

self a name on the London stage, I think he will have to impart a little more variety into his representations. The dresses of the fairies were very beautiful. Miss Scrivnor, as the Queen, looked majestic and graceful.

At eleven o'clock Mass. on Sunday, Father Cummings made an appeal to the congregation on behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. He stated that, though it had been in existence only eight or nine months, over £73 had been distributed in food, besides clothes etc. He strongly urged on the congregation its hearty support.

On Tuesday there will be a Solemn *Requiem* Mass for the repose of the soul of Father Garin. On the evening of the same day the devotions for the month of May will commence. These devotions will be inaugurated by a procession in honour of the Blessed Virgin.

Mr. O'Connor's new premises in Barbadoes street are approaching completion. The building has assumed a very imposing appearance.

A collection was made at New Headford in aid of the Parnell Defence Fund. Mr. P. Healy, who is always ready to advance his country's cause, worked most energetically to make the sum collected a handsome one. He was ably seconded in his efforts by Messrs. Leatham, Donohue, O'Neil and O'Driscoll. Mr. Healy collected £31 11s 6d, Mr. Leatham £7 2s, Mr. Donohue £4 19s, and Mr. O'Neil £4 1s. This totted up a very respectable contribution for New Headford.

The fame of our dauntless Mayor has, I see, reached the other side. The following local appears in a recent Sydney paper:—The Mayor of Christchurch (N.Z.) having been asked to preside over a meeting, convened for the purpose of expressing sympathy with Parnell, prayerfully considered the matter for many days and then declined in book form. His chief reason seems to have been a desire not to disturb the peace of Europe, and a grovelling fear that the British monarchy would immediately dissolve were it known that so important a functionary and so large-hearted a man as himself had presided at such a meeting.

### WHAT THE *TIMES* PROMISED.

(The *Nation*, March 2.)

Now that the attempt of the *Times* to establish the authenticity of the letters has so ignominiously failed, it is all-important to recall the promises and assertions it originally made concerning them. It will be seen that in face of their repeated and most confident statements, Messrs. Smith, Walter, and the rest of the Pigottists will find themselves unable to wriggle out of what is for them a more than awkward position. Had the *Times* represented these alleged letters to be merely a trivial point in its case and of no moment whatever there might now be some loop-hole for escape. But as a matter of fact it was not until the prospect of a strict judicial inquiry confronted it that it ventured to hint they were other than the central and weightiest evidence. And even then, at the very moment when for its own ends it wished to obscure them, it still asseverated its ability and readiness to establish their genuineness by overwhelming and incontestable proofs.

It was the morning of the day fixed for the second reading of the Coercion Bill that the *Times* selected for the publication of the first of these letters. "We do not think it right, ran the preface to the now famous *fac-simile*, "to withhold any longer the fact that we possess, and have had in our custody for some time, documentary evidence which has a most serious bearing on the Parnellite conspiracy, and which, after a most careful and minute scrutiny, is, we are satisfied, quite authentic." And again, in a leader of the same issue, it styles this "a document, the grave importance of which it would be difficult to over-estimate." "It is," it added, "a *fac-simile* of a letter from Mr. Parnell, written a week after the Phoenix Park murders, excusing his public condemnation of the crime, and distinctly condoning, if not approving, the murder of Mr. Burke." On the following day it ridiculed Mr. Parnell for denouncing the letter as a villainous forgery, again declared its own firm belief in the letter's authenticity, and challenged him to test the point before a court of law. "We pay no attention whatever," it went on, "to Mr. Parnell's big words, and if he should proceed to apply the only test by which the truth can be plainly brought before the world, we are quite prepared to meet him." In the issue of the next day yet another article appeared to the same effect, and Mr. Parnell's indignant disclaimers were pronounced "impudent assertions." On the 21st of April, it expressed its disregard whether he attempted to vindicate his character or did not. If he did it "would substantiate the charges," and if he abstained "the world would see that the opportunity of doing so in the only way which is beyond the reach of interested cavil," was thus withheld from it. And "the world" continued the article, "will draw its conclusions, which, we venture to say, will not be those of the gentlemen who, being tied to Mr. Parnell's chariot, naturally dislike to have attention called to the blood on the wheels."

Four days later the *Times* once more acknowledged the seriousness of the position it had taken up. "Often when great public interests were at stake we have faced very serious risks under a harsh libel law, in the fulfilment of our duty. But never have we acted under a graver sense of responsibility—under a stronger conviction of obligation—than in the present controversy." In, if possible, more explicit terms than ever the charge of criminal conspiracy and complicity in murder was urged against the Irish leader in the first week of July; and the recognition of the nature and gravity of the charge was again clearly expressed, and the responsibility it entailed acknowledged:—"We have declared our readiness to produce documents showing the close relations between Mr. Parnell and Egan in regard to the expenditure of the 1 and League funds, showing that Carey was paid by Egan, and urged by him to get to work and give us value for our money; showing that Mr. Parnell, when in Kilmaham, was angry for the 'inexcusable inaction' of his friend's outside, reminding Egan that he had undertaken 'to make it hot for old Forster and Co' and calling on him to give some evidence of his power to do so; showing that when Frank Byrne fled from the

