scattered induced to tender his resignation at the last meeting of the German Reformed Church. A paragraph in a preceding column states that the Professor was sustained. Since putting it in type we have met a letter in the Christian Observer signed Jacob Helffenstein, who grieves much over the decision. We extract the following sentences from the communication :-

"The question, as it was brought before Synod, was regarded on all sides as a test question. The case is now decided. By an almost unanimous vote, the Synod adopted a resolution, earnestly requesting the Professor to withdraw his resignation, assuring him of its unabated confidence, and pledging itself to his support. By this act, the sentiments of the Professor have been fully endorsed, and the German Reformed Church, so far as it was represented at the late Synod, declares that the system of Theology as taught by him, meets its entire approbation."

"As one of the oldest sons of the church, we cannot but regard this decision with heartfelt sorrow. We had hoped, that whatever sympathy may have been manifested for certain peculiarities of the Mercersburg theology, the rapid advance which Dr. N. has recently made towards Romanism, would at once awaker universal apprehension, and call forth a most decided remonstrance. After a renewed and careful perusa of his article on "Early Christianity," the action of

Synod appears to us like a dream."

1. The article plainly maintains, "that Christianity as it stood in the fourth century, and in the first part of the fifth—was something very different from modern Protestantism, and that it bore in truth, a very near resemblance, in all material points, to the later religion of the Roman church:"-in other words, that the Christianity of that period was substantially the same as Roman Catholic Christianity. Accordingly, the Dr. supposes that were the Fathers who then lived, again to appear on earth, they would find their home, not in the bosom of the Protestant, but of the Papal Church. "They knew nothing of the view which makes the Bible and private judgment the principle of Christianity, or the only rule of faith." They held to the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome-baptism for the remission of sins-the real presence of the Redeemer's glorified body-the necessity of confessionthe grace of ministerial absolution-to purgatoryprayers for the dead-intercessions addressed to the angels and departed saints-the veneration of relicsthe continuance of miracles—the merit of celibacy and voluntary poverty, and the "monastic life, as at once honorable to religion, and eminently suited to promote the spiritual welfare of man."

Let it here be distinctly remembered, that the Christianity of that period was not, according to Dr. Nevin's statements, Puseyism, or Anglicanism, but "in all material points," Romanism itself. "The Fathers of the fourth and fifth centuries were not Protestants of either the Anglican or the Puritan school. They would have felt themselves lost, and away from home altogether in the arms of English Episcopalianism, as well as in the more bony and

stern embrace of Scotch Presbyterianism." 2. Another position of the Professor is that what the Church was in the fourth and fifth centuries, it was substantially in all the preceding centuries of the Christian era up to the apostolic age. The "great apostacy"—the falling away, of which Protestants speak, he does not allow. They may regard the several points which have been specified, such as purgatory, prayers for the dead, &c., as so many corruptions which at an early period began to develop themselves in the Christian church, but this, in his view, would be "turning the whole truth of Christianity into a strange lie." He admits of no such "golden age," as Protestants dream of, "representing, for a time at least, however short, the true original simplicity of the gospel, as the same has been happily resuscitated once again in these last days,"-" the existence of a strictly evangelical church, founded on Protestant principles, (the Bible, the only rule of doctrine, justification by faith, the clergy of one order, the people the fountain of all church power,) breathing a Protestant spirit, and carrying men to heaven without sacramental mummery or mysticism, in the com-mon sense Puritan way of the present time." All this is mere "fancy"—"a mere hypothesis which involves in the end: a purely arbitrary construction of history, just as wild and bold, to our view, as any that has been offered us, from a different stand point, by Strauss, or Dr. Bauer.?

"Our object now is simply to present the true ' stand point? of Dr. Nevin. The plain inference from all he has said on this subject is that in all material points,? what the Religion of Rome is, that was also the religion of the early Christians-in other words, the religion of the fourth and fifth centuries—the religion of all the preceding centuries was essentially the Roman Catholic Religion! If language can mean anything such is evidently the point which the Doctor's historical argument aims to establish. More than this no Romanist could ask; and how any honest man who maintains such a position, can still remain within the pale of the Protestant Church, we are utterly at a loss to conjecture."

INSANITY IN CALIFORNIA.

The San Francisco Courier is pressing upon the attention of the authorities of that State the duty of pro-viding a public asylum for the insane. The necessity of some provision for the reception and treatment of patients suffering under this dreadful affliction, is urged and increasing prevalence of insanity amongst the emigrants. There is scarcely a phisician in the State who has not had more patients than one. Hardly a vessel leaves the port for the Atlantic States which stated that more than one hundred and fifty cases had come under his observation in that city in less than six months, and the editor of the Courier thinks there have been at least four hundred victims since the settlement of the place by the Americans. At the mines, the disease is also prevalent. In fact the accounts make it plain, that in no other known community has there ever been so large a portion of persons deprived of their reason, and needing the tenderest cares of sympathising kindred, and the guardianship of some public institution.

The causes which produce these remarkable results

need not be searched for far or long. They lie upon the surface, and are open to the understanding of the most careless observer. California has been a land of the most extravagant hopes and the most bitter disapand which Protestants protest against, as the inventious pointments. Never were the most powerful passions of the middle ages. So much dissatisfaction was gradually excited by cessul, many have been suddenly awakened from

these visions, and overwhelmed them with the blackest prospects, crushed them with the pleasure of impending want, and filled them with regrets and anxieties and forebodings, before which the reason of many. a stouthearted man has given way.

