

We see the thieves who have stolen millions from the national treasury rearing their unabashed fronts in public; society welcomes them as before; they appear to feel no shame and the people no abhorrence.

Some would substitute private or public utility as a standard of morality, the worth of all acts; their viciousness or virtue would be judged by the result. The successful villain would be lauded to the sky as virtuous and moral, whilst the poor, though good man, would be spat upon as a reprobate and a scoundrel.

It is thus apparent that without God there can be no morality—there can be neither rights nor duties; no incentive to follow, no authority to enforce the moral code; neither honor, shame, nor reason—neither public nor private utility, civil authority, or the rule of the majority can fill the place, or sway the scepter of the eternal Law-Giver.

The Rev. Thomas Harper remarks, whilst considering this topic: "Well, what is—that must be—the fatal fruit of all these miserable sophisms? This present generation has been promised a moral philosophy which should be free from the unwholesome restraint of the Supreme God; and the promise has been in part fulfilled—partly in course of fulfilment. And what is the result, so far as this mad skepticism has had its way? The broad landmarks which separate crime from virtue have been removed; all idea of accountability is smothered; moral evil is an epidemic which is beyond human control; our actions are not ours, for they are the playthings of an inexorable fate; and however disordered, they can be legitimately punished only as a remedial measure, and as a means of preserving the interests of the majority.

Society cannot exist without authority, rights, duties or obligations, and we have seen that these are impossible without God. Personal security and respect to property are the principal objects of civil society; these imply both rights and obligations; without morality, which guarantees these rights and enforces these duties, society cannot accomplish its objects, and must perish.

Lord Inchiquin presided at the last meeting of the Guardians of the Ennis Union, at which a letter from the Executive Committee for Closing Public-houses on Sundays was read, soliciting the signature of the chairman officially to a petition to Parliament in favor of the bill about to be introduced with that object. His lordship having asked if he would sign it, there was only one dissenter, whereupon he said that in doing so he at the same time intended to take exception to the measure in another place. Though the bill was good in principle, it required modification to suit the requirements of the humble classes.

On the 24th ult., a novel and interesting ceremony was witnessed in St. Mark's Catholic Church, Drogheda, when for the third time in his chequered life of 75 years, Patrick Long, Marshal of the Drogheda Trades, led to the altar of hymen a blushing bride, a young maiden of only 19 summers, named Julia Ludlow. The Marriage ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Thomas Allen, Adm. A large crowd was collected outside to welcome and wish many joyous years to the bashful bridegroom, and many and loud were the acclamations on this union of June and December.

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IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Justice Fitzgerald opened the Assizes at Ennis on the 22d ult. The calendar was small and the cases were all of minor importance.

It is said in usually well-informed Catholic circles that Mr. Cahel Hoyle is the author of the article on Ireland in the Dublin Review on the Home Rulers and O'Connell.

From Dr. Hancock's annual report on the vested savings in Ireland for 1875, it appears that this portion of the wealth of the country has increased by £980,000 in the year.

The Kilkenny Journal says:—"With reference to the rumor as to the change of Dr. Moran from this diocese to Dublin, we have been authorized to state that there is no foundation whatever for such a report."

The Chief Justice of the Common Pleas has appointed John Henry Harvey, Esq., of Ennis, and John Cullinan, Esq., of Waterville, Ennis, Perpetual Commissioners for taking acknowledgments of deeds by married women in and for the county of Clare.

On the 20th ult., a woman named Mrs. Duffy, who resided in Marrowbone-lane, Dublin, went to draw water out of a sort of well in the street, which is protected by a trap. Having raised the trap, she accidentally overbalanced herself, fell through the aperture into the water below and was drowned.

An old woman named Bridget Tameny, aged 105 years, died lately in Manorhamilton workhouse, Co. Leitrim. She reared a large family. She has two sons in the British army, and they fought in the Crimean and Indian wars. She was the oldest inhabitant in the neighborhood. She retained all her faculties up to the last, and received the rites of the Catholic Church.

