

called the critical condition of Europe last fall. Had England then been called to war there was not one single cartridge of ammunition in store for the machine guns.

"The Monitor, one of our powerful ironclads, came into harbour, and required heavy guns for her turret. There were none to give her. They took two heavy guns from Spithhead and Portsmouth and put them on board the Monitor, and they are only capable of firing seventy rounds. Now you understand what this system is against which I wish to bring if possible the pressure of the English people.

Lord Randolph then went on to charge that in 1883 the Admiralty had launched the Ajax and the Agamemnon costing £500,000. It was found that if they steamed more than eight miles an hour they did not steer, that they were really unmanageable and perfectly useless because they could be sent to the bottom by almost any adversary.

It would appear at first sight that it was possible to live up to the teachings of the Scriptures even without studying them, considering that the Irish journals which have just reached us, containing reports from the various assize towns of that country, are rather monotonous records of presentations of white gloves to the judges, emblematic of the fact that Her Majesty's judges "had," in the words of the homely ditty, "got no work to do," and that on the first appearance of Mr. Justice Holmes on the bench in Drogheda, a town containing over 20,000 of these crime stained Romanists, he was presented with a pair of these white gloves, to his deep disgust, no doubt, for he was fresh from the House of Commons, where his highly denunciations of Irish crime were quite as eloquent as those of Mr. Macbeth.

that while the people paid for engineers at the Admiralty there is no practical engineer there with business capacity enough to design engines. Amongst other curiosities connected with this department he mentioned that the Admiralty sent preserved meats from Deptford to Australia, when they are manufactured, sugar and rum to Jamaica, flour to Hong Kong, and rice to India!

Lord Randolph's speech is certainly calculated to arouse a deep feeling of indignation in the British public mind. His impeachment of naval and military management is complete, overwhelming and unanswerable. It places England in a very unenviable position in the eyes of the world, and proves how easily great nations deceive themselves, and suffer themselves to be deceived in the matter of military strength and preparation.

MACBETH ON IRELAND. AN IRISH HERESYTERIAN AMONG US. The morning papers of the 15th inst. contain an account of a sermon preached by the Rev. John MacBeth, rector of Killagry parish, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland, in the Protestant Episcopal church of the Ascension, West Forty-third street, N. Y.

The arrival of Mr. MacBeth is ominous. The long continuous drought and heat is beginning to excite apprehensions in Ireland. Does the Irish Society expect another famine? Then in that case, as we have no means of judging the future except by the past, it is well that American protestant gentlemen should know how the expected contributions will be employed. Starving men and women and children will receive food as the price of apostasy.

It does not concern us much what the people who constitute the Irish Society are not all knaves. There is, on the contrary, quite a large proportion of fools among them. We are therefore willing, as Christians and men of charity, to assume that he belongs to the latter category. Indeed, if we had time, we could lay before our readers some stories of "conversions" through the agency of this society which are as incredible to those who do not believe in the boundlessness of human gullibility as they are ludicrous.

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS. London Tablet. York, so long the ecclesiastical metropolis of the North of England, and still the chief centre of that persecuted Catholicity which Elizabeth's tyranny was driving to apostasy or martyrdom, was now about to share with London the dubious honors which the capital had hitherto enjoyed almost alone.

It would be a waste of words at the present day to indulge in rhetorical denunciations of the methods and aims of the late established Protestant Episcopal Church of Ireland. English writers from Macaulay to Froude—most of them bitter enemies of Ireland and of Catholicism—have shown a curious mixture of loathing and horror in dealing with that repulsive institution.

It is not that, but infinitely milder and more revolting to the instincts of natural humanity than the systems that preceded it. It lay in wait for a famine, for the whole sale or minor famines that have so often desolated unhappy Ireland during the last hundred years. As soon as these vultures scented the odor of famine-stricken corpses they flocked to their loathsome quarry.

The following is from the records of the work done by the Irish Society during the famine of 1848: The Gospel is more readily now than heretofore received from hands that have administered to their temporal necessities. Openings are found at this juncture to the ears and hearts of the people which, in ordinary times, are sought in vain. Nor is there any difficulty in finding fit agents to convey to them in their own language the tidings of salvation.

Now are we particularly angry with Mr. Macbeth. The people who constitute the Irish Society are not all knaves. There is, on the contrary, quite a large proportion of fools among them. We are therefore willing, as Christians and men of charity, to assume that he belongs to the latter category.

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Before the first year of his ministry was well over he was arrested in the City of York, loaded with double irons, and, at his own request, placed among the felons. Nor was his zeal and charity in this misplaced, for some of them "he brought over to our Catholic faith and to a new life."

Of Blessed William Hart, the third Yorkshire William whose name is ranked among the blessed, there is much more known than of his predecessor at the scaffold. He was a native of Wells, in Somersetshire, a city on which Catholicity long retained its hold, and which gave three martyrs to Holy Church in this and the following year; the other two being the Venerable John Body and the Venerable James Fenn.

Two months later Blessed Richard Thirkeld, of Causley, in the bishopric of Durham, was another of those quiet saintly men whom the Colleges of Douai and Rheims sent over in such swelling numbers to toil at the discouraging task of winning England back to Catholicity.

One of the common cries of shallow commentators upon progress is that Catholic religion is antagonistic to thrift. Ireland and Mexico are mentioned as proofs of this. The traveler who has seen Catholic and Protestant countries under the same physical conditions, and who has curiosity enough to look below the surface of statistics for the truths they sometimes conceal, knows that landlordism in both Ireland and Mexico is the foundation of their poverty; while in Mexico, moreover, the great mountain walls which render commerce by land so difficult, and which the mild climate, which relieves the natives of anxiety about clothing, while it insures life with little food, should also be taken into account.

thirty-second that of Ireland and one forty-eight that of England.

The industry of the people is marvellous. Nine tenths of the cultivable land is under cultivation. In Ireland less than an eighth of the cultivable land is under cultivation. The theory that great farming is the most productive is exploded by the success of the little farming of Belgium; but it must be added that the stimulus of ownership by the tillers has had much to do with the results.

Religion! Full religious liberty is given by the constitution, and part of the income of the clergy of all denominations is paid out of the national treasury; but the entire population is Catholic, except 15,000 Protestants and 3,000 Jews.

NOT THE FACT. Catholics are often confronted with the action of this or that alleged Catholic, and we are twitted with these instances as showing the loose hold Catholicity has on its members, or the little it effects in keeping them on the right road.

Is there not something to be said for the self-sacrificing parental spirit manifested by Catholics in supporting parochial education and higher schools, all in the interests of a conscientious rearing of their children? This, too, when temporalities are injured by it, inasmuch as the State school graduate enjoys substantial physical preferences; while, further, Catholics have to pro rata carry the burden of the vast wasteful expenditure of the State educational system.

Is it not a vital Catholic influence that to-day protects the American hearth and home? Is it not a living barrier of stout hands and clear consciences prepared to do battle for the very class that too often despises and indeed wrongs this humble Catholic laborer?

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