

FIRST REPORT

FROM

HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE

CONDITION

OF THE

POORER CLASSES

IN

IRELAND,

WITH

APPENDIX (A.) AND SUPPLEMENT.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 July 1835.*

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COMMISSION.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith. TO the Most Reverend Father in God, Our right trusty and right entirely beloved Councillor *Richard* Archbishop of *Dublin*, and our trusty and well beloved the Most Reverend *Daniel Murray*, Doctor in Divinity, *Charles Vignoles*, Doctor in Divinity, *Richard More O'Ferrall*, Esquire, the Reverend *James Carlile*, *Fenton Hort*, *John Corrie*, *James Naper* and *William Battie Wrightson*, Esquires, Greeting: WHEREAS an humble Address has been presented to Us by the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly beseeching Us, that We would be graciously pleased to issue a Commission to inquire into the condition of the POORER CLASSES of our Subjects in *Ireland*, and into the various Institutions at present established by Law for their Relief; KNOW YE, That We, reposing great trust and confidence in your intelligence, discretion and diligence, have authorized and appointed, and by these Presents do authorize and appoint you the said *RICHARD* Archbishop of *DUBLIN*, *Daniel Murray*, *Charles Vignoles*, *Richard More O'Ferrall*, *James Carlile*, *Fenton Hort*, *John Corrie*, *James Naper* and *William Battie Wrightson*, to inquire into the condition of the Poorer Classes of Our Subjects in *Ireland*, and into the various Institutions at present established by Law for their relief; and also, Whether any and what further remedial measures appear to be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any portion of them; and for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, We do by these Presents give and grant to you, or one or more of you, full power and authority to call before you or any one or more of you such persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises: And We do further by these Presents give and grant to you, or any one or more of you, full power and authority to inquire of the premises and every part thereof, by all lawful ways and means whatsoever, within all parts of Our United Kingdom: And We do further by these Presents give and grant to you, or any one or more of you, full power and authority where the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an Oath to any person whatsoever to be examined before you, or any one or more of you, touching or concerning the premises: And We do further by these Presents give and grant to you, or any one or more of you, full power and authority to cause all persons to bring and produce upon Oath before you, or any one or more of you, all and singular Records, Books, Papers and other Writings touching the premises, and which shall be in the custody of them, or any of them: And Our further will and pleasure is, that you or any Three or more of you, upon due inquiry into the premises do propose and reduce into writing, and submit to Us such further remedial measures (if any) as may appear to you to be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any portion of them; And do certify to Us

from time to time, under your hands and seals, your several Proceedings, as the same shall be completed, and do within the space of One year after the date of these Presents, or sooner if the same can reasonably be, certify unto Us in like manner the whole of your proceedings under and by virtue of these Presents, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the premises upon such inquiry as aforesaid: And We further will and command, and by these Presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners, or any one or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment: And for your assistance in the due execution of this Our Commission, We have made choice of Our trusty and well-beloved JOHN REVANS, Esquire, to be SECRETARY of this Our Commission, and to attend you, whose services and assistance We require you to use from time to time as occasion shall require. In witness whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself at Westminster the Twenty-fifth day of September in the Fourth year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal.

BATHURST.

POOR INQUIRY, IRELAND.

FIRST REPORT.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

SIRE,

WE, The COMMISSIONERS commanded by YOUR MAJESTY "to inquire into "the Condition of the Poorer Classes of Your Majesty's Subjects in "Ireland, and into the various Institutions at present established by law for their "relief; and also, whether any, and what, further remedial measures appear to "be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any portion of "them;" having made very considerable progress in the arduous duties entrusted to us, are now enabled to lay before Your Majesty the large body of Evidence, which has been collected.

This Evidence solely relates to the first branch of the Inquiry, which is now complete; namely, as to *the modes in which the destitute classes in Ireland are supported, to the extent and efficiency of those modes and their effects upon those who give, and upon those who receive relief.*

The Appendix (A.) contains Parochial Examinations relative to the modes of relieving,—

Deserted and Orphan Children.
 Illegitimate Children and their Mothers.
 Widows having Families of young Children.
 The Impotent through Age or other permanent Infirmary.
 The Sick Poor, who in health, are capable of earning their subsistence.
 The Able-bodied out of Work.
 Vagrancy, as a mode of relief.

An examination relative to these subjects was made in one parish in every barony, in each of the following counties, seventeen in number:—

CONNAUGHT.	LEINSTER.	MUNSTER.	ULSTER.
Galway.	Carlow.	Clare.	Antrim.
Mayo.	Kildare.	Cork.	Donegal.
Roscommon.	Longford.	Kerry.	Londonderry.
Sligo.	Westmeath.	Limerick.	
	Wexford.	Tipperary.	

To these parochial examinations, a Supplement is annexed, containing Answers to Nine Questions on these subjects. The Answers are made by the clergy (of the various persuasions), the magistracy and others, from every part of the country.

The Appendix (B.) contains the Examinations relative to Hospitals, Dispensaries and other Medical Charities.

An examination was made of every Dispensary in each of the following counties:—

CONNAUGHT.	LEINSTER.	MUNSTER.	ULSTER.
Galway.	Louth.	Cork.	Armagh.
Roscommon.	Meath.	Kerry.	Down.
	Wicklow.		

And of some Dispensaries and Hospitals, and every Infirmary in

CONNAUGHT.	LEINSTER.	MUNSTER.	ULSTER.
	Carlow.	Clare.	Antrim.
	Dublin.	Limerick.	Cavan.
	Kildare.		Londonberry.
	Queen's.		Monaghan.
			Tyrone.

To this Appendix there is attached a Supplement containing Answers by the Medical Attendants of 413 Dispensaries, of 56 Fever Hospitals and of 33 Infirmarys, to 13 Questions.

The Appendix (C.) contains the Examinations concerning Institutions not Medical for the relief of different classes of the Destitute.

These Institutions are principally Mendicity Institutions, Houses of Industry, Almshouses and Societies for visiting the destitute, and distributing food, money or clothes in the following large towns :

CONNAUGHT.	LEINSTER.	MUNSTER.	ULSTER.
Ballina.	Athlone.	Bandon.	Belfast.
Castlebar.	Birr.	Bantry.	Carrickfergus.
Galway.	Drogheda.	Clonmel.	Derry.
Loughrea.	Dublin.	Cork.	Newry.
Sligo.	Dundalk.	Dungarvon.	
Tuam.		Ennis.	
		Kinsale.	
		Limerick.	
		Mallow.	
		Nenagh.	
		Tralce.	
		Waterford.	
		Youghall.	

Having given this summary of the contents of our Appendix, we take this opportunity of stating to Your Majesty,—

I. The difficulties which we have had to encounter both from the extensive and complicated nature of the subject itself, and from the peculiar social condition of the people of that portion of Your Majesty's Dominions in which the Inquiry has been prosecuted.

II. The course which we have pursued in collecting information ; showing how far it is full and impartial, and therefore how far worthy of confidence.

III. The reasons why we are not yet enabled to obey Your Majesty's Command to report, "Whether any and what further remedial measures appear to be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any of them."

I. *As to the difficulties of the Inquiry.*

The great proportion of the Population about and amongst whom the Inquiry was to be made, is constantly fluctuating between Mendicancy and Independent Labour. In whole districts, scarcely one of that class of substantial capitalist farmers so universal in England, can be found. The small resident gentry are but few, and the substantial tradesman is not to be met with at intervals of two or three miles as in England ; for there are but few towns of sufficient trade to create such a class. The clergy of the various persuasions, and the proprietors, when resident, are, in many cases, so much at variance with each other, or with the working population, upon political questions, that great caution was requisite in regard to the manner and degree, in which we could avail ourselves of their assistance. Similar difficulties existed with regard to the constabulary, from the frequent collision in which they are placed with the people ; and parochial authorities can scarcely be said to exist.

In an inquiry about a population, in which many of the ordinary distinctions

tions of society are commonly merged in the same individual, and in an inquiry amongst a people the various classes of whom had long been at variance with each other, it became a matter of fearful moment to determine respecting whom the inquiry should be made, and from whom testimony could be received, which would not merely be impartial, but which would be admitted by all to be so; the one requisite being as important as the other. We became quickly and painfully alive to the danger which would attend the slightest error in our procedure. Did we appear to rely too much on the clergy or laity of any one persuasion, we were certain to be accused of political or religious bias. Did we receive testimony more freely from the rich man than from the poor man, or from the poor man than from the rich, we were certain to be denounced as having prejudged the subject about which we had undertaken impartially to inquire.

But great as were these difficulties, great as was the circumspection which they required, another and yet more formidable difficulty existed. Your Majesty had commanded us to determine "whether any, and, if any, what further remedial measures appear to be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any portion of them."

To determine what measures might be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes in Ireland, required an investigation extending to almost the whole social and productive system; for the poorer classes in Ireland may be considered as comprehending nearly the whole population; and as no institution is isolated in its effect, it is impossible to decide upon the consequence of removing or creating one law or custom, without considering its connexion with every other. It became therefore matter of grave importance to determine whether so extensive an inquiry was practicable; and if not, what portion should be chosen. It also became necessary and difficult to decide as to the order in which such an investigation should proceed;—which class of subjects should be taken first, which last,—which were primary in their effects, which secondary.

On every side we were assailed by the theories of those who were born or had long resided in the country, and consequently might be supposed to have possessed good opportunity for ascertaining the soundness of their opinions. One party attributed all the poverty and wretchedness of the country to an asserted extreme use of ardent spirits, and proposed a system for repressing illicit distillation, for preventing smuggling, and for substituting beer and coffee. Another party found the cause in the combinations amongst workmen, and proposed rigorous laws against Trades Unions. Others again were equally confident, that the reclamation of the bogs and waste lands was the only practicable remedy. A fourth party declared the nature of the existing connexion between landlord and tenant to be the root of all the evil; pawnbroking, redundant population, absence of capital, peculiar religious tenets and religious differences, political excitement, want of education, the maladministration of justice, the state of prison discipline, want of manufactures, and of inland navigation, with a variety of other circumstances, were each supported by their various advocates with earnestness and ability, as being either alone, or jointly with some other, the primary cause of all the evils of society; and loan funds, emigration, the repression of political excitement, the introduction of manufactures, and the extension of inland navigation, were accordingly proposed each as the principal means by which the improvement of Ireland could be promoted.

Having so difficult a question to deal with, and so many plausible solutions offered to us, aware that the public would be impatient of a second inquiry, we felt bound to use great consideration in selecting the subjects and the order of investigation. That many, if not all, of the alleged causes of evil did exist in a greater or less degree, was sufficiently evident; and that good might arise from some of the remedies proposed, we were not prepared to deny. To decide, without careful investigation, upon the degree in which each might be productive of evil or of benefit, would have been at variance with the trust which Your Majesty had confided to us. We therefore determined that the Inquiry should embrace every subject to which importance seemed to be attached by any large number of persons.

The great range of Inquiry thus opened to us, made it desirable that it should be conducted in separate branches. It was evident that the minds of the Assistant Commissioners, if employed each upon a multitude of subjects, many of which

were of themselves sufficiently extensive for a separate Commission, would be incapable of minutely investigating any one, and consequently that the most obvious facts alone would be ascertained; whilst it was evident, from the great variety of opinions, that the truth was far from obvious, and required a patient, minute and diligent search. Two other evils seemed inevitably to attach to such a general Inquiry. The great length of time during which the Examination would last, if each subject were thoroughly investigated, would render those who gave evidence impatient; consequently the latter subjects of the Inquiry would in most cases be neglected. Again, several of the subjects could be far more efficiently conducted by persons having peculiar practical knowledge. The Inquiry into the management and efficiency of Hospitals, Dispensaries and other Medical Establishments, would in all probability be more usefully conducted by medical men; whilst an Inquiry into the wages and habits of farm labourers, and into the nature and extent of employment for them, would be better entrusted to those long practised in rural occupations.

The Division which appeared to us the most convenient was into two principal Branches :

The first, An Inquiry into the Extent of Destitution, into the Modes in which Relief was afforded to the Destitute, and into the effects of those Modes.

The second, An Inquiry into the Causes of Destitution.

It was considered advisable to subdivide this latter branch into four distinct heads :

An Inquiry into the rate of Agricultural Wages, the habits of Farm Labourers, the nature and extent of Employment in Agriculture, the nature and state of Agriculture, to endeavour to discover whether there might be any measures within the reach of the Legislature which would tend to increase the demand for labour.

An Inquiry relative to the Manufacturing Population, and to Trade and Manufactures for similar purposes.

An Inquiry relative to the Fisheries,

And one relative to Mining.

II. We will now state *the course which we have pursued in collecting information ; showing how far the evidence is full and impartial, and therefore how far worthy of reliance.*

Our first act in the collection of information was to circulate a set of Statistical Questions. These Questions were sent to the Clergy of each persuasion, to the Magistracy, to the heads of the Police, and to such educated persons as had been named as able and willing to give us assistance. The purport of these Questions was to obtain an outline of the extent and nature of each Parish, the number of destitute Persons it contained, the number and nature of the Institutions for the relief of the Poor, the rates of Wages, rents of Cottages, &c. ; about 7,600 of these Questions were circulated, about 3,100 were returned, and the state of about 1,100 Parishes was described by them. Many well-informed persons in every part of the country were induced, through answering these questions, to send statements by which considerable insight was afforded upon many subjects of importance.

To obtain information sufficiently extensive in its range, and sufficiently impartial, by means of circulated Questions, was obviously impossible. As a Board, we could not pass from one district of the country to another, and receive local evidence, if the country was to be extensively visited, and if our inquiry was to conclude within any reasonable number of years. If each Member of the Board had taken a separate District, it is probable that each would have been more impressed by those circumstances which had been subjects of personal observation, than by those which had been collected by his colleagues, and consequently were to him only written evidence. Besides, many of the Commissioners had other important duties which would not admit of their leaving Dublin. To have contented ourselves with such information as we could obtain by Witnesses brought to Dublin would have been materially to lessen the chance of obtaining full and impartial information, not only as regarded classes of persons, but as regarded the various districts of the country.

It

It was obviously necessary, therefore, that others should be deputed to make local inquiries.

The difficulty, great under any circumstances, of selecting persons upon whom reliance could be placed as possessing intelligence in tracing the truth, diligence in pursuit of it, patience in examining a variety of persons of different views and habits, and impartiality in deciding between conflicting statements, was much increased by the peculiar state of society.

In a community which had long been divided into politico-religious parties, each regarding the other with jealousy and animosity, it was extremely difficult to find persons who would be able, even if they were desirous, to divest themselves of every partial feeling, nurtured as they had been in an anti-social state. And even when persons should have been found who really were themselves thus impartial, there was still a danger that they would be suspected of partaking of the prejudices with which their relatives, friends and connexions were known to be imbued.

On the other hand, to have left the inquiry to those who were foreign to the country, would have been to entrust it to persons ignorant of its peculiar social construction; of the peculiar habits and feelings of its people; of the peculiar idioms of its language, and consequently to those who would be incapable of guarding against imposition in the receipt of evidence, and against giving offence to those from whom they received it. The only mode of combining the national knowledge possessed by the one, with the impartiality almost certain in the other, appeared to be by joining in the inquiry a native of Great Britain with a resident native of Ireland.

In order to reap the fullest advantage possible from such an arrangement, we required that all Evidence should be taken in the joint presence of the Irish and English Assistant Commissioners; and we have in a few instances been compelled to reject Evidence which, through accident, had not been thus taken. We likewise empowered either Assistant Commissioner to invite the presence of any person whose Evidence might appear to him individually to be important, and to put any question he might think pertinent to the Inquiry.

In preparing Instructions for the Assistant Commissioners, we searched the Evidence given at various times before Committees of Parliament relative to the condition of the people, and to the causes which have directly or remotely led to that condition, and also the various private publications upon the subject, and consulted those persons who from their habits and position were likely to be the best acquainted with the situation of the people. Certain circumstances were stated by those whose opinions were thus obtained, as conveying a faithful representation of the general physical and moral condition of the working classes. Other circumstances were mentioned either as the immediate or remote causes of that condition; and again, others as the immediate or remote effects. We felt it to be necessary, not only to ascertain to what extent those statements might be facts, but whether they embraced the whole of the facts; and whether those facts affected a few districts, or the whole country. With this view minute Heads of Inquiry, based upon the information thus obtained, were drawn up. Those Heads of Inquiry did not anticipate the negative or affirmative, but were so framed as to admit of any explanation within the range of the class to which each belonged, being general as to that class, but confined to the main subject of which each formed only a subdivision. It was carefully enforced upon the Assistant Commissioners, that those Heads of Inquiry were not for the purpose of restricting them, but merely as an assistance to the memory, ensuring that, at each examination, no portion of the subject, however minute, which was known by us to be worthy of consideration could be omitted. The Assistant Commissioners were expressly reminded that they were not merely at liberty to probe each portion of the subject as far as it might in their discretion appear necessary, but that they were positively required to do so; the Heads of Inquiry being merely for the purpose of putting them, previously to their going out, in possession of all points of the subject, as far as they were known.

In order that the Evidence might be at once full and impartial, and be collected and registered in a manner perfectly satisfactory, the Assistant Commissioners were desired to adopt the following course:—

1st. To request the attendance of persons of each grade in society, of each of the various religious persuasions, and of each party in politics; to give to the testimony of each class an equal degree of attention, and to make the examinations in the presence of all; in fact, in open court. Not to allow any person to join in conducting the examination, and to state at the opening of the proceedings, that any statement made by an individual, and not impugned by any person present, would be considered to be acknowledged as at least probable by all.

2dly. To note down, at the time of examination, the replies given, or the remarks which occurred to him; to register, as nearly as might be possible in the words of each witness, the statements which might be made; to register the names of all the persons who attended the examination; and before proceeding to examine another district, to send the minutes of the previous examination to the office of the Commissioners in Dublin, signed by both the Assistant Commissioners.

By the first of these directions, it was hoped, that as none are so conversant with those matters which peculiarly or chiefly belong to any class, as the members of that class, by receiving their Evidence, the Assistant Commissioner would possess himself of the most competent testimony; and that by receiving the statement in the presence of other classes, not having the same interests or even having opposite interests, but possessing, from local connexion, sufficient knowledge of the circumstances of the witnesses, to determine its probability, the best security possible would be obtained that each statement would be worthy of credence, and that it had not been made solely with a view to a sinister and class interest; that by refusing to allow any resident of the district to sit with the Assistant Commissioner, or join in the examination, the working classes would feel more confidence in the impartiality of the procedure, and would therefore speak without restraint. By the second head of direction, we hoped to provide against the possibility of misrepresentation through any of the circumstances being forgotten, or others which did not exist being inadvertently inserted; by the words of each Witness being recorded as nearly as might be, to leave the evidence less open to misinterpretation, and in effect, to bring the reader more immediately in contact with the Witness; by the list of persons who attended the examination being given, to enable the public to decide, whether each class was fairly represented; and by the Minutes of Evidence being transmitted to the Board immediately after the examination, and the Assistant Commissioner not being permitted subsequently to alter them, to obtain a sufficient guarantee that they had not been adapted to the theories of the Examiner.

The Assistant Commissioners were required only to collect evidence (facts and opinions), and to record their personal observations on the subjects, and in the manner already detailed; they had merely, in the examination of Witnesses and of local circumstances, to act as our representatives; they were not instructed to furnish any general Report nor to make recommendations; for as each Assistant Commissioner was restricted to one branch of the general Inquiry, and prosecuted that branch in a single division of the country, we considered that any general conclusions to which he might come would be drawn from partial evidence, and consequently be little trustworthy. We however reserved the power to call for either should we ultimately deem it expedient.

In addition to the certainty of having every portion of the inquiry investigated in each of the districts visited, the systematic form adopted, makes the evidence bear the same arrangement for every district,—each point for each district being always in the same part of the evidence. It has also enabled us to separate the evidence upon each branch of the Inquiry into several distinct heads, and to print the evidence on each head taken in various parts of the country conjointly. By this arrangement the mind will not be perplexed in the consideration of any subject, by the constant intervention of matters wholly foreign. The examinations relative to the support of deserted and orphan children,

children, for instance, taken in a variety of parishes, and in each parish nearly at the same time with examinations relative to six other subjects, have been separated from those other subjects, and have been printed consecutively in the alphabetical order of the names of the parishes; a certainty is created by this arrangement, that however extensive the whole evidence may be, every fact bearing upon any one subject will be found within a small compass. The primary Questions circulated have each, with the Answers belonging to it, been added as a supplement to that portion of the evidence collected by the Assistant Commissioners to which it relates.

The Evidence collected in the great towns and contained in the Appendix (C.) however is in most points an exception. This was one of our earliest inquiries, and before our system had been matured. The instructions given to the Assistant Commissioners were so general as to be vague, and so extensive in the range of subject as to preclude the possibility of minute investigation upon any portion of their inquiry; the circumstances too under which the testimony was received, and the manner in which it has been recorded, render it of much less value than that subsequently taken, and forming the Appendixes (A. & B.) We should not have printed it had we not felt that we had better publish much which we consider of inferior value, than give the slightest countenance to an assertion that any of the evidence we had collected has been either suppressed or mutilated.

III. *The reasons for not yet being able to obey Your Majesty's Command to report to you, "Whether any and what further remedial measures appear to be requisite to ameliorate the condition of the Irish Poor, or any portion of them,"* are perhaps sufficiently given in the fact, that we have not yet completed the second branch of our Inquiry, namely, that which relates to "the causes of destitution." We feel, however, at liberty to make a more extended explanation, and we think such due to ourselves. We should be little worthy of the high trust reposed in us, did we content ourselves with deciding upon the extent and nature of distress, or upon the means of only present alleviation. We consider it fell to our duty to endeavour, if possible, to investigate the causes of the destitution which we discover, and to ascertain why classes of Your Majesty's subjects are from time to time falling into a state of wretchedness; why the labouring population do not provide against those events which seem inevitable; why the able-bodied labourer does not provide against the sickness of himself or that of the various members of his family; against the temporary absence of employment; against the certain infirmity of age; or against the destitution of his widow and his children, in the contingent event of his own premature decease; whether these omissions arise from any peculiar improvidence in his habits, or from the insufficiency of employment, or from the low rate of his wages. It would not even be sufficient did we answer, that the limited amount of employment and the rate of his wages will not permit him. It is our duty to carry the investigation further, and at least to endeavour to trace whether there be any circumstances which restrict the amount of employment or the rate of wages; or in any other way offer impediments to the improvement of the people, which are such as can be remedied by legislation.

The principal occupation in Ireland being agricultural, our first attention has been directed to that branch of industry. We are informed, both through private communications, and through Parliamentary and other public documents, that there is much unreclaimed land in Ireland which might be brought into cultivation, and that land already under cultivation might throughout Ireland be more efficiently worked, and thus increase the demand for labour. We wish to ascertain to what extent these statements are well founded, and whether the evil is attributable to want of capital or to want of skill, and whether there are any circumstances which have deterred British capitalists from coming to Ireland, or have prevented the investment in agriculture of capital actually existing in Ireland; and to what extent those circumstances have proved injurious;—in case the evil arises from a deficiency of skill in the tenantry, to ascertain whether there are any means by which a superior knowledge of agriculture can be diffused; whether it be possible generally to introduce those systems which, in Down, Armagh, and in other counties are reported to have produced the most beneficial results, both to the owner and to the occupier.

Other causes of inferior cultivation have been assigned, upon which it is necessary to possess information. Some of these respect corporate lands, lands of minors, lands in litigation, lands held under custodiam, &c.; and more particularly lands in possession of sub-landlords, whose interest is not sufficiently extensive to permit them to look beyond present gain, whilst the interest of the head landlord is too remote to induce him to lay out capital, the benefit of which could scarcely accrue to himself, even at a very distant time: others respect the conditions upon which the tenantry hold the land and buildings: others respect the means of communication, their absence, or their imperfect condition as creating an impediment between the grower and his market.

We are also about to inquire into the actual condition of the agricultural labourer as to food, clothing and habitation; and the terms upon which he possesses con-acre ground or holds as a cottier tenant.

We feel that in endeavouring to prevent the existence of destitution, we shall more strictly fulfil Your Majesty's Commission, than if we merely devised means for alleviating misery after it had arisen. We shall feel deep pain should we ultimately be compelled to leave to any portion of the Peasantry of Ireland a continuation of distress on the one hand, or a mere offer of charity on the other. Far more grateful would be the office of recommending measures by which the industrious labourer might have the prospect of a constant field for his exertions, with a remuneration sufficient for his present demands, and admitting of a provision against those contingencies which attach to himself and to his family. It is our anxious wish to do more than diminish the wretchedness of portions of the working classes; we are most solicitous to place the whole of those classes in the greatest state of comfort which it may be within the reach of the Legislature permanently to provide, consistently with the good of the rest of society.

But even were there not that necessity which we are convinced there is for further inquiry to enable us to decide whether much of the now existing misery might be prevented, still we should be compelled to proceed in order to avoid recommending measures which might lead to new evils. We cannot otherwise tell what might be the effects upon those who are now able to support themselves, of any mode of relief which might be proposed; how far such mode of relief to those who are destitute might increase the amount of destitution. These are not idle fears, but such cautions as necessarily suggest themselves to those who are acquainted with the effects produced upon the labourers in England, by the public provision for the destitute in that country. Looking beyond the physical condition of the working classes, we also are desirous of guarding against the moral degradation which might follow in the train of measures benevolently intended, but ill-judged, when applied to a nation possessing the habits and being in the peculiar situation of the People of Ireland.

Having heard complaints within and out of Parliament, that we have consumed much time and money in prosecuting our inquiry, we avail ourselves of this opportunity of soliciting the attention of Your Majesty to one or two remarks on these alleged grounds of complaint. Your Majesty's Commission bears date 25th September 1833; we have therefore to the present time been occupied one year and ten months. We have the fullest reason to believe that we shall have completed the Evidence before the close of the autumn, and that we shall then be able to lay an additional portion of it before Your Majesty, accompanied by some recommendations as to certain parts of the subject referred to us; and that early in February we shall be able to close the Commission by a final Report. Whether the time occupied by the Commission be or be not unreasonably long, must wholly depend upon the nature and extent of the subject; the extent of the district to which it refers; the number of classes of persons in those districts whom it peculiarly concerns; the willingness and ability for giving the required information possessed by those of whom the Inquiry must be made; and, finally, upon the minuteness of the investigation. To estimate fairly the time necessary for an Inquiry, without considering those circumstances, would be impossible: One Commission might be fairly accused of being dilatory, though it had existed but six months; whilst another might have been most active and diligent, and yet have extended over several years. An Inquiry for obtaining an accurate body of Statistics—for ascertaining the numbers of each religious denomination in a country,

a country, would require far less time than an Inquiry for instance into the mental and moral effects produced upon a population by various systems of Education.

An Inquiry into the circumstances which retard the prosperity of a nation, and into those circumstances which might improve its general condition, (the objects of our Inquiry) is clearly very different in its scope and difficulty from an Inquiry into the effects of a single Institution, as for instance into Corporations. For an Inquiry relative to Corporations is not only confined to the effects of a single institution, but even to its effects upon a very small portion of a community. In like manner an Inquiry into the administration and operation of an existing system of Poor Laws, though most extensive as regards the district of country and the classes of persons affected—including the whole Country and its Population—is yet comparatively very limited in the subject. An Inquiry as to whether any measures can improve the condition of a people, might and would include an investigation into the immediate and remote effects, both on morals and on production, of every law and every usage. It must embrace every class of the community, in every district of the country.

No Commission could possibly be entrusted with a wider or more complicated subject for its investigation than ours; few Commissioners, perhaps, ever received such wide instructions. Few Commissions have had a greater district over which to extend their examinations. None could have had a larger portion of a community to consult. None have had a community in which information was more difficult to collect than that of Ireland; and we think the Evidence which we now lay before Your Majesty will show that the minuteness and accuracy of investigation will bear a comparison with the known results of any other inquiry. Thus, whilst no other inquiry has upon any one point exceeded in difficulty that with which we have had to contend, we have had to encounter the combined difficulties of all other inquiries.

These remarks are not made under the impression that Your Majesty has considered us to have been dilatory in our proceedings: they are not made with the desire to disparage the labours of others; nor to claim for ourselves any peculiar merit. They are made because we know that on the close of our labours a period will have elapsed rather exceeding that occupied by several very effective inquiries, particularly by that on the English Poor Laws. We refer to that inquiry, because the highest estimate has been formed of the manner in which it was conducted, both as regards diligence and accuracy, and because we feel that in measuring our labours, and the time they are likely to occupy, by such a standard, we shall have taken the surest mode of showing that we have used the utmost diligence.

