"ENGLAND IN THE 18th CENTURY."\*

AN HONEST HISTORY BY A GREAT PROTESTANT WRITER.

Acquaintance with what man has been about in all stages of his existence, fits us for our present duties, prepares us for what may come. However much art or science may engross the attention,philosophy or romance—historical research still finds leisure in the husiest life. We read over the old story in its ancient versions, but are not content unless whatever is murky or obscure is subjected to the illumination our own has to shed. Each generation adopts its own fashions in book as in garments, and demands that history shall be rewritten to its taste. Greece and Rome, the stirring epochs of Europe, medieval and modern, have passed in review in recent works. Our own Motley. Prescott and Parkman; Palsgrave, Freeman, Macauley and Allison, Grote and Merivale, Michelet and Thiers in Europe, have combined instruction with pleasure, and history has never been written with more wisdom and power, or more conscientious fidelity to truth than in the century which is now speeding to its close.

The reading public educated by such standards, are too critical to be duped. If brilliancy of style, or recklessness of assertion for the moment mislead, if love of paradox, parade of learning or other vanity, betray into speculation more specious than sound, neither ability nor genius atones for want of that cardinal virtue of historians, regard for truth, and many a name once famous has lost its lustre. This cannot be said of Mr. Lecky, whose successive chosen path, the philosophy of history which if teaching by example is more occupied with great results, than with individuals or incidents. Much of the field comprised within his present limits has been repeatedly worked and reaped by skill and diligence that might have disheartened one of less conscious power to improve upon; but the new interest he has imparted to his fascinating repetition of the thrice told tale, justifies his boldness. This fascination may perhaps be in some measure explained by the fact, that the more familiar we becoms with any particular period, the better we can understand and enjoy new groupings of its events. The spell woven by his magic pen proceeds from no new theories of his own, and accepted impressions are little disturbed unless by the authorities hitherto unimproved which he cites or quotes. Compression-many ideas or facts in few words

-present historians affect; and condensation without obscurity, method which omits nothing essential, yet never clogs, vigor and warmth, lend force of the preliminary rights without which it is impoto a spirit of candor and moderation which inspires sible. The Freeman returns to the charge to-day, confidence. Vast and varied as the information and, analyzing the division lists, animadverts upon brought to bear upon the elucidation of so wide a the neglect of duty by the absentees, and observing field, it is too happily interwoven to become irk- that up to his hour, the constituencies have eyhibit some, and in some instances his handling of multi- ed a tolerance little creditable to their patriotism farious details without confusion excites admiration. The sketch of the War of the Spanish Suc- electors can remain blind spectators of what is gocession in 1702, which commences the period, and that by Lord Chatham, which led to so glorious a termination for England in the Peace of Paris sixty years later at its close, are masterly examples of economy of language, without being dull or dry. Indeed, whatever his subject, constitution, law. trade or finance, party antagonisms or religious disputes, domestic habits, art, literature, or science, his wealth of illustration has no word to spare. Whatever redounds to national glory, or marks the progress of its civilization, he honestly claims, but without exaggeration; nor does he attempt to conceal or gloss over what fell behind or below our existing standards, though there was much for shame and self reproach.

Generous in the imputation of motive, and making due allowance for circumstances, the books abounds in delineations of character which conform to established convictions, but which he invests with a new interest from later sources of information. Godolphin and Newcastle, Marlborough and Clive, Walpole and Chatham, Whitefield, and the Wesleys, Bishop Berkeley and Dean Swift, are vividly drawn, while all the essayists from Addison to Johnson, play their part. The successive monarchs who ruled or reigned, William and Ann, and arcus wno ruled or reigned, William and Ann, and the first two Georges, are subjected to that scrutiny which none in high places can escape a pillory which none in high places can escape, a pillory through the ages, but a sorry equivalent for their glory or pleasure in the flesh. Lecky is sufficiently forbearing and avoids the too frequent proneness of historians to defame. Reprehensible as many of them were, whether minister or monarch, and low the standard of political and social ways, there were distinguished exceptions to the prevailing degeneracy he is careful to note. It sobers our sense of the glory of our mother country to realize that neither in political purity nor religious observance, in domestic life or business walks, could she claim, class for class, higher civilization than

Scotland and Ireland are represented as neither worse nor better than England, human nature being much the same everywhere under similar conditions which shape it for evil or for good, more than differences of race. In Ireland, from the intlux from other kingdoms, the races were much commingled, and if less advanced in comfort or education, it was because her people were impoverished by oppressive laws. In tracing the causes which worked to her disadvantage and made her what she was in the eighteenth century, the two preceding are taken into view. Recent publication of calendars, rendering for the first time accessible the treasures of the record offices, correspondence and documents exhumed from family repositories, biographies and other late works on special subjects facilitate his labors.

