

And as for the Jew, directly I arrived at years of discretion I perceived very clearly that Fagin was not a representative Hebrew, and was glad to see that Dickens had made the amende honorable by drawing that charming picture of Mr. Riah, the long-suffering servant of "Fascination Fledgeby", the vulgar, scheming, mean, money-lending Christian.

We have no sympathy with the misrepresentation of a race or faith. And, in regard to the coarse and vulgar travesty of an ancient and much-tried Catholic people, we cherish the hope that the movement which is now afoot in many English-speaking countries will in due course see the last apish specimen of the stage Irishman sent to the bone-mill.

More 'Outrages'

'These is no sense' says Mark Twain in his 'Joan of Arc', 'in forming an opinion when there is no evidence to form it on. If you build a person without bones in him, he may look fair enough to the eye, but he will be limber and cannot stand up; and I consider that evidence is the bones of an opinion'.

The 'Wanganui Herald' has been forming an opinion on 'The State of Ireland'. But it so happens that it has no evidence, properly so called, to form it on. It has, so to speak, been building up a person without bones in him—making out a case without the necessary equipment of proven fact, so that when put to the test it cannot stand up for a moment against criticism, but flops and slobbers about like a jelly when it 'jells'. Gargantua tickled himself to make himself laugh, and our northern contemporary has built a (journalistic) boneless hoggy to frighten itself withal. For it finds the most distressful country in a very parlous state indeed. A man named Hall has (so we are told) been boycotted by unknown persons at Loughrea; the cattle of an unknown person in an unknown place have been driven by unknown persons 'no one knows where'; and two (named) landlords have police-guards. Here we have proof positive that the showers of white gloves at Irish assizes are an optical illusion; that the alert and lynx-eyed military constabulary that swarm in unexampled numbers in every part of the country have suddenly become as sightless as 'blind old Dandolo'; that the Chief Secretary for Ireland lied in his teeth when he recently described the condition of Ireland as singularly peaceful and tranquil; and that, somehow, the official figures are all awry when they proclaim Erin the least criminal country in the British Isles. It takes some pretty solid evidence indeed—something more serious than the unproven ex-parte assertions of hostile witnesses—to set aside the highest and most authoritative official testimony in regard to crime in Ireland. The only evidence offered by the 'Herald' are statements made by correspondents in two such notoriously anti-Irish papers as the London 'Times' and the 'Daily Mail'. The only tangible incident recorded by one of them in the 'Herald' (the boycott of Hall) looks remarkably like the sort of story that is commonly supposed to be specially suited to the marines. The rest are vague generalities, and may be dismissed from consideration until names, dates, and confirmatory evidence are forthcoming. The 'Herald' forgot to put the bones into its putty figure.

We have dealt so recently with the statistics of crime, and the character and distribution of crime, in Ireland that there is no necessity for entering into the subject here. We will merely remark that at this hour of the day the old and well tried political expedient of manufacturing Irish 'outrages' to suit party requirements has become rather stale, and somewhat disreputable into the bargain. Still, at the present juncture we must look for a certain measure of 'outrage' mongering among the more desperate and less scrupulous of the anti-Home Rule press and party. But the day

seems to be gone for ever when every measure of relief for Ireland, and every Coercion Bill, were heralded by storms of bogus 'Irish agrarian outrages' that fell upon the public as a bombardment of November meteors falls upon the patient earth. For the rest, if our Wanganui contemporary is really 'onaisy in its mind' about boycotting in Ireland, it will find a wealth of matter to agonise about in the wholesale discrimination that is practised against Catholics in the Government of Ireland—in the great offices of State in Dublin Castle, in the Irish Privy Council; in the Judgeships; in the Crown Solicitorships; in the police force; in the Permanent Staff of the Local Government Board; in the great railway corporations; in the magistracy; and in municipal life of Belfast, Derry, and Portadown, and all over the lodge-ridden areas of Ulster. The figures are before us—an unpleasantly bulky pile of them. We are prepared to submit them to our Wanganui contemporary. And then if it has tears to shed, let it prepare to shed them.

THE FRENCH PERSECUTION

A PAPAL ENCYCLICAL

To Our Venerable Brethren, the Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops of France, and to the French Clergy and People.

PIUS X. POPE.

Venerable Brethren and well-beloved sons, health and the Apostolic Benediction.

Once again the serious events which press upon one another in your noble land cause Us to address Ourselves to the Church of France, in order to sustain her in her trials and to comfort her in her sorrows. The heart of a father must certainly incline towards his children more than ever when they are in trouble. At present when We see you suffering must the stream of tender love spring up from the bottom of Our paternal heart all the more freely, and be to you all the sweeter and more comforting.

Your sufferings, beloved brethren and dear children, find a painful echo at this moment throughout the whole of the Catholic Church, but We feel them in a more acute manner and with a sympathy which, growing with your anxieties, appears to increase daily.

In these bitter trials, it is true, God has given Our hearts one most precious consolation. This arises from your unconquerable attachment to the Church, your unshakably true fidelity to the Apostolic See, and the strong and deep-rooted unity that prevails amongst you.

We were sure in advance of this fidelity and unity, for We knew too well the nobility and generosity of the French heart to fear that in the midst of the battle divisions would creep into your ranks. Nevertheless, We feel

A Great Joy

at the splendid example that you now give, and whilst We pay you this high tribute of recognition before the whole Church, We thank for it from Our heart the Father of Mercy, the Giver of all good gifts.

Recourse to the infinitely good God is all the more necessary, inasmuch as the struggle, instead of ceasing, becomes more fierce and is continually extending. Not only will they at any cost root the Christian faith out of the people's hearts, but also every belief that raises man above the horizon of this world and turns his weary glance in a supernatural way towards Heaven. There can be no more deception in this matter; war has been declared on all that is supernatural because God is behind the supernatural, and it is God they wish to root out of man's heart and mind. This war will be carried on obstinately and without truce by those who conduct it. It is possible, indeed probable, that in the course of new developments

Harder Trials

await you than those you have known so far. Wisdom demands that you should each prepare for them. You will do that simply, courageously, and confidently, convinced that however violently the battle may rage, the victory will be yours in the end. The warrant of this victory will be your unity—unity among yourselves in the first place, and further your unity with the Apostolic See. This double unity will make you invincible, and all attacks upon it will fail.

"MERIT is behind success." That's why "Hondai-Lanka" is so much used. It's tea with quality and flavor.

"DEED AYE! Twa spunefu's o' 'Cook-o' the North' gang as faur as three o' maist ither teas!"