

DAYS OF CREATION.

"Even tho' vanquished he could argue still."—TOLSTOY. Editor Morning Star: I see that your unfortunate correspondent, D.P.S., is still "arguing." In my second reply to him I proved that he did not understand this subject, and now, with a peculiar persistency he compels me to add another proof of the same fact. He is determined to have it shown that the subject was beyond him in every possible respect.

Before doing so, however, I must hasten to correct him in another matter, which I regard as very important. It is that he represents me as sneering at Origen and St. Gregory! He does this on the untenable ground that the words "miserable choice" were aimed at Origen. But of course everyone saw that the word miserable is an adjective, qualifying choice, and therefore referring to the judgment of the person who made the choice, and not to quotation or writer chosen. If D.P.S. had used vinegar or wormwood juice instead of ink, to write his letters with, his choice of a writing fluid, whether appropriate or miserable, would reflect on his own judgment, in making the selection. He was a great defender of the Church and the quotations from his writings, used by D.P.S., may have been excellent; yet, as it simply showed how carelessly my critic reads Catholic books, and as it proved nothing for him, it is obvious that the choice was a miserable one—that is to say his choice of that quotation showed bad judgment. Speaking of Origen reminds me that the portion of his writings which gave rise to the Nestorian heresy, according to Dr. A'log, were not condemned until more than three centuries after the death of his ecologist, St. Gregory Thaumaturgus. The eulogy, therefore, being premature, would seem not to have carried conviction to the minds of succeeding bishops. It is to be remarked however that St. Gregory while giving Origen well-deserved praise does not indorse his opinions, as D.P.S. would seem to imply.

Well, after "rambling" as it were over the whole subject, after attacking first one thing and then another, my unfortunate critic maker, at last, the specific claim that the following sentences from my contribution on the eclipse contain two distinct assumptions, he calls them; and these, he adds, are "contrary to the teaching of the Jewish and Christian Churches," as, he says, he originally claimed in his first article.

Here are the sentences: "As far as the history of the sun is concerned it is worthy of note that it was not created till the fourth day. This is the more interesting as it shows that the first four of the days occupied in creation could not be days of twenty-four hours. Nor did the fact escape the attention of the Fathers of the Church."

D.P.S., gives us to understand that he has exerted himself terribly in trying to make me face that quotation. He, perhaps, grew red and perspired. Yet it is astonishing that no one perceived his Sausagean efforts in that particular direction.

Now all this is the more startling when we reflect that there is no assumption at all in that quotation. Every word of it is true. Anybody who, in arguing with Atheists, etc chooses, as he has a right to do, the answer founded on figurative days, must speak just about that way—if he understands the subject. A Catholic bystander who heard a fellow-Catholic talk that way, would, if he understood the subject, be the last person to resist the Atheist in opposing it. And if he did not understand the subject and yet interfered, it is obvious that no argument would be necessary to prove him a vain and impertinent busy-body.

For, with respect to the first sentence of that quotation it is to be remarked that creation is twofold, viz: 1. Creation of substances, and 2. Creation of forms.

It is generally held that all substances were created in the beginning, and that all the different things, or forms of matter, were created during the six days. Therefore, when, depending on the account given in Genesis, I said that the sun was created on the fourth day, I said what anyone must recognize as the truth according to Moses. A man is not expected to dispute every word he uses in an article. Webster or any other lexicographer can do that, and the three meanings which all of them give for the words create and creation, would, if known to him, have prevented D.P.S. from misunderstanding what I said. Besides, the formal creation of Adam took place on the sixth day. Is it possible that D.P.S. would maintain that Adam formally existed during the whole six days? On the first as well as on the seventh? It is every whit as reasonable as to blindly fly in the face of Moses and say that the sun existed on the first day as well as on the fourth.

