

The ceremony of the reception of a member of the Tranquil Convent, Upper Rathmines, took place in the handsome convent chapel on the 10th ult.—The young lady who on this occasion withdrew from the world, to devote her life, as a religious, to the constant service of God in daily works of piety and charity, was Miss Bridget Thomson, second eldest daughter of Doctor O'Dwyer, of Camden-street, Dublin.

The "Low Orangemen" of the North of Ireland have issued their annual manifesto, wherein they boast of their "Slowness" to take offence. Hereupon the Cork Examiner comments as follows:—

"Fancy the slowness to take offence of the gentlemen who wreck Catholic Chapels, stone women and children, and shoot down defenceless men, merely as an ordinary spree upon a festive occasion. From their own assertion that they are not apt to take offence, we may presume that all these homicides and outrages are mere manifestations of Orange jollity. The ordinary flags, and signals are too dull a pastime for their jaded appetites, and a murder, or a house burning gives them a pleasant stimulus. At least such is the only rational interpretation of their actions, if we are compelled to believe, as they urge themselves, that they are not in the least degree irascible. As to their anxiety to avoid giving offence, that is most satisfactorily attested by the fact that they cling to a number of superannuated customs, which have lost all possible significance, save in so far as they annoy the Catholic population amongst whom they are paraded."

JURY PACKING.—This power has prevailed all over Ulster, and has been freely used. But see its terrible enormity. A Catholic is killed in a party conflict. His murderers are known and are placed in the dock for trial. The jury panel is so arranged that sympathizers, or at least Protestants, and Protestants alone, are placed on the jury to try them, and in hundreds of instances it has been found that such juries acquitted such prisoners, although their guilt was clearly proven; and some judges were forced to exclaim, on hearing the result, "Thank God, gentlemen that is your verdict, and not mine." A Catholic is then put on his trial, and the jury-packing system gives him no chance. In vain he looks around for justice. The panel is so made up that all his challenges are exhausted before a Catholic is called, and he guesses the verdict that will be returned against him, because he sees that his jury has been packed, not to try but to convict him! And, with very few exceptions, they have convicted Catholics, often innocent, and acquitted Protestants who were proved guilty before the entire court. We ask what must have been the feelings of the relatives of these foully convicted Catholics as they heard the verdict pronounced, and listened to the sentence of the judge? Could anything more galling lacerate the heart? They have heard of trial by jury, and noted that it was called the bulwark of British liberty—that it was one of the great blessings under which Englishmen lived.—But they have found it a grievance—a tyranny, and an agent of wrong and injustice! We ask is not this the truth? Do we not give a fair picture of what Catholics have suffered in Ulster for many years? We do not allude to any particular county, we charge no particular man—not even Mr. Hardy—with jury-packing or panel-judging.—But the voice of history and the tongues of living men proclaim that trial by jury in nearly every county in Ulster has been, at party trials, "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare," so far as Catholics have been concerned.—Dundalk Democrat.

The well-known Baron de Camin, L. C. O. de la Ld. H., whatever that may mean, delivered one of his accustomed discourses against "Popery," in Belfast, on Tuesday evening. Very few respectable persons attended, and none of the ministers of religion who were invited. Parts of the lecture, according to the Northern Whig, were delivered in a most indecous manner. The same "noblemen" was to have delivered a "brotherly oration on Auricular Confession on Wednesday night, the announcement of which was significantly prefaced by the declaration that no ladies could be admitted.

NOBLE GENEROSITY.—We have heard that Viscount Castlereagh has given another instance of princely generosity which should not be allowed to remain in the secrecy with which his lordship would enwrap it. The noble Viscount has, through his benevolent agent, given directions to a Dublin house to supply one hundred tons of seed potatoes to the tenantry upon his estates. Besides this generosity, we believe the humble poor will have abundant reason to acknowledge, with thanks, the charitable influence of Viscount Castlereagh.—Clonmel Chronicle.

SMALL POX.—We understand that the spread of small pox throughout some rural districts in this county is assuming a serious character, which is attributable, we learn, to the inoculation of children by a number of wretched quacks who have been exercising their "calling" to a fearful extent; so much so, that although several deaths have resulted from the introduction of this virulent disease, no proper steps have been taken to bring the offenders to deserved punishment.—Mayo Constitution.

It is in contemplation to run a line of omnibuses between Kingstown and Dalkey.