kingdom to avoid trial on a charge of complicity in the Phoenix Park murders, it was Mr. Parnell who supplied the funds for his escape, and finally showing that Mr. Parnell has repeated more than once, in apologetic letters addressed to members of the extreme party, the curious admissions contained in the document we published in *fac-simile* on the 18th of April, 1887. These charges, we acknowledge, are 'grave' and 'terrible,' as Lord Coleridge calls them. We have brought them forward, however, under the fullest sense of responsibility, and with perfect readiness that they should be sifted to the bottom." When the debate was going on in the House relative to the appointment of an inquiry into the charges and allegations, the *Times* used the following words—"As for the letters which Mr. Parnell apparently wishes to make the exclusive subject of inquiry, we mean to prove them", and subsequently, on the day of the second reading of the Bill which constituted the present Commission—"We intend to prove that the letters were genuine to the satisfaction of any tribunal whatever."

From these quotations it must be clear to even the dullest of comprehension what value the *Times* placed on these letters and how confidently they relied on Mr. Parnell's being unable to discredit them. And when the evidence given by Messrs. Scames and MacDonald is remembered, there can be very little doubt that this confidence was not based on a knowledge of their unassailable character. The *Times* manager instituted no inquiries as to the source from which the letters were got; according to his own account he was as easily satisfied in their regard as the Lord Lieutenant is of the legal attainments of the "Removable" magistrates. But one opinion would seem tenable, and it is that the *Times* must have counted either on the charges being allowed to go unrebuted by the accused, or that, in the event of their taking up the challenge, the case would have gone before a jury who would have accepted the evidence of the "expert," Mr. Inglis, as sufficient, thus precluding any necessity for the production of Pigott. It has, however, in this reckoned without its host. And now its assertions have proved to be the foulest of calumnies and its promises the basest of lies.

### THE CHURCH IN AMERICA.

In the course of an address recently delivered at the American College in Rome by Bishop McQuaid, the following striking passages occur:—

"The Holy Father may have felt that we Catholics in America, building up God's Church under exceptional circumstances, advancing with a rapidity amazing to our European brothers, bold of thought and frank of speech, riding somewhat roughly over difficulties in our way, would be all the safer for presenting us with St. Thomas as a solver of doubtful and knotty questions, should they arise, when we blunder in our impetuous rushing ahead in our unwillingness to let souls be lost through the slowness of time. The Holy Father and all Roman authorities can rest assured that our blunders, if such there be, are of the head and not of the heart, that our faith has the true ring, for it is struck from the rock on which Christ's Church is built, and that more loyal and devoted children of the Holy Father can nowhere be found than in the young, fresh, and free republic beyond the Atlantic. A republic in which the Holy Father's own teachings in regard to true liberty, in regard to liberty without licence, to liberty with restrictions, safeguarding law and order, the basis on which the social and political civilisation of our time rests, are so well appreciated, may be trusted with confidence.

"No doubt the young Church in America presents some startling surprises to our elder brothers in Europe. Our country is advancing with lightning speed, there is progress on every side, changes and improvements take place every day. We are accomplishing in a few years what other countries have required centuries to bring about. We are building railways at the rate of 7,000 miles a year: steam and electricity are our common moving and lighting forces; the vast and grand commercial buildings of ten years ago have scarcely worn off their freshness when they are levelled to the ground to make room for others larger, more commodious and more ornamental. With this stir and activity on every side of us, with this push and progress before our eyes, is it any wonder that we American clerics imbibe some of this energy of men of the world displayed in things material, and carry it into our church work? If we had not learned these invigorating lessons of push and progress from our fellow-citizens, how could we ever have built our monumental cathedrals, our churches, schools, seminaries, hospitals, convents and asylums? Let no one be afraid of the words, progress, change, advancement, as used and understood in the United States. They do not mean change in doctrine or in the essentials of our holy religion. In all questions of faith and morals as taught by him who sits in Peter's chair, our infallible guide, developed and illustrated by the Fathers of the early Church, taught by St. Thomas and impressed upon us by his disciples of to-day, such as the erudite and eloquent Professor Satoll, whose pupils now in America are perpetuating his work, we are firmly anchored and fear no drifting away. Progress, in our sense of the word, and steadfastness in the faith are thoroughly consistent."

The brilliant theory of the London police, that the Whitechapel atrocities must have been perpetrated by a foreigner, and probably an American, "because no Englishman would be guilty of such unnatural butcheries," moves a common-sense Englishman to the remark that it is not so many years ago since the English people used to be regaled by public spectacles of disembowelling and dismembering, performed by the officers of the law itself for the edification of the people. Indeed, the law by which certain criminals, especially those who commit political crimes, may be condemned to the humane punishment of "hanging, drawing, and quartering," still remains unrepealed on the statute books of the realm. "Jack the Ripper" might have studied his art from the *Newgate Calendar*, without ever leaving the shores of his native London, or incurring the danger of contamination from wicked Americans.—*Pilot*.