Another illustration of the absurdity of my critic's claim is to be seen in locomotives and fire engines, etc. The substances out of which these are formed were created before Adam, and therefore, in order to be consistent D.P.S., will have to claim that Adam might have steamed out of Paradise on, for instance, the dummy that hauls our weary citizens to the lake! He must; for the substances combined in that dummy existed on the first day as tangibly as those that afterwards went to form the sun on the fourth day, therefore steam engines were in existence before the first day! He also objects to the other part of the quotation from me—to the part which argues that as the sun did not exist the days could not be of twenty-four hours! This is contradiction run mad! Truly the loyal defender and sole reliance of the Church, these forty or fifty years, has had much of the precipitancy and more of the erroneous persistence of youth. It will be remembered that Henry VIII "sucked in Catholicity with his mother's milk," yet where is he now? He did good work too. At least he had the name of it. He defended the church against Luther. He, moreover, was not self-styled defender. Yet the path along which his "erroneous persistence" led him, runs from a weak, infantile and diluted kind of Catholicity, through the very Lutheranism which he had rightly opposed at one time, and from that to where he is now! To be born a Catholic is not a thing to brag about, as if one's self had managed it. It is something to always fervently thank God for. I was born a Catholic myself, but I believe there is more joy in Heaven over one convert than over ninety-nine, etc.

But as to the second part of the quotation from me: What is a day of twenty-four hours? Why, of course it is a natural day, an ordinary day, like our days, measured by the sun and all that—in fact a genuine literal day. Now I ask any intelligent person whether a natural day, such as ours, measured by the sun and literally such as we know a day to be in these times, could have existed before the creation of the sun? A day produced by moving the light and darkness round the earth would be a miraculous and unnatural day. A day produced by the "element of fire," scattered and chaotic in its distribution, and quenched, or hidden, during the night, by a dense and chaotic atmosphere, would be an unnatural and a miraculous day, no matter what might be its length. That's the way you must talk to infidels. Moses tells the truth. He says the sun was created (formally, of course,) on the fourth day, therefore the sun could not have measured the previous days. I say could not because I believe Moses. It seems going too far to say that the days of creation were measured at all by any visible means. We don't know their length or how they were measured. We know very little about them. Moses did not bother about them, and Cardinal Wiseman thought that it would be presumption even in him to decide one way or the other (Lectures, p. 295), and I don't see why I should care. In fact, no one is exercised about them but D.P.S., and he seems desperate about something connected with them. The Church never taught anything about them, and consequently what I said cannot be contrary to her teaching, although D.P.S. says it is, it is, it is—no, no, no, zis!!! I have been very careful to say nothing not warranted by Holy Scripture, and all I have ever learned on this subject came to me from gentlemen whose business it was to know all about it—gentlemen who had received their "D.D." from the Pope himself, and in that and all else were different from D.P.S.'s friend, Croly, whose theology was that of a sectarian conventicle, and whose "D.D." was a sham. Now, in the light of what I have said, the application of those different quotations, brought forward by D.P.S., will be seen. He brought quotations calculated to prove every conceivable thing connected with creation, but absolutely nothing to prove that I was wrong; because, of course, his ideas about creation were still "void and without form," and I was right. When D.P.S. admitted that a good Catholic might hold that the days are figurative he gave up all he claimed in his original queer and curious criticism; and he could not do otherwise than admit that, for he was just as wrong as he could possibly be. He cannot fool the Catholic public as to what he said in his letter published in the STAR of August 4th. They can look at it and see what he said just as well as himself, if not better. It is preposterously ridiculous or silly to talk about Galileo. Galileo made what he thought a discovery in physical science, and insisted on its truth, Bible or no Bible. I have not claimed any discovery in any science whatsoever. I merely called people's attention to the actual wording of the Bible, reminding them that the history of the sun commenced on the fourth day of creation, and I alluded to a theological opinion that certainly ought to be known to most people, and undoubtedly is. The trouble is that D.P.S. did not know enough about it to keep him still. I trust that like a good Christian, as he doubts is, he will be pleased to find that I was right all along, and that, no matter how any atheist or anybody else might invert the Bible, or misquote the Fathers, I am abundantly able to make manifest the truth of what I say. C. Jk

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Before Flevna 7000 men, were destroyed in thirty-three minutes. A new cannon has just been tested in the Kapp artillery grounds, Breda, which is fired at the expense of \$150 a shot. An Austrian general has been credited with the witty remark that his countrymen went to Bosnia to occupy it, and are likely to be occupied.

The Mohawk Telegraph and Telephone Company, with a capital of \$100,000, has been incorporated for fifty years. Its line will extend from Albany to Utica and other points.

