

People." The letter is dated January 15th, 1836. It has been found by Miss Leahy amongst papers left by her father, who was an inn-keeper at Abbeyfeale. O'Connell wrote to Mr. Leahy intimating that he would be at his house about 2 o'clock on the following Sunday, and asked that four horses should be ready for him by that hour. He added: "Take care the driver hears Mass. I will not arrive until after the last Mass, and will not allow any man to drive me who lost Mass." This language was not used from any affectation of piety. O'Connell was deeply sensible of the necessary of living up to religious tenets, and by his acts set an example of the utmost reverence for the precepts and observances of the Church. Difficulties, however great, never prevented him from fulfilling the obligation of hearing Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

Well Caught. — A soldier, having ended his term of service, returned to his mother's home. Sunday came round.

"You are coming to Mass with me?" says the pious mother.

"Oh! look here, mother. I have travelled, I have seen the world; I have learnt much that is not dreamt of by him who never leaves his village; so you understand that I know too much to allow of my going to pray like good old women!"

"Ah! my son, so you no longer feel the need of God, now you have seen Paris and the rest of the world?"

"But, mother. I reason to myself and say: Nothing will happen to me but what should happen; therefore it is superfluous to be asking and worrying God."

The good mother went off alone to Mass. On returning home she prepared nothing for dinner.

The trooper came in punctually to find the table bare and no fire crackling in the chimney.

"Hullo! Mother! are we dining in town to-day?"

"No!"

"But you have prepared nothing for me!"

"Well, you see my boy, your reasonings have quite enlightened me. I just said as you did: "What is the use of worrying? If my son should make a grand dinner he will; if he has to do without it, he will have to do so; look how quickly I have learnt my lesson."

The son understood the one taught him, and returning to the teachings of good common sense, answered:

"Mother, go and cook your stew; next Sunday we two will go to Mass together."