

A

# FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

BY SIR FRANCIS B. HEAD, BART.

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“Buried and cold, when my heart stills its motion,  
Green be thy fields, sweetest Isle of the Ocean!  
And may harp-striking bards sing aloud with devotion,  
Erin mavournin! Erin go bragh!”

CAMPBELL.

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## THE CONSTABULARY.

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IF a new Lord-Lieutenant in a very great hurry wished to obtain a correct general idea of the distribution of the Constabulary Force in Ireland—in case no poor little boy, with a face deeply pitted with the small-pox, happened to be in the neighbourhood—I would strongly advise him to buy a sixpenny map of Ireland, nail it to a tree, and then, standing twenty-five yards from it, to fire at it with a close-carrying single-barrelled gun loaded with snipe-shot, which, in one second, would, as nearly as possible, mark out for him the distribution of the constabulary throughout the country he was about to govern. A glance at the annexed map, on which every police station is accurately delineated, will, I believe, sufficiently demonstrate the truth of my prescription.

The first question which the moralist would, of course, ask is, why so ubiquitous a force is necessary? Blinking, however, this subject for the present, there is another query, which, though of minor importance, is not unworthy of consideration; namely, by what magic power can such a scattered force be governed? By military men discipline is said to be the art of welding together, into an indissoluble band, a number of human particles, which, separately, have no strength or value whatever. But those whom discipline has

thus joined, no man, with impunity, can put asunder. In a regiment, however admirable may be its efficiency, it would be difficult to select six men who would maintain their artificial habits, if they were to be located in a lonely spot for, say, only one year. To find a company of such men would be almost impossible; and yet the constabulary force of Ireland is composed of an army of 12,501 Irishmen, belonging to two religions which we are told it is impracticable to conciliate!

With these facts fermenting in my mind I felt desirous to inform myself, first, of the nature of the force in question; and, secondly, of the mode in which it is disciplined: and as, for some hours, I had an opportunity, first, of glancing over the whole of their rules and regulations; and, secondly, of inspecting several hundred of the officers and men at the *depôt* at which the whole is educated, I obtained the following trifling data on the subject:—

I.—Ireland — which contains 32 counties, 316 baronies, 2422 parishes, and 66,700 townlands — is divided, for police purposes, into 35 counties and ridings, over each of which is placed a county inspector. Each county and riding is divided into districts, averaging 7 in number, over each of which is placed a sub-inspector, whose district is further subdivided into about 7 sub-districts, each under the immediate charge of a head or other constable.

Each sub-district comprises on an average 40 townlands.

There are at present in Ireland 1590 police stations (*vide* Map), giving on an average 48 stations to each county, and 8 policemen to each station.

The constabulary force of Ireland consists of—

Roman Catholics . . . .	7,798
Protestants . . . .	4,703
Total force . . . .	<u>12,501</u>

The height of the men is as follows:—

ft. in.		ft. in.	
6 3 and upwards . . . .	23	5 11 and upwards . . . .	1794
6 2 „ . . . .	161	5 10 „ . . . .	2921
6 1 „ . . . .	506	5 9 „ . . . .	4623
6 0 „ . . . .	1104	5 8 „ . . . .	1518

Besides acting as conservators of the public peace, the Irish constabulary direct their exertions to numerous collateral objects of great importance to the country; for instance—

They distribute and collect the voting papers for all the Poor-Law guardians.

They take the census throughout Ireland.

They escort all prisoners, excepting in Tipperary and Cork, in which counties the aid of troops is required.

They escort all convicts, and discharge the convict accounts.

They collect and settle the innumerable accounts of fines and penalties, from sixpence upwards.

They act as billet-masters throughout the country, and as auctioneers for the sale of distress.

They enforce the fishery laws under certain instructions.

They assist in various ways the Board of Health.

They act (in towns and large villages) as masters of weights and measures.

They preserve order in sessional and assize courts.

They make up annually for Government certain statistical returns of the quantity and quality of the different kinds of crop, of stock, &c., and are thus competent, at any moment when required, to report simultaneously on the state of any particular crop—the potato, for instance—throughout the whole of Ireland.

During the famine they greatly assisted the Commissariat, as also the numerous relief commissions; in short, from their zeal and intelligence they are ready and competent to perform almost any miscellaneous duties that may be required of them.

On comparing the pay of the constabulary with that of a corresponding number of British troops, it appears that the police are a rather less expensive force than the army; for, although the sub-constables of police are better paid than private soldiers, yet, from the inferior pay of the other ranks of the constabulary, and from the much smaller proportion of them required than for troops, the cost of the whole force is at present, on the whole, less than that of an equal number of her Majesty's troops;\* and indeed this difference might be materially increased; for, as the number of constable-officers is not (as in the army) measured by the number of men they command, but by the extent of country under the superintendence of each, the

\* The difference is nearly as follows:—

10,000 police, with their officers and staff, cost 2000*l.* a-year less than 10,000 troops without staff.

The average annual expense of the clothing of the constabulary is as follows:—

Infantry, per man . . . . .	1	5	5½
Cavalry, , , . . . . .	1	19	1

number of police constables at every station might be doubled, without materially increasing the officers' labour; and as the whole police of Ireland might thus be very largely augmented without any great addition to its complement of officers, the expense of the force, as compared with that of the army, would in that case, of course, be proportionally diminished.

From documents which will shortly be submitted, and which will enable the reader on this important subject to judge for himself, I was happy to ascertain that in the constabulary, as in our army and navy, Protestants and Catholics live together in such perfect harmony, that during the last fifteen years the Inspector-General has not received above four cases of complaint connected with religion; indeed their difference of creed is productive to the service only of *good*; for as the constables and sub-constables of each religion would, of course, jealously report any partiality or disaffection of a comrade on account of religion, the plain course, and indeed the only practicable course for all, is to drop religious animosity, and be faithful to their duty. Several years ago one of the constables was promptly dismissed for calling out "*O'Connell for ever!*" Immediately afterwards two more were dismissed for, with equally extended jaws, shouting, "*To hell with the Pope!*" The adherents of both parties rabidly complained to Sir Duncan M'Grigor, who quaintly enough answered their communications by laconically sending to each complainant a copy of the punishment he had just inflicted for the antagonistic exclamation.

Throughout the late elections, although the whole

body of Ireland was convulsed by religious animosity, the fidelity of the constabulary was so irreproachable, that during that severe trial there has been no occasion to dismiss a single individual for disaffection. By a regulation, established by the Inspector-General, no constable or sub-constable can be allocated in the district of country of which he is a native, or in which he is known to have relations and friends; and, as a pleasing proof of the propriety of this arrangement, it may be stated that constables, located on the confines of their own neighbourhood, of their own accord often apply to be removed, as they find their difficulties and temptations so much increased by being even in the neighbourhood of their acquaintances.