With a view to lighten as far as possible the arduous duties attaching to us, the collection and the arrangement of the Evidence, and the general machinery of all Commissions being to a great extent similar, a Secretary was appointed who possessed experience in such occupations, and who was therefore likely to anticipate many facilities and difficulties which would escape the observation of those who were not equally practised. From the similarity in many respects of an Inquiry into the operation of the Poor Laws in England, and an Inquiry into the condition of the poorer classes in Ireland, the Secretary to the former Inquiry was appointed. But the business of the English Inquiry having been prolonged beyond the period anticipated, he was not permitted to join us till six months after the Commission had been in operation, and consequently the experience by which we were to benefit, and thus to shorten our labours, was withheld during a very important period of our sittings.

With regard to the economy with which we have conducted the Inquiry, this cannot, any more than the time, be justly estimated without considering the extent and difficulty of the duties, and the manner in which they have been performed. An Inquiry which contains but one branch can, of course, be conducted for a smaller sum than one which contains three or four; for either an additional number of Assistant Commissioners will be required for the latter, or if an equal number only be employed, they must be continued during a far greater length of time. Again, a Commission, the examinations of which can be conducted by Assistant Commissioners acting singly, will be at far less expense

than one the examinations of which must be taken before two Assistant Commissioners. On the English Poor Law Inquiry, the Assistant Commissioners were only engaged during three months; the Assistant Commissioners on this Inquiry have been constantly employed during nearly eighteen months. The great expenditure upon every Inquiry of this description consists in the travelling expenditure of the Assistant Commissioners. Had it been possible to bring before a Parliamentary Committee the same description and the same number of witnesses as have been examined before our Assistant Commissioners, twenty times the amount of our expenditure would not have sufficed: and yet the value of Evidence depends chiefly upon the number of persons examined, and upon the number of districts about which information is gained.

We cannot conclude this sketch of our proceedings up to the present period, without remarking that, having been appointed to inquire into the condition of that portion of Your Majesty's Irish subjects, who are or may be considered as requiring relief, we have felt it our duty to devote our attention, in the first instance, to those classes in which distress was known or supposed principally to prevail. We think it necessary to make this observation, in consequence of our Evidence containing so few details as to the condition of the poor placed in more favourable circumstances. We know that there is a very large number of instances in which through the benevolent and judicious devotion of individuals to the personal superintendence of their estates, and the improvement of the condition of their poorer neighbours, much misery has been alleviated, and much wholly prevented.

All which We humbly certify to YOUR MAJESTY.

RICH ^d DUBLIN.	(L.S.)
D. MURRAY.	(L.S.)
CHARLES VIGNOLES.	(L.S.)
R. MORE O'FERRALL.	(L.S.)
JAMES CARLILE.	(L.S.)
F. HORT.	(L.S.)
JOHN CORRIE.	(L.S.)
J. L. W. NAPER.	(L.S.)
W. B. WRIGHTSON.	(L.S.)

A P P E N D I X (A.)

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DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Connaught,
County Galway.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

APPENDIX (A.)

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BOROUGHS, labourer.—JOSEPH BOTHERILL, servant to Mr. St. George.—JOHN BURKE, esq.—Rev. J. FITZGERALD, roman-catholic rector.—Dr. HARTNETT.—Dr. KELLY.—JAMES LYNCH, labourer.—Rev. J. MARA, protestant rector.—JOHN O'FLAHERTY, esq.—JOHN RYAN, labourer.—R. J. MANSERGH St. GEORGE, esq., Headfort Castle.—Mr. C. JAMIESON, merchant.—LAWRENCE TOOLE, carman.—Rev. J. WALSH, roman-catholic rector.

Parish Headfort,
Bar. Clare.

"THERE have been no children deserted in this parish for these last three years; before the discontinuation of the practice, the average was one each year; they were always watched, until taken up by some persons; and I have reason to believe that they were left by strangers."—(Mara.)

"There are fewer desertions than there were formerly, the principal cause of which is, that there is now no assessment made by the vestry for their support."—(St. George.)—"About four years ago a dead child was found in this parish."—(Ryan.)—"The working classes here could not lay by one halfpenny; it is seldom tried by any except the farmers; the latter might be able to lay something up for their children to assist them if they were left orphans; the others are too poor."—(Ryan.)—"When they get constant work they might, and do."—(St. George.)

"Orphans are chiefly supported by small collections made at chapel and from house to house."—(Walsh.)—"I know two orphan children who are supported by a poor man who is an insolvent, and was badly able to do it; he is in gaol for the last two months, and the neighbours made a trifling collection for them, among themselves."—(Burke.)—"When the Foundling-hospital was open, it was much less expense to send them up to Dublin than to pay for nursing them in the parish."—(St. George.)—"I think the closing of the Foundling-hospital was a loss; I should be in favour of re-opening it."—(St. George.)—"I knew many children to have been kept in the country rather than send them to the Foundling-hospital."—(Walsh.)—"I think the people are, generally speaking, content with the present state as regards deserted children: it would be very difficult to establish a legislative interference that would not be calculated to increase the number of desertions. The Foundling-hospital was good in the days wherein it existed, because as the children were brought up in the faith of the established church, the mothers made every exertion to maintain them rather than put them in the way of being brought up in a faith uncongenial to their opinions; it was therefore a great check to desertion, without being so severe a one as to produce infanticide, for any that were deserted were deserted in such a manner as to be brought under the eyes of the churchwardens."—(St. George.)

PATRICK BURKE, esq., J. P., Damesfield.—OWEN CLARKE, small landholder.—PATRICK FOX, formerly brazier, now a labourer.—Mr. JOHN GERRAGHTY, shopkeeper.—PETER JOYCE, labourer.—REDMOND KELLY, mason.—Rev. Dr. KIRWAN, roman-catholic rector.—ANTHONY MARTIN, esq., J. P., Currariva.—JOHN M'DONOGH, housekeeper.—M. M'DONOGH, labourer.—RICHARD M'DONOGH, farmer.—DENIS M'GRATH, formerly shopkeeper, now a butcher.—Mr. JOHN M'KEW, under-agent to Mr. Martin.—Capt. O'FLAHERTY, J. P., Lemonfield.—GEORGE O'FLAHERTY, esq., Lemonfield.—JOHN SWEENEY, carpenter.—Rev. JOHN WILSON, protestant vicar.

Parish Kilcummin.
Bar. Moycullen.

"I AM a widow. My daughter also is a widow. I am rearing a foundling, who is now 12 years old. I have a cabin, for which I pay 8s. a year rent; I am two years in arrear. I was not able to work hard for the last three years; before that, I used to manufacture a bit of canvass to pay my rent. I often go with the risk of my life to places for the neighbours, striving to earn something. For one day that we have enough to eat, we are two days that we have not. I attend the sick sometimes. I need not risk myself at all, but for the little boy, who must have something to eat. I received altogether 6*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* from the parish for supporting the child. The people are unwilling to pay the cess; I do not think they were able. The blanket that was on my bed I cut up to make two little petticoats for the child. I do not know what kitchen means; I am not able to buy a halfpenny-worth of milk in the fortnight, and have not tasted even a herring these three months;

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DESERTED AND
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CHILDREN.Connaught,
County Galway.Examinations taken by
Francis Diggens, Esq.
W. T. M'Cullagh, Esq.

Parish Kilcummin.

Bar. Moycullen.

I got no meal since the time it was given out by the committee. I cannot spin wool, but sometimes get a stone of potatoes from a neighbour for spinning one pound of flax; a cripple, three feet high, might spin flax, but it requires a strong person to spin wool. A woman would get 6*d.* a dozen for yarn 15 years ago, but now she would not get 3*d.*

—(Mary Carr.)

"Mary Carr is a fair specimen of the widows. I believe there are 50 in the parish, who are living upon the brink of professional mendicancy, and supported by the bounty of the neighbours."—(George Cottingham.)—"A strange woman came into the parish about nine years ago, and left a child with a woman, to whom she gave 1*l.* I gave the woman with whom the child was left 3*l.* for two years; she is wife to one of the poorest men in the country; they were obliged, last winter, to get clothes and meal to keep the life in them, on credit, and were wretchedly uneasy until it was paid, which set them very hard."—

(H. Flanagan.)

"There are no regular books kept in the parish. You will find in the account, perhaps, an entry of the whole amount of assessment, and the payment of the sexton and the clerk; but we never kept any account of the sums due for the support of children; 3*l.* yearly were voted for Carr's child, but I believe it was paid in full to her; I do not think the book will show how much she got, nor can I tell it; Mr. Carr got the most part of the collections made at the church. The collection is sometimes 1*d.* and sometimes 1½*d.* a week, it never exceeds 1*s.*, except on festival days."—(Rev. Mr. Wilson.)—"I collected the full amount of vestry cess from the year 1824 to 1829; I levied it from all the villages equally. I think it would be quite impossible to collect it by itself, I would not attempt it, but being high constable during those years, I found it easy to collect it along with the other taxes. The last assessment was made last Easter 12 months, there was no attempt made to levy it; the year before there was hardly any of the cess levied."—(Mr. Edmund O'Flaherty.)

Evidence of the Archbishop of Tuam, written by himself.

Parish Tuam.

Town of Tuam.

Bar. Clare.

Any children that are deserted are supposed to be illegitimate. There have been some instances of their perishing before they were discovered, but they have been very few.

From the present rate of wages and quantity of employment given to labourers, it would be impossible to reserve what would support their children, in case of their being left orphans; they never attempt it. How are they to attempt making such a provision, when the rate of wages is not sufficient for their support, if they have large families? The support of orphans generally falls upon the nearest relatives.

Formerly, and even within these latter years, the churchwardens took charge of deserted children.

At the last assizes the Protestant clergy sought for presentments from the going judge assize, but few parishes obtained what was requisite; it is hoped, however, that at the spring assizes what is required will be done. The churchwardens do not now, in several parishes, take charge of children who have been deserted. At last Easter there was no appointment of such officers; there was responsibility and risk and odium attached to it; and it was severe to inflict upon Protestants exclusively such an office.

No parochial provision was ever contemplated by the Irish laws for any children but those who had been deserted.

They were usually (when taken charge of by the churchwardens) put out to nurse; they were always taken good care of, and had great tenderness shown them. The clergy visit them, and the churchwardens see them, at the periods when those who take care of them are paid.

Five pounds per annum is the highest sum which can be expended on the support of each child. Heretofore the sum was provided by a vestry assessment; but since that was abolished it has been sought for, under a special law, from the going judge of assize.

There is no Foundling-hospital to which they can be sent. I never heard of any complaints being made concerning the distribution of the fund by the churchwardens. Those deserted children who were taken care of by the churchwardens were, under the direction of the vestry, apprenticed to trades or as servants.

There was an apprentice fund levied on the parish. When children are deserted at a more advanced age than what may be termed infancy, the law makes no provision for them, and they generally become beggars. I think the practice of taking care of deserted children increases the number of desertions; but if no charge were taken of them, might not a worse crime and consequence be apprehended? Desertion has not decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. The parish still afforded protection to the deserted. It may be remarked, however, that the Foundling-hospital discontinued the indiscriminate reception of children long before it closed.

The present system certainly requires improvement; the provision is now no longer by vestry, but from the grand jury through the judge. The superintendence of churchwardens either has been or will soon be withheld, and the office itself will cease altogether.

The improvement which I would propose, is to commit the superintendence of deserted children exclusively to the parochial ministry, I mean the ministry of the Established Church, and that the funds requisite be entrusted to their hands, and the due administration thereof be accounted for before the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, whose duty it should be made to control this expenditure.

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The general opinion was against provision by vestry, as has recently been expressed. How far the mode by grand jury presentment will be more generally acceptable, is yet to be proved.

Evidence of Dr. M^cHale, R. C. Archbishop of Tuam, as written by himself.

There is scarcely an example (I never heard of any) of legitimate children having been deserted.

There are not any funds for the support of deserted children; few of them are sheltered or educated by the religious orders. The churchwarden does not always take charge of them.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Connaught.
County Galway.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. M^cCullagh, Esq.

Parish Tuam.
Town of Tuam.
Bar. Clare.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM, woollen-draper.—Rev. Dr. BURKE, roman-catholic rector of this parish and dean of Dunmore.—GEORGE CLENDENNING, esq., magistrate.—Mr. COLLINS, a gentleman connected with the press.—RICHARD GIBBONS, small farmer of 12 acres.—Mr. LARGE, clerk of petty sessions and churchwarden.—MATTHEW M^cDONNELL, esq. magistrate.—ROBERT W. M^cILVEA, esq., magistrate.—WILLIAM M^cMILER, small farmer of 12 acres.—EDWARD M^cNALLY, weaver.—JOHN REEGAN, labourer.—THOMAS REILLY, labourer.—Mr. GEORGE WOODS, general merchant.—Mr. JOHN WYNNE, general merchant.

Connaught,
County Mayo.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Parish Aghvale.
Bar. Murrisk.

MR. LARGE, churchwarden, says: "The parochial assessment for the support of deserted children has been discontinued for three years. Since that time only one child has been deserted, though the practice had previously been very common. This child is supported by a subscription among the richer classes.

The number of orphans has been lately very much increased by the prevalence of cholera. Mr. Large, having been one of the officers of health, has had an opportunity of judging of their numbers, which he thinks cannot be under 300, of children below the age of 12 years, left without father or mother. He says a subscription was raised at the time for their relief, by which perhaps one-fourth of them were assisted. Some of them were clothed, so as to fit them to be taken as helpers into farmers' houses or families in the town. Some got provisions that kept them together for a few months. If the parents had held land, and any of the family were able to hold it on, they were never disturbed in the possession, and the arrear due by the parents was generally forgiven them. I cannot call to mind any instance in which some of the family were not able to hold on the farm. What became of the other three-fourths has not fallen under my notice, but from what I know of the habits of the country people, I must suppose that a large proportion were sheltered by relatives or neighbours, by whom the services of the elder children would be deemed nearly as equivalent for their food; the younger would be a dead weight on them. A very large number must have been reduced to beggary; the children of the town labourers, particularly, could scarcely have any other resource. Mr. M^cMiler and Reilly think there cannot be less than 40 to 50 orphans begging in the town alone, and mention one case of three children, the eldest about eight years old, not having a single friend to look after them, who may be seen every day going together from door to door begging for food; their lodging they can easily get from any of the poorer classes. M^cNally, who lives in the country, says: "In the houses next to me, on each side, two families of children, one consisting of four, the other of three, were last year left orphans, their fathers and mothers being carried off within a few hours of each other by cholera. In the former case the parents held a rood of land, on which they had planted some potatoes before their death. The children received some assistance from the subscription fund mentioned above, which helped them until their crop was fit for use. Their cabin fell in, and the neighbours rebuilt it, and whenever they came short of provisions the neighbours were ready to assist them, but they never begged publicly. The eldest was a boy, of 12 years; a merchant, out of charity, gives him some employment in his store, which enables him to do something for himself and his brother and sisters. I, myself, took one of them, a girl, into my own house; I am a weaver, and she winds some quills for me; I took her in from charity*, but this makes it come easier to me. The other family of three got no assistance from the subscription fund. My daughter took one of them into her house for charity, though no way related, but as a neighbour; the child makes herself of use, she minds an infant for her while she is otherwise engaged. Their aunt, a hard struggling widow, undertook the support of the other two. This is the way orphan children are dispersed, through their charitable neighbours and relatives, if they have any such to look after them; if they have not they must beg."

The witnesses do not know any instance of an infant being left an orphan without elder brothers or sisters to take charge of it. If such occurred there would most probably be found some relatives of the parents to undertake the care of it.

* M^cNally is a very poor man, a weaver; he has not constant employment; but may earn on an average 3s. a week. He holds half an acre of land.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.Connaught,
County Mayo.Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.Town of Ballina
and Ardnaree.
Bar. Tyrawley.*Persons who attended the Examination.*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG, esq., at present engaged building a bridge, and employs many labourers.—
EDWARD ATKINSON, esq., merchant and churchwarden.—JAMES BROWNE, labourer.—WILLIAM
CALDWELL, esq., c. c.—THADY CARNAN, labourer.—PATRICK COOPER, labourer.—Rev. Mr.
COSTELLO, parish priest.—MR. MARTIN CULKEEN, classical teacher.— — DEVELIN, esq., M.D.
—JOHN DUFFEY, labourer.—JORDAN FITZSTEPHEN, broken down labourer.—CATHERINE
FLYNN, beggar.—OWEN GALLAGHER, broken down labourer.—WILLIAM HANLEY, labourer.—
MARY HANLEY, beggar.—MR. JOHN IRVIN, farmer.—Widow KILBOY, labourer's widow.—
STEPHEN LOFTUS, esq., merchant.—JAMES LOFTUS, labourer.— — M'HUGH, esq., M.D.—
PATRICK M'NAMARA, labourer.—MR. JOHN MOYLES, farmer, and owner of a number of labourer's
cabins.—THOMAS O'HARA, labourer.—DOMINICK WALDRON, labourer.—Rev. Mr. VERSCHOYLE,
protestant rector.

THERE are at present four deserted children in the parish, all of whom were deserted more than two years ago; they were at first supported by parochial assessment; but for the last two years the parishioners have refused to assess themselves for that purpose; some giving for reason, that no churchwarden would undertake to collect the assessment; others, that it operated as an encouragement to the practice of desertion. There have been no desertions since the assessment has ceased, which all the witnesses agree in considering as a consequence of this cessation, "for while the funds were forthcoming there was no lack of applications." The support of the children deserted before that time now falls on the nurses with whom they were put out by the churchwardens, before the collection of the parochial funds for their support ceased. Assistance of a few shillings is occasionally given from the poor-money collected at the protestant church. John Walsh, a labourer, one of the persons on whom the support of three foundlings has now devolved, says: "I have seven children of my own, from nine months to 18 years of age, to support. Four years ago my wife undertook the care of a foundling for 6s. per month; we were regularly paid for the first and second years; the third year, I processed the churchwardens and recovered the amount. £.2 is now due to me, and if I had it, it would enable me to release my conacre potatoes. But though I know the churchwarden is accountable to me by law for the money, the law is little protection to me, as I am too poor to pay for it. I worked yesterday for 5d., and have no work to get to-day, and the expense of filing and serving the process and the attorney's fee would amount to 4s. 6d."

No instance of infanticide has occurred for several years, nor any of deserted children perishing before discovered.

Mr. Atkinson mentions an instance of the inhabitants of a village where a child was deserted undertaking the support of it four years ago, at a time when funds were levied for that purpose off the parish, and they might have relieved themselves of the burden by an application to the churchwarden. They passed the child from house to house, leaving it a few weeks at each, as they had agreed on among them, until it came to a married couple, who, having no children, adopted it, and have since reared it as their own. Mr. Atkinson cannot explain the indifference of the villagers to ridding themselves of the burden otherwise than by supposing that each individual might have thought it less trouble to support the child for a few weeks than take it four or five miles to the churchwarden, where probably he had some doubt of succeeding in his application.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Cong.
Village Cong.

—BLAKE, esq., police officer.—FRANCIS BURKE, esq.—MR. BUTLER, large farmer.—WILLIAM
BUTLER, landholder, 10 acres.—Rev. Mr. CRAMPTON, protestant rector, and magistrate.—
—ELWOOD, esq., magistrate.—MR. JOHN ELWOOD, shopkeeper.—JOHN FINN, esq., magistrate
and resident proprietor.—THOMAS HOPKINS, labourer.—MICHAEL HYNES, butcher.—WALTER
JENNINGS, labourer.—MR. M'DONNELL, large farmer.—PETER MOLOWNEY, weaver.—ANTHONY
O'BRIEN, stone-cutter.—Rev. Mr. WALDRON, roman-catholic rector.

No child has been deserted in this parish for several years; and the case of a young child, or family of children, deprived of both their parents, is rare; when it does occur, they are taken care of by the relatives of the parents, if they can afford it, or if the parents have left any means; if not, the eldest would beg with or for the youngest. O'Brien mentions one case of two very young children deprived of their parents, and having no friend to provide for them; he himself gave them lodging in his house for a year-and-a-half, while they begged for their food, which he could not afford them.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BARNS, cottier, holds 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.—JOHN COX, farmer, holding 8 acres.—JAMES FREHILL, cottier, holds 1 acre.—JAMES GALLAGHER, farmer, 7 acres.—Rev. Mr. GIBBONS, roman-catholic rector.—Mr. AUSTIN GIBBONS, assistant to Mr. Durkin, apothecary.—MILES JOYCE, cottier, holds 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.—PAT MALLY, an old man past his labour, did hold 2 acres.—ROGER M'DONOGH, cottier, holds 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.—PAT M'DONNELL, farmer, holding 8 acres.—WILLIAM M'EVILY, farmer, 5 acres.—Rev. Mr. POTTER, protestant curate.—Mr. REED, land-steward to Marquis of Sligo, the principal proprietor of the parish.

ONLY one child has been deserted in this parish for several years, and the instances altogether have been so rare that the witnesses cannot say whether the practice is on the decline or otherwise; nothing can be ascertained of the number of orphans. The witnesses do not recollect an instance of an infant being deprived of both its parents; orphans of a more advanced age sometimes beg, and sometimes are sheltered by the neighbours, particularly when old enough to render some assistance about the house or farm.

Persons who attended the Examination.

EDWARD BURKE, farmer of 13 acres.—BRIEN DEANE, cooper and small farmer.—EDMUND DICKSON, mendicant.—JAMES DONOGHOE, bailiff to Major Bingham, the principal proprietor in the parish.—Widow EARLY.—WILLIAM FEARGUS, bailiff to Mr. Everard.—DOMINICK FREKILL, labourer.—Widow GERAGHTY.—MARTIN HOBAN, labourer.—Captain IRELAND, stipendiary magistrate.—PAT LAVELLE, labourer.—Rev. Mr. LYONS, parish priest.—Mr. WM. MEREDITH, chief constable of police.—Captain NUGENT, magistrate.—Mr. O'BRIEN, parish schoolmaster.—FRANK O'DONNELL, labourer, impotent from age.—HUGH O'MALLY, cottier.—Widow REILLY.

No children have been deserted in this parish within the recollection of any of the witnesses. There have been a few cases of infanticide, in which the children have been invariably believed illegitimate: two such cases have happened within the last two years, both supposed to have been caused by the father's refusal to support the child. In one case, the mother was turned out of doors by her parents, partly for the disgrace she brought on them, partly from their inability to support an increase of family; under these circumstances, and being unable to support the child by any industry of her own, she was driven to the commission of the crime.

There is a great number of orphan children through the villages, their number being greatly increased since cholera visited this district; they live mostly by begging, their relatives being for the most part too poor to undertake the support of them. Many of them between the ages of 12 and 18 hire with the small farmers, perhaps for one quarter, and beg the next. During spring and harvest they may obtain some casual employment, but in winter and summer begging is their only resource. This applies only to orphans above 12 years, below that age they must beg through the whole year; the elder beg for the younger children; and if any be old enough to marry, all the others fall in upon them for support.

Persons who attended the Examination.

THOMAS BRADSHAW, labourer.—MORGAN CROFTON, esq. J. P.—Rev. M. DEVINE, roman-catholic rector of the parish.—Capt. DUCKWORTH, J. P.—JOHN FAREMAN, innkeeper.—Rev. THOMAS HACKETT, protestant vicar of the parish.—The Viscount LORTON, lord-lieutenant of the county.—OWEN LLOYD, esq. J. P.—JOHN MANGHAN, road inspector.—JOHN MULHALL, esq. general merchant.—M. O'BRIEN, labourer.—JOHN ROBERTSON, esq. J. P.

THE year before last, the number of deserted children in the parish was eight; there are now six on the list; five within the last three years. All who are deserted are supposed to be illegitimate. The mother either stays near the child, to see what becomes of it, or if fear or shame induces her to leave the neighbourhood, she generally returns soon after to know the result; more children are left in houses than in the fields or on the road. The working classes could certainly not provide for their children, in the event of their being orphans. "How could I do it," said Mr. O'Brien, "when I have not regular work perhaps more than three or four days in the week, at 8*d.* a day?" There is scarcely any observation to be made on the provision for deserted children; the cases are so few, that no distinct opinion is entertained by the majority of intelligent persons on the subject, and the recent changes in the law have not yet had time to be understood or practised. There is no orphan institution of any kind, no hospital for foundlings, or apprentice fund, in the parish. There would be much less expense in nursing foundlings in the country than in providing for them in an hospital. The women who nurse them become almost invariably attached to them, and rear them as their own children. There has been no observable increase or decrease in the number of deserted children. There is a general regret throughout the country, that

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Connaught,
County Mayo.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Parish Kilgeever.
Bar. Murrisk.

Par. Kilmore Erris.
Bar. Erris.

Co. Roscommon.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish Boyle.
Bar. Boyle.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.Connaught,
Co. Roscommon.Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. M'Cullagh, Esq.Parish Kilkeevan.
Bar. Ballintobber.

the National Hospital should have been closed. "I am opposed," said Mr. Devine, "upon religious grounds, to the re-establishment of the Foundling-hospital." The people have the same feeling, and are also opposed to it, because it separated, for life, the child from the unfortunate mother.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Dr. BLUNDELL, protestant rector of Killeekvan.—Rev. JOHN BOYD, catholic curate of Killeekvan.—FRANCIS CLANCY, farmer.—COX COTTON, small farmer.—JAMES COULON, potter.—Mr. THOMAS DILLON, shopkeeper.—JAMES GAFFNEY, working mason.—Capt. GRAY, Dalefield.—JOHN KELLY, labourer.—Rev. PETER M'DERMOTT, catholic curate of Killeekvan.—THOMAS M'GRATH, esq., J. P. Castlereagh.—O'CONNOR DON, Clonalice.—Mr. GEORGE VAUGHAN, farmer.—WILLIAM R. WILLS, esq. Castlereagh.—OWEN YOUNG, esq., Harristown.

THERE are five at present on the list; none have been added to the number for the last 12 months, and the habit of deserting is greatly decreasing within the last 10 years; there was one instance last year of a child perishing before it was discovered. Looking to the wages in this country, it was considered that no man could lay by a provision for his children; but Kelly stated, he knew a man who went to England for four years, to harvest-work, and at his death he left his daughter 30*l.*: but here, between funerals and holidays, and days lost attending markets and fairs, and not having any certain employment for the remainder, they never successfully attempt it. In the barony there are no religious houses where deserted children could find shelter. According to the laws providing for deserted children, it is compulsory on the vestry to assess for wages. In case of refusal, application is to be made to the judge of assize; no such applications have been made. As to the comparative expense of deserted children reared in the Foundling-hospital and those brought up among the peasantry, the hospital provision was much more expensive. As to their comparative morals, many brought up in the Foundling-hospital have turned out badly; cannot tell of the others. To the question, "Were not the latter obliged to beg when a few years old?" it was answered, "That the practice of taking charge of them by the parish was too recent to allow of one judging of the fact." The custom of supporting deserted children by the parish of course leads to their desertion, but desertion of children has materially decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. On the point of further legislative interference, it was conceived advisable to extend the provisions of the Acts at present in force, making it compulsory on the grand jury to assess to a fixed amount for children up to the age that they are able to go to work for their own support.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Killenroy
and Camma.
Bar. Athlone.

JOHN BYRNE, esq.—Rev. PATRICK CONNIFF, catholic curate.—THOMAS CONNITON, labourer.—Mr. JAMES ELLIOTT, miller.—Mr. JOHN FINNERN, general shopkeeper.—Rev. J. FITZGERALD, catholic rector.—MATTHEW KELLY, weaver.—Mr. MICHAEL KELLY, farmer.—THOMAS KENNY, labourer.—JOHN E. MAPOTHER, esq.—JAMES RATTIGAN, beggar.

THERE are three deserted children for the last four years in the Union, and the practice of deserting children had decreased. There was not any reason to suppose that any of those deserted were legitimate, nor was any instance known where the child perished before it was discovered. As to the labouring man's ability to provide for his children, neither he nor the small farmer can save anything, if it was the will of God to take him away, to leave for the support of his children. Since the abolition of the vestry-cess, in order to save the expense of collecting the small funds that by the late Act of Parliament a vestry was still left power to assess for providing for deserted children, we have annually made collections in the chapels and collect adequate funds.

