THE LIMERICK REPORTER AND TIPPERARY VINDICATOR. TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1867.

the mutual jealousies of France and Prussia, and France and Italy are alarming the nations of the West, and apparently threatening no distant explosion.

Denmark sits mourning for the loss of her territory and gallant soldiers. Belgium is afraid of being annexed by France. Spain and Turkey are convulsed with the elements of disruption. Austria, which has just got rid of one cause of uneasiness in her new Constitution to her subjects, has almost lost reason for sadness in the loss of her prestige, in the sad death of MAXIMILIAN, and other domestic afflictions. Italy is in the throes of ministerial and financial crisis; and is apprehensive of an attack war with France. So is Prussia, the second robber-state of Europe, and therefore alarmed for her dishonest gains.

Even the powerful Emperor of France is far from being happy; and in fine, look where we will, we can find only one European potentate, who if not absolutely is relatively most happy, because he is thoroughly pure, unambitious, and universally respected. And who is he? no other than the saintly Pope-King PIUS IX.

THE RECORDERSHIP OF DUBLIN.

We are happy to learn that an energetic movement has begun in the Corporation of Dublin to secure, if possible, for a gentleman long and well known to us for his many admirable traits of character, his admitted ability, and his unquestionable honor, the appointment of Recorder of the City of Dublin, at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant. The gentleman to whom we refer is, no doubt, a Protestant and a Conservative, he is no other than the Hon. JOHN P. VERESKER, a fellow citizen of Limerick, and brother of the present worthy and much esteemed Lord Cloncurry. Mr. VERESKER has well won his way, however, among all parties in the Irish metropolis; and among none more than the members of the Corporation of Dublin, at the head of which he stood as Lord Mayor three or four years ago. It is highly to his credit, and it redounds equally so to that of the Corporation of which he is a member, that the great bulk of the Aldermen and Councillors, led by the present Lord Mayor, Alderman JONES, have placed their signatures to a memorial in which they solicit from Lord Eccelle our appreciation of his privilege in favor of the Hon. JOHN P. VERESKER. We are quite sure that the Marquis of ABERDEEN will, in the words of the memorial, make this "grateful and general concession" to the Corporation of Dublin, and confer the office on the gentleman for whom that body seeks it. For our part we be love that the concession would be hailed with very great satisfaction far beyond the limits and sphere of the Corporation in question, and that all parties would be very well pleased with it. We believe that few Conservatives ever put received such an amount of support from the Liberal party; but we shall only add that from our knowledge of him, the Hon JOHN P. VERESKER, pre-eminently merits it.

THE CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

IMPORTANT DECLARATION.

The following Resolution has been signed their names to the above document in the Office of the REPORTER AND VINDICATOR:—

The right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven, Lieutenant of the County and City of Limerick.

Colonel the Hon. Wm. Monsell, M.P., Vice Lieutenant, DL, JP.

Sir Vere De Vere, DL, JP, Curragh Chase, co Limerick.

Stephen De Vere, Esq JP, Monare, Foynes, co. Limerick.

Aubrey De Vere, Esq, Curragh Chase, county Limerick.

Viscount Castlerosse, M.P., JP.

John White, High Sheriff of the county Limerick, JP.

Henry Lyons, JP.

Heffernan Considine, JP.

Carroll Nasih, JP.

Major Gavin, MP, JP.

Edward J. Synnott, Esq. MP, JP.

Rodger Keating Sheehy, co. Limerick, J.P.

Bryan Sheehy Newmarket, co. Limerick, JP.

Pierce A. Shannon, Esq., JP.

Michael R. Ryan, Esq, TC, JP.

Michael Ryan, Bruree, JP.

Neill MacDonnell, Style Park, Bruree, JP.

Richard Ladbrook, Glenworldd House, county of Limerick, JP.

Thomas Gallwey, JP.

John Thomas Devitt, Alexandra Terrace, Limerick, JP.

John Hickey, JP.

James G. Barry J.P.

David O'Hanlon, JP.

George Sampson, JP.

George A. Sampson, Lieut, 18th Royal Irish Regt.

Wm. N. Murphy, MD.

Thomas Barry, Esq, TC, JP.

Richard White.

