

der of missions at Tow Law, Crook, Willingham. After the election Canon Wilkinon returned thanks for his appointment, and said he wish d it to go forth that the clergy were most grateful for the kind respect shown by the people of Durham in many ways to the memory of the late Provost Consitt.

Writes the Dublin correspondent of the *Weekly Register*:—*Apropos* of the good works of the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland I may mention, that a good deal of sympathy has been excited by a letter written to a Dublin paper by a Fellow of the College of Physicians, who related that he had seen at Oughterard, in the county of Galway, a large number of almost starving children attending the Sisters of Mercy's School. He had learned that during May, June, and July, the happy summer months which bring flowers and holiday delights to happier children, these poor mites go starving because the old potatoes are all eaten up, and the new ones are not ready to come out of the ground. Only for the bread doled out every day at half-past twelve o'clock by the charitable Sisters who teach them their letters and their prayers, the pangs of these hungry creatures would be even more insupportable than their pale faces declare them to be. The kindly visitor was shocked to hear of half-fainting girls dragging their weak limbs over miles of mountain to school, more for the sake of the friendly crust awaiting them than for love of learning out of books. In consequence of the good Fellow's letter many subscriptions for children's bread have found their way to the Sisters of Mercy of Oughterard.

Parisian Notes.

A RETURN to old times seemed to occur the other day when the office of the *New York Herald* in this city was invaded by the police who seized every copy of the paper they could lay their hands on. The cause of their action was the publication by the newspaper, in recognition of the republican *fête* in July, of the famous song, "*Il Reviendra*," composed in honour of General Boulanger, and which had been placed under the ban of the Government. It is a mere lilt, quite unworthy of the people among whom such songs, *par exemple*, as those of Béranger were popular. As a sample, the commencing lines may be translated without losing much in this way:—

"A Minister he's ceased to be,
But still a patriot is he;
And when the baneful hour comes round
Our lot partaking he'll be found."

It will be seen from this that the poetry is not of a very high order.

The refrain of "*Il Reviendra*" has taken a tragic association—may it prove the only one it will ever know!—from an event reported with respect to the condemned murderer Pranzini. The unfortunate man lies awaiting his fate in the prison of La Roquette, and not knowing the morning on which he may be called up from his bed to take his way to the guillotine. The populace are on the alert expecting the execution, whose date is not announced to them any more than to the convict. The other night while they were on the watch a number of them struck up the refrain:—

*Il reviendra quand le tambour battra,
Quand l'Etranger menac'ra
Notre frontière, il sera là.
Et chacun le suivra
Pour cortège il aura la France entière.*

The prisoner in his cell heard the noise and started up, believing that his hour had come. But is there not a particular horror in the thought of a crowd thronging the street at night on the chance of witnessing so fearful a sight at dawn? It is little to the credit of General Boulanger that his praises should be celebrated by them.

Another accident displays the difference between the lay nurses in the hospitals and the Sisters whom they replace. A woman whose child had scarletina was not allowed to visit it but received news of its favourable progress. The day at length came when it was pronounced convalescent and the happy mother expected its arrival. But a child was conducted to her whom she did not recognise. Inquiry brought to light the fact that the tickets on two beds had been changed by a careless nurse and the child, whose favourable progress and recovery had been announced—had died and been buried, at the expense of the living child's parents, some weeks before. It is generally admitted that under the care of the Sisters no such occurrence would have taken place.

The *Univers* expresses a hope that the measures taken to promote the canonisation of Mary Queen of Scots may prove successful. It claims her as Queen of France and extols her conduct and bearing as those of a true martyr.—The Church will certainly pronounce a true judgment and if it decides that Mary Stuart deserved the martyr's crown all disputed points as to her former career may be set at rest. The great army of martyrs numbers many saints the records of whose lives contain much that was wiped out in the glory of their deaths.

A contest is being waged between the Government and the Municipal Council of Paris—as to an attempt which the Council has adopted of making itself independent of the State, or, in other words, the supreme arbiter of the Republic. To this end a congress of mayors has been invited to meet in this city, but the government threatens to annul any resolutions that may be passed.—Considering the nature of the Council which is concerned in this matter and the course of action, violently opposed to religion, that has been pursued by them, the fate of France, should they succeed in their project, may be easily imagined.

