

the suppression and ruin of the business. The democratic Government of France favours an atheistic democracy only. All others, in their eyes, are unfit, not only to rule, but even to live.

## Scotch Notes.

ATTENTION has recently been drawn to the well of St Queran, which is situated near Dumfries, on the Maxwelltown side of the river Nith, and which, some years ago, was restored by the proprietor of the estate containing its site, from being a watering hole for cattle to the condition of a properly-kept well. Recently a clearing out of the well has brought to light, among the rubbish, several pieces of the copper coinage of the realm, and the proprietor, a Mr Dudgeon, who is also a devoted antiquarian, is curious as to how they got there. He relates that, on his first undertaking the restoration of the well, a silver coin of the reign of the English King Edward III., was found among its surroundings. The question that now disturbs him is as to whether the Catholics of the neighbourhood are in the habit of making offerings there—a probability that seems to him enhanced by the discovery among the coins of some medals of the Blessed Virgin. St Queran, as is stated on a board near the well, was a saint of the eighth century, and the water at the present day is believed by some people to be endowed with healing qualities.

As an illustration of the value of land in Scotland we may state the case of General Farquharson's estate of Bredar in the Donside district of Aberdeenshire, which has just been sold for the sum of £26,730. The estate consists of 2,000 acres, and yields a rental of £1,300. The price paid, therefore, does not seem exorbitant.

The Primrose League has delighted of late to honour certain of their Scotch dames. The post of difficulty, if not of danger, occupied by these ladies, no doubt, pointed them out as objects deserving of special recognition. The Grand Councillors have, therefore, awarded special service clasps to Miss Macmaster and Mesdames Sloan, Lambie, Archibald, and Gillies, of the Ballochmyle Habitation. The Honourable Order of the Grand Star has been awarded to Lady Strathallan, of the Auchterarder Habitation.

On the other hand, a branch of the Women's Liberal Association for the border counties has been inaugurated at Berwick. Lady Fanny Marjoribanks presided on the occasion, and Lady Aberdeen delivered an address. Her Ladyship said it was the people of Berwickshire who had first made her a politician. She added that the 70,000 or 80,000 women, who had banded themselves together since 1886, must do much towards promoting the victory of the Liberals. Lady Grey moved a vote of confidence in Mr Gladstone. Lord Aberdeen also addressed the meeting—condemning the Ulster conference as an Orange demonstration.

A lively scene recently took place in a church at Deeside, where a contest came off between rival precentors. The battle was fought by singing, either rival giving out a different psalm, and the congregation divided their vocal forces. The precentor who was finally outroared left the church amid a demonstration more stirring than pious, and that would have done honour to the "gods" in a theatre.

Great distress prevails in Shetland, where, owing to a failure of the fisheries on the West Coast, a large number of men are out of work. The failure seems principally due to an ill-judged and ill-managed exchange of the boats formerly in use for others not so suitable. The take of cod and ling this year falls short by £6000 of that of last year. The hope is that some energetic capitalists will step in and, in their own interests, provide the craft and other things necessary for amendment.

For some time the "sudden and awful appearances" of a mermaid off the coast of the parish of Deerness in Orkney, have occasioned wonder, and withal some dismay, among the unsophisticated inhabitants. The creature is said to be apparently easy to capture. So far, however, none have been found brave enough to risk interference with her. A curious gentleman in the South has now offered £200 for her person, dead or alive, and, consequently, preparations for a hazardous attempt have been taken in hand.

The town of Iverkeithing has been much moved by a manifestation of the dynamite fiend. An effort was made, the other day, from some motive not as yet revealed, to blow up a house there—the result being a good deal of noise and some damage to windows. There were no more serious effects, but the sensation caused was extreme.

