

to give the lie to those who, under pretence of abuses and errors, caused schism in the Church by raising from its bosom at that very moment, and soon after such men as no Reformed Church can boast of. The tree might have been known by its fruits; an evil tree could not have produced such worthy fruits of clarity, of pastoral zeal, of penitential spirit as then came down to adorn the Catholic Church. They were really a crown, a crown of gold, to their mother; not as the fading garments of Ephraim, put on the head in a moment of intoxication.—They were heroes whose names, after three centuries, are fresh in the mouths of men, and who are now set, like precious jewellery, in the bright crown which the Church triumphantly wears in the highest heavens. Who would dare to institute a comparison between a Parker, a Cranmer, a John Knox, with a Vincent de Paul, a Philip Neri, and an Ignatius Loyola.

One would suppose, after all the noisome laudation of the Glorious Reformation, that the young and vigorous establishments, the Phoenix Churches of England and Scotland, springing forth into a new life from the funeral pile, where they had consumed the decayed elements of their former existence, would have flown upwards with a steady gaze on the sun of righteousness, and given proof of their renewed vigor by their eagle flights towards the regions of Heaven. Instead of this they fell heavily on the ground, scorched in plumage and shorn of wing and condemned to walk or creep upon the earth's surface, and to seek their food with dim eyes in its stagnant, lifeless pools (applause).

It is really sickening to be obliged, in support of any argument, to have to allude to England and Scotland, and bring before your notice some of the disgusting details of immorality, ignorance and irreligion which in these countries—the great bulwark of Protestantism—everywhere prevail. The Reformation has had ample time to be tested there. We might then expect that, in the land of Cranmer and Knox, the people, generally speaking, should have made great progress in morals and mental enlightenment. The authorities I now adduce are Protestant, and therefore unquestionable.—Dickens, the most popular of English writers of the present day, asserts, of the great mass of the rural population of his country, that they are completely brutalised, and that the shadow of ignorance covers them like a cloud; that in looks and manners they approach the level of the lower part of creation. Is not this a beautiful result of the glorious Reformation. Not long ago, the Rev. Geo. Bird, an Anglican clergyman, threw up the living of Cumberworth, on account of the incorrigible and utterly hopeless immorality of that parish. "In cases of baptism, the parishioners came, for the most part, with a scarcely suppressed grin on their countenances. They were so grossly ignorant as not to distinguish between Civil registration and Church baptism." But decency here subjects me to be silent and pass over some disgusting details.

I next proceed to cite from the Quarterly Journal of the Historical Society of London, published some eight years ago, a report of St. John's and St. Margaret's parishes, Westminster, by which it appears that out of "5,866 principal members of families among the laboring classes, there were 2,077 who attended no place of worship, and 1,101 who professed no religion at all," and this under the very noses of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.—Truly, it was time for the Pope to send the Great Cardinal Archbishop there. Again, I am prevented from horrifying your feelings by alluding to the authenticated statements of the Protestant, Lord Ashley, made some years ago in the House of Commons.

I pass on, and throw a veil over these deplorable exigencies of our fallen nature; but from every lover of his kind they would be sure to wring a tear of the bitterest anguish. From evidence relating to Yorkshire, Durham, Lancashire, North Staffordshire and Cumberland, Lord Ashley had gleaned the following beautiful answers indicative of what Gospel light has done for England: "James Taylor never heard of God, but has heard men say G—d damn; a girl, 18 years of age, never heard of Christ. This was very common among young persons; 'I never go to Church.'" In respect to Dorsetshire, there was the following evidence of Mr. Somerville, a Protestant, taken from the *London Morning Chronicle*. "In Dorsetshire the population is degraded to the most deplorable condition; such indeed was the poverty of the diet, the nakedness of the household furniture, the base ignorance, the reputed and visibly universal want of female decency and virtue, the brutal manners and ferociously expressed hatred of the gentry and clergy among the agricultural portion of the population, that in no part of any town in the kingdom, among no class, are these characteristics to be surpassed." What delicious fruits of a Reformed Church, but I have not yet done. Listen to the following statement contained in a speech of Mr. Cobden, in the House of Commons, in relation to the Sussex-born prisoners in the House of Correction at Lewes? "Out of 2,022 prisoners, 1120 could barely tell the Saviour's name, and that he died—646 knew not his name." Aye, in England, in one particular place, upwards of 600 immortal souls were in hideous ignorance of the only name under Heaven given unto men whereby they may be saved. With this awful destitution of religious knowledge, it was natural to look for corresponding specimens of conduct.

