

at her old manner, but it was a miserable failure. Our quiet life went on as usual, and I wondered at the self-command Estelle showed. I frankly confess it was more than I could have done.

But her trial was not for long.

CHAPTER VII.

Two days after his departure, the news of a fearful railroad disaster was flashed over the wires. It had occurred a few hours out of Pittsburgh just a few miles from Cresson station. A long list of killed and injured followed, among the latter names was that of Harry Percival!

Estelle saw it before I did, so I could not break the blow. She became very nervous and restless, and watched the papers anxiously, and, what she had not done before, talked about him constantly.

We could do nothing but wait for news, and we did not have to wait long, for in a few days a letter came from Mrs. Percival. She had gone to her son and wrote to us how she found him. Evidently she knew nothing of the broken engagement and wrote to relieve Estelle's anxiety.

She said Harry's injuries were very severe and he was in a high fever, but the doctor gave every hope of a recovery.

The hotel at Cresson was still filled with visitors and consequently very few of the sufferers could be accommodated there. Many had been carried to the cottages in the neighborhood, but Harry with one or two others had been taken to the summit of the mountain. They were staying with a family there and met every attention. Harry required constant care, and she had been able to write the letter by scatches. But she could not help thinking how the spot would suit us. There was quite a large Catholic settlement on the top of the mountain, three hundred feet above the hotel at Cresson, with a church and resident pastor.

Several letters followed this, in each of which she spoke of Harry's continued improvement and of the kindness of the people around her, who seemed to try what they could do. Particularly she spoke of the clergyman to whom she was indebted for many attentions. I wrote frequently and Estelle twice or three times, and at last after three weeks, Mrs. Percival's letters ceased altogether.

Harry had recovered sufficiently to tell her of the rupture of the engagement, was the conclusion we arrived at without saying anything to each other and we waited with what patience we could for the next.

We had not long to wait. After a while I received a long letter from Mrs. Percival, expressing her regret at what had occurred. Harry had recovered from the fever induced by his injuries, but his broken limb did not knit and he was still unable to move.

She expressed a hope that I would answer her letters and that the friendship between us, which she prized so highly, would not be disturbed by this sad misunderstanding between the young folks.

I gave this letter to Estelle to read and she smiled when she handed it back to me and said with a deep sigh:

'How little Protestants understand what our religion is to us, do they aunt? Dear kind Mrs. Percival evidently thinks ours is only a lover's quarrel that will be made up when we are tired of waiting, and to me it is a question of my whole happiness here and hereafter.'

'Do you mean that you are happier now than when you were engaged to Harry, Estelle?'

I asked anxiously, for this was a new development of her character I had not looked for.—She had always proved herself so docile and yielding to my every wish that I had not yet expected to find her so firm, and my admiration for her strength was great as was my sympathy for what I knew she suffered. So I asked her the above question.

'Happier! oh aunt, aunt!' she exclaimed, the tears springing to her eyes, 'of course I ought to be for I know I have done right; I know if I had married Harry, feeling as he does towards Catholics and Catholicity, I should have been miserably unhappy after the first few months and I see how right the Church is in its objection to mixed marriages—but oh aunt, I do so want to see him! I do so long to see him speak and call me his own again!'

Covering her face with her hands she burst into tears and I sat down beside her and put my arms around her; but what could I say to comfort her?

Mrs. Percival and I kept up quite an animated correspondence, but by Estelle's request I never mentioned her name; his mother mentioned Harry in every letter and expressed her great anxiety about his perfect recovery.

Thus the autumn months slipped by and that sad anniversary of mine, Christmas eve, was approaching, when one day, with my usual letter from Mrs. Percival came one in Harry's own handwriting to Estelle.

She was in her own room when the letters came and I sent hers up to her and waited anxiously to know its contents.

Mrs. Percival had written of Harry's continued improvement and the last letter we had from her expressed a hope that they would be able to leave for home in a week.

I read my own letter and had hardly finished it before Estelle was at my side beaming with a happiness her sweet face had been a stranger to for weeks.

'Read it, aunt,' she said, and putting the letter into my hands, left the room again.

Harry's forced residence among a community strictly Catholic and constant intercourse with a Catholic priest had had a good effect.