It is intended to rebuild Carlisle Bridge, Dublin, which is now found to be inconvenient, at an expense of £30,000. This sum is not to be levied off the citizens in the shape of taxation, but is to be proposed to be raised by the restoration of £15,000 a-year to the Corporation, which was originally paid to that body as carriage rents, fines, and licences, but which is now wrongfully paid to the Commissioners of Police.

On the 16th ult., a highly respectable and influential meeting for the relief of the poor was held in the boardroom of the Town Commissioners, Athlone. W. Potts, Esq., J.P., presided, and such was the zeal and unanimity that prevailed all classes without religious distinction, that £130 was collected on the spot. It was resolved that 100 tons of coal should be obtained forthwith for distribution among the poor during the inclement and very trying season; and the government have been requested to resume the works in the batteries, commenced in 1851, but now suspended, in order to give employment to the able-bodied whose families are now in utter destitution.

Mr. Foley has just completed the model for a bronze statue of Goldsmith, to be placed in front of Trinity College, in company with a statue of Burke.

The Bank of Ireland has declared a dividend of 4½ per cent. free of income tax, and added a small sum to the rest fund. The directors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland have given notice of a dividend for the current half year of four per cent, together with a bonus of 20s. per share.

That part of the lands of Kilmahain, called Quarryfield, situate near Richmond Barrack, on the high road leading from Dublin to Naas, which yields a net annual income of £122 5. 3d, was sold lately by auction for £1,760.

Sir Croker Barrington, son of the late Crown Solicitor for Munster, Sir Matthew Barrington, Bart., has been appointed, it is stated, to the office of Crown Solicitor of Limerick, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Fleetwood.

The Wexford Independent, of the 14th ult., says:—"Since Wednesday evening the heavy fall of rain has been almost continuous, the wind during that night being very high, with frequent and furious gusts, of short duration, accompanied by large hail, and the effects are marked by a shipwreck at Ballymadder and considerable damages to houses in town and country. Thursday was wet and blustery all through, and Friday improved but little, excepting that the wind moderated and veered into the N.N.W. All field operations are impracticable, and consequently our grain markets are well attended, and prices have a little receded."

