

# Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

## GALWAY RELIEF FUND.

TO THE EDITOR N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Please insert in the next issue of your valuable journal the enclosed names of subscribers to the Galway Convent Relief Fund. I intended, as announced, closing the subscription and forwarding the proceeds to Galway on the 28th of last month, but I did not receive the collectors' lists in time to enable my doing so. I have now the lists which show the sum of £61 10s 6d (sixty-one pounds ten and six pence) in all. Of this amount Mr. John O'Halloran, Glentui, collected £30; Mr. Michael Quinn, Temuka, £12 8s 6d; Mrs. George O'Malley, West Coast Road, £2 7s, the remaining £16 15s having been collected by myself.

I have already forwarded the sum of £20 to Galway, and the balance, £41 10s 6d, I am forwarding to the superioress, Mary de Sales Kelly, by the mail which closes here on the 11th inst.

In conclusion, permit me to express my sincere thanks to you, sir, in the first place for your favourable notice of the collection when first started, also for having inserted the names of subscribers in your widely circulated newspaper; to the collectors, who, all must allow, did their work well, and to the subscribers who so nobly responded to the call of the Presentation Nuns for food and clothing for the famishing poor of the "Citie of the Tribes"—Galway.

I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

E. O'CONNOR.

Christchurch, March 8th, 1880.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I am sorry that the Irishmen are about to let the approaching festival of our national saint pass over without the usual celebration, but if it is true that Mr. Crofts will deliver a lecture, it will be a welcome recompense. Indeed, the Irishmen of the colony owe a deep debt of gratitude to that gentleman for his able letters and speeches on Catholic education and patriotism. His ability as a lecturer is now too well known for me to attempt to praise him; witness his lecture for the relief of the distressed in Ireland, the proceeds of which he handed over to His Lordship Dr. Moran for transmission home. Let his countrymen show that they appreciate his Irish Catholic heart, and give him a bumper house on St. Patrick's evening next.—I am, &c.,

PATRICK CAREY.

## OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MELBOURNE, March 3rd.

AT last, after a week of intense excitement, followed by a couple of days of tumultuous congratulations, men are settling down to the situation in Victoria, taking stock of their victory and its results. It was a grand conflict—fought for the most part, I believe, loyally, and everywhere with serious earnest purpose. On Saturday (the polling day) all business was suspended—the rain came down almost unremittingly both in town and country. Voters everywhere plodded through it unheeding, bent heart and soul on the work before them. In no former elections, no matter how bright the sunshine, were so many votes recorded throughout the constituencies. Even Mr. Berry cannot pretend to deny that in his favourite phraseology, "the great heart of the people" was reached on this occasion, and that it beat unmistakably for his opponents, and not for him. Among the surprises of the hour, the greatest was the rejection of Mr. Munro, for Carlton, a city constituency, followed by the rejection of Mr. Casey, for Mandurang, a fact from the extent of the district, not confirmed in Melbourne until this morning. Messrs. Munro and Casey were founders of what is known in the House as the Corner party, and they wielded considerable power over Government and Opposition. They were both old members, and have both been ministers. Mr. Munro is a fiery rather than a canny Scott—perhaps he combines the qualities. He had become a sort of acknowledged mediator betwixt the Council and the Assembly in their interminable bickerings, and was a clever and influential member that can ill be spared. Mr. Casey, as Minister of Lands and Minister of Justice had made a considerable figure. He is known as King Casey, but it is said he is so intriguing, shifty, and selfish, that no party trusts him, and I fear there is joy on all sides at his absence. Had he been elected he would have, probably, been offered the speakership—an honourable cage in which a long-reined and ambitious politician can be made safe from mischief. The Roman Catholic vote put Mr. Berry and his party into power on the 11th May, 1877, and as they broke all the promises they had made with regard to the Education question, it sent them adrift on the 28th February, 1880. Messrs. Munro and Casey were rejected entirely by the Catholic vote, also Sir Bryan O'Loughlin, Messrs. O'Hea, Orr, and Cameron. The Catholic influence has been so much felt at these elections that it has set politicians of all shades thinking about it, and must have important results. There are all sorts of canards going about as to the new Ministry; lists have been freely circulated, but there has nothing definite been done yet, as the Governor has been out of town. The appearance of Collins-street on Monday, as described by the *Argus*, is so accurate that I quote it here:—"Collins-street yesterday presented an extraordinary appearance. Business can only be said to have been partially resumed, and the principal avocation of the citizens appeared to be the exchange of

congratulations. Hand-shaking groups were visible everywhere. There was a smile upon all faces, and the gloom which has hung upon the city like a pall during the last year was thoroughly dispersed. All day long there was a large attendance outside *The Argus* office, and the utmost anxiety was displayed to learn the latest intelligence in connection with the crisis. The crowd included bank managers, barristers, merchants, and other citizens who are not ordinarily seen in such a position. At one o'clock we posted the information that the Ministry had decided to resign, and the announcement was received with a cheer. So was the further intimation that Mr. Service would be sent for, and as the crowd was good-humoured and impartial the subsequent intimation that no new appointments would be made by the Ministry was greeted with a similar indication of approval. Election returns came in but slowly, nevertheless they were patiently waited for by some, while constant visits to the spot were made by others, and up to midnight there was an attendance at our doors. Probably to-day the city will resume its usual appearance, and the citizens will return to their ordinary habits."

