

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

AMERICA AND THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The following important and most gratifying letter has just been received from the Rev. Dr. Donnelly by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin:—"Philadelphia, Logan's-square, Bishop's House, Jan. 1st, 1854.—Most Rev. Lord—New Year's day is truly a great day in America. It is the anniversary of the anniversary of independence, no festival sheds around so much good humor and good cheer as this which ushers in the new year. It is a day, above all, devoted peculiarly to works of generosity and the interchange of social civilities. In conformity with a good custom, the diocese of Philadelphia begs to present the enclosed draft, for five hundred pounds, as a new year's gift to Ireland's Catholic University.—Assuring your Grace and the committee of the unabated hospitality and sympathy shown by the good Bishop, and Clergy, and faithful people of this great diocese towards your unworthy delegate, and praying that we may all live to see many returns of this joyous season in the enjoyment of health and of every grace, I have the honor to remain, Most Rev. Lord, your Grace's very obedient servant,
"JAMES DONNELLY."

The noble mansion, Glasnevin, lately the residence of the Protestant Bishop of Kildare, and standing on a beautiful demesne of about forty acres, is now—what would his Right Reverence say if he could revisit it?—a convent. The Nuns of the Sacre Cœur, so celebrated for the education of your ladies, have fitted it up as a school, and have already entered upon labors which will produce fruits of lasting good and benediction to Ireland.

THE BALLINASLOE UNION—EXCLUSION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY.—The Ballinasloe guardians have deliberately come to the resolution not to allow the Sisters of Mercy to minister to and solace the cheerless and hopeless inmates of the union workhouse. Upon what principle this arbitrary vote of a Protestant majority was come to we cannot imagine. It was, in fact, a question upon which they should have in decency declined to vote, as being one in which Catholics only were interested, and with which, as Protestants, they had no legitimate right to meddle.—*Freeman*.

PROTESTANT PENAL LAWS.—MARRIAGE BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST.—CASTLEBAR, Jan. 19, 1854.—At the Petty Sessions here yesterday, two priests, the Rev. Richard Harty and the Rev. Mr. Ward, were summoned to answer the complaint of the Queen in the prosecution of the Rev. W. B. Stoney, the rector of the parish, that they or one of them had celebrated a marriage between a private soldier, a Protestant, and a woman, a Catholic. Informations were received, and the case sent to the assizes for trial.—*Galway Vindicator*.

THE MEATH BANQUET.—We have seldom recorded a more important political demonstration than the banquet to the representatives of Meath. It took place at Navan on Tuesday week, the Right Rev. Dr. Cantwell, almost the entire body of the Catholic clergy of the diocese, and at least three hundred landowners, traders, and tenant farmers, representing every district of the county Meath, having assembled to testify their approval of the career of Messrs. Corbally and Lucas. The first speaker was the venerable bishop of the diocese, and among the communications received were letters from the most distinguished members of the Irish Hierarchy, expressing their confidence in the policy of independent opposition, still more emphatically, if possible, than in the documents previously read at Kilkenny and Louth. "I never had a stronger conviction on my mind than this," observed the Right Rev. Dr. Cantwell, in his address—"that the Irish party of Independent Opposition is the only hope for Ireland; and it follows as a very obvious and natural consequence that it is the duty of all of us to use whatever influence we may possess, to give effect, permanency, and stability to such a combination."
"Action."

The reports of the Kilkenny, Meath, and Tuam banquets afford the best reply to those who want to enlighten the public on some supposed prohibition, by authority, of the clergy meddling in the concerns of the nation. The speech and presence of the illustrious Archbishop of Tuam at the banquet, last night, in themselves speak volumes on the subject. But, independent of those facts, we are authorized to contradict, in the strongest manner, a statement made by the *Galway Packet*, and taken up with such avidity by the Tory and anti-Irish press of the kingdom, that there has been any rule, or regulation, or prohibition, issued by any one, or received by any clergyman, anywhere in Ireland, which would hinder the freest exercise of his political rights, and the largest use of his honest influence in favor of the political, religious, and social interests of his country and his countrymen.—*Galway Vindicator*.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF TOWNS IN IRELAND.—On Saturday last the Rt. Hon. Sir John Young, Bart., gave an audience at the Castle to a deputation on the part of several boards of town commissioners in Ireland respecting the legislation contemplated by the Government on this important subject. It is understood that at this interview there was a good deal of interesting discussion with respect to a bill which it appears the government intends to bring forward early in the next session for the municipal government of towns in Ireland, in which corporations do not exist.

