

inference to their action that a demonstration was lately held at Castleconnell, and that arising out of speeches then made prosecutions are pending against Messrs. Finucane and Sheehy, Parnellite Members.

Tipperary.—Christmas Day was celebrated at Thurles with its usual religious solemnity. Archbishop Croke celebrated eight o'clock Mass, and at 12 o'clock there was a Solemn High Mass, Father Crowe being celebrant. Immediately after Mass Pontifical Benediction was given by the Archbishop. Amongst the congregation present was Wm. O'Brien M.P., who is visiting his Grace. As soon as the religious ceremonies were over the major portion of the congregation walked to the front of the Archbishop's house, where they cheered for Wm. O'Brien and his Grace. The Holy Family Band, too, put in an appearance and played an excellent programme. His Grace and Wm. O'Brien and several priests stood on the terrace walk in front of the palace during the musical recital. The Archbishop thanked, on behalf of himself and Mr. O'Brien, the performers and the people, who then withdrew. In the workhouse the inmates were provided by the Guardians with an excellent dinner. Father John Ryan added to their comfort with a pipe and a piece of the wood. He also supplied the juvenile inmates with confectionery, etc. Frederick Burke, Chairman Board of Guardians, superintended the dinner arrangements, and afterwards both himself and Father Ryan, who are violinists of no small repute, played several selections on the violin for the inmates.

A Nationalist meeting was held at the League rooms, Bansha, December 24, for the purpose of considering the recent action of the Chief Land Commissioners in adjusting their new scale of rent charges. John Cullinan, addressing the meeting, said that it was outrageous to find increases of rent put upon paltry abatements after years of terrible depression such as have been gone through, simply because a sudden and transient increase in some instances in the price of cattle has taken place in the latter end of the present year, which increase was due to a scarcity of cattle, as well as to other merely temporary causes. The following resolution was then passed:—"That we enter our solemn protest against the variations of judicial rents now announced, which we feel bound to stigmatise as a Londonderry-Balfourian job devised to suit Tory tactics, and in face of which the slightest shred of confidence in the land courts must become in reality a thing of the past. We further proclaim it to be our firm conviction that the tenant-farmers of Ireland should mark their condemnation of such gross injustice by refusing to any longer recognise the land courts, relying instead on their organisation, which alone can save themselves and their families from ruin."

Tyrone.—Some of the land-robbers in this County are becoming emboldened by the laxity of organisation among the tenants. Notices have been posted on the Town Hall in Draperstown, informing the Drapers' tenants that Mr. Glover will attend at Draperstown in a short time for the settlement of the ejectment decrees standing against the tenants in the Division of Draperstown, and that proceedings will be commenced against those tenants who fail to have their ejectments settled. The notices further state that all tenants who will fail to have paid the rent of 1888, will be processed for the approaching Quarter Sessions. Some of the tenants have already offered to pay the rent of 1888, but the rent of those tenants against whom there are other civil bill decrees still remaining unsettled, would not be accepted without their paying the amount of the decrees and the ejectments, together with all costs. A number of the tenants on this estate who were allowed an extension of time for payment of their arrears, have already failed to pay their instalments as ordered by the County Court Judge, and these are now threatened with eviction.

Roscommon.—There was a general meeting of the Castlereagh "suppressed" branch of the League on December 25. E. J. McDermott was moved to the chair. P. Conroy proposed, and T. Egan seconded the following resolution, which was carried:—"That we pledge ourselves to carry on the work of this branch of the League notwithstanding the prosecutions pending against some of our most respected members and despite the efforts of the brutal Tory Government, through its police, to suppress it."

James J. O'Kelly, M.P., having completed his term of two months' imprisonment under the Coercion Act, was released from Sligo Gaol on December 23. The honourable gentleman immediately proceeded by train to Boyle, where he was met by a large number of his constituents, who received him warmly. Subsequently he was presented with an address and a purse of sovereigns as a testimony of the high admiration in which he is held and of the gratitude which the people of Roscommon feel to be due to him for the sufferings he has endured. Mr. O'Kelly, in reply, stated that he was nothing but the worse for his imprisonment and was as determined as ever to stand by the people whenever they required his services. He afterwards proceeded by the mail train to Dublin.

Waterford.—There was a general meeting of the Thomas Exton branch of the League, Waterford, December 23. The chair was taken by William Hurley. The following resolution, proposed by Thomas Carey and seconded by Morgan Dunn, was carried by acclamation:—"That we protest in the strongest manner against the tyrannical and despotic action of our Tory rulers in proclaiming the procession on the anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs in the city of Waterford."

Wexford.—The monthly meeting of Kyle branch was held on December 23, Denis Kennedy in the chair. Others present:—James Fitzpatrick, Denis Egan, Richard Moloney, Patrick Fehan, Timothy Phelan, William Drennan, William Maher, William Scully, John Kelly, Thomas Breen, Michael Ahern. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That we call on Sir Charles Coote's agent to give the reduction voluntarily given us last year, namely, 20 per cent., as we believe any less will be inadequate to meet the deficiencies in farm produce this year."