## General News.

Professor Jeremiah Brunelli, Editor of the *Paese*, a Catholic journal of Perugia, recently declared, in his speech upon the press, that upon his return from the Catholic Congress of Florence, where he had had the honour to represent Cardinal Joachim Pecci new Leo XIII., he informed the latter of his design to found a Catholic journal in Perugia. The Cardinal replied: "You could not give a more pleasing piece of news; I look upon a Catholic journal as a true mission continued in my Diocese;" he further declared that Cardinal Pecci had even been lavish to said *Paese* of encouragement of aid and of pecuniary assistance, and had urged upon parish priests, upon the clergy and the laity the propriety and duty of subscribing to, of diffusing, and of favouring that journal, which is now in a flourishing condition. Professor Brunelli finally adds that in the general audience to the Press, held February last, the Pope reminded him of this fact and of the words which he then pronounced as Bishop of Perugia.—*N.Y. Freeman*.

The Right Hon. J. A. Roebuck, whose death has just been announced, was very small in stature, with a singularly large head and a pale eager face. He spoke very slowly, and his style was keen and incisive. On his first return in the Reform Parliament of 1832—he was one of three in the present House of Commons who sat in that Parliament—he took place among the half dozen best speakers in the House. Some thirty years since he had a severe paralytic shock, and never wholly recovered the use of his speech or limbs. For a few years he was permitted to speak sitting.

Pick, the celebrated Berlin detective, who performed wondrous feats in the way of ferreting out ingenious criminals, has just died. He commenced his public career as burgomaster of Feddickow, a small town on the Oder, which office he exchanged for Commissary of Criminal Police, some six and twenty years ago. It was he who broke up the band of malefactors who were the terror of Pomerania in 1850. He joined the band himself, aided them in committing several overt acts of treason, and enabled himself to identify them when they were netted by a force of gendarmierie.

The Marquis of Bute, desirous to promote Catholic education and as far as possible to put within the reach of Scottish Catholics the benefits of university teaching of the first order, has generously subsidised St. Benedict's College with £500 a year to enable it to secure the assistance of two professors from our national universities, who will assist the present staff in teaching respectively classics and the different branches of science. This act of generosity on the part of the noble Marquis will be duly appreciated by the Catholic body. To be able to offer to Catholic students the advantages of university tutorship, whilst securing for them the advantages derived from living in a Catholic atmosphere under the constant and careful training of the Benedictine Fathers, is an event of considerable importance to the alumni of the College, and cannot fail to give a fresh impetus to the cause of Catholic learning in Scotland.

John Battle, born in the county of Donegal, Ireland, in the year 1767, died 31st December, in St. Bridget's Home, Montreal. Although considerably enfeebled during the latter years of his life, the old man's memory was effective to the end. He could converse readily on the stirring events of 1798, and could relate incidents of the battles of Oulart Hill, Vinegar Hill, and other engagements of that very exciting and proudly-to-be-remembered period. His memory was severely tested about four years ago, when he was visited by Lord Dufferin. His Excellency questioned him pretty closely about the events connected with '98, but they were answered clearly and without hesitation. The deceased, who was the son of Martin Battle and Catharine Temple, was a regular attendant at church, despite his enfeebled condition, but during the last nine years of his life he has been an inmate of St. Bridget's Home.—*True Witness*.

Three of the five heroes who were decorated in the presence of the Court at Windsor by Her Majesty recently are Irishmen. Sergt. Allan is a Derry man; Private Power is from Waterford; Trooper Brown belongs to Dublin. The ceremony of decoration was impressive and interesting. Sir Evelyn Wood had the honour, by special command of Her Majesty, to receive his brave companions in arms, whom he conducted to the Presence Chamber, where they awaited the Queen's pleasure. The sovereign, who is a model of punctuality in all matters of State observance and etiquette, entered almost immediately, attended by the whole Court. At Her Majesty's appearance the five soldiers saluted, and remained in the saluting posture while the Queen attached to the breast of each the well-merited tribute of a grateful country. The decoration was in each case accompanied by an expression of gracious acknowledgment.—*Irish Times*.