

CONFIRMATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH.—On Wednesday, the 6th instant, His Grace administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish Church of Upper Killeavy to 600 children and some adults.

The Very Rev. Thomas M'Heale Professor in the Irish College, Paris, is staying on a visit with his uncle the Archbishop of Tuam; and we are glad to inform his numerous friends that he is in the enjoyment of excellent health.—*Tuam Herald*.

CONVERSIONS.—The Rev. H. Danvers Clarke, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, Rural Dean and Rector of Iping, Sussex, together with his wife and family, has been received into the Catholic Church at Bruges. We have also to announce the reception of the Rev. J. C. Earle, formerly Incumbent of Christ's Church, Bradford, Wiltshire. Mr. Earle is the author of several excellent little doctrinal and devotional tracts.—*Tables*.

It is rumored that a Clergyman of the Established Church a native of this county, will embrace the Catholic Faith. He has, it is said, resigned his Curacy, as a preparatory step to the fulfilment of this intention.—*Tipperary Free Press*.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF CLARE.—The Earl of Clare, who has been in declining health for some time past, expired on Monday evening last at Brighton, whither he had retired for the benefit of his health. The Right Hon. Col. Fitzgibbon, brother of the noble earl, succeeds to the title and estates.

THE MAGISTRACY.—The Lord Chancellor has appointed James Jones, Esq., of Mount Edward to the commission of the peace for the county of Sligo.

THE ESPIONAGE SYSTEM.—We (*Tipperary Vindicator*) understand that the resident magistrate at Killaloe, has made a report to the castle of observations alleged to have been made, on Sunday, by the Right Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Bishop of Killaloe, when addressing the people on the subject of the recent penal enactment.

Dr. Paul Cullen has fairly thrown down the gauntlet, and it now remains to be seen whether the challenge will be accepted by those that are bound to notice the infraction, or whether the law, the enactment of which formed nearly the whole work of a session of Parliament, is really to be regarded as a dead letter upon the statute book.—*Times*.

LORD DUNGANNON AND THE ORANGEMEN.—A short pamphlet, from the pen of Lord Dungannon, and addressed to his Grace the Irish Primate, in which his Lordship expresses his approval of the ecclesiastical architecture of the middle ages, has, it seems, given offence to the Orange institute, of which the noble author is a member. A special meeting of "the Lisburn district" of Loyalists was convened on Tuesday last, for the purpose of taking the affair into consideration, and upon deliberation it was decided that the opinions expressed in the "letter were not merely injudicious, but inconsistent with Protestantism and Scripture, and incompatible with the writer's profession as an Orangeman." Lord Dungannon's defence of the erection of crosses in houses of divine worship found marvellously little favor in the eyes of the associated brethren.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN IRELAND.—Yesterday a return to Parliament was printed, from which it appears that in the three quarters of the year ending the 28th June last, the total expense incurred for in maintenance was £44,488, and for out-door relief £8,032; for other expenses £402,508; making the total expense incurred £455,028. The poor-rate lodged amounted to £840,386, and the total poor law valuation was £11,923,450.

CORK AND BANDOON.—It appears that the opening of this line throughout has been delayed in consequence of a dispute between the directors and Messrs. Fox and Henderson, the contractors. It was intended by the directors to open the Cork section of the line in the early part of this present month, but the contractors refused to allow them to pass unless they asked permission in writing to do so; this the directors declined, alleging that they themselves were in possession of the line. The contractors' men then proceeded from the Cork terminus to obstruct the line with ballast-waggons. They did not proceed far before they were met by a party belonging to the company, on an engine, when a scuffle ensued which resulted in the contractors' party being forced back by the engine to the Cork station. This fracas having terminated without serious personal injury, the manager for the contractors sent out a large number of "navies" in the course of the night, who removed portions of the rails and completely blocked up the line in several places. The matter is now in a course of judicial investigation. It is stated that the contractors claim £30,000 as due to them, which is disputed by the directors, who state that the amount cannot exceed £15,000, and that they are ready to settle any claim made for works executed, when certified by the engineer.

The neighborhood of Murroe was visited on Wednesday last, with a violent thunder storm, accompanied by rain. The electric fluid penetrated the roof of Glenstal Lodge, the property of Sir M. Barrington, and descended by a side-wall to the flooring beneath, which was torn up, and rendered the servants, eleven in number, quite insensible for several minutes.—*Limerick Reporter*.