In the small detachments in which the constabulary are scattered over the whole surface of Ireland, not only is every individual strictly required to do his own duty, but he is punished if he witnesses any irregularity in the conduct of his comrades without reporting it to his officer.

For ordinary offences there are instituted Constabulary Courts of Inquiry, which, after due investigation, deliver their verdict; but, to insure uniform discipline, the Inspector-General alone awards the punishment, which generally consists of a fine not exceeding 3*l*. With the sanction of the Lord-Lieutenant he can, however, at once rid himself of any one technically termed by his comrades "a black sheep."

In the last fifteen years the only case of disaffection that has occurred in the constabulary was an anonymous letter, written by a constable to a rebel, "hoping he would succeed." On this communication being

transmitted to the Inspector-General he sent to the culprit, desiring him to come to head-quarters with a specimen of his handwriting. The man, fancying he was to be promoted, joyfully obeyed the summons, and appeared quite elated, until, after a severe cross-examination, his letter was shown to him, upon which he at once acknowledged himself to be the writer; boldly adding, "*Those sentiments are mine!*" It is a singular circumstance—to which no unfavourable moral can reasonably be attached—that this man, who was of course instantly dismissed, had for two or three years been a student at Maynooth.

But it is by rewards rather than by punishments that the discipline of the force is established.

Any head or other constable, or sub-constable, who distinguishes himself by zealous, intelligent, and spirited conduct, is permitted to wear, as a mark of distinction, a chevron of lace on the left fore-arm of his jacket.

When a man, distinguished by four such marks, merits a fifth, in lieu of all he receives a silver medal, which he wears suspended by a light-blue riband on his left breast.

For every occasion on which he subsequently distinguishes himself, he is allowed to wear a chevron in addition to the medal.

These chevrons and medal are not only honourable distinctions to the constable while in the service, but on his retiring from it they very properly become bills of exchange. On the termination of his services the earner of these honours receives from the Reward Fund—if a head-constable, the sum of 6*l.*, and if a constable or sub-constable, the sum of 4*l.* for each chevron: for his

medal, a head-constable receives 35*l.*; a constable or sub-constable, 25*l.*; and if the man dies in the service, these well-earned sums, after his funeral, are paid over to his widow or children, but to no other *heir at law*. The medal itself is also handed over to the widow or children as an honourable testimonial. Sub-constables with medals, without regard to their services, take precedence of all others in their class; but for misconduct a man forfeits one or more chevrons, according to the nature and degree of his offence.

The Inspector-General not only declines to enlist married men, but after the recruits are enlisted they are not allowed even to speak of matrimony for exactly five years: however, at the end of that period, if they sicken, their names are allowed to be enrolled, and, as vacancies occur among the 1-5th of the force that are permitted to be married, they gradually (in the order of their application) crawl up the tree of Hymen, until they arrive at the point called "holy matrimony," where they are authorised to establish themselves; "provided always," says the regulation, "that they can produce satisfactory references as to the conduct, character, and respectability [the stern order says nothing about beauty] of the female to whom the constable or sub-constable may wish to be united."

Besides the numerous small detachments I have described, there are in each county a few men of superior attainments and experience, termed "disposable men"—Anglicè, "Detectives." They are, however, entitled to this latter appellation only in one sense of the word; for, with a view to prevent them from acting as spies, they are prohibited from looking out for intended

crimes; and are directed to confine their attention exclusively to the capture of the perpetrators of outrages already committed, about which there can be no question.

With this object in view they search for information, and it is a curious fact that since the exertions of Father Matthew they have found that the difficulty of detecting crime in Ireland has considerably increased, the reason being, that the information and confessions they formerly obtained were usually volunteered by drunken men.

Formerly every county in Ireland paid one-half of the gross expenses of the constabulary located within it, and the consolidated fund paid the other half. Now the whole of the Parliamentary establishment is defrayed by the consolidated fund, the county only paying for any force it may require beyond that establishment. When, however, any great crime takes place, Government has the power to send a force, which can be located, as it deems fit, on the county at large, the barony, parish, or town-land, either of which, as ordained by Government, is made chargeable for the cost of the extra force for three months certain, and for such further time as may be requisite. The beneficial effect of this regulation is, that in many cases information is privately given to Government of an intended crime, merely to avoid the expense of suppressing it.

For the constabulary men are selected solely from character and personal appearance, without reference to their religion. Some years ago about one-third of the applicants were Protestants. I ascertained, how-

ever, that the number of applicants of that creed has very lately increased.

Strange as it may sound, the little dumb potato has been the unconscious cause of this difference, for, as the lower orders of Catholics usually feed on it, and the lower orders of Protestants partly on oats, the famine caused by the potato disease, not only (as the statistics in the Government offices fully substantiate) fell principally on the poor Catholics, but subsequently, from the terrifying effects of this cause, the latter class have formed by far the greater number of the emigrants who since the famine have left Ireland.

Of the officers, who are all gentlemen, there are more Protestants than Catholics.

In proportion, however, to the whole force, which is essentially Catholic, they are very few in number.

Beginning from the lowest rank, the officers consist of—

Cadets-Probationary, who rank as constables, and who usually continue in probation for about 2 months.

Sub-Inspectors, of three classes, who perform the same duties, but with different rates of pay, namely, 100*l.* a year, 120*l.*, 150*l.*, and about 12 at 180*l.*

County-Inspectors, of three classes, receiving 220*l.*, 250*l.*, and 300*l.* a year.

2 Assistant Inspector-Generals,—one employed in the office in Dublin Castle, and one (Captain Roberts) commanding the Educationary Depôt in the Phoenix Park.

2 Deputy Inspector-Generals, of great experience, who work in the office.

1 Inspector-General, Major-General Sir Duncan Mc Grigor, K.C.B.

The Depôt consists of a Commandant (Lieut.-Colonel Roberts) and 6 Sub-Inspectors (of whom 4 command companies of about 150 infantry men each; one the cavalry troop, consisting, at present, of 60 men and 52 horses; the sixth performs the triple regimental duties of adjutant, barrack-master, and storekeeper). There are also a surgeon and veterinary surgeon.

Besides the discipline and payment of the companies, these 6 officers have to conduct a large county correspondence owing to the reserved men being scattered over Ireland, in places where, in consequence of disturbances, their services are required.

The officers who join as cadets, and who, during their probation, are dressed as officers, are taught to command a body of men, and, when competent, are promoted, as vacancies occur, to the rank of Sub-Inspector.

The officers are instructed in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, "*the* [their] code;" also how to fill up numberless returns, which, on service, they have to make as to crime, statistics, estimates, accounts, &c.