King Humbert, of Italy, is about to erect at Turin, to the memory of his father, a monument to cost \$200,000. The competition, which is confined to Italian artists, closes on the 28th of February, 1879.

The sale of Queen Isabella's jewels yielded \$721,771 31, to be exact. The celebrated diamond was broken up and the brilliants were sold by weight to Mme. Blanc, widow of the gambler-king of Monaco, for \$33,333.

It is computed that the grain used for liquors in a year in the United States reaches 70,000,000 bushels, which would make 1,050,000,000 four-pound loaves of bread. Great Britain uses 80,000,000 bushels of grain yearly for the same purpose, and annually imports food to the value of nearly \$400,000,000.

The Pittsburgh Sunday Ledger distributes its issue, in the absence of Sunday trains, by a very ingenious railroad velocipede. It was only intended to carry one man and about 250 pounds of papers, but a few Sundays ago persons started on it with 160 pounds, and made 26 miles at an average of 10 miles an hour.

Much litigation is likely to grow out of the mill explosions in Minneapolis. The insurance companies refuse to pay for the whole damage on the ground that they are liable only for the actual loss by fire; but the mill owners hold that fire caused the explosion, and that, therefore, the entire loss was in consequence of fire.

Mr. Edmund Beckett writes to the London Times that "one doesn't learn much at church congresses, but I did learn the value of the rule limiting speeches at the only one I ever attended. All the men who were worth hearing could say all they wanted in a quarter of an hour, and those who were not were very generally extinguished by the President's bell."

One hundred and sixty steamships now ply the Atlantic between Europe and America, and new ones are being added from time to time to meet the increasing demand for the quick transportation of passengers and freight. Cheap ocean steam service has largely monopolized our carrying trade to European ports, and the sailing service to competing points has suffered in consequence.

For six years a commission has been laboring at the restoration of the records of births, marriages and deaths destroyed by the Paris Commune during the rising of 1871. It has now completed 368,018 applications, and rejected 47,432; 52,823 entries could be deciphered in the charred books, and the duplicate registers of marriages kept at the Mayor's office since 1859 supplied 64,480 more. There are still 3094 cases under consideration.

A large district of Siberia is being ravaged by hordes of bandits. They consist of escaped convicts—men who have been sentenced to the mines of Siberia, but have escaped. They have banded together in companies, and are now the terror of the district they inhabit. In one of the most dreaded persons yearly escape from the mines. For example, of 52,000 confined in the Government of Tomsk on Jan. 1, 1860 managed to escape.

Dod, the telegraph operator, recently decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honor for services during the Franco-German war, is the eighth woman thus rewarded. Five of the other crosses went to Sisters of Charity who had shown special devotion in hospitals, one to Madame Alice, wife of the Mayor of Orléans, for defending her husband's house against several armed men, and another to Rosa Bamber, the painter, who was decorated in 1865.

They have had a great blast at the Glendon furnace limestone quarries, near Easton, Pa. 12,000 pounds of powder, lightly tamped and covered with 6,000 kegs of sand and with blocks of limestone, being exploded. No more noise was heard than the noise a two-horse wagon would make running over a road. It had been estimated that if 60,000 tons were broken the entire cost of powder, but they thought that 100,000 tons of rock were moved.

A proposition has recently been made that the national debt can now be paid off by the imposition of an annual tax of \$20 on "generals," \$10 on "colonels" and \$5 on "majors." There is no doubt of the enormous revenue that would accrue from such a source would in a very short time wipe out the entire debt. After this it could be applied to settlement of the labor problem, as the fund would be sufficient to make a handsome distribution per capita for the whole country.

A clergyman in Australia, being disgusted with the number of threepenny pieces he found in the plate every Sunday, studied the subject, and, instead of paying the small silver coins into the bank, he hid them up in his desk, and used the shillings. After some £90 of small coin had been withdrawn from circulation expenses and shillings took their place in the plate, and latest accounts speak encouragingly of the increased amount derived from the weekly contributions.