\*By William Edward Hartpole Lecky, New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1878.

# WHY WE FAST.

Our Lord fasted; this is a reason and a justification for our fasting. What was done by Him was done for an example. He was the great model after which we must all fashion our lives. He said and did during His mortal life and the single purpose of promoting the glory of His Father. He honored Him in his fast; we can honor Him in like manner. This is the first and chief end of the quadragesimal fast. We therein worship God, of-fering Him the most agreeable sacrifice it is ours to tender, the sacrifice of our dearest appetites. Were it not a pleasure for Him to receive such homage, Christ had never offered it. In fasting we bear him testimony that we love Him more than His gifts. Such testimony is meet in us, and honorable to God. The world will never understand, because it has made up its mind not to observe, the duty of self-denial. Fasting was observed under the mosaic law as a duty of religion and a sacrifice bridegroom, should have departed, then the disciples would fast. Fasting has been the practice of the Church in all ages. All the saints have been great fasters. All those who walk in the pathway of the saints must practice fasting. The Church in enjoining this quadragesimal observance but carries out the practice of the ages that are flown, and | mission on the continent of Europe in the early perpetuates the divine obligation of fasting.

#### IRELAND.

A BITTER LESSON.

Great indignation has been excited by the absence of no fewer than 23 members of the party from the been presented to Parliament setting forth the num-Division on the Nunicipal Franchise bill. It is one of the measures included in the programme for the Session, upon which the Aome Rulers were to act together and share the advantage of union and discipline. The smallness of the majority against the Bill has made the disappointment of its supporters the greater, and there is a "rod in pickle" for the absentees. The Dublin Freeman commenss bitterly on their conduct, and appeals to the constituences to visit them with adequate punishment foa what is denounced as treason to the cause. The tone in 1861 the population of the principal cities and which their conduct is condemned may be judged towns of England was 7,667,701, and the number of from the following extract :- " We have no hesitation in saying that the desertion of the measure by tion in saying that the desertion of the measure by land in the same year was 997,031, or about one nearly one half of the Home Rule Par-y is a discredit eighth of that of England, but the arrests for drunkwhich must be purged as by fire before the party can pretend to regain the confidence of the country. The Bill was rejected by a majority of five in a rather large House. The absentee Home Rule members numbered no less than 23. The Irish Borough Franchise Bill was lost by a minority of eight, the Home Rule absences being 20. The considerations which naturally arise to the mind of every candid, practical men ase of that nature and character which almost defy temperate expressions. . . . We all remember the conference of January, and we'all publications have placed among the leaders in his know that the protestations of the Irish members were of the most energetic character. The Session is nearly two months old, and we are not far wrong in saying that the attendance so far, has been inforior in vigilence and duration to that in any Session since the Cories came into power. . . . . . It is now for the constituencies to consider their position. Not only are they shorn of their legitimate rights by the party which has opposed them for genera-

tions, but they are betrayed and bamboozled by men who have begged for confidence, and gaining it, have proved themselves unworthy. If a process of perpetual forgiveness is to run in Ireland, we may say farewell to Irish advancement. If the traitor's smile is to heal the tanitor's blow, then we may boldly and shamelessly hug the chains which degrade us amid the free peoples of the universe. If an ignoble timidity finds outceme in the pardon of ignoble deeds, then we may as well give up prating of our superiority, and confess ourselves unworthy, not only of the great privilege of self-Government, but and common sense, says 'it is impossible to the ing on.'"

