

end to by unvarying failure. A writer in the December number of the *Month*, by the way, gives us a few illustrations of the failure referred to. "There are parts of India," he says, "where small articles bought in the native shops are constantly wrapped up in the leaf of a Bible. Bibles may be seen on the counters of the shops of Macao, cut in two, for wrapping up medicines and fruit. In the frontier towns of China whole cases of them are sold by auction, and purchased at the price of old paper, chiefly by the shoemakers, grocers, and druggists. The director of the seminary at Palo Pinang was told by a Chinese that the Bibles distributed there were sold for the commonest purposes. In Abyssinia they were used for wrapping up snuff." He tells, besides, an anecdote relating to a pious lady, who at the time of the review some years ago of the French and English fleets off Spithead, had been very much delighted by the ready permission given her to make distribution at will on board one of the French ships. "The lady was delighted; such readiness to receive the sacred volume! the men thirsting for the Word of God! A few days later she was still more pleased when a request came for more Bibles. Joyfully she repaired to the ship. Captain and chaplain were polite as ever. Every sailor received a second copy, and some more than one. Doubtless they desired to impart to their friends at home the new-found treasure. But, unfortunately, before leaving the ship, the zealous sower of Bibles happened to enter into conversation with the first lieutenant, who could speak a little English. 'May I ask,' she said, 'what the men have done with their Bibles already distributed?' The Frenchman shrugged his shoulders and sought to evade the question. 'Have they sent them home to their wives and families?' There was an evident disinclination to reply, but the good lady pressed him for an answer. 'Well, madame, to tell the truth, the men here find that the leaves of the Bibles you distribute make excellent cigarette papers.'" The poor little shabby leaflet brought to us as a curiosity from the Forbury race-course, and only saved from being thrown away unread for the purpose, has not even so much good about it as that. It is simply good for nothing—a little worthless token of somebody's folly and conceit.

ENGLISH
HONESTY AT
STAKE.

THE method of Government revealed by Major Lecaron cannot be too strongly dwelt upon, or too often recalled. We shall not, therefore, apologise to our readers for returning once more to the subject. It should be insisted on and published as

widely and as prominently as possible, so that it may escape the attention of no honest man. No such man who considers it can fail to be disgusted and indignant, and all that is needed, therefore, to enlist his aid and sympathy in putting an end to such a state of things, is to make him acquainted with it, and to place it before him so that he cannot disbelieve it. Major Lecaron's revelations, however are not the first made during the present agitation that have thrown light on the subject. The same was done a couple of years ago when a police sergeant was shot in an attack made on a house in Clare and when it was acknowledged that he himself, in collusion with an informer, had laid the plot for the attack, and induced the men implicated to undertake it. There are ample grounds, in short, for the belief, revolting as it must seem, that agrarian outrage and crime in Ireland are largely the direct outcome of the Castle system. They are needed to keep the country in subjection. When they are committed, it is pointed out that a strong government is required; when they cease, or become less frequent, it is claimed that the strong government has succeeded and must be continued—just as we find Mr. Balfour now putting in his claim. Hence the need for the employment of the men of whom we have spoken, and by whose intervention the state of affairs necessary is brought about, according to the peculiar requirements of the time. Ireland is used to the system in question, and has nothing new to learn from its exposure. But a new departure has been made when the system has been carried across the Irish boundaries, and worked energetically in another country. We have to learn, therefore, how the Government of the United States will act. In Dr. Gallagher's case, a subject of theirs, a man of honourable repute, a professional man engaged in serving the American public, and acquitting himself to the satisfaction of a large circle of patients, was seduced into a conspiracy, prevailed upon to undertake a wild and criminal enterprise, entrapped to betake himself for its fulfilment to a distant country, where he was seized, condemned and imprisoned. Without the influence and temptation of the English emissary he might have continued a peaceful and useful subject of the American Government, and spent his life for the advantage of their subjects. It seems to us, therefore, that the very least the American Government can demand is the liberation and restoration of the unfortunate man so dealt with. Nor will it do to argue that if Gallagher had not been criminally disposed he could not have been tempted to his ruin. Human nature is too prone to evil for us to admit such an argument to be valid, and probably on freedom from temptation depends the integrity of a great proportion of the race. Gallagher, then, has been the victim of an infamous system, infamously and insolently carried by the emissary of a foreign Govern-