In the whole of the above, as also in the knowledge of the drill and discipline of the corps, they are strictly examined, and, unless deemed perfectly competent, are not sent to a county to be intrusted with the charge of a district. The time occupied in their primary instruction, which they are required to continue when detached, is usually from 4 to 5 months.

As the constables of the three ranks, in their remote and often solitary locations, have to act as paymasters,

they also are all instructed as accountants, and in other matters which will shortly be detailed.

In the whole force there are, per annum, about 1000 vacancies, caused by resignations, deaths, retirements by pension or gratuity, and dismissals, the latter averaging each year about 200.

Every individual in the constabulary is required to have in his possession, and to be catechised therefrom, a small printed book, entitled ‘EXTRACTS FROM THE STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS, AS PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONSTABULARY FORCE OF IRELAND.’

On glancing over the 558 regulations contained in this blue-bound *vade mecum*, the following appeared to exemplify, very satisfactorily, the admirable principles by which Sir Duncan McGrigor has organized this valuable corps.

“17. Every inferior, whether officer or constable, is to receive the lawful commands of his superior with deference and respect, and to execute them to the best of his power; and every superior, in his turn, whether officer or constable, is to give his orders in the language of moderation, and of regard to the feelings of the individual under his command.

“96. It is of great importance that the men should be respected by the people of the country, and obtain the good opinion of the gentry. They will, therefore, be extremely cautious in their demeanour, and, by sober, orderly, and regular habits, respectful attention to every gentleman, and ready zeal to execute the lawful orders and commands of the magistrates, endeavour to obtain the approbation of all classes.

“97. The situations in which the men are placed render it of the highest importance that they should be on the most cordial terms with each other, and join in every-

thing that can tend to the advantage of the establishment ; therefore, any man who is inclined to quarrel with his comrades will be considered unfit for the service.

“ 173. All official authorities are to be treated with marked attention and respect by every member of the force ; and head and other constables are never to pass any of the Queen’s judges of assize, lieutenants of counties, vice-lieutenants, high-sheriffs, magistrates, sub-sheriffs, coroners, officers of the revenue police, or officers of the force, without saluting them.

“ 193. The constabulary force should sedulously cultivate a good understanding with the army, navy, and other public services.

#### “ *Firing.*

“ 396. The constabulary being, from the nature of the service, much detached, and acting, necessarily, in the performance of their various duties, in small parties, are intrusted with arms for their own preservation, and that of their barracks and prisoners ; it cannot therefore be too strongly impressed on the mind of each and every member of the force, how highly essential it is to guard against the slightest wanton or wilful misuse of their arms, but to observe the utmost forbearance that humanity combined with prudence can dictate, before incurring the awful as well as legal responsibility of firing on the people ; a measure which should never be resorted to until the very last extremity, and not until after every other means shall have failed for the preservation of those engaged in carrying the law into effect. It should be constantly borne in mind, that, however well justified a policeman may consider himself in firing, the act, with all its accompanying circumstances, whether the result be attended by loss of life or otherwise, must become the subject of legal investigation. It therefore behoves those who may be placed in such a situation to be well prepared to prove that they acted with becoming humanity, caution, and prudence ; and that they were compelled by necessity alone to have recourse to their arms.

“ 397. Whenever the necessity of firing should unfortunately arise, it ought to be at the leaders of a riot, or the assailants of the police, and, if possible, with effect. Firing over the heads of mobs engaged in an illegal pursuit must not be allowed ; as a harmless fire, instead of intimidating, would give confidence to the daring and the guilty.

“ 402. The constabulary should, upon all occasions (as before directed), observe the utmost caution and forbearance in using their arms ; but should any attempt be made to force an entrance into their barracks, or to rescue prisoners who may be in their charge, or to deprive them of their arms, they ought, in those purely defensive situations, to act with the utmost firmness and determination, and to resist by every means in their power the loss of their barracks, prisoners, or arms.

“ 403. The police are expressly prohibited from firing shots, for the purpose of intimidating any persons they may be authorised to arrest, or for any other purpose whatever, or under any other circumstances than those set forth in the 7th chapter.

“ *Prisoners.*

“ 483. Are to be treated by the constabulary with every humane consideration which their situation and safety can admit of, and no unnecessary restraint or harshness shall be permitted towards them ; but on the other hand, as the escape of any prisoner must ensure the dismissal of the person or persons in charge of him, it behoves the police to be vigilant in the discharge of his or their duty.

“ 484. Every rational allowance should be made for the feelings of a prisoner by his escort ; but as the latter is responsible for his safe custody, he is to be handcuffed, if charged with the commission of any serious offence, or if a person of bad or suspicious character, if there be reasonable grounds to apprehend an escape or rescue.

“ 485. Females, or old or infirm prisoners, are not to be handcuffed ; and the constabulary are not to converse with their prisoners or question them respecting the offences with which they may be charged.

*“Witnesses and Prosecutors.*

“558. In all trials wherein the police may either be witnesses or prosecutors, they should give their testimony in a manly straightforward manner, without caring or appearing to care about the effects of it, either as to the conviction or acquittal of the accused in criminal matters, or as to the result in any civil or other suit.

“559. They should merely and briefly answer the questions put to them without remark or commentary; and, if cross-examined, they should carefully avoid making a disrespectful or an intemperate reply; for if their testimony be fairly and honestly given, they need not fear, and should not be annoyed at, any ordeal to which they may be subjected. It must, however, be clearly understood that no man can be considered as a worthy member of the force who is not a respectable witness, and that any instance of prevarication before any court of assize, sessions, inquiry, or other tribunal whatsoever, shall ensure the immediate dismissal of the witness who prevaricates, or gives partial or vindictive evidence.

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THE CONSTABULARY DEPOT.

This establishment, romantically situated in a retired portion of the Phoenix Park, is composed of barrack-looking buildings, forming three sides of a rectangular, capacious, dark-coloured, gritty parade-ground. The long north front, which has a clock in the middle of it, contains officers' quarters, officers' mess-room, sleeping-rooms for the infantry portion of the force, and the Commandant's quarters; on the east, or right, a short wing for infantry; on the west, or left, similar accommodation, with stabling beneath, for the cavalry.

The whole is surrounded on the south by a ditch, terminating at each end by a rustic, countryfied, cottage-

looking guard-house, which has evidently been scientifically constructed for the purpose, like a bastion, of flanking the ditch in case of an attack. In the iron shutters of its windows are loopholes, and I also in the walls observed more loopholes, filled up with brick-nogging, that could evidently be knocked out with the butt end of a musket at a moment's notice. The other three sides are protected by a jagged-topped stone wall, 8 feet high.

Close to the iron entrance-gates is a small moveable guard-room, 10 feet square, whose roof, floor, and sides are composed of shutters, the lower portion of which, by iron lining, have been made ball-proof. In the sides are hooks for five hammocks, carefully hung in the portion that is musket-proof.