#### PIUS IX AND O'CONNELL.

O'Connell's dying utterance at Genoa was: " Mv soul to Heaven; my heart to Rome; my body to Ireland," a solemn testament that strikingly indicates the devoted loyalty of ages to the Chair of Peter, and the love and attachment, to the close of his memorable pontificate, of the Church of St. Patrick to Pius IX. When the Liberator's heart was borne to Rome, attended by his son and the Rev. Dr. Miley, the reception which they met with filled the Irish nation with a gratitude that is imperishable. They were presented in the Quirinal on the 12th June, 1848, to his Holiness by the Very Rev. Mgr. Cullen, then President of the Irish College, now Cardinal-Archbishop of Dublin, and while the Liberator's youngest son, Daniel, was kissing the foot of his Holiness, the Sovereign Pontiff said: "Since that happiness I had so longed for was not reserved for me, to behold and embrace that here of Christianity, let me at least have the consolation to embrace his son." As Mgr. Cullen, mirer of his career, how else could he speak of him than he has done." The magnificent obsequies of the Liberator were celebrated for two days in the Church of St Andrea. The sublime cration of Padre Ventura, which occupied two days, translated into every language, rang throughout Europe. The Holy Father said: "The achievments of his wonderful existence I wish to be celebrated and made known to the world—not that this is necessary, because his grand career was ever in the face of heaven-he ever stood up for legality-he had nothing to hide; and it was this, with his unshaken fidelity and reverence for religion, that secured his triumphs."

# IRISH MISSIONARIES.

St. Patrick's bishops and priests were so ardent in their zeal that they carried the light of the Gospel into England, Scotland, Germany, France, even into Italy, regaining to the Church many of those people who had lost the faith on account of the incursions of barbarians and the breaking up of the Roman Empire. These holy missionaries from Ireland are invoked as patron saints in those countries. We have venerated their relics in cathedral churches, in monasteries, in rural parishes on the continent of Europe. We found St. Cataldus, the Apostle of Tarentum, near Naples; St. Sedulius, famous for his fourteen books of commentaries on the Epistles of St. Paul; St. Fridolin, who instituted religious houses in Alsace, Strasbourg and Switzerland, and who is interred on an island in the Rhine in a monastery built by himself; St. Columbus, the founder of the celebrated monastery of Bobbio, near Milan in Luxan; and Fontain St. Gall, disciple and companion of St. Columbus, Patron of the Monastery of St. Gall, near Lake Constance, famous to the present time for its learned men and holy monks, the admiration of all travellers; St. Fiacre, fasted forty days, and the Church orders an annual the Patron Saint of many churches in the Diocese fast of like duration in imitation of Him, and in of Meaux and through Picardy, and whose relics union of prayer with Him. All that our Saviour are the objects of pious pilgrimages to the present time; St. Aarden, who preached the Gospel to the Northumbrians in England, and who was the first Bishop of the See of Lindistarne; St. Colman, who preached the Gospel to the Northern Saxons; St. Fursey, especially invoked in chapels built by him near Paris; St. Arbogast, Bishop of Strasbourg, buried on Mount Michael, where there was a Monastery dedicated under his patronage; St. Maildulphus, who established the famous school of Inglebome, now Malmsbury; St. Cuthbert, the son of an Irish Prince of Kells, in Meath, Bishop of Lindlsfarne, and now invoked as an English saint; St. Killian, apostle of Franconia, and first Bishop of Wirtzburg, who gained the crown of martyrdom, like St. John the Baptist, for having reproached to the Deity. Fasting was observed by the Aposthes, and our Saviour foretold that after He, the Bishop of Fiesole, preacher of the Gospel to the Etrurians; St. Findin, Abbot of Richew, on the Rhine; St. Buo and St. Ernulphus, who carried the Gospel to Iceland, and founded a church under the patronage of St. Columbia, in the city of Esinberg. We have mentioned enough of illustrious names of the Irish nation to show how they fulfilled their

ages .- Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto.

