

is situated on an estuary of the harbour of Youghal, at the County Waterford side of the Blackwater. Hundreds of persons crossed over Youghal Ferry, as well as those that drove by road, while hundreds were also present from the County Waterford, but not near the same numbers that attend the neig'bouring "pattern" at Ardmore. The adjacent village of Piltown was crowded throughout the day.

An abortive attempt to sell the meadowing of a farm at Newtownkill, from which the tenant had been evicted, was made on August 24 by Auctioneer T. Walsh, of Waterford. Not a single satisfactory bid was elicited.

WESTMEATH.—Monsignor Persico arrived at Athlone on August 20, and was the guest of the Rev. T. Martin, Adm., St. Mary's. He was accompanied by Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, Bishop of the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. Some hundreds of people met his Excellency a couple of miles from the town, and, headed by the brass and fife and drum bands of the League of the Cross a procession was formed and proceeded in front of the carriage to St. Mary's parochial house, the bands playing national airs. Next morning his Excellency celebrated 8 o'clock Mass, which was attended by a large congregation. Immediately after last Mass in St. Mary's beautiful church, Mgr. Persico ascended the pulpit and in the presence of an immense congregation delivered a magnificent discourse, in the course of which he assured the people of the great love his Holiness entertains for the Irish people, who, through centuries of dire persecution, have maintained the grand old faith. Subsequently a deputation of the Athlone Town Commissioners, consisting of L. Kelly, C.T.C., J.P.; A. Moore, J. Ganly, J. M'Donnell, J. Hunt, P. C. O'Flynn, D. O'Connell, H. Murray, and T. Hynds, waited on his Excellency, and presented an address which was unanimously adopted at a special meeting of the board. Mgr. Persico having replied in suitable language, the deputation received the Papal blessing and withdrew.

WEXFORD.—The following declaration has been made by the tenants on the Marquis of Ely's Wexford estate:—"We publicly challenge the agent or any other representative of our landlord to visit this estate, and to bring with them any man of ordinary intelligence regarding land and its produce, and we venture to assert, without the least fear of disappointment, that such a man will decide without a moment's hesitation that no rent can be paid this year on the Marquis of Ely's Hook property; in fact the whole produce of the estate would not, if collected together, give the tenantry one meal a day for 12 months. This we believe to be the simple truth without the least exaggeration. Should anyone doubt us he may satisfy himself as to our perfect accuracy by a drive through the property before the harvest is gathered in. Now is the time to understand the utter ruin of the Hook estate. Signed, on the part of the whole committee, by the secretary, MAURICE BREEN."

Roman Notes.

THE latest insult offered to religion took the shape of a meeting held by the Freemasons under the presidency of Menotti Garibaldi, in a hall of a Catholic school building, on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. The object of the meeting was to take preliminary steps for a great demonstration to be made on September 20, the anniversary of the breach at Porta Pia, and by which it is intended to give, as if from the united people of Rome and Italy, an answer to the proposals for conciliation that have been of late so much rumoured abroad. The true meaning of the display, however, will not be hidden from the eyes of Europe.

The Holy Father has given yet another proof of his anxiety for the promotion of learning. The purchase by his Holiness of the Altemps palace is announced for the purpose of establishing a Leonine university, where ecclesiastical and secular science will be studied in their highest forms. It is rumoured that Cardinal Mazella will be Rector Magnificus of the new institution.

The *Moniteur de Rome* which had so far taken a just view of the Irish question, has by some means or other been betrayed into the mistake of representing the duty of the Irish people to be that of quietly submitting to the Coercion Act and of blaming Mr. Dillon for his declaration to the contrary made in the House of Commons. The *Moniteur* has got hold of the old and stupid argument that England has repented of her treatment of Ireland and has for some years entered on a regular course of amelioration. But the Tories and the Unionists have repented of nothing, and quiescence on the part of the Irish people would but encourage and second the effort to continue the evil past. What has been conceded to Ireland has been gained by her resistance and agitation, and there are no other methods of obtaining what is still desirable. The *Moniteur* has evidently been got at by threats made in some quarter or another,—it is easy to divine where—as to the danger of revolutionary principles making headway in the country. But this danger is altogether chimerical.

Uneasy rumours prevail in places supposed to be well informed of an expedition to be undertaken against Abyssinia in the immediate future. The disposition of England to mediate between Italy and the country in question is well known, but, as matters are, there seems to be some improbability that advantage will be taken of it. The expedition, although perhaps certain of ultimate success, would not be at all likely to have a walk-over. The country is difficult, and as Italians know to their cost, its people are capable of proving themselves formidable enemies.

On the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the corner stone was laid in the Piazzada Cola Rienzi of an institution to be erected for the purpose of affording facilities of study to youths desirous of devoting themselves to the priesthood, especially on missions and in country districts. The undertaking is due to the zeal

of the Barnabite Father, Antonio Maresca. It has been placed under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and gives another sign of the futility of the war waged for the destruction of religion in this city and in Italy generally.

