

to face with the Lord Chief Justice, and had the result of putting an end to the system till then prevailing, under which, in the words of Benjamin Victor, stage manager, "every person who had a sword was sure to draw it on the stage-door keeper, if he denied him entrance;" and, as the elder Sheridan tells us, "every strippling, by an acquaintance with the actors, by a bribe of a shilling, or by virtue of a big look and an oak sapling, could get admission behind the scenes, and be immediately initiated into the mysteries of Mars and Venus.

Once, under Mossop's sceptre, Smock Alley went as high as "King Lear," and once, in Sheridan's managerial day, it fell as low as dancing dogs! A few yards around the corner stood the theatre of Fishamble Street, and this too had its ups and downs; for in the spring of its youth it brought Handel's "Messiah" to light, and in its worn old age, when its fortunes were controlled by "Frederick Freebryne, Esquire—by friends and patrons entitled Mickey Free—a shilling fee gave one not only a seat in the best part of the house, but also the right of admission to the casino, where the gods and goddesses of Mr. Freebryne's temple deigned to speak and even drink with mortals.

Coming up Smock Alley; crossing over Parliament Street; pursuing our way by Essex Street through a quarter once devoted to taverns, printing-offices, lampoons, epigrams, and the public papers; entering Temple Bar, a street called after that worthy Englishman, the ancestor of Lord Palmerston, who told such lies against the Irish in his "History of Ireland," that even the British Government were ashamed of it; passing the corner where a fruit stall was kept by Peg Woffington's mother, and taking a turn or two, we come upon Crow Street, a place famous in many ways, last century the chosen home of assemblies, ridottos, and subscription balls for the pink of fashion in Dublin, and the scene until 1820 of the theatre which bore its name. Opened in 1758 by the notable Spranger Barry, once a silversmith in Skinner's Row, and abandoned at its grand climacteric to the sale of hats and the accumulation of rubbish, this Crow Street theatre is allied with mighty names. It had its triumphs and failures, its tides of fortune, its splendors, and its squalors, its wanton riots, at one time organised by Magee, of the "Evening Post," at another by O'Connor, a rope-maker in Pill Lane, the owner of Dragon, a Newfoundland dog, who played in the "Forest of Rondy." Besides the most famous of these dramatic lights who appeared in later times at Smock Alley, the boards of Crow Street boasted Sam Foote, Dexter, Mrs. Fitzhenry, Catalani, Michael Arne (the composer), Robert Owenon (Lady Morgan's father), Cheny, Cooke, Miss Farrer, Edmund Kean, and the surpassing Miss O'Neill. No personal episodes more romantic than those of Miss Woffington and Miss O'Neill can be found in the annals of any stage in the world.

CONDITIONS OF CONVICT LIFE.

A RECENTLY published pamphlet by Mr. Bayne Ranken on "Prisons and Prisoners" gives the conditions necessary to be observed by convicts in order to become entitled to gratuities and tickets-of-leave on discharge from prison. During his term of imprisonment every prisoner must pass through three classes before reaching the highest. In the probation class he remains for one year, nine months of which are passed in solitary confinement. Then he has to remain one year in the third class, and a similar period in the second, after which he becomes eligible for admission into the convict's paradise—the first-class. But unless he obtains a certain number of marks in each class his upward progress is delayed. In the probation class he must earn 720 marks before being set free from that purgatory, while 2920 marks are necessary at each of the next two steps. In fact, the system is one of promotion by purchase, convicts being able to insure advancement from one grade to another, by accumulating marks instead of pounds sterling. But other advantages besides promotion result from good conduct. Every 20 marks earned in the third-class entitle their possessor to receive 1d. on his final discharge from prison, while the rates in the second and first classes are 1½d. and 2½d. respectively. Thus convicts who pass through the third and second classes within the prescribed period become entitled to receive 30s. on discharge, in addition to what they may afterwards earn in the first-class. Also, if special circumstances render it advisable, they are recommended, on discharge, to an extra gratuity not exceeding £3, so that if industrious and well-conducted they would never have less than £3 or more than £4 to receive. In return for this outlay and cost of the convicts' board and lodging the State gets the profit resulting from their labor. In some cases this not only covers the whole cost, but leaves a handsome balance. Thus convicts earning on certain public works carried out in 1871 amounted to £140,745, or £17,795 in excess of expenses, including sums set aside for gratuities on discharge. Regarding the work performed by female prisoners, Mrs. Gibson, the lady superintendent at Woking, mentions a circumstance that may lead to new fields of industry being found for women convicts. An opportunity having occurred of employing a few of her pupils on fine work for the international Exhibition, they succeeded in producing some mosaic tiles that showed considerable artistic talent and good taste. These have been largely employed in the South Kensington Museum, and a pavement of the same material is now being constructed to surround the tombs of Nelson and Wellington in St. Paul's.—Dublin Freeman.

The portrait in oil, representing his Holiness in the early days of his pontificate which formerly hung above the great statue of St. Peter in the mighty basilica of that saint in Rome has been recently replaced by a magnificent mosaic portrait of him as he looks at present. This mosaic has taken three years to finish and is said to be one of the finest ever executed.

Slavery has been abolished in Ashantee.

