

cause of Catholic education, we are *ul'ra-loyal*. What we have written was prompted by that desire which, as we have already said, occupies the innermost corner of our heart, the desire that Catholic education will succeed, even beyond expectation, in its glorious mission.

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WHY IS A COERCION BILL NOW IN FORCE IN IRELAND?—The question heading this article is one which we are sure would be a very difficult one for any conscientious man to answer. It is only the officials of the English Government that would try to manufacture any answer that could be given to it. We can safely say that never was such a wrong inflicted on any nation under the sun, as to have at this moment a code in force in Ireland such as the Coercion Bill is. Any member of the force of the Irish Constabulary can break into a house, day or night, without a warrant of any kind, but simply if he has suspicion of any wrong going on. When quiet unoffending people are sleeping in their beds, and no intention or idea of doing anything wrong, it is a monstrous thing to say a simple policeman can break in the door, rush into the room where some young girls are sleeping, and actually go to their beds to search for some imaginary victim. This is not mere hearsay, we have known it to be the case, and have known young virtuous girls to hide their heads for the purpose of evading the policeman's gaze. If a young man for any purpose takes a walk after sunset—which is generally the only time the greater number of young men have to do so—he is liable to be arrested by one of these majestic policemen, and without any trial whatever, lodged in jail “during Her Majesty's pleasure.” It may be said this law is not enforced, but we can easily show that, on the contrary, it has been enforced; and one young man named Casey has been imprisoned for nearly two years *without ever being tried*! In England, where we every day read of murders, and every description of beastly crime unknown to any other civilized community, we never hear of the idea of a Coercion Bill being introduced—where there is more crime committed in one week than in Ireland for more than a year; in fact there is never such beastly brutality carried on in Ireland as it is reported in the English papers takes place in London and in every other part of England. It is very little matter to Ireland whether a Tory or Liberal Government is in power, as they are all “chip of the one block.” When Mr. Disraeli was in opposition, he condemned the govern-

ment of Mr. Gladstone for not being able to govern Ireland except by coercion; but when he himself got into power, he took very good care that he did not repeal it, but when cornered by Lord Robert Montague, as well as we recollect, he declined to make any answer, except that he was in the “Opposition” at the time he condemned Mr. Gladstone. We have read that Mr. Disraeli is to visit Ireland before the present year is over, but what good will come from this “honor” we have yet to see.

We cannot better show the entire absence of crime in Ireland at present than to give a few extracts from the charges of the several judges on circuit to the juries who attended at the summer assizes. Mr. Baron Dowse, formerly Attorney-General, and who has strong Orange proclivities, says to the grand jury of Waterford:

“Gentlemen, I am happy to congratulate you that there is no bill to go before you, a circumstance which should not be mentioned without an expression of high approval. In answer” (he continued) “to the reckless calumnies as to the crimes of this country, I think I may say that in one English county there is more crime than in the whole of Ireland!”

In the South again, Baron Deasy, addressing the Grand Jury of Kerry, at Tralee, remarked:

“I am glad to find, on my return to your country, after an interval of twelve months, that it is in its normal condition of tranquility. Your business will be very light. The bills sent up to you are very few, and not of a serious nature. The County Inspectors confirm the favourable state of your country; and I may say, as far as the official documents are concerned, that I can congratulate you on the condition of your country.”

In the North, Judge Keough, who would not do so if he could by any means do otherwise, thus addresses the Grand Jury at Carrickfergus:

“It is now, I believe, six years since a single prisoner was returned for trial charged with any offence in the district which you represent. There is, I understand, one prisoner for trial at the present assizes, but the charge against him, although it is one involving the death of a fellow-creature, really involves no moral turpitude. The circumstances, as I have been informed, are these—that the driver of a car carelessly left his horse unattended. It ran away, and, in doing so, ran over a person who was killed. This is the only offence charged against any of the community of Carrickfergus.”