Heinous White, JP.

Daniel Harris, Pennywell and Upper Mallow street, Limerick.

Edward Harris, Pennywell and Upper Mallow street, Limerick.

Laurence Quinlivan, Esq, J.P, High Sheriff of the City of Limerick, and Alderman of the Custom House Ward.

John Quin, Esq, TC, High Sheriff Elect, T.C, do.

John H. Hall, Solicitor, T.C, do.

John Thomas MacDonnell, Esq, JP, Treasurer of Limerick Corporation, and Vice-chairman of Limerick Board of Guardians.

Joseph Murphy, Solicitor of do.

Theodore M'Donnell, Esq, J.P, Alderman of Shannon Ward, Limerick.

John O'Donnell, Esq, Solicitor, TC, do.

Andrew Hall, Esq, TC, do, Sub-Sheriff, of Limerick City.

Patrick Halpen, Esq, merchant, Alderman of Abbey Ward, Limerick.

John Hayes, Esq, TC, do.

Robert Macdonnell, Esq, TC, do.

Wm. Delaney, Esq, TC, do.

Denis McNamara, Esq, TC, do.

John R. Tinsley, Esq, JP, Alderman of Market Ward, Limerick.

John Barry, T.C, Market Ward.

Wm. Spillane, Esq, TC, do.

John Cronin, Esq, TC, do.

Daniel O'Connor, Esq, TC, do.

James Quinn, Esq, Alderman of Irishtown Ward, Limerick.

David Garvey, Esq, TC, do.

Stephen Hastings, Esq, TC, do.

Patrick Synan, Esq, TC, do.

Robert M'Mahon, Esq, J.P, TC, Glentworth Ward.

James Hickey, T.C, Customhouse Ward.

Richard Lane, Esq, T.C, Dock Ward.

Michael Reily, Esq, TC, Castle Ward.

Thomas Ryan, Ed, J.P, TC, Castle Ward.

Michael Mulcahy, Esq, TC, do.

W. J. O'Neill Daunt, Kilcascan, county Cork.

Achilles Pope Daunt, Kilcascan, county Cork

Maurice Lenihan, REPORTER AND VINDICATOR Limerick.

W. J. Geary, M.D., J.P., Limerick.

Francis W. O'Connor, Physician and Surgeon, George Street, Limerick.

John MacDonnell, JP, Fairy Hill, Limerick.

Bernard Kelly, merchant, Limerick.

William Lloyd, merchant, Limerick.

Denis Ryan, merchant, Limerick.

Moses Ezrill, wool merchant, Limerick.

James Barry, Esq, George-st, Limerick, Stamp Distributor of Limerick and Clare.

James O'Shaughnessy, Esq, M.D, George-st. Limerick.

Stephen Roche, Esq, J.P, Quinlan-street, Limerick.

Edward Sheehy, JP, Cherry Grove, Croom, co. Limerick.

Eugene O'Callaghan, Esq, JP, Limerick.

Thomas Kenny, sol, Cecil-street, Limerick.

Matthew H. De Courcy, sol, Shannon Ville, Limerick.

P. S. Connolly, sol, Thomas st, Limerick.

John Connolly, merchant, George st., Limerick.

Wm. O'Hara, Esq, JP, of the city of Limerick

Arthur C. Geary, Barrister-at-Law.

Michael Gavin, J.P., Hartstonge-st., Limerick.

Wm. Corbett, C.E., City Surveyor, Limerick.

Bernard Kavanagh, M.D, Limerick.

THE WEATHER.

The country was never so destitute of water at this season of the year as at now in Longhmore Spring day. On Sunday daffodils were growing at Glengore, and the fields as green as in summer.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Truth," Kilkenny, on Friday.

CATHOLIC CHURCH.

SOLEMNITIES AT THE REDEMPTORIST CHURCH.

On Saturday, 28th inst, Feast of the Holy Innocents, the most interesting ceremony of the translation and public exposition of the Relics of Bro Martyr, St. Urban, was carried out with much splendour in the Church of the Redemptorist Fathers.