He wrote to Estelle that his eyes had been opened and his bitter prejudices removed; he acknowledged they were prejudices and had arisen from simple ignorance of the facts. He begged her pardon for anything he had said that had hurt her feelings in the past and assured her that though he was not prepared to become a Catholic, he would never prevent, by word or deed, her full enjoyment of her religion, if—but I will not quote his lover's pleadings to be

forgiven and received again into favor. They were eloquent and heartfelt.

I carried the letter up to Estelle and gave it to her without other comment than a kiss. My heart rejoiced to see the light sparkling again in my darling's eyes, and her spirits rise once more to their old gaiety.

Christmas eve came and with it a heavy snow storm, so we had been unable to get down to the little church as we so much desired.

Estelle had answered Harry's letter and I had read her answer, finding no reason to object to anything in it; but that was a week ago and we had heard nothing more from them. A high woodfire blazed on the library hearth before which Estelle sat on a low stool resting her cheek on her hands and gazing into the glowing embers. I had a book open before me where I sat at the table, but I was not reading, my thoughts had gone back over the years to other Christmas eves, and memory was busy with me too, when the door bell rang hastily, as it had rung once before, at almost the same hour on the same night years ago.

A few words in the hall, a hasty step to the library door, and it was swung open by Harry Percival's impatient hand.

'Estelle, my darling!'

She had risen from her stool and was clasped in her lover's arms, and I quietly left the room and them to their new found happiness.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON IRISH QUESTIONS.

A number of letters from the Catholic Archbishop and Bishops of Ireland were read at a meeting of the National Association, held at Dublin on Tuesday, Cardinal Cullen wrote:—

I heartily congratulate you on the remarkable success which has attended your exertions during the year just closed. The three great questions that form your programme have already made very considerable progress, and one of them, that of the Established Church, gives promise of being speedily settled in a manner conformable to the desires of the Irish people. I sincerely trust, however, that the association will not relax its efforts till all those questions are finally settled. The Catholics of this country cannot rest satisfied till they are placed on a footing of perfect equality with their Protestant fellow-subjects; and as the Catholic bishops have resolved that no state pension or other endowment shall be accepted by them, which would deprive the Church of that liberty which is dearer to them than life it necessarily follows that no measure save the total disestablishment of the State Church can be acceptable to us, as no other measure will introduce that religious equality which we desire. As regards the land question, which is also of so vital importance to our farming classes, on whom the prosperity of the country principally depends, it is to be regretted that many of the measures introduced in late Parliaments were nothing more than a mere delusion and mockery. But from the wisdom and justice which guide such men as Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright, as well as from the determination of the English people to undo the wrongs of Ireland, and from the influence which our own Liberal members have acquired in the present parliament, we may confidently hope that some measure shall be at length devised to secure the rights of our tenants, and to promote the true interests of this country. The education question also requires attentive consideration and the most anxious care of the Association. This Catholic country cannot rest content with any but the denominational system of education. Protestant education we leave to Protestants. A system excluding the influence of divine faith can be accepted only by those who have no religion to lose. As for us, we claim what we are entitled to by the strictest principles of justice when we ask for Catholic children Catholic education under that denominational training which exists in other parts of this empire, and which, wherever it has been introduced, has invariably brought with it the best fruits of science, and the happiest results as regards social order and virtue.

His Grace Archbishop Leahy, referring to the work of the Association, said:— The verdict of the people of the three kingdoms has just been taken at the general election, and the verdict is, 'justice to Ireland.' The time for legislation is now come. A statesman great in every sense of the word, who has devoted his transcendent abilities, his reputation, and his fortunes, to the grand enterprise of doing justice to Ireland, is about to put his hand to the work of legislation. In these circumstances it is for the Association, as heretofore, to reflect the opinions and feelings of the nation, that there may be no mistake as to the nature of the measures required to satisfy the just expectations of the people. No half measures will do. No unworthy compromise will be accepted, as I believe none such will be proposed for the acceptance of the Irish people. The great question must be settled on the basis of perfect equality, and settled for good, so that no after question may remain concerning even a shred of the ascendancy of any one religion over another. The mind of the nation is without injustice to the landlord, and facts deeply to be deplored by any one having the least feeling of humanity, without speaking of Christian principle—facts entailing misery alike upon landlord and tenant—cry aloud for a speedy settlement of this question. Then education, high and low, ought to be free—ought to be Christian, for Catholics ought to be Catholics. If the Church and the land questions vitally affect the legal and material status of Catholics, the education question as regards the future of Catholicity in Ireland must be considered by any one having the smallest degree of foresight as the question of questions. Things are now ripe for the legislative settlement of these questions; and if they are not settled soon, and finally, and according to our just expectations, great indeed will be the disappointment of Ireland; and, on the other hand, England will have lost an opportunity for conciliating the people of this country such as she may never again have.