The "*Morning Herald*" lately contained a statement that, on the 23rd of November, a blacksmith near Crewe in Cheshire, insisted on baptising his pregnant wife, almost naked, in a mill race, at 8 o'clock at night. The stream was swollen and rapid, the night cold and dark, and the unhappy victim of her husband's fanaticism was drowned. The man, whose name was Cartwright, quietly consoled himself by observing, that God had predestined the matter.

Now I triumphantly defy any man to point out, in any Catholic country, such terrific scandals as these. Verily, the days when England was called merry England have passed away. Let no man, then, dare after this speak of the morality of England. I might proceed to speak of the Northern nations—Sweden, Denmark—which embraces the new-fangled doctrines of the Reformation. I might quote the testimony of a late distinguished Protestant traveller, to show the disgraceful immorality which prevails there; but time is now too pressing. I will bring you back to Scotland, the land of Knox, to whom, like the devil, one Mass was more terrible, than 100,000 armed men, whose first blast of the trumpet appeared against all queenly regime, because Mary reigned; Elizabeth mounted the throne, and the second blast was never blown, doubtless because he feared that Elizabeth would not long hesitate in making him an unwilling martyr. You have all heard of a Scotch Sabbath; has it not become proverbial for every species of the lowest and most degrading vice, and shocking immorality? What was the statement made a few years ago of the state of the Wynds of Edinburgh. Does not a Protestant assert that there lived in these districts 60,000 persons without any religion or God in the world?—The same may be affirmed of the other Scottish towns, so that our estimate of the Christian virtue of North Britain need not necessarily be very high. On this shameful subject, I have, perhaps, said enough, enough to convince any candid mind, that the Protestant cannot, in point of morals, be compared to the Catholic countries of Europe. I might further observe, that amongst no people, do superstition, a belief in spells and magic, more universally prevail than amongst them, and this appears to be the case from the day that the first female Pontiff laid her hands on the spotless sceptre. We have indisputable evidence that the death struggle of the cruel Elizabeth was terrific in the extreme; but was it to her God and the soothing influence of religion that she looked for consolation in that last tremendous hour? No, she sent to an old woman in Wales for some magic spells, by which she might be freed from the horrible phantoms which affrighted her. How different from the last scene of her murdered victim, the lovely and unfortunate Queen of Scots: Poor Mary? for your untimely end the hardest heart should shed a tear at the recital of your sufferings, the brave, the generous, and the good, will feel the blood tingle in their veins to the remotest time. (Sensation.) But the sable block, and the brutal headman had no terrors for you. "Around her neck she wore the cross—the cross she loved so well."

"And looking on that sign
Of the Redeemer's love divine,
Thinking of hope and bliss,"

she kissed the blessed symbol, and gracefully bent her neck for the blow. It was given, and there lay that severed head which was once doubly crowned with the diadems of chivalrous France and once heroic Scotland. Oh! shades of Catholic Bruce and Wallace, how must you have frowned to see the blood of a woman, blood of the most graceful daughter of Scotland's Royal Line, covering and staining the midnight pavement. (Great sensation.)

