

close this, so good-bye for the present. Who can tell where my next letter may be written? Perhaps under the shade of Tel-el-Kebir, the Great Hill, or perhaps from among the spires and domes of Cairo!

#### THE "AFRICAN MISSIONS" IN EGYPT.

We have received the following information respecting the establishments connected with the Congregation of African Missions in Egypt. At Tantah there were boys' and girls' schools; the Sisters who managed the girls' schools left for France a few days before the massacres. The missionaries remained till the last moment, and it was only the day before the massacres that the Superior, Père Duret, quitted a post where it appeared to him that his presence could no longer do any good, and where he had nothing to expect but a death, which would be of no use to anybody. He has probably by this time returned to Tantah to ascertain in what state the establishments of the missions are, and what materials can be got together for the erection of a college, the foundations of which were already laid. It is most likely that everything is pillaged and scattered; if so there will have been a loss of five years and of £2,000 which has been spent on the schools and on preparations for the building of the college.

Our informant is ignorant whether any Europeans remain at Tantah, but almost all the Christians had fled from the place. It is doubtful whether the schools can be reopened at once owing to want of funds.

At Zagazig there is reason to believe that the house of the mission has not been burnt or sacked. There was no school for girls in that town, as the missionaries were too poor to establish one. The Superior of the Zagazig mission retired to Ismailia, that he might be as near as possible to his post, and he has probably returned on the traces of the English troops.

It is to be feared, our correspondent concludes, that the security re-established in Egypt by the protection of the English will still leave the missionaries in such a state of poverty that they will scarcely be able to do anything for a long time. And yet this would be the moment for fruitful labour. They had formed promising plans for acting on the fellaheen by the creation of agricultural colonies, but doubt the possibility of purchasing the land necessary for that purpose. Resources of their own they have none, and all must depend on some charitable persons coming to their aid.

#### DUBLIN.

##### LORD SPENCER'S TOUR IN THE WEST.

The visit of the Lord Lieutenant to Connemara terminated on Saturday. Before leaving Kylemore on Friday his Excellency spent some time examining the reclamation works now in progress there, and in the carrying out of which Mr. Mitchell Henry has for some years given employment to a considerable number of people. Ballinakill Bay was reached about five o'clock on Friday evening, and here the entire party, which now included his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Hon. Robert Spencer, M.P.; Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Courtney Boyle, Captain Hammond, R.N.; Mr. Little, A.D.C.; Major Clifford Lloyd, R.M.; and Mr. Gardner, R.M., were rowed out to the *Valorous*, which, with the gun-boats *Bantra*, *Hawk*, and *Wasp*, lay in the offing. The passage to the Arran Islands was rather rough, especially when passing Slyne Head, and it was not until half-past one in the morning of Saturday that the *Valorous* came to anchor off the principal island. An early breakfast disposed of, his Excellency and party landed on the island at nine o'clock, and walked to the top of the hill, whence a splendid view was obtained of the coasts of Galway and Clare, and in the seaward direction of the Atlantic Ocean. By eleven o'clock all were again on board, and the *Valorous* and her companion vessels at once steamed away for Galway Bay, and arrived off Galway about two o'clock in the afternoon. Galway has for the last twenty years, at intervals, occupied a prominent position in regard to the possibilities of Irish trade, especially in regard to communication with America, and the local corporate bodies wisely lose no opportunity of pointing out the great natural advantages of the port of Galway. The Harbour Board are at present constructing, and, in fact, have nearly completed, a new deep water floating dock, at an estimated cost of £35,000, of which over £30,000 has already been expended. The new dock is 355 feet in length, 160 feet in width, and 30 feet deep, the object being to accommodate vessels drawing as much as 28 feet of water. In order to render the dock available, however, it will be necessary to dredge a channel from the Bar, about half a mile outside the dock, to the dock itself, so as to obtain a depth of 28 feet at spring tides. This channel could, it is calculated, be kept clear at little expense, inasmuch as the strong currents from Galway river, flowing out of Lough Corrib and from the Atalia, would be sufficient, or about sufficient, to keep the channel clear of silt. The new dock will be the deepest in Ireland, and it will be large enough to accommodate four large vessels. The chief advantage accruing from its construction will be the saving of lighterage. At present vessels drawing more than eighteen feet of water have, even at spring tide, to be lightened in the roadstead at an expense of 1s. 6d. a ton. The work is expected to be completed in about two months, but the formal opening will

probably not take place until January next. The work, which has been in process of construction for the last three years, has furnished employment for that period to 300 men.

