

and remonstrances in a lively discord of "Rory O'More." The "gentleman" player seemed a man of about forty-five years, of decidedly well-bred features and presence. He was dressed in excellent quiet taste, and, if really out of his sphere, comforted himself in his unaccustomed situation with the repose and *sang froid* supposed to mark the man of high social caste. Indeed, so far from looking at all uneasy or abashed, he kept rather a marked eye upon the public pence, and seemed altogether as though his occupation were pursued much more for profit than pastime. He drew quite a fashionable congregation, among whom were several ladies. This audience attended the performer as he moved imperturbably and slowly on. The belief was freely expressed that he was, beyond doubt, "a gentleman," and had no object in his melodious vagrancy but to win a big wager. The better class of those who followed his donkey cart partly sympathised with the pleasant eccentricity of the "gentleman," but were evidently rather ashamed of him for letting himself down to a rather suggestive level. The mixed herd of cabmen, idle labourers, and street Arabs entered more unreservedly into the form and condescension of the thing, and cheered "his honor" most vociferously. The grinder took the attention of the crowd with the same cold *hauteur* of manner, except when they gave him a copper. He never failed to acknowledge the coin, but more as a tribute than a bounty.

The Grattan Monument.—Appeals are being made by the committee to hasten the completion of the Grattan monument, and several large subscriptions are flowing in. The committee seek from the Corporation a site in College Green, midway between the National Bank and the Irish House of Parliament, now the Bank of Ireland, which doubtless will be granted. The National Board have so far advanced in recognition of distinguished Irishmen, that their sixth, or most advanced reading-book, just published, contains sketches and portraits of Grattan, Burke, Sheridan, and Goldsmith; to three of whom there will soon be public monuments, besides that to Moore in College Green. The only reference to Grattan, however, in the new book, is his portrait, under which is Moore's well-known magnificent elegiac poem, beginning:—

Shall the harp then be silent, when he who first gave
To our country a name is removed from all eyes?
Shall a minstrel of Erin stand mute by the grave,
Where the first, where the last of her patriots lies?"

But not alone was the National Board afraid to cite any of his speeches, but they have actually mutilated the elegy of its best and most important stanza, describing Grattan's great work, the independence of the Irish Parliament—

When a nation o'erleap'd the dark bounds of its doom,
And for one sacred instant touch'd liberty's goal,

And similarly they have mutilated several of the best of the lyrics of Moore, Lover, and other Irish poets; yet this is the Board of National Education.

The Amnesty agitation, which had so splendid a commencement at Clontarf in September, was brought to as splendid a conclusion on Sunday, 23rd November, in Phibsborough. About one hundred and fifty thousand persons took part in this final demonstration in favor of the release of the political prisoners. And it was not Dublin alone that was represented on the occasion. Almost every part of the provinces and every part of England and Scotland in which Irishmen reside in considerable numbers sent delegates to the vast assemblage. It need hardly be said that the trade organisations and friendly societies of Dublin threw themselves heartily into the demonstration. It is estimated that the procession took nearly two hours in passing a given point. When we add that everyone seemed thoroughly impressed with the solemnity of the day's proceedings, and that the most admirable order and decorum were preserved throughout, an idea may be gained of the grand, imposing, and picturesque nature of the spectacle. The meeting was held in a large field in Phibsborough, within view of Mountjoy Prison on one side and of the monument to O'Connell in Glasnevin Cemetery on the other. This field contained probably one hundred thousand people. At about half-past one o'clock the head of the procession entered, and for an hour and a half the imposing column and the thousands who accompanied it continued to pour into the area. On the platform were Mr Butt, M.P., Mr Ronayne, M.P., Mr Martin, M.P., and the principal delegates. The proceedings here did not occupy much time, only one resolution having been adopted or submitted. That resolution declared that the voice of Ireland had been sufficiently expressed on the subject of amnesty, and it requested Mr Butt to prepare a general statement of the grounds on which complete and unconditional amnesty is claimed. Mr Ferguson, of Glasgow; Dr Commins, of Liverpool; Mr John Martin, Mr Ronayne, and Mr Butt having addressed the meeting, the procession commenced to return to town in the same manner as it came out, and some hours afterwards there was no trace of what was undoubtedly one of the greatest demonstrations Ireland has ever witnessed.

Simultaneously with the meeting in Phibsborough, there were being held for the same purpose meetings in Carlow, Bradford, Liverpool, Sheffield, and in many other places in England and Scotland; and it is a most noteworthy circumstance that amongst the communications alluded to by Mr John Nolan, Secretary of the Amnesty Association, on the platform on Sunday, was a telegram from Chicago, addressed to Mr A. M. Sullivan, and announcing that at the same hour as we here in Dublin were demanding the completion of the amnesty, the Irishmen of the great city of the Western Continent were swelling the cry.

The Home Government Association has held its second last meeting in the Pillar Room of the Rotundo, Dublin. Twenty-six new members were admitted, and then the Rev. J. A. Galbraith, F.I.C.D., proposed that a committee be appointed "to draw up a report preparatory to winding up the affairs of the Home Government Association, in consequence of the formation of the Home Rule League." The motion was adopted. The meeting closed with an announcement by Professor Galbraith that there would be one meeting more of the Association to receive the report thus ordered. The rev. gentleman in his opening speech most effectively criticised some recent hostile utterances on the subject of Home Rule—including Mr Disraeli's reckless

and mendacious assertions at Glasgow, and the fierce but empty declamation of the Dublin Orangemen at the Rotundo.

