

about an English National movement to Rome, we do not think the wise law of the Western Church will have any exception on the shores of Britain. Of course, it is not intended by the advocates of Corporate Reunion that, in the future, a married clergy should be allowed in England. Concession in favour of the present generation of Anglican clergymen is only spoken of. We have heard, as a reason for the concession being granted, that St PAUL, the favourite apostle of Protestants, was married! We always believed that the author of the phrase "Even as I" was, like the beloved disciple, unmarried, and was not even a widower, as Canon FARRAR and others hold. It is certainly very difficult to imagine a wife accompanying the apostolic wanderer, to whom storms at sea with shipwreck, nights in jail with insult, journeyings by land and sea with privations were very ordinary experiences. Whether any other of the apostles except St PETER was married is a question which the advocates of married clergy will find very difficult to prove. Anyhow after their call to the apostolate they left "all things," which meant separation from all earthly ties and single-minded devotion to their glorious work. Instead of relaxing the law of celibacy the tendency is rather to extend the law. The trend of feeling in the East is in the direction of a celibate priesthood. The Maronites of Mount Lebanon, for instance, we were assured by a Maronite priest who lately visited New Zealand, have practically for the last fifty years fallen into line on this point with the Western Church. A married priest is now unknown among them. Whatever concessions the Pope may make we are convinced the even partial relaxing of the law of celibacy will not be among the number. Conversions in England, as elsewhere, will be the result of instruction and grace of God. Those who are thoroughly in earnest rarely ask for concessions.

IN answer to many inquiries about the health of the Bishop of Dunedin, we regret to say that we cannot announce much improvement since the last attack prostrated him some weeks ago. After a consultation held recently, his physicians, who found him in a very feeble condition physically, recommended, in view of his avoiding exertion of every kind, that he should be relieved of all business in connection with the diocese. His Lordship has appointed his secretary, the Very Rev P. Lynch, St Joseph's Cathedral, administrator of the diocese, and fully authorised him to transact all diocesan business.

WE regret to find that the report of a witch-burning case in Tipperary, recently published here, was only too true. In fact, as we learn from the *Weekly Freeman* of March 30, the details were still worse than those narrated here. The horrible crime took place on March 15 at a place called Cloneen, near Clonmel. "There is a fierce indignation," says the *Freeman*, "amongst the people of Clonmel and district regarding the Cloneen outrage, and the popular antipathy towards the prisoners is deep and strongly marked, as was evidenced by the hostile demonstration by the people when the prisoners were being conveyed to and from the courthouse. Cleary and Ganey, the herb doctor, came in for special attention. There were cries from the people, as they rushed after the prisoners hooting and groaning, of "Hang them," and "Oh! the fairies," "Where is the herb doctor now?" In Cloneen parish, where the outrage occurred, the people feel the matter keenly."

AT New Plymouth on Monday evening (says the *Wellington Post* of the 11th inst) the Rev Father McKenna was presented by the ladies of his congregation with an illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns. The presentation was made at a social gathering held in honour of the rev gentleman, and the address specially referred to the great interest he had taken in the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Catholic community, and the high respect and esteem in which he was held by all.

A SAD case is reported from Paris where a lady named Amelot went mad the other day and murdered her confessor—the Abbé Broglie, brother of the Duke of that name. To make the case more distressing Madame Amelot had been a good and pious woman, devoting a large fortune to charitable objects.

WE are glad to learn from an Auckland correspondent that the Gaelic movement bids fair to be vigorously taken up in the city in question. The Rev Mr Jordan, of Tauranga, will deliver a lecture on the subject at an early date, and Mr James O'Sullivan, who is an Irish-Gaelic scholar of high attainments, has kindly offered to throw open to those engaged in the work a library of books in the ancient tongue. The Catholic Literary Society will also give their able assistance.

THE following is a cablegram under date Adelaide, May 14:—Mr Michael Davitt was cordially welcomed on arrival. He originally intended to remain in the colonies six or eight months, but owing to the death of his child is now unlikely to stop as many weeks. He returns via America.

