

lation of 170,000—it was scarcely 100,000 when Pius VII. was restored after the retreat of Moscow. So much did Rome flourish under the enlightened sway of philosophy. The public treasury, the states were ruined, and the heaviest taxes must be traced to these very events. Seventhly—let any one who doubts of the popularity of the Pontiffs, as temporal rulers, only look to what Sir Humphry Davy describes as an eyewitness, with regard to the restoration of Pius VII.; let him reflect that when the States were surprised by an invasion from the Romagna at the opening of the present pontificate, it was the people who rallied, and by their native bravery, without the aid of the troops repulsed the insurgents. No less than 10,000 volunteers poured into Rome from the Sabine country, and from beyond Mount Algidus—the whole of the *Trasteverini* rose en masse to defend the throne of Gregory XVI.

I have again to express my regret at being obliged to leave this part of the subject so very imperfect, but I hope to treat of it at much greater length under a different form. As to governments who have under them vast masses of devoted Catholics, the very worst and most unwise plan they can take for securing the allegiance and tranquillity of the latter, is to patronize disaffection in the Pope's States, or send money to bribe his soldiery. I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

J. MILEY.

BALLINTUBBER ABBEY.

(From a Correspondent of the Freeman's Journal.)

A meeting of the inhabitants of the united parishes of Ballintubber and Burrenscarie in the county of Mayo, was held in the ruins of the ancient Abbey of Ballintubber, on Sunday, the 19th October, instant.

The Very Rev James Browne, the zealous and venerated parish priest, in the chair.

The meeting was numerously attended by the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood, amongst whom were Robert Dillon Browne, Esq, our talented representative; Valentine O'Connor Blake, Esq, late D L and J P; James O'Dowd, Esq, Barrister; Peter Tuohy, Esq; Thomas Lynch, Esq; James Tuohy, Esq; James Lynch, Esq; Henry Murphy, Esq; Malachy Tuohy, Esq; Michael Clarke, Esq; Rev John Flannelly, R C C; Richard Kean, Esq; Rev John McCullagh, R C C; John McEvily, Esq; James Conry, Esq, &c &c. There was a large attendance of the ladies of these and the neighbouring parishes, who were highly delighted with the proceedings.

The object of the meeting cannot but awaken a lively interest among all classes in this country. The celebrity obtained by this abbey, as a beautiful monument of Christian architecture, as well as on account of its interesting associations during the penal laws, will enlist much public interest in favour of the restoration of so fine a ruin: The undertaking is an arduous one—but when we consider that it is the first attempt to restore the architecture of the Catholic Church in this country, and that Ballintubber is perhaps the only Abbey in Ireland in which, during the long and dreary night through which the Catholics of this country were doomed to pass—the sacrifice was never discontinued; we feel certain that the undertaking will meet with cordial support—the work is already considerably advanced under the management of Michael Clarke, Esq, who has contracted for the completion of the work; and from the high character of Mr Clarke we are assured that this splendid pile when finished, will be an ornament to our country. The plans and drawings of the various parts of the building were given by Henry Brett, Esq, County Surveyor, who has with great care, examined the old walls, and found that they were solid and capable of sustaining the projected additions. The public will, from time to time, be made acquainted with the progress of the work. The abbey was founded in 1216 by Cahal O'Connor, king of Connaught, and belonged to the Canons Regular. The building, which is of the Gothic style, is according to all the ancient arrangements of a purely Christian temple. The vaulting of the chancel, and the arches of the transepts are still perfect, and remarkable for the beauty of the tracery. There are four chapels in the interior of the building, beautifully arched and so placed in the transepts, as to form a group of buildings, and arches which relieve each other, and give a splendid effect to the *ensemble*, which consists of a nave, choir, transepts, and chapels, uniform in plan, and measuring from the grand entrance to the chancel, 132 feet. The ancient doorway has been taken away many years since to enrich the residence of a Protestant gentleman, but the architect is substituting a saxon arch, according to the style of the early English architecture, which will harmonize with the character of the entire.

The Very Rev James Browne P P upon being called to the chair addressed the meeting as follows:—My dear friends, when we look back to the condition of this country about forty years ago, nay, even since the removal of our civil disabilities, when we were enthralled by the prejudices with which three centuries of calumny and persecution had filled the minds of our enemies, and now see that we occupy the reverse of our once degraded position, we never ought for a moment to forget the mercies bestowed by God upon this long tried, long suffering, and afflicted, but faithful portion of his inheritance.