Some barrels of wheat have just been sold in the Ennisworthy corn market, the produce of the harvest of 1861. It had been in stock until a few days previous and was in prime condition. It was purchased for Mr. Devereux, of Wexford, at 26s. per barrel. This wheat was grown in the neighborhood of Ennisworthy by a tenant on the estate of the Earl of Portsmouth.

The following changes have been made by the Most Rev. Dr. Butler:—Rev. William Downes, CastleMahon, to Rock Hill; Rev. T. Kelly, Croagh to CastleMahon, and Rev. Mr. Hallinan, from Fedamore to Croagh. Rev. D. O'Keefe was ordained on the 20th ult., and has been appointed Catholic Curate of Fedamore.

On the 22nd ult., the following sale was made in the Landed Estates Court:—Estate of Plunkett Kenny—Part of the lands of Basar and Shanmullagh, in the county Louth, containing 11a. 2r. 2p., held under a lease dated August 12, 1779, for the residue of 999 years, and yielding a net profit of £62 12s. 3d. Sold to Mr. H. V. Kennedy, in trust for £1,250.

Mr. ERRINGTON, M.P.—The kindly and touching words addressed by the Holy Father to Mr. Errington, one of the members for Longford, in relation to Ireland, following soon after the lengthened address of his Holiness to ex-Lord Mayor M'Swinye and the large Irish deputation at the close of the year, are highly flattering to the Irish people, forming, as they do, convincing proofs, were any wanted, that the love of the Holy Father for the faithful in Ireland is unimpaired by years, and is wholly unaffected by his own severe sufferings.

THE BUTT TESTIMONIAL.—A movement has been made in Cork to stimulate the lagging energies of the country as regards the Butt Testimonial. Mr. McCarthy Downing, Mr. Ronayne, and Mr. J. G. McCarthy have made stirring appeals to Corkmen, pointing out their duty in relation to the political services and professional sacrifices of the Home Rule leader. Most Rev. Dr. McCarthy, Bishop of Cloyne, has written to his kinsman, the able member for Malloy, John George McCarthy, a warm and earnest letter recognising Mr. Butt's claims to popular support.

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The Sarasfield Memorial committee, met on the 21st ult., at the Town Hall, Limerick, the Mayor in the chair. It was resolved to appoint new trustees, and take vigorous action to raise funds for a statue in honor of the celebrated defender of Limerick in 1690. It was announced that the fund in the hands of the trustees amounted to £700. Mr. Hall stated that while in Dublin recently he consulted some eminent sculptors as to the cost of an equestrian statue, and was informed that it would be as much as £3,000, but that a fine figure of the Irish soldier unhorse could be had for £1,200. The committee seemed to think that the equestrian statue would be the more fitting monument for the Irish soldier if the money could be raised, and it was suggested that an appeal for assistance be made to the French to whose glory Sarasfield contributed so much. It was stated that Mr. E. W. O'Brien, of Canermoyle, had expressed his readiness to associate himself with the committee and secure the cooperation of Lord Montagu Lord Clarina, and other persons of influence.

At the petty sessions of Julianstown, county Meath, on the 22nd ult., a case was heard and decided which should act as a caution to practical jokers. Eight men, mostly all young, residing at Mornington, named T. Kernan, King, Smith, Flood, &c., were prosecuted on sworn information, with having taken away a half-barrel of porter from the public-house of Mr. Matthew Durain, of Mornington. It appears that on the previous Saturday the defendants were drinking in Mr. Durain's, and his brother, who is somewhat eccentric, being in attendance on them they locked him up in a room, while a few of the others of their party rolled away a half-barrel of porter, which they carried off to a house some distance and caroused over it all that and the following day. The defendants acknowledged taking away the barrel of porter, but maintained their intention of paying for it; it was only done in jest. The bench, who did not look upon it as a joke, sent four of the defendants to Trim jail for a month each with hard labor, and the other four for a fortnight each, without the option of a fine. Mr. John Woods, of Morningtown, offered to bail them in £100, but it would not be accepted.