#### DRUNKENNESS.

ENGLAND, IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

On the motion of Mr. Henley, a return has just ber of persons arrested for drunkenness in the principal cities and towns of the United Kingdom in the years 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1876. The return is full of gaps and breaks, and its value is considerably diminished. For 1871, for which the returns are tolerably complete, we find the following figures. In the principal cities and towns of Ireland 8 out of every 1,000 inhabitants were arrested for drunkenness in 1871; in the cities and towns of Scotland 55 per 1,000. This extraordinary evidence of Scottish inebriety is an isolated fact. In persons arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct was 49,440. The town population of Scot enness and disorderly conduct were 50 288, or about 800 more than in England. In 1871 the population of London was eight times larger than the population of Glasgow, and yet the arrest for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the English capital were only 24214, as against 20,973 for the Scottish city. In other words, Glasgow must have in 1871 about seven times as drunken a place as London. In the same year, 1871, the entire town population of Ireland, over 700,000 in all, barley urnished one-third of the number of arrests in Glasgow, with a half million of inhabitants. Even in Ireland the Scotch passion for strong drink shows itself, for Belfast in 1871, with a population a third less than Dublin, had 360 more arrests.

#### THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SPIKE ISLAND.

MORE ABOUT EDWARD O'CONNOR.

The Ennis correspondent of the Irish Times writes n Monday's issue of that journal :--

I have just had an interview with Mrs. Cullinan (not Cullen), who has returned from visiting her brother, Edward O'Connor, in Spike Island Convict Prison. Owing to the excitement and prostration caused by the ghastly suppearance of her brother, she says that she had not sufficient strength of mind or body to answer any questions that were put to her in Cork In addition to what has already been, reported in your columns, I gleaned the following from her lengthened statement to me. When the warder ordered her brother not to speak of the political prisoners O'Kelly and Dillon, he replied that he would speak the truth of them, and added that O'Kelly was now treated worse than ever; whereupon the guard laid his hands upon Mrs. Cullinan and pushed her out. She then remonstrated

and exclaimed, "Take your hands of me; it is enough for you to have the life of one of us gone, and not to have mine also, and leave my poor family motherless." Her brother, hearing these words told her to report it when she got out. Upon hearing this injunction, the guard re-admitted her to her brother's presence. He then told her that on his first entry into Spike, Island the Governor, Mr. Hay, told him that he would let him know what it was to suffer in the chains and bondage of a prison," and "this threat," added Edward O'Connor, "he has faithfully and rigorously carried out." He states that he was for years confined in the worst cell. where there was neither room nor ventilation, in consequence of which his blood hardly circulated in his veins. When, on an attempt to escape, in addition to his other punishment, he received forty lashes, he had the mortification, in his own words "to see the blood run down his body and the flesh fly from his bones." When in the extremity of suffering from an abscess and spine disease he was not allowed one hour's cessation from his hard labor, nor permitted to hospital for a single day. Moreover, he was denied clean water to wash his wounds, and received such as was already dirtied by the ablution of other prisoners sores. One thing in have proved inconveniently large, 20 of the most particular he implored his sister not to forget I ing under the notice of Mr. O'Connor Power, M. P. Lord Francis Conyngham, M. P., and Captain Stacpoole, M. P., was the fact that Dr. O'Keefe persisted in refusing him hospital treatment even when declared unfit for work and in a very sickly condition by Dr. O'Connell. His sister then told him that his statement about receiving twenty one days' bread and water while suffering from bip disease was brought under the notice of Parliament by Mr. O'Connor Power, M. P, and, that it was there emphatically denied by the Chief Secretary for Ireland. In reply to this Edward O'Connor said, "There is the warder; let him contradict me if he can. I am speaking the candid truth." On another occasion, he relates that he had to work under torrents of rain, from which he was soaked through and through, and for persisting to ask a change of clothes he was sentenced to three days bread and water, and one month's solitary confinement, in addition to having the wet clothes dry on ais back which greatly intensified his former wounds When about to leave, Mrs. Cullinan requested permission to embrace her brother, which being refused, he, "with his indomitable energy, burst open the door, and embraced me, and kissed me with his icy lins." Thereupon the warder rushed between them, and threatened to have him severely punished. The last words uttered to his sister were-"Give my love to Clare, and tell its people that I am still an Irishman." Mrs. Cullinan wishes to

A telegram in the Freeman, dated London, the l5th inst., says :— It is stated that the Chief Secretary for Ireland has undertaken to make a full inquiry into the treatment of Edward O'Connor in Spike Island, complained of in the petition forwarded to the right hon gentleman by Mr. O'Connor Power, M.P. The Penal Servitude Commissioners have determined also to hold an enquiry on the spot into the treatment of political prisoners in Spike Island and the general treatment of penal servitude convicts in

thank the committee and gentlemen of Cork and

Queenstown for their extreme kindness towards

the sister of one of Ireland's suffering patriots."

# THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT. ...

The word Lent in most languages signifies forty. It is easy to understand why this period of penance consists of forty days. Our Blessed Saviour fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert, and it was but natural that this number, which He had consecrated by His own fast, should be preferred. But besides this there is a deep mystification in the number of forty, which, as St. Jerome observes, denotes punishment and affliction. The deluge, which all but obliterated the human race, lasted forty days and forty nights. Before they were permitted to enter the Promised Land, the Hebrew people wandered forty years in the desert. God commanded the Prophet Ezechiel to lie forty days on his right side as a figure of the siege which was to bring destruction to Jerusalem. Moses, before going to commune with God on Mount Sinai, prepared himself by a fast of forty days; and Elias; who conversed with God on Mount Horeb, did the same.

#### PIETRO ANGELO SECCHI.

THE GREAT JESUIT ASTRONOMER.

The distinguished Italian mathematician, astronomer, and physicist, Pietro Angelo Secchi, died on the 26th of Febuary. The death of such a man in the meridian of life is a great public loss, and he held a high rank.

He was born in Reggio, on July 29, 1818, educated for the Church, joined the order of Jesuits in Lorreto from 1841 to 1843, began his course of theology in the Roman College in 1844, and in 1848 came to the United States, where he persued his theological studies, at the same time teaching physics and mathematics in the Georgetown College, in the District of Columbia, where he remained until 1850, when he was recalled to Rome, when and where he entered upon his public career lege," reconstructed it on a new site, greatly improved it, inventing and perfecting the system of vented a meteoregraph which was highly prized by tion. savants at the Paris exhibition of 1867,

He was commissioned by Pius IX, to complete the trigonometrical survey of the Papal States, begun by Boscovitch in 1851, in order to rectify the measurements already made of the meridianal arc; he also superintended and successfully executed a he also superintended and successfully executed a commission to supply Rome with water from Fras-tinone forty-eight miles distant. After the expulsion of the Jesuits and the closing of the Roman | 600 lances and daggers. College from 1870 to 1873, he was allowed to retain his post, and he continued to lecture on astronomy in the church schools in Rome, and in 1875 was sent by the Italian Government on a scientific mission to Sicily.
Such is a brief sketch of a distinguished mathe-

matician, physicist, and astronomer, a man of remarkable industry and assiduity. His scientific papers were published in the journals of Italy, France, Germany, England, and the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge" in this country. He was well known in the scientific world for his discoveries in Spectro-scopic analysis; also in solur and stellar physics, the most important of which were his "Spectrum Observations on the Rotation of the Sun," published in 1870; the same year he published a large work on the sun, and so highly appreciated was it, that it was immediately translated into French, German, and other languages. His last important publication was a popular book on "The Stars," a contribution to the Italian branch of the "International Scientific Series." Being in New Haven a few days since, and receiving an invitation by one of the Yale Professors to hear a popular lecture by Prof. Newton, on the subject of Meteors and Meteorites," one of the most learned mathematicians of this country, it was incidentally said that Secchi was one of his correspondents.

It is sometimes said by persons not well informed on this subject that Catholics are opposed to science: that they are opposed "to science falsely so-called," is true : that they are the genuine friends of true and its ardent promoters, no better proof need be furnished than the foregoing biographical sketch of Pietro Andelo Seccui, honored alike by both the Head of the Church, and the most distinguished Protestant scientists.

# OLEARY CHALLENGED.

William Howes, the pedestrian, has challenged O'Leary the winner of six days' contest that ended Saturday night last, to a match for the champion belt and \$2,500.

