

Just at this moment the queen turning abruptly fixed her smiling eyes on Mary, and beckoned her to her side. 'How, how, Mary, dost thou knowingly engage the exclusive admiration of the noble Don Pedro? Surely it is not so often our poor court is honored with the presence of foreign cavaliers, and we do, therefore, charge thee, young friend! with an unlawful attempt at monopoly. Have mercy on the many fair damsels around who are pining for Spanish compliments. Nay, never blush, child! we can readily excuse a fault which is, after all, but trivial.'

Countess of Kildare, and not even the respect due to their hostess could exact from them even common civility to the Spaniard. The latter saw the horror with which they regarded him, and so highly was he amused by the evident care with which they shunned him that his politeness was severely taxed to refrain from laughing outright. He had no temptation, however, to court the favor of these ungracious guests, since with them he had nothing in common, and he was truly rejoiced when the long, tedious meal was ended, and he found himself with Mary leaning on his arm following the countess and Lord Hereford to another apartment, answering to the drawing-room of our days.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE. DEATH OF THE REV. JOHN O'DONOHUE.—Died, on the morning of the 25th ult., at his residence Bellaghy, county Kerry, the Rev. John O'Donohue, the deeply beloved highly respected, and much lamented Pastor of the Parish of Ballyscullin, whose interesting zeal in the advancement of religion and morality won for him the love and respect of the faithful amongst whom he laboured. May his soul rest in peace.—Ulster Observer.

Irish Distress.—DROGHEDA, December 22.—I am sorry to say that an unusual amount of destitution, from want of employment, prevails at present in Drogheda and its rural vicinity; and not only this, but that the usual concomitant of poverty—fever of the worst type—is more prevalent than it has been at the same season for sixteen or eighteen years. So badly off are the laboring poor, that large gangs of them have waited on our public bodies, representing their condition, and imploring that they may either be supplied with employment at some public works, or with outdoor relief.

life, are warmly discussed; so is the question of the Greek throne; and that of the new Italian Kingdom. Not to speak of the struggle in America, which is in reality a struggle for the future of the world, we can find time to argue, along with Lord Russell and the Danish Government, the interminable and incomprehensible question of the Duchies. Far be it from us to depreciate the great interest and importance of some of these subjects; we would only suggest modestly that there are some others, arising nearer home, which claim a portion of that attention of which they receive none. Look at Ireland, for example. English statesmen and politicians seem not to consider that island any portion of the United Kingdom; nor worth as much thought as the condition of the German population of Schleswig. Yet we believe there exists an Act of Union, to preserve which all England was prepared some years since to struggle to the bare life. We heard lately of some wild declarations of American Unionists, who talked of exterminating the people of the South rather than let them go, and we read some very edifying denunciations of this fanatical resolve in the London papers; but we also remember a threat, proceeding somewhere from the neighborhood of Chelsea, to 'squell' Ireland like a rat if she should attempt to break the Union. We remember, too, that the threat was very generally applauded by those same London papers. Well, since we are determined to keep her, is Ireland, we ask, an integral portion of the kingdom? Or, outcast, we should be told; but if that case, we add, that less concern is manifested in England about the condition of Ireland than if she happened to be subject to the King of Denmark or the Sultan of Turkey. We are justly making great efforts to save the Lancashire operatives, but we are neither thinking nor doing anything to save Ireland. If, indeed, a sudden calamity should fall upon her like that which has struck Lancashire, no one can doubt the readiness with which public and private charity would flow towards the relief of the sufferers, as it has done before. But it is not a sudden blow she is suffering from. Her disease, unlike that of Lancashire, is neither temporary nor acute, and it requires therefore different treatment. Ireland is languishing and steadily sinking under bad laws, and a consequent prevalent despair among her people.—She wants no subsidies, but simply wise political and legislative remedies. At any rate, we advise one for the most serious consideration of the State doctors who are not quacks. If any such there be, but these people are thinking something else, and do not care apparently whether Ireland perishes or survive. Ireland is an agricultural country, or it is not. It possesses but one considerable branch of manufacturing industry, located in one province—the linen weaving; and that flourishes no more because it meets no competition from England, as from the natural advantages which the province of Ulster possesses. The remainder of the island must depend for wealth and prosperity upon its agricultural advance. Is there then any such advance? On the contrary, there is decay all around. Land is being gradually and not slowly out of cultivation, and the portion which still remains occupied is being exhausted rather than cultivated. The painful impressions of the country received by travellers, the complaints of intelligent residents, and the eloquent and aptly of the farming class, all point to the same conclusion. Official returns confirm the grounds of these feelings. Between 1850 and 1851 no less than 80,000 acres went out of cultivation, and the average produce per acre of the cultivated land was diminished by about a fourth. The decrease has been going on for some years now, and it is remarkable that both the quantity of land under crops and the yield per acre have continually declined. They who talk of succession of bad seasons assign a totally inadequate cause. The fact is that the peasant class is in no way to struggle on. They therefore are going away. Nearly 70,000 persons emigrated from Ireland during last year, and these the most valuable of the agricultural population. Eighty-three out of every hundred were between five and forty-five years old. So, in those two chief elements of Ireland's wealth—labor and wealth—there is established a constant drain—the one is going out of the country, the other out of cultivation.