A few habitations of this sort are in store, ready to form a portable barrack for mountains, or for any uninhabited spot in which it may be necessary to locate a party for a few months.

On arriving, by appointment, at 10 o'clock in the morning at this *Depôt*, I found the whole of its dark-green force marching in companies on the Parade, and as, by order of the Commandant, they wheeled into line, I saw at a glance before me a well-organized body of regular troops; indeed, in soldier-like appearance, arms, accoutrements, and uniform, they strongly reminded me of that noble corps the old 95th, now-a-days christened "the Rifle Brigade." They had the same slight, active appearance; although, on the whole, they were evidently taller.

The full dress of the men is, a black shako, a dark green soldier's jacket with worsted epaulettes

of the same colour, dark green trousers and gloves, boots, a black patent-leather cross belt, clasping with a brass plate, a black shining-leather waistband containing two black pouches, one for percussion caps, the other for a pair of iron handcuffs. Their arms are composed of a short carbine with a spring bayonet, which, when unfixed, is attached by another spring to its scabbard, so as to prevent the weapon, in either position, from being forced from its place. In every cartouch box there were 20 rounds of ball cartridge (two loose and ready) and 30 spare caps, and above them was suspended, by black straps, a black knapsack. Each man in full marching order carries 33lb. 4 oz., including his carbine and bayonet, which weighs 7 lb. 15 oz., and his cartouch box with 20 rounds of ball cartridge, weighing 4 lb. 3 oz. For undress, the men wear a smart, neat foraging cap, with black patent-leather chin-straps.

On walking through the ranks, I perceived that the acting constables (corporals) were distinguished by two gold chevrons on the left arm. The constables (who rank as sergeants) had three gold chevrons. The head constable (second class), who wears two small gold epaulettes, and in his undress gold twist, has on his arm four bars surmounted by a crown embroidered in gold. Instead of a single he has a double-barrelled carbine, with a short sword that can be attached to it as a bayonet. The head constable, first class (sergeant-major), whose clothes are of superfine cloth, has the same four chevrons and crown; but underneath them there is embroidered a gold shamrock. Besides the above, those men and non-commissioned officers who

have earned them, are distinguished by the good-conduct chevron and silver badge of merit already described. The officers wear shakos, dark-green uniform, with gilt epaulette scales; their long straight swords are in bur-nished steel scabbards.

The mounted constabulary is a well-appointed ca-valry force, composed of tall, slight, wiry-looking men, selected for their superior activity, general intelligence, and predilection for horses and mounted service. They are not selected if they are under five feet eight or above five feet ten, if they exceed in weight twelve stone, or until they have served as infantry police for two years. Their uniform consists of a dark-green jacket and trousers with black stripe, a light-green worsted waist-belt, a black cavalry cap, with patent-leather peak, brass chin-scales, patent-leather cross belt, white gloves, and steel spurs. In front of their saddle, which is the same as that used by the horse artillery, they carry a brace of pistols covered with brown leather; behind it, a valise protected by black oil-skin. The horses have bright collar-chains and white girths. The appointments, including everything, weigh 5 stone 4 lbs. On ordinary service the men wear a foraging cap, and the horses do not carry the valise; the weight of the appointments is thus reduced to 3 stone 12 lbs.

Every man, after having served one year in the mounted force to the satisfaction of his county inspector, is entitled, if a constable, to an addition of 2*l.*, and if a sub-constable of 1*l.* 10*s.*, to his usual salary; thus making the pay of a mounted constable 38*l.*, and of a sub-con-  
stable 29*l.* 4*s.* a-year. The increase, however, above named is forfeited by misconduct, or by the man being

removed to the infantry. To the cavalry the principal words of command are given by a trumpet, to the infantry by bugles.

As soon as our slight inspection was over, the Commandant, Lieut.-Colonel Roberts, who, under the directions of the Inspector-General, has indefatigably raised and trained upwards of 14,000 constabulary recruits, put his force through various military evolutions adapted to their particular duties. For the purpose of clearing away a mob, the infantry advanced rapidly in the form of a solid wedge, which, as soon as it was supposed to have penetrated the mob, gradually extended itself into line. They then quickly formed themselves into small defensive squares; and although they have happily never had occasion to carry it into effect, they went through a movement of street firing adapted for a small force, which it would be impossible for any undisciplined crowd to resist. Advancing in sections about the length of a narrow street, the leading men no sooner fired than a section from the rear in double quick time ran in front and fired again; and so on a rapid succession of volleys was administered. Besides this exercise, the men are taught first to fire blank cartridges, and then, with the help of a target, are (as it is professionally termed) "finished off with ball," until, as I was informed, they can hit true and well at 100 yards. On the whole, I certainly have never seen assembled a more intellectual force; indeed there was an intelligence in their countenances, a supple activity in their movements, and a lightness in their tread, that were very remarkable.

The Commandant, having most obligingly shown me

a specimen of the Irish Constabulary in its manufactured state, now pointed to a picturesque portion of the Phoenix Park immediately outside the south ditch of the barracks, where I had an opportunity of seeing, standing in squads of 20 and 30 men each, the raw material of which it is constructed.

On a small expanse of emerald-green grass, studded here and there with beautiful gnarled thorn-trees, which, increasing in number, soon formed a wild-looking forest, bush, or jungle, much resembling spots I had seen in uninhabited portions of South America, I found standing in squads of 20 or 30, clasping their thighs, and in various degrees of strangulation, recruits, some of whom, having arrived but the day before, had only that morning been gifted with a hard stiff patent-leather stock, which gave that sort of protuberance to the eyes which I remember formed the first feature in my own military career. Some had joined a week, some a fortnight, and the rest rather more than three weeks. Without reference to religion, almost all had been selected as being the sons of deserving small farmers. They were, generally speaking, fine, handsome, intelligent lads of from 18 to 20; well dressed, wearing waistcoats, neckcloths, and clean shirts. There was nothing clownish or cloddish in their appearance; and the progress which the more advanced had made during the very short period of their probation exemplified what I believe is an old remark, namely, the natural aptitude of the Irish to be soldiers—*not sailors*, as *that* profession rarely suits them.

After observing for a few minutes their star-gazing attempts to march, countermarch, &c.—in short, the

vigorous efforts of these military grubs to become butterflies—I returned with the Commandant to the Parade to look at the barracks. We first went to the officers' quarters, where I entered a good reading-room well supplied with newspapers, and an excellent mess-room, handsomely carpeted, with mahogany sideboard, plate, and other Constabulary comforts.