The day had evidently been chosen on account of its appropriateness for honoring a child-martyr.— The sacred body has been translated from the catacomb of St Agnes in Rome. As the child was martyr, and tender upon the greater number of the bones have crumbled into powder, yet there are some, six or seven inches in length. The fragments of the phial containing the martyr's blood are also contained in the shrine.

The shrine, though not of precious metal, is of exquisite design and workmanship. It is carved in oak in the form of a Gothic chapel. The design given by Goldie, Esq, the architect of the Church of St. Alphonsus' Church, and the work is from the hand of Mr. Hayball, of Sheffield, who has accomplished the beautiful throne in the Cathedral.

The shrine is about [illegible] feet [illegible] oak bracket, just inside the altar rail, near the Chapel of Saint Joseph. Behind it is a very beautiful stained window, the gift of Mr. [illegible] Robbins and executed by Mr Hodkinson, of Cork.

At eleven o'clock, the hour appointed for the ceremony, the large Church was quite filled by a most respectable congregation.

The Most Rev. Dr. J. [illegible] Leather, Bishop of Limerick, sang the Pontifical H. Sp. Mass. The archdeacon was the Very Rev D. J. Fitzgerald, Administrator of St Mary's; deacon, the Rev. Father Gibson, C.SS.R.; sub-deacon; the Rev. Father Lonsy, C.SS.R. The Rev. Fathers Vereker, scholast and Coughlan were deacons at the Throne, and the Rev. Father Harbison, principal Master of the Ceremonies.

Amongst the Clergy who assisted in the Sanctuary were the Very Rev. R. Scott, P.P., the Rev. D. Kennedy, P.P., the Rev. W. Molony, P.P., the Very Rev. J. Conway, D.D., the Rev. J. Ryan, C.C., Rev. J. Mulqueen, C.C., Rev. T. Russell, S.J., Rev. F. M'Keenna, S.J., Rev. C. Condon, S.J.

The music of the Mass was excellently rendered by the gentlemen of the choir, under the direction of the talented organist, Mr. J. de Grae.

The music on this day, was by the following composers:—

Kyrie, Van Bree; *Credo*, *Sanctus and Agnus*, from De Hasche's Grand Mass, dedicated to the Queen of Spain.

Offertory was by Clifton; the *Ecce Panis* for the Elevation, by Lambillotte, and the *O Jesu*, by Hayd'n, which was sung after Mass.

At the commencement of the Mass a sermon was preached by Rev. Father Bridgett, Rector of the Community of Mount St. Alphonsus; in which, after giving the history of Urcelin they were about to honour, and of the child martyr, St. Urban, he explained and defended the reverence due to relics, as it has been decreed by the sacred Council of Trent. We regret that our space does not allow us to give our fellow-townsman, the brilliant and powerful indication of the doctrine of the Church on the subject of relics, &c.; and which we understand the Very Rev. Preacher is about to publish in the form of a pamphlet.

At the conclusion of the sermon the Procession issued from the sacristy. Nothing could exceed the order and beauty of this Procession. First came the Cross, borne by the Rev. Brother Berry, CSSR, student in minor orders, accompanied by acolytes; then acolytes with the brilliant and powerful lights by five lay brothers. These bearers, in rich silk, with centre pieces in painting, are the gift of many members of the congregation frequenting the Church of St. Alphonsus. This is the first time they have been used. The paintings of the sacred Heart of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph are the work of our fellow townsman, Mr. Hodkinson; and those of St. Patrick and St. Alphonsus, are by Mr. O'Shea, of George street. We understand that the designs are the most eminently Christian artists, but the execution and colouring reflect the greatest credit on the two above named gentlemen.

Between the banners were numbers of little boys in cottas, bearing lighted tapers. Then came the clergy, regular and secular, and then the relics, carried on a bier by four of the Fathers. The bier was handsomely decorated with violet silk, and the four bearers were decorated with violet dalmatics, violet being the colour appointed by the Church for the feast in the holy Innocents, which is also of martyrs St. Urban also belongs. Therefore incensed the holy relics during the procession. After the shrine came the Bishop, clad in a magnificent cloth of gold vestment, and brilliant mitre, the ancient and costly mitre of the Bishop of Limerick.— His Lordship was accompanied by his deacons of honor, who assisted in pontifical functions, on the occasion the choir sang the Litany of the Saints, the clergy in the procession singing the response.

