

Bible? Mr Hastings, if he were a Catholic at all, could have been one barely in name. Animal courage he and Miss B. may have had, but frivolous and coarse they undoubtedly were. But this is to receive the story as true. If the story is untrue, and the credulity of those who receive it as otherwise must be great, Mr Hastings, at least, gives to the public the details of what, under the circumstances spoken of by him, he would consider a becoming and desirable line of proceedings. On the whole, by quoting this gentleman's narrative, Mr Stead has hardly raised the standard of his work. If he brings forward witnesses at all they should be grave and trustworthy persons, on whose testimony reliance may be placed. Mr Hastings is evidently nothing of the kind.

Appropos of the calumnies relating to indulgences referred to in the Bishop of Dunedin's sermon, of which we elsewhere publish a report, it will not be out of place to take a short view of the state of things in which such calumnies had their origin.

CALUMNIES
AND

THEIR SOURCE.

We find the matter alluded to in a notice given by the *Athenaeum* of February 20, of certain State papers of the reign of Henry VIII., recently arranged. "As early as the 8th of July (1536) Chapuns writes, 'It is a lamentable thing to see a legion of monks and nuns, who have been chased from their monasteries, wandering miserably hither and thither, seeking means to live.' Yet on the King's part there was no sign of hesitation. On the contrary, he drove on furiously to his goal—his trembling slaves could not go fast enough to please him." This state of things, we are told, provoked a rebellion in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The leaders of the people in the latter county are described as men of remarkable ability and resolution. One of them especially, named Aske, is spoken of as a "person of true nobility of sentiment," and possessed of "many of those qualities which go to make up the heroic character." Aske, nevertheless, having been invited to London on a safe-conduct to confer personally with the King, was treacherously remanded to York, where he was hanged. "There was no faith to be kept with traitors." As another instance of Henry's mercy, we are told of sixty-two poor wretches, who, on the collapse of the outbreak in Yorkshire, had been left as prisoners in Hull. "They were released on bail for their re-appearance. Who could have thought of their being worth slaughtering? Doubtless to the surprise and consternation of all concerned the King was exceedingly angry at the semblance of mercy; he insisted that these sixty-two should be executed in divers parts of the country. If they could not, without danger, execute all they were to apprehend the priests and principals of that sort, and have them 'indelayably executed.'" The Lincolnshire men were not more leniently dealt with. "Early in March the Lincolnshire men were brought to trial; thirty-four of them, including the Abbot of Kirkstall, were condemned for high treason and all were executed within a few days, twenty of them being clergy or monks of the various religious houses." "The plunder of the monasteries," again writes the reviewer, "goes on relentlessly. It is a dreadful story that deepens in horror the more closely we look into it—a story of pillage and cruelty, and ferocious greed and meanness." Is it any wonder we would ask, that such a condition of things, such an infamous undertaking so infamously carried out, should have left to the future a legacy of calumny and lying?

It would appear that there is a literary horse-boy or some character of the kind hanging around the railway station at Gore for the convenience of

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passengers. It would also appear that our contemporary, the *Otago Witness*, had appointed the said factotum its congenial purveyor of Catholic news in the district. Here are some of the polished and elegant results:—"Scholastic, Polemic, or Ecclesiastic—Which? After going through the ordinary course of a gratuitous and general but so-called godless system of education, three of our district boys were yesterday sent off to the Wellington Roman Catholic Maynooth College to get the ungodly taint rubbed off, and the final polish put on. Whether this is the natural first fruits of some recent missionary enterprise will soon be known, but the paternal care manifested by the priests of the place in connection with the despatch of their youthful charge would seem to point in the direction of special care being about to be taken in training the native article in the orthodox narratives of history, as well as the inculcation of the sound principles of the only true religion under heaven! The R.C. denomination has not been famous for its endeavours to educate the masses, but it cannot fail to observe that some education is requisite whether for the ecclesiastic, polemic, or for scholastic or even forensic purposes, not to speak of the money-making trades of farming and whisky selling." This correspondent has evidently been in the habit of earning an honest penny by calling in the police, among the rest, and he shows himself vexed that what he regards as an objectionable proceeding has now afforded him no excuse for doing so. Was there any attempt made, by the way, to pelt the boys or their parents with clods? Any how, we see how spunkily they are blackguarded in the columns of the *Witness*. What does this chap know about the R.C. denomination? But among the things that members of the denomination

