

soprano (taken by Miss Smith), and passes into a trio with the tenor, forming, on the whole, one of the finest movements in the majestic hymn. The chorus also in which the concluding Amen is given is most deserving of praise. The "Credo," which musical connoisseurs would probably pronounce the best of the three parts of the Mass in question, opens with a full chorus in unison, the orchestral accompaniment being very fine and appropriate. A bari solo takes up the words, "Et in unum Dominum," and the "Et incarnatus" a passage on which composers as a rule expend their choicest inspirations, is given as a charming solo and duet. The "Crucifixus" comes on as a massive and solemn chorus, the instrumentation being particularly grand. The contralto solo (taken by Mrs. Angus) "Qui cum patre," is also very beautiful, and in this instance likewise the concluding movement, "Amen," of itself alone proves the claims of the composer to the place he holds among musicians. The "Credo" is written in the key of F major. Of the selections from Weber we need not speak, the Mass being familiar to most people who attend churches in which there is a choir of any importance. The other music performed was Handel's Largo, very finely played by the orchestra, and the Christmas hymn, "Adeste Fideles," in which the soprano solo was taken by Miss Mills. Miss D. Horan presided as usual at the organ. The altar and sanctuary had been beautifully adorned by the Dominican nuns for the festival, the arrangement of flowers and lights in great profusion being extremely tasteful. Under the great window above the altar at the back, the words, "Venite Adoremus," in gold letters on white silk, were displayed, and on scrolls similarly worked, and placed, among garlands of foliage, across the clustered pillars on either side of the window were the words "Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax." A garland of beautiful flowers wreathed the front of the tabernacle from top to bottom. Within the door of the baptistry in the Northern tower, which opens into the North aisle of the church, the nuns had constructed the crib—the rocky arches of the cave being well imitated, and the Divine Infant represented as lying on a bed of straw, the Virgin Mother and St. Joseph kneeling in adoration, one on each side. The various Masses were very numerously attended, and the number of communicants was extremely large.—In the evening, in the interval between Vespers and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, the Bishop preached on the festival of the day.—We may add that Signor Equarise has presented the Mass composed by him to St. Joseph's choir—for their exclusive use.

## Dublin Notes.

(From the National Papers.)

THE Irish Envoys to America took their departure from Havre on Sunday, October 26, on board the good ship La Champagne. The party consisted of Messrs. Dillon, W. O'Brien, T. Harrington, and T. D. Sullivan, M.P.s. Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Sullivan accompanied the party. The envoys departed in the most sanguine spirits, although it was remarked that Mr. O'Brien looked fatigued and pale. During their stay in the French capital Messrs. O'Brien and Dillon were the objects of much complimentary attention on the part of French men of letters and public men. They paid two visits to the Chamber of Deputies, where the *loge* of the President was placed at their disposal, and where they were escorted all through the magnificent building by the chief of the Cabinet, M. Dumoure. The foremost politicians, litterateurs, and members of the famous French Academy came to the reception given in their honour by Madame Raffalovich, mother of Mrs. O'Brien. It is a noteworthy outcome of their visit to Paris that M. De Pressense, editor-in-chief of the *Temps*, an eminent writer on Irish affairs, has undertaken to write a history of the foundation of New Tipperary for the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. Several leading Frenchmen pressed Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien to give public expression to their views on the Irish question during their stay in France, but compliance with these requests was utterly out of their power, so large an amount of business remained for them to transact prior to their departure.

Mr. Balfour two years ago was driven by the taunts of the *Times* to pay a flying visit to Ireland, and now he has again been compelled by the action of Mr. Morley and the comments of the public Press on absentee Government to go through a similar disagreeable duty. Arriving in Dublin at the end of last week, he suddenly started off for the West of Ireland on Friday. He was accompanied by his sister, Miss Balfour, and Mr. Wyndham, his secretary; Colonel Stewart, R.M., and District-Inspector Allan as *avants courriers*. The party paid flying visits to Castlereagh (into which town, it is stated, the Chief Secretary got by mistake), Ballaghaderin, Kiltimagh, Swinford, Killala, Ballina, and Ballyglass. The express rate at which they travelled renders the famous outside-car journey of Sir Robert Peel quite a leisurely tour of investigation as compared with this excursion of the Balfour party. It is recorded gravely by the historian of the *Daily Express*, who had the privilege of accompanying the distinguished party, that the Chief Secretary actually went into a potato field *en route* and inspected with some curiosity the dwarfed and rotten specimens of the crop which the poor tenant was digging. He is also reported to have gone into the ruin of a dilapidated evicted hovel, one out of many which doubtless confronted him as he sped along, and saw the evicted tenants, a poor old woman and her brother, crouching in the windowless, chimneyless, and doorless heap of mud and thatch. The sight so moved him, we are told, that he gave the woman a sovereign. Probably his vile tools, the Removables, had given the poor creatures impiement before for retaking possession of this same structural abomination. Possibly some great painter will by-and-by depict the simple glory of Mr. Balfour's character by representing him as the hero of those two incidents—the digging of the potatoes and the visit to the evicted; for it is thus very often that history is written; and so reveal him to the world in a new character—the tender-hearted

philanthropist. It is put forward that the motive of his eccentric journey was to judge about the necessity for a light railway in Mayo; but we suspect rather that it was a very weighty reason of state—or at least what appeared to be a very weighty reason. Parliament will soon be in session, and some business besides golfing will have to be got through.

