

ity to the persecution raised against the convents of our own country—a persecution for which some of the Irish members of parliament are responsible: for if our representatives had remained faithful to the just principle of Religious Equality, which at the time of the last election they bound themselves by solemn pledges to defend, we should not have now to complain of similar aggressive attempts on the liberty of our religious houses.

I have the honor to be, &c.,  
J. JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam."

At Ennis, Limerick, Lanturk, and most of the parishes in Ireland, meetings have been held, and petitions against all legislative interference with nunneries have been adopted.

**SYNOD OF DROGHEDA.**—We understand that arrangements, on a very grand and imposing scale, are in course of preparation for the Synod of Drogheda, which is to open on the 10th of May next, by a private session, at the residence of the Lord Primate.—*Drogheda Argus.*

**CONSECRATION OF THE RT. REV. DR. MORTARTY, COADJUTOR BISHOP OF KERRY.**—On Tuesday, the 25th April, the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, took place at the Cathedral Church of the Conception, Marlborough-street, the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Mortarty, President of All Hallows, Missionary College, as Bishop of Antigua, in *paribus*, and Coadjutor of Kerry. His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin was the Consecrating Prelate, assisted by the Rt. Rev. the Bishops of Limerick and Cloyne. Their Lordships the Bishops of Killaloe and Saldes, and Aureliopolis, were also present.

The new Catholic Cathedral at Armagh was opened on Easter Sunday by Archbishop Dixon, when the Rev. Mr. Kane, of Dublin, preached, and the collection amounted to £700.

The Sisters of Mercy proceeded on Thursday from Limerick city to occupy at Adare, their new convent, so elegantly prepared by the Earl of Durraven.

A proselytiser, named Andrew Lane, has just been received into the Catholic Church, by the Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty, P.P., V.G., Lismore. The reception and the penitence of the man were most edifying.—When Lane appeared in the church of Lismore to make a public confession—which he did openly and fearlessly—of the crime of which he had been guilty, there were over 2,000 persons in attendance.—*Waterford News.*

The following on dit is from the Irish correspondent of the *London Times*. Coming from such a questionable source it should be received with caution:—

A parish priest in Sligo, the Rev. Mr. Phillips, an active partisan of Mr. John Sadleir at the last election for the borough, has been removed to a parish in Roscommon; and it is stated in a local paper, that the "renewal has been effected in consequence of certain influences brought to bear upon the Court of Rome.

From the same authority we learn that the Bishop of Elphin, a warm supporter of the renegade O'Connell, proposes to resign his pastoral charge; his successor being the Rev. Owen Feeney.

**THE POLICY OF THE LEAGUE.**—The friends of Tenant Right assembled this week, to consider the results of the past session, and to decide upon a policy suited to the present position of the cause. Several members of the Irish Party were in attendance, and communications were received from some of the most influential lay and clerical supporters of the League. One of the chief topics of debate was the rumored success of Lord Aberdeen's manoeuvres, in securing the defeat of the Land Bills, even in the emasculated form in which they had been transmitted to the Upper House by the Select Committee. "I am glad of it," wrote Father Tom O'Shea, "not only because it fell short of doing anything like justice to the plundered tenantry of Ireland, but chiefly because its rejection, which must have happened with their connivance, if not at their instigation, removes the veil of hypocrisy in which the misnamed Liberal government of Aberdeen and their abettors have hitherto endeavored to shroud their real sentiments on the land question." And the Irish pledge-breakers! How plausibly they had assured the people that they would never coalesce with any Government which should refuse to make Crawford's Bill a Cabinet measure! All the speakers affirmed that the main obstacle to the settlement of the Land Question was the division which had sprung up among the Irish representatives; and a resolution was adopted calling upon the country to decide between Brigandierism and Independent Opposition. "On a recent occasion," said Mr. Moore, "in the House of Commons, I was informed by Mr. John O'Connell that he was prepared to meet me before the Irish people on the great question of policy upon which we are divided. I am ready to give him an opportunity to make good his boast; and here, on Irish ground, I challenge him to meet me before any assemblage of honest Irishmen that he can bring together."—*Nation*

The petition against the return of Mr. Fortescue for Louth, has been withdrawn by Mr. Macnamara Cantwell.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Saturday, an order for a criminal information was ordered against Mr. P. Gallagher, Dundalk, at the suit of his relative, Mr. G. Gallagher, for the use of libellous language calculated to produce a breach of the peace. The occurrence arose out of proceedings connected with the late election for county Louth.