The instances of children losing both parents are extremely rare, and when they do arise, some relative or neighbour is found willing to befriend the destitute orphan.

The expenditure on each child by the parish is about 4*l.* or 5*l.* to the nurse.

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Sligo.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.Parish Drumcliffe.
Bar. Carbery.

Rev. EDWARD ALWARD, protestant curate.—Mr. JAMES BARBER, land agent.—Dr. COULTER, dispensary surgeon.—JOHN FENNY, labourer.—MICHAEL FENNY, labourer.—WILLIAM P. FENNY, farmer.—Mr. P. M'TUCKER, farmer.—JAMES MULLEN, labourer.—Rev. MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN, P. P.—Rev. Mr. SAUNDERSON, presbyterian minister.—C. SYMPSON, farmer.

THERE is not a single deserted child in the parish; there are many orphans, but they are all supported by their relations. There have been only two cases of deserted children within the last five years; and since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, the practice of desertion has been on the decrease. No further legislative interference is deemed necessary for the protection of deserted children, as a certainty of support would increase the number.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Carlow.

Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

Union of Aghade
and Ballin.

Bar. Forth.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. GEORGE DAWSON, impropriate curate of Aghade, and vicar of Ballin.—Rev. Mr. KINSELA, P. P., of Ballin.—Mr. MICHAEL LENON, miller and farmer.—Mr. THOMAS TOMLINSON, farmer.

At the time of our visit, the Rev. Mr. Dawson had not in his portion of the district under consideration a single deserted child, nor had a case of desertion occurred during the previous three years. On the other hand, the Rev. Mr. Kinsela informed us, that within the limits of his (the catholic) parish, there were four deserted children and eight orphans, and he estimated at about three the number of desertions each year; and nearly as many orphans were left unprovided for.

The number of desertions continues steady, and the children exposed are for the most part illegitimate.

The scanty wages of the labouring man render it impossible for him to leave anything to his children; and when these are left orphans at an early age, they are generally brought up by some charitable neighbour, and when old enough are expected to provide for themselves. The law provides for the deserted only, and in order to obtain the benefit of it, it is only necessary that the churchwarden should receive an affidavit from the person finding the child that the parents are unknown, and that the child should appear to be under 12 months old. Sometimes deserted children have recourse to begging, when a few years old. Mr. Kinsela "recollects a family of four children who supported themselves in this way, until they were able to earn wages by going to service."

There is no foundling-hospital; and neither the practice of taking charge of deserted children, nor the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital, has had any influence on the amount of desertion within the district. It is thought that the present system works well, and that any further legislative interference might have the effect of increasing the practice.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Lieut. JAMES BATTERSBY, magistrate, chief constable of police.—Rev. Mr. BLOOD, presbyterian clergyman.—Mr. ROBERT BROWNE, secretary to the grand jury.—Mr. E. BUTLER, magistrate.—Mr. BYRNE, 11 years in the employ of Mr. Coffee, brewer.—Mr. JOHN COFFEE, malster and brewer.—THOMAS COX, esq., distiller and merchant.—Rev. MICHAEL DWYER, R. C. curate.—Mr. SAMUEL HAUGHTON, general merchant and storekeeper.—Mr. T. HAUGHTON, magistrate.—ADAM JACKSON, esq.—STANBY JOHNSON, baker.—ROBERT KENNA, labourer, in the employ of Mr. Coffee, brewer.—ROBERT LAWLOR, grocer.—JOSEPH LYNCH, working carpenter and builder.—Mr. FRANCIS MONTGOMERY, apothecary.—Right Rev. Dr. NOLAN, R. C. bishop.—Mr. MEADE NESBITT STONE, physician.—Rev. GEORGE VERNON, rector of the parish.

Parish Carlow.
Bar. Carlow.

THE number of deserted children in the parish at present is about 10, and the average for the last three years is three. Desertions are not increasing here. The deserted children are supposed to be illegitimate, and, in many cases, perish before they are discovered. Considering the wages of the labouring classes, it was considered impossible for parents to lay by any provision for their children in case of their becoming orphans; neither is it ever attempted. Deserted children are neither supported by private contributions, nor brought up by religious houses; nor are there any general subscriptions, by the poorer classes, of small sums for the purpose of having them nursed and reared.

The construction put on the laws about the provision for deserted children requires that the child must be under 12 months old, found destitute and deserted, and without any trace as to the parents. If at the vestry the parishioners disagree about the provision for a deserted child, then the clergyman applies to the sitting judge of assize, who gives a "fiat" on the parish, which is afterwards collected by the chief constable of the barony. The churchwarden always takes charge of deserted children, as overseer of deserted children, but not in his character of churchwarden. The reason why deserted children only are provided for by the parish is, the law does not make provision for any other. The churchwardens, as overseers, always put the child to nurse to some woman in the parish, so as that the children may be often brought to them for inspection; and if the child is old enough to go to school, a certificate of attendance is required from the master of the "Carlow public day-school:" the children must be brought up protestants. The limit of expenditure for each child is 5*l.* late Irish currency, which is drawn from a fund raised by parochial assessment; the assessment on the parish is made in proportion to the number of children on the list; and made on the valuation of the holdings by the parishioners assembled at vestry, who appoint an applotting committee. Before the applotment can be collected, it must be produced at next Easter meeting, where the parishioners have the power of making objections; and if still dissatisfied, have the power of applying to the barrister at next quarter sessions.

In this parish there have been no reason for being discontented with the distribution of this fund by the churchwardens, nor have they been guilty of any peculation. There is no foundling hospital where deserted children could be sent, since the one in Dublin was closed two years ago. The children are not yet old enough to be apprenticed, the hospital being but two years closed; besides, there is no apprentice fund.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Carlow.Examinations taken by
Captain White.
P. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

Parish Carlow.

Bar. Carlow.

The expense of sending deserted children to nurse among the peasantry is much greater than providing for them in the Foundling-hospital; the charge at present being an annual one of 5*l.*, instead of, as heretofore, that sum covering the entire charge at the Foundling-hospital.

Children who have been deserted have been remarked in their course through life to be ill-conducted, owing to carelessness in selecting proper masters. Mr. Vernon says, "I have been told by some children, on my remonstrating with them, that during their apprenticeship they were made to sleep with the pigs, and otherwise ill-treated." There was no instance known of children, not provided for by the parish, being obliged to beg to support themselves. There are no children supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. It was considered that the desertion of children may be encouraged by the practice of taking charge of them. Desertion of children has not increased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital. The Rev. Mr. Vernon and Mr. Jackson would suggest, as advisable, some power to raise a fund for apprenticing children at a certain age; and the Rev. Mr. Dwyer is of opinion, that the religious persuasion of the child ought not to be limited to any particular denomination, but decided by the majority of the rate-payers.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parishes of Dun-
leckny and Wells.
Baronies of East
and West Idrone.

Rev. ARTHUR HANS ATKINSON, protestant curate.—PHILIP BAGNALL, esq., J. P. Dunleckny.—Hon. and Rev. DEAN BERNARD, rector of Wells, West Idrone.—Mr. PATRICK BOULGER, farmer, Kilcarrick.—ROBERT BUNBURY, shoemaker.—Mr. WILLIAM CORRIGAN, postmaster.—JAMES DAVIS, millwright and carpenter.—Mr. DOWLING, brewer and grocer.—JOHN HANAHAN, labourer.—Lieut. HUGH HAWKSHAW, chief constable of police.—Rev. Mr. KEHOE, parish priest, Leighlin, barony of West Idrone.—Mr. RICHARD KEHOE, merchant.—Mr. JOHN LITTLE, draper.—THOMAS LITTON, esq., Bagnalstown.—Rev. Mr. McMAHON, catholic curate of Wells, West Idrone.—JOHN MAGEE, brewer and farmer, Leighlin, barony of West Idrone.—Mr. PATRICK MORAN, grocer and merchant, Leighlin.—WILLIAM O'NEILL, esq.—Mr. TERENCE O'NEILL, innkeeper and farmer, Leighlin.—Rev. Mr. ANDREW PHELAN, roman-catholic coadjutor.—Colonel ROCHFORD, magistrate, Clagrenan.—Rev. SAMUEL ROBERTS, parish priest, Leighlin.—SINGLETON, esq., farmer and merchant.—Mr. PATRICK TIERNEY, grocer and farmer.—Mr. HENRY WATSON, general merchant, Leighlin.

Rev. Mr. Phelan says, "There are from 30 to 40 orphans supported either by their relations or by begging in the parish of Dunleckny."

Dean Bernard and the Rev. Mr. Atkinson say, that in the parish of Wells there are two deserted children.

"The deserted children are invariably illegitimate, and supposed to be deserted with the hope that they will be better provided for than if the mothers were to try to rear them."—(Rev. Mr. Atkinson, &c.)

The children seldom perish before they are discovered. Mr. Singleton mentions one instance of a child who was found in the middle of a field without any marks of violence on its person. It was supposed to have perished from cold. In Wells, Dean Bernard only knows of one instance of infanticide within 12 years.

It is universally allowed that the labouring classes are quite unable to make any provision for their orphans, "from never having a shilling they can call their own."

Colonel Rochfort says, "The orphans are frequently supported by the relations, and are sometimes taken by families and brought up as their own children; but the law only allows a provision for children under 12 months old found destitute and deserted, and sometimes presentments are obtained from the judge of assize where the parish has neglected to support the child: the duty of attending to deserted children devolves on the parish overseer, by whom the children are usually sent to some woman in the parish to be nursed."

The clergymen generally go to see the children at the residence of the nurse, or they are brought to them. "Surely, when they want money," the greatest amount of which allowed for each child is 5*l.*, which is raised by parochial assessment, being an acreable rate in general—(all concur.)

The Rev. Mr. Atkinson says, "Those children brought up by the parish nurses are much healthier than those reared in an institution."

Col. Rochfort also states it as his opinion, "that those children who had been privately withheld by the nurses and brought up with their own children are infinitely more moral than those sent back to the Foundling-hospital and apprenticed out by them; many instances that he has known of those children being apprenticed out, have turned out very badly." Rev. Mr. Atkinson corroborated this, and says, "that in almost all cases the females turn out badly."

It is generally thought less expensive and a greater advantage to have the deserted children put out to nurse than sent to a foundling-hospital. Mr. Singleton says, "he knows an instance of a woman who has taken a child and guaranteed to bear the whole onus of its support for 40*s.* She stated that she was its grandmother. These children, after a residence of a few years, become in every way part members of the family, and are not treated as a separate class."

Colonel Rochfort thinks the mortality greater amongst those children who are sent to the Foundling-hospital, than those who are nursed in the parish, which probably may be attributed

attributed to the hardships suffered while travelling to the hospital, and that those who are nursed in the parish are much better off in every way, as they are generally sent to a house where there is a cow; and the people became so attached to them as to make no difference between them and their own children.

This facility of having illegitimate children well taken care of may increase the number of them, but it prevents infanticide—(*all concur.*)

Dean Bernard thinks the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital a matter of regret, and that it has been a cause of great inconvenience to the parochial clergy.

Colonel Rochfort thinks it desirable that illegitimate children should be left with the nurses, as they in general become quite attached to them, and it is with the greatest pain and reluctance that they will give them up.

Rev. Mr. Atkinson says he has known several instances of deserted children, when apprenticed out, running away from their masters and returning to their nurses.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Captain CARTER.—Reverend G. DAWSON, late curate of Tullow.—ROBERT DOYNE, esq. J. P.—Mr. DWYER, farmer.—Major EUSTACE, J. P.—Mr. THOMAS GERMAINE, draper and farmer.—Reverend BERESFORD JOHNSTON, rector.—JAMES KEELEY, mason.—PATRICK M'ANABY, labourer.—LAWRENCE MURPHY, carpenter.—Mr. LAWRENCE MURPHY, innkeeper and farmer.—JAMES NEIL, labourer.—Reverend THOMAS NOLAN, P. P., administrator.—Mr. JOHN NOLAN, farmer.—JOHN PAYNE, esq. M. D.—Mr. MICHAEL ROACHE.—Mr. JOHN WHALEY, grocer.—Captain WHELAN, J. P.

THERE are no orphans supported by the parish, but the Rev. B. Johnston said there were six foundlings and five protestant orphans in it at present. The foundlings are merely sent from the Foundling-hospital to nurse. The orphans are also from the Protestant Orphan Society in Dublin, and placed at nurse. There were only two deserted children in the parish during the last three years, who were sent to the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. The custom is decreasing. The children are supposed to be mostly illegitimate, and deserted, with the hope of their being better provided for than the means of the mother could possibly do. Rev. Mr. Johnston stated a case within his own knowledge, where a female servant left her child in the premises of a farmer who was the father; the mother would have been herself unable to provide for it. The children seldom perish before they are discovered; wages being at present only sufficient to support life, and the rents of cabins very high. Rev. Mr. Johnston and Mr. Doyne were both of opinion that parents could not lay up any provision in the event of their children becoming orphans; and the idea is not known or attempted by the labourers. They are not supported by private contributions, and the poorer classes do not, by weekly subscriptions of 1 d. or 2 d., maintain them. To come under the operation of the laws for providing for deserted children, they must be under 12 months old, and no trace of their parents discovered.

Presentments for the maintenance of deserted children are obtained from the assizes when required. The churchwardens, since the extinction of vestry cess, do not invariably take charge of such children. The law provides for no others than children deserted in the parish; they are not put to nurse by churchwardens. There are none supported by the parish. There is no foundling-hospital to which deserted children can invariably be sent. There are five children supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. The Rev. B. Johnston said they were well clothed and fed, and 5s. per annum allowed for educating, and placed under the control of the Protestant rector. The practice of taking charge of deserted children leads to forsaking them, but on the other hand may prevent infanticide. The Rev. B. Johnston was assured by a most competent judge, that the increase of infanticide generally has been awful since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. The practice of desertion has decreased since it has closed. Further legislative interference on the point is considered necessary, and that the duty of the parochial offices ought to be more closely defined, and more imperative. Rev. Mr. Johnston stated that he suffered severely by the uncertain state of the law in the parish of St. Canice in Kilkenny, where four children were left at different times on his premises, under the idea that he was bound to provide for them.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JAMES BAYNE, publican and farmer.—Very Rev. Mr. FLANAGAN.—EDWARD MARKS, labourer.—PATRICK MULVANY, tillage farmer.—J. H. NANGLE, esq. J. P., resident country gentleman.—Rev. EUGENE O'REILY, catholic curate.—Rev. Mr. PALMER, protestant rector.

THERE are five deserted children in these parishes. Rev. Mr. Flanagan says, in 27 years they have not amounted to one in two years, and do not appear to increase or decrease. There is no instance of a legitimate child being deserted. A few have perished before they have been discovered. Deserted children are supported by Sunday collections at the chapel; some by charitable individuals.

Mr. Nangle says, some are supported by grand jury presentments. The Rev. Mr. Flanagan says, the protestant minister applied for such presentments, and obtained 5 l. for one deserted child. When money is raised by presentment, the minister sends the child to be nursed. One instance occurred where the person appointed to collect money for the nursing of a de-

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DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Carlow.

Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

Parishes of *Dun-*
leckny and *Wells.*

Baronies of *East*
and *West Idronc.*

Parish *Tullow.*
Bar. *Rathvilly.*

Parish *Cadams-*
town, containing the
Parishes of *Ballina-*
drinna, *Mylers-*
town, *Carrick*, *Nur-*
ney and *Killreany.*
Bar. *Carbery.*

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Leinster,*
County Kildare.Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

serted child, having promised payment to the nurse, and not being able to collect, was obliged by the magistrates to pay it himself: he was afterwards remunerated by grand jury presentment. Some time after it was discovered that the father of the child was the brother to the collector; he absconded to America on the discovery being made. Five pounds is the amount allowed for each child. Vote of vestry empowers a collection on the parish. The parishioners invariably refuse to pay; application is then made for grand jury presentment, which is always granted. The children nursed by parish subscriptions are sent to farmers when able to work; and though they are more strong, more healthy, and better in morals than those brought up in the Dublin Foundling-hospital, yet they do not turn out as well as those brought up by their parents. All concur in thinking that the practice of taking charge of deserted children leads to their desertion. Some short time ago a child was deserted in the parish; the mother was observed to conceal herself near the spot, and remained there during the day until the child was taken up.

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Kildare.

Parish of the Union
of Castledermot.Baronies of Kilkea
and Moone.

ROBERT ARCHBOLD, esq. magistrate.—BRYAN BOULGER, labourer.—Mr. JOHN CORCORAN, farmer.—THOMAS DORAN, labourer.—Rev. LAURENCE DUNNE, parish priest of Castledermot and Timolin.—Mr. JOHN DUNNE, farmer.—Rev. R. L. Fitzgibbon, parish curate of Castledermot.—Rev. ARCHBOLD HAMILTON, vicar of Castledermot.—JOHN HUTCHINSON, farmer.—Mr. SYLVESTER KELLY, farmer.—MICHAEL KEOGH, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS MAC DONALD, farmer.—Mr. JAMES MAC DONALD, farmer.—Mr. PATRICK MAGRATH, farmer.—Mr. DANIEL M'LOUGHLIN, farmer.—Rev. EDWARD MURPHY, catholic curate.—Mr. JOHN MURPHY, farmer.—JOHN MURPHY, farmer.—CHARLES NEAL, farmer.—GEORGE PAYNE, esq.—JAMES PAYNE.—Mr. EDWARD SCULLY (who took the census of this parish).—MICHAEL STYLES, farmer,

AT the period of the visit of the Assistant Commissioners, there were six deserted children in the parish; and on an average of three years, they were informed that about two desertions occur annually. The Rev. Mr. Fitzgibbon says that the crime is, if anything, rather on the increase in frequency; and he is disposed to seek the cause in the closing the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. "Under present circumstances," says he, "the mother has continual opportunities of seeing her child, as it is always put to nurse in the parish in which it is found." Formerly a woman hesitated long before she deserted her offspring, as the chances were, that after it had been sent to the hospital she would never set her eyes on it again. Most foundlings are supposed to be of illegitimate birth. Mr. Fitzgibbon states positively, that he never knew an instance where a legitimate child was deserted by its parents. None have ever perished before being discovered, as they are generally placed in some conspicuous or much-frequented place; very frequently at the door of the parish priest. It is considered that it would have been quite impossible for the parents of those children who have been left orphans to have made any provision for them. "It could not be done," remarks Mr. Hamilton, "because their wages barely afford them the necessaries of life. I expect that before next Christmas the labourers will be obliged to work for 6d. or 8d. a day. The farmers, after paying their rents, will have hardly money to pay them with, the price of all produce is so very low." There are not any religious orders to undertake the care of orphans, nor do the labouring classes enter into any subscription for the purpose. When any child is found deserted, and that its parents cannot be discovered, or when, as Mr. Hamilton conceives, its parents, from physical or other causes, are incapable of supporting it, the law provides that the parish shall make a provision for its support. Presentments are also allowed by the grand jury for the purpose; and the churchwardens, who are also in general constituted overseers of foundlings, are bound to attend to the due application of the funds thus procured. In Mr. Hamilton's opinion, orphans have fully as strong a claim upon the parish as deserted children; and he adds, that if any objection was made to the maintaining of such, he would immediately apply to the judge of assize, and he has no doubt that he would be allowed a presentment. Children of both descriptions are put out to nurse by the churchwardens, in their capacity of overseers, and are always given to women resident in the parish, over whom a constant control is easily exercised. The Rev. Mr. Fitzgibbon is in the habit of having the children brought to him two or three times a year; and always previous to an application for a presentment, he has never had reason to complain of their being neglected. £.5 is the highest sum that can be levied for the support of a deserted child. If the child be what is called a wet child, that is to say, requires to be suckled, that sum is allowed; but if it be passed the age indicated, only 3*l.* 10*s.* The question is put at the Easter vestry, as to the provision for the children of the parish; if the opinion be in favour of it, the sum agreed upon is levied by an acreable assessment upon the union at large. This was always the practice until within the last three years, since which the parishioners have refused to pay church rates; recourse has in consequence been had to the judge, and he has fiatd a presentment for the same end, off the barony. There have not been any complaints as to the manner in which the churchwardens have discharged the part of their duty under consideration; there is no room for speculation, according to the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, because the funds lie in his hands until they are required for use; and moreover he is generally in advance. There is no foundling-hospital to which the parish can send its deserted children. The Dublin hospital has been closed but two years, and there has not occurred an occasion to apprentice any child within that period. The expense is precisely the same under the present system as when the Foundling-hospital

hospital was open. It has been a general observation, that those children who have been apprenticed to gentlemen have turned out well, and the contrary has been remarked of those who have been bound to petty tradesmen. This difference has been attributed to the circumstance of the latter being worse fed and clothed, and in general receiving worse treatment than he had been accustomed to. The Protestant Orphan Society has never extended its operation to these parishes. The practice of taking charge of deserted children is conceived by the witnesses to be rather promotive of desertion; but this disadvantage, in their opinion, is more than counterbalanced by its efficacy in checking infanticide. The affection displayed by the nurses towards the foundlings that have been entrusted to their charge, is sometimes very remarkable. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Fitzgibbon mention instances where it has been stronger than towards their own offspring. They allude to one in particular, that occurred within the last three years. A nurse was required to give up a child which had arrived at the age of being withdrawn. "I have," exclaimed she, "six children of my own; take any of them that you like, but leave me this. I will place 20*l.* in your hands as a pledge that I will take proper care of it." This woman and her husband followed the child up to Dublin, and remained there during three months, until they discovered to whom it had been assigned. They now return thither regularly every year to visit it.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Kildare.

Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

Parish of the Union
of Castledermot.
Baronies of Kilkea
and Moone.

Persons who attended the Examination.

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS, labourer.—Capt. BRENNAN, chief constable of police.—THOMAS BRENNAN, labourer.—Mr. JAMES BYRNE, miller.—Rev. Mr. CAULFIELD, protestant rector.—JOHN CLARK, labourer.—Mr. MARTIN CONNETON, farmer.—PETER CORRIGAN, labourer.—Mr. PATRICK COSGRAVE, shopkeeper and farmer.—MICHAEL COSTELLO, labourer.—Mr. PATRICK CULLEN, farmer.—THOMAS McDERMOTT, labourer.—MICHAEL FEAGAN, labourer.—Mr. JOHN GILLIGAN, farmer.—Mr. EDWARD GOODWIN, postmaster.—JOHN GORMON, labourer.—Mr. JOHN HACKETT, shopkeeper.—Mr. PATRICK HALIGAN, shopkeeper.—Rev. FRANCIS HELY, parish priest.—EDWARD HOLSON, labourer.—Mr. AMBROSE HUGHES, shopkeeper.—PATRICK IRVING, labourer.—Mr. DANIEL KEARNEY, shopkeeper.—THOMAS KEARNEY, esq., J. P.—Mr. PATRICK LUBE, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES MAGRATH, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES MANGAN, shopkeeper.—Mr. THOMAS MURRAY, farmer.—MICHAEL NEVIN, labourer.—Mr. JAMES O'SHAUGHNESSY, innkeeper.—Mr. JOHN POWER, farmer.—JOHN RATIGAN, labourer.—Mr. MICHAEL REILLY, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES REILLY, schoolmaster of National School.—Mr. THOMAS ROBINSON, shopkeeper.—PATRICK SMITH, labourer.—Mr. RICHARD WADE, farmer.—Mr. JOSEPH WALKER, farmer.

Parish of the Union
of Kilcock.

Bar. Ikeathy and
Oughterany.

THERE is but one deserted child at present in the parish, supported by a poor man in whose house it was left; but no application having been made for 12 months, the child was too old, agreeably to law, for the parish to take charge of it. Mr. Reily states, there was a boy about nine years old, who lives by begging; he was deserted by his parents when three years old, and has followed this life ever since. Deserted children are considered to be always illegitimate. There have been three instances known in the parish, where the children perished before they were discovered; two of them were found in the canal, and one was buried in a dunghill. It was conceived quite impossible for the labouring classes to lay by anything for their children in case of their becoming orphans; neither is the attempt ever made, as it must be utterly useless. The parish will not take charge of deserted children, except they be found destitute of parents, and under 12 months old; and then churchwardens as overseers take charge of them, but the parish takes no note of orphans, as there is no law authorizing them.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Very Rev. Dean BURGH.—Mr. JAMES BYRNE.—JOHN CLARKE, esq., sub-inspector of police.—SIMON CULLEN, labourer.—WILLIAM CORCORAN, labourer.—Mr. PATRICK CURRIE.—JOHN CURRIN, esq.—Rev. Mr. DOYLE, P. P.—Mr. PAT FARRELL, farmer and general dealer.—Mr. RICHARD FINAMORE.—Mr. JAMES FITZPATRICK.—JAMES FLANAGAN, labourer.—WILLIAM P. GAHAGAN, M. D.—MICHAEL GAUL, labourer.—WILLIAM GOODWIN, esq.—Mr. THOMAS HARDY.—Mr. EDWARD HAYDON.—ROBERT HAYES, M. D., churchwarden.—Rev. Mr. HUME, roman-catholic curate.—Mr. OWEN LALOR.—Mr. JOHN LOUTON, shopkeeper.—PETER LYONS, esq.—JOHN MAGRATH, farmer of five and a half acres.—Mr. FELIX MIRNA, huckster.—WILLIAM MURPHY, mendicant.—ANDREW NEAL, labourer.—EDWARD NEAL, labourer.—Rev. EDWARD GEORGE PARKER, curate of Naas.—JOHN RUTHERFORD, esq.—JOHN STANLEY, labourer.—Major TANDY, chief magistrate of police.—MICHAEL TOOLE, farmer of six and a half acres.—Mr. WILLIAM TRACY.—Mr. WILLIAM WILSON.—PATRICK WALSH, dispensary doctor.

Parishes of Naas
and Osberstown.

Bar. North Naas.

THE number of deserted children at the time of Assistant Commissioners visiting, was five, and about 50 orphans; the annual average of deserted children being about eight. Mr. Goodwin, the secretary to the grand jury of this county, states, that in Athy there are 0.5. at

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Kildare.Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.Parishes of Naas
and Osberstown.
Bar. North Naas.

at present 20 deserted children. The number of desertions has certainly increased within the last five years. Mr. Goodwin states, "at the gate of my residence two children more lately left; I traced the mothers, who declared their inability to support the children, and that they knew they would be well taken care of by me." Deserted children are always illegitimate, and occasionally perish before they are discovered. Major Tandy observes, "About four months ago a woman was detected who exposed her child; I committed her to gaol, but from previous exposure to wet and cold the child died in the gaol; the woman was in a state of dreadful want." It was deemed impossible for a labourer, considering the rate of wages, to make any provision for his children in case of their becoming orphans, nor is the attempt to do so ever made. Children under 12 months found deserted, are supported by presentments at the assizes; but orphans receive no legal support, the law makes no provision for them. The churchwarden, as overseer, takes charge of all deserted children; and afterwards, by the direction of the minister, they are put out to nurse to women in the parish, nor can they be neglected, being under the inspection of the parochial authorities. The sum granted for the support of a deserted child is 5*l.* a year, which is presented for by the churchwardens, against whom no charge of neglect or peculation has ever been made. There is no hospital for deserted children since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, the whole charge in which was 5*l.* There is no apprentice fund for foundlings.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Rathangan.
Bar. Ophaly, West.

Rev. Mr. BOURNE, protestant rector.—Rev. Mr. BRENNAN, parish priest.—MICHAEL BYRNE, labourer.—Mr. JAMES DIXON, farmer.—Dr. WILLIAM GODFREY DYAS.—PETER ENNIS, farmer.—Mr. JOHN FAGAN, huckster.—Mr. JOHN FARRELL, baker and farmer.—ROBERT FITZGERALD, esq. J. P.—Rev. PATRICK FITZPATRICK, roman-catholic curate.—Dr. JAMES FITZSIMONS, M.D.—WILLIAM FLOOD, farmer.—Mr. WILLIAM GARDENER, huckster.—WILLIAM GORE, labourer and small farmer.—PATRICK GORMAN, mason.—Right Hon. Lord HERBERTON.—Mr. JAMES HYNES, farmer.—OWEN KAVANAGH, labourer.—WILLIAM KAVANAGH, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS KELLY, large farmer.—JOSEPH LEE, blacksmith and publican.—PAT LEE, farmer.—Mr. JAMES M'KENNA, parochial schoolmaster.—Mr. PAT MALONE, butcher.—Mr. MICHAEL MYLOD, farmer and innkeeper.—GEORGE PIM, esq., J. P.—JOHN PIM, esq., J. P.—EDWARD J. TOWNSEND, chief constable of police.