During the year ending 20th of November last, the deposits in the Waterford Savings Bank exceeded the withdrawals by the sum of £2,540.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION.—It appears from the Cork journals that the company have entered into contract to lay down wires between Limerick and Waterford in connexion with the main line between Cork and Dublin. Preliminary arrangements are also making for telegraphic communication between Cork and Crookhaven. It is proposed to lay down a submarine line from the Cork office to the south branch of the river which would be crossed by a submarine cable, thence to the Bandon Railway terminus by subterranean wires, along the railway from Cork to Bandon by pole telegraph, and thence to Crookhaven by subterranean. By this means all vessels sighting Cape Clear would be telegraphed to London within an hour. At present messages from Dublin to London are worked in an hour, but the improvements about to be made will accelerate the transmission by half an hour.

The crown business of Nenagh Quarter Sessions was opened on Saturday by Sergeant Howley, who congratulated his hearers on the satisfactory state of the Calendar compared with former years.

THE DEFENCES.—A local paper states that the plans and estimates for the projected new barracks in Galway have been made out on a most extensive scale. It is presumed, from the great number of sheds which are to be erected for cavalry purposes, that it is meant to provide accommodations for at least two regiments of that arm of the service. A landing pier will be run out into the sea, so as to enable steamers to come alongside the barracks to land troops, stores, &c.

RECRUITING FOR THE NAVY.—Sir Duncan McGregor has sent a circular to all the police stations along the Irish seacoast, directing the constabulary to afford every information and assistance to the officer of the Royal Navy who is at present engaged in the recruiting service on the West coast of Galway. The Advice, Lieutenant Balfour, commander, now in dock, enrolled eighteen active young men in Limerick, who were accustomed to a sea-faring life.

IRISH AGRICULTURE.—The *Dublin Evening Post*, in the course of some remarks upon the gradual improvement of the agricultural interests of Ireland, mentions, as a fact founded upon close inquiries, that more wheat has been planted this winter than had been sown for the past 10 or 15 years. From all quarters the reports are to the effect that lay and even fallow land will be extensively put under spring wheat.

SCOTCH INVESTMENT IN IRISH LAND.—A correspondent of the *Express* writes as follows:—"A gentleman who left this to pass the Christmas with his friends in Scotland has found the practice of investing in Irish property, under the Encumbered Estates Court, so much in favor with Scotch capitalists, and has so successfully encouraged them to their tendency to this speculation, that he has already received commission to lay out various sums in this way amounting to more than £200,000. It is also satisfactory to observe that many of those who have already laid out in money in our country are about to repeat the experiment, after having had sufficient experience to form a sound opinion as to its wisdom."

OUR WESTERN FISHERIES.—The long neglected fisheries of the West of Ireland are at length in a fair way of being rendered available. We understand that Captain Symonds, R.N., has been recently at Clifden, and Westport for the purpose of ascertaining the most proper place of fixing a fishing station, and it is rumored that Clew Bay was considered the most eligible. It is said that two large screw steamers are on the stocks, constructing, so as to carry in wells the fish alive to market, and, at the same time, take cattle, corn, butter, or any goods that may offer, to Liverpool. There can be no doubt, that in either way this speculation must pay, if properly worked.—*Dublin Express*.

STATE OF THE LABORING CLASSES.—The *Limerick Reporter* has the following gloomy statement respecting the spread of distress in that quarter, consequent upon the enormous advance, in the price of all kinds of provisions:—"The state of the poor is lamentable in the extreme. We never remember to have witnessed them undergo more privations. The 'capitalists' who speculate on 'war' have absolutely placed provisions beyond their reach, no matter the amount of employment they may enjoy. The gates of the workhouses, consequently, throughout the country, present the same afflicting appearance they did during the pressure of the famine in the memorable years '46, '47, and '48. Yesterday 300 applicants were received into the Limerick Union Workhouse; and to judge by the crowds of beggars that fill the streets, it is certain that hundreds more will have to seek a refuge within the workhouse walls before the lapse of another week, unless a favorable turn should take place on the Eastern question. The laboring classes are not much better off than those who are forced into the poorhouse. With the exception of a few establishments, the wages given does not average more than 1s 4d a-day. We believe in one or two cases it amounts to 1s. 6d. a-day; but the general average is 1s 4d., if not less. This is, we pronounce, no remuneration whatever under present circumstances for the laborer, without whom the employer cannot carry on his business; and we have heard of numberless cases in which the wretched laborer works through the day without food sufficient to recruit his strength, in order to supply the cravings of his miserable family!"