In the infantry barracks, on the ground floor, I found the men's rooms, which are 33 feet by 20, newly whitewashed; and besides two lofty windows at each end, they were scientifically ventilated by four holes about three feet from the floor for the admission of heavy pure air, and by two holes in the ceiling for the exit—viâ the chimney—of light foul air. In every room were sixteen iron bedsteads, each containing a fresh bed and pillow of straw, a pair of sheets, two blankets, and a quilt. The tick beds are washed every six months, and the pillow-cases every four months. The men's accoutrements were arranged on shelves, and around each room were stands for their arms. For the lower panes of the windows I observed iron shutters, loop-holed; in short, the Irish Constabulary in their barracks are, in fact, a select garrison of admirably drilled troops, occupying, very properly and very peaceably, a very snug little fortress of their own. But its loopholes are blinded, and the officers and non-commissioned officers wear quiet civil titles; and thus Parliament, so invariably averse to every description of force that by its efficiency deserves the unpopular appellation of "*regular*," good-humouredly looks upon the whole, and, satisfied by the blocked-up loopholes, finds no reason whatever to complain of "unconstitutional protection."

On ascending a stone staircase we passed some single small rooms, about 12 feet square each, containing a solitary bed, and a table bearing an inkstand, pens, &c. They belong to the constables (sergeants).

On the upper story I found a series of rooms similar to those below, but with a small low door pierced in the wall of each, so as in case of *attack* to allow the men, by stooping, freely to circulate through the whole region without being obliged to ascend the staircase.

Under each bedstead I remarked a black box, on the side of which was written the owner's name in white letters, containing, besides his linen, &c., a suit of plain clothes and round hat; which, if necessary, enables the force without danger to move from station to station, or to assemble in force at any given point, without irritation or observation.

In rear of these barracks are a cleaning yard; washing-room, supplied by a steam-boiler with hot and cold water; a shed, for cleaning clothes, and for drilling in wet weather, &c. In the cooking-house, in which are eight large caldrons, I found three women engaged and paid by the men to cook their victuals and clean their rooms.

In the cavalry wing there is a sergeants' mess-room, containing tables neatly covered with painted oil-cloth. On the walls were hanging several maps and the mess regulations. From the latter it appears that these chief constables get an excellent breakfast and dinner for 11*d.*, servants and washing included. Throughout the barracks smoking, card-playing, and gambling of every description are strictly prohibited. In the riding-school I found several recruits in dark green, with brass

scales to their caps, riding on horses, each branded on the shoulder with his respective number. The stables, which are 36 feet by 20, and well ventilated, are divided by iron rails; and over each iron manger is written the number, age, and date of purchase of the horse that is eating out of it.

In the hospital, which is luxuriously supplied with hot and cold baths, the sick are all required to wear a blue-bottle coloured dress, to prevent them from flying unseen to their healthy green-coated comrades. On looking over the dietary, I was quite delighted to find that on Friday all the inmates, whether Protestant or Catholic, dine amicably together on fish.

In the eastern short wing of the establishment I found an excellent, healthy, well-ventilated school-room, containing in two divisions sixteen long desks and benches. In front of them was the teacher's table, with globes, a case for books, &c.

On their first entrance here, the recruits are made to copy out the rules and regulations by which they are to be governed, and in which they are strictly examined. In addition, they are taught orthography, grammar, arithmetic, geography, with a particular knowledge of Ireland, and the rudiments of geometry.

They are then in the "special class" taught, by a constable-schoolmaster, a highly intelligent young man, book-keeping and mathematics. No recruit is allowed to be detached until by examination he has shown himself competent to perform his duty. In like manner, his subsequent promotion depends on his passing a superior examination:—

“It is in vain,” say the printed regulations, “for any man to expect promotion who cannot write with facility a good legible hand, and spell well.” \*

To enable him to prepare himself for this future examination, he receives, previous to his leaving the depôt, every necessary instruction. On the whole, it appeared to me that at the Constabulary depôt every practicable exertion is made to give to the important force it educates an intellectual character, as well as that intelligence, activity, and zeal which its delicate and difficult duties so urgently require.

## DUBLIN POLICE.

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As I was anxious, during my short visit, to observe, as accurately as I could, the Irish character in the various phases in which it is to be seen, I obtained permission to inspect the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force, composed of 103 serjeants, 12 detectives, 954 constables, and 20 supernumeraries, making a total of 1099, whose weekly pay is as follows:—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Sergeants and detectives . . . . .	21	0
Constables, First class . . . . .	16	9
„    Second class . . . . .	15	0
„    Third class . . . . .	11	6
Supernumeraries . . . . .	7	0

A candidate for admission must be under 26 years of age, must be able to read and write, and, moreover, must be in height 5 feet 9 inches, without his shoes.

The whole force average in height 5 feet 11 inches, and they are thus in reality, as they are in appearance, an army of grenadiers, of which the B division, composed of 190, are all 6 feet and upwards. Among the constables there is only one old soldier, and one lawyer. There is scarcely a Dublin man among them, the Commissioners preferring to enlist country people from all parts of Ireland, without making any inquiry as to their religion.

The conditions upon which they are enlisted are, that they shall not belong to any secret or political society, and that they shall abstain from the expression of any political or religious opinion in any manner calculated to give offence. To these simple, sensible regulations they at once cheerfully and rigidly conform; and thus, while the whole of Ireland is convulsed with religious animosities, which generations of British statesmen have declared, and still declare, to be implacable, the Dublin Metropolitan Police, composed of Catholics and Protestants, picked up from all parts of Ireland, not only among themselves live in perfect amity, but at a moment's notice, at the sound of a rattle or of a whistle, fraternally join together to collar, handcuff, and, if absolutely necessary, to fell senseless to the ground, any person or persons who, from religious, political, or any other alleged motives, shall presume to disturb the public peace.

In this sacred duty, and in attaining this noble triumph, no less than seventy of them, during the last twelve months, were grievously and severely wounded; and yet, is it not strange that, while the Dublin Police Force so clearly sees that by amity and silent unanimity they can beneficently preserve the peace of their metropolis, "another place" ever has been, and is, an arena in which the pronouncement of the very name of Ireland produces acerbity and contention? In fact, there can exist no doubt whatever that if, on the one hand, the members of "the House" alluded to were to be made constables of the Dublin Police, they would, by endless speeches, create infinitely more disturbance than they would allay, and

that, on the other hand, if Lieut.-Colonel George Brown, and his Catholic and Protestant constables, were, for a single Session, to be granted an opportunity of legislating from St. Stephen's for Ireland, they would, with perfect unanimity, by silent firmness, laconically impart peace, happiness, and prosperity to the land.

There are sixteen station-houses in Dublin, with a clock in each, by the assistance of which, at the same instant, sixteen reliefs are thrown out over a surface of forty-four square miles. The whole is governed by two Commissioners, one civil, the other military, whose office is in the Castle.