WESTMEATH.—We are sorry to perceive that the potato fields in this and the adjoining counties have, during the past week, assumed that withered appearance which is a sure forerunner of the disease now for some years incidental to that crop. Up to the present time we have not seen any potatoes marked with the disease.—*Westmeath Independent*.

DOONEAL.—Never was a finer appearance than the potato fields presented up to Friday night. On that night a heavy dew fell, and next morning the blight was unmistakably manifest, which continued to spread up to Wednesday morning. On Wednesday we had some heavy rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, but we rejoice to be able to state, that instead of the inclement weather being injurious, it has, to all appearance, stayed the disease.—*Ballyshannon Herald*.

SLIGO.—The disease is increasing with alarming rapidity. Fields which were perfectly safe a week ago, have now not a single sound stalk in them. The planting of potatoes this year has been more extensive than any previous year; the consequence of a total failure, will be correspondingly great and disastrous.—*Sligo Champion*.

The Great Britain, just completed and purchased by a company, is to visit an Irish port previous to departing on the first trip to America.

It is stated that Mary Fahy, who at the last Limerick assizes was sentenced to death on the 8th of September, for the murder of Mary Hanly, will not be executed on that day, as she has declared her pregnancy to the prison officials. The physician of the gaol has declared that she is pregnant since the 3d of March. The murder was committed on the 7th of April.—*Tipperary Vindicator*.

The number of paupers in the Clonmel union workhouse is rapidly decreasing. Over four hundred left the house last week, and the number now remaining is 2,300.

The poor rate in the electoral division of Ballingarry and Ballyragan, in the Croom union, amounts to 16s 5d in the pound in the former, and 16s 11d in the latter.—*Limerick Reporter*.

Farm laborers are now so scarce in the country that agriculturists have to pay them 7s. a-week, with diet, for cutting hay alone! while, in some instances, they demand 9s. for saving the corn crops.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

IRISH REAPERS.—Notwithstanding the vast numbers that have emigrated from this country to America, yet at no former time have we seen a greater number leaving our quays for the Scotch harvest.—*Derry Journal*.

Emigration never ceases from this port, for when we have not an emigration vessel to sail, the steamer, at almost every trip, has a number on board who take shipping at Liverpool for America. A large number of respectable tradesmen left our town lately for that favored land; and if the potato crop entirely fails, no person that can get out of it will stop in this country. It is wonderful what large sums of money come to people here from their friends in America, sums varying from £5 to £40, by every mail.—*Sligo Journal*.

Several substantial farmers and operatives have emigrated from the vicinity of Killaloe to Illinois.

PAUPER EMIGRATION.—The Canada, of Cork, still anchors in the bay of Clifden, having on board 343 emigrants from the Clifden workhouse, the majority of whom are females.—*Mayo Telegraph*.

On Friday one hundred and twenty paupers from the Scariff workhouse sailed for Quebec, from the port of Galway, in the Water Hen.

AGGREGATE MEETING

OF THE

CATHOLICS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The aggregate meeting of the Catholics of the United Kingdom, convened by a requisition, bearing the signatures of thirty-five Archbishops and Bishops, thirty-one peers and sons of peers, ten baronets, one hundred and fifty magistrates, and several thousand influential Clergy and gentry, and having for its object to found a Defence Association to maintain the rights of the Catholic Church and people, and secure the establishment of full and perfect religious liberty throughout the empire, was held on Tuesday last, the 19th instant, in the Round Room of the Rotundo, in this city. The meeting was not only successful beyond the most sanguine expectations of its promoters, but was, perhaps, the most extraordinary demonstration of public feeling and sentiment that ever was elicited, or that possibly could be conceived. The zeal, enthusiasm, and resolution of the vast body of the population of the city, who assembled in tens of thousands to receive and support the venerated Prelates of the Church, were equally beyond all expectation and all praise. The attendance of Prelates, nobility, Clergy, and gentry from the country, and from England and Scotland, constituted a most imposing array, and was most fully adequate to the great and overwhelming importance of the occasion. But the most gratifying feature of the demonstration was this, that in spite of the eager crowding of the vast masses of the people—in spite of the deep and sensitive feeling they entertained on the subject of the insults and malevolent attacks, of which their holy religion has lately been the object—in spite of the contemptible efforts that had been made by the paltry remnant of an odious faction, to provoke them to riot and bloodshed—the attitude and demeanor of the people throughout the entire of this memorable day was so peaceful, so orderly, so noble, as to excite the unbounded admiration of all beholders, and to pay the most flattering compliment to the illustrious Prelates, and distinguished Clergymen and gentlemen present at the meeting, as well as to confer upon the people themselves the highest honor, and upon the sacred cause of religious freedom the greatest credit and advantage.