in question cannot fail to perceive is the complete immunity from all educational requirements enjoyed by certain newspaper correspondents. The "Wellington Roman Catholic Maynooth College" need be at no trouble in giving its students an intellectual training for that position, as we see from the specimen before us. Why, our "Jims" actually seems to suppose that Maynooth is a generic term. They say that drifting straws show which way the wind is blowing. Can the manner in which mud is flung give us any warning of a similar kind? The publication by the *Witness* of such a paragraph as that we have quoted would at least seem to point at a desire or an intention to control Catholics in the choice of schools for their children. Does our contemporary really mean to appoint a horse-boy spy at every railway station to watch the coming and going of Catholic school-children and report on it? But let him see that his spies are correct in their information. The number of boys who went from Gore to Wellington was five, not three, and the priests who saw them off were one. Perhaps our "Jims" saw his reverence with eyes that had previously been inspecting one of those whisky-selling establishments he alludes to. Indeed, his whole paragraph is very suggestive as to something of the kind. We have to congratulate the *Witness* on the devices to which it seems inclined to descend.

IRELAND'S FAMOUS SONS ABROAD.

THE following are extracts from a lecture lately delivered by Mr Jeremiah M'Veagh, of London, before the Belfast Young Ireland Society:—

Passing through the English Parliament House, or Westminster Abbey, you will observe the name of a stray Irishman or two, Edmund Burke, for example. We have heard of a Wellington, of General Wolsely, of General Roberts, and of General White. Just as a few years ago Cairns was Lord Chancellor of England, before long a Liberal Government will turn to another Irishman to fill the same post, Sir Charles Russell. The most distinguished of colonial administrators is an Irishman, Lord Dufferin, as is Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant. One of the anti-Irish journals in England recently published a war-whoop from an indignant correspondent, who complained that the Press in London was honeycombed with Irishmen; that close on 50 per cent of London journalists were Irish or of Irish descent. In Australia, take Victoria. Here two Chief Justices hailed from this country, the late Sir William Stawell and Mr George Higginbotham. The late Sir Redmond Barry was, as first Chancellor of the Melbourne University, founder and first president of the Public Library and the National Gallery. The first President of the Legislative Council was an Irishman, Sir James Palmer. The leading men in the medical profession, from the late Dr Richard Thomas Tacey to the renowned operator Thomas Naughten Fitzgerald, are Irish-born. Four of the five speakers of the Assembly are such, namely, the late Sir Francis Murphy, Sir Charles M'Mahon, Sir C. Gavan Duffy, and the late Mr Peter Lalor. Of Prime Ministers the names of the late Sir John O'Shanassy, Sir Gavan Duffy, and Sir Bryan O'Loughlin at once occur, as do that of the late Sir Robert Molesworth, who had no superior as an equity judge. Wilson Gray, the brother of Sir John Gray, became the founder and leader of the Liberal Party in Victoria, sat for Rodney in the Parliament of that colony, lives in history as the greatest of Australian land reformers, and died a judge in New Zealand. Mr R. D. Ireland, Q.C., also became a prominent Parliamentarian in Victoria, and was thrice Attorney-General, and died one of the leaders of the Australian Bar. The Hon Edward Butler became Attorney-General of New South Wales under Sir Henry Parkes; the Hon R. S. Anderson, Minister of Justice in Victoria; the Hon Michael O'Grady, Minister of Public Works; and Judges Bindon and Macoboy of the same colony. Victoria, in fact, has had two ex-Irish rebels as her Prime Ministers—Sir Charles Gavan Duffy and Sir Bryan O'Loughlin; and the latter, who organised and drilled a company of Clare insurgents in '48, is freely mentioned as the next Agent-General for Victoria in London. Sir Richard Dry became Premier of Tasmania; and only last year a memorial tablet to another great Irish-Australian—Bright Hon W. B. Dalley, P.C., Q.C.—was unveiled in St Paul's London. The eldest son of Sir C. Gavan Duffy, the Hon J. Gavan Duffy, is a Minister of the Crown; his second son is the leader of the County Court Bar; and the other two hold prominent positions in the Civil Service. Only a few months have passed since the death of Sir Francis Murphy, the first speaker of the Victorian Parliament; and the equally lamented demise of the Hon John Macrossan, who had held the position of Minister of Public Works, in Queensland, who left school at the age of sixteen in his native Donegal. As for Sir Francis Murphy, he sat in the Speaker's chair for fifteen successive years—the longest term on record in colonial annals. I don't know whether Mr E. G. Fitzgibbon would be complimented if I called him the Sir John Monckton of Melbourne, and the Vice-President of the New South Wales Executive is a gentleman with the Hibernian patronymic of Daniel O'Connor, a lineal descendant of Arthur O'Connor of the '98 Rebellion. The Lieutenant-Governor of the same colony, Sir Frederick Darley, is also one of our-