Pretty nice work. Cleopatra's Needle, with the girders and iron jacket, weighs 202 tons. A fortnight ago they got it into position upon the girders by its trunnions and poised it so exactly that with his single strength Mr. John Dixon made the apex describe an arc of several inches. The pivot on which the immense mass is balanced is 27 feet 6 inches from the base, and of the monument. A calculation made before they began to raise it placed the theoretical centre of gravity at the height of 27 feet 3 inches.

Bradford, Pa., has shot up like a rocket. A year ago it was an idle village of 500 people, but now it is 10,000 and is projecting an opera-house, churches, high-school building and fine residences. Stores run as from \$1,500 to \$1,800 upon its business streets, and building lots bring fancy prices. Its gas works are giving profit to the tune of \$120,000 to \$200,000 a day, and a railroad is now in process of construction which Bradford relies on to make it the greatest railroad centre in the whole oil region.

Washington is said to be agitated over the report that when Senator Bruce returns from Europe he intends to "keep home" at the Capital. Custom, in such a case, would require Cabinet ladies and Senators' wives to first call on the bride, and include her as their guest at all entertainments and giving during the winter season. It was this objection of the wives of certain Republican statesmen of prominence to association with a negro wife, according to the gossip, cost Pinchback his chances of a seat.

Pike formed a barricade to all small fry in the Sacramento River recently. The pike averaged a foot in length, and rested a short distance below the surface, with their noses up stream. The little fish coming down and meeting this barrier, hesitated a moment, but were unable to turn back. Not one in a hundred escaped. Some executed strategic movements, and rising suddenly to the surface, attempted to clear their enemy by skimming swiftly over them, but the pike were quick. This lasted three days. Boys went out in boats and scooped up the pike, but the line was reformed at once.

IRISH CATHOLIC LIBERALITY VS. BRITISH BIGOTRY.

The Guardian, the religious organ of the Church of England, having asserted that Mr. Mitchell Henry, M.P., is a Roman Catholic, that gentleman has addressed the following letter to the editor: To the Editor of the Guardian: Sir—Allow me to contradict the statement made in the Guardian of the 7th inst., that I am a Roman Catholic, which occurs in your report of the debate in the House of Commons on the Bishops Bill. I am a member of the Church of England, although I represent one of the most Roman Catholic constituencies in Ireland—namely, the county of Galway. Permit me to add that in Ireland no questions whatever are raised as to the religious convictions of Parliamentary representatives—a fact which is in striking contrast to the circumstances that neither English, Scotch nor Welsh constituencies will elect any person who is not either a Protestant or a Jew. I am, sir, your obedient servant, MITCHELL HENRY.

JAMES CLANCY, POLITICAL PRISONER. The London correspondent of the Freeman says: The sister of James Clancy, one of the political prisoners who is shortly to be liberated, called at the House of Commons last night, for the purpose of seeing Mr. O'Connor Power on behalf of her brother. He was sentenced in 1867 to penal servitude for life, which sentence was commuted a short time ago, when Mr. Clancy was informed that he would be liberated early in November. But it appears that through loss of work, which resulted from illness, and some violation of the prison rules that he committed a few years ago, 39 days were added to the commuted sentence. At the request of Mr. Clancy's sister, Mr. O'Connor Power saw the Home Secretary last night, and urged the remission of these 39 days, to which Mr. Cross has consented. He will order Mr. Clancy's release 39 days earlier than the date originally fixed, which was, I believe, the 2nd of November.

DEATH OF MISS BARBARA MCHALE. The Tuam correspondent of the Freeman, writing on Monday, Aug. 12, says: It is with profound regret the sad news of the demise of Miss Barbara McHale, sister of our illustrious Archbishop, has been heard by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. At the palatial residence of his Grace, on Saturday, she breathed her last, having borne with patience and true Christian resignation, a lingering sickness of some months duration. This estimable and truly amiable lady was loved by all who knew her for her kindly disposition, pleasing manners, and heart abounding with sincere feelings of benevolence and charity. This was significantly shown to day, for so vast a cortege of that which followed her remains to their resting-place has not been witnessed here for years. At twelve o'clock a solemn Mass de Requiem was offered up in the Cathedral for the repose of her soul. The Very Rev. Canon Magee, P.P., Castlebar, celebrant; Rev. John McHale, professor, St. Jarlath's college, deacon; and Rev. Patrick J. Lyden, C.C., Tuam, sub-deacon. Rev. Patrick Kilkenny, Professor, St. Jarlath's, acted as master of the ceremonies. A large number of clergymen were present.

