

for instance, the Convent at Chelle, near Paris, which in the time of the Merovingians was resorted to by hundreds of both sexes to listen to the Biblical Lectures of St. Bertilla; "and it was from the high renown of the Irish Monasteries for the admirable perfection of their scriptural teaching, that learned men were induced to visit them from every part of Europe" (p. 55.) Alcuin, in his letters to Charlemagne informs him, with expressions of intense satisfaction, that the high-born dames, the powerful nobles, and the chivalrous warriors of France, all came to him that he might resolve for them the difficulties they encountered in their reading of the Scriptures.

"The whole Bible," says Sir Thomas More, "was, long before Wyckliffe's days, by virtuous and well learned men, translated into the English tongue, and by good and godly people with devotion and soberness, well and reverently read," and the assertion of the illustrious martyr is confirmed by the admission of one of the most eminent of the champions of the Reformation; "It is not much above one hundred years," says Cranmer, "since Scripture hath not been accustomed to be read in the vulgar tongue within this realm; many hundred years before that, it was translated and read in the Saxon's tongue, and when that language waxed old and out of common usage, because folks should not lack the fruit of reading it, it was translated again into the newer language."

"The Reformation, vaunted as the agency which first rendered the Bible accessible to the laity, crowned its triumph in England by prohibiting the perusal of the Scriptures by the people; the statute of 33 Henry VIII. c. 12, enacted that 'no women not of gentle or noble birth, nor journeymen, artificers, or prentices, should read the Bible or the New Testament in English, to themselves or others, openly or privately;' and the act of 34 Henry VIII. c. 1, forbade the reading of the Scriptures in public, confined the permission to read them aloud to private families to those who were of the rank of lords or gentlemen, and limited the liberty of perusing them personally and in secret, to men who were householders, and to females of noble or gentle birth.—Such restrictions had no existence under the dominion of the Church; even Luther pays this just tribute to her fame, in that remarkable passage in which he declares that 'it was an effect of God's power, that in the Papacy should have remained: in the first place, sacred baptism; secondly, the text of the Holy Gospel, which it was the custom to read from the pulpit in the vernacular tongue of every nation; thirdly, the sacred forgiveness and absolution of sin, as well privately in confession as in public; fourthly, the most holy sacrament of the Altar;' and the true character of her action is amply illustrated by the evidence which has passed under our consideration."

Such was the state of biblical culture in ages when the mere parchment used in transcribing a Bible cost about £200, and before printing was thought of. Since that wonderful discovery the multiplication of superb editions of the Scriptures in every known language is the best answer to the malicious, and, indeed, preposterous charge of Protestantism, that the Church is hostile to the dissemination of the knowledge of the Word of God. The Church is undoubtedly opposed to the circulation of spurious translations miscalled Bibles,—she is opposed to the perversion of the Word of God into a mere school-book—she interdicts the laity from reading what they are incapable of understanding without those aids which piety and learning and authority have furnished—in a word, she forbids mankind to wrest the sacred text to their own eternal destruction. But whether in the Ages of Faith, or in these days of hard hearts, selfish ideas, utilitarian notions and latitudinarian theories, her precept and her example have been always the same—to read the Scriptures with humility and accept the approved interpretations with Christian obedience.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

CONFIRMATION BY THE BISHOP OF ACHONRY.—On Wednesday, the 6th ult., the Right Rev. Dr. Durcan, Lord Bishop of Achonry, administered the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation to nine hundred and sixty persons of both sexes in the parish of Tubbercurry. It was in this parish the sainted Doctor Hart, Bishop of the above see, who was one of the Irish Prelates that assisted at the General Council of Trent, lived and died. He reached the patriarchal age of one hundred years before God called him to Himself to reward him for his labors. After his return from the sacred council, the penal laws were then so sanguinary in Ireland that the venerable Bishop had to hide himself in the wild glens that stretch from near this town to Lough Esk. The rude altar of stone erected by him at Mass-hill, where he offered every morning, when disengaged from his other sacred duties, the Adorable Sacrifice of the New Law, under the broad canopy of Heaven, surrounded by nearly inaccessible cliffs and rocks, is still to be seen, and is held by the people in the greatest veneration. It was to this secluded spot that the few Priests of the diocese who escaped their infernal and bloodthirsty pursuers were accustomed to come by night to commune with their Bishop. It was here, when the stones of the sanctuary were scattered, the lamp of Faith was kept burning. It was from this wild and uncultivated place, where the "proud invader" never set foot, that the holy Bishop himself, at his advanced age, and often at the risk of life, had to pass over rocks, mountains covered with heath and snow to bring the consolations of religion to his afflicted people, and confirm them in the Faith of their fathers; and when the storm of the Reformation all but swept away the Irish Hierarchy, that their sees might be filled by heretical intruders, Bishop Hart, from his secluded retreat on the borders of the Atlantic, was the strongest connecting link the Irish