On Friday, the 20th inst., the poor rate collectors seized, under a magistrate's levy warrant, for poor rates, several feather beds in the village of Clarenbridge, belonging to poor persons who held a house and small plot of land. It was heartrending to see those poor people deprived in such cold weather of a bed to cover their starved limbs—for actually starved they are. They have neither provisions nor fuel.—One of them was a poor carpenter, who was sick for the last six months.—*Correspondent of Galway Vindicator*.

RELIEF OF THE POOR OF THE 19TH CENTURY.—DISTRESSING CASE.—A wretched female was found by Constable Donat McMahon, wandering about the streets of Youghal about nine o'clock on the night of Friday, the 6th instant, and brought to the workhouse. In her arms she bore a child which was quite dead. Mr. Lucas (the master) immediately admitted the woman, but refused to admit the dead child, as being contrary to the regulation. A coffin was humanely supplied by the church warden, Henry Long, Esq., and the poor infant committed to the earth. Both mother and child appeared to be objects of frightful destitution. It is remarkable that no inquest was held on the body, when facts might be elicited so as to give the public an opportunity of judging how the laws for the relief of the poor are administered, to which rate payers are expected to contribute so largely.—*Waterford Mail*.

The military were all under arms in Carrick on Monday, and one hundred police from the out-stations were brought in, as "food riots" were apprehended. There were a vast amount of distress at present in the country.

A farmer named Allen, near Monasteran, whose potato pit had been repeatedly robbed, adopted the following expedient to detect the plunderers:—he placed tangled bushes over the pit and tied them with small cords, to which he attached a length of wire so as to connect it with a bell at his house which was convenient. On Wednesday night, the bell rang, when Allen's two sons (both under 15 years), sallied forth. They discovered two men at the pit, one of them a large ferocious looking man, who, as soon as he found he had been discovered, assumed an attitude as if to pull a weapon from his bosom; observing this, one of the young Allen's discharged a gun at his feet, whereupon he decamped; their father coming up to the lad's assistance the other man was captured.

THE POPE AND THE IRISH CLERGY.—The *Wexford Independent* (Catholic authority) more than inclines to the belief that there is a foundation for the statement put forward in the *Galway Packet* touching the intentions of the Holy See to restrain his Irish clerical subjects from undue interference in political affairs:—"The over-heated, and we are free to admit, honest zeal, of a few thoughtless young clergymen at the last election has given great pain to the Holy See, which had itself sadly experienced the dreadful consequences of enlisting the passions of the multitude in wild and visionary movements for the sudden reform of political institutions. Moreover, the Holy See, while it will never consent, on the part of the ministers of religion, to surrender one jot of the rights of citizenship in any part of the world, no matter what its form of government, is resolved that the interests of religion shall not suffer by any undue interference on the part of the clergy with the rights and liberties of their lay brethren. We know several young clergymen—now driven by an *esprit de corps* to take that prominent part to which exception has been made, who will hail the order to which we have alluded as a boon and a blessing." Another Catholic journal (the *Limerick Examiner*) doubts the truth of the statement, and stoutly insists that Cardinal Wiseman—for his Eminence is the reputed intermeddler at Rome—has no ecclesiastical jurisdiction in Ireland, and, therefore, that the Pope would turn a deaf ear to any complaints of the Irish clergy coming through an unauthorised channel:—"The ecclesiastical head of the Irish church is the Pope's Legate, the eminent prelate who sits in the chair of St. Laurence, in Dublin, and through him only will the Pope receive any statements respecting the Irish clergy. It is idle to think that the Irish Catholic clergy shall not meddle in politics. Their very duties as priests compel them to do so, for the protection of the church as well as the people. Besides, every parish priest who may be owner of a tenement above the value of £5 is by the British constitution empowered and invited to meddle in politics, and he must do so. A man does not cease to be a citizen by becoming a priest. If the Catholic Clergy of Ireland had not interfered in politics during the O'Connell era there would not now be a Catholic hierarchy in England, with a Cardinal at its head."