But has the Reformation augmented the material happiness of those countries which embraced its doctrines? I appeal to history; point me out one which has been ameliorated in a temporal point of view. The Church, it is true, was not established for the purpose of enabling men to amass money, but for saving their immortal souls, but still there can be no doubt that the condition of the greater mass of the people was better before the time of Luther, than at present. Take England for example; read Cobden's history of the Reformation, and then form your conclusion; read Sir John Fortescue's letter to Henry the Seventh, and you will clearly see that the brave yeomanry of England, at that time, were above all indigence and could indulge in many of the luxuries of life. True, England has great armies, splendid fleets and numerous colonies. She has indeed, but she has paid the price of her whistle, (merriment and applause). She has £800,000,000 of National debt hanging around her shoulders, weighing her down and impoverishing and grinding her people to the very earth. Compare the state of the English peasantry with Austria, and you must be struck with the difference. I quote from a hand-book of travellers for Southern Germany, published by Murray, the eminent London bookseller, and written by an intelligent Protestant. "It has been the fate of Austria, to have been described almost exclusively by travellers who have taken a prejudiced and one-sided view of her Government and Institutions, and who have not even done justice to the beauties of the country, the flourishing condition of her manufactures, the bravery and loyal spirit of her inhabitants, and the happy condition of the majority of her population. In stigmatising the Government as the most tyrannical of despotisms, they have overlooked the fact that the subjects living under it, especially the lower orders, are the most contented and joyous in Europe, because actually the best off in worldly matters, the least taxed or oppressed by fiscal burthens of any kind. They have represented Austria, as a land of darkness and ignorance, as the Boetia of Europe, forgetting that education is more widely extended among the common people than in any other country in Europe. The Englishman may learn with surprise and no little shame that the number of persons who can read and write, and understand the elements of Arithmetic is beyond comparison, greater in the hereditary States of Austria, than in his own enlightened country." I could also adduce similar testimony in behalf of Tuscany, but I must wait until all the tremendous explosions of indignation which took place on account of the martyrdom-loving Miss Margaret Cunningham, shall have died away (Laughter). Of our own unfortunate country, of Ireland, it is unnecessary to say

much; her children could not for three centuries and more, to use the words of the Homilies, develop their energies or make any advance; knowledge was proscribed, religion trampled on, and the full vial of persecution, poured on their heads. Charles, Duke of Savoy, could be written to, as I read in Maston's account of the Vaudois, in behalf of that fanatical sect, and by whom?—by Cromwell, who frowned like a famishing wolf over the entire land, devouring and destroying what other tyrants had spared. The monster had the assurance to write to a Catholic Prince in behalf of a vile sect,—he who was after returning from Ireland, where he had perfidiously destroyed the brave garrison of Drogheda, and savagely butchered 300 defenceless women and children at the Market cross of Wexford. No! Ireland could make no progress. "She lay," says Burke, "a stranded shipwreck on the shores of Europe." But she never gave up the sacred deposit of the Faith; and in the darkest hour of her sad and mournful history, she never could be upbraided with giving birth to children so ignorant of the principal articles of religion as the inhabitants of England are now represented to be (applause).

I intended, my Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen, to speak of the vaunted advantages derivable from the reading of the Bible; for in the words of Swift:

"To give a young man a right good education,
The Bible's the very best book in the nation;
As for your Novels, your Blue-books, your Ominers and stuff,
Deuce take me if I value them this pinch of snuff!"

(Laughter.) But I have already taken up so much time this evening, and this subject has been handled by such master-minds, that, to confute the rambling assertions, we have only to recur to their writings where we may find an answer to every objection. You see, then, Ladies and Gentlemen, that our Church is not opposed to liberty, civilization, or the moral and material progress of the human race. No! her tender bosom yearns with love the most ardent and anxiety the most intense for the temporal, but above all, the eternal happiness of the entire family of man. I could, if time permitted me, prove by history that in every age she stood forward as the intrepid defender of her own liberties and of those of her people against tyrants and usurpers. In every age she has been sorely slandered, contemptuously spoken of; but from her towering eminence, from the everlasting rock on which she sits enthroned, she can afford to look down not with contempt, but pity on her sleepless and unprincipled foes. She has withstood all their assaults untouched and unmoved, and she will continue to withstand them, nay more to spread and to progress, and to break through all the barriers which men would place between her destiny and her. Never did this Church present a more beautiful aspect than she does at present. The loftiest intellects of England, the giants of her schools are rushing into her embrace with all the repentance of long lost children. (Applause.) Numerous and mighty nations teeming with abundant fruits of civilization and intelligence walk in her blessed light and bend before her holy altars. Communities distracted or corrupted for a time are returning to her bosom for consolation and repose; glorious names in bright and endless succession are for ever coming forward to combat in her behalf. In every clime her Missionaries are now scaling the highest ramparts of superstition, and planting on its steepest citadel the triumphant banner of her cross. (Applause.) Even Ireland, amid all her misery, is subscribing generously for the Propagation of the Faith, and yearly sending forth her sons to extend the spiritual Kingdom of the Redeemer, Ireland, that country in which the Church has always remained unmoved amid all the fiercest storms of persecution, and has broken into spray all the waves which raged and dashed against her."

