

## GENERAL NEWS.

(Summarised from our exchanges.)

## IRELAND.

The project of constructing a tunnel under the Irish Sea from a point near Belfast to the extremity of the peninsula opposite in Scotland, has been revived, it is said, with some probability of success. The length of the proposed work would be about twelve miles, and the estimated cost £23,000,000.

**A Wonderful Change.**—The installation of the new Mayor of Drogheda, on New Year's Day, was a memorable event. The new Mayor, we are informed, attended by the Corporation and the civic officers arrayed in their robes, and bearing the civic emblems, proceeded in state to the Catholic parish Church, where they assisted at Mass. The mace and sword of State, which were borne in the procession, were the gifts to the municipality of Drogheda of William the Third! What a testimony was thus afforded of the inscrutable ways of Providence! The gifts presented by the victor of the Boyne, who, according to the inscription on the obelisk at Oldbrige, "delivered" this country from "Popery," lent an additional splendor to a solemn act of Catholic worship. A strange lesson is bound up in this fact, if people would only try to read it. This Catholic procession passed through the streets that Cromwell deluged with Catholic blood, in sight of the ruined abbey and churches that God has allowed to stand until this day, to witness the goodly pageant. These ruined churches, looking on the procession, were like aged Simeon who "had received an answer from the Holy Ghost that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord." Now their hoary walls may crumble away in peace, for they have seen the evil-doer pass away and be forgotten, and his victims arise and occupy the land.

The staff of Professors in the Catholic University has been reinforced by some excellent appointments, and arrangements are in progress for giving full effect to the resolutions. Among the new officers is Mr John Casey, LL.D., who has been selected for the chair of higher mathematics, vacated by the Rev. W. G. Penny, M. A., who has undertaken the charge of an English mission. His appointment has attracted a good deal of attention. The 'London Times' says of Dr Casey: that he is a distinguished mathematician, and will be able to render good service to the cause in which he is now enlisted.

**"Disfigurement of Dublin.**—The 'Freeman' on Jan. 1, publishes an interesting letter from the pen of Mr William O'Neill Daunt on "The Architectural Disfigurement of Dublin."

The Most Rev. Dr. McCormack, Coadjutor Lord Archbishop of Achonry, has left Ireland for Rome.

The adjourned meeting of the tenantry on the Downpatrick estates, County Down, now the property of Mr John Mulholland, D.L., was held in the Assembly Rooms in Downpatrick, for the purpose of adopting an address of congratulation to Mr Mulholland. The meeting, held on Dec. 20, was attended by very few persons, in consequence, probably, of an address issued by the secretary of the Downpatrick Farmers' Union, warning the tenants not to attend, as Mr Mulholland contemplated a restriction of the unlimited tenant right which has existed on these estates.

**The Irish and American Rifle Clubs.**—The Committee of the New York Amateur Rifle Club have been instructed to accept the challenge of the Irish Riflemen, not only in the club's name, but also in the name of the Riflemen of America. An opportunity will be given to the Riflemen of the United States to compete with the club's squad for places in the team that will be matched against the Irish team. The team will be restricted to the use of a rifle weighing less than ten pounds, with a trigger pull of three pounds at least, and without telescopic sight.

A case of police tyranny, has been perpetrated by the Dublin "force," who opposed Mr Peter Barrett's application for the transfer of a license to him. The British constitution lays down that a man is innocent until convicted of crime. Mr Barrett was tried for an attempt upon the life of Captain Lambert, but a jury of his countrymen unanimously acquitted him. He walked out of the dock an innocent man in the eyes of the law—if that law is not a sham and a falsehood. When his application for the license was heard, the police and the "Crown" opposed him. The police in the case acted upon the assumption that he was guilty of the offence from which he was cleared after a searching trial. The magistrates with a subserviency that would not do honour to the bench of the worst governed country in the world, refused the license on the ground that they never grant any when the police interpose their veto. Under these circumstances can the Irish people respect the laws, or have confidence in the administration of justice?

The Registrar-General has published his emigration statistics for the first ten months of 1872 and the first ten months of 1873. The figures show a very marked increase in the emigration of the latter year. In the first ten months of 1872, 71,610 emigrants left the country. In the corresponding period of 1873 the number rose to 85,286. Of these 23,789 were males, and 36,489 females. April, May and June are the great months for emigration—more than half the emigrants leaving the country during this period. The total emigration from Ireland since May 1st, 1851, is stated to have been 2,247,883 persons. It is a most significant fact that the number of persons who left Ireland in 1873 should exceed the number of persons who left Ireland in 1872 by some 14,000 persons.

In an article on the Dublin Conference the London 'Tablet' refers to the allegation that the Catholic bishops are holding themselves aloof from the Home Rule movement. It says that "So long as Home Rule steers clear of revolution, the Irish Episcopate are not called to interfere authoritatively on the one side or the other. Whenever such an emergency shall arise, which God forbid, we may be perfectly sure that the Irish Episcopate will know how to do their duty as fearlessly as in the critical times of the Fenian conspiracy, even though it be with as little expectation of having their conscientious services recognised either by the desperadoes or by the Government. Down to the present, at any rate, the Bishops have made no sign against Home Rule, and so long as the movement continues on

its present moderate and constitutional course, they will continue to make no hostile sign."

