

in question appears for the first time—it being wanting in the original Latin—and Archbishop Ussher is given as the authority from which it is taken. Ussher, nevertheless, knew nothing about it. There is no mention of it in his works, and for this there exists the denial of the late Dr. Todd, Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and one of the most learned and eminent men whom that University has produced during the present century. Dr. Todd, who had at the time been long engaged in an exhaustive study of Ussher's works, in reply to a letter written to him by Dr. Madden, of Dublin, and citing his letter Trinity College, 24th May, 1865, says:—"I cannot find in Ussher's works any 'Secret Oath,' or mention of such oath taken by members of the S. J." It happened, nevertheless, that an alderman named Bonsall, who had obtained a copy of Messrs Seeley's publication, managed in an excess of Protestant zeal, and in relation to the proposed abolition of the Test Oath in Dublin corporation, in March 1865, to have entered on the minutes of the corporation an allusion to this Secret Oath. This, it hardly need be remarked, caused some disturbance among the members of the Council, and the result was a long debate, in which the late Sir John Gray, a Protestant, took a leading part, and which resulted in the carrying by a large majority of the following resolution proposed by the gentleman in question:—Resolved—That all reference to the protest which refers to the said oath be expunged from our minute book, said alleged oath having been proved to the satisfaction of this house to be a scandalous fabrication, palmed, no doubt, upon the credulity of the parties who procured the publication thereof, and that the minutes be then signed." The lie, nevertheless, thus publicly condemned, and in many ways proved a forgery, having, in fact, nothing whatever to make it in any degree probable that it was anything except a forgery and a fraud, has now been repeated among ourselves. And we are conscious that it will still be repeated and repeated again. It forms part of the stock in trade of those poor silly bodies whose rather confused ideas of religion consist in a great part of their horror at what they imagine the Catholic Church to be, who perhaps mean very well, so far as ignorance and folly permit them, and they cannot afford to surrender it. The oath will abide among them until their fortunate entry into their heritage in the Land of Beulah, where, perhaps, its words also, with a great deal of the same kind, many adorn their phylacteries, as a memorial of the dangers they escaped from in the days of the baser flesh, whereby they are now encumbered.

THE French periodicals, the *Revue du Monde* SCIENTIFIC *Catholique* and *Le Contemporain*—at a recent date NOTES. give us some interesting details of the work being done in the scientific world of the period.—In one

of the articles alluded to, for example, we find a comparison made between the theory of the creation of the earth adopted by La Place, and that which M. Faye now opposes to it. La Place supporting the assertion that the sun existed first of all and that the planets were formed from zones of vapour thrown off by its atmosphere in cooling, while, on the other hand, M. Faye argues in favour of a theory which would assign to the sun an existence in its present form dating from a period subsequent to that at which the earth and the moon were fully developed.—The conclusion which the writer draws from the opposing theories, is the rashness of placing too great confidence in scientific researches. He, however, at the same time warns us against undervaluing or despising them.—What we have a right to exact, he says, is that the savant should be respectful towards every order of truth, and above all that he should not have the foolish pride of believing that he can explain everything without God.

ANOTHER writer examines the grounds that are given for a belief that man appeared on earth at a A FAILURE OF GEOLOGY. period of time too long ago for even the imagination to reach it. He examines the gravels of the Somme, the turf-beds of the locality in question and elsewhere, and the stalagmites found in various places, bringing to bear upon them all the most recent investigations. His conclusion is as follows.—It is best to confess our impotence to find in this order of phenomena the precise date of the appearance of man. The actual condition of the science only authorises in this matter a negative conclusion. But of all the calculations to which they have had recourse, the least supported are still those which generously distribute hundreds and thousands of centuries among the different phases of the quaternary epoch. They have acted in vain; they have not so far demonstrated the insufficiency of the old chronology. In the geological facts pointed out to us, and which we have here summed up we see absolutely nothing that bears out the great estimates before which certain authors have not drawn back.

YET another writer gives us a sketch of the controversy prevailing touching a certain matter that AN EYE-OPENER FOR every school-boy would almost swear had been settled from the creation, and which under some SCHOOL-BOYS. circumstances he could not venture to question without incurring bodily danger—that is the shape of the earth.