WE, (Melbourne *Advocate*, May 4) are in a position to give this week a few more particulars respecting Mr Davitt's visit than were heretofore available. In reply to a cable message he received at Colombo from Mr Joseph Winter, manager of this journal, Mr Davitt has fixed Monday evening, 20th May, for his first lecture, and it will be delivered in the Hibernian Hall, the subject being "Parliamentary Photographs." In several quarters there will, no doubt, be a wish that Mr Davitt should turn aside from his purpose, and discourse on subjects not included in his programme. That is natural, but it would be unkind to place him under the slightest constraint. Motive, however good in itself, would be no excuse for subjecting him to any pressure in matters of the kind. Well and good if at any time in the course of his visit he should find time to depart from his programme, and be willing to do so for the gratification of his admirers, or any section of them; but no step should be taken that might embarrass him, or in any way prejudice his prospects of success. There is the more reason for such abstinence in the fact that his admirers are not all of one mind as to his views on several different subjects. He will take up no subject on which he may not be regarded as an authority and an intelligent exponent, and he will so treat none of his choices as to offend those who differ from him. He will deal with national or social questions as a dispassionate public lecturer, and not as a partisan, and he should not, and will not, we hope, be asked to present himself in any other character. And that would be unavoidable if on any occasion he particularly identified himself with any section of his admirers.

JUDGING by their declamatory and ungrammatical resolutions (says the *Freeman*) the Irish landlords find it difficult to make a case against the Land Bill. They are very rich in abuse of the Bill, but very poor in argument. That much-laboured old word "confiscation" is resurrected for the occasion. Every Irish Land Bill has been denounced in turn as confiscation by the landlords. They have all confiscated more or less the right of the landlords to thieve and evict. It was confiscation to order compensation for disturbance and for unexhausted improvement. It was confiscation to give fixity of tenure and fair—or what was supposed to be fair—rents. It is now confiscation to rescue from the grip of the landlords, who have done nothing for the soil of Ireland but "salt it well with rack-rents," as the late Colonel King-Harman once put it, the improvements made by the Irish tenants and to admit the excluded tenantry of the country to the benefit of the Land Acts. Parliament, it appears rejected the proposals embodied in Mr Morley's Bill twenty-five years ago; therefore they are bad. This is the argument of the leading lights of the party that contains all "the educated intelligence" of the country. What a waste of good money to educate the intellect that offers such a reason in opposition to popular reform.

THE Irish episcopacy (says the *Dublin Freeman*) has lost another zealous and able member by the death of the Bishop of Down and Connor, which occurred on Tuesday March 26, from a painful disease, the tortures of which were borne with most heroic fortitude. Most Rev Dr McAlister was, until disabled by disease, a most energetic prelate. During his all too brief reign the work of Catholic organisation in Down and Connor was carried on with vigour, and the traditions of priestly zeal and patriotic devotion which he received from his beloved predecessor, Dr Dorrian, were worthily maintained. Recently through failing health his labours were interrupted, and the priests of the diocese had already chosen names to be submitted to Rome for the appointment of a coadjutor with the right of succession. As in the case of the late Bishop of Elphin, the Most Rev Dr McAlister was not destined to witness the consecration of his successor. The Catholics of Down and Connor have lost a worthy pastor.

THE eminent French author, Huysmans, has become a convert from advanced freethought to Catholicism. In a book recently published by him, named *En Route*, he describes, with extreme candour, the work of his conversion.

JUDGING (says the Paris correspondent of the *Catholic Times* of March 29) from the *resumé* that M. Loyson (ex Père Hyacinthe) has sent home of his recent discourses in Algeria, his mind is drifting farther and farther from firm land. The latest chimera to which he has devoted his ill-controlled enthusiasm is the "religious alliance of the Gospel and the Koran." How far M. Loyson has gone adrift from sound doctrine may be judged from the following passage:—"I am a Christian priest, but as a sincere disciple of Jesus, I do not believe that I offend Him in recognising Mahomed as the prophet of the Arabs. It was not without the Divine inspiration that he founded the grand religion of Islam. By the political