Take pains to correct the blemishes of the mind, rather than those of the face.

The evening dew is nature's tears for those who died in the day, the morning dew for those who have perished in the night.

(To be continued.)

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THE CONDITION OF IRELAND.—The subjoined article needs only one qualifying remark, with our best wishes to the journal from which it emanates. The sympathy of the Irish with the Pope is spoken of as interfering with the efforts of the people for political amelioration. This is not true. In every other respect we think the article in the highest degree creditable to the Morning Star.—We are all very much occupied just now with the affairs of other countries. The position of the present French dynasty, and its prospects of long or short

THE FIFTH THOUSAND POUNDS FOR THE O'CONNELL MEMORIAL has been entered, and measures are under consideration, the passing of which is sure to immediately give a strong impulse to the movement. The mischievous reports of dissension, discord, and even of bitter contention in the Committee, are false in fact as they are injurious in effect. Having regularly attended almost all, if not every one of the meetings, I must assert that—although composed of elements from every section of the Catholic and of the Protestant Liberal party in Ireland, clerical and lay, pleasure and expectations, Young and Old Irelanders, advanced Whigs and Peel-Whigs—there has never been a division taken upon even one point or matter bearing upon the pecuniary object of the Committee. On the contrary, the original resolution of the Conference, to which many parties objected, owing either to the laxity of its terms, or to its alleged implied condemnation of the Brevol movement was tentatively developed in three subsequent resolutions, declaratory of the precise basis of the Memorial—until the entire popular conception of the Liberator, as 'O'Connell,' was realized—and every one of which resolutions was carried out by a majority, not by unanimity simply, but by ardent acclamation. Any discussion that arose, which led to a division—and a vote was taken twice only—were on the subject of the Press; and the temporary warmth on that point was mainly confined to the columns of rival journals. Under such circumstances, how inaccurate, how injurious, how disloyal, to so dear a cause, must it not be for parties to promulgate in the Press, either by direct or by implication, that the meetings of the Committee are scenes of contention, and that the object of the majority of the Members is to dishonour a portion—one of the dearest portions of O'Connell's career? A sub-Committee of five members is to bring up for consideration an address at the next meeting, on Monday next, to which will be appended the whole of the resolutions to which I have referred, and also the names of all the members of the Committee, including those of nearly all the hierarchy, hundreds of the leading clergy, and numbers of the most prominent and patriotic of the Catholic laity of Ireland. The address is from the Committee to the Irish race, throughout the world. Its publication will silence the slanders and remove the misrepresentations which have got abroad respecting the sentiments of the Committee and their claims to the confidence of the people. The clandestine visit paid at midnight, on a Saturday evening to the Catholic University, by Sir Robert Peel, has afforded the Mail material for two articles of a semi-humorous, semi-hortatory character. Catholics attach no importance whatever to that visit. The national subscription this year to the University, notwithstanding the badness of the times, has far exceeded that for last year. The architect of the new building has the working plans just completed, and the contract will likely be advertised next month.—Cor. of Weekly Register.

GENERALING PRISONERS CHARGED WITH MURDER.—Information having reached the Government that Patrick Ross and James Ross, charged with the murder of John Corrigan, and with firing at and wounding his wife, Mary Corrigan, near Malbegh, in the barony of Longford, and county of Longford, on 20th April, 1862 and who have not as yet been arrested, were being concealed, and are harboured, received, and concealed, and assisted and aided in several parts of the country since the murder. His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant is pleased to offer a reward of £100 to any person or persons who shall, within six months, give such information as shall lead to the arrest of any one whomsoever who has, since the said murder, knowingly harboured, or received, or concealed, or assisted or aided in any way whatever in their escape from arrest, the said Patrick Ross and James Ross.—Freeman's Journal.