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On the 15th ult., during the progress of the works for improving the harbor of Clogher Head, Drogheda, county Louth, a charge of dynamite, which had hung fire for some time, exploded just as a workman named Carroll, aged 30 years, a native of Wexford, went to poke it up with his hand to quicken its action, hurling the unfortunate man back several paces. Those who witnessed the occurrence thought he was blown out of existence. He soon, however, regained consciousness, and was sent into Drogheda Workhouse Infirmary for surgical treatment. The thumb and some of the fingers of one hand were fearfully shattered, and the palm peeled clean off nerve tendons and blood vessels. The injuries to the other hand were only a shade less extensive. Amputation of the hand that had sustained the greater injuries was decided on, but the poor fellow steadily refused to submit to the operation. In vain was it sought to impress on him that the chance of saving his life greatly depended on having the limb amputated; that that there was no possibility of saving the hand; that, injured as it was, it was lifeless. He would not submit to have it cut off, saying he was but a poor laborer who earned his living by his hands, and he might as well lose his life as lose one of them. It was still alive in the hospital, at last accounts.

The Assizes in the city and county of Limerick opened on the 24th ult. In the City Court Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, in the County Court Mr. Justice Lawson presided. The two judges had little except congratulations to present to the Grand Jurors. In the City Court the judge remarked that the calendar showed that a remarkable improvement had taken place in the character of the city since he addressed the Grand Jury two years ago. There was only one case of offence against property. The other three charges are for the unmanly and cowardly crime of stabbing. In the County Court, Judge Lawson noticed the unparalleled fact that at the present Assizes there was not a single prisoner in jail awaiting trial. That fact stands out in strong contrast to the state of things which prevailed two or three years ago, when numbers of prisoners were placed before the judge charged with the foolish and barbarous crime of faction fighting. This savage custom has been crushed out by the firm and vigorous application of the powers of the law. Heavy sentences imposed by the judges convinced the populace that it was safer to abstain from feuds than to endure a lengthened imprisonment in sanguinary efforts to revenge imaginary or trifling differences. We are the more happy to learn that the city of Limerick enjoys an immunity from crime, because the protectors of the peace there are rather extraordinary than efficient.

An extraordinary occurrence took place in the river below Passage, on the 24th ult. A number of fishermen from Blackrock and Cork proceeded in eight boats, each manned by ten men, down the river, and attacked five boats that were engaged in drift net fishing between Passage and Queenstown, above in the boats, assaulted the occupants, and finally cut up the nets. Since the introduction of drift nets on these waters, two years ago, a great deal of jealousy has arisen between the owners and the draught net fishermen at Blackrock and Cork. The drift nets have increased this year from three or four to ten, and the feeling of jealousy has, in consequence, been intensified. The first boat composed was that of the brothers Ronayne. The boat was stowed in, and the occupants who were stowed had to swim ashore. The nets were also cut up. The second boat was attacked near Glenbrook. It belonged to a man named Hayes. The fish they had captured were taken from them. The men were assaulted, and the nets likewise cut up. The boat and not of a publican named Murphy, shared a similar fate, and one of the men received a severe wound in the forehead from a stone, and the crew left to swim ashore. The fourth boat made off when they saw the danger, and were pursued. The crew succeeded in gaining Spike Island. Their boat was, however, taken and broken, and their net cut. Another net and boat belonging to Queens-town were used in a similar manner. The police of Passage, hearing of the occurrence, took to boats for the purpose of intercepting the assailants on their return. They were observed returning at three o'clock in the morning, but they proved too expert at the oar, and glided away. No arrests were made. The damages are estimated at £200.