PROSECUTION OF THE "MORNING NEWS."—A motion for libel just concluded in Dublin brings under a strong light what no fair-minded man can look upon as anything else than a fundamental rottenness in the administration of justice in Ireland. We have before adverted to this case. A Dublin newspaper, the Morning News, a journal which enjoys the confidence, and undoubtedly represents the feelings and opinions of the Catholic population of Ireland, is cast in damages for having libelled the Sheriff of Armagh, and so perverting the administration of justice. We do not feel called upon to say that the verdict in this case was wrong, or that, upon the evidence before them, the jury who tried the action could have come to any other conclusion. Nevertheless, we are quite certain that the editor of the Morning News was morally justified in his denunciation of the Irish jury system, and moreover we deem it altogether indisputable that the practice, and as it seems the law of jury selection in Ireland; as exhibited in the evidence, are such as to lay more than abundant grounds for that dissatisfaction and distrust with which Catholics regard the administration of the law. We are not now going to repeat the legal blunder of Mr. Sullivan, by which he brought himself within the toils of the law of libel; we are not going to charge Mr. Hardy, the sheriff, with deliberate and knowing abuse of his official authority in the matter; but we do say without any hesitation, that so far appears, that functionary may have so abused his powers, and that there is the strongest moral ground for believing that the Catholics of Armagh have suffered under the serious injustice of being improperly excluded from the jury panels, and so the administration of the law has been vitiated. Without going into particulars, it will be sufficient to say what the purport of the evidence is. It appears, then, that on the full lists of all persons qualified by law to serve as jurors, made out by the barony constables—officers analogous to our overseers—there is a larger proportion of Protestants than of Catholics. Of course religion is to qualification, and if these primary lists be honestly made out, which is doubtful, the conclusion must be that in Armagh county there are fewer qualified Catholics than Protestants. From these lists it is the sheriff's duty to summons as many as is necessary to constitute a panel. Now the fact is, that at the assizes, at which recent important trials on indictments for murders arising out of Orange excesses have taken place, no Catholics at all were summoned, and of course the juries which tried these alleged Orange murderers of Catholic victims were exclusively Protestant. In such cases, verdicts of "not guilty" being returned, the whole proceeding would be properly regarded by the Catholics of Ireland as a mockery of justice, and a deep wrong as well as an insult to them. There were Catholics on the primary lists, although not in equal numbers, but no Catholics were summoned. What was the inference? That they were purposely excluded, of course. Mr. Hardy, however, has sworn that in making out his panels he did not at all make religion a principle of discrimination; but that he conscientiously selected those whom he considered the persons most qualified. We are bound to accept that avowal; although it must detract somewhat from its weight to find Mr. Hardy's able counsel—he whom some of the Tory party have been contemplating to exalt to their leadership vice Disraeli cashiered, the stenographer and contortionist orator of the House of Commons, Mr. Whitehouse—explaining the omission of some Catholics from the assize panels, by showing that they had been summoned to the sessions, and that the sheriff wished to act tenderly toward them. Still Mr. Hardy may have acted uprightly in his selections, although the Catholics may be well excused for believing otherwise. It is just possible that in following a principle of selection, quite apart from religious profession, he may have arrived at the exclusion of any Catholic from the panel; but this will not much mend the matter, for the Catholics of Armagh will scarcely be content to be told that Mr. Hardy does not consider them, by position or intelligence, qualified to act on juries at assizes, although they may be permitted to try some trifling cases at sessions. And this brings us to the real root of the evil. Why should the sheriff be invested with the power of deciding who is and who is not qualified to serve, out of a list which exists in virtue of the qualification of each name on it, as prescribed by Act of Parliament? We, in our innocent admiration of trial by jury, had always understood that its essence was impartiality, and that to secure that prime requisite the sheriff was bound to summon his panels "indifferently."—But the law, as laid down by the Irish Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, not only empowers but imposes a selection. If so, we can only say that the sooner it is altered the better. If the sheriff has a choice, let him be ever so honest a man, his prejudices may unconsciously mislead him. This power of selection is, in truth, a cover, more or less impenetrable, for perverting the course of justice. The perversion can be seen only in its effects, and in these it is in Ireland obvious enough. The sheriff may always aver, as in this case, that he acted to the best of his judgment, and he cannot be directly confuted. The law does not prescribe any proportion with respect to the religion of the jurors who are to be placed upon the panel, and very properly so; but then the sheriff may leave out all the Catholics, and, in the words of the Chief Justice Lefroy, no inference could be drawn therefrom that he acted illegally. The aged judge, who, although a fierce Orange partisan in his early public life, holds the balance of justice with perfect evenness on the bench, seems to consider this a perfect state of things. The Catholics of Ireland, however, are not to be considered unreasonable beings, if they show themselves implacably discontented and wroth with it. They know too well what this power of selecting juries in the hands of the sheriffs has done to bend the administration of criminal justice to the purposes of whatever government or faction in power may choose to avail itself of it; they know that somehow or other it has excluded them from sharing in this great right of citizenship—the only real guarantee of pure justice. Those trials in Armagh are but the latest instance: and until the sheriffs be deprived of that power of selection, the Irish Catholics will always regard the administration of justice with suspicion. It is not sufficient even that justice is well administered. It is necessary that the people have confidence that it is so, and this can never be the case where the opportunity for an unfair selection of jurors exists.—London Morning Star (Protestant).

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GREAT BRITAIN.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—Sorrow for the death of the Prince Consort and sympathy with the Queen are as deep and fervent among the Roman Catholics of the metropolis as they are among all the other denominations of religionists. While the illness of His Royal Highness had not yet terminated fatally, a special prayer for his restoration to health was prepared by Cardinal Wiseman, and read in all the chapels, and the day after the death of the Prince the event was commented upon in suitable and feeling terms by nearly the whole of the officiating priests. Yesterday, however, the sermons preached in the principal chapels were, as usual devoted to reflections and exhortations suggested by the approaching Christmas season as one peculiarly adapted for self-examination and reconciliation to God, and in only a few of them was even a passing allusion made to the loss which the Royal family and the nation have sustained. But the sense which the entire Roman Catholic body, clergy as well as laity, entertain of that loss is, we believe, accurately expressed by Cardinal Wiseman in a pastoral address which he has just issued.—London Times.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—It is stated that the government wish to engage the Great Eastern as a transport, and that the repairs are being proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