ment into the country of which he was a citizen, and the Government of that country can hardly let the matter rest without demanding reparation and restitution. But as to the government of Ireland, are honest Englishmen going to permit of its being carried on as heretofore. They have now seen with their own eyes, not as revealed in some comparatively obscure court in Dublin, or some other Irish town, to which their attention might be called perhaps, at best, in some superficial manner, but as made prominent in London itself, that, to govern Ireland, as she has so far been governed, involves the permanent employment, not only of the informer, not only of the spy, but of the informer, spy, and seducer, combined in one person, that of the man through whom the Government, as occasion demands, creates the crime it means to punish—and of which it makes the pretence for its own continuance. They have seen their Empire disgraced by the employment of a system known among no other civilised people, but now become the notorious opprobrium of the English name. The character of the English people, therefore, depends on how they deal with this system. As we have said, then, too much stress cannot be laid upon a revelation which involves such important issues.

Colonial Notes.

PRIOR BUTLER writes from Port Melbourne making an appeal for aid in re-building his schoolhouse, which has been burnt down. Three hundred children, the Prior writes, are thus left without school accommodation—the necessity for whose provision, therefore, will at once be seen. The Catholic population thus deprived is a poor one, on whom the outlay now required will fall heavily. But as, in addition to the ordinary obligation that binds the Catholic public generally to assist in any work of charity, Prior Butler personally has claims that extend throughout the colonies, it is believed that help will be forthcoming. An opportunity now exists for those who have cause to be grateful to the Prior, as very many have, to give practical proof that they are so.

A colonist of some renown has passed away in the person of Mr. Peter Lalor, who died at the residence of his son, Dr. Joseph Lalor, Richmond, Victoria, on Saturday, February 9, at the age of sixty-two. Mr. Lalor, who was a native of the Queen's County, Ireland, came to Victoria in 1853, and was particularly distinguished as the leader in the agitation which, having apparently collapsed in the capture of the Eureka Stockade, in fact led to the independence of the colony. He afterwards sat several times in Parliament, and in 1880 he was appointed Speaker of the Assembly. This post he filled with success until ill health obliged him to resign—on which occasion a grant of £4000 was given him by the House in reward for his services. The funeral took place on Tuesday, the 12th—the Archbishop of Melbourne, assisted by the Bishop of Sale and a number of the clergy, officiating. There was a large attendance of the laity, including several of the members of the Government and many colonists of high position.

There died also, on February 9, at Northcote, Melbourne, the Sister Mary Clare Mother Provincial of the Australasian province of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The deceased lady, who had laboured with success in promoting the charitable works of her Order in several parts of the world, had but lately returned from founding a convent at Auckland. She was a native of Bretagne, and in the 55th year of her age. Her life, from an early period, had been devoted to the service of the poor in religion. The funeral took place on Monday, the 11th, in the Melbourne General Cemetery, his Grace the Archbishop, assisted by several of the clergy, officiating.

The Sacred Heart College, West Maitland, has re-opened with a full attendance and every promise of success under the Presidency of the Rev. Father Dwyer, assisted by Mr. O'Mara, late of Bathurst. Father Dwyer, on resigning the office of spiritual director of the Confraternity of the Holy Family, which his new undertaking obliged him to do, was presented by the members with a handsome gold watch in recognition of the services rendered by him.

A member of the Irish aristocracy has been sent to gaol, with twelve months hard labour, at Young, N.S.W., for uttering a valueless cheque. The aristocratic prisoner, if we remember our Peerage aright, is in some way related to the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. At least many years ago a great lady, a peeress in her own right, married, as his second wife, the Lord Londonderry who was the grandfather of the present Lord Lieutenant, and her younger sons were Lords Vane Tempest. We particularly remember the name because it was made prominent some thirty years ago or thereabouts in a manner not much more creditable than that in which it is now again brought before the public. This Lord Bernard Vane Tempest is, therefore, either an uncle or a cousin of some sort of the present Lord Londonderry's, and an inheritor, also, of the blood of Castlereagh. There is some doubt, we see, as to the sanity of the prisoner, and if he shows any decided signs of mental un soundness, he is to be sent to a lunatic asylum. Let us in the name of charity, hope that a similar strain may account for a good deal that has otherwise taken place in his Lordship's illustrious family.

Sir Henry Parkes has been comforting the hearts of his admirers, and mortifying those of his opponents, by a promise to live still for an indefinite number of years. He recalls the patriarchal ages attained to by several reverend elders, and even makes mention of the old Countess of Desmond, who, when far advanced in an auto-