After absolution had been pronounced, the remains were conveyed from the cathedral and round through the town, and interred at the cemetery of the Mercy Convent, Tuam. Chief mourners: The Very Rev. Dr. Thomas McHale, D.D., Paris; Very Rev. Canon Richard McHale, P.P., Claremorris; Rev. John McHale, Professor, St. Jarlath's; Thomas Higgins, solicitor, Tuam; Patrick McHale Daly, etc.

TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT DISASTER. FROM 600 TO 700 LIVES LOST IN A FEW MINUTES. London, Sept. 4.—The excursion steamer Princess Alice, one of the largest saloon steamers of the London Steamboat Co., left London at 11 o'clock, Tuesday morning, 2d inst., many excursionists being induced by the fine weather to go for a holiday trip. The vessel left Gravesend on her return journey soon after 5 o'clock in the evening, and arrived within sight of the royal arsenal at Woolwich, about 8 o'clock: the Hywell Castle was then approaching on the opposite coast. The two steamers were near the middle of the stream just off the City of London Gas Works, at Buckton, and below North Woolwich Gardens, almost at the precise spot where the fatal collision occurred ten years ago. What happened it is impossible accurately to detail; all that is known amid maddening excitement is that the screw steamer struck the Princess Alice on her port-side near the fore-appointing. A scene which has had no parallel on the river since. Few, very few, persons clambered on the other vessel, but nearly all rushed to the after part of the Princess Alice. As the bow subsided gradually under water the shrieks were fearful, and nothing could be done to save life. There were a dozen or more life-boys on board, and some boats were swung in davits, but even if they could have been got at they would have been of little service under the circumstances. Within five minutes the Princess Alice keeled completely over, and went down in deep water. Some small boats hastened to the scene, and the Duke of Teck, another steamer belonging to the same company, which was also on the passage up the river with a party of excursionists, went to the rescue, but the river for hundreds of yards was full of drowning people, screaming in anguish, praying for help, and as it was growing dark, not much could be done. It is believed not more than one hundred and fifty persons escaped out of eight hundred who were aboard the vessel.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN ENNIS. The death of Sir John Ennis, Bart., took place on Thursday, August 13, at his residence in Merrion square. Sir John, who was born in 1800, was the only son of the late Andrew Ennis, one of the merchant princes of this city, and for many years treasurer to the O'Connell Tribune. He twice filled the office of Governor of the Bank of Ireland, and was for many years Chairman of the Midland Railway and the Dublin Steam Packet Company. He sat in Parliament as the Liberal member for Athlone from 1857 to 1863, and in 1866 the then Liberal Government conferred on him the dignity of a baronet. In politics Sir John was a moderate Liberal, but he held entirely aloof from recent popular movements. In religion he was a sincere and ardent Catholic, many pious and useful works losing a magnificent patron by his death.

IRISH MAIL NEWS. Dublin Nation, Aug. 17th. Dublin has lost by death within the past week both its Town Clerk and its assistant Town Clerk. The death of one was announced within a day or two of the death of the other. Mr. Martin, who filled the subordinate office, had almost attained the allotted years of man, and had been a prominent figure in what may be called the modern history of Ireland. He fought under the leadership of O'Connell, and was one of the "Old Guard" of whom the great Liberator was so proud. He was too keen a politician to be a successful man of business, and was rewarded with the office he held, out of consideration for the time and money he had spent in promoting the interests of the Liberal party, with which he was allied.

TEMPERATE HABITS OF THE PARISIANS. On the subject of dissipation there is a wide distinction between the working classes of London and Paris. In London the gin shop is the resort of men, women and children. There are no such dens in Paris. I went out a few days ago to eat some American waffles at a little French cafe, kept by a man who was formerly cook at a Paris pension where I stopped in 1875. It was in a crowded French quarter, where the work-people lived and labored, and both the cafe and customers were as clean and orderly as if they had been on the Boulevard Italien. The streets and the gardens are the resorts of the Paris poor in good, and the cafes never, even in the little restaurant I refer to, that those who came to buy refreshments always took light wines, and that there were no women patrons at the bar.

he obtained 26.5 of the remaining ballots being 27. The election has made somewhat of a sensation, as a week before Mr. Darwin only received 5 votes when Professor Gray was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Herr Braun, of Berlin. Several times his name has been before the Academy, his candidature always created an excitement especially during the lifetime of Leverrier, who invariably led the successful opposition.