Howes is the man who won a silver belt and \$ 500 in money at a competition in Agricultural Hall, London, a little over a fortnight ago. There were 45 entries in all, but as this number might ted were selected as was to last 26 hours, the men who covered the longest distance to receive the champion belt. The start was made at 8.37 o'clock on Friday evening, and Howes, who was last to leave the track, walked until 8.58 o'clock on Saturday evening. In these 24 hours and 21 minutes be covered 129 miles, which is the best on record. He covered 100 miles in 18 hours, 7 minutes, and 57 seconds, which is the fastest time yet accomplished. Howes was entered in the late international contest, but he failed to start for reasons not yet known in this country. It is doubtful if Mr. O'Leary will accept this challenge at least not just now. It will be only fair for him to give the preference to those who were his competitors in the six days struggle, should any of them feel anxious to once more test their powers of endurance against the plucky Irish-American. Once satisfied that Vaughan and Brown and Corkey and the others who pushed him hard last week, are afraid of him, Mr. O'Leary may pay some attention to the above challenge. In any event, it is safe to suppose that whoever the competitor may be he will have to come to this country to secure the championship.

# A FALSE AND MALICIOUS STORY.

It has been falsely said that Gregory XVI created Pecci a Cardinal in petto before he died, and that Pius IX delayed seven years before he gave effect to the nomination made in pectora by his prede cessor. This false and malicious statement was often made, and so often contradicted. When Cardinal Pecci was made Camerlengo the story was related in the Times and in most of the London newspapers in an offensive manner, and scarcely any notice was taken of the contradictions which then appeared in our columns and those of other Catholic journals. Plus IX and his advisers were it was wickedly insinuated jealous of the talents of Mgr. Pecci, and kept him seven years without the hat, to which he was entitled by the disposition, as was falsely alleged, in petto by Gregory XVI.

The Roman Special Correspondent of the Times has lately repeated in the Roman letter the old calumny, and told the world that Pecci was created a Cardinal in pectora by Gregory XVI, and kept out of his promotion to the purple by Plus IX. Yet a glance at any Catholic almanac suffices to show the falsity of this caluminous fabrication. Joachim Pecci was created and proclaimed a Cardinal-priest with the title of St. Crisogonus in the consistory of December 19, 1853. There is not a word about the alleged creation in petto, and it is known to every tyro in ecclesiastical knowledge that if Pecci had been created a Cardinal in petto by Gregory he would have taken rank before all Cardinals created by last Cardinal created by Gregory XVI. But more than a dozen Cardinals created by Plus IX, took fiction that a wrong was done to the Archbishop-Bishop of Perugia by Pius IX. In fact, Archbishop Pecci was atll young, and but forty-three years of age when he was made a member of the Sacred College. To Cardinal Pecci himself this hateful story gave especial annoyance.

#### THE LATE WAR.

LOSSES, CAPTURE AND HORRORS.

Official raturns state that the Russian losses in killed and wounded during the late war amounted to \$9 394 officers and men. Among these were ten Generals killed and eleven wounded. One Prince of the Imperial family and thirty-four members of the higher nobility of Russia fell on the field of among no class will this be more deeply felt and battle. Of the wounded, 36,824 are already mourned than by learned scientists among whom perfectly recovered, and 10,600 more will be able to leave the hospitals during the next few weeks. The proportion of killed and wounded to the total number engaged was very large, one out of every six men who went into action being either injured 1833, studied mathematics, physics in the college of or left dead on the field of battle. In the great actions of the late Franco-German war the proportion of killed and wounded to men engaged was very nearly the same, being one sixth in the battles of Worth and Spicheren, and one-eighth in the battle of Mars la Tour. The returns also show that one out of every eleven wounded men received into the Russian hospitals died from the effects of the injuries received. During the whole campaign only two men were punished with death; as an astronomer and physicist. He was appointed one for the crime of desertion, the other for robbery director of "The Observatory of the Roman Col. accompanied with violence. On the other hand 23,000 rewards were given in the form of decorations, promotions, or awards of money, the meteorological observations, publishing a monthly Eighth Corps, which so long held and defended bulletin which was continued down to 1873, inthe Shipka Pass, receiving the greatest propor-

> From recently published official returns it appears that between the day on which war was declared and the singing of the armstice, the Russian army of the Danube captured 15 pashas, 113,000 officers and men,606 guns of different calibres, 9,660 tents, 140,200 muskets, and 24,000 horses. In addition,

> The Russian army in Asia captured during the war fourteen pashas and 50,000 officers and men, 662 guns, 16,000 tents, 42,000 muskets, 18,000 horses, and immense stores of ammunition and provisions of all kinds. The number of firearms and miscellaneous weapons taked from the Asiatic irregular troops of the Porte was also, it is stated. exceedingly large, but no details are given. The Servian troops also acquired a large booty during the short time they were engaged, their trophies being returned as 238 guns, 10,000 muskets, and 37 standards, besides ammunition, provisions, and

