

The "gentleman organgrinder," who gave his name to a police-officer in Dublin as John Kiernan, arrived at Balbriggan, on Jan. 26, and plied his vocation through the town. He was well-known as the owner of some property in the neighborhood of Nobber, county Meath; and it is stated that he had undertaken to play his organ in every town in Ireland within twelve months, and put up at the hotels living on the earnings of his organ. That day ended the twelve months, and, it is stated, that he had deposited his donkey, cart, and organ with an auctioneer of that town to be disposed of, and departed for Dublin by the evening train.

A lecture was delivered by the distinguished Dominican Friar and orator, Father Burke, at the pro-Cathedral of St. Nicholas, in Galway, on the evening of the 5th of February. The doors were opened at seven o'clock, and for hours previously the street was blocked with persons already waiting to gain admittance. At the hour prescribed for the commencement of the lecture, the church was crowded to excess—in fact, there was scarcely breathing room. The subject—"Temporal Power of the Pope"—was one which afforded full scope for the oratorical power of the lecturer, and certainly it met with justice at his hands. Well might he feel proud of it, as stated by the Bishop, and well might the walls of old Galway ring with pride.

When the announcement was made that Messrs Butt and O'Shaughnessy, Home Rulers, had been elected for the city of Limerick, the city was in a state of wild excitement all the evening. Tar barrels were lighted in every direction; a display of fireworks was improvised, and an immense procession was formed in Bank Place and the adjoining Malls. Every band in the city and every flag and banner that could be had were brought into requisition, while some three or four hundred young men bore torchlights in their hands, which added considerably to the brilliancy of the effect. The procession moved from Bank Place at 8 o'clock. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

On Saturday, February 21st, Sir Robert Stewart, Mus. Doc., gave one of his series of lectures on music in the Examination Hall, Trinity College, Dublin. The subject was "The Life and Writings of Handel." The lecture was admirably illustrated by vocal and instrumental selections from Handel's works by Sir Robert and several accomplished amateurs. "The name of Handel," remarks the 'Orchestra,' has a peculiar interest for all lovers of music who are citizens of Dublin, as it was there his great genius was first fully recognised." Sir Robert, in the course of his lecture, remarked that England was not a musical country, giving as evidence of this that she had no national opera which kept the stage, unless the works of Balfe and Wallace (two Irishmen) could be so considered. "What," asks the 'Orchestra,' "imparts the present mania for 'The School for Scandal'?" Has not London been surfeited of late with Sheridan's master-piece? Is there no satiety in the fare, *toujours perdrix*? This play has run some 400 nights at the Vaudeville; it has run at the Haymarket; it has been played off and on at half a dozen theatres: now it is to be done at the Gaiety, and the Prince of Wales' company are going in for an elaborate mounting of it!"

The population of Queen's County, when the last census was taken, amounted to 79,771, of whom 70,188 are Catholics. The number of magistrates in the same county is 89; of these only 11 are Catholics, five of whom are non-resident and six resident. So that the Catholics, who form the great bulk of the population, have only six magistrates to represent them out of 89. Insane, indeed, must the nation or the statesman be who can expect political contentment or genuine loyalty in a country where such a state of things is allowed to exist for any length of time.

#### GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

RECENTLY the Roman railway station was discovered to be on fire. It broke out in the carpenter's workshop and close to a place where eight butts of petroleum and four large vessels of turpentine were stored. The roof of the workshop was destroyed. By the exertions of the firemen and soldiers, the progress of the flames was arrested, and all danger was over in an hour or two.

The name of the distinguished astronomer, Secchi, the Jesuit, has been removed from the rolls of the Academy de' Lincei, which holds its meetings at the Capitol. He was a member of that Society for twenty-five years, and during that period contributed to it more than fifty scientific papers. He was entitled after twenty-five years membership, to an annual pension of 300 lire, but instead of a pension has now received his dismissal. The pretext for this step was the absence of Father Secchi from the meetings of the Lincei, an absence, however, which was involuntary and occasioned by circumstances over which the learned Jesuit had no control.

A writer in the Imperialist, M. Leonce Dupont, published the other day a work in which he supports the claims of the young "Napoleon IV.," and by way of epigraph to his book, he quotes words which he attributes to Monsieur Pie, Bishop of Poitiers, whom he makes to say from the pulpit, that Providence was reserving to the godson of Pius IX.—the son of Napoleon III.—the duty of regenerating France. It is right to add that the Bishop of Poitiers has denied having made use of these expressions.

Mr W. Lowery Buckley, of Middlebury, Vt., thinks it may be instructive to the public, and even possibly to some grumblers against our Civil List, to peruse the following striking extract from the German Daheim Kalender for 1871, p. 147:—"The Emperor of Russia receives 8,250,000 thalers; the Sultan of Turkey, 6,000,000 thalers; the Emperor of Austria, 5,500,000 thalers; the Emperor of Germany (as King of Prussia), 1,500,000 thalers; the King of Italy, 2,500,000 thalers; the Queen of England, 2,500,000 thalers. In proportion to the national income of these countries the Queen of England receives the lowest Civil List—namely, 7-10ths per cent, the Sultan receiving the highest, 11 per cent.