A letter from the Right Rev. Dr. Leahy contained the following:— The result of the late elections has decided the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church in this country, and the eminent statesman at the head of the government evidently feels that a more equitable arrangement of the relations between the landlord and tenant is absolutely requisite for the peace and prosperity of Ireland. As to free education, although ministers do not as yet seem alive to its necessity, yet it is a good sign that nearly all the Liberal candidates in this kingdom promised to support it.

The Right Rev. Dr. Kane, in a letter dated Queens-town, January 2, writes:— In the history of agitation for the redress of national grievances, the present is a most critical period, full, in every sense, of the words hope and of danger. Never, perhaps, were the people of this country so confident as they are now that, at length, English statesmen have opened their eyes to the necessity of consulting Irish wishes and Irish wants when attempting to legislate for Ireland. During dreary centuries of war and persecution the exclusive object of England was to shape the mind, the character, the aspirations, and the faith of Ireland to her own standard; and because Ireland did not allow herself to be engrafted into a mould foreign and narrow; she

whole frame-work of international intercourse became dejected. England felt disappointed and provoked, because her pride was humbled and her projects were thwarted; and Ireland became disappointed and resentful when summoned to forget for ever, at the haughty command of a hated foe, her history, her race, her language, and her creed. Now, however, avowals are made by men as gifted as ever away the destinies of the United Empire. Foremost among them are Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright, whose manly and frank promises of perfect equality for all classes, spoken in words of clear and thrilling eloquence, have thrown light over the gloomy atmosphere of Irish politics. But these men must give something more than promises. Ireland has been so of an disappointed that distrust is forced on her, and, however sanguine some may be, there are others whose full confidence can be gained only by accomplished facts. Weighty responsibility rests on all who can in any way influence expected remedial legislation. First, the Catholics of Ireland and the supporters of justice and of fair play ought to insist on perfect civil and religious equality for all classes of her Majesty's subjects. If Catholics are called on to pay taxes, to fight by sea and land the battles of England, and to swear allegiance to the throne in common with their fellow-subjects of other religious denominations, they never ought, and they never will be satisfied to submit, as a degraded race, to a practical ascendancy. Equality is their birth right—equality they demand! On this cardinal point no compromise, nouffling can be tolerated. Secondly, this Association would do well to prepare forms of petition, in compliance with parliamentary usage, on the three great questions affecting the tenure of land, education, and the Church, and these petitions ought to be forwarded without delay to every parish in Ireland, signed as numerous as possible and sent to London as soon as the session opens. When examined on the land question before a committee of the House of Commons, in June, 1865, a witness said that discontent and dissatisfaction were at that time deep-seated and wide-spread in Ireland. In a London paper published a few days after, an English statesman who, from his office, ought to know something about it, was reported to have denied the statement. The outbreak that followed can best tell on which side was the accurate information. With equal truth may it be now said that there is discontent and dissatisfaction deep-seated and wide-spread. Silent now because expectant, and because willing to give full time and trial to Mr. Gladstone, but destined to be more dangerous and more unanswerable than ever if his hopes be held out by again blighted. In reasoning with young and ardent spirits on the folly of armed insurrection, and on the wisdom of agitation and petition, how often were the friends of Ireland told that agitation had done no good; that petitions had been treated with contempt by Lords and Commons; that an impious ascendancy was perpetuated; that no promise of redress was ever made but to be broken, and that Ireland had nothing to expect but infamy, injustice, and disappointment. No English statesman that ever yet spoke gave such strength to the arguments used by the friends of order as the words of Mr. Gladstone and of Mr. Bright have given. They have offered to Ireland terms of peace and friendship on the basis of civil and religious equality, and Ireland is prepared to accept them. But let her hopes be again smothered, and let England get engaged in a continental or American struggle—not an improbable contingency—the reaction among Irishmen at home and abroad would be terrific and irresistible. Disappointment and exasperation would be their daily counsellors. They would cheerfully seize on the long-wished-for opportunity, and in their onward movement of vengeance they would respect neither the standard, nor the ministry, nor the lives of those that stand in their way. These are words not of menace but of warning; words not to create but to avert danger.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

London, Feb. 3.—The petition of the Irish Bishops for the rights of Convocation has been rejected.