His Excellency, after spending a few minutes in examining the new dock, proceeded to the railway station and took his place in the saloon carriage provided for his accommodation. A considerable number of people had assembled on the platform, but there was no demonstration of welcome. A slight cheer was given, but was followed by a call for "Cheers for Parnell," a call which was warmly responded to. At Oranmore, the first station outside Galway, a half-dozen young men gave cheers for Hynes. As on the outward journey, policemen were stationed along the line, and small bodies of police were on the platform at every station. At Mullingar a choice bouquet was presented to Earl Spencer by the daughter of the local post-master, Mr. Parker. His Excellency left the train at Blanchardstown station, and entering his carriage which was in waiting, drove to the Viceregal Lodge.

#### CONSECRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S NEW CHURCH, BOYLE.

On Sunday the splendid new parochial church of St. Joseph's, Boyle, was opened and consecrated. The church, which is within a short distance of the town, is erected on a picturesque site close to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy and to the fine block of buildings comprising the new schools. It is separated merely by the historic river Boyle from the magnificent ruins of the Cistercian Abbey, which was founded in the year 1148. It is of the late thirteenth century Gothic style of architecture, and is of cruciform shape, consisting of nave, aisles, and transept. The length extends fully 120 feet, the breadth is nearly 60 feet, and to the ridge of the roof is about 70 feet. At the western end is the tower, rising 60 feet. The inside of the church has been thoroughly finished, the organ, altars, and the other furniture having been provided. The entire cost of the church is about £8,000, and it is certainly one of the finest parochial buildings in Ireland. The work of its erection was undertaken solely by the Very Rev. Mgr. M'Teaker, P.P., V.G., and he was greatly aided by the munificent benefactions of two former parishioners—Mr. Bell and Mr. Kennedy—who died in Dublin and Southampton respectively. On Sunday the spacious building was crowded to overflowing by the numbers of people who flocked in from all the surrounding parishes. The consecration of the church, which began at 11.30 a.m., was performed by the Most Rev. Dr. Gillooly, Bishop of Elphin, assisted by the Most Rev. Dr. Conway, Bishop of Killala; the Rev. J. Nangle, P.P. Croghen, being master of ceremonies. Immediately afterwards Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Dr. M'Cormack, Bishop of Achonry, the Rev. J. Nangle, P.P., being deacon at the throne; the Rev. J. Malone, C.C., deacon; the Rev. James Ryan, C.C., Sligo, sub-deacon; and the Rev. J. Lyster, C.C., Sligo, master of ceremonies. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. John Healy, Professor of Theology, Maynooth College, who took as his text the words, "How awful is this place; this is no other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven." At the conclusion of the sermon a collection was made, which realised close on £300. The architects of the church were Messrs. Goldie and Child.

#### ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

Workmen have been engaged in completing the shoring up of the centre buttress, and in commencing the work of shoring up the two less massive buttresses on either side of the north porch. These are the only portions of the building with respect to which it is considered at all necessary to adopt any precautions. The architect (Mr. Fuller) and the city engineer inspected the works immediately after the accident, and both gave it as their opinion that there was no apparent reason to apprehend any danger, and there were no indications of danger. They, however, agreed that for the satisfaction of the public it would be better to shore up the buttress. Mr. Fuller accordingly directed the builder to proceed with the work. This direction was not complied with, and some surprise has been expressed at the delay. The architect agrees with the opinion that one at least of the causes of the disaster was the building of the buttress right up against the wall of the main building without any tie. The shoring up of the two flying buttresses at the north porch is being carried out, not from any appearance of danger, but in order to assist in reassuring the public mind. The drainage works which have been carried on inside the cathedral for the last few months have been attended with complete success. The result is seen in the fact that the large stone piers, which were green with damp before the commencement of the works, have become quite dry, and are now nearly restored to their original colour. It scarcely admits of doubt that but for the drainage works the whole building would have suffered seriously, if it did not come down. When the works in the interior, which have now been completed, were commenced, the pillars were standing in water, which had risen to within about a foot of the level of the floor. It has been stated that St. Patrick's Well has been drained by the excavations that have been made. This is not the case. The well has been so far sunk, or rather drained, that the water only rises to within about five feet of the level of the floor of the cathedral—a result which proves, at all events, that the drainage has been effective.