

St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan is sending the Rev. Father Cullen of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society, London, across the Atlantic to continue in the New World the good work he has been doing in Great Britain. Father Cullen, by his energy and self-sacrifice, has won the esteem of all who know him, and he is sure to meet with a cordial reception from the Catholics of America, so many of whom are his fellow-countrymen. The Cardinal has entrusted him with an interesting document in which his Eminence says:—

'I warmly commend the Rev. Terence Joseph Cullen, a priest of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society, to all whose assistance he may need. While the small Catholic population of England generously maintains and educates a society of priests for the evangelisation of heathen countries, it is unable to support and develop the distant missionary fields to which these priests are sent. We are at present training in our Foreign Missionary Colleges over a hundred promising subjects, and are sending laborers in tens and twenties into the harvest every year. I make no appeal to Catholics in America or in other distant lands, to help us to carry on this work. Every church ought to contribute its contingent of apostolic men to evangelise the heathen. My appeal is rather on behalf of those pagan countries that are yet unable to help themselves.

'We have been charged by the Holy See with preaching the Gospel to the Maoris of New Zealand, to the Dyaks and head-hunters of Borneo, to the natives of Cashmere, Kafiristan, and the Punjab in Northern India, to the Tamil and Telugu races in the Madras Presidency, and to the natives of Uganda in Central Africa. We have sent out hundreds of missionaries full of zeal and self-sacrifice, but without those material resources that are essential in order to establish strong churches among the heathens. Wealth seems to lie rather in the hands of the English and American Protestant associations than in our own. We seek not resources equal to theirs, but we are bound to collect of the faithful alms in order to found our churches in the promising centres to which we are sent.

'I have, therefore, conceived the idea of inviting Catholics in countries that have not yet founded their own Foreign Missionary Colleges to co-operate with us by giving alms to plant the Church in heathen countries. By so doing, they will assuredly take a substantial part in the apostolic work which the Church is bound to carry out among the unevangelised races, and they will receive the blessing of those whom they have saved from perishing and of their Heavenly Father.

'I commend Father Cullen to my colleagues in the episcopate, to the clergy and to the laity. I ask the archbishops and bishops whom he may approach to give him their blessing, with liberty to make known the crying necessities of the races that depend upon our zeal for enlightenment and salvation.'

The Irish Banks.

It is somewhat remarkable (says the London *Financial News* of July 28) that three out of the five Irish banks which make up their half-yearly accounts on June 30 show increased profits when compared with the corresponding period of last year; while in the case of the other two a material decline is noticeable. The three banks whose earnings, under generally adverse banking conditions, show such a welcome expansion—the Hibernian, Munster and Leinster, and National Banks—are, perhaps, more intimately connected with the agricultural life of Ireland than any of the other competing institutions; and their present record of steady prosperity forms an excellent answer to the loose and exaggerated statements which have recently been made by interested persons in regard to the alleged decay of Irish enterprise and industry.

The banks referred to have always been regarded as more especially the banks of the people, and we welcome the all-round expansion in their returns as indicating in part the growth of thrifty habits amongst the masses and the general levelling up of the standard of comfort amongst the small farmers and shopkeepers who form an important section of the population of the Sister Isle. One of the banks named—the National Bank—possesses a large London connection, having some 13 branches within the metropolitan area; but its stronghold lies in Ireland, and in the present instance it is fairly certain that the earnings of the branches of the bank of Ireland during the past half-year are mainly responsible for the satisfactory statement which the directors have been enabled to place before the shareholders.

We have on former occasions referred to the advisability, both from an economic and social point of view, of employing more Irish money in Ireland, instead of remitting it to London to earn small returns on an already well supplied market, and it is only necessary to point to the substantial profits earned by the banks, whose policy it avowedly is to employ as much as they can of their resources in developing the trade and industry of their own country, to emphasise the value of the principle which we have advocated.

Passing on to analyse the returns of the five Irish banks referred to, and turning first to the balances due to customers on current and deposit accounts, we find that while the Munster and Leinster Bank and the Hibernian Bank show a gain when compared with the figures at June 30, 1901, the Bank of Ireland and the Provincial Bank exhibit corresponding decreases. The Bank of Ireland has suffered most in this respect, and it is noteworthy that for some years past there has been a steady declension in the deposits of this institution.