At Castledaly, near Moate, on the 15th ult., a new church, under the title and patronage of St. Kieran, was solemnly dedicated to Catholic worship with the full and impressive ritual prescribed by the Church for such occasions. The old church at Castledaly was inconveniently situated, was too small, had a leaky thatched roof, and indeed partook more of the construction of a barn than a place of worship. Some new building was urgently needed, and about a year ago Father Kearney, the pastor, commenced the work. His exertions were ceaseless, but he was nobly assisted. First came the generous gift of a site by a Protestant gentleman, Mr. O'Hife, and then the parishioners of Castledaly gave their labors in drawing and cutting stone freely and gratuitously, and though the poor people had to spend their day working at the building of the new distillery, yet they always came out a couple of hours earlier, were the morning ever so dark or wet, and remained a couple of hours in the evening, no matter how tiring their other work had been, to draw stone for their new church. With such aids the work made great progress—it was commenced April 3rd, 1875, and the first Mass was celebrated in the new building on the above date. The church is built in the Gothic style, with little or no ornamentation, and as yet consists only of a nave, terminated in a heptagonal apse, the nave being 109 feet long and 22 wide, and calculated to hold a thousand people, though the parish only contains 194 families. There are six arches on each side which are at present closed up, but can be opened at any time as soon as it is considered necessary to build the aisles, which are, of course, contemplated in the original style; and the church is lit by a row of windows above the arches. The architect is Mr. Ryan, of Dublin, and the builder Mr. Hughes, of Moate. Most of the stone used was limestone, but some few blocks were from the ruins of Clonmacnoise, about seven miles distant.

GREAT BRITAIN.

There are only 43,000 persons in England and Wales who own 100 acres of land or upwards.

Battering has revived in Sheffield, and the police are investigating some outrages.

A dispute has arisen at a colliery near Durham, by which 1,000 men will be thrown idle.

The disease generated near Bolton by impure milk has attacked nearly two hundred persons, and several cases are hopeless.

A girl has been committed for trial in London for setting fire to Church House, Bow, a home for destitute girls.

Mr. Lowe is in favor of a single municipal government for the whole of London, and so has publicly expressed himself.

There is a woman in Sheffield, named Horne, who is 107 years old. Her three children are dead, and the youngest took leave of the world at 65.

The London Common Council has determined to resist the attempt of Mr. Lewis, M.P., to dissolve the charter which constitutes them the Irish Society.

A child has died in London from poisoning by a narcotic drug called "Infants' Preservative," and an investigation has shown that such results are common enough.

The Newdegate attack on the Convents, when made this session, will be fought by the Irish members. Captain Nolan will move the rejection of the motion.

Drunkenness is not abating in London. The commitments to the Westminster Prison in 1871 were 6,316, and in 1875 they were 7,773. The increase is almost wholly made up of females.

Purchase has been completed by the Executive Committee of the New Farm Labourers' Union of their first plot of land in Wiltshire, which is to be let out to the laborers as garden allotments.

The Northumberland coal arbitration has concluded, the arbitrator ruling that the colliers shall submit to a reduction of 8 per cent, which is considerably less than the masters demanded.

The London School Board wants £398,867, including £69,245 of a deficit from last year, to carry on its business till March, 1877. This means a rate of 4½d over the whole of the metropolis.

The Home Rule Council of Manchester has come to a formal resolution, on behalf of the various branches, to abstain from all interference in the approaching election to fill the vacancy in the representation of that city, in consequence of the recent resolve of the National Reform Union to ignore the Irish policy.

Mr. Plimcell lately informed the shipwrights in the East End of London that a great number of ships had been stopped by order of the Board of Trade at Sunderland, and that nineteen of these vessels were so bad that none of them realised more than £30 at auction, although they averaged from 100 to 400 tons burthen.

The Duke of Connaught, who is at present performing staff duties in the garrison of Gibraltar, is expected to return to England about the middle of April. He will then probably rejoin his regiment, the 7th Hussars; and, as he is now qualified for a colonelcy, the Gazette promoting him and appointing him to some command may shortly be anticipated.

DEATHS FROM DRUNKENNESS.—The deaths from absolute drunkenness fluctuate. In 1873 the number was 777, of whom 365 died in delirium tremens. As many as a thousand have died from this cause in one year, but 1873 was about an average. The loss of life indirectly arising from intemperance is simply frightful, and, were medical certificates less misleading, we might get something like an approximation of the total.