THOOPS FOR CANADA.—On Saturday morning 17 officers and 303 men belonging to the Military Train arrived in Liverpool from Aldershot, having travelled by the London and North-Western Railway.—They were under the command of Major M'Court. At the same time nine officers and 127 men of the 10th Brigade of Royal Artillery arrived, under the command of Colonel Dunlop, from Woolwich. They immediately proceeded to the Great Landing-stage, and at seven o'clock in the morning they embarked on board the Royal Mail steamship Asia, which sailed at noon for New York, but which was ordered to diverge to Halifax from her direct route for the purpose of landing the troops and stores. Besides the officers referred to the Asia took out Lieutenant-Colonel Wetherall and Lieutenant-Colonel Shadwell, late Quartermaster-General, and also Secretary to the International Exhibition. There were also 14 Staff officers, and Captain Orr, late Captain Instructor of Royal Laboratories, who, it is understood, will instruct the men in laboratory operations, such as the preparation of the new Armstrong shells and the construction of cartridges.—The Asia also took out about 200 tons of camp equipment, warm military clothing, and other requisites for the troops. The Canada (Royal Mail steamer), which is to sail from Liverpool on Saturday next, for Halifax, will take out No. 7 Battery of Artillery, consisting of five officers and 120 men. The embarkation of the troops and stores on board the Asia, was most satisfactory, and got over with great regularity under the immediate superintendence of Colonel Greethead, Quartermaster-General of the district, and Commander, Leicester, R.N., Admiralty agent for Liverpool.—Liverpool Advertiser.

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Active steps are being taken to forward the much needed and important work of the West Cork Railway, which promises to be one of the best paying railways in Ireland. A deputation of directors consisting of three gentlemen, accompanied by Mr. McCarthy Downing, recently went to Dublin, in order to have an interview with Sir Robert Peel, to urge upon him the necessity for the government making an advance to enable the line to be constructed. Sir Richard Griffith, Commissioner of Valuation, was present. The influence of the latter gentleman appeared to the deputation to be adverse to their object, while they felt, on the other hand, that Sir Robert Peel was favorably disposed towards them. The deputation, however, were quite prepared to meet the objections stated. Both officials remarked strongly upon the fact that the proprietors along the contemplated line had not taken a reasonable number of shares. To this the reply was, that while it was not convenient for these gentlemen to furnish ready money, they were ready to guarantee with their lands the repayment of the advance. Sir Robert Peel asked why they did not in some way show that they felt it would be a benefit to the lands through which the line would pass. To this the deputation replied that the proprietors were ready to accept shares in lieu of the price of the land taken. Both Sir Robert Peel and Sir Richard Griffith admitted that they should consider that a proof of interest in the undertaking. The proposition of the directors is to receive the best attention of the government.—Cork Examiner.

merits have inspired. This Hebdomad Board has done a foolish as well as a wicked thing. The £40 a year to which a laborious and illustrious Professor is condemned will be a radiant commentary on all his writings, and a standing advertisement of those very errors on the alleged existence of which the sentence has been based.—Warder, in the Sunday Times.

THE COST OF A DIVORCE.—Some people think that a divorce is obtained cheaply now a days, and that £50 or £60 will serve for that purpose, whereas the fact is that £200—viz., £100 for the wife's costs [the husband having in all cases to pay the wife's costs], and £100 for the husband's, is the smallest sum that can be calculated on. The following is a recent specimen of what the costs are:—In the suit of Hepworth v. Hepworth, now pending, the wife having petitioned for a divorce against the husband, the respondent, the husband was ordered to pay into court a sum of £400, to meet the wife's costs of the hearing. This he failed to do, being, as he alleged, unable, by reason of poverty, to raise that sum of money. On the 28th of November, Dr. Wamby, on behalf of the wife, moved for an attachment against the husband for disobeying the orders, whereupon Sir C. Creswell ordered the attachment to issue, under which, of course, if the husband do not find the money, he will be imprisoned until he do find it. So that in this case, apparently simple enough, the wife's costs of the hearing being calculated at £400, the husband's may be reasonably put down at a like sum, which, with other extraordinary expenses, will bring the amount for a divorce to somewhat about £1,000, the old costs for a divorce by Act of Parliament. The costs were certainly not so heavy at the commencement of the new law of divorce; but the fact is, that the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes of Court has so many aspirants to its favor, that like a successful shop-keeper, sure of a market for his ware—it puts on an extra piece, and surrounds the purchaser of its luxurious articles with all imaginable difficulties. The law of divorce is thus once more the law of the rich; and the objects of the framers of it, and the objects of the legislature in its enactment, are by this means in a great measure defeated.—Court Journal.