The Catholic papers in Italy announce the conversion at Florence of three English ladies, who were received into the Catholic Church on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

MORE FAILURES.

It seems that the Church of Scotland Mission in India has been a complete failure. This we learn from a brochure entitled "A Few Facts About our Foreign Missions," published by the Rev. W. A. Liston, a retired chaplain of her Majesty's Ecclesiastical Establishment, Madras. The chief point to which Mr. Liston directs attention is the educational methods pursued by the Mission at the three Presidency towns, and he admits that after fifty years of the higher educational campaign against heathenism, the Church of Scotland could number only 343 members and adherents in all Southern India.

The reason he gives for this failure is that the mission has devoted its energies to the education rather than to the evangelisation of the heathen, and that, "while it has been successfully adding numerous graduates to the Madras and other universities," it has "signally failed to add converts to the Church of Christ." He adds: "As to the missionary character of these institutions (Church of Scotland Mission colleges) if this is not a misnomer, they are certainly practical failures in this relationship. During the whole of my twenty years' service in the Madras Presidency I am not aware of a single direct convert who has been gained to the cause of Christ, or the Church of Scotland, from all our labours in the institutions."

"Yet the 'Bible hour' is never missed in these institutions by the missionary; but with what result? Here is Mr. Liston's answer: "The students attend our colleges to study and pass for a degree, not to read the Bible. And when the 'Bible hour' comes on, the Hindus get up the facts of the Bible very much in the same fashion that Christians, in our school days, got up our Roman Antiquities or our Grecian Mythology. These Hindus can tell you to a nicety how many concubines Solomon had; they can tell you the exact date of the deluge according to U-her's Chronology, and they have the facts of the Bible at their fingers' ends; but, to my mind, they are no nearer Christ by this method than are those students who attend what we Indians call 'pukka' Government colleges."

This is how Protestant missions are progressing in India. And here in Ceylon do they make greater progress? We ask our Protestant friend, in Jaffna, who have educated thousands of Hindus in their high schools, unfettered by Government regulations, and free to teach whatever they like, whether the results have been much superior to those obtained by the Scotch Mission colleges? We ask them to deduct from their members all Catholic converts and all native paid agents and their families, and then show us how many true and sincere Christians remain on their lists?—*Jaffna Catholic Guardian.*

DESCRIPTION OF OUR LORD BY A CONTEMPORARY.

[The following letter was written by Publius Lentulus, predecessor of Pontius Pilate as Governor of Judea. The original Latin is in possession of the Cesarini family of Rome. The following is a translation from the Italian for *Le Ave Maria*, the Italian being taken from the original Latin.]

I HAVE learned, O Caesar, that it is thy wish to know what I will now relate to thee—that there is a man living here of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who by the people is called a prophet; and his disciples hold him for divine, and say that he is the Son of God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things that are therein and have been made. In truth, O Caesar, wonderful things are every day performed by this Christ: he raises the dead to life and heals all maladies by a single word. A man of noble stature and of very beautiful countenance, in which such majesty resides that those who look on him are forced to admire him. His hair is the colour of a fully ripe chestnut, and from his ears down his shoulders it is of the colour of earth, but shining. It is parted in the middle of the forehead, after the manner of the Nazarene. His forehead is smooth and very serene, his face free from wrinkle or spot, and with a slight colour. The nostrils and lips can not be reasonably found fault with. The beard is thick, and, like the hair, not very long and divided in the middle. There is a look of terror in his grave eyes; the eyes are like the rays of the sun, and it is impossible to look him steadily in the face on account of their brilliancy.

When he reproves, he terrifies; when he admonishes, he weeps; he makes himself lowly, and is gravely echeutal. It is said that he was never seen to laugh, but he was seen to weep. His hands and arms are very beautiful. In conversation he is charming, but he seldom engages in it; and when he does converse he is very modest of countenance. In presence he is the most beautiful man that could be seen or imagined,—just like his mother, who is the most beautiful young person that was ever beheld in these parts. But if thy majesty, O Caesar, desires to see him, as you wrote to me in former letters, make it known unto me, and I will send him to thee at once.

In learning he is an object of wonder to the entire city of Jerusalem. He never studied at all, and yet he knows all sciences. He wears sandals and goes bare-headed. Many laugh at seeing him, but in his presence and when speaking to him they fear and tremble. It is said that such a man was never seen nor heard in these parts. In truth, as the Hebrews tell me, there never were heard such advices, such sublime doctrine, as this Christ teaches; and many of the Jews hold him for divine, and they believe in him, while many others accuse him to me as being contrary to thy Majesty, O Caesar. I am very much annoyed by these malicious Hebrews. It is a sad knowledge that he has never done harm to any one, but good: all that know him and have had dealings with him say that they have received from him benefits and health. But to thy Majesty, O Caesar, to thy obedience, I am most devoted. Whatsoever thou shalt command me will be executed. Farewell.

From Jerusalem, the seventh indiction, eleventh moon, of thy Majesty the most faithful and most obedient,
PUBLIUS LENTULUS,
Governor of Judea.