Rev. Patrick J. Nowlan, of Donnybrook, died a few weeks ago. An Irish paper, in referring to the services of the deceased, thinks that "we may reckon the moral benefits derived from the abolition of the once notorious Donnybrook Fair, as redounding more to the good of the inhabitants of Dublin than even the beautiful church which now adorns the village of Donnybrook, and whose existence is entirely owing to the untiring effort of the good priest."

Right Rev. Dr O'Mahoney, Bishop of Armidale, in presence of a large congregation assembled at Lismore, recently, laid the foundation stone of the first Catholic Church in the Richmond River district. It was gratifying to see the unanimity which prevailed amongst the members of the various denominations present, many of whom came a distance of sixteen miles to witness this most imposing ceremony.

The Cork 'Daily Telegraph' ceased publication on Saturday, December 13th. The paper was at one time the 'Southern Reporter,' and was owned by the late Wm. Fagan, M.P., after whose death it passed into the hands of a partnership, with the notorious Michael Joseph Barry as editor. Under the proprietorship of Mr Felix Mullin, the 'Southern Reporter,' which was originally a tri-weekly paper, became a daily, and after a short time Messrs Potter and Gillman purchased it, and changed its title to the Irish 'Daily Telegraph.' On the 15th December, the compositors who worked on the paper sued and got decrees from the local magistrates against the proprietors, for the arrears of wages due to them. Mr Potter declared in Court that he had been ruined by his connection with the concern. He was worth six hundred a year when he entered it, and had lost it all.

An interesting discovery of a number of coins was made at a place called Cloncha, about half a mile from Culladuff, on the 13th December, by a man named McGrannahan. McGrannahan was removing the surface from the top of a quarry, and came upon the coins lying loose in the soil, about eighteen inches deep. They were of two sizes, one lot of them being almost as large as the present half-crown, and the other smaller. The letters are a good deal effaced, but can easily be made out as one of the silver coins of the reign of Elizabeth, bearing the date of 1590. On one side is "Rigi Elizabeth. A G A S," and on the obverse "Poesi Deu" and other characters so corroded as not to be readily discernible. The picture of Elizabeth is quite distinct.

His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to upwards of four hundred children, in the new Cathedral, Thurles (now near completion) on the 13th December. This great number was chiefly composed of the pupils of the Presentation Convent and Christian Brothers' schools.

**Conference on the Land Question.**—A National Conference on the all-important Land Question has been convened for the 20th and 21st of January, in the Music Hall, Belfast. The programme for discussion includes the Irish Land Act and the necessity for its amendment; the Ulster Custom and the evils of defective legislation; the advisability of one just, complete, and uniform Land Code for all Ireland; "Free Rent, Free Sale, and Security of Tenure." The important topics of Peasant Proprietorship, Grand Jury Reform, the Labor Question, Absenteeism and Emigration will also be discussed.

Some of the Catholic girls of Great Britain and Ireland are preparing an offering to the Holy Father, as a mark of their affection and sympathy for him in his afflictions. It is to be called "The Girls' Offering," and the project has met the warm approbation of Archbishop Manning, Cardinal Cullen, and most of the Archbishops and Bishops throughout the United Kingdom. Lady Herbert has kindly undertaken the office of treasurer for England, the Countess of Portarlington for Ireland, and the Marchioness of Lothian for Scotland. We wish these children—the Catholic girls—every success in this meritorious design of "minting money for their souls' wealth," as Father Faber calls it.

It may not be uninteresting to know that since the days of the Reformation, Raphoe, Derry, giving a name to a parish, a barony, and a diocese, has been without a place of Catholic worship. Strangers visiting the locality have long noticed the want, while the aged and infirm worshippers have actually felt and deplored it. The Catholic community will, however, be glad to know that the Most Rev. Dr. McDevitt had scarcely taken charge of the diocese when he turned his attention to supply their deficiency, and has been so far successful as to secure a beautiful site in the environs of the town; and at a preliminary meeting of the inhabitants a few days ago a subscription was opened, and subscriptions to the amount of near £500 handed in.

**Surveying the Channel.**—The 'Cork Examiner' says:—"The Limerick Harbor Commissioners have been informed by the Admiralty that their memorial praying that the portion of the river Shannon which lies between Beagh Castle and Limerick may be surveyed, as the navigation has become considerably altered since the last survey, has been noticed for attention when a favorable opportunity occurs."

An English Company are sinking shafts at the coal fields of Castlecomer, Kilkenny. Before they come to the coal they have to sink seventy yards. There is any amount of "black diamonds" in this district. The coal is sold here at the pit's mouth at 30s per ton. Formerly it was sold for 10s. The mining district belongs to Mr Bryan, M.P., and Mr Wandersford.

**New Waterford Railway.**—A company is to be incorporated under Act of Parliament to construct a railway from the termination of the Waterford and Limerick Railway to the Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway across the Suir with an extension described in the plan. A tramway along the quays of Waterford is also contemplated. The proposed company seeks for powers to levy tolls and rates, to take houses and lands, and to agree with other companies in matters of management.

Mr John Martin, M.P., sends a contribution to the fund for the Irish Catholic University. He says:—"For my own part, as a Protestant, I feel it a shame that, while the Protestants have secured to themselves for their University purposes a very large endowment out of the Irish national property, the far more numerous Catholics, taxed as they are for all public purposes at the same rate with their Prote-