**PERSECUTION OF CATHOLIC POLICEMEN.**—We noticed a few days ago the removal of Sub-Inspector McMahon, from Gort, because he did not render himself sufficiently accommodating to Mr. Brownrigg and his proselytising staff, when they made an inroad a short time since upon that town, and we now have to report the removal of four of the Catholic policemen from the same station. On last Thursday an order arrived from Lieut. Col. MacGregor, for the removal of three Sub-Constables and one Constable, although no charge, that they were aware of, had been brought against them. When the order was made known to the men, two of them disgusted with the treatment which they had received, at once resigned, and we understand that several other Catholics connected with the force have come to the same conclusion.—*Galway Packet.*

The *Galway Packet* states that "the London and Limerick Steam Company's vessel Brandon, 250 horse power, which is now being completed in Glasgow, will be ready for sea about the middle of June, when she will leave the Shannon for New York with goods and passengers."

The Select Committee on Emigrant Ships appointed by Parliament has elicited many important facts. It was stated by one influential witness, that the average mortality in crossing the Atlantic from Liverpool and the Irish ports in 1847, was 17½ per cent, while from the port of London, it did not amount to ¼ per cent.

**CHANGES IN IRELAND.**—The British army employed in Ireland in 1848, numbered 31,417. By 1851, it was reduced to 19,894. What its present strength may be, is uncertain, several regiments having been drafted to the East, or, remaining in Ireland, having given detachments of volunteers to complete battalions going out. Concurrent with this withdrawal of troops from Ireland, the local constabulary are in process of reduction, to the number at which they stood before the year of insurrection, 1848. In six years, from 1847 inclusive, the growth of flax increased 130 per cent. In 1847, there were under flax 58,312 acres, producing 349,827 cwts; in 1852, there were 137,008 acres, producing 709,249 cwts. The increase continued in 1853, but the exact returns are not yet available. Had not the high price of grain led to an excess of wheat sowing in the autumn of 1853, there would have been a still greater breadth of flax-fields laid down now. One of the most remarkable changes within the last six years, and which the public will be generally unprepared to hear, is, that while the population has decreased 20½ per cent., and over 500,000 acres been added to the cultivated soil of Ireland, including meadow, between 1847 and 1852, the quantity of produce exported had materially diminished. The increase of employment and consumption of food have been coincident with a remarkable diminution of pauperism; the number of paupers relieved in 1848 was 2,034,505; amount expended, £1,835,634. In 1850 there was a slight decrease below 1848. In 1851 the decrease was very considerable. In 1852 the number relieved was 1,977,575; amount expended £983,276. In 1853 the amount was £814,000, the number relieved not obtained. The diminution of persons in prisons is not less gratifying, especially during the last four years, which may be called emphatically, the years of Irish industrial reformation. On the first of January, 1850, the number of persons in jail was 10,967; and at the same date in 1853 they numbered 7,604; being a decrease of 3,363 in number—nearly equal to 30 per cent. An augmented breadth of cultivated land has been accompanied by a decrease in the produce of grain per acre. This arises from mismanagement of manures, defective roads and farm arrangements, deficiency of capital, and ignorance of agricultural science. The exports of linen, however, arising from demand in England, and the enlarged supply of Irish flax, having greatly increased. The linen exported last year was over the value of £1,000,000. This alone represents a large consumption of home produce in raw material and wages expended on food. The capital sunk in building and machinery for the linen manufacture is said to be £2,250,000, and increasing.—*Nation.*

**THE CONSTABULARY.**—The *Galway Press* states that several of the constabulary in this county have sent in their resignations to the County Inspector, within the last ten days, and many others are about to follow their example. The reason assigned for this step is the smallness of the pay allowed, which is unable to support them at the present high price of provisions.

An order was received on Saturday morning by the Commander of the Coast-Guard in Galway, calling upon all the men under 50 years of age, to hold themselves in readiness to join the navy at a moment's notice. A similar order has also been addressed to the crew of the revenue cutter Amphitrite.

During the past month recruiting has been carried on in Belfast and neighborhood with almost unexampled briskness. A local journal remarks,—"Some time ago we had no less than 13 different recruiting parties stationed here; at present we have only five. The other parties, having completed, we understand, the number of recruits whom they were sent to Belfast to obtain, have been withdrawn, and the remaining parties are making a good harvest of it, as the field is extensive, and the number of young fellows offering to enlist increasing, instead of diminishing. On an average, there are from 60 to 70 recruits picked up in this town per week.

