

Scotch Notes.

The action of Archbishop Smith in the case of Mr. Flannigan, late President of the Catholic Young Men's Society at Edinburgh, is still the subject of discussion. The matter has been made more interesting by the publication of a letter from the Rev. George Angus to the Archbishop which is supposed to have influenced his Grace. That mild and humble cleric, who, according to all appearances, might most suitably have been, for example, Brother *Tambour-major*, in a brigade of the Knights Templars towards the days of their decline, reminds the Archbishop of his "p's" and "q's" in a very arbitrary manner, and beats the reveille in his Grace's ears right savagely. His reverence has the charity to refer to Mr. T. D. Sullivan as a "jail-bird"—although someone might instruct him—if his invincible ignorance had also tidened this fact from him, that St. Peter himself was more than once in gaol. He winds up by an awful threat that if the conduct of the National League continues, in his own words, "It will be absolutely necessary for me to publicly disavow my connection with these insolent Catholics who deliberately defend a scheme of robbery condemned by the law of the land and pronounced by the Pope to be contrary to the law of God,"—that is to say the Plan of Campaign. Still may we not plead that libel is also condemned by the law of the land and forbidden by the law of God and of the Church. But what a fire-up must there not be on the occasion when his reverence should put his threat into execution, though, probably the regret of the people from whom his connection was, with the utmost violence and among many maledictions, severed would be expressed in the old saying—"Joy be with him." Archbishop Smith, meantime, protests that he himself is a fervent Home Ruler—but not after the pattern of Mr. Gladstone, whose scheme his Grace declares to mean separation. And, verily, Home Rulers at the present day are of many patterns. There for instance is also Bishop Vaughan of Salford, who if we may judge by the professions as to its principles of his congenial organ the *London Tablet* is a Home Ruler as well, yet who, besides all the rest, on a late occasion took his place on the platform at Manchester as an open supporter of Mr. Balfour's, and who was one of the most sympathetic and delighted listeners while that Statesman humbly described his struggle with Mr. O'Brien in Tullamore. It should, we confess, add greatly to the interest of the situation to see a Catholic bishop immensely tickled by the details of treatment that at length led to premature death and suicide. We may, therefore, accept with some hesitation various declarations of a sympathy for Home Rule, and pay some attention to the nature of the Home Rule spoken of with certain mental reservations, and to the motives of the men who declare themselves in its favour. The Irish Catholics of Edinburgh, that is the great bulk of the Catholic population are preparing to present Mr. Flannigan with a testimonial. But perhaps Mr. Angus will persuade the Archbishop that the matter is of little consequence, the tailors and tinkers and tradesmen generally whom his reverence's aristocratic soul despises, as quite unworthy of the attention of any distinguished ecclesiastic, forming the great body of the subscribers. There are ecclesiastics in fact, in Great Britain, who would have the Church a sicken net containing only gold and silver fishes—each without a blemish, and of the most ancient descent—from the whale, for example, that swallowed Jonah.

Whatever may be the rage that fills celestial minds, the Home Rule cause is nevertheless still briskly supported in Scotland. In Edinburgh itself Mr. Flannigan on again taking the chair at a meeting of the League, addressed on the occasion by Mr. Deasy M.P., has been received with enthusiasm as affording in his own person an instance of the bitter bit—a man boycotted for having upheld boycotting. At Aberdeen Mr. T. D. Sullivan, the "gool-bird" for duty after the example of St. Peter, has spoken at a great Liberal demonstration held to protest against the imprisonment of John Dillon and where the utmost enthusiasm was shown. A similar demonstration attended by some 8,000 people has taken place at Dundee, and other meetings of the same kind have been held with marked success elsewhere.

A curious fault in the Scottish code of laws has been brought to light at Aberdeen. The occasion was that on which a child cruelly maltreated by a man and woman who had adopted her was sent by the Bailie to an industrial school, the magistrate regretting that he was not enabled by law to deal with the offending people as they deserved. This is surely a grave defect that should be remedied without delay and which must be all the more apparent, judged by the necessity for such a law made evident by the proceedings of the London Society for the protection of children, of whose work the reports contain such harrowing details. We may not expect to find in Scotland anything to compare with what occurs in London under the peculiar conditions of life in so vast and crowded a city. But still the need must exist everywhere for the special protection of the helpless.

An illustration of what the farmer's life in Scotland must often have been hitherto has just been furnished in the case of a farm in Forfarshire re-let by its owner, Lord Wharcliffe. The new tenant takes the holding—one of the best in the county—at a reduction in the rent of 45 per cent., and after the landlord has spent a large sum on improvements. But in all probability, had it not been for the current agitation of the land question, and the consequent coming of landlords to their senses, some unfortunate tenant would still have to struggle on in semi-starvation and the victim of that time-honoured system of usury, resistance to which is still in some quarters condemned as robbery.

