

Poet's Corner.

GOOD NIGHT TO BABY.

Where is Babe to-night? I miss her—
Where is little Bright Eyes? bless her!
Bend above her cot and kiss her,
Say "good-night" to Baby.

Say "good-night," though she be sleeping,
Listening cherubs will be peeping
Through God's windows, fondly keeping
Loving watch o'er Baby.

They will catch the words with pleasure,
Floating downwards through the azure,
They will cluster round your treasure,
Whisp'ring them to Baby.

They will tell her many a story
Of their Golden City's glory—
Wiser than her grandsire hoary,
Happy little Baby.

Purer sight to her is given,
All the star-nailed gates are riven,
Opening up a view of heaven
In her dreams to Baby.

—Saturday Advertiser.

THOMAS BRACKEN.

A RARE DISCOVERY.

Now and then some wholesome truth, to which we Catholics are no strangers, is brought to the knowledge of our Protestant brethren, and by them hailed as a new discovery. Just at present it is the fact that Catholics are acquainted with the Ten Commandments. There was a time when we were supposed to be ignorant of the Decalogue; our spiritual advisers gave us, according to some, only nine commandments. So general was this belief among Protestants that a newspaper writer of Baltimore showed his ignorance by an open letter to Chief Justice Taney decrying the iniquity of this mutilation of the moral law.

But now, forsooth, *The Congregationalist* has discovered that not four per cent, of Protestant public school children can repeat the Commandments at all. It has further opened its eyes to the fact that those who can say them are Catholics. Thus the ignorant Papists have put to shame the descendants of the Puritans on their own ground, namely, knowledge of the word of God in its most essential parts.

To us, as we have said, this is no surprise. It is but a conspicuous example of the blindness of those who view the Church from a sectarian standpoint. They can never see her as she is, but must always lay to her charge the effects of their own distorted vision.

Given a community with such knowledge of their religion as the Catholic Church desires to give, and they will be found orderly, obedient to recognized authority, human and divine. Without such knowledge the most thorough secular education will result only in that state, well described in Holy Writ, where every man did what was right in his own eyes.—*Pilot*.

THE IRISH IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK has been getting up an elaborate census, which contains many valuable statistics. We learn from it that in 1865 the Irish born population of New York city was 199,084, an increase of 23,349 in twenty years, the same population in 1855 having been 175,735. The smallness of this increase is surprising, considering the constant pouring of immigrants from Ireland during these two decades. According to these figures there has been a very distinct decline in the relative strength of the native Irish element in New York in the period named. In 1855 the percentage of Irish born residents was 28, and in 1875 it had fallen to 20.

Foreigners of other nationalities, and the native born element, had increased so much faster than the Irish, that the percentage of the latter had fallen as stated. The total population in 1855 was 629,810, and in 1875 it had risen to 1,041,000. A very large part of the native-born element should, of course, be credited to Irish parentage, and this changes the matter somewhat, though it does not alter the main facts of a relative decline.

The Germans *per contra*, advanced. They numbered 97,572 in 1855, and in 1875 they were credited with 165,012. Thus, while the increase in the total population was 62 per cent, the German increase was nearly 75 per cent. This is to a great extent accounted for by the German immigration to this country immediately after the war with France.

Of the whole population of New York city, however, only 18 per cent, are unadulterated native, the remaining 82 per cent, being either of foreign birth or foreign parentage. The total number of foreign born was 446,000 and the children born to foreign parents numbered about 400,000. The whole number of Irish in the State of New York in 1875 was 517,000, of Germans 367,000 and of English 119,000. The total native-born population in that year was 3,200,000 and the total foreign-born was close on 1,200,000. On the basis given for New York city, the children of foreign parentage in the State should have numbered about 1,000,000.—*Pilot*.

A FEARFUL REPORT FROM CHINA.

THE Rev. S. Wells Williams, in a letter dated February 10th, says:— This day was the worst of all. I saw abundant proof of men eating clay or stones, and bought three stone cakes. The stone is the same as our soft stone pencils. It is reduced to dust and mixed with millet husks, in different proportions, and then baked. It does not look bad, but tastes like what it is—dust. The dead seem to-day to number more than on any previous day, for there were twenty-nine in eighteen miles along the road, and the circumstances were more frightful. In one valley the road branches into two, and my servant took one while I took the other—once each side the stream. On his road, the servant saw a woman lying in a ditch after being robbed of all she had, and still moving, though unconscious of any one passing by. Further on we saw a man's head cut clean from his body—a cruel murderer's deed. We saw also among the dead some wounded heads, but not done by the wolves, dogs, or birds. The dogs barked and howled at us when we drove them off from the dead. Many of the corpses seen when we were going had disappeared, but their places were more than supplied by others.