From an early hour in the morning the streets leading to the Rotundo were thronged with crowds of our fellow-citizens, anxious to catch a glimpse of the distinguished Prelates, nobility and gentry, whose presence at the meeting was expected. Although the doors were not to be opened to the public until 11 o'clock, for nearly three hours previous, considerable groups began to assemble in all the localities adjoining the Rotundo. Shortly after nine o'clock, a body, consisting of 80 police-constables, with five sergeants and a superintendent, arrived from the C division, who were soon after followed by a like number from the A and B divisions; from the E and F police districts 60 men each were furnished. This force was immediately under the command of Mr. Selwood, Chief Superintendent of the metropolitan police, and of Superintendents Dundon, Monaghan, McCarthy, and Tidd, and was immediately, on its arrival, stationed in the gardens at the rear of the Rotundo; there was also a troop of mounted police. Independently of these, a sufficient number of men were distributed as sentries in the vicinity of the building, and at its different gates and doors. A number of the G force was placed in the interior. The troops of the garrison were confined to barracks during the day, and it is said were held in readiness to come to the place if their presence was thought necessary. Such were the precautions adopted by the authorities for the preservation of order and the maintenance of the tranquility of the meeting from the threatened violation of it by the Rev. Tresham Gregg! In some time after the above arrivals, upwards of 1,000 quay-men or porters, marched up through Sackville-street, two and two abreast, and wore soon afterwards joined by an equal number of men who came in from the Clontarf neighborhood. These two bodies arranged themselves in regular lines along Cavendish row, the greater portions of Sackville-street and Great Britain-street, and by their active and unceasing exertions, in conjunction with the police, materially aided in preserving regularity during the day, in these districts. As the hour advanced, the crowds increased

so rapidly, that the localities we have just named were rendered nearly impassable. Notwithstanding the numbers who assembled inside the building, only a small portion of whom could possibly be contained in the Round Room, the most perfect harmony, peace, and good order prevailed, and the prevailing sentiment seemed to be that of pleasure and satisfaction. Nor did the enthusiasm appear confined to the crowded streets alone: the river seemed to rival the city in doing honor to the great national object for which the thousands were assembling, and to the distinguished men who thronged our city to join in the demonstration. Nearly all the ships were dressed in their gayest flags, and, with steamers flying, appeared to join in proclaiming the day as one of festivity and joy.