BISHOP REDWOOD'S VISIT TO REEFTOWN.

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP REDWOOD arrived at Reefton from Ahaura yesterday evening in Messrs. Gilmer Brothers' coach. A number of gentlemen proceeded to Squarstown where they met his Lordship, and then escorted him to Reefton, where he was met by a numerous procession with banners. Heavy rain was falling, which interfered with the effect. The procession proceeded to the chapel where His Lordship alighted, and amid the cheers of those assembled passed into the building where he was received by the Rev. Father Cummins. Mr. Patrick Brennan, as President of the Hibernian Society, presented His Lordship with an address of welcome, who after briefly thanking Mr. Brennan expressed his intention to reply to it from the altar. His Lordship, with crozier in hand, and enrobed in the vestments of his holy office proceeded to the altar where the subjoined address was read and presented to him by the Rev. Father Cummins. The chapel was tastefully adorned, but it being Lent the devotional paintings were veiled. We noticed one veil of beautiful design and workmanship, a gift to Father Cummins from Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk. There were numerous handsome banners in the procession, used for the first time on the occasion. The Sacred Heart, which is the parochial banner, the banner bearing His Lordship's coat of arms, consisting of a red cross, with the motto *Arbor decora ornata regis purpura*, a third with a pelican feeding her young with her heart's blood symbolical of our Saviour, with the scriptural text "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not." A fourth and fifth banners were in honor of St. Joseph and St. Mary, besides others.

ADDRESS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE OF REEFTON, TO THE MOST REVEREND DR. REDWOOD, BISHOP OF WELLINGTON.

MY LORD—We, the Pastor and People of Reefton, having already unanimously hailed the first dawning of that auspicious day which brought your Lordship to this orphan diocese, and having already on that occasion conveyed with electric speed our greetings and best welcome, deem it our duty to come forward to-day in a more special and ostensible manner to give you, as the Irish have it, "a hundred thousand welcomes," or a genuine *Cead Mille Failthe*, to our district.

We avail ourselves also of the opportunity which your presence affords us of testifying our esteem for your sacred character, our affection and devotedness towards you as our Bishop, and our warm appreciation of the exalted virtues which those who know you better believe you already possessed of. May you equal, and far surpass their best imaginings and most glorious anticipations. In days of rationalism, despotism, and incredulity like ours, when might assumes the place of right, when corrupt literature penetrates through every vein, when Godless systems of education endanger our children, and strive to pervert our youth, at such a crisis in the history of God's Church, My Lord, it is a source of sincere gratification to us to learn that now, at least, we have a young and gifted Bishop, possessed of that energy of mind and body, so necessary for the efficient discharge of the sacred functions of the ruling of his high office. How ardently have we looked forward to your coming, what fervent vows were poured forth at the foot of Mary's Throne, that she might send us a prudent, just, determined, and gifted Bishop, and Mary is never invoked in vain.

Was it not the Immaculate Mother who watched over Your Lordship when the hidden designs of Providence carried you back, like our own loved Patrick to the far off shores of France? Was it not Mary, or her vanguard, that served as the guiding star, the burning bush, through which, as another Moses, you received the solemn call and mission. In fine, was it not Mary—Blessed Mary—who called you to that society she loves so much, where she watched over the delicate years of your boyhood, and from whence she now conducts you to this vast, and not uninteresting portion of Her son's vineyard. Hail! then, privileged son of Mary; hail! Champion of the Sacred Heart's Devotion! Hail and welcome thou chosen one of the Lord, a great field for zeal lies open before you; hundreds of souls long lapsed into indifference await your paternal call, and the name of the Good Shepherd here beckons you on.

And now, very dear Prelate and Father, (we love to call you by that name, for it brings back one who was to us a father, indeed—the saintly Bishop Viard, your much loved predecessor), our very dear Prelate and father, permit us to add that while we listened with increasing satisfaction to all good accounts given us of you, your mildness, your goodness, your zeal and ability, we have not remained insensible to the many toils—the almost insurmountable difficulties that await your Lordship here. Would that it were ours to lighten or immediately remove them; but, alas! what can we in this new district—crippled in its infancy—and now but crawling on for want of help and sustenance. Ah! it is not ours at present to bear any balm to our Father's heart (save that of first efforts in God's service), but we may do so later. We cannot come forward with temporal gifts, for at present we much want them; we can only supply by prayer, and this we daily offer for your Lordship.

We terminate in recalling to mind the voyage of your Lordship to the eternal city, your visit to our saintly Pontiff Pope Pius IX., and the impressions at that centre of light and unity. Our feelings in his regard, and with reference to his sufferings, are but the echo of the Catholic world. His trials are our trials; he is our Father, the Church is our dear mother.

We wish your Lordship every blessing, and recommending ourselves to your prayers, we ask your Paternal Benediction.

Signed for the Clergy and people,

REV. FATHER CUMMINS, S.M.

PATRICK BRENNAN,

Secretary of Catholic Committee.

His Lordship, in replying to the addresses, stated that he was indeed proud of the enthusiastic reception accorded to him, and he could readily believe that the gathering would have been more numerous but for the inclemency of the weather. He was partly prepared for the character of the reception, knowing that those whom he was