To these details of what I saw I give you a briefer account of what I have heard. Some men coming from Sichum, on their way to Peking, said that along the whole way they saw dead bodies here and there. Snow had fallen in Honan province a foot deep, and about eight inches in Shansi to the west and northwest, and none further north in that province. In all that region west of this the cold had been unusual. The soft stone is sold at from 2 to 5 mills a pound, the bark from 5 to 7 mills per pound for food. The roots or sweet flags are dug, but they cause the face to swell. Grain is there for four times the usual price, and turnips and cabbages five or six times. Flour is 7, 8 and 9 mills per ounce. In every city I passed through the report was twenty, thirty, or forty dying daily. At Ping Yang ten great pits had been filled, and two carts were employed in carting the dead. One innkeeper told us that one of his customers reported having counted 270 dead on the road in three days' journey. Whole families, old and young, die in their houses and lie there unburied. In one district a third of the population are dead, and the people maintain that in many towns fully one-half have perished, and they know villages where formerly dwelt 300, 400, and even 500 people of whom not more than a hundred now remain.

THE IRISH LAITY ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

THE Catholics of Ireland are evidently resolved that their educational interests shall not suffer for want of agitation. The fact that the laity as well as the clergy are urgent for Catholic rights in education was demonstrated by the aggregate meeting in the Rotunda, Dublin, on the 26th April, when an immense audience, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, expressed the sentiments of the Catholics of Ireland on the subject. Except for the fact that words of approbation were received from Pope Leo and Cardinal Cullen, and that the Primate of Ireland was called to the second chair, it may be considered as strictly a lay meeting.

As the Lord Mayor remarked, the Catholics of Ireland seek no exceptional privileges, no unjust advantages, they ask simply equality in educational opportunities, as they have gained equality in religious status. In a letter read by Mgr. Woodlock, President of the Catholic University of Ireland, Cardinal Cullen said that the amount of infidelity caused by bad schools at the present day is appalling; and a case was mentioned of a young officer, with an Italian name, who studied at an infidel university in Belgium, and who having arrived in Ireland to assist the Fenians, and being made prisoner and confined in Kilmainham, professed himself an atheist, and laughed at everything in the way of religion.

A resolution was moved by the Right Hon. Wm. Coogan, M.P., and seconded by P. J. Smyth, M.P., declaring that educational equality can be attained only by the concurrent endowment or dis-endowment of educational institutions. The latter gentlemen showed that as it was wholly a domestic question it should be settled according to the will of the people of Ireland, no imperial interests being concerned. A second resolution declared that as all other denominations in Ireland enjoy the advantage of universities which fully meet their educational wants, and are not at variance with their religious opinions, the Catholics of Ireland have an undoubted right to a Catholic University endowed with every advantage and privilege given to other universities. The Earl of Granard, M.P., and The O'Connor Don, M.P., supported a resolution calling on the Queen to have introduced at once the bill on intermediate education, promised in her speech at the opening of the session, and to recognise the long-deferred claims of Irish Catholics in this branch of the education question. The O'Connor Don stated that he had given notice of his resolution to oppose the Queen's College votes, and the Hon. Judge Little moved that it was the imperative duty of Irish members to give the most rigorous opposition to any future appropriation of the public revenues to the support of the Queen's Colleges, until there is some support given to the Catholic University. In conclusion, the claims of Catholic teachers and parochial schools were urged, and a deputation was appointed to present the resolutions to the Prime Minister. The meeting may be regarded as one of the most significant and influential ever held by the laity of Ireland of late years, and its forcible and comprehensive presentation of Catholic claims in education, though it may not meet with immediate success, may, by the intelligent and consolidated Catholic opinion revealed, eventually lead to it.

It is now alleged that the disastrous explosion at Minneapolis, caused by the ignition of the mill dust, might have been prevented by proper ventilation. Similar explosions occurred in Scotland and England in former years, and their causes were so fully explained that all flour-mill owners knew not only the danger but the remedies. It is such carelessness as this that embitters the labouring man towards the capitalist.