In 1876 there were 5528 women sent to the Westminster Prison for drunkenness, an increase of 708 over 1875. Some of the prisoners had been convicted 100 times. Short sentences and punishment fail in effecting any reformation, and a sanatorium is to be opened at Bedford where time and proper treatment may insure a cure on the principle that sufficient time should be given to enable the nerves to recover a healthy tone, and to supply religious and moral influence and constant medical supervision. Laundry women form the majority of habitual drunkards, and therefore the proposed home will have a large and efficient laundry.

It is an odd spectacle to witness scores of women doing the work of loomweavers on the wharves of St. John's, Newfoundland. When the time arrives for vessels from Southern Equator, Brazil, West India, and elsewhere, to take aboard their cargoes of salt cod, herring, etc., files of buxom females, with tucked-up gowns, bared arms, and coarse brogues, may be seen along the wharves carrying flat barrels of fish to and fro. Each barrel has four handles, and is borne by two women. They perform the same labor as men at this business, but their pay is inferior. In fact, they seem to work more arduously than their male co-operators and continue to do so the same number of hours. Women also go on the "summer voyage" to Labrador, and act severally in the capacities of "splitters," "salters" and "head-cars."

There is life in the old land yet. It is stated in the Washington papers that the Democratic campaign committee occupies five rooms at the Capitol and is working a hundred men and boys night and day, while the Republican committee has a whole building to itself, a lot of clerks for assistants and as much money as it knows what to do with, and Hayes' contribution still to come in. These patriotic and hard-working committees are doing all this to save the country, and their documents are sent out by the hundreds of thousands to show the world that they are responsible for hard times, but that our party is the only one that can set things right. This kind of campaign has been going on for a great many years in this country, but so far as heard from it has never furnished the laborer with employment or given bread to the starving.

Governor Rice, of Massachusetts, doesn't believe in competitive examinations. He was one of the first to suggest such examinations for West Point and Annapolis appointments, but he soon found that the candidates who had good memories and little energy of character, succeeded in getting the appointments, and generally proved utter failures as military or naval men. In fact, some of the rejected lads at these competitive examinations, who were afterward appointed to fill the place of the big-headed failures, turned out admirable officers. "It wasn't a boy with good head and good grit, and not a girl with a big head, but a boy with a good memory," says the Governor, who adds: "A boy may have the making of a college professor in him, but it won't do to attempt to make a general of him."

In Paris a correspondent of the Baltimore American got up early in the morning, and rode about the city on the top of a street car in order to see how they kept Paris so clean. He writes: "The housekeepers bring out all their rubbish and pile it up in the street, one pile for every four or five houses. It is no sooner emptied than the rag-pickers and scavengers are upon it with their bits and hooks and hand-cars, pounce upon it and gather up all the fragments of paper, rags or metal to be found in the piles. They seem to take away one-third of the rubbish. Servants are everywhere to be seen with broom and bucket in hand cleaning off the fronts. The streets are being sprinkled with hose, and an army of men and women wash the pavements and sweep the sidewalks. On the boulevards, horse-brushing machines are in motion, and the garbage-carts are removing the piles thrown out by the housekeepers. Men with hoses are watering all the roots of all the hundreds of thousands of trees on the boulevards, and taking up the gratings so as to loosen the earth around them."