The Catholic chapel of Nicky, near Newpallas, county Limerick, was entered the other night, and candlesticks and other requisites were stolen from it.

A significant proof that a different value is set upon landed property according to the character of the country in which it is situated was afforded yesterday in the Landlord Estates Court. An estate in the town and county of Tipperary was offered for sale, but no bidder could be found for it. A large property in the county of Tyrone was afterwards sold for over 25 years purchase.

On the 30th ult., three died, at Ballybrood, county Limerick, in the 104th year of her age, Johanna Keogh, the mother of the late Thomas Keogh. She was the relic of 14 children, the grandmother of 96, and the great-grandmother of 68 children; of whom at present 5 children, 56 grandchildren, and 50 great-grandchildren still live. The greater number of them followed her remains to the grave.

Much alarm was caused on Monday morning in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, when it became known that three of the 65th Regiment had scaled the walls during Sunday night, and had taken with them their uniform accoutrements, rifles, and a considerable quantity of ammunition. The alarm was given at once to the detective police, who are now in search of the martial fugitives. There are several causes assigned for their nocturnal desertion, but the true facts of the strange affair have not yet transpired.

DUBLIN, JAN. 11.—Whatever uncertainty may exist as to the opinion of the Protestants on the present aspect of the Church question will very soon be set at rest. The Central Protestant Defence Association are soundly the tocsin and trying to rally their dispirited hosts to renew the fight. On Saturday the executive committee held their usual weekly meeting, under the leadership of Sir Edward Grogan, and after acknowledging the receipt of continued subscriptions proceeded to pass a series of resolutions intended to infuse fresh hope and courage into the hearts of their co-defenders throughout the country. The first declared that the result of the late election in Lancashire and other places in England, "proved the good work which had been done through the instrumentality of the Association, and ought to stimulate to increased exertion, and that they should proceed at once to organize an extensive plan of deputations to complete the enlightenment of the English and Scotch people on the momentous questions impending," and take other means for the defence of the Irish Church. Another resolution advised the branch associations to hold public meetings in their several localities for obtaining signatures to a petition any declaration, which will be forwarded to them, and also—an object not to be neglected—"for collecting funds for the central association." The co-operation of the clergy and laity is to be enlisted in support of the movement.—Times Chron.

DUBLIN, JAN. 14.—The Church question has again become—indeed it can hardly be said to have ever ceased to be—the question of the hour. It had now reached an interesting and critical stage. As the time of action approaches the friends and the opponents of the Establishment are more earnestly engaged in soundly public opinion and endeavouring to ascertain the state of feeling on both sides. It is a difficult and necessarily uncertain process, especially as regards the Protestant laity. In the absence of any general organization of a deliberative and impartial character, or a representative body authorized to speak in their behalf, it is impossible to obtain a distinct and authentic declaration of their sentiments. Some individual members of the Church, chiefly clergymen, have come forward to offer suggestions through the public press; but they have