The lodging of arrestments, at the instance of Mr. Parnell, in the hands of the newspaper agents at Edinburgh, against the proprietor and the printer and publisher of the *Times*, a step made necessary by the law of Scotland, has occasioned some stir. The damages are laid at £50,000, and the action is founded on the publications made under the heading "Parnellism and Orime." The summons avers—"That the whole of the aforesaid letters and articles above quoted are false and forged. None was written by or signed by the pursuer, or with his knowledge or authority, nor have any of them ever been seen by him; and in these said letters and statements, all of which are of and concerning the pursuer, it is falsely, calumniously, and maliciously alleged and represented by the defendants: (1) that the pursuer condoned and approved the murder of Mr. Burke in the Phoenix Park, Dublin; (2) that in order to pacify certain individuals he wrote letters excusing his public condemnation of the crime; (3) that he supplied funds to enable Frank Byrnes to escape to France, in the knowledge that a warrant had been issued against him for his participation in the said crime; and (4) that he wrote a letter to Mr. P. Egan, instigating him to accomplish the murder of Mr. W. E. Forster, who was then Chief Secretary for Ireland. The aforesaid letters and statements were published and commented on in almost all the newspapers published in Great Britain, Europe, and the colonies, have formed the subject of discussion in both Houses of Parliament, and have ever since their publication been much commented on and discussed by the general community. They have been extremely hurtful to the feelings of the pursuer, and greatly injurious to his personal and political character and reputation."—The trial, it is said, will take place in October at the Edinburgh Court of Session, before Lord Kinneir and a jury. The matter excites much interest, and is variously discussed.

Among the distinguished visitors to the moors this season are the Comte de Paris and his party who have the shooting at Loch Kennard, where their sport is most successful. The Comtesse and her daughter, the Princess Héloïse of Orleans, are particularly noted for their unerring shots, and show themselves ardent in these pursuits not generally followed by ladies. The strangeness of the matter, however, may not be without its more piquant points for the French society whom it is the object of this family to please—and which object this family, in accordance with their traditions are not at all likely to over-look.

Scotland loses, for a time at least, a bright and noble son, and India gains by her loss. The scion of an ancient house in question, is the Lord Colin Campbell, who leaves Inverary for the purpose of practising as a barrister in Bombay. We have heard from Chackray of Sir Barnes Newcome, as he pathetically alluded on the lecturer's platform to the domestic affections. Some case or other may occur in which Lord Colin will have a similar opportunity of displaying the heart that is in him, and Indian society will doubtless be able to appreciate the display. Let us wish his Lordship and the Indians good luck in their respective spheres and their mutual relations.

Her Majesty the Queen has visited Glasgow for the second time during her reign, her former visit having taken place just 39 years before. Her Majesty was the guest of Sir Archibald and Lady Campbell, at Blythswood, a fine estate on the Clyde, situated about seven miles from the city, and where she enjoyed the retirement to which she is so much addicted. Great doings, however, attend on her Majesty's visit to the exhibition, which was the chief occasion of her coming, although she also opened the new municipal buildings, the city being magnificently adorned and densely crowded, and all manifestations made, that an enthusiastic loyalty could suggest. The display of flags in the streets is spoken of as particularly striking. The crowds, they say, could only have been surpassed in London itself. The Queen expressed herself as very much impressed by what she had witnessed.

The disciples of Isaac Walton have been delighted by the capture of the largest salmon known to the oldest inhabitant of any river bank in Great Britain. The monster weighed 65 lbs., and was taken at Scotecraig in the estuary of the Tay—in which river several large fish had already this season met their fate. A companion in misfortune captured at the same time weighed 47 lbs.

Mr. A. J. Balfour has been disporting himself at North Berwick, where his skill as a golf-player has excited admiration. Nero fiddling once more! The skull at a Persian feast has been represented in the case of this sporting promoter of sudden death by the police protection accompanying him.

The crofters' commission is now engaged with the state of affairs in Orkney, where the crofters know two classes of oppressors, the landlords properly so-called, and the larger tenants who impose a system of *corvees* on them under penalty of eviction. The farms rented by these task-masters, besides, had been formerly occupied by the crofters, who were obliged to move back on the more sterile tracts and make room for them. The people are described as patient, intelligent, and respectable in every way, but almost driven beyond the bounds of human endurance.

A contest is going on between the North-Western and the Great Northern railways as to which shall succeed in running the fastest train from London to Edinburgh. The fight began by an announcement from the North Western that the 9 hours, so far occupied in the run, would be shortened by half-an-hour. To this the Great Northern responded with an announcement that it would make the time shorter still, and do the distance in 8 hours. The contest has been maintained with spirit, time being set at defiance with great boldness, until the run is now made in from 7½ to 7¾ hours. As yet no accident has happened, but considering the tremendous speed that has to be maintained, and the recklessness engendered of rivalry, it is much to