When the shrine, after being carried twice round the Church, reached the place of repose, it was lifted on to the bracket by the four bearers, and after the relics had been incensed by the Bishop, his Lordship locked the shrine and placed its precious contents, the key hole, put his signature and seal to the document of Authentication; and granted an Indulgence of 40 days to all who, with contrite heart, shall, at any time, pray before the shrine.

The procession returned to the Sanctuary, and the ceremonies of the day concluded with solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, given by the Bishop.

SUNDAY.

On Sunday, another ceremony scarcely less magnificent took place in the Church of St. Alphonsus. This was the unveiling of the Relics of the Holy Lady of Perpetual Succour, an exact copy of a celebrated miraculous picture of that title, which has been venerated in Rome for nearly four centuries, and is now in possession of the Redemptorist Fathers, in the church of St. Alphonsus. It is a little book of indulgenced prayers; together with an historical record that this picture has been printed, with the Imprimatur of the Bishop of Limerick, we take from it the following details:—

HISTORICAL NOTICE.

The history of Our Blessed Lady of PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, of which an exact copy is now exposed in St. Alphonsus' Church, Limerick, for the veneration of the faithful, was brought from the island of Crete to Rome in the fifteenth century.

It remained for some time in a private house, until, by a special interposition of Divine Providence, it was publicly, and with great solemnity, placed in the Church of the Fathers, under the care of the Augustinian Fathers, on the 27th of March, 1499.

From that time until the Church of St. Matthew was destroyed, during the occupation of Rome by the French Republicans, which took place in 1809-1810, it was ranked amongst the miraculous pictures of Our Blessed Lady for which the Eternal City is so renowned: so many and great were the miracles and graces which Almighty God was pleased to grant, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, to those who invoked her aid, under the title of Perpetual Succour, or of the Madonna of St. Matthew, as she was popularly called, that the church of St. Matthew became one of the chief places of pilgrimage and true devotion of Rome.

Now, on the destruction of this church, the Augustinian Fathers removed to a small church in another quarter of Rome; and the sacred picture remained for nearly sixty years, hidden and unknown, in a private oratory in their convent.

Its history, indeed, had been forgotten by many writers; but their works were not generally known, and, as time went on, the devotion to Our Blessed Lady of PERPETUAL SUCCOUR and her picture, which had been the channel of so many graces for three hundred years, were forgotten.

It was, however, the will of Almighty God, and of His Blessed Mother, that this devotion should be revived, and that the holy picture should be once more publicly venerated by the faithful.

A chain of remarkable and clearly providential circumstances brought to the knowledge of the Superior-General of the Redemptorists, not only the place of the hidden treasure, and, on the 11th of December, Our Most Holy Father Pius IX was pleased to order that the sacred picture should be publicly exposed in the Church of St. Alphonsus, in Rome.

This was done with the greatest solemnity, on the 26th of April, 1866, and on the 8th of May following his Holiness came to the church to visit the holy picture.

From that time the devotion to Our Lady of PERPETUAL SUCCOUR has continued to spread more and more in the Holy City, and in various parts of the Continent. Sixty thousand engravings of the picture have been printed and distributed in Rome alone; many fac-simile copies have been demanded by bishops and priests, and are now exposed to the veneration of the faithful in Germany, France, Belgium and Holland.

So great and striking have been the graces, spiritual and corporal, obtained by those who have visited the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome, and have there invoked Our Lady of PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, that the general desire of the devout clients of Mary has seven parish priests and the distinguished inhabitants of that quarter of Rome in which this church is situated petitioned the Chapter of St. Peter's to crown the holy picture, a mark of distinction conferred only on those pictures and statues in Rome which are celebrated for their antiquity and miraculous graces.

The coronation took place on Sunday, the 23rd of June, 1867, at the very [illegible] time when the Centenary Festival of the Holy Apostles had brought to Rome nearly 500 bishops, and a multitude of the princes of the earth. The solemnities of the coronation and of the procession of the sacred picture were attended by numbers of people, and in this way Almighty God has been devotion to Our Lady of PERPETUAL SUCCOUR in all those countries from which pilgrims venerable and pious pilgrims had come.