#### A. OAKEY HALL

-- 0X --O'CONNELL, PARNELL, AND THE IRISH OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

Mr. A. Cakey Hall repeated his lecture on "O Connell, Parnell, and the Irish Obstructionists," at Steinway Hall. The proceeds were for the benefit of St. Vincent's Hospital. The lecturer first atluded to Washington and the patriots of the Revolutionory War, whom he classed among the " obstructionists " of England's policy at that time. He placed O'Connell, Parnell, and other Irish members of Parliament in the same category, and illustrated how they had "obstructed" England's design and by their patience and perseverance won many triumphs for Ireland. He closed by narrating in a graphic manner the all-night debates in the British Parliament last July on the question of uniting the Dutch Republic to the English colony Cape Town,

# IRON-CLAD SHIPS.

While the praises of the inflexible are being sung in the House of Commons and elsewhere, it may be well to note what other nations are doing to be even with us in the construction of monster iron-clade. The two types of armoured vessels in favour nowadays are the turret, or citidal ships, with decks but a few feet above the water line, and the broad-side masted ironclad like the Alexandria and the Sultan, in which we put our trust as ocean-going. craft. Of the former class, the Iuflexible, which is to be armed some day with four 80 ton guns, represents the powerful man of war in the British Navy; it has, as the First Lod of the Admiralty told us, iron walls twenty-four inches in thickness, and its speed is at least equal to most other ironclads. The Inflexible has, however, two rivals in the form of the Dandolo and Dulllo, Italian turret vessels. The armour of these, it is true, is two inches less thick than that of the Inflexible, but this disadvantage is more than compensated for by the fact that the foreign men-of-war will be armed with 100-ton guns instead of 80-ton weapons. Indeed, it was only a few days since that we announced the arrival at Spezzia, from Sir William Armstrong's works at Elswick, of two of these monster cannon, of which there is no equal among British ordances. But it is not solely in the matter of turret vessels that foreign nations appear to be going ahead of us; they are in advance of us also with broadside ironclads. The heaviest cannon carried by our biggest masted battle ships weigh no more than 25 tons, and metal of this calibre is borne only by first-class ocean-going ships such as the Alexandra and the Temeraire But the French announce their intention of fitting their last ship of this type with 46 ton guns and the Devastation, now fast approaching completion at Toulon, will carry four of these weapons in her broadsides. The centre of the ship, it appears, is an oblong battery, the angles of which project, and four guns placed at these angles are capable of firing broadsides as well as ahead and astern. Thus the Devastation will take rang before and broadside ship int the British navy, and if her sca-going qualities are only as good as her armament we may have in her a more formidable rival than any thathas yet been brought against us.

# LUCKY SPANISH BULL-FIGHTERS:

Spanish bull-fighters find their dangerous calling a very lucrative profession. Thus the favorite matador of Madrid, Frascule, possesses a fortune of \$400,000, a magnificent house, and a wife considered the prettiest woman in Madrid, and is a member of one of the most aristocratic clubs in the city. On the day of a bull-fight he sends a messenger to his wife after each of his performances in the arena, the destruction of six bulls being his usual task, and twice he has been brought home seriously injured. Frascuelo took part in the late bull-fight before the King and Queen, and his costume was literally covered with diamonds. Most interest was felt, however, in the amateur matadors, cavalry officers chosen by the different provinces, who showed themselves fully as skillful as the professionals.

# YOUNG POPES

Eight of the Popes were elected at a very early age, Plus IX, and next after Cardinal Riario-Sforza, the the youngest of them being John II who was crowned in his seventeenth year. If any one is inclined to be scandalized at the youthfulness of some of precedence of Cardinal Pecci, and not a scrap of the Popes, let them remember that it would be a evidence can be produced to countenance the waste of time to search in documents worthyof credit for any traces of Ignorance, Inexperience or lack of tact which may be attributed to these young Pontiffe. Still, these premature elections were not in all cases happy. God perhaps permitted them to prove that the Church does not depend for its perpetuity in the least upon mon: