

A HORRIBLE STORY.

THE tavern of the "Golden Omelette" is situated close under the fortification walls of the city of Radna. Its proprietor, Trouilleuson, is a man of gigantic stature, an old soldier of the Austrian army, who was blinded by the explosion of a cannon while firing a salute from the forts at Trieste. Returning to his native city with his mistress, a fine-looking Russian woman of the Volga, he started the house of call for beggars, which he, up to a few weeks ago, directed and made money of. The house is a long, low, rambling structure—a nondescript of brick, stone, and wood—and when descended on by the police served as shelter for nearly two hundred men, women, and children, all of whom, with the exception of about a dozen, were professional beggars. Upon the arrest of its host, he was discovered to be worth, in money deposited in the Imperial Bank, over \$130,000 dollars—an enormous fortune for the country in which he lived. How this money was obtained was the crowning horror of the entire affair. Antoine Cherguille, nicknamed "The Player," is the brother of Trouilleuson's mistress. Among the frequenters of the "Golden Omelette" he is called the "opérateur." He is a man of over fifty, and for the last thirty years of his life has been engaged in the business of manufacturing cripples. From the evidence given at the trial, which is likely to send him to the guillotine, his method of procedure is as follows:—The members of a gang of kidnappers, organised by his sister and her sightless paramour, have for the last twenty years been engaged in stealing children from the various cities of the Empire. The unfortunate little ones were brought to the head-quarters at Radna, where they passed into the merciless hands of the "opérateur." He took charge of them in a separate section of the inn, where, assisted by a couple of surgeons, whose vices had reduced them to his own level, and by his own knowledge of anatomy—for he had studied the art itself in his youth—he evolved the terribly-crippled spectacles who have so long pestered the pilgrims of St. Nepomuck. At the time of his arrest three children, in various stages of convalescence from mutilation, were found on the filthy cots of this demoniac hospital. One of them, a pretty girl of five, had her right hand amputated. The other two, both boys, had lost their hands and feet respectively. In a pit under the floor, in one corner of the torture-chamber, were found the putrifying remnants of a dozen human members, buried in a compost of chloride of lime and quick lime. Cherguille manifested no emotion upon his arrest, but utterly refused to render any information, and has been obstinately silent since. At the time the arrest was made the business of the infamous den was in full blast. In the long common room a hundred miserable wrecks of humanity, armless, legless, handless, footless, blind, and awfully disfigured, congregated about long tables. The smoke of their pipes veiled the scene, the reek of their foul meat tainted the air, and the clattering of their crutches, the curses, shrieks, and loud conversation all about deafened the ordinary ear. Upon the entrance of the detectives they merely looked up, and noting the artfully disguised figures, took them for strange beggars, and continued their orgies without honoring them with any further attention. The house had been surrounded with a double cordon of police, and at an appointed signal the descent was made. The result was that all the frequenters of the place were seized, with one exception. This, singularly enough, was a man without legs who managed to conceal himself in the cellar, and eventually made his escape. The prisoners were at once loaded into a special train and conveyed to Vienna. There the promise of pardon induced a number of them to a series of confessions. The art of crippling children was, it seems, not the only one practised by the "opérateur." More than one poor innocent had been wilfully blinded by the atrocious torturer, and at the trial three such victims of his infamous business were produced. The money gained by these children was divided between Cherguille and his sister and her paramour. The unfortunate little ones were closely watched, and no avenue of escape left open to them. That the circumstances of the case were not altogether unknown to the authorities at Radna is patent from the fact that the Mayor and two other officials have been arrested for accepting bribes to hush the matter up.—"Pilot."

IRELAND IN ENGLAND.

IRELAND is now proved to extend politically far beyond the geographical limits of the "Emerald Isle." The Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea are no longer the waters by which (as the school books say) "Ireland is bounded." There is not only an Ireland at home, but an Ireland beyond the Atlantic, strong and growing into still greater strength, and whose vote is counted as a thing of great political importance. The poor down-trodden victims of many a heartless eviction, who fled from a land which (though their native soil) was to them no longer a home, have grown up beyond the broad waters into a new nation. In other parts of the world the same wondrous change has taken place. Go to Australia, and an Irish nation will be found there, led on by such men as Duffy and others, who have brought to that distant colony great talent, devoted love for Ireland and indomitable energy. Many other lands can tell the same tale. In fact, the Irishman may say with perfect truth, in the words of Virgil:—

Quæ regio in terris, nostri non plena laboris.

But it is only now that it is discovered that there is also an Ireland in England. Long has it been known, and admitted even by England, that Ireland gave to that country many of its greatest citizens. The magnificent eloquence of Burke, the brilliant powers of Sheridan, whose unmatched oratory acted like a spell upon the Senate, and whose wit blazed like a meteor even in the hostile atmosphere of London; the sweet poems of Goldsmith, whose immortal lines glow with fresh beauty as often as they are read. All these and many others are owned to have been really great. Eng-

land has also admitted the glories of the chisel of Foley, and the pencil of Maclise; while even the most aristocratic drawing-rooms have echoed to the glorious lyrics of Moore. But, after all, this did not realise the real importance of the "Irish in England!" That has now been brought distinctly to the front.

Nothing has ever occurred till now which proves that there is in Great Britain a strong body which may almost be called an Irish nation. This body cannot be less in number than two millions, and, as the Irish in Great Britain are no longer mere "hewers of wood and drawers of water," their political power is beginning to be felt. The municipal elections which have recently taken place in the large towns of England indicate plainly, and beyond all controversy that Ireland's national cause will no longer be without friends (and strong friends too) in the English corporations. In fourteen towns men have been returned who are pledged to support the just demand of Ireland for Home Rule. In Liverpool Dr. Cummins, an Irishman, and an eminent member of the English bar, and long president of the English Home Rule Confederation, was returned in preference to another candidate who was not in favor of Home Rule. In another ward in the same city Dr. Bligh, a Home Ruler, was returned, and in some other cases the candidates won over the Irish vote by a declaration in favor of Home Rule. We might write similarly of many other places, but there is no necessity for entering into local details. It is therefore not without good cause that the Executive Committee of the Home Rule Confederation has passed a resolution congratulating the Irish in England on these triumphs of the good cause. There is no doubt that a vast amount of good will be done both to England and to Ireland by events which have shown that there is an awakening in this country of a spirit of fairplay to Ireland, and that national prejudice is at last giving place to a sense of justice.

On one point, however, we continue to hold firmly to the opinion we have often put forward, namely, that the sacred principles of denominational education are never to be sacrificed to any political questions. Protect the religious education of the people, and next after that boldly guard their political rights. That is our unshaken creed.—"Universe."

GENERAL NEWS.

The Sacred College of Cardinals is composed, in great degree, of Prelates far advanced in years. It is to be expected, therefore, that death should make frequent inroads upon their number. A submarine cable dispatch, on the 1st of December, reported the decease of his Eminence Cardinal Patrizi. He studied for the sacred office of the priesthood, and after a brilliant collegiate career, was ordained. His promotion in the Church was rapid. He was created a Cardinal on the 11th of July, 1836. Subsequently he became Dean of the Sacred College, and also held the titles of Arch-Bishop of Ostia and Velletri, Archpriest of the Basilica of St. John of Lateran, and Grand Prior of the Order of Malta. He was highly esteemed for his zeal, learning, ability, and devotion. His Holiness Pius IX. was warmly attached to him, and his decease is the subject of great sorrow and grief.

The Right Hon. James Whiteside, whose death is announced, was a distinguished Irish orator. He was called to the Bar in 1830, and rose rapidly in his profession. He was counsel for the defence of O'Connell in 1843, on which occasion he delivered a powerful oration. He also defended Smith O'Brien and his fellow-prisoners in 1848, and acquired great popularity in Ireland, in 1862, as the successful advocate of Teresa Longworth in the trial to establish the validity of her marriage with Major Yelverton. Mr. Whiteside was a strong Conservative, and held important official positions, attaining in 1865 the Chief Justiceship of the Queen's Bench in Ireland. He was author of three historic works concerning Italy.

We are glad to learn that a new Catholic Calendar is about to be published in Paris. All calendars hitherto have shown themselves indifferent to Catholicity; but the new one is to indicate throughout the year with precision the "decrees of councils, the causes of schisms, the spoliation of the Church, the glorious interventions of the Popes in all the great facts of history, the Crusades and their results, etc." Almanacs and calendars, both in France and Italy, have been made of late great instruments for the spread of opinions, both political and religious, hostile to Christian society. But now, so old and celebrated a firm as Firmin-Didot thinks it worth their while to bring out for the new year a splendid quarto volume of 600 pages, at a price of 25 and 30 francs, embellished with fourteen chromo-lithographic and two hundred ordinary engravings, "of the highest character of Christian art," entitled, "La Sainte Vierge," and edited by the Canon of Poitiers.

The receipts of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for the year 1875, amounted to \$1,119,493. Of this sum \$193,410 were spent on the missions in Europe; \$587,252 on those in Asia; 141,077 on those in Africa; \$161,788 on those in America; \$106,639 on those in Australia, and \$71,843 on various items.

In France the schools that are under the care of the Christian Brothers, have attained a wonderful superiority over secular schools. At a recent examination in Paris for places in superior schools, the pupils out of the Christian Brothers' schools won forty-six out of the fifty places, leaving only four open to the pupils of the secular schools.

Lectures on Scientific Theology are being opened in Belgium. At Tournai, Bruges, and Ghent regular conferences are about to be given to laymen by learned divines, specially authorised for that purpose by the bishops of the dioceses. The "Bien Public," in announcing this movement, says "that there cannot be a greater mistake than to suppose that theological knowledge is the exclusive property of the clergy, and that in these days of conflict it is especially desirable that the laity should understand theological questions."