The net profits of the banks for the past two years are compared thus:—

	1901	1902
Bank of Ireland	£166,418	£159,914
National Bank	93,235	95,769
Hibernian Bank	23,850	25,178
Munster and Leinster Bank	17,886	17,981

Police Methods in Ireland.

WHAT chiefly occupies attention at present in Ireland (says the *Manchester Guardian*) is the Sheridan incident, and the disclosures, familiar enough to Irishmen, with regard to police evidence in agrarian and political cases. Of course, it is not to be thought that Sergeant Sheridan is a typical instance of the Irish Constabulary officer. On the contrary, of the 12,000 men composing the constabulary force it may, with perfect certainty, be said that over 90 per cent. are men whose character and conduct are beyond reproach. But the evil of the matter lies in the fact that any ambitious young man desiring promotion knows well that he must in some way make himself conspicuous as the discoverer of crime, which in Ireland mostly means agrarian and political crime, and the temptation is very great to such a man to invent crime when it does not exist. As a rule this takes a form very much less glaring than that imputed to Sergeant Sheridan. Sham threatening letters, sham attempts to set fire to dwelling-houses, and, generally speaking, appearances of crime without any actual injury, are the usual resort for active and enterprising young constables. It is no small tribute to the force as a body that the number of black sheep should prove to be so few.

But the fewness of the number is more than counterbalanced by the blackness of the record. Three names in particular stand out in the Irish mind as instances of the infamy which the present administration engenders. The first is the case of Head Constable Talbot, who, with the knowledge of his superiors, went not to detect but to create crime in the county of Tipperary, and who, in furtherance of this scheme, attended Catholic worship, although he was and remained through life a Protestant, and actually partook of the Eucharist, which to him was of course a mere mummery, but to Catholics was an unspeakable sacrilege. This unhappy man, having led scores of young men astray, swearing them in as members of a secret organisation and then betraying them, was assassinated in Dublin by the brother of one of his dupes. Next in succession came Head Constable Whelehan, who actually incited to midnight outrage and lured, in concert with a paid informer, a number of men to make an attempt on a farmer's house, while he lay in ambush to take them red-handed in the act. But on him, as on Talbot, his own crimes recoiled, for in the endeavor to arrest the gang he was struck down and killed. Now in both these cases, wicked as they were, the victims of both Talbot and Whelehan were undoubtedly criminals, although they had been lured into crime by Talbot and Whelehan themselves. But the case of Sheridan is infinitely worse. Stated barely, the facts were that he, holding the rank of sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, in complicity with four or five men under his command, committed grave crimes; and then, again, in complicity with his subordinates, falsely accused innocent men and brought about their conviction by perjury. All this time he was rewarded for zeal, and was supplied with funds to purchase imaginary information.

Such a state of things comes as an appalling revelation to the English public, but we venture to think that there is scarcely a grown man in Ireland to whom the revelation has given the slightest shock, and, of course, no one believes or hopes that English indignation will last one week or lead to the most fractional change in the evil system. The rumor runs in Ireland—and who can wonder at it?—that the Government dare not prosecute, as prosecution would entail an exposure so wide and deep as to appal the public mind. Something must have deterred Mr Wyndham, starting as he did with the intention of probing the matter to the bottom, and suddenly stopping short in this mysterious way. It is a grave responsibility for Mr Wyndham to take; and it is the exercise in its worst form of the dispensing power, and not in aid of tender consciences, but of official wickedness.

The Church In America.

THE entire population of the United States, says Salvatore Cortesi, in the *New York Independent*, which in 1790 was 3,929,214, has become nineteen times as much to-day, but the Catholics have multiplied 300 times, as, while they were then one-ninetieth part of the people, they have now risen to somewhat less than one-fifth.

The largest centre of the Roman Catholic Church in America is the archdiocese of New York, with an estimated Catholic population of 1,200,000—that is to say, nearly one-tenth of all the Catholics in the United States—while its numbers surpass those of all the most crowded centres of Italy, including Rome, Naples, or Milan, and only the principal archdioceses in Europe, such as Cologne, with 2,528,000 people, and Vienna, with 1,900,000, go beyond it.

So the United States, with the addition of the 6,500,000 Catholics in the Philippines, 1,000,000 in Porto Rico, Guam, and Hawaii has among her inhabitants over 20,000,000 Catholics, without taking into consideration the 1,800,000 who are in Cuba. Therefore, she represents the fourth Catholic power in the world as regards population, and the first as regards the amount of money she provides for the head of the Church.