On Monday, October 27, Mr. Balfour and party continued their journey to the wild district of Achill, and were the object of much curiosity to the poverty-stricken and primitive inhabitants. They were met by Father O'Connor, the parish priest, who explained the circumstances of the islanders, and gave his views about the public works necessary for their preservation from famine. Previous to his visit to Achill he had had the benefit of the views of the Bishop of Killala (Most Rev. Dr. Conway), Father O'Hara, P.P. of Kiltimagh, Rev. Canon Lyons, and other prominent clergymen in the West, upon the same subject. Mr. Balfour's own views about the matter are pretty clear. He has told a Press interviewer that he considers emigration to be the best specific for the poverty of these wild regions in the West; and he does not believe much in the migration panacea. From his point of view he is doubtless right. As any fool can govern a place in a state of siege, so any sort of a statesman can rule a country which has no people in it. It is said by the *Daily Express* representative that Mr. Balfour was received enthusiastically and cheered here and there along the route, but the local correspondents all say that he was received with absolute silence by the people everywhere. After leaving Achill it was Mr. Balfour's intention to pay a visit to Mr. Vesey Stoney, of Rosstruck, who is still a J.P., and who will doubtless be able to give Mr. Balfour some straight tips on the way emigration funds ought to be applied. Then he intended to wind up his visit to the West by dropping in upon that confirmed sorehead, Mr. Mitchell-Henry, at Kylemore. So ends the most remarkable journey or progress ever undertaken by a statesman in search of enlightenment.

There is a trite and somewhat vulgar saying, of which the morality is questionable but the prudence cannot be denied, "When you tell a lie at all tell a good one." The suggestion is plainly that it is best not to tell a lie at all, but if you are incurably given that way, at least tell a lie that is plausible and possible to be believed. We commend the rule to the attention of the brave Mr. Goltour. He violated it very grossly in his interview with the representative of the *New York World*: "There was not the slightest reason," he said, "why Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien should have left as they did. They were under bail, and if they had failed to appear it was my duty to find them. But until they did fail to appear there was nothing to prevent them going to Queenstown and boarding the first steamer to New York. They could have done this even if our army of constables had been at their heels. I could not have stopped them, and I should have broken the law if I had attempted to do so."

Now this is really fine, in view of the notorious fact that every steamer that left Queenstown for New York was ransacked by detectives. The truth was, the Castle was well advised that Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien meant to go, and were on their guard. In Baron Dowse's famous phrase, "They had their ammunition ready." A warrant was obtained on a sworn information that there was reasonable belief (for once a true statement) that they were about to quit the country, and the detective shadows hovered round them night and day, ready to pounce at the first symptom of departure. Apart from this altogether, Mr. P. O'Brien, M.P., was arrested without a regular warrant in England. Does anyone doubt the Castle would not have adopted the same course in regard to Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien if necessary? The Castle was outwitted and defeated. Mr. Goltour makes himself ridiculous by the effort to cover up the defeat with incredible falsehoods. We read that two detectives watched the departure of the Envoys on board the French steamer. They could only watch there. "They might look but mustn't touch." The scene would be more lively if they had watched their departure on board the steamer from Queenstown.

Mr. Gladstone has concluded his arduous campaign in Midlothian. The most varied and wonderful achievement he has yet accomplished, and pregnant, we will believe, with the most momentous results. The genius of the old man is as bright and as far-seeing, his eloquence as soul-compelling as when last he rallied Liberal England to the fight. The signal victory of Eccles, the most brilliant of the many that the Liberals have achieved since the disastrous election of '86, came opportunely to inspire him in the midst of his labours. He left no point of the Government policy untouched, he touched nothing that he did not demolish. He effectually silenced the parrot cry of "obstruction! obstruction!" with which the Coercionists, for the lack of something better to say, have been dunning the ears of the English constituencies. It will be a hardy man that raises that cry again in England after Mr. Gladstone's exposure.

He dealt chiefly, of course, with Ireland, and enunciated and denounced the atrocities of the coercion Government with marvellous clearness and vigour. No part of his speech was more remarkable than his splendid vindication of the justice—nay, the absolute necessity of the plan of Campaign. The clearness and vigour of his vindication demand a lengthened and verbatim quotation from his speech—"How stands the case, and how is justice to be done, and who are the true authors of the Plan of Campaign (hear, hear)? I will tell you the true authors of the Plan of Campaign are those who made the Plan of Campaign in Ireland an absolute necessity (cheers). These are the members of the present Government and the majority in the present Parliament. How do I make good what I say? In 1886 there was a great failure in the Irish crops. The greatest distress prevailed. It was known that the people would be unable to pay their rents. The Government issued a commission to inquire whether the people could pay their rents or not, with the Duke of Richmond at their head, I think. And what was said by us and by Irish members? We said: 'How are people to live while the commission is inquiring? If you yourselves admit that there may be an incapacity of the Irish people to pay their rents why don't you make some temporary provision to prevent the exaction of rent until the truth can be ascertained? Not the slightest attention was paid to