Twelve of the English survivors of the Vi ginius have been sent home by the British Consul at New York.

Lord George Mansfield, M. P., brother of the Duke of Rutland, has taken his laborers into farming partnership, and divides with them about 470, first profits.

#### BAYARD TAYLOR ON ROME, UNDER PIUS IX.

BAYARD TAYLOR, the great traveller, who has written so many books about the countries he has visited, a good many years ago published the following in regard to Rome, as it was under Pope Pius IX. The contrast between Rome under the Pope, and Rome under Victor Emmanuel, is wonderful indeed. Bayard Taylor said:

"I have read, during the past week, in various papers, that the Papal States are the worst governed in Europe. I have read it often. The precise nature and extent of this despotism I am a little in the dark about. Our generous enlighteners, the editors, do not condescend to come down to the particulars. Still a plain man may be permitted to ask a few questions. In what does this despotism of the Papal Government consist?"

"Is it that clergymen hold office? For many years there has been a smaller proportion of clergymen holding office in the Roman States than in some of the States of this Union, and their salaries have been in a still smaller proportion to those of secular officers. Is it in the expense of the government? It is one of the most economical in Europe. The salaries of the higher officers of State do not exceed \$3,000 a year; and the whole civil list cost about \$60,000.

"Are the people ground down with taxes? The taxes in Rome are far less than in England, France, or New York. Are they deprived of the benefits of education? The Papal States with a population of less than 3,000,000, have seven universities; and the city of Rome has more free public schools than New York in proportion to her population, and what is still better, a larger proportion of children attend them.

"Perhaps the poor are uncared for, and their sufferings treated with neglect? There are more and free hospitals for the sick, the poor and aged, the suffering of every class, in Rome, in proportion to the population, than in any other city in the world. It is not asked in Rome what is a man's country or creed. Perhaps the bad Government has reduced the people to pauperism? Holland, France, and other free and enlightened countries, have from three to ten times as much pauperism in proportion to the population. Where, then, is the horrible despotism? The Government is an elective monarchy. It has a liberal constitution, light taxation, very little pauperism, an economical administration, a cheap or free education for all classes, and abundant institutions of charity for the needy and suffering. I venture to assert that the single city of New York pays more taxes, is more plundered by dishonest officials, supports more paupers, has more uneducated children, tolerates more vice and drunkenness, rowdiness, &c., and suffers from more crime, year by year, than the whole (nearly 3,000,000) of the people of the States of the Church."

#### ECCLESIASTICAL NEWS.

MISS ROSA SANDS, daughter of Rear-Admiral Sands, United States Navy, now in charge of the Naval Observatory at Washington, on January 30 received the white veil of the Nuns of the Order of the Visitation, at Mount de Sales Convent, Baltimore county. A very large assemblage witnessed the ceremony.

The German-speaking residents of Chicago number nearly or quite one hundred thousand. Of these the Catholics claim forty-five thousand, for religious accommodation of which there are provided eight church edifices and thirty priests. Fifty-five are found in the several Protestant sects and societies, for over one-half of which no church buildings are provided.

Consecration of the Republic of Ecuador to the Sacred Heart.—President Moreno, by a decree, consecrates the Republic of Ecuador to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, fixes a certain day of the year as a holiday in honor of this consecration, and adds that in all the churches of the Republic the remembrance shall be perpetuated by means of an inscription in letters of gold.

The Synod of the French Protestant Church has just declared that "those persons who do not recognise its doctrines, morally cease, by that fact, to form part of the Church." How very convenient and natural appears excommunication by a sect or secret society, and how extremely reprehensible by the Catholic Church!

A Russian prince named William Radzivil has become a Catholic. In Russia all converts to Catholicity forfeit their property and lose all prospects of favors from the Government.

The Catholic Church is growing apace in the Southern States. In the little town of Meridian, Miss., there were not twenty Catholics seven years ago; now there are over two hundred, having a very neat church, with a bell of 1,000 pounds.

There are now in the City of Boston twenty-seven Catholic churches and about a dozen chapels. Six congregations are building new churches. This showing is not surpassed by any Catholic population in the Union. There are also in Boston and vicinity about sixteen Catholic schools and educational institutions, with a half-dozen more in prospect. In the diocese there are now represented six religious orders of men, and eight of women.

Sister Mary Frances Clare Holy, Presentation Convent, Kilkenny, died on Christmas Eve, at the advanced age of 85. She had entered her solemn profession 51 years since, and during almost all that period she had devoted herself to the education of the poorer children of her native city, Kilkenny.

On the 10th February, the ceremony of the profession of a young nun took place at the Convent of Mercy, at Ennis. The Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare, the Right Rev Dr Ryan, presided. The name of the lady was Miss Isabella Magrath, in religion Sister Mary Aloysius, second daughter of J. F. Magrath, Esq., Solicitor, Nenagh. There was a large number of the priests of Clare and Tipperary present.

The Company of Jesus has now ten canonized saints and one hundred and two beatified.

Viscount St. Asaph, the eldest son of the Earl of Ashburnham, has become a convert to the Catholic Church. His Lordship is in his 35th year, and is deputy-lieutenant of the County of Brecon.