Church had with Rome. But, blessed be God, what a happy change! Here, on Wednesday last, the worthy successor of that great Confessor, after a lapse of more than 300 years, meeting in the open day the assembled thousands, and instructing them in the Faith "once delivered to the Saints." After the Confirmation was over his Lordship expressed himself highly pleased at the manner in which most of them answered in the Christian Doctrine. He complimented the worthy old Parish Priest, the Rev. James M'Hugh, and his excellent Curate, for their indefatigable zeal in the salvation of souls. He felt delighted that none were found base enough to sell the priceless pearl of Faith for a mess of porridge, though the poor of the parish, in common with those of nearly every other part of Connaught, had to pass through the terrible ordeal of a protracted famine.—His Lordship also rejoiced to see so many of the Faithful coming forward to be invested with the sapphire of the Ever-Immaculate Virgin, and exhorted them all to practice daily a devotion to the Mother of God; and by doing so he promised that the Soupers and lying proselytisers, who are now trading in men's souls, would never get a footing in the parish. After this his Lordship received into the "one fold" Patrick Black, who came publicly forward to renounce the errors of Protestantism. This fact, without any observation, is the most practical and telling comment upon the flourishing state of the Catholic religion in that locality. His Grace, before and after administering the rites of Confirmation, addressed a few words of paternal instruction to the people, in the English and Irish languages. We are informed that notwithstanding the boasting declamations of the Rector of Cong, all his efforts at perversion have proved fruitless. At this moment his meal-schools and strabour conventicles are quite empty, whilst the Catholic people are more fervent than ever in their attendance upon their religious duties.—*Cor. of Tub.*

The health of the Archbishop of Tuam is perfectly restored; and His Grace has been able to undertake the fatigues of a Pastoral visit throughout his diocese, during which he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to upwards of one thousand persons at Cong.

DIocese of ALBANY.—CONVERSIONS.—The Rev. Jas. O'Sullivan, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Amsterdam, N. Y., has recently received the following persons into the Catholic Church, at Amsterdam and Johnstown: Henry Wilkins, John Riebold, Jas. Kean, William Egan, Mrs. Martha Campion, Mrs. Isabella Carney, Mrs. Susan Toomey. These conversions say much for the zeal and devotion of the Rev. Pastor of St. Mary's, Amsterdam.—*N. Y. Freeman.*

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

SLIGO ELECTION.—Mr. Sadlier's return is to be contested in the House of Commons. A meeting, which was attended by some of the Catholic clergy of the town and neighborhood, took place a few days since, when resolutions were adopted to impugn the return on the grounds of bribery and personation. The correctness of the Mayor's return is disputed. The opponents of Mr. Sadlier contend that the numbers actually polled were 145 and 147—not 142 for Somers and 150 for Sadlier, as the poll has been declared, and that of the 147 three were representatives of former electors who were either dead or absent. The petition has been transmitted for presentation.—*Freeman.*

REPRESENTATION OF CORK.—Mr. Reynolds, Chief Commissioner in the Insolvency Court, having resigned after a service of thirty-eight years, the vacancy has been filled up by the promotion of Mr. Commissioner Law, and the appointment of Mr. Serjeant Murphy as Junior Commissioner. We confess we did not expect to see the witty and clever serjeant "taking the benefit of the Act." His appointment causes a vacancy in the representation of Cork City.