THE TRACT DISTRIBUTION CASE.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Tuesday, the Judges pronounced a unanimous decision in the case of the Queen v. O'Brennan, directing that a writ of *certiorari* should issue. The effect will be that the proceedings in the case of O'Brennan v. Smith, the informants, and the judgment of the police magistrate, Mr. O'Callaghan, will be returned to the Court of Queen's Bench, where ulterior proceedings may be taken.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—The distress caused by the high price of provisions has already produced considerable excitement in various parts of the country. On Monday, at Carrick, in the county of Tipperary, the military, together with one hundred men of the constabulary from out-stations, were under arms throughout the day, owing to an apprehension of food riots, the laboring population being in an extremely excited state. In some localities, Committees have been organized to afford relief by retailing meal and bread at or under first cost; and the subject has begun to attract a large share of public attention.

NORTH DUBLIN UNION.—CENTRALISATION.—At the usual weekly meeting of the guardians of this union on yesterday, the following resolutions were adopted by the Board:—"That the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union, having painful evidence of the pauperised state to which this city has been reduced by the unjust system of centralisation carried on by successive governments, have learned with much regret that it is intended further to impoverish our city by the withdrawal from Dublin of the managing departments of the Post Office and other public offices, and we call upon the ratepayers of the North Dublin Union to resist the measure. That a committee be appointed to draw up petitions to both Houses of Parliament—that to the House of Commons to be presented by Mr. Grogan, in the Lords by the Earl of Eglinton; and that a memorial be presented to the Lord Lieutenant, the South Dublin Union being requested to join therein; and that the city and county members be requested to attend."

ROBBERY, ABDUCTION, AND ARREST.—Mr. Anthony Metcalf, of Creebelp, near Dunlaven, a respectable and wealthy farmer, was robbed of £105 on last Monday by his daughter Bridget, who is not fourteen years of age. She was induced to commit this robbery by W. Nolan, of Dunlaven, a farm laborer, who had been a servant to her father some time ago, but was discharged for his coarse attentions to the little girl. The parties left Dunlaven about one o'clock on Tuesday, came to Athy, went from that to Carlow, and subsequently to Maryborough, where on Monday night, Head Constable John Moore immediately arrested them under suspicious circumstances, as they were preparing to start by train for Cork. Nolan most indignantly protested against the infringement on the liberty of the subject. The little girl went bitterly told where she was from, and on her person being examined, £75 was found in her possession. She would give no account of the other £30; but it is supposed to have been given by her seducer to his mother. The girl's father being in attendance, the result of the investigation was—after the examination of witnesses—that the prisoners were fully committed to take their trial at the county of Wicklow spring assizes. This case underwent a further investigation at Dunlaven on Tuesday and Wednesday. Head-constable John Moore, of Maryborough, who originally arrested the fugitives, had been scouring the county Wicklow for three or four days, and succeeded in securing a number of witnesses, and in arresting three more persons, who had been implicated in the foul conspiracy. The result of the investigation was that, in addition to William Nolan, the principal offender, and his mother Anne, their workshops committed for trial to the assizes Jane Nolan, sister to the abductor, William Nolan, a cousin of his, and Anne Reilly, previously a servant girl to Mr. Metcalf.—William Murphy, of Cowpark, proved that the child Bridget Metcalf, was brought to the house of William Nolan, of Cowpark, by William Nolan of Dunlaven, who was accompanied by his mother, sister, and another brother. He saw the money change hands; and other matters transpired sufficient to insure the conviction of the parties concerned. Nolan's brother has succeeded in evading the vigilance of the police. It is said that on the arrest of his mother he consulted a solicitor in a neighboring county as to what course he should adopt. On receipt of a handsome fee, the opinion was—"Fly! if nabbed, you'll be transported."—*Leinster Express*.

LORD PLUNKET.—A very curious incident in the life of the late Lord Plunket, and talked of in well informed circles of Dublin society. It appears that in his declining years he had occupied himself with drawing up some particulars of events in his public career. But his mind, as was not unnatural, at his protracted years, was subject to aberration; and not long since he chanced one day to come on the papers which he composed in perfect health, and, seizing them, he suddenly cast them into the fire, and destroyed them all! We are not informed as to whether the papers were a retrospective record of his varied life, or whether it was a journal kept in his later years. The name of Mr. Edward Berwick, the President of Queens College, Galway (and the grand nephew of the late Henry Grattan), has been mentioned as that of Lord Plunket's Biographer.—*athlonean*.

IRELAND AND HER MANUFACTURES.
A witty lawyer of our acquaintance once wrote a clever book full of fun, and a grave book full of law. But he got the credit of neither. A duller brother of the black robe, who happened to bear the same name, coupled with, probably, a stronger supply of assurance, was generally believed to be the author of both books; and, on the strength of this belief, he grew fast in favor with approving attorneys and admiring young ladies. Briefs handsomely fed, and cards of invitation to select evening parties, poured in upon him; and the true man, eclipsed by the mistake of a name, was fain to console himself with an epigram, in which he mourned that his luckier namesake
"Was fed for his law, and was fed for his jokes."

Somewhat of this nature is the position of Ireland in not a few points; not so bad now, to be sure, as it was, but still bad enough to make a poor country, with little good fortune to boast of, to grumble at her ill luck. The few things that mischance has allowed her the power to do, will go too often to the credit of others; and she is frightened from doing better by the disheartening thought that she gets so little honor for what she has done.

Our excellent friend, John Bull, says we can do almost nothing but talk. Honest fellow, he took care that we should do as little as possible, by tying up our hands with his restrictive laws. Nevertheless, we have tried to do something. John gorges on our Irish hams with the English brand on them, and chuckles to think how well they save their bacon in old England. He encases his fat calves in well-tanned Irish calfskin, and cries there is nothing like (English) leather. He sometimes, too, dusts his coat with an Irish bush, and decks Mrs. Bull out with Irish lace or tussin; and, forgetful whence these things came, he prides in Manchester and glories in English bristles. It is all British skill and British taste; and poor old Ireland gets no credit, while she loses half the profit, of the few things she does so admirably well.

But not in England alone is this so. Wherever Ireland has dealings, the same anomaly occurs. Here are our own shoemakers delighting the eyes of their customers with the finest French leather; and—consummation of the ridiculous—it too often happens that that same leather was taken off the carcasses of Irish beesves, dressed in Irish tanneries, and sold to France, whence, after some trifling finishing, intended rather to disguise than to improve, it is sent back and sold to ourselves again as the genuine French article.—Such is the way in which Irish contempt for everything home-made, Irish craving for everything foreign and fashionable, is hoaxed and deluded every day in the year.

Then see what Mr. Lindsay tells us at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. America is the great mart of the Irish sewed muslin trade. But the Irish article is not in the highest favor in America.—And why? Simply for this reason: the name of Ireland, trampled on and oppressed, is generally coupled, in the minds of strangers, with rags and beggary, misery and dissatisfaction, with thousands rotting in workhouses at home, and thousands more flying for refuge abroad; and people cannot picture anything good or fine coming from so unhappy a land. Irish manufactures occur to them as a sham, an impotent attempt of slaves to build up a nation; and the fancy products of the Irish loom and the Irish needle are looked on as the works of a creditable benevolence, to be used and worn as really good and valuable commodities.

Yes, the word "Irish" is rather vulgar; and the goods, to sell, must bear a French, Flemish, or other fashionable name. Our readers will guess the result; Irish goods are sold as French, to get them a better market; and the best articles sold in America, no matter what name they bear, are manufactured by the fingers of Irish peasants. Against such difficulties is it that the sewed muslin trade has grown up in Ireland from something incomparably insignificant to a great and staple branch of industry, giving continuous employment to upwards of two hundred thousand of our female population. Even our linen trade—with a reputation so world-wide now—had to labor much under the same difficulty in the beginning, and owes much of its success to friendly exertions in America, as well as to the absence of English jealousy and competition in that quarter.

But, after all, these things only give us the more reason for hope and confidence. If such a branch of Irish industry as the sewed muslin trade has prospered so greatly, in the teeth of prejudices that hung heavy on the products of Ireland, what may we not expect, now that it is emancipating itself from the difficulty, and forcing on people's minds an honest appreciation of the value of Irish manufactures and the skill of Irish workmen. For the truth is becoming confessed, that our native industrial genius is of the highest order. The world has begun to acknowledge that the people of this country possess a capacity for the most refined arts and the subtlest manufactures which, if equalled, is unsurpassed. Our linens and dunnaks are now foremost in the world's markets, because of this great aptitude which our people display for producing the most beautiful articles at the cheapest rate; and the sewed muslin trade is rising with unequalled rapidity, because the skilful fingers of our poor peasant girls—fingers that had long grown stiff for want of occupation—now produce goods that, for their beauty and taste, excite the admiration of the best judges. Facts like these must excite hope in the breasts of the most desponding, and raise a confident belief that, in proportion to Ireland's backwardness in the past will be the rapidity with which she must go forward henceforth, now that the shackles are being taken off her limbs, and the path is clear for her onward march.—*Ulsterman*.