In the police store, within its precincts, I found a number of trophies that had been obtained by the force. Among them was the tricolour flag given by certain Paris ladies of easy political virtue to Mr. Meagher, and captured in the summer of 1848; a black flag, with the harp of Ireland in white; another black flag, tastefully ornamented with the words "Famine and Pestilence;" pikes of various sorts, for cutting bridles, maiming horses, spitting Protestants, &c. &c.; lastly, a human skull, which, during the State trials in 1848, had been hung on the knocker of Mr. Kemis, the Crown Solicitor, as a reminder.

I also observed a lot of very efficient extra weapons, in case the police truncheons should prove insufficient, consisting of swords, ship cutlasses with iron handles, and lastly, as the strongest dose in the Dublin police pharmacopœia, short detonating muskets with brown barrels.

In the clothing store I found piled in masses great-

coats, coats, trousers, and oil-skin capes, with a quantity of mattresses, stuffed with cocoa-nut fibre.

From the Castle, the residence of Vice-Royalty, Colonel Brown was good enough to accompany me to the "Old Bishop's Palace," now the principal establishment of the Police, consisting of a plot of ground and buildings surrounded by a high wall.

In one stable, as clean, and, I may add, as smart as a London livery stable, I found twenty capital, well-bred horses, belonging to the mounted force, every man of which is well trained to the use of the bright arms he bears.

The sets of harness belonging to four large vans in which, as in London, prisoners are conveyed to the Police Courts, and from thence to the jails, were as highly polished and burnished as if they had belonged to a gentleman's carriage.

On entering the largest of the buildings I found a school for recruits, in which they improve their writing, and also learn by heart a "Catechism," in which is very clearly expounded to them that the duty they owe to their neighbour is to conduct him quietly to the nearest station whenever he is disorderly,—carry him there when he happens to be unable to stand,—force him there whenever he resists,—and handcuff him whenever he is what is professionally termed "violent."

From the school I proceeded to a room where I found twenty fine, good-looking, powerful country lads, with large white teeth and clean ruddy faces, seated with a dinner before them, and with heaps of potatoes which certainly appeared to me altogether enough to choke them. But they were not only learning to eat a good

meal, but how to eat it in clean clothes, with a clean knife and fork, off a clean table-cloth ; in short, with a probationary pay of a shilling a-day, they were undergoing the agreeable process of being introduced to a new system of life, in which they were not only to display good behaviour, but, like Falstaff's wit, to be the cause of good behaviour in others.

Here, again, the members of the two religions were intermingled in most happy communion, and, as one large mealy potato after another disappeared, it was utterly impossible for the keenest observer even to guess whether they had been devoured before his eyes by a Protestant or by a Catholic ; indeed, so easily are these recruits made to harmonise together on this point, that on Friday they, as well as the whole of the Police force, often comfortably dine together on fish ; in short, the prejudices which great statesmen fancy to be insuperable, *they* readily annihilate by mastication.

The bed-rooms were lofty, airy, with floors as clean as women's hands could make them : in fact, it is by the hands of old women, hired by the force, that they are cleaned. After going through several, we came to those in which a hundred men who had been on night-duty were lying, with nearly closed shutters, fast asleep.

On opening these doors and standing for a few seconds at the threshold, I beheld before me, in twilight, under bed-clothes, a series of large lumps of men, all apparently more or less exhausted by fatigue. Here and there a very great eye would open—stare a little—gradually become fishy—and then close. Occasionally a pair would unequally open, until the owner of one

set, as if half aghast, actually raised his huge head from his pillow. Not wishing to disturb the poor fellow, I instantly slowly retired backwards, leaving him to recite to his comrades in the morning, that he had dreamt he had distinctly seen "the Colonel" gazing at him, accompanied by an inquisitive stranger, who appeared to be taking his picture.

In a very neat small room I visited a 1st class serjeant, who, besides possessing a wife and daughter of very pleasing appearance, has a couple of hundred pounds in the savings-bank. On his table I observed a large bible, and as the good book, I felt sure, had had something to do with the sum that had been saved, I ascertained on inquiry that the Protestant members of the Dublin Police have in savings-banks no less a sum than 20,000*l*.

As in the Constabulary, no married man is admitted into the corps; nor is any member of it afterwards allowed to marry unless he is the possessor of 40*l*; the first thing, therefore, that Cupid has to teach a Dublin policeman is to put by a sixpence,—to repeat the operation sixteen hundred times, and *then* apply for his licence.

To the force is attached a fire brigade, with a magnificent engine, under the especial direction of an acting serjeant, fourteen firemen (from the mounted police), and twenty of the recruits who work the pumps.

At one of the police-stations, in Chancery-lane, a narrow, crooked, old-fashioned street, in olden times the official residence of the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, and other crown lawyers, I visited the lock-up houses, in which I found only one tenant, a respect-

ably dressed man, well known to Col. Brown, who had unfortunately happened to become so intoxicated that he could with difficulty articulate an explanation, which, as it slowly came out of his mouth, was apparently thicker than his whole body. Adjoining him in a corner of the yard reposed a hand-stretcher, with a canvas bottom, for the purpose of bringing to the station any one who—without metaphor—might be found in the streets dead-drunk.

I learnt, on inquiry, that drunken men assist not a little in removing from the police any hostile feelings among each other on the score of religion; for as in their madness these delinquents attack Catholics and Protestants with equal violence, the parties assailed are absolutely forced to join together for mutual self-defence, and thus vicious habits and brutal conduct are productive—under Providence—of beneficial results.

As I had now gone through all the district and barrack details, I had only to witness the force, or rather a large portion of it, that had been drawn up for inspection in that large hollow quadrangle in the interior of the Castle, in the centre of which there stands, guarded by a sentinel always pacing up and down beside it, the British flag, affixed not to a lofty, but to an ordinary hand-staff.

This powerful body of tall men, who appear to be considerably stouter than the slight active members of the constabulary, were dressed as nearly as possible like their brothers in London; that is to say, they had black hats, covered at top with black patent leather—whalebone side-guards covered with the same; blue coats with silver buttons, hard black stocks, blue

trousers, black leather waistbelt, white gloves, and boots. The only trifling difference, as I could observe, was, that the figures and letters distinguishing the division and number of each policeman are in Dublin in silver, instead of, as in London, in white cotton.

In appearance they are clean, and well set up; and as they marched and countermarched about the square of old-fashioned buildings that environed us, their heavy tread unequivocally explained their momentum or physical force.

less regretted, the iron-bound seat in which for so many hours I had been tightly ensconced.