At half-past ten o'clock his Grace the Archbishop of Armagh, and Lord Primate of all Ireland, his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, his Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, and the other Prelates attending, arrived, and were admitted by the lower entrance gate in Great Britain-street, where they were received by the gentlemen appointed as a deputation by the committee, and conducted by them through the garden approach to the great Round Room. Vast numbers of the Clergy presented themselves at the same time, and entered the place of meeting by the same way. In the interval between this and the opening of the front and side entrances to the Round Room, the pressure of the holder of tickets, anxious to secure good places, or in fact any places at all, became excessive. It was impossible to penetrate the dense masses that lined the entire length of the railings surrounding the Rotundo, while the multitude of spectators that had accumulated in the streets was fully in proportion. Exactly at eleven o'clock, the gates were thrown open, and the influx was such as to have been sufficient at once to throng the Round Room in all its parts. Yet in the numbers congregated in the streets no diminution was perceptible. The only occurrence which tended to interrupt this good feeling, arose from the conduct of the parties, whose efforts to disturb the peace and interrupt the arrangements of the meeting, have been so persevering for some time past, but which happily have been without the least success. Following out the course which has already encountered the censure of the authorities, a placard of the same insulting and fanatical character as those which have already been put down by the magistrates, was exhibited outside the door of the notorious "Priests' Protection Society." The placard was, however, speedily destroyed by the people, and its fragments, we regret to say, driven in through the shop windows of the house, breaking several panes of glass. At about a quarter past eleven o'clock, long before which time the room was filled to excess, the Rev. Tresham Gregg arrived in a carriage, accompanied only by three of his followers in a very sorry plight, wholly failing to make good the expectation with which the public had been filled by his pompous speeches and manifestoes. Mr. Gregg, having alighted, accompanied by Mr. Cooke, whose name has already figured before the public, presented himself at the gate and demanded admission of the stewards—Messrs. Kean, John Byrne, and Kelch—presenting what appeared to be tickets to the body of the Round Room—which was, of course, refused. The Rev. gentleman merely observed that the assembly was a packed meeting, and not a meeting of the Catholics; his presence was wholly unobserved save by the persons in his immediate vicinity, but those who had recognised him gave free expression to their feelings of indignation, at his attempted intrusion on the tranquility of the meeting. A cordon of police was immediately formed round him, and he jumped into the carriage with extraordinary agility, Cooke following his example with equal activity—the latter waving a white handkerchief fiercely at the spectators—and, amid groans, yells, hootings, and laughter, the vehicle drove off through Great Britain-street at almost a furious pace. The carriage was, however, pursued by a few ill-disposed persons, who flung mud and other missiles into it. The driver turned up Lower Dominick-street, still followed by the crowd, Mr. Superintendent Dundon, on horseback, trying to disperse the latter. After a smart run through Dominick-street, the carriage was lost sight of. With the exception of this, and the incident at the "Priests' Protection Society" house, mentioned above, scarcely anything took place, even to cheer the state of things outside. Notwithstanding the many thousands assembled, a single case of drunkenness was not to be seen amongst the vast masses congregated. The gentlemen who acted as stewards at the different entrances, performed their difficult duties evidently to the perfect satisfaction of all, and the police acquitted themselves exceedingly well.

Long before the hour appointed for taking the chair, the platform became crowded with the gentry, and Clergy from every part of the United Kingdom, and the body of the room with many of our fellow-citizens and of the Catholics, who had assembled from every part of Ireland, to be present at the meeting, while the reserved seats were occupied, to a great extent, with ladies, whose anxiety to be present at the meeting made them disregard the inconvenience to which they were unavoidably subjected. Although the Round Room was crowded in every part to excess, the vast assembly was as decorous and orderly as the meeting of any private committee.

The platform was elevated at a considerable height; in front were arranged arm-chairs for the Prelates, and at the head of the table prepared for the secretaries, was the gilded chair for the Lord Primate. The whole scene—its enthusiasm, order and harmony, could not fail to remind the spectator of those days when the great Liberator of his country, leading a united people, was accustomed to teach their rights and liberties to the thousands who at all times responded to his call. At length, when the venerable Prelates of the Church of Ireland, headed by the Lord Primate and his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, made their appearance, the enthusiasm of the assembly found vent in loud shouts of applause. These Prelates were followed by His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel. The Lord Bishop of Clogher. The Lord Bishop of Birmingham. The Lord Bishop of Lyrrna, Conductor of the Eastern District of Scotland (Edinburgh). The Lord Bishop of Elphin. The Lord Bishop of Killaloe. The Lord Bishop of Clonfert. The Lord Bishop of Savannah, Georgia, U. S. The Lord Bishop of Cloyne. The Lord Bishop of Hyderabad. The Lord Bishop of Saldes.

Want of space compels us to omit the names of the members of the second order of the Clergy, and of the nobility and gentry who were present.

Lord GORMANSTOWN came forward and was received with loud cheers. His Lordship said—My Lords and gentlemen, I have the honor to move that the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland, be requested to take the chair (loud and enthusiastic cheers).

The moment that the title of the distinguished head of the Irish Church was heard by the people, the speaker was interrupted by deafening cheers, which were again and again repeated.