been careful to state that they only express their own views. The journals in newspapers afford a very imperfect means of judging as to the direction in which public opinion may be setting. There may be a strong under current of which no indication appears upon the surface. In a clumsy and circuitous way a tolerable correct estimate may be formed when the renewed agitation of the Church Defence Association begins. At the moment, however, it will only be of a partial character, and will present little positive evidence unless it should happen to prove an utter failure. So far as can be inferred from the pamphlets and letters which have been published, there appears to be an influential section in favor of a policy of compromise. How far this disposition extends cannot at present be ascertained, but possibly it will find expression in some authoritative form. There can be no doubt, however, that such a policy will not find anything like general approval. It meets with the most obstinate resistance, and so far as the press is concerned, its advocates are in danger of being overwhelmed by numbers of indignant opponents. The Hon. and Rev. W. O. Plunket; the Rev. Mr. Sherlock; the most recent advisers of a pacific and prudent course, have been condemned in bitter terms. They feel acutely the resolution of the Central Protestant Defence Association, which characterized their submission to disestablishment—believing it to be inevitable—as an abject surrender—the proceedings of the enemies of the Church; and have written to the Express to protest against such an imputation. Among others who dissent from their views, and believe that the establishment as well as the disestablishment of the Church may and ought still to be defended, are the Bishop of Cork and the Earl of Devon, who took the opportunity at a public meeting in Cork on Tuesday evening to make an emphatic declaration of their opinions. The Bishop, who is a worthy champion of the Church militant, condemned the conduct of those who showed the 'white flag' or the 'white feather.' He stated his belief that the battle was not lost, nor, in fact, well begun, and pointed to circumstances which he regarded as encouraging a hope of successful resistance. He reminded the men in other places 'who were busy and fidgety to make terms,' that the question was one for the laity, and he added a characteristic wish that 'these people would hold their tongues, and not bother them with their wisdom. Lord Devon delivered a lecture on the subject. He went over the beaten track of argument in defence of the Church and with a view of dispelling false notions which he said existed as to the meaning of the term disestablishment and disestablishment, he explained that the former meant that the Protestants were to be robbed of their property, and the latter that the supremacy of the Sovereign was to be overthrown and Papal supremacy established in Ireland. He denied that there was any truth whatever in the assertion that the Established Church was the cause of Irish discontent, or that the people if left alone would be hostile to it. He informed the meeting that every legitimate opposition, every fair Parliamentary struggle, would be used to prevent the destruction of the Irish Church, and called upon all Protestants to stand together in its defence.

The Freeman's Journal of Tuesday says that the first day of Hilary term of 1869 will be memorable in the history of the Irish bar of Ireland. For six generations previously no Catholic presided in the Court of Chancery, and on that day the Right Hon. Thomas O'Hagan, attended by the Judges of the other Courts, proceeded in state to occupy the bench as Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland. All the aspirants to the courts were crowded, and the members of the bar appeared in a state of great commotion. The feeling was universal that ascendancy in Ireland was receiving a deadly blow. When the Lord Chancellor ascended the bench, the assembly seemed fired with an electric impulse, and irrepressible enthusiasm broke through all the restraints which the usage and solemn associations of a court of justice impose, and the cheers rung out loud and vehement. This is a fair beginning; but it will be many a long day before ascendancy in one or other of its various forms, ceases to afflict Ireland. In the very same number of the Freeman we are told that in the County of Limerick the Lord-Lieutenant and the twelve Deputy-Lieutenants are Protestants; that out of ninety magistrates not more than six are Catholics—that the Clerk of the Crown, and Clerk of the Peace, and all the county officials are Protestants. There is not a place of trust, honor, or profit in the whole county, connected with the magistracy, the prisons, the hospitals, the workhouses, or even the lunatic asylums which is not filled by a Protestant. No wonder there is joy in Dublin—joy extending throughout Ireland, that such a barefaced system of persecuting exclusiveness will no longer be tolerated by the people of England. No wonder that an event which would hardly call for notice in any other country, is exciting in Ireland such a commotion as one would expect might attend what really is the commencement of a social revolution.—Tablet.

The Fenian prisoner Augustine E. Costello was brought up in the Irish Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday to assign error on the record preparatory to the hearing of his case before the court. The prisoner was placed at the side bar shortly before eleven o'clock. Costello was attired in the ordinary convict costume of grey frieze. He seemed to be in good health. Previous to their lordships sitting, Mr. Barne placed himself at the inner bar and made a characteristic speech. He read his election address, dwelling specially upon the passages advocating the release of the Fenian prisoners and the prosecution of Massey O'Connell, and the other Crown witnesses. Although the officials of the court and notably the two wardens in charge of Costello maintained a rigid serenity of countenance during this scene, it seemed to amuse the prisoner, as it certainly did many others in court. Mr. Barne at the close of his observations, stated that he recently addressed the courts in London in the same way although he was interrupted five times in the course of his observations. Mr. Nagle, clerk of the Crown, having read the return to the writ stating that the prisoner Augustine E. Costello was in court Mr. Murphy, Q. C., instructed by Mr. Anderson, said he had not as yet read the assignment of error and he asked for a postponement of the formal proceeding till another day. His instructions were to afford every facility to the court and to the counsel for the prisoner to have an early day fixed for the hearing of the writ of error.

