

for the education of the female poor, of convents of the Sisters of Mercy, for the relief of the Irish poor, and of schools of the Christian Brotherhood. Now, it is to check those and such similar institutions, that the Charitable Bequests Bill has been passed. Twelve Commissioners have been created—seven Protestants and five Catholics. Some of those must have salaries; a house must be rented for them; they must have a salaried solicitor, and advising lawyer, clerks, &c. The staff expenses, law proceedings, &c., will probably consume one-third of the sum left for charitable purposes, while many bequests will be pronounced invalid. These are a few of the motives which should induce us to oppose this bill. How can we do so? By requesting of our Bishops to convene meetings of their respective dioceses in order to take this bill into consideration. This proceeding on our part cannot be offensive to the Bishops, as the bill does not extensively affect themselves. We should also in our several parishes get petitions signed against it. The honest, talented Catholic press of Ireland will lend us its utmost aid, and thus a bill more insidious and more fatal than the detested Veto itself, will be rendered harmless.

I remain, Rev. Brethren,
Your humble Servant,
A CLOYNE CATHOLIC PRIEST."

THE CHIMES.

A SONG, RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO CHARLES DICKENS, ESQ.,

BY J. E. CARPENTER.

(FOR THE TABLET.)

The chimes, the chimes, the joyous chimes,
That had their birth in good old times;
That high in the steeple, to and fro,
Have hung and swung since—long ago!
When Mass was said, and prayers were read,
Which incense wafted high o'er head;
Those by-gone days when, history tells,
The people loved their sweet Church bells.

Ring loud and long, ye joyous chimes,
And tell me tales of the good old times.

The chimes, the chimes, the Christmas chimes!
They ring as erst in olden times;
But ah! for follies that rule the day,
A world of truth has passed away!
An age of faith when men were good,
And simple, honest dealing, stood;
Those days live but in dreamy rhymes,
And in the sacred Christmas chimes.

Ring loud and long, ye joyous chimes,
And tell me of good old Christmas times.

The chimes, the chimes, the New Year's chimes,
That rung the old year out oft times;
They joyously tell, in tones of mirth,
That Time has given a year to earth;
So, what if the past be grey and hoar?
If and, he can sorrow us then no more!
For we hope and trust in better times,
When we hear the joyous New Year's chimes.

Ring loud and long, ye glorious chimes,
And bring back some of the good old times.

Leamington Spa.

MORE "INNOVATION."—A petition has been prepared for presentation to the Archbishop of Canterbury, signed by the Duke of Sutherland, the Earl of Denbigh, the Earl of Gainsborough, Viscount Sandon, M.P., Viscount Morpeth, M.P., Lord Calthorpe, Lord Rayleigh, Lord Teignmouth, Lord Bloomfield, Lord Francis Egerton, M.P., Lord Henry Cholmondeley, Lord Ashley, MP., Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., Lord Howard, M.P., Hon. Wm. Cowper, M.P., Hon. Wm. Ashley, Hon. F. Calthorpe, Hon. Col. Upton, Hon. Joceline Wm. Percey, Hon. Captain Waldgrave, Sir Thos. Baring, Bart., Sir T. Lawley, Bart., Sir Harry Verney, Bart., Sir John Kennaway, Bart., Sir W. Farquhar, Bart., J. C. Colquhoun, Esq., M.P., Mr. R. M. Milnes, M.P. We extract the following:—"First, the clergy, must be increased in number; and, secondly, provision must be made for a more systematic employment of laymen in the exercise of functions which do not belong exclusively to the clergy. In the attainment of these objects we would respectfully request your grace, and the other members of the episcopal bench, to take into your consideration. First. The expediency of increasing largely the number of the third order of our clergy—the deacons; and we venture to suggest that this may be effected by admitting, on such condition as will maintain the order and discipline of our Church, persons who have not the means of proceeding to an university degree, but who are found competently trained for the service of the sanctuary; this advancement to the higher order of the Ministry being made contingent upon a faithful discharge, during a lengthened period, of the office of a deacon; or upon such other circumstances as your grace and the other members of the episcopal bench may think fit. Secondly, The propriety of sanctioning and encouraging the employment of a class of laymen, who, without altogether abandoning their worldly callings, might be set apart, under episcopal authority, to act as visitors of the sick, Scripture readers, catechists, and the like, in parishes where their introduction should be approved by the parochial clergy. The system of district visiting, and the appointment of lay Scripture readers under clerical superintendence, have already been adopted, we believe with much success, in many populous parishes; but the present state of society requires that both these means of usefulness should be greatly extended, and brought into more immediate connection with our ecclesiastical arrangements, for we are fully persuaded that the true strength of our Church can never be completely known until, by some such means, her lay members are enabled under, direct sanction and control, to take part in the discharge of all those which are not by her constitution restricted to the three orders of the Ministry. To the necessary fund (which would be administered by a board, made up by a well-considered union of the clergy and laity) contributions may, we have little