A branch public car was shortly to convey me to Ballinrobe; in the mean while I walked to the station of the constabulary. At its door I found one of the force on duty, exactly as clean and as well appointed as those I had seen on their parade in the Phoenix Park. On producing my order the head constable received me with great civility, and at once accompanied me through the house, or, as it is not improperly termed, the barrack. In the principal bedroom were five iron turn-up bedsteads; on each was a straw mattress, upon which the sheets and blankets of the owner were neatly wrapped in a reddish counterpane, the folds of all five being so neatly arranged that the different-coloured articles altogether resembled a section of what is commonly called a roly-poly or blanket pudding. On a shelf were arranged the men's caps and great-coats. The deal table in the middle of the chamber, as also the floor, were as clean as hands, soap, sand, and water could make them. The windows were open, and, above all, the constable and his six men were dressed with as much precision as if they had just prepared themselves for parade. Their uniform was well brushed, boots well blacked, jackets buttoned from the waist to the windpipe; their arms and accoutrements clean and neatly arranged. On conversing with the head constable, a slight, exceedingly intelligent man, he told me that, in consequence of the evictions, a number of people had emigrated and were still emigrating; and yet that for the harvest and for the drainage of the river Robe there had been throughout

redients, bog, stones, and peat, and yet within it I passed here and there a healthy pretty child, with uncombed flaxen hair, bare feet, and a red petticoat. After travelling some miles I met a young girl, apparently leg weary, with the bright eyes, yellow bills, and sharp intelligent heads of two live fowls peeping out of a crimson-coloured cloak, that in a variety of folds was gracefully hanging about her slight figure.

At five miles from Ballinrobe we came to a constabulary station, and, as I was now lord and master of my own carriage, I desired the driver to stop, and in I went. It was really a picture and a pattern of cleanliness; the walls and ceilings of the rooms were milk white, the floor as clean as a farm kitchen table, and the men, notwithstanding the rain, in perfect parade order. I asked the sergeant commanding, whose arm was distinguished by three chevrons, whether there was much crime in his neighbourhood. "Very little indeed," was his reply. He said there had been no evictions lately.

As I was jogging along, with my umbrella over my head, we met a car, in which there was seated by himself a healthy, ruddy, respectable-looking priest.

"What do the poor people pay to their priest for being married?" said I. "Yere Arnh'r," my driver replied, "they pay 1*l.* 5*s.*; a few of the very poorest 'll have ut done for 1*l.*"

"What do they pay for christening a child?" "Two and sixpence," he replied; adding "that's a *riglar* charge." "And for funerals?" He replied, "Nothing at a' for thim—they can get a mass read for from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*"

a discoloration in its leaf, that but too clearly announced the existence of subterranean disease.

About a mile from Castlebar we, all of a sudden, came to a most extraordinary change. The road on the left side was bounded by a stone and lime wall, rough-cast, and within it, to Castlebar, the eye roamed, or rather revelled, over an expanse of corn waving or standing in sheaves; green crops, of great luxuriance; cocks of hay standing in emerald-green fields; the whole—like France—without a fence of any description.

On the right of the road, the country, to a considerable extent, had been similarly altered. In the middle of all I observed the tall chimney of a steam-engine: in short, the change was really magical; and whatever the heart might say on the subject, it was utterly impossible for the judgment of any man to deny, for an instant, that a most astounding improvement of the surface of Ireland had been effected; indeed, in the course of my life, I have certainly never beheld a contrast so striking. In the centre of it my companion pointed out to me with his whip, among some trees, the residence of Lord Lucan, whom I had come to visit.

Castlebar, the county town of Mayo, is situated at the north-west point of that vast plain of mixed bog and pasture land which characterises the greater part of the counties of Roscommon, Galway, Sligo, and Mayo. It is also very nearly at the head of that broken valley that separates the high lands of Connemara and Joyce country from Eunis and Tyrawley. The most remarkable point in its history is, that in 1798 it was occupied for a few days by the French army, under General Humbert, that had landed at Killala Bay.

As we were trotting along one of the main streets leading to the principal square I observed about a dozen well-appointed men in blue uniform, standing outside a door. As they evidently did not belong to our army I desired the driver to stop, and, entering the house, I was soon in the presence of two officers in blue military frock coats, gold scales on their shoulders, and wearing swords exactly as if they were of a regiment of the line. The one was a sub-inspector and the other a lieutenant of what is called in Ireland "the Revenue Police." On producing my order to the constabulary these officers very readily and obligingly explained to me—who had never before even heard of their force—that its especial duties, which, previous to the year 1836, were performed by the military, accompanied by an excise officer, are to suppress illicit distillation and malting. In order to do so, armed parties, four times a week, by day and by night, and for at least eight hours per diem, make excursions to search the town lands, every suspected house, concealed caves, &c. The whole force consists of about 1000 men under officers whose ranks are as follows:—

1 chief inspector, residing at the Custom-house, Dublin, 9 second inspectors, 9 sub-inspectors, and 55 lieutenants. There are also a due proportion of sergeants, and about 1000 privates, almost all of whom are Catholics. The principal stations are commanded by sub-inspectors, and the out-stations by lieutenants. The men, like those of the constabulary, are armed, efficiently equipped, and well disciplined and drilled. Their uniform consists of blue military jacket, trowsers, brass buttons, blue foraging cap, with a brass bugle

above the letters R. P., and a patent-leather chin-strap. I asked the officers whether religion in any way interfered with the duties their men had to perform. They both at once, nearly in the same words, replied, "Oh no, our men seize as soon from a Catholic as from a Protestant!" "What a moral," said I to myself, "is contained in those few words!"

Crossing the square, which, bounded by trees on one side, strongly reminded me of the "Grande Place" of an ordinary French town, I proceeded through crooked streets, swarming alive with barefooted women, and little girls in red petticoats, to the workhouse, composed of a series of well-arranged buildings, surrounded by a very high wall. As I was about to ring at the bell I was accosted by one of the relieving officers of the union.

"There appear," said I, "to be a number of unroofed houses in the neighbourhood of Castlebar."

"Yes," he replied, "there are, but many who had good means took advantage of the badness of the times, and, on being evicted, went off to England and America."

"Have these evictions had much effect on the town?"

"They have made a number of empty shops," he replied.

"Had you any rows here during the election?"

"Yes," he replied, "the Priests' party came down and got over the wall there" (he pointed to a spot where the iron spikes had apparently been forcibly wrenched off): "six were indicted for it, tried, and found guilty."

"How many relieving officers have you in the union?"

very respectable-looking chambermaid into a room containing two beds, *one* of which she said I could have; in short, I found that the house was overflowing with English tourists, each carrying in his or her right hand a pea-green 'Handbook,' that had been given gratis at Euston Station, and which, very unfortunately for me, had gratuitously told almost everybody to come to Westport. Without asking for a description of my bedfellow, I at once so positively declared I would not have one, that by persuasion and more effectual means I extorted a promise that I should be alone. At dinner we had a splendid turbot, a superabundance of lobster-sauce; but as I was rather too hungry to be at all particular, nothing else has lived in my memory excepting some potatoes of a sort called "*Protestants*," which, on my making some remark as to the oddity of their name, elicited from the waiter, as with a white napkin under his left arm he bustled around the table, an anecdote, showing how a gentleman had won a sovereign by betting with a party of jolly good Papists, with whom he was dining, "that he could prove there were, at table, more *Protestants* than Catholics."