REV. MR. BRENNAN, parish priest, says, "There are in the catholic union of parishes about 12 orphans and three deserted children; one of the latter was since the closing of the Foundling-hospital; but latterly the number appears to be stationary. In all cases of desertion the children are considered illegitimate; and the reason for desertion is to get rid of the expense and to cover of their own character."

All agree in saying that it would be utterly impossible for the working classes to lay by anything from their earnings against a time of need for their orphans.

Two of the three deserted children in the catholic unions are supported by private contributions, and one by a grant of grand jury presentment, and no great difficulty is found in collecting it. The orphans are supported by the alms of the people.

Deserted children are usually put out to nurse by the clergymen of the parish with women residing in the parish, who in general treat the children with the greatest kindness. Five pounds per annum is the limit of expenditure allowed for the support of each child; it is levied by assessments on the barony.—(Rev. Mr. Browne.)

"The practice of thus taking charge of deserted children," continues Mr. Browne, "is not found to increase the number, as we are very particular in investigating; and the fear of detection has prevented many; there can be no doubt of it, as I myself have exposed the parties."

The Rev. Mr. Brennan observes, "it may lead to desertion, but it prevents the crime of infanticide; and of the two evils the first is the lesser."

Rev. Mr. Browne thinks, "the difficulty and expense attending the necessary application to the judge of assize for so small a grant yearly, throw such obstacles in the way, that some greater facility is requisite, the present mode almost excluding the attempt."

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Longford.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.Parish Abbeyshrule,
including Town of
Ballymahon.

Bar. Rathcline.

JOHN CASEY, cottier.—HUGH DOOGAN, small farmer, 10 acres.—Captain GRAHAM, magistrate.—Mr. JOHNSTON, an extensive farmer.—Rev. Mr. M'CAN, parish priest.—Rev. Mr. MAGUIRE, rector.—Rev. Mr. MOFFET, protestant curate of an adjoining parish and a magistrate, residing in the town of Ballymahon.—Mr. EDWARD ROONEY, a general merchant.—MICHAEL ROURKE labourer.

THERE is at present only one child that has been deserted in the parish, but no assessment has been paid during the last two years. The Assistant Commissioners were not able to procure any information from either of the churchwardens on the subjects relating to this portion

portion of their inquiry: with one of those officers they were not able to obtain an interview. "The Rev. Mr. M'Can cannot state how many orphans there may be in the parish below the age of 12 years, but he knows that there are five or six of that age now begging; such children are the objects of very general sympathy, and are usually taken into their houses, and brought up as servants by farmers, for whom their fathers have worked." Neither the last-mentioned gentlemen, nor any other of the witnesses examined can recollect an instance of a child losing both its parents while yet an infant.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Longford.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Mr. O'BEIRNE, P. P.—LAUGHLIN M'CAN, clerk of petty sessions.—Rev. Dr. CRAWFORD, rector and J. P.—Mr. FARRELL, considerable farmer.—Mr. GREGG, considerable farmer.—JOHN HIGGINS, labourer.—JOHN KEEFE, labourer.

Parish Cloonguish,
including Town of
Newtownforbes.
Bar. Longford.

THERE is one deserted child in the parish; four within the last five years; desertion has decreased, but a cause cannot be assigned; all the children are believed to be illegitimate; they have never perished before they were discovered. All the witnesses agreed that parents of the working classes could not provide for their children in the event of their becoming orphans. There are about 16 orphan children unable to support themselves, and belonging to six or seven families; they are mostly supported by going from one neighbour to another. Two families have a small quantity of land, which their neighbours assist them to cultivate. There are also some young orphan children, having adult brothers who support them, but who cannot be supposed to take the same interest in them as parents. One family of orphans, of four individuals, is supported by a contribution from four of the resident gentry. None are brought up by religious orders, or by subscriptions from the working classes. All whose parents are not known, or cannot be found, are considered deserted. No presentments are obtained from the assizes for their support. The churchwarden does not take care of orphans, nor, latterly, of deserted children, as the parishioners have refused payment of the money levied for that purpose. The latter were formerly put out by the churchwardens to nurse, to women resident in the parish; but the duty of inspection was generally neglected; 3 *l.* or 4 *l.* per annum was the sum usually paid for nursing, which continued to the age at which the woman might consent to adopt the child, usually about 10 or 12 years. The fund was supplied by parish assessment, and no objection was made to its distribution. There is no foundling-hospital or orphan institution here; the children usually merge into the families of their nurses. If no provision were made for deserted children, some would be prevented from deserting them, as they now are by the fear of their being brought up as protestants by the protestant parochial authorities: this motive Mr. O'B. knows to be influential, from the following circumstance. Some years ago he took charge of a deserted child; immediately afterwards two others were deserted, with papers on their persons, certifying that they were the children of roman-catholics; he took charge of them also, but proclaimed at his chapel that he would never do so again. Not more than two were deserted in the parish since. All the witnesses agreed that no further legislation was desirable with respect to deserted children.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. PETER CORCORAN, grocer and general retailer.—KIRWAN, esq. M. D.—PATRICK MAGUIRE, day labourer.—MONTGOMERY, churchwarden.—THOMAS MOXHAM, farmer, and proprietor of cabins in the town, occupied by labourers.—Mr. JOHN MURTAGH, cloth-merchant.—Rev. Mr. ROBINSON, rector, and J. P.—Rev. Mr. SHERIDAN, J. P.—THOMPSON, esq., J. P.

Town Granard.
Bar. Granard.

THERE are three deserted children in the parish; about 12 orphans begging, too young to earn a support for themselves; it was not known how they might be otherwise provided for. There are three or four deserted each year; the mortality among them is very great, as they are mostly all born diseased. They are supposed to be deserted by prostitutes. The number has decreased progressively for the last 12 years. At that time 15 were deserted in a single year, and the average was about eight. Within the last two years only four have been deserted. This decrease has been exactly proportioned to the difficulty the parish has experienced in providing for them, and the consequently increased circumspection of the churchwardens, who now never take charge of a child without the strictest inquiry into the circumstances of desertion. The difficulty commenced with the Dublin Foundling-hospital requiring 5 *l.* with each child. Now that the hospital is closed, the parishioners have refused to pay the sums assessed for their support for the last two years. The children are all supposed to be illegitimate; they have never been known to have perished before they were discovered. Parents of the working classes could not possibly provide for their children if they become orphans. There is no contribution for orphans, but there are several instances where, when they had arrived at such an age that they might be useful in running errands, &c., they have been taken in, when they must otherwise have begged, by the employers of their father. None are supported by religious orders or by subscriptions from

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Leinster,*
County Longford.Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.Town of Granard.
Bar. Granard.

the poorer classes. All children are considered deserted whose parents are not known, or who have abandoned them. The parish have never been called on to support an orphan, and is not supposed to be obliged to do so. No presentments have been obtained from the assizes either for deserted children or orphans. The children are put out to women residing in the parish. "When I had funds," said Mr. M., "I paid the nurses weekly. They brought the children for inspection when they came for payment. I am not aware of a legal limit to the expenditure upon each child, exclusive of clothing for the child. I have paid from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a week for nursing, varying with the difficulty or danger of nursing children affected as they have been almost always with venereal. The oldest we have is four years of age. Before 1830 we sent all to the Foundling-hospital. The fund was derived from parochial assessment. No objection was made to its distribution. It arose from confounding it with church cess. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the closing of the Foundling-hospital to enable us to judge of the effects of the new system." None are supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. No further legislation on the subject was thought desirable by any of the witnesses.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Killashee.
Bar. Moydow.

THOMAS BURKE, farmer, who holds 20 acres of land, and occasionally labours himself.—Rev. Mr. O'FERRALL, P. P.—CHRISTOPHER GEEHAN, day-labourer.—Rev. Mr. POWELL, protestant curate.—Rev. Mr. PRICE, wesleyan clergyman.—MICHAEL SHANLEY, schoolmaster, surveyor, and occasionally labourer for hire.—VALENTINE SKIPTON, esq., J. P.—ROBERT WILSON, middle landlord.

FOR many years there has been no child deserted in the parish.

It was not considered possible with present wages for parents in the labouring class to spare what might provide for children in case of their becoming orphans. In answer to a question, Could they spare money to drink? the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell and Mr. Wilson both agreed that they scarcely recollect to have seen a labourer drunk; those who can afford to drink being found among tradesmen and farmers.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Union of Temple-
michael and Bally-
macormic.

Bar. Ardagh.

Mr. CARRY, general merchant.—Mr. DWYER, churchwarden.—Mr. GANBY, baker, grocer and spirit dealer.—Rev. Mr. HUDSON.—Mr. KEENACH, baker.—Rev. Mr. KENNEDY, presbyterian minister.—Rev. Mr. O'DONOGHUE, roman-catholic clergyman.—Mr. WILLIAMS, town-serjeant and under agent to Lord Longford.

THERE were seven deserted children in the parish, all, together with one who lately died having been deserted since February 1830; they were believed, without exception, to be illegitimate. The mothers are supposed to conceal their pregnancy as long as possible, and then to go, under some pretence, to a strange part of the country and desert the child. But one instance has been known, within seven years or longer, in the parish where the child perished before it was discovered. All the witnesses agreed that from the present wages of the working classes, parents could not provide for children in the event of their becoming orphans. There are no funds or resources for deserted orphans. By the laws providing for deserted children, an affidavit is required from the person who found the child, that he is not, to his knowledge, a relation of it; that he does not know either its father or mother; and that he was not concerned in its desertion. No presentments are obtained from the assizes for the maintenance of deserted and orphan children, but the churchwarden invariably takes care of them when such an affidavit is made. There is no law which provides for orphans. Deserted children are put to nurse to women residing in the parish; they are in general left to the care of the nurses, and are seldom seen by the churchwardens, unless when the nurse comes for money, once in the year or half year. The amount of expenditure upon each child is limited by law to 5*l.* per annum. The amount given in this parish is 4*l.*, until the child is strong enough to be put to a trade, generally when from seven to ten years' old. They have not as yet had any experience of the age at which the parish may get rid of the expense, as before the closing of the Foundling-hospital they did so by paying 5*l.* for carrying it to the hospital. The fund from which the churchwarden draws for their maintenance is derived from parochial assessment, which is made according to an ancient division into *catrons*, townparks and plots. Many complaints are made of the irregularity of this division. There is no reason for discontent with the distribution by the churchwardens. There is no foundling-hospital to which the children can be sent. Those nursed by the country people are frequently adopted by them, the parish being glad to get rid of the expense, otherwise they are apprenticed, at the expense of the parish, to some cheap trade, at the earliest possible age. The character of the children in after life must depend chiefly on that of the family to which they are entrusted, and the churchwarden generally considers it his duty to examine the character of the nurse. The practice of taking charge of deserted children does not to any great extent lead to their desertion.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. THOMAS BLACKALL, miller and farmer.—Mr. MATTHEW COWLEY, small farmer.—FRANCIS DAMES, esq., J. P.—HUGH DONOGHUE, labourer.—PATRICK DOWNEY, farmer.—PATRICK FARRELL, labourer.—Rev. MICHAEL FLANAGHAN, P. P. of Coddamstown.—Rev. THOMAS FLOOD, P. P. of Clonard.—Mr. PATRICK GORMAN, farmer.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER GOSTEEN, farmer.—Mr. PHILIP GRADY, shopkeeper.—DENIS HANAGAN, labourer.—JOHN HEVEY, esq., large holder of land.—Mr. THOMAS HOPKINS, clerk of petty sessions.—GARRETT JACKSON, labourer.—THOMAS KEEVER, farmer.—Mr. S. KERNAN, schoolmaster.—THOMAS MONKS, labourer.—MATTHEW MOONEY, gaoler.—MATTHEW MURRAY, carpenter.—EDWARD MURRAY, gaoler.—JOHN H. NANGLE, esq., J. P.—Rev. EDWARD NIXON, vicar.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER O'NEILL, shopkeeper and farmer.—Rev. Mr. PALMER, protestant rector of Castle Carbery.—Mr. MICHAEL RICKARD, farmer.—Mr. JOHN ROCHE, shopkeeper.—JAMES H. RORKE, esq., J. P.—ROBERT RYND, esq., J. P.—Serjeant SENIOR, police.—Mr. GEORGE VON FREIGHT, chief constable.—ANTHONY WALSH, labourer.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Leinster.
County Meath.

Examinations taken by
Captain White.
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.

Union of Clonard
and Killyon.

Bar. Upper Moy-
jenragh.

THERE are no deserted children in the union. There is one orphan, an illegitimate child. The father always denied it. The mother supported him till her death, which took place about eight years ago. He is 12 years old, and is supported by the neighbours. Considering the present rate of wages of the working classes, all concur in opinion that it is perfectly impossible for parents to provide for their children, in the event of their becoming orphans.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. GERALD BEERE.—DOCTOR COTTER, dispensary surgeon.—WILLIAM COX, labourer.—Mr. WILLIAM CURRIES.—Rev. MICHAEL MULLEN, P. P.—PATRICK MURTAGH, labourer.—HENRY O'CONNOR, esq.—JAMES WEST, esq., J. P.

County Westmeath.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.

Par. Ballinacarrig
Kilbrizy.

Bar. Moygish.

THERE are at present no deserted children, and but few orphans. One child was exposed some time ago, but died shortly afterwards. Deserted children were always supposed to be illegitimate, and were supported by contributions. Orphans were generally maintained by the employers of the parents, as it is quite impossible for a labourer to lay up any provision for his children, in case of their becoming orphans. The practice of deserting children has decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital, and no legislative interference was deemed desirable, as the number is so small, and any certain fund would be likely to increase or cause desertion. There is an instance, in an adjoining parish, of a deserted child being supported by its father, who came forward when the clergyman refused to take it.

Persons who attended the Examination.

WILLIAM CONLON.—Rev. T. CAULFIELD, rector.—MICHAEL FINNEY, beggar.—PATRICK GERAGHTY.—Rev. J. KEARNEY, P. P.—PEGGY KIERNON, beggar, with three children, her husband begging with three more in another part of the country.—Mr. CHARLES LENNON, farmer.—Mr. PHILIP LENON, farmer.—JOHN MIARS, labourer.—JOHN MONREAL, miller.—THOMAS STUBBS, esq., J. P. of Cork, residing here.

Parish Benowen.

Bar. Kilkenny,
West.

THERE has been but one deserted child within the last three years in the parish.

Rev. J. Kearney, parish priest, says, "I do not consider any further legislative interference necessary for the protection of deserted children, and any regular fund would be sure to increase the number."

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. JOHN BURKE, P. P.—Rev. ADOLPHUS DROUGHT, protestant curate.—WILLIAM FAGAN, farmer.—Mr. SIMON FAGAN, farmer.—THOMAS HALPIN, farmer.—Captain PAKENHAM, J. P.—WILLIAM DUTTON POLLARD, esq., J. P.—NICHOLAS RIEVE, farmer.

Par. Castlepollard.

Bar. Halfpore, or
Demifpore.

THE number of deserted children and orphans in the parish is very small, and those that are, receive support from contributions of private persons, as there is no public fund for the purpose; they are always illegitimate. It was considered quite impossible for parents to provide for their children among the working classes, in the present state of wages. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish; and since the Foundling-hospital in Dublin has been closed, the practice of deserting children has very much decreased, so that it seemed dangerous that any legislative interference should take place.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Persons who attended the Examination.*Leinster,
County Westmeath.Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.Parish Castletown
Delvin.
Bar. Delvin.Rev. JOSEPH FITZGERALD, P. P.—LAURENCE LLOYD HENRY, esq. J. P.—Mr. MICHAEL HOPE, farmer.
—Rev. ROBERT A. MARTIN, protestant curate.—Mr. JAMES SEERY, farmer.—ROBERT MORGAN
TIGHE, esq., J. P.—The Marquis of WESTMEATH, Lord-lieutenant of the county.

THERE is but one of these in the parish, the child of a woman who died under a hedge on her way from Cavan; it is supported by a quarterly collection at the roman-catholic chapel, which amounts to about 5s. There has been no other case for several years. Parents of the working classes could not possibly provide for their children, in the event of their becoming orphans, considering the present rate of wages. The present system, by which deserted children are provided for, is considered the best which could be adopted; any other would be likely to increase the number. Mr. Henry mentioned a case of a child sent to him as deserted, who, on Mr. Henry's refusal to receive him, was supported by his father.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Killucan.
Bar. Farbill.Rev. JAMES ALEXANDER, rector.—Rev. JOHN CURRAN, P. P.—GEORGE M. T. DROUGHT, esq., police
magistrate.—MATTHEW KEEFFE, farmer.—DAVID MOORE, shopkeeper.—PETER PURDON, esq.

THERE is not one deserted child in the parish, nor has been these three years. The crime of desertion of children is supposed to have decreased very much since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin.

When cases occur, Rev. Mr. Curran said, "the child is supported by a subscription under the direction of the parish priest, and collected on some appointed Sunday."

With regard to a provision for deserted children, Matthew Keefe did not think it necessary, children being very rarely deserted; and Rev. Mr. Curran thought a fund, under the direction of the clergyman, may be useful.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Par. Multifarnham.
Bar. Corkany.Rev. CHARLES BROWNE, M. A., Wilson's Hospital, protestant clergyman.—OWEN DALY, esq., magis-
trate.—JAMES DOWLING, P. P.—Mr. JAMES FLANAGAN, farmer.—Mr. GEORGE GIBSON, farmer.—
Mr. DENIS KANE, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS MOORE, farmer.—Sir PERCY NUGENT, bart., magistrate
—Rev. THOMAS YOUNG, protestant curate.

THERE is but one deserted child in the parish, no case of this kind having occurred for several years. Parents very rarely, if ever, could provide for their children. Presentments are obtained at the assizes for the maintenance of deserted children and orphans. Sir Percy Nugent thought that a provision for the destitute should include the latter, but not the former.

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. Torrens M'Cullagh,
Esq.Parishes Horcstown,
Clonmore, Ardcolon,
and Killuran.
Bar. Shelmalier.Rev. JOHN BOOKER, Killuran parsonage.—Mr. JOHN DALTON, farmer, Foulker Mill.—Mr. JOHN
LETT, farmer, Kilgevin.—Rev. CHARLES D. OGLE, Clonmore Cottage.—Rev. JOHN W. STOKES,
Castlebridge.

THE number of deserted children in the parish not known, but is supposed to be decreasing. Do not believe that legitimate children are abandoned by their parents, who, considering the wages of the working classes, certainly could not provide for them in the event of their becoming orphans. Some few, however, attempt it. No great difficulty in collecting the necessary funds for the maintenance of deserted and orphan children; presentments are obtained from the assizes for that purpose. There is much discussion on the laws relative to them, and the case is at present under the consideration of the twelve Judges. No foundling-hospital; cannot tell what generally becomes of those nursed by the country people. No apprentice fund; no orphan institution. The expense of providing for deserted children, by putting them to nurse with the peasantry, considerably less than that incurred by sending them to a foundling-hospital. When not provided for by the parish, are often made to beg, and thus support themselves as soon as they are a few years old. Impossible to know whether the mortality amongst those who are sent to a foundling-hospital is greater than the mortality of those who have been put to nurse. The practice of taking charge of deserted children used to lead to this desertion, but has decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. Some provision is considered necessary.

Persons who attended the Examination.

RICHARD BOLTON, esq., town of Gorey.—JOHN P. BROWNRIGG, esq., Barnadown.—Rev. T. O. MOORE, Leskinfere Glebe, Camolin.—Captain OWEN, Millmount.—Major OWEN, Woodlands.

THERE are none in the parish of Leskinfere. On an average of three years, half-a-dozen children have not been deserted in the parish of Gorey. Deserted children are mostly illegitimate; and there have been one or two instances of their having perished before they were discovered. It is hardly ever possible for parents belonging to the working classes, considering the present price of labour, to provide for their children out of their wages, in the event of their becoming orphans, though some indeed have attempted to do so. They are not supported by private contributions, nor any religious establishments known to bring up or shelter them. It has not been heard that the poorer classes make any weekly subscriptions for the purpose of putting to nurse those children deserted within the parish. Orphans are not considered to come within the meaning of the laws which provide for deserted children; nor any children, except those of whom both the parents are unknown. Presentments are obtained from the assizes for the maintenance of deserted children and orphans. The churchwardens cannot now interfere in the case of deserted and orphan children. Children are not now put out by the churchwardens, and when sent from under the constant inspection of the parochial authorities, they have been neglected. Inspection is the duty of the overseers. The expenditure on each child is limited to 5*l.* per annum. The fund from which the churchwardens formerly drew for their maintenance was parochial assessments; but since the abolition of church rates none has been made, in consequence of the difficulty of making any assessments, owing to the smallness of the sum required, and the necessity of apportioning the tax proportionally.

There was no reason to be dissatisfied with the distribution of that fund by the churchwardens, and they never have been found guilty of peculation. There is no apprentice fund. There is no foundling-hospital. The children put to nurse with the country people seem to be more moral and useful members of society than those reared in orphan institutions. The expense of maintaining deserted children, by putting them to nurse with the peasantry, is not greater than would be incurred by supporting them in a foundling-hospital. The Rev. Mr. Moore remarks, that men who have been educated in the foundling-hospital often turn out well; but numerous instances have been known of females so educated being the victims of seduction. Hitherto no children have been supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. It is uncertain whether the mortality amongst those who are sent to a foundling-hospital be greater than the mortality of those who have been put to nurse. One of the principal objections to the foundling-hospital was, that a child once placed within its walls was for life lost sight of by those who otherwise would have known and exerted some influence over it. The practice of providing for deserted children does not lead to their desertion, since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. The Rev. Mr. Moore says: "Infanticide has taken the place of desertion. Some provision ought to be made for the protection of deserted children, which might be effected by the establishment of distinct foundling-hospitals."

Persons who attended the Examination.

RICHARD DEVEREUX, esq., merchant, Wexford.—Rev. WILLIAM HICKEY, rector of Kilcoman.—Rev. GEORGE MURPHY, roman-catholic curate, Wexford.—J. E. REDMOND, esq., banker, Wexford.—CHARLES A. WALKER, esq. M. P., Belmont.—Mr. JOHN WALSH, general agent, Wexford.

THERE are fewer illegitimate than legitimate deserted children. They do not often perish before they are discovered. In some few cases, parents of the working classes might provide from their earnings for their children, in the event of their becoming orphans.

It is sometimes attempted, but very seldom successfully. Deserted children, orphans, &c. are supported principally by private subscriptions collected by the clergy. A few are brought up by the different religious orders. The poorer classes do not subscribe for them. A few clergymen have applied at the assizes for the sum of 5*l.* for each deserted child, and have succeeded. The foundling overseers are the persons bound to take charge of deserted children, and they have not neglected their duty. Orphan children, as such, are not taken care of; none but foundlings, who may or may not be orphans. For the latter, as such, there is no provision. Deserted children are given to resident nurses by the churchwardens. There is rarely any inspection by the parochial authorities.

Assessments are made for their support upon the particular parochial division in which the child was exposed.

There is no foundling-hospital nor apprentice fund. The children become, when they grow up, members of their foster parent's family. There are no orphan institutions. Deserted children are not often driven to beg; none are supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. The practice of taking charge of deserted children does not lead to their desertion. The closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital has produced no perceptible effect. Some provision for deserted children is considered very desirable.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. Torrens McCullagh,
Esq.

Parishes Kilcor-
mack, Gorey, Clough
and Leskinfere.

Bar. Gorey.

Parishes Maglass,
Rathmacnee and
Mulrankin.

Bar. of Forth and
Bargy.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.Leinster,
County Wexford.Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. Torrens M'Cullagh,
Esq.Parish Monart.
Bar. Scarcevalsh.*Persons who attended the Examination.*

EDWARD COOKMAN, esq.—REV. MICHAEL FENWICK.—JOHN NIXON NUNN, esq.—REV. SOLOMON RICHARDS.—MR. PATRICK WHITE, corn merchant.

IN the town there were six deserted children, and a decrease was going on. No instance has been heard of a legitimate child being abandoned by its parents; nor have any perished before discovered. It was not considered possible, and was very seldom attempted, for parents in the labouring classes to lay up a provision for their children in case of their becoming orphans. They are frequently supported by private contributions, and are educated, but not supported, by religious orders. It is not a custom in this parish for the poorer classes to subscribe for the rearing of these children.

Neither orphans nor illegitimate children, whose parents were known, were supposed to come under the protection of the laws providing for deserted children; the churchwardens used to take charge of them when there were church rates; not now; there are no funds, nor hitherto have there been any presentments granted at the assizes for their support. There are 300 females in the town of Enniscorthy supported by the nuns of the order of Presentation. The reason why deserted children only are taken care of by the parish is, that orphans only were taken care of by the churchwarden. Until the closing of the Foundling-hospital, all deserted children were sent by the churchwarden to Dublin. Overseers then were appointed by the parish to take charge of them; this lasted one year; and then, on the cessation of church rates, all parochial provisions ceased.

The expense of deserted children reared among the peasantry, was less than in a foundling-hospital, as they were obliged to beg as soon as they were a few years old. They were looked on as the very worst class of the community.

There are no children of the parish supported by the Protestant Orphan Society; and the comparative mortality between those children sent to the hospital, and those to nurse among the peasantry, was not known to witnesses. Though the habit of taking charge of deserted children was thought to lead to their desertion, yet legislative interference was considered desirable. Some local establishments, that would afford a shelter to orphans and deserted children, would be considered a great advantage, and would be much preferred to re-opening the Foundling-hospital in Dublin.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Par. of Old Ross,
Rosstroit, Clonmore
and Enniscorthy.
Bar. Bantry.

REV. WILLIAM BRENNAN, roman-catholic curate.—JOHN BERKELEY DEANE, esq.—WILLIAM R. FARMER, esq.—REV. WILLIAM FLENXON.—MARTIN FOWLETT, M. D.—REV. THOMAS HARMAN.—EDWARD KEOGH, esq., deputy sovereign, New Ross.—REV. JAMES MORGAN, vicar of St. Mary's.

MR. BRENNAN remembers but three deserted children within the last four years in the parish of New Ross; and he considers the habit of deserting children on the decrease. It was not thought that legitimate children were ever abandoned by their parents, nor did any exposed infants perish before they were discovered. Witnesses considered it quite impossible for the labouring people to lay by any provision for their children should they become orphans; and though some few have attempted it, yet they are not known to have succeeded in any instance that fell under the observation of witnesses.

The laws for providing for deserted children are considered to apply only to deserted children under a year old, and not to orphans; and the limit of provisions for each is restricted to 5*l.*, which formerly were drawn from the sums raised by parochial assessment; but since the change in the law of Vestries, application must be made to the judge of assize by the parish overseers, to whose care deserted children are entrusted, and who put them out to be nursed by women in the parish. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish, nor any orphan institution; neither was it well known to those examined what became of the deserted children reared in the parish, but they always heard that such children grew up members of the family in which they had been reared, and believe it to be so. The expense of rearing deserted children in the parish is greater than it was to send them to the Foundling-hospital: the latter plan requiring but 5*l.* altogether, while 5*l.* must be raised annually for the support of those reared in the parish. Although the practice of taking charge of deserted children at all seems to favour desertion of them, and though the system of deserting had in some degree diminished since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, still the witnesses considered that the general opinion of the parish was in favour of the Foundling-hospital.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Par. Templeshan-
non.
Bar. Ballaghkeen.

REV. JOHN CHARTRES.—MR. WILLIAM GOODISON, farmer.—MR. THOMAS SPARROW, farmer.—MR. EDWARD WEBSTER, farmer and miller.

THE system of deserting children is decreasing in this parish, and there is not known an instance of a legitimate child being abandoned by its parents. Two cases occurred within the last five years of deserted children having perished before they were discovered.

The

The present wages of the labouring classes would not enable them to lay by any support for their orphan children, and though some few attempted it, they always failed. Deserted children are not put to nurse by the churchwarden; the parish overseers are the proper officers; but of late they have not been appointed by the vestries. The children were always given to women residing in the parish, to be nursed, but there does not appear to have been any parochial inspection by the officers.

In this parish there is neither foundling-hospital nor orphan asylum.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Leinster,
County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. Torrens McCullagh,
Esq.