Some savants will have it still, according to the traditional reply, that it is round like an orange, whereas others there are who insist that it is that of a regular triangular pyramid. The controversy is extremely interesting, and we recommend it to the attention of our readers, although the space at our disposal does not permit of our giving such particulars of it as might enable them to understand its various points. The writer's conclusion, however, comes well within our limits. The question of the earth's form remains obscure, then, he says. Before we decide, let us await new arguments; but in my opinion it was wise to expose the actual state of this question, which, better than any other, shows how much the hypothetic enters into the scientific theories which appear the most solidly established. Such statements should render certain savants less proud, who imagine that they can overthrow the immovable truths of religion by hypotheses concerning which there will be no question in a few days or a few years after their full expansion.

MR. SEXTON in the course of a lecture on Liberty, THE LATEST CRY, lately delivered by him in Dublin, referred as follows to the latest tactics of the party of oppression.—"The latest cry that has been raised is 'anarchy in Ireland.' A good word is everything, and anarchy is an excellent word for misleading the British elector. It reminds me of a country letter-writer who was applied to by somebody with a grievance against a police-constable. The letter-writer read over the letter to his client until he came to the phrase 'this obnoxious constable,' when his client said, 'Begorra that's a grand word. What does it mean?' 'Never you mind what it means,' said the letter-writer, 'that word will strip the jacket off him' (laughter). I suppose the word 'anarchy' is expected to perform some similar service in Ireland. We have plenty of government in this country. We have plenty of the government that coerces, that robs and plunders, but of the kind of government that saves the homes of the people, and protects them in the interests of the country, of that kind of government we have none in Ireland. Lord Hartington was the first to raise the shriek about anarchy. Now Lord Hartington, whatever he may be in other respects, is as a logician, as a man capable of arguing, he is about the most mean lord alive (laughter). I should like to read for you, if you will allow me, one sentence from his speech of the other day or so to show you his method of argument. He wishes to prove that there is anarchy in Ireland, and here is how he does it.—'That such a condition of affairs as exists in Ireland leads to anarchy—in fact that it is absolutely anarchy—is a proposition that I think no one will dispute. That it is the simple duty of the Government to repress such a condition by every means in their power is an equally admitted proposition, and that it is the duty of every good citizen to assist the Government in that position I do not think any of us in this room will deny.' That certainly is a very curious mode of argument for an easy-going gentleman who does not want to overwork his mind in discovering what may pass for a reason for his political faith. It reminds me very much of a very famous song. My lord, it is a song, so far as I know, that consists entirely of a refrain, and that refrain is, 'For he is a jolly good fellow' (laughter) and the singer having made the assertion about the jollity of the good fellow, confirms it by adding at the end 'which nobody can deny.' That clinches the argument (renewed laughter), and leaves no further room for further dispute or doubt (laughter and applause). Mr. Goschen has swelled the cry of anarchy, and added a masterpiece of imagination when he compared John Dillon to a garrotter. I wish to goodness you could see the two men side by side, and you would confess that Mr. Goschen is as like a ghoul as John Dillon is unlike a garrotter (applause.) Though it may be bad enough to have the disposition of a garrotter, yet I think it is very many degrees worse to have, as Mr. Goschen has, a great deal of the nature of a vampire (applause). He ought to have been shy about talking about garrotting, for, although many men may have garrotted a man, there are very few men who may be or could be said to have garrotted a country (applause). Goschen garrotted Egypt (applause); and I am not surprised that a man who had the wretched peasantry of Egypt plundered and flogged, and ground into the very earth to pay the galling load of interest upon the unjust and miserable loans, I am not surprised that that man should be anxious and eager to make the miserable peasantry of Ireland pay an enormous and unjust rent which the land did not bring forth."

MR. SEXTON concluded his lecture as follows:— THE ONE THING. One of the most remarkable qualities of the great NECESSARY. Napoleon was his magic power of going to sleep in the middle of a battle and waking up at the right moment (laughter)—that he always woke up at the moment to lead the final charge and register the victory (cheers). And without saying that Mr. Parnell ever falls asleep, for I have heard some doubt expressed on that point, I will only say when the critical moment comes that the destiny of our people is trembling in the balance, the voice of Mr. Parnell, believe me, will ring out, and when it rings out it will ring out, I believe in my soul, as the prelude to our freedom (prolonged applause). And what a material and moral blessing freedom will prove to this unfortunate land? If we want to understand what