Within a few weeks of its inception the national testimonial to our honored countryman, John Mitchel, has already attained to most creditable dimensions. No movement of the kind undertaken in our day will have more powerfully or more purely attested the grateful devotion of the Irish people to those who suffer and sacrifice for country, than this tribute to the heroic courage and stainless patriotism of John Mitchel. How can Irishmen best help this national undertaking? By following the example of Tuam and Charleville, and forming local committees for the more effectual accomplishment of such a labor of love and duty. There ought to be no town, village, city, or district, without its local organisation and special collection; so that the world may see that the man of all our exiles who alone is forbidden to see the land of his affections has not been forgotten by the people of Ireland.

The Home Rule member for Kerry, Mr R. F. Blennerhassett, has met his constituents in public meeting, and addressed to them a long and eloquent speech on the political situation. It is needless to say that his utterances, from first to last, were all that could be desired in a popular representative. That they were also in perfect conformity with the wishes and convictions of his constituents was abundantly manifested by the cordial and enthusiastic manner in which they were received. One of the foremost priests of Kerry, in learning, in intellect, in influence, and in patriotic endeavour, the Rev. Michael O'Sullivan, P.P., Ballylongford, moved a vote of thanks to Mr Blennerhassett, and in doing so took occasion to observe that the county would never again send any one to Parliament but a supporter of the national demand for Home Rule. The Rev. John O'Connor, C.C., one of the bravest and patriotic young priests in Ireland seconded the motion, which, of course, was adopted by acclamation.

The infamous, because utterly despotic, nature of the "Coercion Act" is sufficiently well established; but that the measure would be made to appear ridiculous as well as tyrannical had hardly entered into the imagination of those even who knew the facility with which extremes may be made to meet. That this Draconian law, however, has its ludicrous side is amply attested by the annexed incident given in the 'Irish Times,' as having occurred in a Belfast court, in which a "learned" Judge and an "educated" monkey (learned and educated may here be taken as interchangeable terms), were the principal *dramatis personæ*:—A bewildered itinerant showman, an Italian, named Angelini Jenni, was charged before the "Custody Court," Belfast, with having arms in a proclaimed district. The poor fellow owned a monkey and lived by the monkey's tricks. He had taught Professor Darwin's progenitor to fire off a toy pistol; and, for this his master was seized, and charged with "having arms in a proclaimed district!" Seeing that the monkey—not the man—had the pistol, the monkey should have been in the dock—not the man. We suppose the magistrates felt a difficulty about committing a monkey to prison. The question would arise, too, whether the monkey was a rational being, accountable according to law. The magistrates came to what we think was a hasty decision. They ordered the "Italian, pistol, and all," to leave the town within three days! Could not the magistrates be tried for "giving arms to an unlicensed person in a proclaimed district?" Here is plainly a case for the Castle Adviser, and material for a terrible bill of costs.

A testimonial is proposed to one of "the O'Hara Family."—A numerously attended meeting composed of the leading citizens and many of the country gentry, including the High Sheriff, John Murphy, Esq., has been held at the Athenaeum, Kilkenny, to initiate a movement for raising a subscription to present a suitable testimonial to Michael Banim, Esq., late postmaster, on the occasion of his approaching departure from his native city. The meeting was presided over by James Sullivan, jun., Esq. Several gentlemen spoke of the many claims which Mr Banim possessed on the gratitude of his townsmen, and of Irishmen generally, in consequence of his vast literary talents, which, in conjunction with those of his brother John, had accomplished so much for the reputation of his country and its people by the "Tales of the O'Hara Family." Allusion was also made to Mr Banim's claims by his long life of usefulness as a citizen of Kilkenny, and for the admirable manner in which he had discharged the duties of chief magistrate, as mayor, and also those of his late appointment. The necessary steps to make the movement a success having been taken, the meeting adjourned.

Every man in Ireland knows that five times the number of signatures that were affixed to the Requisition calling the National Conference might easily have been obtained had there been the slightest wish or necessity on the part of the committee; but, in view of the comments of the London press on this matter, it may not be useless to show, as the 'Roscommon Messenger' does show in the following paragraph, how easily the thing might have been done:—It may not be out of place, when certain of our English contemporaries speak in disparaging terms of the numbers who signed the late Home Rule requisition, to relate a local circumstance connected therewith, which will go to show that if hundreds of thousands of signatures were not attached it was not because the masses of the population were indifferent as to the result. There are 4300 ratepayers in the Strokes-town Union, and when a late appeal was made to them by circular to influence the elected guardians of their respective divisions to support the resolution in favour of Home Rule at the board room, an aggregate number, reaching to 3200, attached their names to memorials to that effect. The number would be very considerably increased but for the circumstance of one parish priest, apprehensive of any further grounds for political excitement arising in his district, requesting of his flock to abstain from forwarding a requisition to the guardian. We must not forget to add that the circular was only posted on Monday, and the requisitions were forwarded on or before the following Thursday. So much for the pretence that the masses of the people are indifferent to Home Rule.

At the meeting of the Catholic Union held in Dublin, Lord Granard presided, and twelve Catholic bishops were present. The members of parliament attending were—Messrs Cogan, O'Reilly,