Persons who attended the Examination.

MR. JOHN BLAKE.—WILLIAM GLASSCOT, esq.—JOHN ROSSITER, farmer.—JOHN USHER, esq.

THE system of deserting children seems to be on the decrease, at least there has been less heard about them since the closing of the national hospital. The witnesses did not believe that legitimate children were ever exposed and deserted; but they consider that it is totally impossible, in the great majority of cases, for the labouring classes to provide, in any tolerable way, for their children, in case of their becoming orphans: in the cases, however, in which orphans were left totally destitute, there was found no difficulty in raising a contribution for them in the parish. The laws providing for deserted children are variously interpreted, and not clearly understood; and, owing to some informality, the presentments hitherto made have always been rejected. The churchwardens used to take charge of deserted children; since the change in the laws regarding parochial assessments, he has ceased to have any power of interfering.

With regard to the comparative conduct, in after life, of deserted children reared in public institutions and those nursed and reared in the parish, witnesses have had but few instances for observation; yet they consider that children brought up in a public institution are less useful, and certainly not more moral members of the community, neither are they as robust and healthful. Those deserted children, reared up among the peasantry, are seldom driven to beg, but in this district they become, as it were, a part of the family in which they were reared; nevertheless, it was in general considered advisable that some provision should be made for them.

Par. *Whitechurch-
Tintern.*

Bar. *Shelbourne.*

Persons who have attended the Examination.

PATRICK M'DERMOTT, farmer.—M. GILLOUGHY, weaver.—JOHN FINN, tailor.—JOHN HEHIR, carpenter.—CONNOR HOGAN, a retired shopkeeper.—JOHN HYNES, corn dealer, and occupier of 200 acres.—JOHN HYNES, junior, farmer.—PATRICK NORTON, serjeant of police.—PETER O'LOUGHLIN, labourer.—THADDEUS SALMON, farmer.—THOMAS SCANLAN, farmer.—WILLIAM SCANLAN, schoolmaster.

Munsier,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

AT the time of visiting the parish there was not a child in it supported as a deserted child, nor had a case of desertion occurred during the eight years previous. If a case were to occur it would be met by the parish priest, who would collect penny or twopenny subscriptions from his congregation, for the purpose of paying for a nurse. Though the law authorizes the vestry to make a provision for such a necessity, it would not be done here, as there is neither church nor resident clergyman in either of the parishes. Mr. Hynes observed, that it was only necessary that the father of a family among the labouring classes should die, in order that his children should be reduced to a state of destitution fully equal to that of an infant deserted by its parents; so much so, that children whose mothers alone survive, are always considered and styled orphans. Their parents neither can nor do save anything for them in case of their deaths; and after that they are dependent, even for shelter, on the commiseration of their neighbours. The claims of relationship are not very generally allowed in the case of orphans; "and it happens," said M'Dermott, "that such children are taken in nearly as often by strangers as by their own blood." Sometimes a child is taken under the roof of a peasant who is too poor to give him any food, and in such circumstances he is compelled to beg. A little boy of eight years old, whom the Assistant Commissioners met on the road carrying a bag containing a few small potatoes, said that his father and mother were dead, and that he and his two sisters, younger than himself, were living with a poor man in the next parish, and that he was obliged each day to go about collecting potatoes for himself and his sisters; and if he did not get enough, the poor people of the house could hardly spare them anything, and they were sometimes without a meal in consequence. There were none supported by any religious orders, nor by private subscriptions. It was the general opinion that the laws do not point out in any way a mode of maintaining orphans. There were no presentments for them at the assizes, nor for deserted children; and as there was no church in the parish, there were, consequently, no churchwardens. The law specifies that a cess shall be levied only for deserted children; "but," observed one of the witnesses, "it is all the same, as neither the one nor the other are provided for here." The Protestant Orphan Society does not support any children belonging to these parishes.

Par. *Abbeey and
Oughtmanagh.*

Bar. *Burren.*

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Persons who attended the Examination.**Munster,*
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish *Kildysart.*
Bar. *Clonderalaw.*

JAMES BOURKE, baker.—M. CAHILL, a small farmer, with about nine acres.—*JOHN CARRIG, labourer.—ANTHONY CURRY, process-server.—Rev. MICHAEL DYNON, roman-catholic curate of Kildysart.—The Rev. MICHAEL FITZGERALD, protestant rector of Kildysart.—Dr. GEARY, dispensary physician.—TIMOTHY GORMAN, a small farmer, with about 12 acres.—DENNIS HURLY, shopkeeper.—*JOHN KINNAHAN, labourer.—PATRICK M'CABE, weaver.—MARK M'MAHON, grocer in the village of Kildysart.—Mr. M'NAMARA, postmaster, and extensive farmer.—PATRICK M'MAHON, farmer, steward to Bindon Scott, esq.—MICHAEL MYERS, a small publican and labourer.—*MICHAEL O'BRIEN, labourer.—JAMES O'DEA, broker in the village.—DANIEL O'GRADY, esq., an extensive gentleman farmer.—MICHAEL O'SHAUGHNESSY, victualler.—HENRY ROSS LEWIN, esq., J. P.—Serjeant SCOTT, police serjeant.—The Rev. P. SHEEHY, roman-catholic rector of Kildysart.

THERE has not been a child deserted in the parish for the last nine years.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Kilfarboy,*
including town of
Miltown Malbay.
Bar. *Ibrickane.*

ANDREW CLANCY, farmer with 100 acres.—Dr. COSTELLOE, of the dispensary.—Rev. ANDREW DAVORAN, protestant rector.—MICHAEL HEHIR, innkeeper.—JOHN KEANE, a farmer of seven acres.—MATTHIAS KEARNY, an extensive farmer.—Rev. P. M'GUANE, roman-catholic curate.—JOHN MAGUIRE, blacksmith.—DANIEL M'KNIGHT, weaver.—THOMAS MOLONY, blacksmith.—F. G. MORONY, esq., J. P.—Mr. MORONY, postmaster.—MICHAEL MURROUGH, farmer of 11 acres.—PATRICK MURROUGH, land surveyor, and a farmer holding 10 acres.—JOHN OWENS, grocer.

THE parish did not support any deserted child at that time; and there have been but three foundlings in it during the last 10 years, all of whom have been supported by subscriptions made at the catholic chapels.*

As to the question of the possibility of the members of the working classes being able to provide for their orphans after their death, Mr. M'Guane observed, that when the father of a family dies amongst the labouring classes, it does not occur once in 10 times that he leaves any, even the least, provision for his children. His poor widow continues to maintain them in the precarious mode which has been described in speaking of that class of the destitute; and whilst she lives, it rarely occurs that any of them are taken in charge by their relations until they are able to give some return for their maintenance. Looking to the means of sustenance alone, it may be said that it would be often better for a child that both his parents had died at the same time, for the charity of those who knew its parents would be then more excited at the sight of its destitution, and the chances would be greater that some of them would receive them into their house.—(Mr. Molony.)—In fact, as there are not any religious orders among the catholics to assist in the maintenance of orphans, and as the Protestant Orphan Society has never extended its charities to this parish, as there are no subscriptions among the rich or poor for the purpose; and as the law in no manner provides any kind of asylum for them, the existence of young children whose parents have died is absolutely dependent upon whether or not some person will be willing to open his doors to them; and their support, as that of other classes of the destitute, practically and altogether devolves on the poorest orders of the community.

There are no presentments ever obtained at the assizes for their support. In the instance of the last child that was deserted, no application was made to the churchwardens. The catholic clergyman undertook the charge of it, and its expenses were defrayed by collections made amongst his congregation.

The law requires that an assessment should be made for deserted children; but it is silent with regard to orphans. It would be the duty of the churchwarden to put the child out to nurse, if applied to for the purpose. Such children generally remain with their foster nurses until able to earn their own bread, but there is no apprentice fund for them. It was much desired by all parties that the assessment for their maintenance should cease to be levied by the vestry, or through the instrumentality of the churchwardens; for the greatest opposition has been manifested to this rate by the majority of small farmers, who, only recollecting that it is a church rate, do not sufficiently attend to the unexceptionable purposes for which it is intended.

* These three men have no land attached to their cabins; they take "mock ground," (con-acre) for which they pay from 5*l.* to 8*l.*, according to the quality of the land.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. MICHAEL COMYN, roman-catholic rector.—Rev. DANIEL CURRY, roman-catholic curate.—SIMON CURRY, nailor.—JOHN CURTIL, cottier, holding two acres.—JOHN DALY, able-bodied beggarman.—MARY FINN, widow, lately dispossessed of her holding.—GEORGE FITZGERALD, esq. gentleman farmer.—THOMAS FOLEY, small farmer.—THOMAS HEALY, beggarman.—PATRICK HEHIR, large farmer and shopkeeper.—PATRICK KENNEDY, small farmer.—WILLIAM M'DONNELL, labourer.—JOSHUA M'ENERNY, middling farmer.—JAMES M'MAHON, labourer.—Rev. Mr. MURRAY, protestant curate.—Dr. RYALL, dispensary physician.—THOMAS STUDDERT, esq., J. P.—PATRICK SHILLAGH, middling farmer.—CROFTON MOORE VANDELEUR, esq., J. P.—And several others, farmers, tradesmen and labourers.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Munster,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

Parish Kilferagh,
Village of Kilkee,
Bar. Moyarta.

THERE is no foundling supported by the parish; one child, however, left in the parish some time ago, is taken care of by a poor man, who is repaid by collections made at the chapel, and this has been the only deserted child for the last seven years, the parish, though poor, always bearing a high moral character. The child was known to be illegitimate, and was supposed to have been brought from Kilrush. It was considered impossible for a man, if he had two or three in family, in the present low state of wages, to lay by a provision for his children if orphans. There are no presentments obtained for foundlings; but it seemed advisable to the gentlemen present, that in future any sum required for the maintenance of a deserted child should be levied on the parish, as part of the baronial cess. This would do away with the difficulty which at present exists of making an assessment for such charges at vestry, a mode not liked by the people, who conceive such a tax a remnant of the church cess.

The child deserted in this parish was put out to nurse by the parish priest.

This parish forms a union in the protestant church with Kilrush and several other parishes; the churchwardens are, therefore, appointed at the vestry of Kilrush to preside over all the parishes, and no overseers of foundlings have ever been appointed at any time.

There is no apprentice fund here. And the child before mentioned was visited by the Assistant Commissioners, and it was found that the people in whose care it was showed great affection for it, although the sum collected for their remuneration was exceedingly small, not exceeding 2*l.* per annum. The child was healthy and strong; and the parish priest takes much interest in its welfare. Of the effect of a foundling-hospital, the Rev. Mr. Murray, says, "A foundling-hospital seems, in my opinion, always to have acted as an encouragement to the exposure of children. It is very rare to hear of their being deserted in this part of the country. Kilrush is the only exception to my observation, and that is a large and flourishing town; and I cannot help thinking if a foundling-hospital were instituted, the crime would observably increase in one year."

Persons who attended the Examination.

JAMES BURKE, small shopkeeper.—PAT COURNEEN, weaver.—MARY COURNEEN, his wife, employed to nurse a deserted child.—PAT CURTIS, farmer of three and a half acres.—PAT DOOLAN, a resident beggar.—MICHAEL EDWARDS, farmer of 10 acres.—JOHN GILMORE, innkeeper.—PAT HEHIR, a mendicant.—PAT M'DONNELL, labourer.—Captain Martin. J. P.—JUDY MINAHAN, a town beggar.—Mr. O'BRIEN. — PARKER, esq. a barrister, living in the parish.—Dr. PURDON, dispensary surgeon.—MICHAEL RYAN, shoemaker.—Rev. Mr. SCANLAN, roman-catholic curate.—WIDOW SLATTERY.—Rev. Mr. ST. GEORGE, protestant curate.—Rev. Mr. VAUGHAN, roman-catholic priest.

Parish Kililaloe.
Bar. Tulla.

AT present there are three deserted children in the parish; and one in the year will form about the average; they are all considered to be illegitimate, and from the high moral character the parish has always maintained, it is not conceived that any woman could be so devoid of principle as to expose her child born in wedlock. Some of the mothers have been traced by the exertions of the parishioners, which has had the effect of checking the practice. No instance is known of the child perishing before discovery. It was thought impossible for parents among the labouring classes to save for their children in case of their becoming orphans. Mr. Martin recollects only one instance of a labourer saving; he was a servant boy to his father, and received 8*d.* a day; he married early, and as soon as he had one or two children, his condition was observed to be just as wretched as that of other labourers. It is considered that the parish is obliged to provide for foundlings; but as the law merely says, that when a child is found, it shall be lawful to levy 5*l.* for it, much doubt has arisen as to whether the sum can be continued for more than one year. The churchwardens take care of children while they are under 12 months old. The parish does not provide for orphans, because the law does not require it. The three deserted children in this parish are in charge of the churchwarden, and by him sent out to nurse; but further than the existence, and the name of the nurse, the churchwarden confessed that he knew nothing about them. The sum designed for the support of the children has been levied on the parish by a vote of the vestry, and as it forms the only remnant of the church cess, a most decided repugnance

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Munster,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

Parish Killaloe.
Bar. Tulla.

has been evinced to the collection of it, and it is supposed that it will not be possible to obtain it next year. The Rev. Mr. Vaughan states, that there are three objections to it on the part of the people: first, that sufficient vigilance has not been used to discover the guilty parties; second, that too much is allowed for the collection of the money; third, the support given acts as an encouragement to the crime. There is no apprentice fund for foundlings, but when they grow up they take to different occupations. The Assistant Commissioners visited one of the children, and found the woman who had it in charge fondling it in her arms. The little orphan looked very healthy, and from its apparent affection to its nurse, seemed to have met kindly treatment. The woman said she had weaned her own child at nine months to nurse it; and added, she would never wish to part with it, though she had not for a long time received what was due to her for nursing it. She did not express any disinclination to continue bearing her gratuitous burthen. It is very generally wished that some more certain and ready way of collecting the funds for their support should be introduced. The churchwardens feel this part of their duty particularly onerous, and the cause of much ill will. Mr. Parker suggests that they should form part of the presentments at assizes, and be levied on the barony.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish Kilman-
heen.
Bar. Corcomroe.

AUSTIN CARRIG, one of the late enumerators under the Commission for the Public Instruction.—THOMAS CURRAN, dyer and pawnbroker.—JAMES DALY, apothecary and innkeeper.—LAWRENCE DOHERTY, labourer.—JOHN DONOGHUE, a cottier, holding five acres.—DOCTOR FINUCANE, dispensary surgeon.—JOHN HIGGINS, labourer.—JAMES KEANE, farmer of 12 acres.—THOMAS LYSAGHT, labourer.—AUSTIN McCARTHY, a cottier holding two acres.—Rev. Mr. McNALLY, P. P.—PATRICK McNAMARA, weaver.—MR. MALONE, farmer of nine acres, and tithe collector.—JOHN MALONE, a cottier holding four acres.—JOHN MORISSY, weaver.—JAMES MULQUENY, farmer of five acres.—JOHN O'REILLY, publican and farmer.—PATRICK QUINN, baker.—WIDOW ROURKE, widow of a carpenter, supporting four orphans.—MATTHIAS THYNNE, shopkeeper.—Rev. Archdean WHITTY, protestant rector, and justice of the peace.—Mechanics, labourers and others, besides the above, were examined by the Assistant Commissioners.

ACCORDING to Archdeacon Whitty, there had not been more than 12 deserted children found in that and the neighbouring parish within the last three years; three of these were then supported by the parish, and they appeared to the Assistant Commissioners to be in very good health, and well taken care of by those to whose charge they had been entrusted by the churchwardens. As to whether the desertion of infants had increased or not, all the witnesses who were examined expressed themselves satisfied that the crime, owing to the activity of the late roman-catholic clergyman of the parish, had of late years much diminished. A very great number also of those with whom the Assistant Commissioners conversed, attributed the reduced number of foundlings to the closing of the Foundling-hospital; and it was stated that no instance had been known there of deserted children perishing before they had been discovered. As to whether it was possible for the labourer to make any provision for his children in the event of their becoming orphans, it is only necessary to refer to the rate of wages (8*d.* a day) in that district, to be convinced that no such attempt has ever been made. Several labourers were even anxious to know whether it was *funning*, the Assistant Commissioners were, in asking such, in their opinion, an absurd question. There are no orphan children supported there by private contributions, nor by any religious orders, nor by subscription of a penny a week among the poorer classes. The reason why deserted children alone are provided by the parish is, that the law is silent as to the support of orphans, whose condition, in one or two instances at Ennistymon, was wretched in the extreme, and could not be surpassed in extent of misery and neglect by that of the generality of deserted children. As was before stated, those children when discovered are put out to nurse by the churchwardens, and are taken care of by some poor people in the parish, whose conduct deserves great praise for their kindness and attention to them. About 5*l.* per annum is allowed for the expenditure of each child. An assessment was levied by the foundling officers (persons who are not remunerated for their trouble, and incur much odium) upon all the inhabitants of the parish. From a feeling that this tax, in consequence of being laid on by the vestry, is connected with church cess, which was universally believed to have been abolished, there has been for some time a disinclination manifested towards its collection; and latterly, from the impossibility of realizing the sum required for this purpose in the usual way, one or two benevolent persons have been obliged to advance the requisite sum until the ensuing assizes, when an application would be made to the grand jury to ascertain the course the parochial officers were to pursue with regard to levying the foundling charges. There is no hospital now to which foundlings can be sent from that district; but it was hoped that the children would turn out well, from the attention which has been paid by Archdeacon Whitty to their education; and it was the reverend gentleman's own opinion that these children are altogether much better taken care of in the present manner than they would be immured within the walls of the Foundling-hospital, where he had every reason to believe they were most shamefully neglected. There were no children there supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. It was the general

ral opinion that some alteration was absolutely necessary in the mode of collecting the money to defray the expense of supporting the foundlings; and many intelligent persons in that part of the country saw no reason why this tax might not be levied easily together with the other baronial charges.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. J. HASTINGS ALLEN, protestant curate of Corofin.—AUSTEN CURTEN, carpenter.—
DAVIS, weaver.—GEORGE DIXON, farmer and tithe collector.—MICHAEL EGAN, carpenter.—
JOHN EMERSON, slater.—GEORGE FITZPATRICK, innkeeper.—TIM FITZGERALD, publican.—
WILLIAM FITZGERALD, esq., J. P.—MICHAEL HALLORAN, labourer.—HEHIR, weaver.—
JOHN HICKEY, postmaster, and farmer of 15 acres.—GEORGE HOGAN, labourer.—TIM HOGAN,
farmer.—CHARLES M'NAMARA, farmer of eight acres.—THOMAS M'MAHON, labourer.—
MARTIN, weaver.—MICHAEL MORIARTY, farmer, holding 15 acres.—JAMES NOLAN, farmer.—
JOHN RENNY, shopkeeper.—Rev. Mr. WALSH, roman-catholic rector.

THERE are at present no deserted children in this parish; there had been two, who died, supported altogether by collections made at the roman-catholic chapel. Child desertion has certainly decreased within the last 10 years: no case ever occurred of a child dying before discovery. It appeared to witnesses, that the present rate of wages made it quite impossible for a labourer to make a provision for his children in case of their becoming orphans. The rate of wages given by farmers is 6d. a day to the regularly employed, and 8d. to those who hire occasionally, including diet. The gentlemen usually allow their labourers 8d. a day without diet. Overseers of foundlings were in the habit of putting deserted children out to nurse among the peasantry, usually with those who resided in the parish. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish. It was thought advisable by several gentlemen to make an alteration with respect to the power of assessing parishes for the maintenance of deserted children; some recommended the passing of an Act of Parliament, whereby the sum required for the maintenance of deserted children might be levied, together with the other barony charges.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JAMES BRASIL, farmer, holding seven acres.—THOMAS CARROLL, labourer.—Rev. Mr. COFFEY, roman-catholic curate.—M. COLLON, weaver.—Major CREAGH, J. P.—MARY FITZGERALD, a beggarwoman.—Dr. FRAZER, dispensary surgeon.—Widow GRIFFEY, widow of a labourer.—Mr. HACKNEY, steward to Sir A. Fitzgerald.—MARTIN HALPIN, labourer, occasionally employed.—MARY HALPIN, his wife, always begging in Newmarket.—MICHAEL KEOGH and JAMES GEARAN, small farmers, holding about 12 acres each.—Rev. Mr. M'CULLAGH, rector.—JOHN M'NAMARA, labourer.—JOHN MOLONY, clerk of the petty sessions.—RICHARD MOLONEY, a decayed shoemaker.—HENRY O'BRIEN, esq.—LUCIUS O'BRIEN, esq., late M. P. for the county of Clare.—Rev. Mr. O'BRIEN, roman-catholic curate.—PATRICK SHIELDS, carpenter.

Parishes of Tomfinloe, Kilnasullagh, Kilmaleary and Drumline.

Town Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Bar. Bunratty.

THERE are no foundlings supported by public contributions or cess in the four parishes. Mr. M'Cullagh could not recollect whether any children had been deserted or not in the parish of Tomfinloe within the last 11 years; but be it as it may, they have not had parochial assistance, for there was not a vestry held there during that period. For the last three years there has been but one child deserted, and that was supported for about a year by private contributions, and then it was proposed to send it to the Foundling-hospital; but when this intention reached the ears of the mother, her dormant affections were awakened; she claimed the child, and received it. As to whether they perish before they are discovered, see page .

There are no monastic or religious establishments in either of these parishes. The question as to the construction put upon the laws for providing for deserted children has never been ascertained, as a provision for them was never proposed here, otherwise than by private charity. In the few instances that have occurred, the churchwardens have not taken charge of the children.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. ABRAHAM ABELLY, officer of health.—Mr. MICHAEL JOSEPH BARRY.—Rev. CHARLES H. LESLIE, rector.—Mr. GEORGE LOVE, overseer of the parish; appointed by the officers of health.

County Cork.

Examinations taken by Thomas Martin, Esq. John Lalor, Esq.

CHILDREN that are deserted are supposed, in almost all cases, to be illegitimate. No instance is known of their perishing before they were discovered.

The parish is supposed to be bound to provide for every child of this description until it is received into the Foundling-hospital. The churchwarden invariably takes charge of deserted children.

Parish Holy Trinity, or Christ Church.

City of Cork.

DESERTED AND	The number of foundlings, from Easter 1831 to Easter 1832, - was 30
ORPHAN	— 1832 — 1833, - 27
CHILDREN.	— 1833 — 1834, - 21
—	— 1834 — Sept. 16, - 8

*Munster,
County Cork.*

The reason of the decrease appears to be, that a lesser number have been sent in from the country than there were formerly.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.

It is only at Easter that children are received into the hospital. The sums assessed at vestry for the support of the children, previously to their being received into the hospital, were—

Parish <i>Holy Trinity,</i>	1832	-	-	-	-	£. 100
or <i>Christ Church.</i>	1833	-	-	-	-	20, there being a balance in hand.
City of <i>Cork.</i>	1834	-	-	-	-	65, of which 20 <i>l.</i> went to make up a deficiency of last year.

Each child is given to the parish nurse, and as soon as possible afterwards to a wet nurse in the country. The salary of the parish nurse is 5*s.* per week, 3*s.* 6*d.* of which is paid out of the fund above mentioned, and 1*s.* 6*d.* out of the money collected at the church on Sundays. Formerly a certain sum was got for each child, but this was found to produce bad effects.

The salary of the wet nurse is 15*s.* per quarter; and the medical attendant 10*l.* per annum.

The children are placed out to nurse by the churchwardens till the time of receiving them into the hospital.

The nurse in the country shows the child or children to the churchwardens once a quarter. In general, these nurses feel the strongest affection for the children in their charge; and instances have been known of their keeping the children, so entrusted to them, altogether. The Foundling-hospital, which receives children at Easter, is the only one to which children deserted in the parish can be sent.

The general character of those who have come out of the Foundling-hospital has not been by any means good. The general impression appeared to be, that the Foundling-hospital is much mismanaged. It is ascertained that most of the females who came from it become prostitutes. There are a few of the children supported by the Protestant Orphan Society placed with families. The present provision appears to be quite sufficient, although the mode of management may be in some degree objectionable.

Persons who attended the Examination.

*Par. Innishannon.
Bar. Kinnalea.*

Mr. PATRICK J. ANNELL, baker.—BENJAMIN BELLEW, labourer.—Mr. DAVID BUTLER, farmer of 75 acres.—Mr. D. CALLAGHAN, farmer of 26 acres.—Rev. Mr. FIELD, protestant priest of Leffinney and Knurkairly, barony of Innishannon.—Mr. JEREMIAH HURLEY, farmer of 47 acres.—Mr. JOHN LEARY, innkeeper.—Mr. THOMAS LEARY, foundling overseer.—D. M'MARTHY, labourer, formerly farmer and overseer of the parish.—Mr. EUGENE M'CARTHY.—Mr. JOHNSTONE MACKINTOSH, clerk of the petty sessions.—Rev. THOMAS MEADE, rector.—Rev. WILLIAM MORE, Crosthwaite, curate.—WILLIAM NEAL, labourer.

It appears that the same mode of providing for foundlings which prevails at Bandon has been adopted here.—(See Evidence of Parishes of Kilbrogan and Ballymoodan.) Only one child however has been sent to Cork by Mrs. Clarke this year, and there was no foundling in the parish last year.

Persons who attended the Examination.

*Parish Kilbrogan
and Ballymoodan.
Bar. Kinalmeaky.*

JOHN BASSETT, weaver.—Mr. THOMAS BULLEN, farmer holding 57 acres.—Mr. ROBERT CLARK, farmer.—Mrs. REBECCA CLARKE, employed to take foundlings to Cork.—Mr. ROBERT EDWARDS, tobacconist.—Mr. MICHAEL FALVEY, churchwarden of 1833.—Mr. JOHN FAWCITT, shopkeeper, churchwarden of Ballymoodan in 1833.—THOMAS HAWARD, weaver.—Mr. WILLIAM HORNEYBROOK, farmer.—Rev. WILLIAM HUNTER, minister of the presbyterian congregations.—Rev. ARTHUR KNOX, vicar of Ballymoodan.—JOHN LINDSAY, weaver.—Mr. RICHARD JAMES LONG, churchwarden of Kilbrogan for the present year.—Rev. DANIEL M'SWEENEY, roman-catholic rector.—Rev. HORACE T. NEWMAN, rector of Kilbrogan.—ROBERT PHILIPS, weaver.—CORNELIUS QUILLINAN, labourer.—Mr. GEORGE STANLEY, farmer holding 175 acres.—Mr. THOMAS TANNER, farmer.—Mr. STEWART TRESSILIAN, churchwarden of the present year.

A most extraordinary mode of providing for foundlings has been adopted for some years in the parishes of Ballymoodan and Kilbrogan. Formerly, when the funds of the Cork Foundling-hospital were very considerable, there was no objection to receiving children from different parts of the country. Every child which was exposed in Bandon was in consequence sent to Cork, and the woman who brought it generally took a letter to the churchwarden

warden of some parish there, who sent the child to the hospital. When, in consequence of the diminution of the funds in the hospital, a regulation was made that no foundling should be received but those of Cork and the liberties, the parochial authorities of Bandon had recourse to the following expedient to save their parishes from the burden of supporting the foundlings. Each child, as soon as possible after being discovered, was given in charge to a woman named Rebecca Clarke, who was understood to take it to Cork and get it into the hospital; she received 10s. for each child. It appears that this system continues still. Mrs. Clarke on being examined stated, that her mode of getting a child into the hospital is to expose it in Cork; and this she always does, either at the gate of the hospital or in some gentleman's hall; the child of course then becomes a foundling of the parish in which it is thus exposed, and it is sent by the churchwarden of that parish to the hospital. Within a fortnight from the present time, 2d October 1834, Mrs. Clarke has exposed a child in this way; she says that although she has been going on thus for years, a length of time, she was but once detected, and then she could not be punished, as she was not caught in the fact.

This account of the way in which the children were disposed of after they left Bandon, rests on the authority of Mrs. Clarke alone. The foundling overseers knew or know nothing more than that she got the children and was paid. The witnesses, however, gave her a good character, and she herself speaks with the greatest apparent candour and openness, and there is every reason to believe, with truth.