THE TENANT COMPENSATION BILL.—The *Banner of Ulster* states, on the authority of his special London correspondent, that the government has accepted through its Irish Secretary the principal amendments in the Tenants' Compensation Bill suggested by the northern deputation. We give the statement publicly, but no credence.—*Freeman.*

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT.—The correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*, writing on Tuesday, says:—"Out of evil comes good" is an old saying, of which, so far as Ireland is concerned, Prince Albert's attack of measles is the newest illustration. I believe I can inform you, with some degree of certainty, that when her Majesty's visit to Ireland takes place she will make a considerably longer stay than projected during the trip of this week, and abandoned owing to the illness of Prince Albert. The Queen, I understand, will spend a full week or ten days in her Irish metropolis. I am also informed that the visit will be in state, but of this I can say no more that I believe, whether it be strictly speaking in state or not, it will be of such a character as to render Dublin a scene of high attraction during the royal stay."

THE LAKES OF KILLARNEY.—The *Cork Examiner* says that during these two months past, the number of tourists who have visited the scenery of Killarney and Glengarriff has even exceeded that during the same period last year and the year before. English, Continental, and American tourists, who have come over to visit the Exhibition, have not been able to resist the attractions which the fame of Killarney scenery presented, and have been accordingly pouring in every day, until the town itself and all the hotels in its neighborhood have been crowded to the most surprising extent.

ENLISTMENT OF LORD ERNEST VANE.—A good deal of surprize was occasioned on Friday evening last by the announcement that Lord Ernest Vane, youngest son of the Marquis of Londonderry, had enlisted in the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons. It appears that the noble lord has been for some time past staying in the neighborhood of Winchester, as a pupil in the house of a Clergyman, and on Thursday last came to town by the South-Western Railway, accompanied by his groom, and proceeded at once to Charles-street, Westminster, where he fell in with a recruiting sergeant, with whom he enlisted, and then tried hard to induce

the groom to follow his example, but without effect. The servant returned to Winchester and communicated the extraordinary news to the family, and the electric telegraph was resorted to, but the information reached the noble marquis too late. The noble lord and a party of recruits were regularly attested at Rochester-iow police court on Friday, and although some of the authorities at the magistrate's office recognized him, he said his mind was made up—he gave the name of Ernest Smith, and started with his comrades for Dublin. His lordship is in his 19th year, about five feet ten inches in height, stout and well made, and appears at present resolved to follow his newly adopted career. The regiment in which Lord Ernest Vane has enlisted is at present quartered at Dundalk.

ASSIZES INTELLIGENCE.—COUNTY OF LIMERICK.—The assizes were opened by Mr. Justice Perrin and Baron Greene. Baron Greene, in his charge to the grand jury, said that it was very gratifying to have to be able to congratulate the inhabitants of the county upon the very great decrease of crime. The calendar laid before him was exceedingly light, both in point of numbers and in the nature of the offences for which the parties were charged: indeed there was but two cases where he might say the accused were charged with serious offences.

CITY OF LIMERICK.—Judge Perrin presided in the City Criminal Court, and the grand jury having been sworn, his lordship proceeded to address them. He said that there were but nine cases upon the city calendar.

STATE OF TIPPERARY.—The *Clonmel Free Press* says:—"Within the memory of that time honored personage, the 'oldest inhabitant,' Tipperary was never so tranquil. The police have, literally speaking, nothing to do, and it is only in the towns that their functions are at all called into requisition. Our readers will remember the admirable observations addressed to the grand jury at the Carrick quarter sessions by the learned chairman of this county. Mr. Sergeant Howley, and the testimony which he bore to the peaceful state of the Southern Riding. In the North Riding we perceive the same pleasing duty awaited him. In his charge to the Nenagh grand jury, he said:—"I am happy to inform you that the cases before me are very light in number, and none of them are of any importance. I may make the same remark of this Riding of the county that I did when leaving the southern division of Tipperary, and that is, that it is at present in a most peaceful and satisfactory condition. When they remembered the former state of this county, it was no less a pleasing than an extraordinary fact, that at the last assizes for the South Riding of this county, her Majesty's judges had only three cases for trial, and I have the satisfaction to state that there are only two cases for trial at the approaching assizes for this division of Tipperary. This, gentlemen, is an extraordinary fact, particularly when we remember the former condition of this county. I hope this happy state of society may long continue—for at the present moment there is no part of the empire in a more peaceful condition than the North Riding of the county of Tipperary." Two cases for trial in the North Riding of Tipperary."