A great work now in course of execution is the lighthouse of Ar-men, on a rock beyond the Isle of Sein, off Cape Breton (L'Anse-au-Loup), Brasils, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 1860 a commission was first appointed to inquire into the possibility of constructing a lighthouse at this point, where the currents were so tremendous that even in the calmest weather they cause a very heavy sea in certain directions of the wind. The rock is of hard gneiss, from forty to fifty feet in length, and about twenty five in breadth. The preliminary work was done by means of a crane of the Isle of Sein, whose machinery with these waters enabled them to reach the rock when no one else could. Their method was, when opportunity offered, for two of them, wearing cork belts, to get out of their boats and lie upon the rock, which they clutched with one hand, while they made holes at intervals of three feet with the other. Meanwhile they were covered with spray, and sometimes carried away to be recovered by a boat. In 1867 only eight hours work could be accomplished, and fifteen holes made. Next year forty holes were made. In 1869 the building was begun, and now the tower is forty feet above the highest tides. It is intended to be about ninety feet above them.

death. Sir John is succeeded in his title by his only son, now Sir John James Ennis M.P. for Athlone in the last Parliament. One of Sir John's daughters is married to The O'Donoghue, M.P. It is said that the deceased baronet was very wealthy, and that his landed property alone is worth £10,000 a year.

It is stated that the British Government have determined to liberate all the remaining Irish political prisoners at intervals, within a period variously stated between the end of this and the beginning of next year.

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DEATH OF MISS BARBARA MCHALE. The Tuam correspondent of the Freeman, writing on Monday, Aug. 12, says: It is with profound regret the sad news of the demise of Miss Barbara McHale, sister of our illustrious Archbishop, has been heard by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. At the palatial residence of his Grace, on Saturday, she breathed her last, having borne with patience and true Christian resignation, a lingering sickness of some months duration. This estimable and truly amiable lady was loved by all who knew her for her kindly disposition, pleasing manners, and heart abounding with sincere feelings of benevolence and charity. This was significantly shown to day, for so vast a cortege of that which followed her remains to their resting-place has not been witnessed here for years. At twelve o'clock a solemn Mass de Requiem was offered up in the Cathedral for the repose of her soul. The Very Rev. Canon Magee, P.P., Castlebar, celebrant; Rev. John McHale, professor, St. Jarlath's college, deacon; and Rev. Patrick J. Lyden, C.C., Tuam, sub-deacon. Rev. Patrick Kilkenny, Professor, St. Jarlath's, acted as master of the ceremonies. A large number of clergymen were present.

After absolution had been pronounced, the remains were conveyed from the cathedral and round through the town, and interred at the cemetery of the Mercy Convent, Tuam. Chief mourners: The Very Rev. Dr. Thomas McHale, D.D., Paris; Very Rev. Canon Richard McHale, P.P., Claremorris; Rev. John McHale, Professor, St. Jarlath's; Thomas Higgins, solicitor, Tuam; Patrick McHale Daly, etc.

TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT DISASTER. FROM 600 TO 700 LIVES LOST IN A FEW MINUTES. London, Sept. 4.—The excursion steamer Princess Alice, one of the largest saloon steamers of the London Steamboat Co., left London at 11 o'clock, Tuesday morning, 2d inst., many excursionists being induced by the fine weather to go for a holiday trip. The vessel left Gravesend on her return journey soon after 5 o'clock in the evening, and arrived within sight of the royal arsenal at Woolwich, about 8 o'clock: the Hywell Castle was then approaching on the opposite coast. The two steamers were near the middle of the stream just off the City of London Gas Works, at Buckton, and below North Woolwich Gardens, almost at the precise spot where the fatal collision occurred ten years ago. What happened it is impossible accurately to detail; all that is known amid maddening excitement is that the screw steamer struck the Princess Alice on her port-side near the fore-appointing. A scene which has had no parallel on the river since. Few, very few, persons clambered on the other vessel, but nearly all rushed to the after part of the Princess Alice. As the bow subsided gradually under water the shrieks were fearful, and nothing could be done to save life. There were a dozen or more life-boys on board, and some boats were swung in davits, but even if they could have been got at they would have been of little service under the circumstances. Within five minutes the Princess Alice keeled completely over, and went down in deep water. Some small boats hastened to the scene, and the Duke of Teck, another steamer belonging to the same company, which was also on the passage up the river with a party of excursionists, went to the rescue, but the river for hundreds of yards was full of drowning people, screaming in anguish, praying for help, and as it was growing dark, not much could be done. It is believed not more than one hundred and fifty persons escaped out of eight hundred who were aboard the vessel.