Mr. Fausitt says, "that on taking office last year he felt he could not in conscience allow children to be taken off without having any further security for their safety than the mere word of an individual; and that accordingly the first two foundlings that were taken up in his year he put out to nurse to women residing near town. In this, he says his conduct was so much disapproved of, on account of the expense brought on the parish, that he sent the next child by Mrs. Clarke to Cork, she promising to bring a certificate of its safe admission from a friend of hers in the hospital." Mrs. Clarke says, "that it was clearly impossible that she could bring any such certificate;" and Mr. Fausitt says, "that when she did not bring it, he declared that he would put every other foundling out to nurse." In consequence of this declaration, Mr. Falvey, Mr. Fausitt's colleague, took up all the other children of that year and sent them to Cork. The witnesses admit the unjustifiable nature of the proceedings, but plead in excuse, that if the children had been retained there would have been three times as many exposed, and the parish would incur a very heavy annual expense. However, all declared, that whatever be the consequence, a second exposure of a child shall not be suffered to take place again.

Since the Easter of this year, three children have been sent off from Ballymoodan; last year six were sent off; two were retained, as before mentioned, by Mr. Fausitt, and two died, after being discovered, and before there was time to send them off. One of them was believed to have died in consequence of exposure. From Kilbrogan three children were sent off this year.

The expense of the two children, who are at nurse in Ballymoodan parish, is 3*l.* a year for each; they are shown every three months to the overseer.

It would appear from some statements of Mrs. Clarke's, that under the present management of the Foundling-hospital at Cork, it is very easy for the parent to find out with whom a child is put to nurse, and not impossible for a mother to get herself chosen the nurse of her own child. "I have heard," says Mrs. Clarke, "nurses say at the hospital gate in Cork, that such and such people gave them presents and made much of them to make them take good care of their child. I recollect also one child that I took to Cork, it was about 12 months old. The day after I came home a woman came to me to know if I could direct her so as to find out the person that the child was given to nurse to; I told her it was sent to a Mrs. Crawley, the parish nurse. The woman went to Cork, found out from Mrs. Crawley that it was given to a Mrs. Murphy, and she saw the child with the latter. Some time after she came to me again, and told me what I tell you, and made me a present of some whiskey, eggs, tea, coffee and sugar." Mrs. Clarke says further, "there was another child that I was going to Cork with, when I met a man and woman at Innishannon Bridge. The man asked me was I taking the child to the hospital, and I said I was; and he and his wife looked at it, and said it was a very fine one. He told me that his wife was just recovered, after being delivered of a dead child, and that she was going to the hospital to see if she could get a child to nurse. He said it would be a good thing if she could get the child I had in my arms. I said, may be she could if she applied next day at the hospital; she would know it (it was a girl) by a small mark it had on the back of its neck; she did try next day, and got the same child, and is rearing it now, may be it's her own, may be not."

With respect to a provision for foundlings, the Rev. Mr. Newman says, "I am satisfied that the practice of taking charge of deserted children and placing them at nurse in the parish in which they are taken up, leads to their desertion. When I came here about 16 years ago, I found 50 children on the parish. At that time the hospital at Cork was open, and we had them all sent there as quickly as possible. The number of foundlings in each of the following years was considerably less than in any of the preceding.

"At the same time, I should say that I think the system of sending children to an hospital is liable to great objections. I am sure that a child will be better brought up, and his habits will be more naturally formed when he is placed in a family. Perhaps if foundlings were put out with families, in some place distant from that in which they are taken up, and if a sort of reciprocity were established between parishes in different parts of the country, the advantage of both systems at present in operation might be combined, and the leading evils avoided."

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Munster,
County Cork.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.

Parish Kilbrogan
and Ballymoodan.

Bar. Kinatmeaky.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Munster,*
County Cork.Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.Parish Kilgariffe,
including town of
Clonakilty.Bar. Ibanc and
Banroc.*Persons who attended the Examination.*

Mr. JOHN ABBOTT, shopkeeper.—MICHAEL ALLEN BEECHER, esq., churchwarden.—JOHN BENNETT, esq., J. P.—JEREMIAH COLLINS, labourer.—JEREMIAH DEASY, labourer.—RICHARD DEASY, esq., merchant.—Dr. FOLLIOTT.—Mr. DENIS HURLEY, farmer of 18 acres.—Mr. JOHN KINGSTON, farmer of 65 acres.—Mr. EDWARD LUCY, farmer of 70 acres.—Mr. JAMES NEAL.—Mr. DENIS SEXTON, farmer of 20 acres.—Rev. HENRY WILSON STEWARD, LL. D., vicar of Kilcoe.—Rev. C. C. TOWNSEND, rector.—Rev. D. WALSH, roman-catholic rector.—JOHN WHITE, labourer.—And several others.

No deserted child has been found this year. Formerly foundlings were sent to the hospital in Cork from this parish, in the same manner as from Bandon. Dr. Folliott however states, when he had occasion, about seven or eight years ago, to send children to Cork, that he was always in the habit of requiring a receipt, to show how they had been disposed of. Mr. James Roach, churchwarden, states, that at the present moment the parish does not support any foundling; and that at the last vestry a foundling rate was not assessed. A child which was taken up some time ago was maintained by the rector.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Killeagh.
Bar. Imokilly.

DANIEL ANGLOWS, labourer.—OWEN BOWLER, labourer.—ROGER G. DAVIS, esq.—Mr. MAURICE D'OYLE, farmer.—Mr. MICHAEL FITZGERALD, farmer.—Rev. JOHN GARDE, protestant curate.—NICHOLAS GRATTAN, esq., dispensary surgeon.—JOHN HIGGINS, labourer.—Mr. TIMOTHY LEAHY, farmer.—MICHAEL LAWTON, labourer.—Mr. WILLIAM MARKEY, farmer.—Mr. PHILIP NEILL, farmer.—Rev. Mr. SHEEHAN, roman-catholic rector.—EDMOND WALSH, labourer.—And several others of all classes.

THERE has been no foundling in this parish since the year 1827.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Liscarrol.
Bar. Orrery and
Kilmore.

JOHN CONNOR, weaver.— — DALY, esq.—Mr. CHARLES FLINN, publican.—PHILIP FLINN, labourer.—WILLIAM FOX, carpenter.—JOSEPH DEANE FREEMAN, esq., D. L.—Mr. JAMES HARTSTONGE, farmer.—CORNELIUS LEAHY, labourer.—TIMOTHY LEARY, labourer.—MAURICE LEENY, blacksmith.—TIMOTHY NOONAN, labourer.—Rev. DANIEL O'BRIEN, roman-catholic rector.—Mr. WILLIAM SHARP, clerk of the petty sessions.—Mr. DANIEL SULLIVAN, farmer.—And several others.

THERE is no foundling supported by the parish. One child was taken up in a neighbouring parish; is supported at the expense of a few charitable individuals. The practice of sending children to the Cork Foundling-hospital is not known to have existed here.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Macroom.
Bar. West Muskerry.

RICHARD ASHE, esq., J. P.—DENIS COLLINS, smith.—PATRICK CONNELL, labourer.—CHARLES DALY, labourer.—R. HODGES EYRE, esq., Macroom Castle.—Mr. C. R. FIELD, apothecary.—WILLIAM FURLONG, esq., M. D., dispensary physician.—Mr. WILLIAM GOOD, farmer.—Rev. WILLIAM HALLARAN, rector.—Mr. WILLIAM HANAHAN, shopkeeper, vintner.—Mr. JAMES KELLEHER, farmer.—Rev. ROBERT KIRKHOFFER, rector of Clondrohid parish.—Mr. DENIS LENIHAN, farmer.—JOHN M'CARTHY, esq., M. D.—Rev. Mr. MURRAY, roman-catholic curate.—Mr. TIMOTHY REARDON, shopkeeper.—THOMAS SHINKWIN, labourer.—DANIEL SWEENEY, labourer.—THOMAS TAYLOR, labourer.—Rev. JAMES WALSH, parish priest.—Mr. JAMES WELPLY, shopkeeper.—Mr. PETER WILLIAMS, postmaster.—And several others of all classes.

THERE are two foundlings on the parish at present; one put on it last year, the other about four years ago. Last Easter the vestry refused to assess any sum for the support of the children; and Mr. Hallaran, the rector, applied to the going judge of assize (Baron Penefather), who ordered the sum of 5*l.* Irish to be levied for the support of the latter child, for whom the parish had not paid anything, but refused to order anything for the other child, on the ground that he was not permitted by law to interfere where the parish had already paid something. The witnesses do not know how the nurse of this latter child is to be paid. The Rev. Mr. Kirkhoffer, rector of the neighbouring parish, Clondrohid, says, "There were two foundlings in my parish this year. I was going to summon a vestry, when some decent farmers came to me, and said it was better not to have any assessment, but that they would engage that the children should be supported by the people of the parish. I agreed,

agreed, and they took the children; they are now supported very well. There are no foundlings on the parish." There are about a dozen children from the Cork Foundling-hospital at nurse; they are generally very well treated. Each of the nurses receives 3*l.* a year. Some of them have been known to become so attached to the children as to keep them altogether.

Persons who attended the Examination.

TIMOTHY CALLINAN, farmer of 20 acres.—MR. JEREMIAH COLLINS.—THOMAS FITZGERALD, labourer.—DR. FITZGIBBON, dispensary surgeon.—MICHAEL GALWAY, esq.—JAMES HAYES, farmer of 65 acres.—THOMAS HUNGERFORD, esq., J. P. Cahirmore.—THOMAS HUNGERFORD, esq.—NICHOLAS LOMBARD, beggar.—DANIEL MAHONY, farmer of 45 acres.—MR. JOHN MAHONY, shopkeeper.—MR. KANE MAHONY.—JOHN EUGENE MACARTHY, esq., under-agent to Lord Carbery.—REV. JEREMIAH MALONEY, P. P.—JOHN MENAHAN, labourer.—RICHARD SMITH, esq., J. P.—MR. JOHN WOLFE, farmer.—REV. JOSHUA WOOD, protestant curate.—And several others.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Munster,
County Cork.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.

Parish *Ross Carbery*.

Bar. *East Carbery*,
(West Division.)

THERE is not at the present moment any foundling supported by the parish of Ross Carbery; but it would appear that the method of disposing of foundlings, which has been described in that part of the evidence taken at Bandon, that relates to the condition of deserted children, has also existed here. Mr. Thomas Morris, who was churchwarden in 1831, stated to the Assistant Commissioners, that he sent three children to the Cork Foundling-hospital by the woman Rebecca Clarke, and that he paid to her the sum of 1*l.* for each child. She gave Mr. Morris to understand that she procured, in some clandestine way, the admission of the children into the hospital; and he did not think it necessary to make any inquiries as to the mode which she had adopted. At the vestry held the preceding Easter, a proposal for the levying a foundling rate was rejected.

Persons who attended the Examination.

REV. JAMES BARRY, parish priest.—REV. JOHN BARRY, catholic curate.—JOHN BROOKS, farmer, pays 1*l.* 10 s. per annum rent.—BARTHOLOMEW BROWN, labourer.—BARTHOLOMEW DONOVAN, farmer, pays 30*l.* per annum rent.—MR. ALEXANDER ENGLISH, churchwarden last year.—JAMES LEVIS, farmer, pays 33*l.* per annum rent.—CORNELIUS MAHONY, labourer.—PATRICK MAHONY, farmer, pays 10*l.* per annum rent.—JAMES MAHONY, quarryman and labourer.—JOHN MURPHY, quarryman and labourer.—RICHARD SALTER, farmer, pays 14*l.* per annum rent.—WILLIAM SHANNON, farmer, pays 36*l.* per annum rent.—MR. JAMES SWANTON, merchant.—JAMES SWANTON, esq.—THOMAS SWANTON, esq.—SWEETMAN, esq., dispensary surgeon.—DANIEL SULLIVAN, quarryman and labourer.—JOHN SULLIVAN, quarryman and labourer.—REV. JOHN TRIPHOOK, protestant curate.—TIMOTHY TUOMY, labourer.

Parish *Skull*.

Bar. *West Carbery*,
(West Division.)

THERE is no foundling on the parish, the rates having been refused at the last vestry. It is not known that any child has been sent to the Cork Foundling-hospital for many years. There was a child exposed last year, for which Mr. English himself paid two months nursing. The nurse kept the child nine months. It was then given to Mr. Trail, the rector, at whose expense, Mr. English believes, it is at nurse at present.

Persons who attended the Examination.

MRS. COLEMAM, superior of the convent of the Sisters of Charity.—REV. MR. DALY, senior catholic curate.—MR. EDWARD JAMES DOWNEY, clerk of the chapel for 23 years.—MR. R. HOWELL, woolcomber.—MR. JOHN MURPHY, coffin-maker, president of the sick poor society.—MR. JOHN NAGLE, son of a tradesman.—MR. JAMES NOLAN, foreman maltster.—DR. QUARRY, rector of the parish.—DR. SLOANE, minister of presbyterian congregation.

Parish *St. Mary's*,
Shandon.

City of *Cork*.

THE number of children who have been deserted is about half a dozen in the year, and these are supposed to be illegitimate.

Persons who attended the Examination.

MR. MICHAEL CADOGAN, boatman.—EDWARD DALY, esq., barrister-at-law, resident.—JEREMIAH M'DANIEL, esq., Burgess of the corporation.—MR. DANIEL DEMPSEY, boatman.—MR. GEORGE DAWSON, boatman.—EDWARD HEARD, sovereign of Kinsale.—MR. JEREMIAH HURLY, shopkeeper.—REV. JUSTIN HOLEY M'NAMARA, parish priest.—HENRY THOMAS KING NASON, esq., foundling offices collector.—JAMES SANDYS, esq.—MR. JOHN SULLIVAN, pawnbroker.—REV. MAURICE WALSH, catholic curate.

Parish *St. Multoze*.

Town of *Kinsale*.

Bar. *Kinsale*.

THERE are at present 15 or 16 deserted children in the parish, all of whom are supposed to be illegitimate; but for the last three years there has been only one. And no instance within four years of an illegitimate child being destroyed.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Munster,*
County Cork.Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.Parish *St. Multoze.*
Town of *Kinsale.*
Bar. *Kinsale.*

There is no particular provision for orphans, nor does it appear possible for the parents to lay by any provision for them from their earnings; but the parish is bound to support the foundlings.

There are two persons appointed by vestry, called foundling officers, whose duty is to take charge of deserted children, and send them to nurse; the churchwardens have nothing to do with these children.

The nurses invariably treat the children well, and show the greatest affection for them; they bring them in every three months to be seen by the foundling officers.

The fund from which the children are supported is an assessment on the houses of the parish, according to the value of each house. The Act of Parliament allows 5*l.* for the maintenance of the children, but the nurses never get more than 3*l.*, for which they are satisfied to provide food and clothing, and which can certainly leave them very little (if any) remuneration. Witness thinks it strange that there is no apprentice fund, by which they could be apprenticed out when of a proper age; owing to a want of this, the children mostly find the greatest difficulty in settling themselves in any way; some arrangement for apprenticing them is highly necessary.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Tracton.*
Bar. *Kerrycurrihy.*

Mr. PATRICK DONOVAN, publican and farmer.—Rev. THOMAS O'CONNOR, parish priest.—
Mr. PHILIP PAND, farmer.

DURING the space of the last two years, there were two deserted children, who were taken by the parish, and provided for by subscription.

In the last five or six years there were three or four altogether.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*County Kerry.
Examinations taken by
G. C. Lewis, Esq.
D. G. Lubé, Esq.
Parish *Cahir.*
Bar. *Iveragh.*

Rev. Mr. CHUTE, curate of Cahir, Killenaule and Glenbargh.—Rev. Mr. FITZGERALD, parish priest of Cahir and Killanane.—Mr. HOARE, shopkeeper.—Rev. Mr. SULLIVAN, coadjutor.

DURING the last three years there has not been a child deserted within the limits of the parish. There have been but two instances of infanticide during the last 10 years. The children in both instances had been exposed, but it is uncertain whether with an intention of destroying them. The mothers were not discovered.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Dingle.*
Bar. *Corkaguinny.*

Rev. Mr. GOODMAN, curate of the parish of Dingle.—Mr. FITZGERALD, apothecary.—Mr. LAUREN-
SON, chief constable of Corkaguinny.—Rev. Mr. SULLIVAN, roman-catholic curate, in a line of
14 miles in length along the southern coast.

MR. GOODMAN stated that there had been no case of infanticide or exposure of children in that quarter, to his knowledge. Mr. O'Sullivan observed, that the only instance of the kind that he could mention was that of a child which was exposed about two years ago; it was found dead in a field near the road, very respectably dressed; and there had been no inquest held upon it. Orphans were generally taken care of by their friends, and go into service when they were old enough. They were sometimes, however, driven to begging.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Kenmare.*
Bar. *Glanerought.*

Rev. Mr. GODFREY, rector of Kenmare and Morsert.—JOHN HICKSON, esq., J. P., agent to the
Marquis of Lansdowne.—Rev. Mr. FITZMAURICE, parish priest of Kenmare and Templenoe.

THERE were, at the period of the visit of the Assistant Commissioners, about six deserted children in the two parishes of Kenmare and Templenoe. Those that had been exposed in the former parish were maintained by a cess apportioned for the purpose. In the preceding year the vestry in Templenoe had negatived a motion for a foundling cess; in that parish, however, there is but one foundling who is not old enough to provide for himself, and he is retained by his nurse, without even a promise or the hope of being recompensed for her trouble and expenses.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. CONNOR, manager of loan fund.—Rev. Mr. DUNNE, coadjutor.—Rev. Mr. FITZMAURICE, parish priest of Killarney and part of Aghadoe.—Rev. Mr. HERBERT, vicar of Killarney and Kilcummin.—Rev. Mr. HERBERT, rector of Castle Island.—Mr. DAVID MURPHY, linen-draper.

DURING the last three years there have been, on an annual average, about two children exposed in the parish of Killarney. These have, in almost every instance, been ascertained to be the offspring of strangers and of illegitimate birth. Foundlings when discovered are always brought to the priest's house, and by him placed with nurses, with whom they remain until they are of an age to maintain themselves. At the present moment there are eight or ten foundlings who are supported by a charitable fund arising from collections and contributions received at the chapel. The money collected at the church is partly applied to the assistance of five or six children who have been left orphans. It has been observed, that children who have been deserted generally turn out worse than others, in as much as it is probable that they have not been well treated, and more particularly have not had the authority of a parent to direct them. It has never been the practice in Killarney to send deserted children to the Foundling-hospital; "but," says the Rev. Mr. Herbert, rector of Castle Island, "I have, with much advantage, threatened to resort to that practice in my parish; and although we are at present supporting six foundlings by vestry cess, none of them have been exposed since my residence in the parish, a period of about three years. I am satisfied that formerly children have been deserted in a safe place, and afterwards given to the mother to nurse. The practice has ceased since the announcement of my determination to send them all to the Foundling-hospital."

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Munster,
County Kerry.

Examinations taken by
G. C. Lewis, Esq.
D. G. Lubé, Esq.

Parish Killarney.
Bar. Magonihy.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Lieut. W. E. BRADY, chief constable of police.—Mr. CHURCH, shopkeeper.—Captain HEWSON, magistrate.—Rev. Mr. MAHONY, parish priest of Listowel and Galey, in Iraghticonnor Barony, and part of Kilshinane and Finago, in the barony of Clanmaurice.

Parish Listowel.
Bar. Iraghticonnor.

THERE were about two children exposed during the year; they are now maintained on the parish by the vestry cess.

One orphan, and a poor blind boy of about 13 years of age, have also been put on the parish list.

Persons who attended the Examination.

H. J. BROWNRIGG, esq., sub-inspector of police.—Rev. Mr. M'ENNERY, parish priest of Tralee Union.—Rev. Mr. O'SULLIVAN, parish priest of Ardfert, Kilmoily in Clanmaurice, and Balinahaglish, in Trughenackmy.

Parishes Tralee and
Ardfert.
Baronies Trughe-
nackmy and Clan-
maurice.

THERE are about 10 children exposed in that district in the course of the year. When discovered they are supported by vestry cess, and are given out to nurses, without any regard to religious distinction whatsoever. Any orphans that are left in a state of destitution are generally provided for by their relatives. As to any effect produced upon the system of deserting children, by the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, it was generally agreed that no change had taken place from it, because few were sent to Dublin for the purpose, the distance being too great.

Person who attended the Examination.

Rev. Mr. DAY, rector of Valentia.

THERE has been no exposure of children or infanticide known here.

Par. Valentia,
in Island of
Valentia.

Person who attended the Examination.

Rev. MICHAEL FITZGERALD, parish priest of the union of Askeaton and Ballytun.

County Limerick.

THERE were no deserted children or orphans in the parish at the time of visiting. The interference of the Legislature is desirable to make it imperative on the vestry to provide for deserted children in future in a public institution, where there should be no proselytism.

Union of Askeaton
and Ballytun.
Bar. Lower Conello.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Munster,*
County Limerick.Examinations taken by
G. C. Lewis, Esq.
D. G. Lubé, Esq.Parishes of *Chapel*
Russell and *Kilcor-*
*nan.*Bar. *Kenry.*Parish *Newcastle.*Bar. *Lower Conello.**Persons who attended the Examination.*Mr. MORRIS, sub-agent to Lord Charleville.—Rev. Mr. WALLER, rector of Chapel Russell.—
And a farmer resident in Kilcornan.

(Mr. Morris.)—THERE is one deserted child, which has been supported by vestry cess for the last five years; but there is now no cess, and the nurse is not paid.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Dr. COLL, parish priest of Newcastle.—ALFRED FURLONG, esq., agent to the Earl of Devon.—Rev. JOHN LOCKE, rector of Newcastle and Monygea.—JOHN PEARCE, esq., surgeon and physician to the dispensary.—Mr. PERCY, chief constable of Newcastle upwards of 13½ years.

WITH regard to the number of deserted children then on the parish, and the increase or decrease of the system, the Rev. Mr. Locke said, that about two years ago a deserted child was given out to nurse, but it had since died; and he did not know of another case.

Mr. Furlong mentioned two or three cases, however; and Mr. Locke thought, that since the suppression of the Foundling-hospital the number of deserted children had decreased, to his knowledge.

It was observed by Mr. Coll, that it was the custom to lay such children at the priest's door, or bring them, when found, to the priest. He determined, however, not to take any part in providing for them, and announced his resolution to the people; and this had the effect of putting a stop to thus exposing them. There is now no regulation or provision whatsoever for them, but they generally find out to whom they belong, and force them on their relations. There have been cases, when the child was put out to nurse, and nobody being afterwards forthcoming to take charge of it, the nurse has refused to take care of the child any longer. It was stated that this practice of child dropping or deserting infants had decidedly decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Rathkeale.*
Bar. *Lower Conello.*

The Rev. M. GRIFFTH, protestant curate.—The Rev. D. HOGAN, parish priest.—Mr. MULCAHY, shopkeeper.—WILLIAM SMITH, esq., J. P., sub-inspector of police.

IN this parish there have been two cases of deserted children in three years. Within a month a boy of seven years old was left here by his mother, a stranger, and is now supported by the neighbours. This boy was lately taken up for stealing potatoes on account of destitution. About a month ago a new-born infant was also found near the town; it was carried to the churchwardens, who had no funds, and it has since been taken up by an old woman who gets a little assistance among the neighbours.—(Mr. Mulcahy.)—After the cholera in 1832, a subscription was made in the town, amounting to 127*l.*, for the relief of orphans and widows left by the cholera. Sums varying from 4*l.* to 10*s.* were allotted to 63 families and individuals, and put in the hands of persons who took charge of the parties. The orphans were instructed in plaiting, bonnet-making, &c.; others were sent to dress-makers, and others were taken up by their relations; the widows set up some little dealing on the money they got; and, of the whole number, not more than three families have become beggars.*Person who attended the Examination.*

Rev. Dr. COLLINS, parish priest of the union of Shanagolden, Robertstown, and Ballyhargill.

ABOUT two years ago a child was exposed in the protestant union of Shanagolden, which was supported by one yearly vestry, but last year the parishioners refused to pay the nurse, who still keeps the child, but is not paid.

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Tipperary.

Parish *Carrick.*
Bar. *Iffa* and *Offa.*
(East Barony.)

FRANCIS BRANIGAN, gentleman farmer.—Rev. Dr. CONNELLY, parish priest.—WALTER CULLEN, tradesman.—TIMOTHY DONOVAN, brogue-maker.—Dr. LEACH, M. D.—Rev. Mr. MANDEVILLE, protestant clergyman.—MICHAEL MULLEN, weaver.—WILLIAM O'DONNELL, esq.—Dr. O'SHEA, M. D.—JAMES PRENDERGAST, esq.—JAMES QUON, clerk of roman-catholic curate.—Rev. Mr. SANDS, rector of Carrick.—And others present at different times.

THERE has been one new-born child exposed in Newtown parish in a field, and one in Carrick parish. The practice is for them to be taken round from house to house, and they stay only one night; they mostly die; it cannot be well otherwise. The child in Newtown parish is given out to nurse, and is supported by voluntary subscriptions. All the children exposed in this neighbourhood, except the one in Newtown parish, have died. The churchwarden

warden never takes charge of deserted children or orphans in this parish; he refused in the last case to provide for the child in Carrick parish, stating that he had no funds, but made no attempt to levy any cess.

Sometimes when a father or mother go away, promising to come back or to send remittances to their children, and do neither, the children are parcelled out among relations.

Some legislative interference is very much wanted to make the present law relative to deserted children effective, as it is now a dead letter in Carrick.

Munster,
County Tipperary.

Examinations taken by
G. C. Lewis, Esq.
D. G. Labé, Esq.

Parish *Carrick*.
Bar. *Iffa and Offa*.
(East Barony.)

Persons who attended the Examination.

MR. ALLOWNEY, actuary for the savings' bank.—MR. THOMAS CROTTY, woollen-manufacturer.—
DR. DELANY, M. D.—REV. MR. HIGGIN, rector of Roscrea.—SAMUEL H. LAWSON, esq., chief
constable of police.—REV. MR. O'SHAUGHNESSEY, parish priest.—HON. MR. PRETTY, J. P.

Parish *Roscrea*.
Bar. *Ikerrin*.

ABOUT eight years ago the number of deserted children which were annually thrown upon the parish was very great; and the sum assessed for their maintenance by the vestry amounted to about 50*l*. In consequence of exertions, in many instances attended with success, made to discover the mothers, or other persons who were guilty of the crime, the offence has greatly decreased in frequency. The assistance derived from the parish towards their maintenance has entirely ceased during the last three years, in consequence of the general resistance to church assessment. At the present moment a fund, arising from the subscriptions of the bench of magistrates, supports three deserted children; and any aid from other sources is collected with the greatest difficulty.

Persons who attended the Examination.

REV. MR. BALDWIN, roman-catholic clergyman.—REV. DR. BELL, master of the endowed school.—
BENJAMIN B. BRADSHAW, esq., J. P.—WILLIAM CHAYTOR, esq., mayor of Clonmel.—MR.
GRUB, merchant.—MR. JOHN HACKET, proprietor of Tipperary Free Press.—MR. HODGES,
attorney.—DAVID MALCONSON, proprietor of factories.—MEACHER, shoemaker.—
MR. O'CONNOR, foreman of the Clonmel Advertiser.—REV. MR. STEVENSON, protestant clergy-
man.—THOMAS WALSH, labourer.—And many others present at different times.

Parish *St. Mary's*,
Clonmel.
Bar. *Iffa and Offa*.
(East Barony.)

THERE were four or five foundlings in the church last Easter Sunday; two were up to 10 years of age. The suppression of the Foundling-hospital has diminished the number; they used to be left at persons' doors, in order to be sent to the hospital. The churchwardens take charge of the infants, and the vestry cess is levied. Two or three children left by their parents are begging about the streets. There was a child deserted by the mother, who fled from Clonmel; the churchwarden would do nothing. Sheaham's wife kept it for three months, when it died. In the county Waterford, near Clonmel, two orphan children died of starvation about six years ago, in the scarce year; they were about 12 years old; they perished on the road side, in the middle of the day; they fainted away as they were way-faring; they were left to perish in the inclemency of the weather. James Smith, boatman, gives the story, and is not sure whether an inquest was held. A subscription is made for cholera orphans, and by donations from other charities; five are on hand.

A woman is employed to rear the foundlings; she rears them by spoon-meat. Since the hospital was closed the cases are rare. Inquiry was made by Mr. Baldwin into the condition of the children; and instruction was given that they should be better taken care of by the woman, as there had been a representation of misconduct. Those of sufficient age are sent to school. Mr. O'Connor thinks it would be injurious to make a provision for foundlings by an hospital; there is no objection to the present system.

