

skin of his teeth, and that the chances were at least fifty to a hundred that he would be altogether defeated. The citizens of Dublin were growing weary of the unsettled condition of things—at least so the Tory orators and penmen said. The vile spirit of anarchy should be crushed and annihilated. The de-potism of the National League was becoming intolerable. The people would record their votes no longer in favour of O'Connell street. Besides, the Papal re-script just issued would deter many a good Roman Catholic from supporting the Presbyterian "Stranger," whose very selection by Mr. Parnell was an outrage on, and insult to the Holy Inquisition and the entire College of Cardinals. Such was the catch-penny jingle of cant rattled in our ears for over a week by these valets of the Lower Castle Yard! The answer to all this froth and bunkum was given in the Green-street courthouse last Monday, by High Sheriff Winstanley, who announced that Mr. Dickson was returned by a majority of 1,887 over his unfortunate opponent, Mr. Robert Sexton. A staggering blow was thus dealt to the handful of busybodies who dared question the power of the Nationalists of the St. Stephen's Green Division to send to Westminster a Home Ruler and a non-coercionist. The figures are: Dickson (Home Ruler), 4,819; Sexton (Unionist), 2,932.

In a letter to the *Times*, extending over a column and a half, Lord Carnarvon elucidates his views on the question of Irish independence. While Lord Lieutenant he studiously, he says, kept his mind open; sought and obtained the views of men of all parties and interests; and finally settled on three schemes. Two of these he regarded as likely to effect a perfect settlement, the third was merely a *modus vivendi*. The two, either of which offered a basis for permanency, were:—(1) A modified form of Crown Colony Government; or (2) the concession of limited self-government. As for the first, everyone knows who knows anything that a Crown Colony Government could never be established in Ireland, so the consideration of that scheme is unnecessary. As for the survivor of the preferable pair, from Lord Carnarvon's explicit statement of what he means by a considerable concession of local self-government, it is hard to see how Mr. Parnell could describe him as anything other than a Home Ruler. These roughly are the limitations and restrictions he proposed:—1. Supremacy of the Crown and of the Imperial Parliament in the ultimate resort. 2. Control of the police and appointment of the judiciary. 3. Limitation of local taxation so as to prevent injustice. 4. The reasonable satisfaction of Ulster. 5. The whole preceded by some land settlement.—Now, of these, the first and the fifth, and partly the second, were features of Mr. Gladstone's Bill. The fourth is a limitation that can hardly be called a limitation at all. Our Orange demagogues have over and over declared that if the South of Ireland should be granted a Home Rule Government, the North would throw in its lot with the rest. The third part alone is a novelty. On his own showing, therefore, Lord Carnarvon was and is a Home Ruler, though he now figures as a Coercionist. It is he who is really the Protean politician. He and his leader, Lord Salisbury, are well fitted to sail in the same boat. The Premier approved of all his Viceroy had done and said, even complimented him on his tact. In short, endorsed his proposal to endow Ireland with a native legislature. And now the Irish, instead, are to have only perpetual chains, or emigration.

The only remaining alternative Lord Carnarvon can conceive is coercion. In other words, the choice for English Ministers lies between Home Rule on the one side and coercion on the other. This is precisely what Mr. Gladstone and the Liberal party have incessantly insisted on. Coercion Lord Carnarvon regards merely as an opportunist scheme, a means of dragging along, to outlive, we are left to suppose, the scanty remnant of an old man's life. He is prepared, willing to admit, that English rule so far is a failure in Ireland. "The Lord Lieutenant has only too often a semblance of power; the public departments are hampered by outside control; there is the intolerable evil of a circumlocutory and never-ending correspondence—in one word, there are neither the public responsibilities which arise out of a free Parliament nor the efficiency of a strong executive. . . . There is not a statesman or an intelligent observer from Lord Chesterfield to Sir George Lewis, from Arthur Young to Charles Greville, that has been brought into relation with Irish affairs who has not asserted over and over again the absolute necessity of raising the industrial and material condition of the people if we would remove their disaffection. Comparatively little as yet has been accomplished. Ireland is an ungrateful subject to English Cabinets. In times of unbearable difficulty money has often been freely and improvidently spent, but when the crisis has passed, the unwelcome question of material improvement has been thrust aside." These are not the words of any rabid, hot-headed enemy of England. They are the deliberate explanations of an ex-Cabinet Minister of the Crown. They speak for themselves.

WESTPORT.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

A most successful mission was brought to an edifying close here on Friday morning, June 22nd. Our esteemed pastor, Rev. Father Walsh, deserves the warm thanks of his flock for securing the services of so fluent a preacher as the Rev. Father Goggin, of the Wellington College. The attendance at first was very meagre, but, probably, the fact of its not being known until last Sunday morning that a mission would commence the same evening may have been the cause. However, after the opening sermons were delivered, the Rev. Father had the satisfaction of seeing the church crowded by a congregation whose attention was rivetted on every word, as he explained in a masterly and lucid style the doctrines of our Holy Church, the devotion to our Lady, the origin of the scapular, beads, etc., in language earnest, fluent and soul-stirring. I could not but admire his manner in describing the truths of Holy Faith by relating some anecdote of the old land, as, for instance, the scene he witnessed in Kerry at the eviction of a poor old woman and her children, turned out in the drifting snow, goaded on by brutal peelers, which he compared to the awful