Some, unused to labor, trained in habits of self-indulgence or ease, allured by the prospect of suddenfortune, and never counting upon toil or reverses, rushed into the wilds, where, instead of gathering gold dust plentifully in peace, they had to meet with the rough frontier settler, the old and hardy hunter and miner, the during and desperate criminal, and without the protection of law, to struggle for life and bread, with a horde of jostling, fighting, remoragless adventurers. Deserting, perhaps, the gentle but sure streams of industrious occupation which might have filled the measure of their rational desires, they hunted in the wilderness for rivers of gold, and too often perished in the dusty and empty channel. They had left at home, perhaps, a loving family, dependent children, wanting the means of subsistence, which had been exhausted in carrying the deluded gold hunter to regions whence he was to transmit back immediately some of that golden treasure which awaited his eager haste. When worn down with fruitless toil, enfeebled by disease, with no kind hand to nurse or gentle word to cheer, racked with apprehension of his own fate, anxiety for the absent, and despairing of the means of returning, even destitute and helpless, to try a new career in the old deserted place, what wonder is it that madness came in to substitute insensibility for the intolerable burdens of such thoughts. Sickness and penury, want, disappointment, and despair, following upon extravagant exaltations of hope and passions stimulated to unhealthy excess, these are the obvious causes of the insanity which is recognized as existing in California, in a degree beyond that of any other country: because in no other country has human nature been so severely tried by fluctuations so vast, so rapid and distracting. It is indeed a melancholy but instructive reflection, that so many of the golden dreams which have heated the public mind and drawn off throngs of hopeful and aspiring spirits to a fountain of inexhaustible wealth, should have proved to be only lives to the destruction of body or mind.

It is an illustration upon a grand scale and under circumstances of unusual development of the same moral law which rules in all the pursuits of life, that excessive and ill-regulated desires are injurious to the powers of the intellect, as well as the quiet of the heart, and that he who strives to be suddenly rich or reach eminence of any kind by unusual means, without patient toil and steady preparation, rarely achieves anything but disappointment and misery, the wreck of his faculties and the destruction of his peace .- N. O. Picayunc.

UNITED STATES.

Horrible Catastrophe.—A terrible accident occurred at about two o'clock, on the 26th inst., at the new public school in Greenwich Avenue, New York. An alarm of fire was raised, and the children becoming frightened, attempted to make their escape from the building. A large number were crowded against the bannisters on the second and third floors, when they gave way and precipitated them to the first floor, a distance of forty feet. Some twenty dead bodies have been taken out of the building, and forty-five boys and girls are killed. The scene was a most heart-rending one; mothers, in a frantic state, sought their children, and the cries of the mangled and dying attracted thousands to the spot. The details are as follows:—About 2 o'clock, Miss Harrison, the teacher of the primary school situated in the third story of the Ward-School No. 26, was observed to faint, which started a number of the children to her side, while others raised the cry of fire. This caused the greatest alarm, and a general rush, was made for the windows and stairs. The latter being spiral, and running from the first to the fourth stories of the building, the press against the ballustrade was so great that it gave way, precipitating to the flag floor of the play ground nearly 100 little ones, and presenting one of the most awful spectacles ever witnessed. Child after child rushed down the horrible pit, crushing beneath their weight those whohad preceded them, while others leaped voluntarily down the chasm, mingling their life's blood with that of their comrades. More than SEVENTY CHILDREN thusrushed into the jaws of death. The calamity would have been still greater, but for the presence of mind of Mr. M'Nully, the principal, who was in the fourthstory, and who, on hearing the cry of fire, immediately placed himself against the door, declaring that none of the children should go out. In this manner his classes escaped destruction. The scene of parents clasping their dead and dying children, beggars all description, and was horrible to behold. Since the above, it has been ascertained that besides those killed, some seventy or eighty are maimed, some of them for life. Many of the little ones were so dreadfully disfigured and mangled, as to be scarcely recognized by their parents. Since the above was written, three more children have died.

The Protechnic establishment of Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, exploded, burning to death-Michael McCue and John Duffy, and horribly mangling three others, who have been taken to the hospital. The explosion was accidental .- Boston Pilot.

Now that the smoke of the last conflict has cleared away, we see that the democracy have swept the entire State of New York.-Ibid.

HORRIBLE SHOOTING AFFAIR.—At Morgantown, N. C., Col. Avery shot Mr. Samuel Fleming in the Court House, killing him instantly. They were both members of the Legislature.

Instructions have been sent to Judge Sharkey to. proceed immediately to Havanna, and take action in the case of Mr. Thrasher, whose immediate release or trial as an American citizen he has to demand. The Spanish Minister has been furnished with a copy of the despatch .- Ibid. .

A: C'ARD:

Mrs. COFFY, in returning her grateful thanks to her numerous kind Friends, respectfully intimates to them, and the Ladies of Montreal in general, that she has just received a new and varied assortment of every article in the DRY GOODS and FANCY LINE, which she is able to offer for Sale on the and FANCI LINE, which she is able to offer for Sale on the most reasonable terms. She been leave, also, to announce that, having engaged the services of compatent persons, she now carries on the MILLINERY and DRESS MAKING business, in addition, and hopes, by strict attention and punctuality, to give entire satisfaction to those Ladies who may favor here with their patronage. vith their patronage.
23 St. Laurence Street, Nov. 25, 1861.