M. Rouvier, the Premier, has delivered a speech to a mixed audience which is praised as a statesmanlike and moderate deliverance. There is, nevertheless, little true sympathy between the party he represents and the Conservative party, by which he is supported only to avoid the lapse into extremes that must otherwise occur.—A great deal must be compromised to avert a triumph of the Extreme Left.

The Congress of the Revolutionary Socialists has just terminated. It was a noisy and disorderly assembly. Among its resolutions were those of urging a relentless war against the *Bourgeoisie* in all their branches, and of putting an end to capitalism.

A new illustration of the morality of the period has been afforded in the measure passed for licensing gaming-houses. The only excuse offered for this deleterious step is the need of producing revenue. But the rights of expediency have been long acknowledged, and that not only in the French Republic.

The revived question of the Channel tunnel is causing some interest here. The fears of England on the subject are wondered at and ridiculed. The *Figaro* recalls the Duke of Wellington's objections against the construction of a railway between London and Southampton, lest it should facilitate an invasion of the metropolis.

The Bonapartists have been banqueting, speechifying, reading letters, and drinking toasts. The hopes of the party are now centred on Prince Victor Napoleon, to whom they have renewed the pledge of their unalterable fidelity. They express a strong hope of bringing back the empire, and, when we remember how eventful and strange have been the fortunes of the House and of the party, we may hesitate as to pronouncing finally against the apparent wildness of their expectations.

CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THOSE accustomed to read reports of this Society in the TABLET, will suppose that either the Society's reporter must now be in Jannat-al Aden, wandering amid groves and fountains, accompanied with a score or more of charming boures, or that the Society is defunct. Neither of these two things has, however, happened. For the company of the boures, draughts of nectar or of lemonade, out of golden cups, the reporter must yet sigh, whilst the Society is, and for some time back has been in a flourishing condition. An ordinary weekly meeting took place on Tuesday evening, October 4. There were twenty-four members present, and Mr. W. O'Shaughnessy, the Vice-president presided. Mr. M. Hendon, a candidate nominated at the previous meeting, was balloted for and duly elected a member of the Society. It was announced that a concert in aid of the band fund was shortly to take place in the Oddfellows' Hall, Lichfield street. The programme for the evening was a debate for the junior members—subject, "Whether or not is novel reading beneficial to youth."

Mr. McManaway, who opened the debate in the affirmative, in the course of an able speech, said, that as novels are the productions of the most gifted and talented of the community, they must have an elevating tendency. He admitted that novelettes and a multitude of American stories and Indian tales were had, but that standard works on fiction, such as those of Scott, Dickens, and others could always be read by youth with advantage. These not only edify but provide recreation and innocent amusement at all times. Mr. McManaway mentioned several leading writers of fiction and their works, and contended that novels are generally read by the most refined and best educated.

Mr. F. Cooper, who followed in the negative, denied that novels are, for the most part, read by the more refined and better-instructed. On the contrary, that they are principally read by those too ignorant and uncultivated to appreciate higher literature, and that because a work proceeds from a great genius, in a moral sense it must be elevating. Mr. Cooper next painted in most forcible language, the corruption existing among the youth of both sexes in America, which corruption, he said, is the result of novel-reading; and that young persons, instead of novels, should read books on church and secular history as well as works on the arts and sciences.

Mr. Courtney was strongly in favour of novel-reading. Many interesting things were related in novels, especially historic novels, which might be looked for in vain in histories, because an historian could not dwell on an event as could a novelist. Even Indian stories so much condemned, contained more information as to the various tribes of the aboriginal natives of America than could be found in many histories of the United States, Miss Bradden the celebrated novelist, he said, had herself declared, that her object in writing novels was to improve the human race.—Mr. Courtney made a concise and excellent speech to the same effect.—Mr. Haughey also spoke in favour of novel-reading.—Mr. D. Pope considered that novels are filled with nonsense and falsehoods, as the bard says, "frae end to end," and that time spent in reading them is absolutely wasted.—Mr. Carney's contention was, that there is neither good nor harm in reading novels. The debate concluded, a majority voted in favour of novel-reading. The meeting then terminated in the usual manner.

GUILTY OF WRONG.

Some people have a fashion of confusing excellent remedies with the large mass of "patent medicines," and in this they are guilty of a wrong. There are some advertised remedies, fully worth all that is asked for them, and one at least we know of: Dr. Soules American Hop Bitters. The writer has had occasion to use the Bitters in just such a climate as we have most of the year in Bay City, and has always found them to be first-class and reliable, doing all that is claimed from them. "Tribune"