Who is there who is not in need of perpetual succour at every moment of his life? and when has there been a time in which Divine succour was more needed than at this time? The Holy Church, the Vicar of Jesus Christ on Earth, and by all the faithful, than at the present time?

It is a time for perpetual unwearying prayer for perpetual and unfailing help.

Who shall be the intercessor—who is the Catholic that does not feel it?—need not be urged to visit the sacred picture of her who is the channel of all graces.

For themselves, for the Holy Church, for the Sovereign Pontiff, for his faithful people throughout the world, and for his enemies, they will, with full confidence, invoke the Immaculate Mother, and will not weary in repeating, again and again—"O Blessed Lady of Perpetual Succour, pray for us now."

To return to the ceremonies of Sunday. At eleven o'clock a solemn High Mass was sung by the Very Rev Father Rector, after which a procession passed down the centre of the Church, singing the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, till they came before the temporary altar over which had been placed the Holy picture. This is in the side nave the pulpit, and is conspicuous from the greater part of the Church.— The arch and wall above had been handsomely decorated by Mr. Hodkinson of Cork. Round the interior of the arch are these words taken from one of the antiphons of the Church, Alma Redemptoris Mater, succurre cadenti, surgere qui curat, populo, tu quae genuisti. Below the Redeemer, succour those who fall, yet have a wish to rise."

When the prayer of Our Lady of Succour had been sung, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, which was recovered the picture was withdrawn, the clergy returned the Magnificat, which was continued by the choir, while the Rev Father Bridgett incensed the picture and the altar. Then the Rev Father Harbinson ascended the pulpit, and recited with the congregation in English the prayers composed by St Alphonsus, and which have usually been recitated by the present Pope. The procession then returned to the Sacristy, and the Rev Father Harbinson preach d a most interesting and eloquent sermon, in which he gave the history of the miraculous picture, and explained the nature of reverence which the Church pays to images and pictures.

The Church was crowded, and the immense congregation listened with breathless silence, and marked close attention to the eloquent sermon.

But if the crowd was great at High Mass, the Church was literally overflowing in the evening—when the prayers to Our Lady of Succour were again recited, and a very impressive sermon preached by the Rev Father Gibson.

The choir was unusually full both morning and evening, and the music was executed with most admirable taste and spirit.

The music was by Van Bree and Le Clerc. Th Offertory was by Bonfoli. The Benediction was by Ferrari.

The devotions of the triduo were continued on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The sermons were preached by the Rev. Father Gibson, and the Rev. Father Livins. The triduo will be closed to-morrow, Wednesday, after the High Mass at eleven o'clock when the Picture will be carried in solemn procession, and a sermon preached by the Very Rev. Father Bridgett.

We conclude our account with a description of the Picture, with which we have been kindly favored. "In size it is small, being about 21 inches high and sixteen wide. It is painted on cedar wood, on a golden ground, in the Byzantine style of art. The date of the execution is not certainly known; but it is supposed to be of the 13th or 15th century. The Blessed Virgin is represented holding in her arms the Divine Child, who is leaning for support. This attitude is explained by the representation of two angels, St. Michael and St. Gabriel who are shown bearing the instruments of the scourge of the Passion. By this the artist has sought to convey the great truth that the Passion of our Redeemer was present to his soul from the moment of his Incarnation. *Dolor meus in conspectu meo semper.* Should any one consider this idea as wrong in representing the Divine Child as suffering from the moment of his birth, yet Blessed Mother for succour, let him remember the account given in the Gospel of Our Blessed Lord's agony in the Garden of Olives, how it began "to fear and to be very sad," and how an angel was sent from heaven to strengthen him. If he condescended to be "strengthened" in His human nature by an angel, he might also be "encouraged" by His Mother; and she who was course our Redeemer must doubtless be a source of perpetual succour to those who seek her aid. This truth is taught by the Church herself in the words of the antiphon, which have been written on the frame of the picture—*Ecce Maria, quae meruisti, ferre pondus, refere fidelis.* Holy Mary, succour the unsuccessful, help the faint-hearted, aid the afflicted. These words have been taken as the theme of the sermon of the evening, and they are paraphrased in the hymn to our Lady of Succour, published with the devotions.