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—The assize circuits, now in progress, afford most gratifying evidence of the unprecedented tranquillity of the country, and also of the extraordinary decrease in litigation. A striking illustration of the change, in this respect, appears in the proceedings at the assizes for the county of Meath, which opened at three o'clock on the afternoon of Monday last, at Trim, before Judges Crampton and Ball. In the Record Court, in which the latter learned judge presided, there was not a single record entered, and the only cases for hearing were two petty appeals from the quarter sessions. Judge Ball having got through the business in half an hour, was enabled to return to Dublin the next morning, previous to proceeding to Mullingar, where he opened the commission on Wednesday. In the Criminal Court, at Trim, Mr. Justice Crampton, after charging the grand jury, and congratulating them on the extreme lightness of the calendar, disposed of six or seven cases, mostly of a trivial kind. The grand jury were discharged at two o'clock on Tuesday, and the assizes terminated that afternoon. The judges appeared without military or other escorts, just as they would in Dublin. Six members of the bar and five attorneys attended the Meath assizes; but the whole of the business would scarcely have afforded adequate remuneration to a single member of each branch of the legal profession.—*London Economist.*

HOW THE LANDLORDS GET ON.—The Irish landlords are as determined as ever that the exodus shall continue. The Celt must be rooted out, evicted, banished from the home of his ancestors, expelled from the country, and routed across the Atlantic. At the Louth quarter sessions, which have just terminated, decrees were obtained to dispossess 120 families, numbering at least 600 persons. At the Bailieboro' quarter sessions 40 ejectments were entered for trial, and at the Cavan sessions 74! In the county Monaghan we should think 100 ejectments were entered for trial, and decrees in all the cases were obtained. Here, then, we have 335 families, or nearly 2,000 persons, in three counties, with the doom of extermination hanging over them. In another month all may be rendered homeless by the operation of landlord law.—*Dundalk Democrat.*

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The uncertainty as to peace or war still continues, the balance of probability appearing to incline towards the latter, and the result of this state of things tends to affect most prejudicially almost every branch of trade. People are rather at a loss to make up their minds as to the probable effect of war on prices, and are unwilling to enter into any considerable dealings. Shares are, of course, depressed, although not to so serious an extent as might be supposed, and altogether the present state of affairs is uneasy and unsatisfactory to mercantile men in general. The corn speculators have derived some advantage, prices having been slightly advanced, but with difficulty, and to a much smaller extent than in England. The weather continues broken, but no fears are at present entertained for the harvest in this country, though it may perhaps be a little later than usual. The payments from the incumbered estates flow steadily, or at about the same rate as for some weeks past—£60,000. The Queen's visit and its postponement have not given rise to much interest in trading circles. Credit is well kept up, and we have had for some time no failures of any moment made public. The increase in the traffic on all the principal lines of railway is most satisfactory, and, were it not for the unsettled state of foreign politics, could not fail to tell beneficially on prices.—*Freeman.*

SCOTCH LANDLORDS IN IRELAND.—Arthur Pollock, Esq., of Glasgow, late of the firm of Pollock, Gilmour, and Co., has purchased the estate of West, near Ballinasloe and Eyrecourt, in the county of Galway. The property belonged to the late John Beatty West, Esq., M.P., and contains about 10,800 acres. The purchase money was £105,000, and Mr. Pollock contemplates expending the sum of £25,000 additional in improving the lands and building steadings, of which the property is sadly deficient.—*North British Daily Mail.*

The men Neil Gwyn, Bryan Grant and Patrick Coomey, charged with the murder of Mr. Bateson, were put on their trial on the 9th ult. before Mr. Justice Jackson. The trial lasted until Wednesday evening, when the jury were discharged, having been unable to agree upon a verdict.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—WEXFORD, JULY 9.—The potatoes still continue to improve, and we are happy to say that no appearance of blight has this year made its appearance in this district, so far as we can ascertain.—*Independent.*

KERRY.—We regret to learn that some symptoms of blight have appeared in the western parishes near Dingle, a portion of Mr. Herberts property near Killarney, and in some gardens near Causeway.—*Trulee Chronicle.*

COLERAINE, JULY 9.—An agricultural correspondent writing us on Friday, says:—"Potatoes, I fear, are affected. I saw some in the neighborhood of Ballymoney, and also at Portrush, very much spotted and curled in the leaf, especially early ones. Corn in these localities is short, having shot when some of it was not more than six inches long."