As soon as our repast was over I walked for a short time about broad streets (most of which were at right angles), of houses two stories high, constructed on the acclivity of an exceedingly steep hill. At the intersection of four of the principal thoroughfares I observed on a Grecian pedestal the statue of a bald-headed hero of some sort, standing with his right hand on his heart, and evidently thinking hard. "Who is that?" said I to a wet boy, on whose bare head the

rain was steadily pattering. "He was," he replied, "a rich marn of this place, and so they made hum a startu."

From the statue of Dives I went to the barracks of the constabulary, where I found the beds of a sub-inspector, a head constable, two Protestant constables, and nine sub-constables, of whom eight were Roman Catholics and one a Protestant. Of the above force, eight, with the sub-inspector, and twenty-seven more from other parts, had the day before proceeded to Clare Island, a most beautiful elevated spot, about four miles long by one and a half broad, situated in the entrance of Clew Bay, nearly seventeen miles from Westport, for the purposes of eviction.

The head constable, an exceedingly well-educated intelligent man, who had been at Westport five years, and who had been present at nearly all the numerous evictions in its neighbourhood, told me that, although in unroofing the houses the women often stood by, crying bitterly, excepting a trifling animosity at Kilmeen, no resistance whatever had been made.

"They have always," he added, "been quite amenable to the law. Indeed, considering their sufferings at the time, it was a matter of wonder they were so submissive."

"You must surely," said I, "sometimes have had great difficulty in the execution of this duty?"

"Well, Sir," he replied, "we certainly have, but we endeavour to joke off anything that is said against us; and even if it comes to blows, we will bear a good deal rather than have recourse to deadly weapons."

"Has there been much crime in the county?"

“None whatever,” he replied—“some petty larcenies, that’s all.”

“Have you had any religious disagreements among your force?”

“Oh no!” he replied, “if any person insults one he insults all. Our force is paraded, as on other days, every Sunday. Every man then goes off to his own place of worship.”

I asked him from whom I could obtain the most correct account of the numerous conversions to Protestantism which of late years had been effected in the West of Ireland? In compliance with my wishes he at once conducted me to two gentlemen who appeared to be well conversant with the subject.

The serious mistake which the English Government made long ago was appointing Protestant clergymen who could not preach in Irish to localities in which the native language was in current use. In those localities, as well as in all others, a zealous Catholic priest has naturally always deemed it his duty by every means in his power to keep his own flock separate from those of a different creed; and as the same policy was not pursued by the Protestant clergy, it follows, of course, that conversions, if any, were more likely to be effected from the latter creed than to it.

As death, however, is said to level all earthly distinction, so did the famine in 1846 bring the suffering Catholics and the Protestant clergy into close communication. The poor, when they saw the tenderness and indefatigable exertion of the clergy of the Established Church, applied to them for relief—obtained it—and the barrier of prejudice which had separated

and in the month of May last there was in the village a mission of both religions, and during *that* time, had it not been for constant vigilance by day and by night, there would probably have been serious disturbances. Windows were broken, but now these angry feelings have almost entirely subsided."

He also informed me that about four or five months ago a great many evictions had taken place in the neighbourhood, principally on the Martin property, 170,000 acres, lately purchased by a London Life Insurance Company; that he had to attend at all these evictions, but that "there was no resistance or trouble of any sort."

"What became of the people evicted?" I inquired.

"They went," he replied, "to the workhouse, to America, England, or wherever they could get employment."

"Did they commit any depredations during their distress?" I asked.

"They did not, *indeed*, Sir!" he replied.

"What do you pay for your tea and sugar here?" I inquired.

"Very dare, Sir," he replied. "We pay 5s. for tea, 5*d.* for brown sugar, and 8*d.* for white; that is, if we buy a single pound."

The whole constabulary establishment was in admirable order, the men's equipments were all shining, and the brass scales on the shoulders of the mounted constable literally shone like burnished gold.

What a moral example of cleanliness, order, and obedience, must the 1590 Constabulary Barracks offer to the people among whom they are everywhere

then to the park wall of Danesfield, the property of Mr. Burke (a Catholic), extending about two miles and a half, and shaded on both sides of the road by beautiful plantations.

We now entered Moycullen, a small village containing a large Roman Catholic chapel, blessed with a congregation, from all quarters, of about 200 persons; also a national school, two stories high, with five windows in front.

In the constabulary barracks are quartered one constable (a Catholic), and five sub-constables (three Catholics and two Protestants).

“Have these stairs been just planed?” I inquired of the constable.

“No, Sir; only cleaned,” he replied.

They, as well as the floor of the rooms and table, had been scrubbed till they were literally almost white. The constable wore his side-arms; his men, as usual, were dressed as for parade.

After seating myself at the table of his room, “What is the population of this village?” I inquired.

“Seventy,” he replied; “there are about fourteen or fifteen families.”

“Sit down, sergeant,” I said to him, pointing to a chair close to him.

“No, I thank ye, Sir, I’ll just stand,” was his reply, remaining perfectly erect.

“Whence do you get your provisions?”

“From Galway” ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles off), he answered; “we get from thence grocery, meat, everything except potatoes and turf. When we are buying beef we get it about three times a month, so as to have it half fresh and

half corned ; but beef is scarce, and we have therefore bought a fitch of bacon for the entire of this month."

"What is your principal duty here?" I asked.

He replied, "In escorting prisoners from Connemara and Oughterard districts to Galway county gaol."

"Has there been much crime here?" I inquired.

"Excepting a few cases of drunkenness, no offences for some time. Nothing can be more peaceable and tranquil than this neighbourhood."

As it appears from the above statement of the constable that drunkenness is one of the offences that has been occasionally brought before him, I feel it right to state that, up to the period of my arrival at Oughterard, I had not, in Ireland, excepting in the police-cell in Dublin, seen one drunken person, either male or female.

The following comparative return, however, will accurately show how much less spirits are drunk in Ireland than in Scotland, the morality of which country is proverbial.

	Population.	Gallons of Spirits,
Scotland, in the year 1850 .	2,870,784 .	consumed 6,935,003
Ireland,       "       " .	6,515,794 .	consumed 6,973,333

In the above the number of gallons of spirits charged with duty for home consumption is taken from the Parliamentary Returns of 1850 ; the population from the census of 1851.

Our game little pony now trotted us into a large expanse of stony country, partly cultivated, and in those places divided by loose stone walls into rather small fields, among which were several unroofed cabins. From thence we drove through a village, every habitation of which was unroofed, excepting one,