The Rev. Father Turnerelli has been instrumental in establishing in Leamington "A Working Men's Club" on principles of a broad, unbiased character. The principal rules, condensed, are, first, that no sectarian or political influence, direct or indirect, shall be permitted in the club. Second, that all newspapers of all religious denominations shall be allowed in the reading-room. Third, that beer in moderation shall be allowed. Fourth, that the club shall be open after the hours of divine service on Sunday. These rules have been unanimously adopted by the meeting held in the above town, and we are glad to learn that members are rapidly enrolling themselves in the club.

THE MAN WHO WAS HIS OWN LAWYER.—Mr. Ridout, deceased proprietor of the Morning Post, made his own will before his death, and thus justified to some extent the adage which is not complimentary to the client of the man who is his own lawyer. Mr. Ridout left, by special clause, sums varying from £25 to £50 to all his servants who had been five years in his employ. Clearly he meant his domestic servants—those employed in his household—but having described himself as a newspaper proprietor, the word takes a much more extensive range, and everybody in the Morning Post office is held to be a legatee. Consequently, from the printer to the editor—compositors, reporters, correspondents—the whole literary staff is richer.

EMIGRANTS.—During the past month there sailed from Liverpool to the United States seven ships with 888 passengers, of whom 458 were English, 4 Scotch, 80 foreigners, and 46 Irish. Of vessels not "under the Act," there sailed to the United States 27, with 1,174 passengers, of whom 847 were English, 4 Scotch, 27 Irish, 195 foreigners, and 151 whose nationality was not described. There also sailed to Nova Scotia two ships, with 34 passengers; Victoria, 2, with 24; West Indies six, with 42;

East Indies six, with 38; Africa four, with 32; and South American six, with 127, making a total of 60 ships and 2,089 emigrants. The number in the corresponding month of last year was 2,900.

UNITED STATES.

The Iowa Senate refuses to pass the Bill restoring the death-penalty.

In Los Angeles a sprig of geranium grafted on a tomato vine is blooming.

Among the latest arrivals at Cleveland was a huge Canadian black bear, who came sailing into port on a cake of ice.

A Wisconsin correspondent writes:—"Fully one-fourth of the breweries of Wisconsin have suspended operations within the last few months.

A number of Philadelphia gentlemen propose to set apart about 160 acres of ground near Germantown, for a camp and parade ground for military bodies visiting the Exposition.

The Boston Advertiser says:—"A new line of fortnightly freight steamers between Liverpool and Boston is announced, and the pioneer is to leave the Mersey on Saturday next. This line is the fourth to be established and when it is in full operation we shall be favoured with an average of five steamships a fortnight. We presume, however, that when the St. Lawrence opens, the Dominion line terminus will be transferred to Montreal for the summer, as usual, which will leave us two steamers a week.

The Alta California describes a villainous contrivance with which one Ah Sow was about to strike in the face of a brother Chinaman. It consisted of a piece of sole leather through which was driven copper tacks, and to which was attached a handle to fit it to the hand. When ready for use it would be in shape and size like a small curry-comb, and its purpose was to strike the victim in the eyes and face. The tacks would project three-quarters of an inch, and besides inflicting painful and dangerous injuries, would destroy the sight.

Police-players have been trying a new trick in New York. Some time ago one of them made an ink that would fade away in a specified time—say two hours—and also an invisible ink that would appear about two hours after the visible ink disappeared. He wrote several numbers in both kinds of ink and enclosed them in an envelope. If the numbers written in visible ink proved to be a "hit" on the arrival of the results of drawings, he would go at once to the manager's office and demand his play. If not a "hit" he would wait until the visible ink had faded away, and the numbers written in invisible ink had appeared, and then go in and claim a "hit" on the second set of numbers. This gave the buyer a great advantage, as if he bought twenty numbers he would really have the advantage of forty. This scheme succeeded for several months, drawing several thousand dollars from the pockets of the managers, but it finally aroused suspicions and was discovered.