Persons who attended the Examination.

R. ARNOLD.—S. ARNOLD.—MR. JAMES CHRISTIE, churchwarden.—MR. E. CRAIG.—MESSRS. EWART,
LOGAN, &c. &c. including several of the police.—REV. J. JOHNSTON, late curate of Ahoghill.—
Captain KENNETT, officer of police.—REV. GEO. KIRKPATRICK, rector.—REV. JOHN KRELAN,
parish priest.—REV. MR. HARKE LEE, Moravian agent.—G. LOGAN.—REV. T. MALLALIEN, of
Gracehill.—A. M'MANUS, esq., magistrate.—DR. MILLER, surgeon of dispensary.—H. O'HARA,
esq., magistrate.—JAMES O'HERRITT.—W. QUILLAN.—MR. JAMES SMYTH, merchant.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parish *Ahoghill*.
Bar. *Lower Toome*.

THERE are 10 children deserted in the parish; number of orphans unknown; the number has decreased, because inspectors have been appointed to search for the parent so deserting them. They are supposed to be illegitimate. They do not often perish before they are discovered; none are supported by religious orders or subscriptions from the poorer classes. Only those deserted under the age of 12 months come within the provisions of the statute, which empowers the vestry to raise by assessment a sum not exceeding 5*l*. annually of late Irish currency, for the maintenance of each deserted child. There is not known any other legal authority to make provision for orphans or destitute children.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
County Antrim.Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.Parish *Ahoghill.*
Bar. *Lower Toome.*

Presentments are not obtained from the assizes for their maintenance; the statute provides only for deserted children, not for mere orphans. The deserted children are put out to nurse by churchwardens to women in the parish, who exhibit them at each Easter vestry to the overseers; but their education has not been sufficiently attended to. The assessment on the parish, according to statute, is 5*l.* late Irish currency for each; but here less is sufficient. No objections have been made to the distribution of the fund. There is no foundling-hospital; the children, when seven years old, are received and employed by a weaver or farmer. The opinion here is strong against orphan institutions, as it is thought that the children, being reared out of their own rank in life, are likely to become afterwards discontented, and they are believed to be more unhealthy than those nursed by the peasantry; nursing is here cheap. Deserted children, when not provided for, are often compelled to beg. None are supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. The practice of taking charge of deserted children has led, it is believed, to their desertion. Since the Foundling-hospital in Dublin has been closed, and since the appointment of overseers in the parish to search for the mother, the number has decreased. All thought it hard to confine the parish relief to those under 12 months old; they thought overseers should be appointed, as here, to prevent desertion; but that a deserted child above 12 months of age should not be left a burden to the finder. One case occurred here where a child was left in the cradle of a poor farmer, and the parish, though willing, had no legal authority to relieve him.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Antrim.*
Bar. *Antrim, Upper*
Half.

Dr. BRUCE.—Dr. BRYSON, surgeon of dispensary.—Rev. JAMES CARBY, presbyterian minister.—Mr. S. CLARKE.—G. S. CLARKE, esq., magistrate.—Mr. M. CRAUFORD.—Rev. DANIEL CURAL, parish priest.—Mr. M. DICKIE.—Mr. M. GIBSON.—Rev. WILLIAM GREENE, protestant vicar.—Mr. J. E. LEDLIE, publican.—Dr. M'MASTER, surgeon and apothecary.—Rev. ROBERT MAGILL, presbyterian minister.—Mr. J. SKELTON, agent to Lord Ferrard, &c. &c. and many of the paupers.

THE number of deserted children at present in the parish is four. There appears to have been no change in the number of yearly desertions within the memory of any of the witnesses, at least not such as to have been remarked. They are generally supposed to be illegitimate, and very rarely perish before they are discovered.

In some cases provision might be made by the working classes for their children in case of their becoming orphans, but it is very seldom done; they generally spend the surplus of their earnings in the public-house. There are no regular contributions for the support of orphans, nor are they supported by religious orders. Deserted children are taken charge of by the churchwardens, and supported by a tax levied on the parish.

Here the construction put on the statute is very wide, allowing aid to deserted children, even when above three or four years old at the time of desertion; and some orphans in the case of cholera were received on the parish under this statute (though contrary to the statute, but was not considered in the parish). There are no presentments obtained from the assizes for deserted children in this parish.

They are generally put out to nurse by the churchwardens, and in this parish the practice with respect to the payment of nurses differs from that of most other parishes, the allowance here being from 4*l.* to 6*l.* 7*s.*, whilst in other parishes it is not more than 5*l.* late Irish currency. They are never put to women residing in another parish to be nursed, and are regularly inspected by the parochial authorities. There are no reasons apparent why there should be any discontent relative to the distribution of the sum levied for the maintenance of deserted children by the churchwardens.

There is no foundling-hospital in the parish. The prevalent opinion is, that children put to nurse with the country people are likely to be more healthy and stronger, and to become more moral and more useful members of society than those brought up in an orphan institution.

Those deserted children who are nursed by the country people generally become labourers or servants, and sometimes weavers. There is no apprentice fund.

It was less expensive to provide for the children by sending them to the Foundling-hospital when open, than by sending them to be nursed by the peasantry; for 5*l.* paid to the Foundling-hospital, left the parish free from all further charges. There has been no remark made, as to the difference of conduct in after-life between children who have been deserted and that of others.

If deserted children are not provided for by the parish, they must have recourse to begging as a means of support, when only a few years of age.

The practice of desertion has not decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin; however, the number here is small. But it is thought that the number of bastards has increased latterly.

The committee of the mendicity affords relief to many children not coming within the Act of Parliament, and the parish occasionally assists some, and would wish to have a discretionary power of relieving others by paying for their nursing, &c. at farmers' houses, or with the poor and well conducted relatives, under the superintendence of curates or overseers.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. J. CUMMING, farmer.—Rev. Mr. DENVIR, parish priest.—Rev. J. DUNSEATH, protestant curate.—The Very Rev. Dean GREEN.—Mr. R. HAMILTON, farmer.—Mr. W. HOPKINS, farmer.—GEORGE HUTCHINSON, esq., J. P.—Dr. MOORE.—CHARLES O'HARA, esq., J. P.—Mr. W. ORR, shopkeeper.—Mr. S. PERRY, farmer.—Surgeon REYNOLDS.—Mr. R. ROWAN, farmer.—Surgeon TAYLOR.—Mr. B. THOMPSON, farmer.—Mr. J. THOMPSON, shopkeeper.—Dr. THOMPSON.—Mr. J. WHITE, shopkeeper.—Police, labourers, &c.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parish Ballymoney.
Bar. Upper Dunluce.

THERE is scarcely any perceptible increase or decrease in the number of desertions. The average number for each of the three last years is three. The number at present in the parish is four; they are supposed to be illegitimate, with the exception of two, one of which was taken up by the parish at the age of eight years, being deserted by its parents, and the other at the age of six years, being an orphan. No instances are known of deserted children having perished before their discovery. It is not considered possible for the working classes to lay up a provision for their children, in the event of their decease before the children would be able to earn for themselves; it is seldom attempted, from its apparent impracticability. There are no instances known of orphans being supported by regular private contributions or religious orders. None but children who are deserted under the age of 12 months are supposed to be included in the provision made by law; but this is not strictly adhered to. There are no presentments obtained at the assizes; it is not necessary to apply for them, as the parish has always assessed itself for the maintenance of children deserted under 12 months of age.

The churchwardens always take charge of deserted children, and have them put out to nurse, generally to women residing in the parish, who receive 5*l.* late Irish currency annually, levied by an assessment on lands and houses, according to their value. The children are produced yearly at the vestry, and are occasionally visited by the churchwardens.

They are not supposed, in any instance, to have been neglected. The distribution of the funds by the churchwardens gives general satisfaction. There is no foundling-hospital. No remark has been made as to whether the children thus reared have turned out better or worse than the children of the peasantry in general. Apprentice fees have been given occasionally. A preference was given to the nursing of children in the houses of peasantry, as being more conducive to their health and general strength than being brought up in an institution. It is more expensive to provide for children in a foundling-hospital than by sending them to be nursed by the wives of peasantry. No comparative remark has been made between the conduct in after-life of those who had been deserted when young and other children. They very seldom beg after they are a few years of age, even when not provided for by the parish. No children of this parish are supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. It is not supposed that taking charge of deserted children has the effect of increasing the number of desertions. Desertion has rather decreased, owing more to the vigilance of the parochial authorities in making search after the mother, than to the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital.

It is considered advisable that the assessment now made for children deserted under 12 months of age only, be extended to orphans, and give support to all children who would be obliged to solicit alms under the present system.

Persons who attended the Examination.

HUGH ANDERSON, esq.—Rev. JAMES BOYLE, presbyterian minister.—Mr. R. DUNLOP, surgeon of dispensary.—Rev. HUGH HAMILL, presbyterian minister.—Mr. R. HUEY, farmer.—Mr. S. JOHNSTON, farmer.—Mr. A. MACAW, surgeon and apothecary.—Mr. W. M'MULLEN, grocer.—JAMES STEWARD MOORE, esq., magistrate.—Rev. JAMES MOREWOOD, rector of Dunluce.—Rev. JAMES O'HARA, parish curate of Drumseverick.—Mr. B. STEWARD, draper.—W. R. TAYLOR, grocer.—Mr. JAMES WALLACE, baker.—Several of the police, &c. &c.

Parish Billy.
Bar. Upper Dunluce.

THERE were two deserted this year, and none during the preceding three years; the cause is unknown; but they are mostly thought to be illegitimate. They seldom perish before they are discovered. None are brought up by any religious orders; and the poorer classes do not put to nurse those deserted children. The laws for providing for deserted children are the same here as stated in the parish of Drumaul. The statute being confined to such, is the reason of the parish supporting deserted children only. They are put out to nurse by the churchwardens, and given to women resident in the parish. They are occasionally brought to the churchwardens, and at Easter to the vestry. The general limit of the expenditure on each child is 5*l.* late Irish currency. The statute mentions the fund to defray such expense. No discontent towards the churchwardens, on this head, has ever prevailed. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish. The children nursed by the country people generally become labourers or farm servants. The opinion here is strong against collecting the children in an institution. Several gentlemen stated, from experience, that the children

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.Ulster,
County Antrim.Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.Parish Billy.
Bar. Upper
Dunluce.

reared in a neighbouring charter school were much less healthy and worse conducted than the deserted children brought up in the families of small farmers; that the expense was much greater; and that a great disinclination to employ them prevailed, owing to their being without any experience of the wants and difficulties of those in their own proper stations. A foundling-hospital is considered more expensive than putting them to nurse with the peasantry. It is not known whether the mortality is greater in a foundling-hospital than among those put to nurse. It is thought that the practice of taking charge of deserted children leads to their desertion; and therefore precautions are taken to guard against it, and to pursue the mothers. The practice has decreased since the Dublin Foundling-hospital has closed. All agree that not only deserted but helpless children of every description should be taken under the care of the parish, if the law permitted, which at present it does not.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Carrick-
fergus.Town of Carrick-
fergus.

Mr. DANIEL BLAIR, merchant.—WILLIAM BURLEIGH, esq., magistrate.—Rev. Mr. CARTER, protestant curate.—Mr. JOHN COATES, secretary to the grand jury, county Antrim.—Admiral DAWSON.—Mr. SAMUEL ERSKINE.—Rev. Mr. FLINTER, independent minister.—Dr. FORSYTH, physician to the dispensary.—Rev. ARTHUR O'NEILL, parish priest.—Rev. Mr. PAUL, presbyterian minister.—Mr. PRICE.—Captain ROWAN, late inspector of county Antrim gaol.—Mr. GEORGE SPEAR, treasurer to the mendicity.—WILLIAM STEWART, esq., magistrate.—Mr. WILLIAM STEWART, surgeon.

DESERTED children are generally supposed to be illegitimate; their support does not come upon the parish, except when deserted under 12 months of age, and then they are taken care of by the overseers; their maintenance is only provided, the overseers not regarding it as their duty to provide for their education. The greatest sum that has been levied on the parish for the maintenance of a child is 2 s. per week, or 5 l. 4 s. per annum. There has been no change observed in the annual number of desertions; there are four supported by the parish at present. There are very few instances of deserted children perishing before they were discovered.

Considering the present state of labour and rates of wages, it is deemed quite impracticable for the working classes to make provision for their children in the event of their becoming orphans; it is seldom attempted. There is no savings' bank in this district. Orphans are not supported by private contributions or by religious orders. There are no children in this parish under the protection of the Protestant Orphan Society. There has been no maintenance obtained by presentment from the assizes for either deserted children or orphans.

Those deserted who are supported by the parish are put out to nurse to women in the parish, and are visited by the overseers; they are sufficiently provided with every thing but education, and are brought to be viewed by the churchwardens and parishioners at the Easter vestry. The fund is procured by statutory parochial assessment; its distribution, by the churchwardens, and gives general satisfaction, except that no education is provided. No children have ever been sent from this parish to a foundling-hospital.

The mental improvement of children put out to nurse with the country people is not much attended to; still it is believed that children put out to nurse are better initiated in the difficulties of life than those who are maintained in institutions; they are stated to be grievously neglected in point of education. The expense of putting children out to nurse is not so great as it is generally supposed that the expense of an institution would be. No difference has been observed between the course in after life of those who had been deserted in infancy and others. If not provided for by the parish, they must beg as soon as they are able to ask alms. The taking charge of deserted children is not supposed to increase the number of desertions. No decrease has taken place since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. It is considered desirable that deserted children should be provided for, even if illegitimacy were increased by the provision.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Drumaul,
including town of
Randalstown.
Bar. Upper Toome.

Mr. ADAMS, coach proprietor.—Mr. JOHN BROWN, merchant.—Mr. JOHN BRYSON, gentleman.—Mr. COLE, clerk of petty sessions.—Mr. COOPER, innkeeper.—COURTNY, esq., under-agent of Earl O'Neil.—Mr. THOMAS COURTNY, boot-maker.—Mr. JAMES CRAIG, manufacturer.—Rev. — CUROE, parish priest.—Rev. SAMUEL HEATLY, vicar.—Mr. HENDERSON, farmer.—Mr. M'AULEY, innkeeper.—Dr. M'KEON, apothecary, &c.—Rev. THOMAS REID, seceding minister.—Mr. ROBINSON, cotton manufacturer.—Dr. REESON, surgeon of dispensary.—Mr. THOMAS SWAN, grocer.

THE number of deserted children now in the parish list is 25. It is not known whether they are illegitimate or not. When deserted, they are generally, almost invariably, so placed as not to be liable to perish before discovery. Here the construction put on the only statute is

is very wide, allowing aid to deserted children even when above three or four years old at the time of desertion, and some orphans, in the case of cholera, were after the age of 12 months received on the parish under this statute, though contrary to this statute, but it was not so considered by the parish.

The generality of mechanics might make a provision for their children in the event of their being left orphans, while unable to provide for themselves, but labourers could not. There is no legal provision for mere orphans if not deserted, nor is there any private subscription fund from which relief has been afforded to them. There are no religious orders here who shelter orphans.

Those deserted children who are supported by the parish are under the superintendence of the churchwardens, who put them out to nurse to women in the parish, and inspect them yearly. The sum expended on such child is limited to about the amount of the cost of nursing, decreasing as the child becomes capable of working, at eight years old, and ceasing at twelve. The fund is raised from the parish by assessment, and presentments from the assizes are not found requisite. The churchwardens have never been found guilty of peculation; nor is there any discontent with respect to the manner in which they have managed the fund. There is no fund for apprenticing them to trades, and they generally, if males, become labourers, and if females, go to service. They frequently become so much endeared to their nurses that they are unwilling to let them part from them. There exists a strong opinion in favour of their being brought up by nurses, with whom they are more habituated with the common concerns of life, grow up more healthy, and are less liable to be corrupted by evil associates, such as are generally collected in an institution. Many instances have occurred of such children having been adopted and provided for by their nurses.

There is now no foundling-hospital to which deserted children may be sent. The sum paid to the Dublin Foundling-hospital was 5*l.*, and 30*s.* was paid for conveying the child up, being in all 6*l.* 10*s.*; whereas the present is an annual continuing charge. The conduct of deserted children who were nursed by countrywomen is equally as good as that of other children, and is generally satisfactory. No comparison has been made between the mortality amongst children who had been sent to the foundling-hospital and those sent out to nurse.

The practice of desertion has not decreased since the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital. It is not considered that maintaining deserted children has the effect of encouraging desertion.

The practice approved of by this parish, namely, the providing for children deserted at the age of four years, when the law allows a provision only for those who are deserted under the age of 12 months, warrants the conclusion that some further legislative interference is generally considered desirable.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. N. ALEXANDER, presbyterian minister.—Rev. DANIEL BELL, protestant cuate.—Mr. JOHN HOWE, cotton manufacturer.—Mr. JOHN M. JOHNSTON, grocer and farmer.—Rev. WILLIAM LANGHRIDGE, presbyterian minister.—Mr. WILLIAM M'NICE, innkeeper and churchwarden.—Mr. JAMES MURRAY, surgeon and apothecary.—Mr. JOHN SEFTON, innkeeper and farmer.—And several others who were visited and conversed with, by Assistant Commissioners.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parish Drumaul,
including town of
Randalstown.

Bar. Upper Toome.

Parishes of Gle-
navy Union.

Bar. Upper Massa-
reenc.

THERE was only one deserted child in the parish at the time of visiting, and, with that exception, none for the last three years. They have decreased, but the cause is unknown. This child is supposed to be illegitimate. No children have been known to perish before they were discovered, as before stated. Considering the rate of wages, it is scarcely possible for the labourers to save any part of their earnings; but mechanics might. There are no funds here arising from contributions; but when necessary, in the case of a deserted child, a sum is assessed on the parish, according to the Act of Parliament and the age of the child; none are sheltered or brought up by any of the religious orders, nor are any subscriptions made by the poorer classes for the purpose of putting such children to nurse. The children who come under the meaning of the laws are those deserted under 12 months old; for these a sum not exceeding 5*l.* late currency, as assessed in each year, according to the statute; but there are no presentments obtained from the assizes for their support. The churchwardens do not take charge of deserted or orphan children, except when coming within the provisions of the statute, by which deserted children only are provided for; these are put out to nurse by the churchwardens, and have not been known to be neglected when sent from under the inspection of the parochial authorities. The expenditure upon each child is limited to 5*l.* Irish, annually, which is raised by parochial assessment. The churchwardens have never been found guilty of peculation. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish. The children who are put to nurse with the country people generally become labourers. It is not known, but it is the opinion, that the children nursed by the country people would become more useful members of society than those brought up in an institution. Formerly 5*l.* paid all expense in sending a child to the Foundling-hospital in Dublin; now, an annual maintenance is provided. There has not been any remark made as to whether the habits of those deserted children, or other children, are better or worse.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parishes of Kirkni-
riola and Ballyclug,
including Town of
Ballymena.

Bar. Lower Toome.

None are supported by protestant or orphan societies. When the hospital in Dublin was open, the number of desertions was greater. There is no evidence as to whether any further interference on the part of the Legislature is considered desirable for the protection of deserted children, or whether the general opinion of all classes favors the present system.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BLACK, surgeon.—JOSEPH CRAIG, shopkeeper.—Rev. HENRY CUMMING, rector of Ballyclug.—GEORGE DUGAN, shopkeeper.—WILLIAM GEHAN, Esq., magistrate, and agent to the Ballymena estate.—Rev. CLARK HUSTON, covenanting minister.—Rev. BERNARD M'AULY, parish priest.—ARTHUR MAGILL, shopkeeper.—JOHN PATRICK, surgeon.—Rev. ALEXANDER PATTERSON, presbyterian minister.—JOHN ROSS, surgeon.—Rev. WILLIAM STANHOPE, presbyterian minister.—JOHN TELLET, shopkeeper.—JOHN WATSON, shopkeeper.—JOHN WILSON, farmer.—Dr. YOUNG.—Together with a large number of farmers, labourers, police, &c.

FOR the last three years there has been no change in the average number of yearly desertions. There are at present seven such supported by the parish; they are supposed to be illegitimate. No instance is remembered in which a child perished before it was discovered. It is not in the power of the working classes to provide a maintenance for their orphan families, in the event of their death occurring before the children had arrived to manhood. Success is improbable where a provision is attempted against old age; much more so where a provision is attempted for a whole family, and by an individual who does not live to an old age. Orphans were occasionally provided for by assessment until the last two years, when assessment was restricted to children deserted under 12 months of age, agreeably to the statute. Orphans have occasionally been taken up by individuals out of sympathy; none of the witnesses present knew of a subscription having been raised either among the richer or poorer classes for the support of orphans. The churchwardens take charge of deserted children, and put them out to nurse, for which purpose the most well deserving and moral families have been selected, and generally persons residing in the parish. The Rev. Mr. Warb observed, that deserted children always turned out well for this reason; they were brought up by persons selected for their good conduct, and had uniformly been industrious, and acquitted themselves well in service, to which they were put out as soon as they were of a sufficient age. They are produced yearly at vestry, when inquiries are made concerning their education, the care taken of them, &c.

Six pounds sterling is the greatest sum that has been assessed on the parish annually for each child. The churchwardens have always so managed these funds as to give no reason for complaint. There is no experience of an institution in the parish, but the general opinion is, that children are better educated in an institution, and brought up with more cleanly habits; but that acquaintance with life is best learned by an education in some poor family; it is also thought that they would be much stronger and more healthy. Whether it is more expensive to provide for deserted children, by putting them out to nurse or to send them to a foundling-hospital, depends altogether on what the institution is, and how it is managed. Where there is no legal provision for children deserted after a certain age, they are forced to subsist on charity. A decrease has been observed in the number of desertions since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin; it is attributed to the vigilant investigation which is now made to discover the mother of a deserted child.

The opinion of the parish is favourable to an assessment for the maintenance of all poor children, who have no other means of support than the alms of the charitable.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parishes of Larne,
part of Invermore,
and part of Inverbey.
Baronies of Lower
Glenarns and Upper
Belfast.

Rev. Mr. ALEXANDR, presbyterian minister.—Mr. ATKINSON, treasurer of the Mendicity.—ARCHIBALD BARCLIE, esq.—Dr. BLAIR.—R. BURKE, esq.—Rev. Mr. M'CLOUGHY, seceding minister.—SOLOMON DARCUS, esq., clerk of the peace.—Mr. GARCH, shopkeeper.—Rev. S. GUYNNE, protestant rector.—Dr. KIRKPATRICK.—MALCOLM M'NEILL, esq.—Rev. Mr. MOLYNEAUX, presbyterian minister.—Rev. Mr. PORTER, presbyterian minister.—Mr. ROBINSON, farmer.—Mr. SIMPSON.—Mr. SMILEY.—Mr. TURNER, shopkeeper.—Rev. Mr. WARD, presbyterian minister, &c. &c.

THE number of deserted children now supported by the parish is three; their parents are not known; and they are supposed to be illegitimate. Labourers could not provide for their children in the event of their becoming orphans; the little probability of success discourages the attempt. If the child be deserted under 12 months of age, 5 l. late Irish currency each annually is levied on the parish: this provision is found to be quite sufficient. They are put out to nurse by the churchwardens, who have the selection of the nurses, and frequently visit them. The children are produced yearly at the vestry meeting, and inquiries are made as to their education, morals, the care taken of them, &c.

Children

Children used to be sent to the Foundling-hospital in Dublin before the closing of that institution. The opinion of the witnesses was against such institutions; they feared that the children would corrupt one another, and at the same time be left unacquainted with the vicissitudes of life, and the exertions necessary for them to make in order to support themselves by honest industry. The expense of providing for a child in an institution is perhaps less than sending it out to nurse. There is no instance known of deserted children being forced to adopt begging as a means of support. It is not thought that maintaining deserted children encourages the practice of desertion; and the witnesses are of opinion that a power should be given to the parish of assessing itself for the maintenance of deserted children of more than 12 months of age. At present a deserted child, if more than 12 months old, has no other resource than mendicity.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parishes of *Larne*,
part of *Invermore*,
and part of *Inverbey*.
Baronies of *Lower*
Glenarns and *Upper*
Belfast.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. CHARLES BLACK, farmer.—Rev. MARCUS FALLOON, rector.—Mr. A. HAMILTON, woollen-draper.—WILLIAM HAUGHTON, esq.—Mr. D. M'ALLISTER, publican.—Mr. D. M'ALLISTER, woollen-draper.—Mr. JAMES M'AULEY, publican.—Dr. M'DONALD, dispensary surgeon.—ALEXANDER M'DONNELL, esq.—Rev. JOHN M'KENNA, parish priest, &c. &c.

Parish *Layde*.
Bar. *Lower Glenarns*.

THE number of orphans in the parish is not ascertained. The practice of deserting children never existed here to any considerable extent, nor have any been deserted for the last three years. It is considered that the present wages of the labouring classes would not admit of their providing a maintenance for their children, in the event of their becoming orphans.

Persons who attended the Examination.

HENDERSON BLACK, esq., magistrate.—Mr. EDWARD BOLTON, treasurer of charitable society.—Rev. R. BRIDGE, protestant curate.—WILLIAM CALDBECK, esq., sheriff county Down.—Mr. ROBERT M'CALL, one of the commissioners of charity society.—WILLIAM COULSON, esq., diaper manufacturer.—Mr. SAMUEL GAMBLE, present churchwarden.—Mr. JOHN GILBURN, grocer and huckster.—Rev. A. HENDERSON, presbyterian minister.—EDWARD JOHNSTON, esq., magistrate.—WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, farmer, Ballinderry.—JOHN MOONEY, publican and farmer.—Mr. FRANCIS O'FLAHERTY, clerk of petty sessions.—Mr. JOHN READ, late churchwarden.—Rev. H. SMITH, roman-catholic clergyman.—The very Rev. JAMES STANNUS, dean of Ross.—Mr. JAMES WARD, secretary to charitable society.—THOMAS WITHERED, surgeon and apothecary.—With many others in conversation.

Parish *Lisburn*.
Bar. *Massareene*,
Upper Half.

At the time of visiting there were 16 deserted children on the parish altogether supported, and about six others who received partial relief from the Charitable Society; the average number remaining charged on the parish in each of the three last years was 19. The numbers are supposed to have decreased; a nightly watch having been lately established is probably the cause. These children are mostly illegitimate, and have been deserted to get rid of discovery, or the burthen of supporting them.

Considering the present wages of the working classes, parents might provide for children in the event of their becoming orphans; some do so, but intemperance chiefly, combined with other mismanagement, prevents them so doing.

The law allows an assessment on the parish of 5 *l.* each for deserted children, and hitherto no difficulty has arisen here in this respect. There are no such children sheltered or brought up by any religious orders; nor do the poorer classes subscribe to put those children to nurse who are deserted in the parish.

The children who come within the Act of Parliament are those whose parents have deserted them, or have died while they were under the age of 12 months; but the churchwardens here take care of all orphans under 12 years of age.

There are no presentments obtained here from the assizes for the maintenance of deserted and orphan children; but the churchwardens take care of them in the cases above mentioned, by whom they are put out to nurse with the women of the parish and of good character. No cases of neglect have occurred.

There are inspectors appointed by the parochial authorities. The expenditure upon each child is limited to about 5 *l.* late Irish currency, annually. The fund from which the churchwardens draw for the maintenance is raised by assessment under the Act of Parliament; and there has been no reason to find fault with the distribution of this fund by the churchwardens, nor has there been any instance of peculation.

There is no foundling-hospital in the parish. The children nursed by the country people are generally apprenticed without fee. There is no difference observed as to the morals, &c. of the children reared in the country and those brought up in the Charitable Society's Institution, both being carefully educated; and there is no difference made by the managers of the

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
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C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.Parish *Lisburn.*
Bar. *Massareene,*
Upper Half.

the institution in question between infants whose parents are dead and those whose parents are not known.

The children in the Charitable Society's house are well attended to, and are equal to those put to nurse amongst the peasantry.

In providing for deserted children, the expense is the same on the plan stated, by putting them to nurse with the peasantry, and that of providing for them in the house of the Charitable Society.

The habits in after life of those who were deserted in childhood and those of other children are the same, as the education is similar.