The Bishops of Sicily have addressed a letter to the Pope, in which they express their entire devotion to him, and enthusiastically review the services he has rendered, during his Pontificate, to religion and civilisation. The Bishops dwell particularly on the history of the Temporal Power, to the demand for whose restoration they fervently adhere.

The Holy Father has again caused to be published to the world his exhortations to the devotion of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, particularly as practised during the month of October. The Pope urges the faithful to practise this devotion especially with the intention of obtaining peace and tranquility for the Church.

Signor Crispi announces that the policy of his Cabinet does not include a measure for the extension of the franchise. The workmen of Italy, he declares, are not sufficiently advanced to exercise the privileges enjoyed by those of France and Germany. In other words the advance of irreligion in Italy is not as yet sufficient to make the measure alluded to safe for the Government.

The powers and influence of the famous preacher, Fra Agostino da Monte Feltrò, continue to form a subject of discussion. The interest of the matter is heightened by a veil of romance or mystery that hides the preacher's earlier years. But it is known of him that his power of attracting men of all parties, classes, and shades of opinion, from the advanced philosopher of the period to the unlettered peasant, is unrivalled, and that the force and closeness of his reasoning are even more remarkable than the splendour of his eloquence. If, as it is rumoured, Fra Agostino passed a wild and irregular youth he yet must have recovered in time to devote himself to study, in which he was aided by a gigantic intellect. His acquirements give full scope to his natural powers and apparently embrace every branch of human knowledge. He is the perfect master both of art and science.

OPENING OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MOSGIEL.

(*Otago Daily Times*, November 14.)

THE ceremony in connection with the opening of the new Roman Catholic church at Mosgiel was performed yesterday by Bishop Moran, assisted by Fathers Vereker, Burke, and O'Neil. Owing to the wet weather there was not a very large attendance at the opening service; but among those present were some who came from beyond Milton, a distance of about 30 miles. The special train which left Dunedin at 10 a.m. took out about 60 passengers; and it is almost certain that had the weather been fine this number would have been more than trebled. The new church is situated about half a mile from the railway station, on the main road leading through the township. It stands on half an acre of ground, which was purchased at a cost of £101. The building, which will seat upwards of 300 persons, has been erected at a cost of about £700. The foundations are laid in concrete, and the walls are of brick, 14 in thickness, though timber has been used for the back wall with a view to the ultimate enlargement of the building. The measurements are: Vane, 45ft by 18ft; side aisles, each 35ft by 10ft; altar, 18ft by 10ft. A gallery for the choir is of the same dimensions as the altar, and there are also four vestry rooms, two on the ground floor and two on a level with the gallery. The contract has been carried out by Mr. T. J. Anderson, the sub-contractors being Messrs. A. Woods and G. Randall, of Dunedin, and Mr. W. Hunter, of Mosgiel. Mr. M'Monagle, of Milton, is the architect. The work in connection with the building has apparently been carried out with credit to all concerned, with the result that a very neat and attractive place of worship has been provided for the Roman Catholics residing in and about Mosgiel.

Pontifical High Mass commenced immediately after half-past 11 o'clock, the Bishop being celebrant; Fathers Burke and Vereker deacon and sub-deacon; and Father O'Neil, master of the ceremonies. The dedication sermon was preached by the Bishop. He expressed his regret that the day had been so unfavourable as to have kept away many who had intended to be present. He then offered his hearty congratulations to those present upon the erection of the Church, and thanked those ladies and gentlemen who had been good enough to come to assist in the choir, also those who had assisted in a similar capacity at St. Leonard's on the previous Sunday. He said it gave him very great delight to be present in that building, which was in every way so church-like. He congratulated them from his very heart, and expressed a hope that the progress made by the congregation during the last 16 years would be nothing as compared with the progress that would be made in the next 16 years. It was now about 16 years since he had opened the church in East Taieri. That was the beginning, and it was considered a very good beginning, as it really was. The church then, small though it was, gave more than sufficient accommodation to the congregation, and now it was a matter for congratulation that it no longer sufficed for their accommodation. When they took the matter of the erection of a new church into consideration it appeared that the site at East Taieri was not the most convenient, and so it was decided to come down to Mosgiel to erect a church there. The building, though not entirely completed, contained everything that was requisite for the purposes of a church. It had its sanctuary—though that was only a temporary one—also its vestry rooms. It had also its organ loft and its organ, its altar, and everything that was required for divine service. There was upon it some debt, but it was not to be expected that a church such as that could be erected by the congregation without incurring some debt. He had no doubt as they had done so well in the past, that they would do even better in the future, and make every effort to get rid of that debt as soon as