agony that our Lord experienced at the hands of the malignant Jews. At another time he drew for us a picture of the old parish church, with its earthen floor full of holes, the grey-haired man at the altar rails with his large Rosary beads in his hands, surrounded by young and old, all reciting the prayers in Irish, seldom have I seen a congregation so moved as on these occasions, thus proving the Westport Catholics retain the faith as strong as when they left green Erin. The preacher knows our weakness—our strength, perhaps, would be more appropriate, for indeed, he was but uttering the *TA SZERS'* sentiments, Faith and Fatherland cannot be separated. These allusions to the long past bring in their train a flood of tender recollections. We are back once more in the old land, wending our way amongst its beautiful fields to early Mass, beloved companions by our side, innocent mirth and witty sayings abound. No wonder many an exile's heart was stirred to its very depths, and through that congregation could be seen a manifestation of love for Faith and Fatherland. Father Goggin has a calm, spiritual appearance, and a distinct enunciation; his gestures are suitable to a perfectly modulated voice, but the secret of his success as a preacher lies in the earnestness which forces its way to men's hearts. The edifying crowds which approached Holy Communion testify to the preacher's ability and in the brotherly feeling which Catholics evince towards each other we see the beneficial results of this holy mission, the words of the Roman Heathen being verified, "see how those Christians love one another." In addition to his duties in the church the rev. gentleman has been engaged examining the school, and a good number anxiously await his report.

The rev. gentleman returned from the Cape on Sunday afternoon in order to preach here after vespers. The church was crowded in every available place where standing room could be obtained. Before commencing his sermon, he said that he saw before him those whom he had seen attending the church night after night expecting them to come to their duty, and make their peace with God. He said "I mean the men, I was told the 'hard cases' were all at the Cape. Well, I have been to the Cape, and have never been more pleased in my life than in the sight I saw this morning of seventy stalwart men approaching Holy Communion in a body. If those are the 'hard cases,' that you have told me of, I should like to meet some more of them in Westport." He then preached upon the necessity of a Christian education, commencing from childhood by the parents teaching and practising the duties of a Christian: by saying their prayers, attending Mass, and seeing that their children do likewise, then seeing that they attend a Catholic school, and learn a knowledge of God as well as a knowledge of worldly matters, and where in most cases the teaching is superior to that obtained in the State schools. The rev. preacher gave instances of the demoralising effects of State school education as witnessed by himself and others and on the testimony of men in high position, such as the present leader of political matters in New Zealand, showing that if we wish to have good children, and good colonists, we must give them a religious as well as a secular education. He hoped parents would be more particular in sending their children regularly to school, as he found in numerous instances that out of 200 school days in the year some of the children only attended 85. If he was conducting the school, he would tell the parents of such children to keep them at home. Father Goggin leaves for Charleston tomorrow to conduct a mission there.

In business matters are very dull. The stoppage of traffic on the Buller road has nearly ruined the business of some of our townsmen, and the reduction of wages has the effect of compelling men and their families to exist on the barest necessities of life.

The weather has been as usual—rain, rain, rain, but there is a prospect now of a little frost by way of a change for a few days.

A reported rush in the direction of Waitoa Pakihi caused 40 of the unemployed to go in search of it on the 18th inst., but up to the present the rush has not been found and the general opinion appears to be that it is a hoax.

CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY

ON account of Mr. Lonergan's departure, and unknown to him, the meeting on Tuesday evening, June 19, assumed the form of a social gathering. The objects were to honour Mr. Lonergan, to afford members an opportunity of thanking him for the services he had rendered to the Society, and to present him with an illuminated address and some presents. The rooms were decorated with evergreens and flags. A Vice-President presided, and fifty members were present; amongst the visitors being Fathers O'Donnell, Brien, and Halwachs, and Bros. Joseph and Herbert. Letters of apology were received from the Rev. Father Kickham, Mr. W. Hoban, and from others. Refreshments were provided, and the Society's brass band, under the leadership of Mr. Mohr, attended. The usual loyal, patriotic, and special toasts were honoured. Some of the speeches made were excellent. Songs, recitations, and a corset solo by Mr. Mohr, were likewise given. The party broke up at a late hour, having spent a most enjoyable evening. The address presented runs as follows:—

"To R. P. Lonergan, Esq., President.

"Dear Sir,—On your departure from amongst us we feel that we, and the whole Catholic community, are losing one who has always been a true friend. For this reason we beg to tender our sincerest gratitude for the manner in which you have sacrificed yourself in the interests of the Society. At the time you took office, two years ago, the Society was almost sleeping in oblivion, while, owing to your indefatigable efforts, it now numbers 110 members, and is in a flourishing condition. It would be impossible to enumerate the many good works that are the result of your labours. Amongst others, the band, which by your praiseworthy efforts, aided by the efforts of the Hibernian Society in handing over their instruments, on your intercession, is alike a credit to yourself and to its members. The decorum which has ever marked the meetings of the Society best testifies to your gentlemanly qualities. You have always instilled into the minds of members, both by word and example, the love of that faith to