DUNSHAUGHLIN, JULY 10.—I am very sorry to tell you that we have every symptom of the disease coming on the potatoes as we have had those last years, particularly on the Kemps. The others have not shown as yet, nor neither did they here before as early as these I mentioned. This day twelve months it appeared first with us, but we have been suspecting since this day week that it was approaching, and this morning we had such another fog as the first year of the blight.

TUAM.—We are delighted to be enabled to state that the crops of every description bear a most flourishing aspect. The potato crop, to which every eye is anxiously turned, is most luxuriant; and no trace of the disease is making its appearance.—*New Potatoes of a large and dry description are now selling in the market of this town at 1s 3d. per stone.—Tuam Herald.*

STATISTICS OF EMIGRATION.—The annual report of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, presented to parliament, was printed on Friday. Since the conclusion of the war, thirty-eight years ago, there have left this country 3,463,292 emigrants, of whom, 1,791,446—more than one-half—have emigrated in the six years commencing with 1847. It seems that the average annual emigration during the last six years has been 298,584, and that the number who left the United Kingdom in 1852 was 368,764, being 23½ per cent. above the average, and 9½ per cent. above the emigration of 1851, the largest that had before occurred. The commissioners remark that the great bulk of the emigration from the United Kingdom has for many years consisted of Irish, and in the last six years the number was about 1,313,226. In 1852 the emigration to Australia was 87,881, of which 53,627 was spontaneous, and 34,354 was by the government. For the first quarter of the present year, emigration has decreased. The commissioners concluded by observing that they regard the decrease in the emigration as a proof that the laboring classes of the United Kingdom, and especially of Ireland, are in a state of unusual comfort and prosperity.

The Protestant guardians of the Ballinasloe Workhouse under the directions of Lord Clancarty, have refused to allow the Sisters of Mercy to visit the sick and dying inmates. On this specimen of Protestant toleration the *Tablet* remarks:—"The motives of Lord Clancarty in issuing this mandate to his serfs of the Ballinasloe Union are not to be easily guessed at. That the visits of the Sisters would tend to improve the morals of the female paupers; to render them docile, obedient, and amenable to discipline—chaste and pious he had not the hardihood to deny. What harm would they do either to him or his Protestants? Would not the Scriptural zeal of the Rev. Mr. Walker be sufficient to protect the latter from the effects of the mere presence of the Sisters of Mercy under the same roof with them? And would not the Commissioners instantly order their exclusion from the workhouse, if a complaint were sustained against them of the most trifling act, which could possibly be constructed into an attempt at proselytism? But the less religious or intellectual culture the paupers receive, the better are they adapted for the purposes of the proselytisers. His Lordship has probably sufficient experience in soul traffic to be aware of the fact that the poor who know their religion are wholly unpurchasable—the degraded, the debauched, and the ignorant are alone marketable; and that the efforts of the soup distributor who asks the starving wretch to purchase subsistence at the price of his soul, and the land agent, who, like those of the sword and Koran in eastern climes, forces 'Scriptural' education down the throats of an oppressed tenantry, are lost upon those who have been trained by the Sisters of Mercy." Of the great benefits derived by female paupers and children in Workhouses from the pious labors of the Sisters of Charity and Mercy, it is almost unnecessary to speak. In a letter from the Rev. Mr. Madden, Adm. of Ballina, which we published in September last, amongst other tributes to the services of the Sisters of Mercy rendered in the cause of religion and humanity, we find the following:—"Our workhouse is large and often densely crowded. To the dying and sick in that establishment those pious ladies pay uncommon attention, and although it appears at first sight a little strange, nevertheless it is no less true, that instruction from these poor Nuns is often more efficacious in bringing about the conversion of females than the words of any Minister of the Gospel."

To the Government depots of female convicts these Nuns are freely admitted, and the benefits which result to that unfortunate class from their labors have been more than once acknowledged in official documents. In every instance in which fanatical efforts have been made to exclude them from workhouses in which their services have been taken advantage of by the guardians, we are happy to say that their admission has been invariably supported by the Commissioners. We trust that in this case they will go a little further by exercising the power invested in them of ordering the admission of the Sisters in the present case in spite of the bigoted determination of the magistrate of Ballinasloe and his vassals.