We believe we are correct in stating that the question of an amnesty for the Irish political prisoners is now under the consideration of the Government. No definite course has as yet been decided upon, but it is understood that it is by no means unlikely that in the course of the spring an amnesty, more or less conditional, will be accorded. It is probable that this measure of grace will be carried out contemporaneously with the accomplishment of Mr. Gladstone's policy in regard to the Irish Church, of which it will be, in some sort, the complement. In the case of some, at least, of the prisoners it is thought that their liberation will be made dependent on their giving their parole to live in America for the future.—The Eastern Post.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS OF IRELAND.—These statistics for the year 1867, prepared by Dr. W. Neilson Hancock, have just been published. The chief feature is the continued prevalence of 'reasonable' and 'sedition' offences indicated by the police returns, the numbers being 836 in 1867, as compared with 813 in 1866, showing an increase of 23. It further appears that amongst these offences there was a marked increase in the mere serious forms of 'reason'—385 persons in having been charged with high treason and treason-felony in 1867, as compared with 215 in 1866, being an increase of 70. The increase of disaffection was attended with a serious addition to the cost of criminal prosecutions, the amount increas-

log from 56,517, in 1866, to 90,520, in 1867, being an increase of 33,973. It also prevented any material reduction in the Royal Irish Constabulary, to compensate for the increased cost of placing that force on an efficient basis. The whole cost of the police, of all kinds, in Ireland, increased from 779-016, in 1866, to 902,297, in 1867, being an increase of 123,311, of which 115,218, was defrayed from the general issue, and 7,133, from the local taxes and other sources. The statistics for 1867, as compared with those for 1866, show a considerable increase (amounting to 236) in the number of persons for trial at assizes, the Dublin Commission Court, and a quarter sessions. The number, however, is less than in any of the preceding ten years except 1860. The number has been reduced from 6,308 in 1859 to 4561 in 1867, which shows a diminution of 1,747 cases, or 27 per cent. Allowing for reduction of population, the diminution of serious crime in Ireland in ten years is from 107,082 to 84,100,000 of the population. The cost of drunkenness reported by the police decreased from 82,194 in 1866, to 76,414 in 1867. There was no executions in Ireland in 1867. Three persons were sentenced to death for high treason but the sentences were subsequently commuted into penal servitude for life. There was not a single person for trial for destroying machines or goods in process of manufacture in 1867. There were only three persons for trial for riot and feloniously demolishing buildings, machinery, &c., and only one person for trial for offences connected with conspiracies or combinations to raise the rate of wages, and in none of these cases was there any prosecution. Discipline was maintained in the Irish gaols without whipping, with less resort to irons or handcuffs, than with about one-half the force of solitary or dark cells, and the stoppage of diet in Ireland was rendered necessary only 827 times, as compared with 9,570 times in England and Wales, amongst an equal daily average number of 2,638 prisoners. There was an increase of 41 in the numbers sent to reformatory schools in Ireland in 1867, as compared with the numbers in 1866. With regard to the education of the prisoners it appears that 36 per cent. of men and boys and 52 per cent. of women and girls in Irish gaols could neither read nor write, being larger percentages of 33 per cent. of men and boys and 37 per cent. of women and girls. On the other hand, 40 per cent. of men and boys and 19 per cent. of the women and girls in Irish gaols could read and write well. This is a marked contrast to the 3.5 per cent. of men and boys and 1.5 per cent. of women and girls in the English gaols returned as able to read and write well. The verdicts of wilful murder brought in by coroners' juries in Ireland were 75, being forty less than the number (115) which the 438 verdicts for murder in England and Wales in 1866 would give for a population equal to that of Ireland.