A TERRIBLE CALAMITY.—DESTRUCTION OF THE BROOKLYN HOME FOR AGED PEOPLE.—NINETEEN LIVES LOST.—Early on the morning of Tuesday, 7th inst., a fire broke out in the East or Mall wing of the Home for the Aged, at Bushwick avenue and Chestnut street, Brooklyn, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The origin of the fire has not been fixed definitely, but it is supposed that it was started in a small apartment on the ground floor used as a smoking room by the old men, and before the aged inmates were aware of its presence, the flames had made considerable progress. The firemen and police, after some slight delay, were on the ground; and the Sisters being aroused, did all in their power to save the inmates of the institution; but unfortunately, owing to the rapid spread of the flames and smoke, egress in one part of the building was cut off and a panic was caused among the inmates of the house, who rushed hither and thither through the building until they became exhausted or suffocated from smoke and sank down. The police rendered valuable assistance and carried out a number of old people who had become unconscious. Michael Cummings, seventy-five years of age, threw himself from the third story window and was instantly killed. Jeremiah Sullivan, sixty-five years old, was fatally injured by jumping from a window at the same height, and died next day. About 5 o'clock, a.m., the roof fell in, just as the police had rescued a number of the old men who had gone up there in their terror. The firemen then devoted their efforts to saving the main building, and with success. When the smoke cleared away, a sad scene of death was presented. In one room on the third story of the second tier, the smoke and flames had entered and scorched the quilts and pillows of the unfortunate inmates, nine of whom were found dead upon their beds. Nearly all of them were paralytics, and had been unable to make any effort to save themselves. A few were burned, and the hair upon their heads singed; but all, doubtless, had died of suffocation. On the third floor was found an old man seated in a chair, also quite dead from apoplexy. After the flames were subdued the firemen began to work searching for the bodies of those who had perished. In a short time the charred and mangled remains of eight men were found among the debris of the east wing, who had doubtless died before that part of the building fell. This made nineteen victims in all. The scenes were sickening, some of the bodies being so burned as to be unrecognizable. The names of the dead, so far as known, are as follows:—"Theodore Chajot, aged 75, a native of France; Michael Riley, aged 93, a native of Ireland; James Ryan, aged 76, a native of Ireland; George Donnelly, aged 69, a native of Ireland; Frederick Englehard, aged 77, a native of Germany; Jas. Conly, aged 71, a native of Ireland; Daniel Gorman, aged 78, a native of Ireland; John Cavanagh, aged 72, a native of Ireland; Peter Kully, aged 75, a native of Ireland; Roger Farrell, aged 71, a native of Ireland; Patrick Healy, aged 72, a native of Ireland; Conrad Landmann, aged 87, a native of Germany; Michael Cummings, aged 77, a native of Ireland; John Kenny, aged 71, a native of Ireland, fourteen in all. Besides these, John Coston, John Barroden, James Moran, John Corry, Matthew Breen, Nicholas Fifer, Henry Bennett, John Dahn, Peter Conarty, and Martin Faran, are missing. The names of four of the dead who are unaccounted for are among these:—"The total loss on the building and furniture is about \$30,000, which is partly covered by insurance.

On Wednesday morning sixteen hearses were driven into Chestnut street, near the gate of the Home of the Aged, to carry away the charred remains of the old men who were burned on Tuesday. There had been but two of the dead bodies recognized, those of Conrad Landmann and Michael Cummings, and for these there were claimants. The blackened remains were wrapped in sheets and laid in the coffins. When the sixteen coffins were filled the Sisters gathered about them and joined in the simple burial service, which was celebrated by Father McCarthy of St. John's College. Then the coffins were carried away and the sixteen hearses headed the procession to Holy Cross Cemetery, where a lot had been given the Sisters by Bishop Loughlin. The body of Conrad Landmann was buried from Father Baber's church, near the Home. The body of Michael Cummings was buried in the afternoon in Calvary Cemetery. The Commissioners of Charities have cared for over fifty of the poor men and women, many of whom were taken away with difficulty. There are less than 70 of 185 former inmates who are being cared for by the Sisters.