The Reverend Lecturer terminated amidst the deafening applause of those present.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

ADDRESS OF THE VENERABLE CHAPTER, AND OF ALL THE CLERGY, SECULAR AND REGULAR, OF THE DIOCESE OF DUBLIN, TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF FREIBURG.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND MOST REV. LORD, Permit us to express the deep sympathy with which we have heard of the persecution raised up against the Church over which you preside, and at the same time to assure you that your faithful testimony for Our Lord, and your courage in defending the right of His holy Church, have filled us with consolation.

When we think of the trials of the venerable and aged Pastor, and of the affliction of his faithful Clergy and loving flock, we cannot but grieve, for we are members one of another, and if one member suffer all the members must suffer with it; or if one member glory all the members rejoice with it.

But while we share in your sufferings, we rejoice, Most Illustrious and Most Rev. Father, for the great mercy shown to you by Our Lord, who has freely chosen you out of all the Pastors of His flock to receive at this time so great and distinguished a token of His love and favor, having given to you not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. We rejoice for the crown of glory, which, through His loving mercy, is laid up for you against that day in the kingdom of Our Father.

We rejoice evermore in the certain assurance of successes, victories, and triumphs yet to come for the Churches of Germany, of the salvation of many souls, and the greater glory of our dear Lord and Master.

The Catholics of Ireland well know, by the experience of three hundred years, that the Church ever prospers most and strikes root most deeply into the hearts of her people when she is suffering persecution for her Lord; that the members of the Crucified overcome not by strength but by weakness.

Yet, as lovers of peace, we look for the time when the rulers of this world shall have learned the lesson, which God, by His providence, has so manifestly been impressing upon them in latter times, that their true danger lies, not in the spiritual power, but in the lawless passions and unruly wiles both of princes and of people.

This danger they may repress and hold down by the sword, but can never remove it. The cure of the evil can be effected only by that power which alone addresses itself, not to the earthly passions and temporal interests of men, but to their hearts and consciences—that is, by the Catholic Church. If statesmen ever come to understand aright even the temporal interests of nations, they will cease from the vain and wicked attempt to ensnare the Church of God, and to turn her aside from her high mission either by blandishments of temporal prosperity, or by threats of temporal sufferings. Rather they will rejoice at her fidelity to her Lord as the source of an influence invaluable to the world; but which the world could never have given, and which they will fear to injure by any unauthorised interference either as her friends or as her enemies.

Assuring you of our constant prayers that, nobly persevering to the end, you may obtain the crown through Him that hath loved us; and commending ourselves to your charitable prayers, that we may ever imitate your sincere attachment to the See of Peter, and your noble devotedness in maintaining the freedom of the Church of Christ, and that we as well as you may be found faithful to Our Lord whenever He is pleased to try us, we remain, Most Illustrious and Most Rev. Lord, with sentiments of the most profound respect and veneration, your faithful servants in Christ,

W. MEYLER, Dean,
JOHN HAMILTON, Archdeacon, } In the name
of the
Chapter.
WM. YORR, V.G., } On behalf of the Secular
W. MEAGHER, } Clergy.
JOHN CURTIS, S.J., } On behalf of the Regular
B. RUSSELL, O.P., } Clergy.
Dublin, 6th December, 1853.