The inauguration at Old Cumnock of a monument to a famous Covenanter known as Peden the Prophet, has been the occasion of

again bringing out Professor Blackie in full force. The Professor performed the ceremony and delivered an address in which he dealt hardly with the memory of the Stuarts. He said they had entered into an infamous conspiracy to crush all manhood and liberty in the country by turning Scotchmen into Englishmen. He further stigmatised them as a compound of foxes and tigers. Prelacy also came in for a few hard knocks from the learned speaker. The Rev Dr James Kerr of Glasgow, who was another of the speakers on the occasion, recommended that the stool of Janet Geddes, which, he said, was still preserved should be hurled at the head of Presbyterians who were the readers of prayer books. On the whole the memory of the prophetic Covenanter was honoured in tolerably strong language. But were he still in the flesh perhaps he would not feel the less flattered on that account.

The result of the General Election in Glasgow (says the *Observer* of July 9) is no gain to Home Rule. So far as the city counts, the Liberal army is still content with marking time. In the four divisions still held by Mr Gladstone's followers the majorities are either in substance the same as formerly, as in Bridgeton, or else largely increased as in College, Blackfriars, and St Rollox. In Camlachie and Tradeston our allies have made gifts of the seats to their enemies and ours. We have no title, perhaps, to offer a criticism on Liberal management, but we trust we will be pardoned for observing that the disasters of Tradeston and Camlachie, and especially the latter, were entirely preventible. If there existed in these, or in all British constituencies, a machinery equivalent to our National conventions at home the interests of our allies would be more securely safeguarded and Liberal energy consolidated to the direction of Liberal success. As matters stand the bestowal of the seats to the Tories was wholly gratuitous. The Tradeston Liberals have only themselves to thank for losing the division by the misdirection of some eighty votes. Their defeat is the reward of wanton and even contumacious procrastination. In Camlachie the defeat has to be accounted for in large measure by the misplaced tenderness of the party managers towards Mr Cunningham-Graham. The local leaders acted with promptitude and energy, but the party wirepullers displayed towards their deserter a deference or something softer that was both undeserved on his part and mischievous in its public effect.

The *Glasgow Observer* gives the following details relating to Catholic Schools in Scotland, as furnished by the Blue Book for the year ended September 30, 1891:—The number of Catholic schools has increased during the year by eight. There are now 174 schools in the country, of which number 166 were examined during the period mentioned above. These 174 schools are made up of 237 departments—27 boys', 25 girls', 43 infants', and 142 mixed schools. . . . A very high percentage of our schools earn the higher grant (1s 6d) for discipline. The excellent mark was given to schools with 35,550 in average attendance, or 88.12 per cent. of the whole. The shilling grant was only given to 11.88 per cent., or on an average of 4792 out of the whole school examined. In this the Catholic Schools show a higher return than Board Schools, where the percentage was 78.96 and 20.69 respectively. Only two schools were refused the grant for English. Five lost the geography grant, but the history was earned in the 85 schools taking it. One hundred and forty-four schools earned the higher grant for English, 140 for geography, and 65 for history. One hundred and six Catholic Schools teach three class subjects, 74 take two, and seven take one subject. Twenty-five departments earned the higher grant for sewing. The cookery grant of four shillings was paid for 604 girls, and 63 girls earned the lower grant. Of the three grants, "fair," "good," and "excellent" for the standard subjects, 7.84 per cent. of the number in average attendance received the lowest mark, 66.96 were marked "good," and 25.20 as "excellent." Above Standard III. the 3s 6d grant was paid on an average of 553 scholars, or 11.27 per cent., as compared with 13.63 in Board schools.

## Dublin Notes.

(From our Exchanges.)

THE tweed manufacturing industry is looking up since the manufacturers came to understand that the public wanted something besides old-fashioned designs and work. Very neat and artistic patterns have been introduced, and things are booming in the tweed factories at Birney, Athlone and Limerick. Some business in that line is done in Dublin, but it is of little account.

The army is making a grievous drain on Ireland. The reckless dash of military life has a charm for the average Irish youth, many of whom are lured to the service by the fact that most distinguished positions in the army have been filled by their own countrymen. The two most prominent officers on the active list to-day are General Sir Garnet Wolseley and General Sir Frederick Roberts. The former was a Dublin boy and the latter was born in Waterford.

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