We may think what we may of the chances of the North, of the discipline of their armies, and of the efficiency of their fleet; but there can be only one opinion as to the financial system upon which the Federal Government is now setting out. A hundred millions a-year are not to be obtained easily, even by a country with unbounded resources and unstrained credit. We shall probably soon have an opportunity of judging by experience how long an expenditure to that amount can be sustained by a country whose resources are not yet developed, and whose national credit has not yet been favourably tested. The natural course of financial sequences must bring this civil war to an end; but we cannot believe that even the very prospect of a foreign war being superadded to the other difficulties must produce an immediate collapse, and the peace which ensues upon utter exhaustion.—Times.

GOOD AND BAD READING.

What more refreshing or recreating to the mind of man than good reading? It is an inexhaustible fount, where he may as often as it please him ally his burning thirst and cool his feverish brain; it gives him food for thought, makes him conversant with the mind as well as the opinions of other men; he is never as a loss in company for a subject or topic which he may introduce. He who reads is acquainted with the knowledge of the past as with the present; and we would impress it on all, that, after one's own business, there is scarcely any science more useful to the possessor than the history of his own as well as other countries.

We might say of reading what Pope Adrian VI, when a student at college, said of learning in general, "that to those possessing a taste for it, it is a burning thirst which, if not allayed, would scorch them up." It is quite evident that they who know how to read must and will read something; it remains then for all to be careful in their choice of books.—Books, like friends, must be few and well chosen." It is a maxim we ought constantly to have before us, for as the evil effects of bad companions are only discovered when too late, so it is in like manner with evil reading. You receive the poison imperceptibly, fancying it is only a little amusing, a little light, and so encourage yourself to the use of it, until very often it is too late to check it; for such reading will unfailingly fill the mind with evil thoughts, that serve only to gratify the passions, and arouse them to their morbid habits—thus to a great degree lowering man in the social scale.

As it is necessary for us to be careful in the choice of food for the animal man, we should be no less scrupulous as regards food for the intellectual man; for as tainted victuals serve to materially injure, if not entirely destroy the health of the body, so in like manner does tainted literature serve to embitter and poison the mind, and dry up the springs of true affection—love of God and our neighbor. There is scarcely a more incentive agent either to the practice of vice or virtue than reading; for let a child get a bad book into his hands once, you will find it difficult to get him to read a good one after—and as sure as a youth contracts a habit of reading irregular or immoral works, it will inevitably be the cause of his ruin. For as no reading tends to make us true Christians, good sons and brothers, and honorable members of society, so truly do vicious ones tend to the opposite effect. It is quite obvious that at no other time of the world's existence has literature been so promulgated, or has the press sent forth such a host of cheap books, a great number of them having a mission to perform—each infusing its sectarian principles unperceived at the moment, but still the no less dangerously to the reader. We would say to all, then, be careful in your choice of books; they may be few, but they must be good.

A good one is a true friend; you may seek his counsel, or his refreshing advice, as often as you please, and such deserves a careful perusal. We should read not alone for the sake of amusement, but for the nobler object of gaining a store of knowledge; and if we want to become master of any subject, we must set our minds entirely on it, read it over carefully, and give it good sound consideration afterwards. Otherwise we cannot gain a real proficiency in it. As there is such a facility for gaining knowledge at the present day, we would say to all, be learned—be learned; for it is learning that refines, that elevates—in a word, that makes the man.—There is no excuse now even for the poorest; we can procure useful books for a deal less than we expend in idle luxuries, learning alone being the true luxury; but there is a limit to all things, and to reading among the rest. We would not, therefore, advise a man to read at unseasonable hours, either to the injury of his health or business, for it is a great mistake, in young people especially, studying too hard and reading immoderately; such a course is scarcely advantageous to the mind, for it has not the power of digesting quantities, and is very detrimental to health.

We would now repeat our advice to all—be careful in the choice of your books; they may be few, but they must be good.—Catholic Herald.

The everlasting hills will crumble to dust, but the influence of a good act will never die. The earth will grow old and perish, but virtue in the heart will ever be green, and flourish through eternity. The moon and stars will grow dim, and the sun fade from the heavens, but true religion and undefiled will grow brighter and brighter, and not cease to exist while God Himself shall live—which will be forever and ever! Who would hesitate, then, to do a good act?