There will be Grand Pontifical High Mass at the Cathedral at 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday.— The sermon will be preached by the Rev. A. O'Sheedy, C.S. St. John's.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES AT RATHKEALE.

The Sisters of Mercy, Rathkeale, gratefully acknowledge the receipt of £2 from Colonel Vandeleur, High Sheriff; and £1 each from Edward W. O'Brien, Esq., Cahermoyle; Francis Brown, Esq., Mount Southwell; Patrick Hartigan, Esq., Clonagh; in kind from Mrs. Harvey Murphy, William Bionnarhasett, Esq., Henry Pheasby, Esq., and Mr. Hayes plies of clothing from Miss M'Donnell, Mr. Downes Mac Uttanh, Esq., £1 each, and Messrs. £2 each 10s. each from Arthur Lloyd, Esq., and Mrs Captain Bolton. Mrs. Moylan has kindly sent a large quantity of clothing for the poor.

Dr. O'Shea, V.G., has great pleasure in acknowledging £3 from Edward W. O'Brien, Esq, Cahermoyle; and £33 6s 8d from Robert E Reeves, Esq., Esq., Cahermoyle; Francis Brown, Esq., Mount Southwell; Patrick Hartigan, Esq., Clonagh; in kind from Mrs. Harvey Murphy, William Bionnarhasett, Esq., Henry Pheasby, Esq., and Mr. Hayes plies of clothing from Miss M'Donnell, Mr. Downes Mac Uttanh, Esq., £1 each, and Messrs. £2 each 10s. each from Arthur Lloyd, Esq., and Mrs Captain Bolton. Mrs. Moylan has kindly sent a large quantity of clothing for the poor.

A solemn requiem Mass was offered up in the Kilkee Catholic Church, on Monday for the eternal repose of the souls of Allen, Gould, and Larkin, who were killed by the explosion of the powder mill. The attendance at the sacred ceremonies was numerous, many persons from the surrounding vicinity, wearing crape.

An Irish-American was arrested on Thursday morning on the Waterford and Limmore mail car. He was in possession of a revolver.

During the past week, by directions of the Countess Dunoughmore, who is spending the Christmas season with her family, there were, in the South of Ireland, a large quantity of prime beef, fascinated, has been distributed among the work people, servants, and humbler tenantry residing upon the Knockboffy estates, in the county of Waterford.

Over 3,000 special constables, have been enrolled in Merthyr-tydfil, in Glamorgan, 4,000; and in Paddington, close upon 2,000.

At a concert of St. Austell last week, in singing the "Marseillaise Hymn" (Cut, St. Austell), the "Right Worship'ful the Mayor (Alderman Tait) has arrived in Limerick from London.

A majority of the burgesses of six wards have signed a memorial in favor of the Night Watch.

THE NIGHT WATCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REPORTER AND VINDICATOR.

Mechanics' Institute, Limerick, 21st Dec, '67.

SIR,—The Night Watch having appl d to the Congregated Trades for their support against the motion of Dr. Parker, for the abolition of the present system of Night Watch, as numerous members of the Congregated Trades are Ratepayers, and feel interested in their disposing the proposed new system. As so much has been previously written in opposition to the present system, an able and learned gentleman, it leaves my humble abilities little to add thereto, only to further request that the unanimous wishes of the Trades of Limerick may be accorded to in supporting the Night Watch.

I am, Sir,

Your obedt. servant,

JOHN MEAGHER,

Sec. Congregated Trades.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REPORTER AND VINDICATOR.

SIR—Will you allow me through the columns of your invaluable journal to answer the statements which appeared in your paper of the 27th instant, in a letter of Mr. O'Keeffe, in which he signs him self to be one of the Congregated Trades of Limerick.

I am directed by the Committee of the Congregated Trades to inform the public that Mr. O'Keeffe is a member of that institution at present, and has ever had the honour of belonging to it. I will abstain from passing new comments on statements inserted in the letter of the above date, but would be wrong in future be more cautious in writing on matters connected with such a respectable body of gentlemen as the Trades of this city.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN MEAGHER,

Secretary Congregated Trades.