THE WASTE LANDS OF IRELAND.—The Advertiser says:—It is hoped that something will be done to reclaim the waste lands of the sister country. It has been calculated that the waste lands of Ireland might be reclaimed for a sum of £10,000,000, and such experiments as have been made by private individuals raise a strong presumption that this sum would be long covered by the increased value of the land. A proprietor in Monaghan upwards of twenty years ago reclaimed 300 acres of mountain land in four years. Its value was thus raised from 2s to 35s per acre, and the entire cost was paid by the crops in three years. In Galway the experiment was tried by another proprietor and 500 acres of moorland and mountain were reclaimed at a cost of from £10 to £17 per acre, which was repaid by the crop of the second year; and the land formerly worth 2s 6d per acre was in 1848 paying 2s. A third experiment was made in Cork, where a bog farm, which did not fetch a rent of 4s per acre, was reclaimed by the proprietor at a cost of £16 per acre. The culley was recovered before the fifth year and the land was shortly afterwards rated at the Poor Law valuation, at 24s per acre. May not a valuable lesson be learnt from all this?

A remarkable death has occurred in Balmullet within the last few days. On Jan 8 the mortal remains of Tom Murphy were carried to the grave amidst the prayers and sympathies of a thousand mourners. He died at the advanced age of 103 years. He was one of the yeomanry escort who in '98 arrested Father Manus Sweeney, in a house on the island of Achil, and brought him a prisoner to Newport, the place of his execution. On his way, at Molranny, the guiltless priest requested a drink of cold water, but the officer in charge refused the request, upon which Tom Murphy said, 'If it costs me my life I will get him a drink of water.' Tom Murphy accordingly brought him a cup of water; and when he was in the act of drinking it, Officer Tullet dashed it to the ground. To this refusal the priest said, 'That head may be the agent of your own death; but for Tom Murphy he prayed a long and happy life.' Officer Tullet soon after was killed by the explosion of a gun in the very hand which acted so rudely and cruelly towards Father Manus; and Tom Murphy lived to the extraordinary age above-mentioned, respected by all that ever knew him as an honest, virtuous man. He enjoyed his mental faculties up to the last moment, and departed this life without any apparent agony or struggle, having been fortified by the prayers and sacraments of Holy Church.—Examiner Jan. 9.

A very suspicious death occurred in Arnon-street, Belfast, on Saturday night. About one o'clock on Sunday morning, a man named John Monroe, a tailor, went into the house of some neighbors and informed them that his father, an old man 74 years of age, was dead. He was found lying near the fireplace, with a wound on his head, and his face covered with blood. The police were communicated with; and, as the son was the only person in the house with the deceased during the night, he was taken into custody, awaiting the result of the inquest. The accused states that his father received the injuries in falling on the ground; but the neighbors state that father and son quarrelled repeatedly during the evening on which the deceased came by his death.

A correspondent of the Dublin Freeman says: A farmer named John Corby, residing at Grange, near Cahiroonish, county Limerick, was freed at home by a hedge at about six o'clock on Saturday evening December 9th, when approaching his own house, but escaped uninjured. The would-be assassin scrambled away across the field after firing the shot, and without giving Corby the opportunity for positive identification. A young man has however been arrested on suspicion, as it is believed the shooting arose in consequence of a family dispute about land.

A Monastervon correspondent, under date Jan. 13, says:—In many of the gardens here primroses, &c., are in full bloom, and woodbines and other shrubs and trees have their leaves nearly fully extended. The weather since the beginning of this month has been exceedingly mild and genial, causing vegetation to set in vigorously. Back among the birds made the woods resound with their songs, and they are preparing to mate and build their nests, as if the spring was already far advanced.

At a late meeting of the Longhiltown Board of Guardians (Rathdown Union) a question arose as to whether a child, named Morgan, was a Catholic or a Protestant. The child, who is an orphan, had been placed in the workhouse by people who had baptised and registered her as a Catholic. The Rev. Mr. Thomas and his sister, Miss Thomas (Protestants), however, applied for permission not to be allowed to take charge of the child. Miss Thomas, by letter, alleged in support of her application, that the child had been baptised a Protestant previous to the alleged Catholic baptism; but stated that she had not been able to procure documentary evidence as yet. The Chairman, in referring to Miss Thomas's letter, said of course that ended the matter. Notice, however, was given that on the 27th a motion would be made to give the child to Rector Tlom s.