**STATE OF IRISH TRADE.**—The reports for the week just closed are tolerably favorable. There was a fair business in produce, and prices for the leading articles were well sustained. Credit continues good, and money is sufficiently abundant for trade purposes. The payments from the Encumbered Estates Court were small—not exceeding £45,000. The long drought has been broken at last by most seasonable and refreshing showers, and the weather has been favorable in the highest degree for growing crops. The corn market has been dull.

**THE WEATHER IN IRELAND.**—The provincial accounts show that the rain has been general throughout the country, and that the effects have been most beneficial upon the young wheats and the spring crops recently planted.

We have much pleasure in stating, that the accounts from the provinces agree as to the fact, that the crops have not for many years looked so promising at this season of the year. The early fruit and vegetable gardens wear a wholesome and progressing appearance. The quantity of potatoes and oats sown this year far exceeds any previous years, at least since the blight. In the year 1825 the spring presented the same hopeful picture, and the summer's sun crowned it with a plentiful harvest. The old saying—

April showers bring forth May flowers, seems this season to have changed its old course; for, with the exception of a few genial showers which fell between Wednesday morning and yesterday—and which were by no means general—there has been no rain for many weeks. April has this year presented all the gladdening verdant appearance of its successor. Rain, however, is much needed. The emigration, from every part of the kingdom, increases daily, and the fair to the American ports is advancing. Liverpool is crowded with our noble people, men, women, and children, seeking shipping for the United States, Australia, &c. We regret to hear that the insidious enemy of the poor homeless Catholic emigrant is at work in Liverpool again. Our Liverpool Correspondent, this week, calls the attention of the Catholic public, but more especially, of the Catholic clergy located in the agricultural districts, to the fact that the vile proselytisers are trying their hand in several ways to entrap the soul of the poor poverty-stricken Catholic emigrant. This fact cannot get sufficient publicity, and we hope that it shall reach the ear of the ever-vigilant shepherds of the Fold.—*Dublin Weekly Telegraph.*

**EMIGRATION—THE LAND QUESTION.**—We regret to be compelled to state that the number of emigrants from this part of the country is daily on the increase. The emigration of previous years, since the famine, was confined principally to the poorer classes, whose only wealth was the strength of their arms. But at present we remark whole families, whose appearance seem to bespeak a higher degree of comfort, passing through our town on their way to the port of embarkation. Several causes concur in producing this general desire for emigration, the principal of which are the high rate of wages, and the reputed facility of acquiring an independence in America, on the one hand; and, on the other, the difficulty of procuring land upon fair terms for agricultural purposes in this country. There is at present a mania amongst landlords for laying down their lands into pasturage: every patch of land is at once walled in and turned to feeding stock. It is idle for a mere tillage tenant to look after it. If set at all, it must be with a proviso against tillage. But these doings of our landlord class will yet, and perhaps before long, recoil upon themselves. When a fall comes in the prices of wool and meat, as such fall will inevitably come, the peasantry whose toil and labor can give a permanent value to land will have left the country. It will be late then to recall them. With regard to the danger to the faith and morals of our Catholic countrymen who are compelled to quit their homes for a land where religion and morality, we regret to state, are almost entirely disregarded, we have already more than once given our opinion and our strong warning of remonstrance.—*Tuam Herald.*

**THE EXODUS.**—The *Mayo Constitution* states that the flight of the population from that country, especially those of the "comfortable farmer" and artisan classes, almost exceeds credulity:—"Daily tens and twenties pass through this town on Blaucon's cars and Wallace's vans for America and Australia. To the latter country the emigration is comparatively small, but to the former it is beyond belief, which, of course, is owing to the encouragement by the remission of large sums of money by those who have formerly emigrated from this country to their friends here."