Mechanics' Institute, Limerick,

31st Dec., 1867.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REPORTER AND VINDICATOR.

Bridge-street, Dec. 31, 1867.

SIR—I am sure you will give space to an honest journal for a few plain words in reply to the letter of Mr. John O'Keeffe, published in your last issue. I do not little of my feeling, being unable to wield the hammer than the pen; nor can I pretend to compete with Mr. O'Keeffe, learned and polished style; yet if I speak the simple truth without varnishing or veneering, I cannot doubt but your readers will understand the meaning of words and reputation in them, rude as they may be, the ring of the true metal. Mr O'Keeffe is a member and highly respected member of the Trades of Limerick,* but I also have the honour to belong to that patriotic and respectable body, and have been for a long time, nor, no less than he, and I feel bound to say that his letter misrepresents the feelings and principles of my brother tradesmen, and casts a slur upon their honour and patriotism, which I, for one, will not submit to without a protest. I agree with Mr. O'Keeffe, that the "Trades of Limerick are loyal." They belong, almost all of them, to the Catholic Church, and they would but ill understand their holy religion, if they were not loyal to those who are rightly placed over them by Catholic teaches us that "whosoever resists the power, (properly constituted and properly used of course) resists the ordinance of God and purchases for himself damnation. The Trades of Limerick are no strangers to this doctrine, either in the letter or in practice. They respect the power of the State; they obey the laws; they are peaceable citizens. So far I agree with Mr. O'Keeffe, but when he ventures to assert that the trades of this locality are not loyal, namely, that they hold that there are absolutely doating on the English Government, that they can see nothing to complain of, but everything to admire and approve, namely, that Ireland is "a benefaction, and benign, and balmy" in the present state of this afflicted country, when he does not hesitate to assert this, neither shall I hesitate to affirm, that he grievously wrongs, not to say, traduces my fellow trades. Mr. O'Keeffe, by this offer of your services by the loyal resident of Cowes."

Her Majesty walks and drives about the island as usual without any escort. Two hundred picked men of the Scots Fusilier Guards are quartered in the temporary barracks in East Cowes Park.

LIMERICK HARBOUR BOARD.

At the meeting of this Board on Friday, yesterday, Mr W Spaight's motion giving 6 per cent. to Mr Long, the Engineer, on the estimated outlay of £20,000, was carried unanimously.

A salary of £150 was voted to W Carroll, Esq., the Secretary, in consideration of the manner in which he ably paid for his efficient and honourable discharge of his duties, and that there never has been a more popular or better officer.

LIMERICK UNION.

The usual weekly meeting of this board was held on this day, at the board room.

John T. MacEustace, Esq, V.C., in the chair.

There were also present—M. H. Ryan, Esq., J.P. Z. Mylne, D.V.C., John F Sexton, Denis M'Namara J H Hall, J Cleary, G Scott, John S Dwyer.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed by the Chairman.

STATE OF THE HOUSE.

Remaining on Saturday week, 1588; admitted since, 115; discharged, 77; remaining in house on Saturday last, 1599; being an increase on the week of 11, and in the year of 14.

SICK.

Number in workhouse hospital 5.0; in fever do, 19.

FINANCE.

Collected and lodged during the week, 159l. 6s. 2d; disbursements £204 0s 6d; balance against guardians, £44 0s 4d.

After some preliminary business, of no great importance, had been transacted,

Mr. John Dwyer rose to move a notice of motion for this day fortnight, to the effect that he would move on that day, that a return be ordered from the master's salary, as a first step in reducing the rates.

An application was read from the master tailor, asking for a duplicate of a cheque for £1, which he had mislaid or lost, and the loss of which, through accident, he had lit his pipe with.

The application was granted.

Letters were read from the commissioners, sanctioning the appointment of a paid accountant to inquire into the rate, and ease of the expoditment of Mr. Hall to the office of rate collector.

A letter was given in from Mr. M'Inerney, the late master, stating that he was removed by the bill of Mr. Valentine Ryan, the consideration of which was postponed.

In reply to Mr John S. Dwyer, who had made some enquiries about the reducing of certain sums where there were no arrears shown.

The Chairman said the City Treasurer's books were open to inspection, and he would, if necessary, bring out