JOHN REYNOLDS, Esq., M. P., next came forward and was most loudly and cordially cheered. He said—Fellow-citizens, Lord Viscount Gormanstown has moved that the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, Archbishop of Armagh—(loud and prolonged cheers)—and Primate of all Ireland—(renewed and vehement cheering)—be most respectfully requested to take the chair, and to preside over this great meeting of the Catholics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (loud cheers). Now, gentlemen, I have used the precise words Lord Gormanstown used in moving the resolution. The Almighty has not blessed his lordship with as good lungs as he has blessed me with—(laughter)—and I am, therefore, in seconding the motion, which, as member of parliament for the city (cheers)—the committee have done me the honor of asking me to second—I am repeating his lordship's words, and having performed that pleasing duty, I beg now to congratulate you upon this enormous assemblage, headed by the Primate of all Ireland (immense cheering)—surrounded as he is by the following mitres: We have present his Grace the Archbishop of Cashel—(loud cheers)—his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam—(most vehement and prolonged cheering)—The Lord Bishop of Birmingham—(cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Edinburgh—(cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Elphin—(loud cheering)—the Lord Bishop of Clogher—(loud cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Killaloe—(loud cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Clonfert—(cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Savannah—(cheers)—the Lord Bishop of Cloyne, and the Lord Bishop of Hyderabad—(cheers). Although there are many dignitaries of the Catholic Church here, under the rank of Bishops, I will not detain you by enumerating their names. We have on the present occasion, the advantage of the presence of many members of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland—(cheers)—and I hope those who are present are not the less acceptable to you because they belong to the Irish brigade (loud and hearty cheers). And now, gentlemen, having seconded the motion that the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland, should take the chair, permit me in conclusion to say this, that myself, and those with whom I have had the honor of acting as members of the committee, in asking the attendance of the Primate and Bishops, felt the whole responsibility that devolved on us; and that responsibility was at all events to preserve order—(hear, hear)—and I do believe the order of this great meeting is not likely to be disturbed (loud cheers). We are assembled here, not for the purpose of forging chains for any sect of our fellow-men, whether they are Christians or no Christians. We are here assembled to protest against an aggression that has been committed on us, and, while in asserting our rights, we are prepared to maintain the rights of every sect of Christians, we are equally determined to protect our own (cheers). The resolutions that will be submitted to you were prepared with great care. They were prepared by a committee, of which the members for Athlone, Carlow, and myself were members (hear, hear). Before we ventured to submit them for your adoption, we submitted them to be revised and corrected by his Grace the Primate, his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Cashel, and his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Tuam—(loud applause)—and having been so revised and corrected, they will be proposed for adoption here; and we do trust, and in that expectation we are not apprehensive of being disappointed, that being proposed and seconded by the personages whose names the secretary, Mr. Sadlier, would announce, they will be passed by this great meeting in the same spirit of harmony in which they were prepared by the committee, and adopted, after revision, by the heads of the Catholic Church in Ireland (great applause). The honorable member then put the question that his Grace the Primate should take the chair, which was responded to by an enthusiastic and unanimous shout of acclamation, which continued for several minutes. I think (said Mr. Reynolds) I need not put the motion in the negative—(laughter)—it is carried by acclamation.

The LORD PRIMATE then took the chair amid the enthusiastic applause of the meeting. The cheering having ceased,

The LORD PRIMATE rose and was received with loud and enthusiastic cheers, which were prolonged for several minutes, all present standing, and displaying every possible mark of respect and veneration. The cheering having subsided, his Grace proceeded to say—My Lords and Gentlemen—It is not without reluctance and doing violence to my own feelings that I accept the high honor to which I am called, of presiding at this great and important meeting of the Catholics of the United Kingdom—an honor highly appreciated by me, and for which I am most thankful (cheers). My inclinations would lead me to seek for quiet and retirement; it would be my greatest ambition to devote myself exclusively to the humble and useful duties of a Catholic Pastor towards his flock; but, on occasions like the present, every Catholic must sacrifice his own private feelings, and come forward in defence of his religion ("hear, hear," and cheers). When their presence was necessary for the perseverance of their Faith, even the solitary and hermits of Egypt left their deserts, and mixed themselves in the tumult of the most populous towns (hear, hear). Is not this, in an especial manner, the duty of the pastors of the fold, who are charged to sound the alarm from the watch-towers of Israel, and who should be ready, not only to deny their own wishes, but even to lay down their lives for the welfare of their flocks? (loud cheering). In thus coming forward here to-day, I do not consider that I am intruding into the domain of politics, or travelling beyond the spheres of Ecclesiastical duty (hear). The present does not appear to be in any way a political movement; it is rather a great manifestation of Catholic feeling in favor of the liberty of our holy Church—a manifestation that has the strongest claim to be guided by the voice, and sanctified by the prayers and blessings of the Priests of the Most High. Allow me to add, that even this manifestation has been forced upon us by an unforeseen and unexpected course of events; that it is not made in a spirit of hostility, but merely as the means of self-defence, and in defence of that which is most dear to us in this world—our