**THE LABOR MARKET.**—A Sligo paper states that the wages of agricultural laborers in that county have been completely revolutionized within the past three months, and the small farmers are in despair at the rates which they are compelled to pay. Nevertheless, when one considers the enormous increase of late in the value of agricultural produce, wages ranging from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day for able-bodied men will not be thought very extravagant in these piping times of war." It is not in human nature to be always content with a standard of payment which was a positive disgrace to a civilized country, and the only wonder in the matter is that the fraud should have been submitted to so long and so patiently.—*Times.*

**APPROPOS TO THE JUSTICE OF THE COMPLAINTS OF THESE SAME "SMALL FARMERS."**—The *Dona Pilot* supplies the annexed sketch of their present condition:—"Well, let the whole tribe of grievance-mongers vouch what they will to the contrary, our Irish farmers are once more beginning to prosper. Agricultural produce has stood of late at a high figure. Corn has been wonderfully remunerative, considering the miserable prices at which it was sold for some years lately past. Cattle have enriched those who held them in large numbers. The farmer himself, the most easily disheartened of mortals, has plucked up fresh courage, and really seems to think that it is worth his while to live a little longer. Having outlived the famine, the farmers have betaken themselves to their occupations with a resolute industry most commendable. Never have they toiled with more earnestness than this season. They seem filled with new heart and hope. Not only is the land better tilled, but a larger quantity of it has been devoted to cereal and potato crops than at any former period. The dwellings, too, of the farmer are being repaired; those unsightly dilapidations which so frequently met the eye during times of distress disappear day by day, and we doubt not that the homesteads will soon present that cheerful appearance which they had of old."

The *Belfast Mercury*, too, gives some information with regard to another branch of trade in which the Irish farmer has a deep interest:—"Among the various indications of improvement in the condition of the country we are pleased to learn that the provision trade this season has assumed its wonted importance and activity. The supply of Irish fed pork has been much greater and of better quality than in any years since the famine, and the prices paid to the farmers must have been highly remunerative. Prices have ranged high, say £8 15s. to £9 8s., being an advance of £1 or £1 10s. on the contract prices in September last. The wants of our mercantile marine will be considerable, and cask provisions are likely to advance, as continental pork will be in less supply than usual."

There is a rather singular case at present depending, which strikingly exemplifies the necessity of those who are concerned in the administration of the Court of Chancery being above all suspicion of sectarian feeling. The late Mrs. Whelan by her will directed that under certain circumstances, her large property should go to the Most Rev. Dr. Murray, Archbishop of Dublin, or his successors; and the Archbishop being dead, and his title, as well as that of his successor, being rendered illegal by the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, and other similar legislation, the Attorney-General "of the present Liberal Ministry" steps in on behalf of the Crown, and endeavors to secure the administration of the Catholic Trust Fund. The Lord Chancellor seemed puzzled between the justice of the case and the letter of the law, and finally staved off the difficulty for the moment by directing that it should be referred to a "Master" to report how best the intentions of the testatrix could be carried out. We don't know to which of the Masters the matter stands referred, but earnestly hope that our Chairman of the Evangelical Alliance is not the man.—*Nation.*

On Monday night the Derrybrian mountains, in county Galway, were on fire for upwards of five miles, and presented a most magnificent appearance when seen from the town of Gort. The loss of game must be considerable in consequence of such an extensive and destructive fire.—*Galway Packet.*

On Tuesday a terrific fire broke out in the sheds and yards connected with the extensive flax mills of Sir John Macneil, at Mount Pleasant, within two miles of Dundalk. The loss is estimated at from six to eight thousand pounds, and we understand no portion of it is covered by insurance.

**DISCOVERY OF COINS.**—A very extraordinary discovery was made by a laboring man in the neighborhood of Coleraine the other day, while cleaning out a ditch. He found an urn containing 1,937 coins together with 341 ounces of silver in pieces of various sizes. The coins are Roman, in the most perfect state of preservation, of the most antique description, and what is very singular, no two coins appear to bear the same superscription. The silver is composed of a large number of weighty ingots and ornamental pieces, supposed to have been used for armour on horses. There are also several battle-axes, marked with Roman characters. The whole is now in the possession of Mr. James Gilmour, watchmaker, Coleraine.—*Coleraine Chronicle.*

The old bridge of Garfunny, one of the most interesting antiquarian structures in Kerry, is nearly in ruins; and Mr. Hitchcock of Trinity College, appears through the *Trilce Chronicle* to the gentry of the county to get up a fund for its repair.