Mr. Maunsell, solicitor, of Berrisokane, was converted to Catholicity during a recent sojourn in the Isle of Man.

Mr. John Sadtler, M.P., is reported to succeed Sir John Young as Chief Secretary for Ireland, on the latter's promotion to a peerage before next session.—*Galway Packet*.

The Committee for promoting the erection of a National Gallery in Ireland are gradually bringing their project into definite shape.

THE IRISH TENANT LEAGUE.—A numerous and influential meeting of the friends and supporters of tenant right was held on Tuesday night in the Theatre of the Mechanics' Institute, Dublin. The meeting comprised several members of Parliament, clergymen from different parts of the country, professional men, and a large number of the intelligent and artisan classes, who manifested a deep interest in the proceedings.

THE DARGAN TESTIMONIAL.—It is expected that a plan has been hit upon for disposing of the fund in progress of collection for the "Dargan testimonial" which will meet general approbation. At a meeting of the committee, held on Monday, the 12th December, Lord Talbot de Malahide read a report on the subject, and the following notice of motion, founded thereon, was entered on the minutes:—"As it appears to this committee that provision is already made through the medium of the several schools, colleges, and other public institutions already in existence for promoting industrial education, so far as the same can be done by providing teachers and professors, but that a public gallery for the exhibition of the works of art and industry is still much required in Ireland, and, if established, would tend to improve the public taste, as well as to advance these numerous branches of manufacture in which beauty and originality of design are requisite. Resolved—That it is the opinion of this committee that the best way of applying the funds placed at its disposal, and the most suitable mode, under all the circumstances, of commemorating the Great Exhibition of 1853, and its generous and patriotic founder, Mr. Dargan, will be by erecting a suitable building for the exhibition of works of art and industry, to be called the 'Dargan Institute.'"

The Great Southern and Western Railway Company have arranged a compromise with the widow and children of the late Mr. Jelly. The amount is £4,500.

The submarine telegraph between Portpatrick and Donaghadee, in connexion with the overland line from London to the Scottish coast, and from the Irish coast to Cork and Galway westward, is now completed.

The number of vessels in the month ended the 5th ult., employed in the intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, that entered inwards was 640, and the tonnage 134,572; and that cleared outwards was 16,183, and the tonnage 2,160,651.

The last of the O'Moores has quitted Cloghan Castle, and the paternal mansion of that ancient family no longer acknowledges an O'Moore for its master.

ILLICIT DISTILLATION.—Mr. Gladstone's addition to the duty on whiskey is working as he was told it would work in Ireland. Illicit distillation is now carried on to an enormous extent.

The total exports of whiskey from Dublin for the month of November reached the unusually large quantity of 756 puncheons and butts, 28 hhds., and 150 quarter casks, equal to about 90,000 gallons.

SUCCESS IN FLAX GROWING.—Flax continues to turn out well, both as to bulk and quality. The general sales at the weekly markets are very favorable, but the most wonderful criterion of success in flax growing is that noticed last week. A gentleman residing near Banbridge sold 355 stones of flax at Tandragee for upwards of £330! The whole quantity was raised off sixteen acres of land; thus giving nearly twenty-eight pounds per acre upon the gross produce. Irish grown flax producing £253 a ton, gives decided proof that the soil of the country, if duly prepared, is capable of producing a quality of fibre equal to the finest raised in Belgium.

It is stated that the Chief Commissioner of Public Works in Canada (the Hon. H. H. Killaly) has arrived in Dublin, accompanied by Sir Cusack Roncy, on a special service from the Canadian Government, of which he is an active member. The hon. gentleman, it is said, is commissioned to make the most particular inquiry into the railway system of Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to report thereon, and to submit his suggestions to the railway authorities in Canada. Both Mr. Killaly and Sir C. Roncy are of opinion that if proper arrangements were made in Ireland, connected with the steam communication between Holyhead and Kingston, through the agency of the London and North Western and Chester and Holyhead Railway companies, much of the Transatlantic steam traffic that daily passes these shores would then be transferred to Ireland.