

the receipts during the last two years have varied as much as twenty-five per cent.

The Bishop of Cork on Catholic Education.—At a meeting of the Cork Young Men's Society held a few days since Mr. Konayne, M.P., having remarked that the society was an educational as well as a religious society, the Bishop subjoined, that the Government of the country would give all sorts of education except the one which they wanted. What the Catholics desired they most generously desired the extension of to others. Let, said his lordship, a uniform general rule be laid down by which every community shall enjoy freedom of education and freedom in the profession of such religions as they may adopt. Let every one, according to its numbers, get help from the State; let all denominations get it, and let us get it also. But what the Government say is: "We can't give you help; you will turn it to Popish purposes. We won't give you support except for purely secular education." This doctrine, his lordship observed, the very Pagans themselves repudiated. If they turned to the history of the ancients—the Persians, the Athenians, and the Spartans, who almost scorned civilisation—they would find that justice and virtue were always taught as well as science and arts.

Intermediate Education.—The proposals of the deputation of schoolmasters which waited on the Chief Secretary ten or twelve days ago have not quite dropped out of view. One of the deputation has written a letter in the newspapers stating that it was the wish of the Schoolmasters' Association that Catholics "should be fully and fairly represented, and that the exhibitions themselves (connected at present with the endowed schools) should be open to every one without distinction." This "Irish Schoolmasters' Association" is a Protestant organisation; and a Catholic schoolmaster—the only one among the heads of the Royal schools—writes to propose the formation at once of a similar association "by the presidents, &c., of Catholic colleges." The endowments publicly acknowledged (and it is at the same time admitted that they are but a remnant of what they once were) to be connected with Protestant colleges and schools amount to over £40,000, the total number of schools connected with these establishments being about 1,500. The number of boys in Catholic schools and colleges of corresponding educational rank is over 5,000, for whom no endowments exist. Surely such inequality calls for redress.

Religion in Limerick.—On Sunday, the 16th inst., on the occasion of the consecration of the altars in the Jesuits' church in Limerick, there were three special incidents well deserving commemoration. Seventeen hundred members of the Confraternity of the Holy Family were present in the morning, and received the Sacrament at the hands of the several Bishops and clergymen. Later in the day seven hundred men of different ages received confirmation at the hands of the Bishop of Limerick, assisted by the Bishops of Cloyne and Koss. At the last service there was an immense assembly, when about one thousand persons renewed their baptismal vows, each votary holding a lighted taper in his hand. The collections made at the several services were most liberal.

The Catholic Union.—The annual public meeting of the Catholic Union will be held to-morrow, Thursday, in the Catholic University Chapel. The Earl of Granard will take the chair. The Cardinal Archbishop, the Bishops of Clogher and Ardagh, Sergeant Sherlock, M.P., Major O'Reilly, M.P., and Mr. P. Martin, M.P., will address the meeting. Resolutions will be proposed expressing devotion to the Holy Father, adhesion to the great cause of denominational education, deprecating any attempt to introduce the system of school boards into Ireland, and expressing sympathy with the victims of religious persecution in foreign countries.

Legal Matters.—The re-settlement of our Irish legal system has received a slight impetus of complication by a couple of recent occurrences. In the metropolitan district of Dublin, which includes all the southern coast townships around to Dalkey, no other magistrates are permitted by law to act in any criminal matter, and in most civil business, but the divisional police magistrates, five in number. One of these, Mr. Dix, lately died. Under a recent statute the Lord-Lieutenant is empowered to abstain from filling up the vacancy, and to divide the amount of the salary among the remaining magistrates. This would augment the salaries of these latter (now £600 per annum) to £1,000—a sum exceeding what is paid even to assistant barristers of the second class. Objections have been raised against not filling up the post by those interested in it not allowing the existing legal appointments to be diminished in number, and by the public, who fear inconvenience will result from any reduction of the number of magistrates. In this latter sense the Corporation have addressed the Lord-Lieutenant, requesting that the post shall be filled up. A few days ago, also, the assistant barrister of the county of Westmeath, Mr. Matthew O'Donnell, Q.C., died rather suddenly. Now if this place be filled up it will be a fresh "vested interest" to be dealt with when the inevitable re-settlement comes up. On the other hand, while the Lord Chancellor is empowered by law to appoint *ad hoc* a substitute in the case of temporary incapacity of an assistant barrister he cannot appoint a temporary holder of the office if vacant. Some formal negligence of course by the deceased will, it is said, render an immediate appointment necessary, to obviate a great inconvenience to the local jurors.

Mr. Sullivan and the Benchers.—The case of Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P., remains *in statu quo*. He addressed a letter to the benchers early last week, requesting to be informed upon what conditions they would permit his being called to the bar. Up to this no answer has been returned. It is known that the letter was referred to the committee on legal education; and it was announced on Monday that this committee had recommended a general relaxation of the rule as to attendance at lectures, to the extent of permitting Co. lectures to be attended consecutively or not. But as to Mr. Sullivan they would not go further than to recommend that he should be called next November, provided meantime he vigorously attended all lectures—either a preposterous obligation, seeing that he has actually already passed an examination in the very business of those lectures. Of course it would be impossible for the member for Louth to attend lectures after Easter, without utterly sacrificing the most important period of Parliamentary attendance, a thing which it is well known he will not do. Henceforth it is hoped that when this report comes before the general body some prudent passage will find a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Inner Temple,

and it is said that he purposes in any case proceeding with his terms in London so as to be ultimately called to the English bar.

THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, LIMERICK.—We briefly alluded to the important ceremonial of the reopening of this church of the Jesuit Fathers in our issue of last week, but as it has been an event which has caused unusual religious excitement and interest we think that some extracts from the local papers, with greater detail, will not fail to interest our readers. Some ten years ago a domestic chapel was built in connection with their convent and seminary by the rev. Fathers of the Society of Jesus in the city of Limerick, and it has ever since been a favourite resort of the pious Catholic citizens. From time to time the Fathers have endeavoured to render their church more worthy of its sacred purpose, and there has been the more reason for this, since it was the first church in Ireland dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, to which the whole Irish Church and people have of late years been solemnly consecrated. The growth of this sublime and salutary devotion doubtless helped to advance their pious design, and encouraged by the generous Catholic citizens, and relying upon their readiness to support their efforts in so sacred a cause the Fathers have of late expended about £4,000 on the completion and decoration of the sacred edifice. The Feast of the Holy Name was naturally selected for the re-opening of the church, and accordingly the three handsome altars were consecrated by three prelates of the province, and his Grace, the eloquent Archbishop of Cashel, accepted the invitation of the Fathers to deliver a discourse, which, while eminently appropriate to the special festival celebrated, had a still wider interest not only for his numerous hearers, but for all Catholic people. The church is in the neo-Italian style, and was designed by Mr. Corbett, civil engineer. Happily it is well adapted for the application of coloured decoration, and this all-important adjunct to Italian architecture has been fully supplied. The decorations are strictly Roman, or Italian *cinq-ecento*, in character, and were designed by Mr. Goldie, the eminent architect, and creditably executed by Mr. Hodgkinson, ecclesiastical decorator, Henry-street, Limerick. The general effect is rich, cheerful, and well in keeping with the character of the sacred edifice. The flat ceiling is treated with panels, arabesques, and monograms, conspicuous amongst others the well-known badge of the society, the I.H.S. Delicate and well balanced tones of colour, relieved and enforced by the occasional use of gold and positive colour, renders this important portion of the work a complete success. The colour is fully carried out in the cornice and entablature, and great character and expression is given by the treatment of the pilasters, which, with their Corinthian capitals, divide the lower walls into compartments. The pilasters are treated in a delicate tone of Etruscan red, avoiding heaviness of effect, and the lower portion of the walls is treated after the manner of the best examples of Italian decorative art in panels of well-balanced and more forcible colour. The same general theme is carried out in the apse and transept chapels, but here with greater elaboration of arabesques, whilst pictures form a most important and striking adjunct to the general treatment. The central picture in the apse behind the high altar represents the Apparition of Our Lord and the manifestation of His Sacred Heart to Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque, and the figure of Father Colombiere, S.J., her confessor and apostle of the devotion to the Sacred Heart is also introduced. In the panels on either side of this are paintings of the great six saints of the Society of Jesus—St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis Borgia, St. Stanislaus, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, and Blessed Berchmanns. In panels above the side Chapels of Our Lady and St. Joseph are other two large pictures. The picture over the Lady Altar represents the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, and that over St. Joseph's the Espousals of Our Lady and St. Joseph. All these five paintings are cleverly executed by M. Alcan, of the Rue d'Assas, Paris, under the direction of the architect, and form a feature too rare in our churches, whilst being painted on canvases, and applied to the walls with peculiar precautions against the action of damp, it appears that the difficulty most commonly alleged is overcome. After the coloured decoration of the fabric the fittings next demand a brief notice. They chiefly consist of the three new altars consecrated, as we have before said, on the Feast of the Holy Name. The high altar has been manufactured in Rome, and its chief claim to notice is the extreme richness, beauty, and variety of the marbles of which it is composed, there being no less than twenty-two varieties of the richest and most precious marbles. We pass now to the altar of Our Lady of Lourdes, occupying the apse in the eastern transept. This is an extremely beautiful work. It was designed by Mr. Goldie, and is the gift of Mr. Thomas Brien, of the firm of Quinn and Co., Limerick. St. Joseph's altar, which occupies the apse of the western transept, is purely Roman in design, and is very beautiful. The altar table is of Sicilian marble, the super-altar of Derbyshire alabaster, and the recess consists of two beautiful pillars of red marble, with richly gilt capitals, supporting a frieze of alabaster and Caen stone profusely ornamented, the whole crowned by an entablature on which is seated an angel bearing a scroll. This ornate structure encloses a valuable picture of St. Joseph with the Divine Infant in his arms, by one of the old masters, which is set in an extremely richly carved and gilt frame, embracing in its ornamentation figures of angels, each supported by a cherub. The general decorations of this altar, and of the apse in which it stands, correspond with those on the other transept. Such, in brief, are the three altars. They are eminently creditable to all concerned in their execution and decoration, and in a special manner to the architect, Mr. Goldie, to whose pencil the two latter designs are due. All the three altars are costly, the intrinsic value of the high altar alone amounting to over £1,000, whilst the side altars, simpler as to materials, but elaborate and highly artistic as to execution, have cost about £220 to £230 each. They were carved and erected by Mr. Larp, of Lambeth. A handsome new marble pulpit, which is interesting as the gift of the ladies and gentlemen belonging to the sodalities of the Blessed Virgin attached to their church to their spiritual director, Rev. Isaac Moore, S.J., remains to be noticed. The pulpit was designed by Harrison, of Dublin. Its form is hexagonal, and it is supported upon a plinth of very dark grey marble by a central shaft of Killybegs black, and four smaller Ionic pillars of Cork red marble, with nicely carved capitals of white marble. Amongst the other objects worthy of note in the church are the Stations of the way of the Cross,