**MR. DUFFY'S OPINION OF MR. MITCHELL.**—"In your career there is but one moment that can be recalled with unmixed satisfaction—your attitude in the dock. It might have saved your name; but, with that blind impatience which is ever your bane, you have forfeited it. You have blotted it out of the memory of men by the disgraceful breach of your parole. You have made as far as in you lies, the word of an Irishman of less value in the universe. You have prepared for future political prisoners utter distrust of their pledges. Do not presume, Sir, to palter with the facts. A moment spent in a police office, where careful precautions were taken before hand, by money and diplomacy, to make the proceeding a farce, was not a release from your parole. It is not so a gentleman fulfils his obligations; he is careful rather to be in excess than in deficiency in affairs of honor; but till it be considered the legitimate winning of a race to drug the adversary's horse, or bribe his jockey, this transaction will give you your name to contumely and endless scorn."

**RECORDS IN DUBLIN.**—We are glad to learn from Dublin that some attempt is to be put to the national records there preserved in order. We say preserved—but this is almost an abuse of terms. As our English records, lie, some of them above the powder magazines, of the Tower, others in the damp and dirt of Westminster, so the most precious vouchers of Irish history are "trampled under foot, on the floor of the Four Courts, lie beneath the level of the Liffey in the Custom-house or stand in heaps, amid dust and damp in the old Prison Tower of Dublin Castle." No one knows the contents of these papers; it is only known that they are national in interest, character, and importance. Imperfect "lists" have been made of them, or some of them, by Sir W. Betham, and by order of the late Record Commission; but of their contents no man can pretend to have any knowledge. Some change is, however, to take place. Colonel Larceny, present Under Secretary for Ireland, has cast an eye on these literary treasures; and, with the zeal of an antiquary, he has given instructions to the Ulster King at Arms to direct the cleansing and superintending the examination of this vast mass of historical documents.

**"Iconoclast,"** in the *Saunders*, calls upon all true Protestants to pull down the image of the cross—wherever it can be done with impunity, of course—"Wherever this image is set up on high on public property," he suggests, "at the expense of the public and contrary to law, for the people unceremoniously and calmly to enter and to tear down the image, and, after having ground it to powder, or broken it into fragments, to deposit the substance of it in the nearest stream. If I am not incorrectly informed, he adds, there is a Church, called a Protestant one, in Dublin, in which there are at least twenty crosses, including large, small, and diminutive. Demolition here would be service to God." This enthusiastic gentleman should have subscribed himself "Antichrist," we submit.

**"A GENUINE CELT."**—A Belfast gentleman at present residing in Victoria was taking a walk through the country around Melbourne in December last, and in the course of his journey discovered an honest son of the sod located in a mud-wall cabin, the roof of which was covered with soils instead of thatch, and at the end of the house stood a pigsty, duly tenanted. Here was the good old spirit evinced in a land 18,000 miles away, and genuine as if existing amid the hills of Mayo."

We (*Dundalk Democrat*) take the foregoing paragraph from the *Banner of Ulster*, a newspaper conducted by Dr. McKnight. The sneer at the poor Celt comes with a bad grace from that quarter. A glance at Irish history would have told the writer that in years gone by the "genuine Celt" was cheated and plundered in his own land; and that those who cheated him of his rightful possessions were not content till they told him to go to "Hell or Connaught," where they made him almost a savage. They not only sent him to the morass and the mountains, but they set a price on the head of his Priest, and made it a felony to teach his children to read or write. And English law, and brute force having banished him to Connaught, and scourged and degraded him there—and if he had built a good house, confiscated it; or if he had a horse worth £100, took it from him for £5, and made him an outlaw—we are told now that he transfers his habits to the antipodes, and he is sneered at because he is found practising abroad what oppression compelled him to do at home.

The weakest part of an alligator is his stomach. Man is an alligator. Fact! Give him enough to eat, and you're sure of him! Make a straight path from the front door to the dinner table; kick the childer out of his way, put his knife and fork where he won't lose a minute in getting 'em; then set his favourite dish before him, and don't wink till he has eat his way through it, and then's your time to ask for the "half of his kingdom" or the whole of it; keep your alligator tame with victuals, my dear, and his bite will never be dangerous. But—if you're a villainous cook (and don't know how to cook yourself) you may be as beautiful as Venus, intellectual as Madam de Stael, and as chaste as Diana—but your matrimonial death warrant is signed, sealed and delivered; you can take your piano for fire wood, and your French books for kindling, and study how to make the pot boil, if you don't want a divorce quicker than you got your "license." I knew a man who was bound to his wife by no other tie on earth, but her good dinners—he always adores her at dinner time? Whenever he gets savage, she runs to the pantry, and gets him something to eat, and he'll be as quiet as a lamb till next morning.—*Fanny Fern.*