The Princess Alice was a long and low river steamer, built for excursions down the Thames, of which the middle and poorer classes of Londoners were very fond. She had saloons on her forward and after decks. Her passenger carrying capacity was unusually large. A large proportion of her passengers last evening were on the upper or saloon deck. They must have been beforehand their impending doom, but those in the stern of the steamer had no warning until they heard the crash and found the passengers from the forward part of the vessel running to the after part. Beyond the fact that the tide was about two hours ebb, which would enable the Princess Alice to ease and stop sooner than the screw steamer, which would be borne on the tide, it is impossible to discover any of the circumstances immediately preceding the collision. Before the boats came in collision there were cries from one to the other to keep out of the way, but as usual in such cases the accident was probably due to a misunderstanding—the one misinterpreting the intention of the other. All the rules of sailing were cast to the winds in the moment of peril, each taking the wrong course to avoid each other's blunders.

RELEASE OF O'MEAGHER CONDON. The correspondence between United States Minister Welsh and Lord Salisbury, in regard to Condon, the Fenian convict, is published. Mr. Welsh, under date of August 8, reminds Lord Salisbury that the former appeals for the release of the Fenian Condon have been refused, but since then the action of the British Government has brought it so much honor that he (Welsh) thought the moment might possibly be a particularly agreeable one for the exercise of clemency. Especially in answer to the prayer of a friendly government which has shown so deep an interest in the case as to have already preferred the prayer three times, and would doubtless continue to do so, but always most respectfully, until it is granted. The belief in the United States is that Condon, an ardent Irishman who served most honorably in the American war, was a victim of circumstances in his wrong doing, and having been eleven years in prison and learned wisdom, may well be restored to his family in the United States. Mr. Welsh concludes by saying that he believes the release of Condon would be regarded by the President and Congress of the United States as a most friendly act. Under date of August 16, Lord Salisbury replies that the Cabinet has carefully considered the request of Minister Welsh and the fact that Condon's health is suffering seriously, and has been strongly moved to look upon the application in a most favorable light in consequence of its being one to which the President and Congress attach great importance. The Cabinet will, therefore, recommend that her Majesty remit the remainder of the sentence of Condon, and, as a necessary consequence, the remainder of the sentence of Melody, who was convicted of the same offense, under such conditions as her Majesty may be pleased to prescribe, one of which will be the residence of the released prisoners outside of the British dominions for the remainder of the sentence, or for such shorter period as may be fixed.

London, Sept. 3.—Minister Welsh and his daughter set out this morning for Paris, having brought to a conclusion negotiations concerning Condon, the Fenian prisoner. Mr. Welsh had previously made a journey of 300 miles to Portland to explain to the prisoner what efforts had been made in his behalf, and to prepare him for the unexpected boon of freedom. Condon expressed his gratitude for the kindness Mr. Welsh had personally shown him and the interest the American Minister had taken in his case. Minister Welsh then assured the released convict that his liberation meant his release, with full provision for himself and his family, till all were united. The British officials, too, lent what aid was in their power to make the visit of the American Minister eminently satisfactory. The British officials joined in assuring Condon that after his release he should find himself comfortably provided for, and prepared to accept whatever office or position might be offered him with a view to his settlement in the mother country.

The New York Scientific News call attention to the importance at this season of getting rid of all vile smells about dwellings, and makes this practical suggestion: "The article commonly used to disinfect foul places is chloride of lime, but in reality it is not of much value. It may and generally does remove bad smells, but the cause still remains, as the chloride simply destroys the gaseous emanations. The much advertised disinfectants are usually catchpenny nostrums, and unworthy of notice. One of the very best known disinfectants is old fashioned "copperas," or sulphate of iron, which can be had very cheap. A barrel of copperas would weigh probably three hundred pounds, and can be purchased at wholesale price for a cent and a half per pound. And every family ought, especially in warm weather, to have a supply of it on hand. A couple of handfuls of copperas thrown into a bucket of water will soon dissolve, and it can then be used freely, and is a valuable disinfectant. The best plan is to fill a half barrel or keg with water, and suspend within it moderate sized baskets full of copperas. In this way it dissolves more rapidly than when thrown to the bottom of the wooden vessel, and thus a supply is always at hand ready for use."

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