There has not been observed any greater mortality amongst those who were formerly sent to a foundling-hospital than those sent to nurse. The practice of deserting children since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin has decreased ten to one. As to whether future legislative influence is generally considered desirable for the protection of deserted children, we are of opinion, the law would be improved if some provision could be made for orphans generally, and a more beneficial and extensive one for the deserted children, and not confining the relief, as at present, to those exposed under 12 months old.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Ramoan,*
including Town of
Ballycastle.
Bar. Cong.

Dr. BOYD.—Rev. Mr. CREERY, rector.—Mr. WILLIAM HILL, shopkeeper.—Dr. KNOX.—Rev. SAMUEL LYLE, presbyterian minister.—Mr. SAMUEL M'ALLISTER, shopkeeper.—CHARLES M'GILDOWNEY, esq., J. P.—ALEXANDER M'NEILL, J. P.—ALEXANDER MILLER, esq.—Dr. O'NEIL.—Mr. GEORGE SAMPSON, farmer.

THERE were not, at the time of visiting, any deserted children in the parish; two had been deserted within the last three years, but the parish had got rid of both by a voluntary assignment of 10*l.* each, paid to a person who has promised to bring them up for that sum. Deserted children are supposed to be generally illegitimate; they have never been known to perish before they were discovered. The working class could not possibly provide for their orphans, it is therefore never attempted. Children under 12 months of age alone are admitted to come under the statute; one of those, however, mentioned above was four years old; for this case, in fact, the whole assessment and mode of provision was contrary to the statute. The children have never been visited by the parochial authorities or produced at vestry, nor has any inquiry been ever made about them. There has been no experience as to the comparative benefits of an institution. The closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital has not been observed to make any change in the number of deserted children. A provision for the impotent is thought to be particularly desirable, inasmuch as it involves no fear of any evil consequences. In this the maintenance of deserted children of all ages, orphans, &c., is included.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Resharkin.*
Bar. *Kilconway.*

THOMAS BRINNIE, esq., magistrate.—Rev. WILLIAM DICKSON, rector.—Mr. ROBERT ELDER, schoolmaster.—Mr. ROBERT GREEN, farmer.—Rev. Mr. HAMILTON, presbyterian minister.—PATRICK HENRY, farmer and shopkeeper.—PAUL HENRY, farmer and shopkeeper.—EDWARD KELLY, farmer and shopkeeper.—MICHAEL KELLY, farmer and shopkeeper.—JOHN M'CULLOCH, farmer and shopkeeper.—JOAN M'KINLEY, farmer and shopkeeper.—Rev. P. M'MULLEN, parish priest.—Mr. JOHN M. WATERS, late churchwarden.—JOHN SCOTT, farmer and shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES SMYTH, farmer.—Rev. Mr. WALLACE, presbyterian minister.

AT present there are no deserted children supported by the parish. The number of deserted children, on an average of three years, within the parish, is three. Mothers prefer nursing and supporting their own children. An instance was stated of an illegitimate child having been deserted by its mother, and put to nurse in the neighbourhood by the churchwardens, at the wages of 1*l.* per annum; it was shortly after taken away by its mother, who has gone to reside or beg elsewhere. Deserted children very seldom perish before they are discovered.

The opinion among the witnesses was, that many of the small farmers were in a worse condition than the labourers; and some seemed to think that the labourers might make more exertions to lay up a provision for their families, after their own death, than they do. There are no private subscription funds raised among either the rich or poor for the support of orphans; nor are there any brought up by religious orders.

The statute is strictly construed here, as also in most other places, by confining the parish relief to children deserted under the age of 12 months; but the statute was in one case of orphans, by consent, supposed to allow a provision for them, though not deserted under 12 months of age; and a sum of 10*l.* was voted for each of them, by way of two years' maintenance. Those few who have been deserted in the parish have been put out to nurse in this parish, and visited by the parochial authorities.

The

The sum granted for the support of each child has not exceeded 4*l.* yearly, except in the case of the two orphans.

The churchwardens give general satisfaction in the disposal of the funds entrusted to their management. There is no foundling-hospital now to which deserted children may be sent. There is no experience in this parish as to how children brought up in institutions turn out in after-life; those nursed by the country people generally become labourers or weavers. It is not known whether the expense of sending them to a foundling-hospital would be greater or less than that of putting them out to nurse.

No difference has been remarked between the general conduct, when arrived at manhood, of those who had been deserted in childhood, and other persons.

Children deserted after 12 months of age are not taken care of by the parish, and are obliged to beg. The Protestant Orphan Society does not take charge of any children in this parish.

It is generally thought that maintaining deserted children gives encouragement to the system, and has the effect of increasing the number of desertions. Desertion has greatly decreased since the Foundling-hospital was closed.

The witnesses are all averse to the enactment of any new laws relating to the provision for deserted children.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. ROSS JEBB, rector.—Mr. GEORGE HALLARAN.—Mr. HANNA, clerk to Seneschal of the manor.—D. M'AULEY.—Rev. GEORGE M'CAUGHEY, presbyterian minister.—Mr. JAMES M'FAUL, grocer.—Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN, farmer.—Rev. ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY, presbyterian minister.—Captain SERVANTE, R.N.—Rev. Mr. YOUNG, parish priest, &c. &c.

THERE is but one deserted child on the parish at present. There has been only one deserted for the last seven years. A working man, however, is now supporting a child, which was at first put out to his wife to nurse, and payment promised. No payment has been made, but the man has become attached to the child, and treats it altogether as if it were his own. It is considered to be impracticable for labourers to lay by so much from their earnings as to secure a provision for their children, if they should become orphans before they were sufficiently grown, to earn a support for themselves; the possibility of success is too small to become an incentive to them to make the attempt. Voluntary contributions have been made in the parish for the support of orphans, but this has rarely occurred. A child is not esteemed to be included in the provision of the Act, unless it be deserted under 12 months of age; for the one deserted child that has fallen on the parish, 4*l.* are annually assessed. The churchwardens took charge of the child and put it out to nurse in the parish; it is produced yearly at the vestry, when all circumstances regarding its maintenance and education for the past year are inquired into. It is thought that a well regulated institution would be a cheaper and preferable place of education and maintenance for deserted children, to the house of a poor individual who has to struggle with difficulties and pays little or no attention to the moral improvement of his own children, and probably would pay much less to that of a strange child. The condition of the labourer, and generally of the working classes is so precarious, that mortality is great among their children from the age of one to that of nine years, and it is not considered that the health of a strange child is likely to be so much regarded by a woman taking them to nurse as that of her own offspring.

The charter schools are the chief institutions that have been established in Ireland for the support and education of such children as could not otherwise be reared; and no inference can possibly be drawn from them, as to the general conduct, &c. in after-life of those who were brought up in them, as these were places of patronage rather than public utility. An institution under the management of the parish, it is thought, would have proper superintendents provided and of a fit sphere of life. The charter schools were placed under the care of persons taken from the better orders in life, for whom a competent maintenance was sought, rather than the furtherance of the public ends of the institution.

It is not thought that providing for deserted children causes a greater number of desertions than there would otherwise be. Since the closing of the Foundling-hospital, a decrease in the number of deserted children has taken place, principally from the investigations that are now made to discover the mother of a deserted child. Formerly no inquiry was made, now, a mother is afraid to expose her child, as detection almost always follows.

The general opinion is, that every parish ought to have a workhouse, and in this poor orphans ought to be supported and educated.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Antrim.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parish Resharkin.
Bar. Kilconway.

Parishes of Tick-
macraven and Tem-
pleoughter, contain-
ing Town of
Glenarns.

Bar. Glenarns.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
County Donegal.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.Parish *Clonderhor-*
key, including town
of *Dunfanaghy*.
Bar. *Kilmacrenan*.*Persons who attended the Examination.*

Rev. WILLIAM BATTERSBY, protestant curate.—Mr. J. BOYLE, a small farmer.—Mr. JOHN BURNS, farmer and whitesmith.—Mr. EDWARD CALL, farmer and innkeeper.—Mr. SAMUEL DINIMORE, farmer.—Mr. RICHARD DOHERTY, shopkeeper.—Mr. EDWARD GALLAGHER, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS HARPER, farmer.—Lieutenant HARRINGTON, royal navy.—WILLIAM HOGAN, labourer.—Mr. JOHN IRWIN, farmer.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER KING, farmer.—Mr. DAVID M'ELVORY, petty sessions clerk, and agent to the Ard's estate.—Rev. JOSEPH MAGEE, parish priest.—FRANCIS MAGURTY, labourer.—Rev. SAMUEL MAHAFFY, retired clergyman of the established church.—Mr. WILLIAM MITCHELL, farmer and enumerator of the parish.—Mr. WILLIAM MOFFITT, farmer.—Mr. HUGH O'DONNELL, farmer and grocer.—DANIEL O'DONNELL, labourer.—JAMES RANKIN, M. D., surgeon of dispensary.—Rev. DAVID REID, presbyterian minister.—Mr. BERNARD RODEN, farmer.—Lieutenant STEPHENS, R. N., chief officer of coast-guard.—Rev. CHARLES STEWART, rector.—Mr. GEORGE STEWART, farmer.—WILLIAM STEWART, esq., J. P., Hornhead.—Mr. JOHN WILKINSON, farmer.

THERE are no deserted children in the parish at present; and the latest instance remembered was 15 years ago.

As to the expediency of any further legislative interference for the protection of deserted children, William Stuart, J. P., says, "No case having, for a long time, occurred in the parish, it has not been subject of consideration; but we have very sharply looked out, and we make it generally known that no provision will be made for deserted children from the parish without a very rigorous scrutiny; and the consequence is, that we have not suffered from the burden, and there has been no case of infanticide."

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Clonleigh* or
Lifford.
Bar. *Raphoe*.

Mr. IRVIN AIKEN, churchwarden.—Mr. DANIEL BOYLE, farmer.—Mr. HUGH BRADY, late churchwarden.—Rev. WILLIAM BROWNE, roman-catholic curate.—Rev. E. M. CLERKE, curate, and inspector of Lifford gaol.—Mr. ANDREW CLERKE, of Porthall, a gentleman farmer.—Rev. JOHN CROCKET, protestant clergyman, resident in an adjacent parish.—Mr. JOHN GREER, M. D., dispensary physician, Lifford.—Rev. JAMES HOUSTON, presbyterian minister.—Captain HUMPHREY, J. P.—Rev. WILLIAM KNOX, rector of Clonleigh.—Mr. W. M'CLINTOCH SPENCER, secretary to grand jury of county Donegal.—Rev. ARTHUR M'HUGH, parish priest.—Mr. JAMES MAHAFFY, a farmer.—Mr. PATRICK SCANLAN, farmer and vintner.—Mr. JOSEPH SHARKEY, late churchwarden, a carpenter.

THERE have been only two children deserted in the parish for the last five years; they are now supported by it. Foundlings are supposed to be illegitimate. Within the period above referred to, there have been four instances of children found dead, under very suspicious circumstances. Parents of the working classes could not possibly provide for their children in the event of their becoming orphans; it is therefore never attempted. There are no religious orders or communities by whom, in cases of desertion, children would be brought up, neither do the poorer classes subscribe for them; on the contrary, they are most unwilling to contribute for the support of foundlings, and the cess was, when the Commissioners were there, still uncollected. Foundlings are brought, by persons near whose places they are picked up, to the churchwardens, who provide nurses; and if the parish at vestry fails or refuses to applot the expense, the grand jury at the next assizes, on the application of the clergyman, makes an order for the payment of 5*l.* Irish. The churchwarden invariably takes charge of the children. The parish are not compelled by law, and therefore do not provide for orphans. The nurses chosen are women resident in the parish; and the children are taken very good care of. The clergyman and churchwardens attend to them. The maximum of expenditure on each is 5*l.* Irish. No complaints have been made of the distribution of the money. There is no foundling-hospital. The children are generally, when they reach the age of 13 or 14, bound out as farm servants. They have always been observed to be better conducted than those who came from the Dublin Foundling-hospital, and appear more healthy and stronger. The Rev. Mr. Clerke, however, observed, that he had never known one of them turn out as well as if he had been legitimate. The Protestant Orphan Society does not support any of them. The practice of taking charge of deserted children has not been observed to lead to their desertion. The number has decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital, 14 having been once supported by this parish. The general opinion was, that any institution for maintaining deserted children would operate as a premium of encouragement to their desertion; but the Rev. Mr. Clerke greatly regretted the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital; and Captain Humphries concurred with him in thinking that cases of infanticide were much to be feared, in consequence of it.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BOYD, esq., K. C., and treasurer of county Donegal, J. P.—JAMES COCHRANE, esq., clerk of the peace, county Donegal.—JOHN DEVENNY, a working mason.—MARY DEVENNY, his daughter.—Mr. WILLIAM FISHER, wine and spirit merchant.—HANNAH GALLAGHER, widow, a poor house-keeper.—Rev. Mr. GAMBLE, dissenting minister.—Rev. Mr. GUIRLY, roman-catholic curate of Letterkenny.—SAMUEL HALL, painter and churchwarden.—KITTY HAGARTHY, widow, a poor beggarwoman.—Mr. ROBERT HUNTER, farmer.—Rev. Mr. LYTLE, dissenting minister.—Right Rev. Dr. M'GITTIGAN, roman-catholic bishop.—Rev. Mr. NOWLAN, protestant curate of Letterkenny.—SUSAN M'LAFFERTY, a blind beggarwoman.—FRANCIS MANSFIELD, esq., of Castlereagh, J. P.—Mr. ALEXANDER MUNN, shopkeeper.—Mr. THOMAS PATTERSON, merchant.—Mr. ROBERT RAMSAY, farmer.—JOHN BOYD, esq., K. C., and treasurer of county Donegal, J. P.—Rev. Mr. SPRATT, presbyterian minister.—ALEXANDER ROBERT STEWART, esq., of Ards, J. P.—JOHN STEWART, esq., of Rock Hill, J. P.—GEORGE STRAIN, an old mendicant.—WILLIAM WRAY, esq., of the Park, J. P.

DESERTED AND ORPHAN CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Donegal.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnston, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.

Parish *Conwall*,
including Town of
Letterkenny.
Bar. *Kilmacrenan*.

THERE have been but three deserted children here within the last two years, all of whom are now supported by the parish; they are certainly illegitimate, and have been deserted by their mothers with a view, as is believed, to secure for them a maintenance. There have been three cases of children being found dead under very suspicious circumstances. Two of these cases were traced by Dr. Tobin, who used to be employed by the parish for the purpose, and who proved a very great check on such acts.

Whenever a deserted child is found it is brought to the churchwardens, and on affidavit made by the person who brings it of ignorance who the parents are, the child is sent to nurse, and 3*l.* per annum levied at vestry for its support. The churchwardens invariably take charge of deserted children, when brought to them under the above circumstances.

The law warrants the providing for deserted children only; they are put out to nurse by the overseers of the parish.

Mr. Samuel Hall says they are sometimes left with the persons who have found them; it is so in two of the present cases; but when they reach the age of three or four years, it would be his wish to have them taken away, in order to have them educated by proper persons, because they are with persons who care nothing about their education. The churchwardens formerly drew from the parish assessment 5*l.* for the maintenance of each deserted child; it is now, however, only 3*l.*, it being impossible to levy the cess. I have been advancing my own money. I have now 50 warrants for several sums, varying from 1½*d.* to 1*s.* Even coffins they will not pay for; and we have been obliged to provide them by local voluntary contributions. This hostility is not confined to any sect or creed. It has cost 20*l.* in one year to send foundlings to Dublin when the hospital was open; but the practice of exposing them has certainly decreased since the closing of that institution; as there is much more vigilance on the part of the parish, for the people cannot afford these expenses, and every man is therefore a guardian for the parish.

The Rev. Mr. Nowlan, protestant curate of Letterkenny, states that no bad effects have been experienced by the closing of the Foundling-hospital. A difficulty is experienced in raising the funds for the maintenance of deserted children; but if the present law were enforced, it is quite sufficient.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BAIRD, clerk of the petty sessions.—THOMAS BROOKE, esq., Lough Esk, high sheriff of the county.—CATHERINE CAROLIN.—FRANCIS CLARK, painter.—Mr. DILLON, innkeeper.—Mr. A. DIVER, postmaster.—Rev. JOHN ELLISON, rector of Killimard.—Rev. RICHARD HOMAN, rector.—M. W. LOVE, farmer.—JAMES M'CLARKY, labourer.—M. M'CORSCADAN, grocer.—PATRICK M'DIARMID, cottier.—ANTHONY M'DONNELL, esq.—Mr. W. M'DONAGH, merchant.—Rev. Mr. M'HAFERTY, roman-catholic clergyman.—ANNE MAGUIRE.—Mr. W. MARTIN, shopkeeper.—PATRICK MULLINS, labourer.—Dr. MULRENY, dispensary surgeon.—JOHN SHEEHAN, labourer.—Dr. SWAN, dispensary surgeon of Mount Charles.—M. TAIT, farmer.—Rev. J. THOMPSON, parish minister.—And others, mendicants.

Par. *Donegal* and
Killimard.
Town of *Donegal*.
Bar. *Tyrhugh* and
Bannagh.

THE Rev. Mr. Homan stated that they had at present no foundlings supported by the parish, but that last year a tradesman, who had resided some time in Donegal (a stranger), went away, leaving a boy, four years old, behind him; that he made application to the last assizes, and got a presentment of 5*l.* Irish passed to remunerate the people who are taking care of the child, and he was not without hopes that the parents might return for him. No case was ever known, in the recollection of the oldest person, of any deserted children having perished before they were discovered. It was Patrick Doherty's opinion (a labourer), that the working classes could never provide for their children in case they were left orphans; "Many an industrious labourer," said he, "has tried to do so, but a bad day has come, distress has arisen, and the trifling saving has always gone."

As to the mode of collecting the necessary funds for the maintenance of deserted children, the Rev. Mr. Homan remarked, that owing to the unwillingness which has generally appeared

DESERTED AND
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CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
County Donegal.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnston, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.Par. *Donegal* and
*Killimard.*Bar. *Tyrhugh* and
*Bannagh.*Parish *Upper* and
Lower Fahan.
Town of *Buncrana.*
Bar. *Ennishowen.*

throughout the parish to contribute to the support of foundlings (a cess which the people think is in some degree connected with church cess), it would be better collected as a part of the barony cess, on a presentment made to the judge of assize, which has been the mode adopted in two places in this county. The poorer classes do not regularly take charge of deserted children; "but," said Doherty, "they would do anything that was kind, if they had the means." Children who are found exposed are taken up and sent to a nurse in the parish as soon as possible: the churchwarden would take care of them if any cases were to happen; and the clergymen, as well as churchwarden, would feel it their duty to superintend the care of such children. The expenditure never exceeds 5*l.* upon each child. There is no foundling-hospital whatever in the parish.

Persons who attended the Examination.

SAMUEL BELL, farmer.—THOMAS BOLDRICK, churchwarden, tanner.—JOSEPH COCHRANE, shopkeeper and churchwarden.—JAMES COOLLY, spirit merchant, Bandanna.—Captain DARLEY, J. P., Buncrana.—JEREMIAH DEVLIN, farmer and merchant tailor, Buncrana.—The Rev. — DOHERTY, roman-catholic clergyman of Clonmany parish.—The Rev. — DOHERTY, roman-catholic clergyman of Fahan.—CON DOHERTY, farmer, and collector of county cess.—PATRICK DOHERTY, county cess collector, shopkeeper, Buncrana.—PATRICK DOHERTY, Long Barrack, farmer.—Mr. MICHAEL DOHERTY, rent agent, Glen-house.—Doctor EVANS, surgeon of the dispensary.—PATRICK FARMER, grocer, Buncrana.—The Rev. WILLIAM HAWKSHAW, rector of Upper Fahan.—PATRICK KERR, innkeeper, Bandanna.—The Rev. Mr. KELLY, roman-catholic clergyman of Dysertegny parish.—JOHN LANGHREY, farmer.—Mr. M'DOHERTY, rent agent, Glen-house.—WILLIAM M'GRATH, farmer.—The Rev. EDWARD MAGINN, roman-catholic priest.—CHARLES NORMAN, esq., J. P., Fahan.—CONSTANTINE O'DONNELL, clerk of petty sessions.—DOMINICK O'DONNELL, Cock-hill, farmer.—PATRICK O'DONNELL, shopkeeper and farmer, Buncrana.—The Rev. WILLIAM O'DONNELL, parish priest of Clonmany parish.—The Rev. HAMILTON STEWART, rector of Lower Fahan.—Several other farmers and traders appeared at the meeting of the Assistant Commissioners.

THE Rev. Mr. Stewart says, there are no deserted children supported by the parish at present, and that their numbers have decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin.

The Rev. Mr. Maginn says, that there are two deserted children who are not supported by the public; one of them receives its subsistence by going from house to house, the other is supported by a collection made at the catholic chapel. Mr. Cochrane, churchwarden, says, that instances of the children being found dead are of very rare occurrence; only three such within the last three years, and it is impossible to say whether they were deserted or not.

He also says, that a labourer, if he have more than one or two children, cannot make any provision for them, in the event of their becoming orphans, at the present rate of wages.

The same individual states, that the churchwarden of the parish would consider it his duty to superintend the spiritual and temporal welfare of deserted children.

There is no foundling-hospital for the reception of deserted children in this part of the country; and since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, the parishioners have become much more vigilant and careful than they formerly were.

The present law relating to deserted children is decidedly preferred to any further legislative interference. The evils which have resulted from too much legislation in England on the subject lead the people to dread any further enactments.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Inniskeel,*
Lower.
Bar. of *Bannagh*
and *Boylagh.*

CHARLES BOYLE, farmer.—The Rev. DANIEL COYLE, roman-catholic clergyman, Inniskeel.—The Rev. DANIEL EARLY, parish priest, Inniskeel.—ANTHONY GALLAGHER, farmer.—Mr. ALEXANDER HILL, farmer.—DANIEL M'DIVETT, clerk of the petty sessions.—PATRICK M'SWINE, farmer.—ROBERT RUSSELL, esq., agent to Lord Conyngham.

THE Rev. Mr. Early said that there were no deserted children in that district; in fact, within his recollection, which extended back to many years, no such event had taken place.* Hill stated, that if the labourers could secure regular employment at the rate of 8*d.* a day, he thought they might be able to make some provision for their children, if their family was not large, in the event of their being left orphans.

* It would naturally be inferred from the fact of there not having been a deserted child, or a case of infanticide in the parish within the memory of any one in it, that there was no occasion for any further legislative interference on this subject.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. W. ALLINGHAM, merchant.—Mr. BARTLEY, attorney, Dublin.—Mr. WILLIAM BELL, publican.—Doctor CRAWFORD, surgeon of the dispensary.—S. CRAWFORD, esq., attorney.—The Rev. JOHN CUMMINS, parish priest of Kilbarron.—M. DAVIS, esq., J. P.—Rev. JOHN DUNBAR, curate of Innismacsaint.—WILLIAM ERSKINE, merchant.—Captain CHARLES FERGUSON, J. P.—PATRICK GORRIGLE, a small farmer.—The Rev. GEORGE GRIFFITH, curate of Kilbarron.—Mr. IRWIN, clerk of the petty sessions, and collector and secretary of the Ballyshannon Mendicity.—Rev. D. KELLY, roman-catholic curate, Kilbarron.—Mr. P. KELLY, brewer.—Mr. J. KERRISON, Bundoran, innkeeper and farmer.—Rev. FRANCIS M'DONNELL, parish priest, Innismacsaint.—Mr. J. M'GOWAN, merchant.—Mr. JOHN M'GOWAN, bangbeggan to the Mendicity of Innishannon.—Mr. J. MORIARTHY, publican.—Rev. Mr. RAMSAY, roman-catholic curate, Kilbarron.—Mr. JOHN SCOTT, stamp distributor.—Doctor J. SHEIL.—SIMON SHEIL, esq. Wardtown.—The Rev. G. NESBIT TREDENNICK, rector of Kilbarron.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
County Donegal.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnston, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.

Par. of Kilbarron
and Innismacsaint,
including Town of
Ballyshannon.

Bar. Tyrhugh.

THERE are four foundlings at present supported by the parish, and one lately died; the average has been about four a year. It has been observed, that the number has rather increased since the closing the Foundling-hospital.

All those at present in the parish are supposed to be illegitimate. There is no reason to believe that such class of children often perish from neglect. When the uncertainty of employment is considered, it may safely be said that it is quite impossible for a labourer to do anything more than barely to exist. Consequently, he never can make any provision for his children.

The construction put upon the laws for deserted children is, that those only can be considered such who have been found deserted under the age of one year, and whose parents are not known and cannot be discovered. When the parish refuses to raise a fund for the maintenance of these children, it is obtained, on the application of the clergyman, by the order of the judge of assize, and is raised with the county cess. There is no power to give parochial support to any deserted children, except to infants under a year old, neither of whose parents is known. There are at Ballyshannon at present two children, Hugh and Patrick Fergusson, living with an old woman called Susan Brown; this woman, who is no relation to them, keeps those children as a source of profit: they are very fine interesting boys, about four and six years old, and pick up a good deal of money, which she generally gets. She has been offered to have them taken off her hands, but has refused.

There is no legal authority for taking charge of any children but the one class, (*i. e.*) deserted children.

They are put out to nurse by the churchwardens invariably to women residing in the parish, and have generally been extremely well attended to. The churchwardens see the children quarterly, before they pay for nursing.

Four pounds annually is the limit to the expenditure on each, and it is assessed at vestry, under 7th and 8th of Geo. 4. The churchwardens have no power of misappropriating the funds. There is no foundling-hospital whatsoever to which the children can be sent. They generally continue to live with the family by which they have been reared, or become farm servants; they are extremely well taken care of, and grow up as healthily as the children of the peasantry themselves. The expense in no case exceeds 4*l.* a year, which is considerably less than the cost of support formerly. It is generally believed that the persons by whom these children are nursed become attached to them, and that finally they become as it were members of the family, and continue to share their fate without any distinction.

There is no such institution known as a protestant orphan house in this country. The Rev. Mr. Tredennick observed, that he very much feared that there were more cases of infanticide than generally supposed, and, in that view of the question, thought it was to be regretted that there should exist no such resource as the foundling-hospital to prevent so horrible a crime; but there can be no doubt, on the other hand, that such an institution furnishes facilities that may be considered calculated to increase immoral habits.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Doctor ANDREWS, Killybegs.—Mr. T. BROGAN, farmer, Killybegs.—Mr. R. CORSCADDAN, farmer.—NICHOLAS M'DONAGH, esq., chief constable of police.—Rev. Mr. DRUMMOND, parish priest of Killybegs and Killaghtee.—Mr. A. GRAHAM, churchwarden, Killybegs.—Mr. A. HAMILTON, farmer.—JOHN JOHNSON, labourer.—ANDREW LYONS, labourer, Killybegs.—Mr. OWEN M'CLOOKEY, foreman and bailiff on Mr. Wm. Murray's estate.—Mr. W. M'ENTIRE, baker.—Mr. J. M'LAUGHLIN, farmer, Killybegs.—Mr. R. M'MULLEN, shoemaker.—Mr. J. MAGRATH, farmer.—Mr. HUGH M'BRIASTY, farmer.—Mr. A. MAGEE, churchwarden, Killybegs.—Mr. P. MULRANNY, bailiff on Mr. Murray's estate, Killybegs.—Mr. E. MURRIN, publican.—Rev. G. STEWART, rector of Killybegs.—Rev. CHARLES WALSH, curate of Killaghtee.—Mr. J. WATSON, farmer, Largysallagh.

Par. Killaghtee and
Killybegs.

Bar. Bannagh.

THERE were no deserted children or orphans in the parish, neither had there been any for the last three years. The three reverend gentlemen present also agreed that for 13
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ORPHAN
CHILDREN.Ulster,
County Donegal.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnston, Esq.
J. R. Barry, Esq.

years there had been no case known of a foundling in that parish, so that the want of any institution for them had not been experienced, nor could any conclusion be drawn from the discontinuance of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin, but the general opinion seemed to be, that while that system existed, it encouraged the desertion of children in other places, though not in that parish.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Moville,
Upper and Lower.
Bar. Ennishowen.

Rev. DAVID BABINGTON, curate of Lower Moville.—Mr. JOHN BARR, innkeeper and farmer.—JAMES CAMPBELL, esq., gentleman farmer.—Mr. SAMUEL CARMICHAEL, an extensive farmer.—Mr. JOHN EAKIN, farmer.—Rev. CHARLES GALWEY, rector of Lower Moville.—JOHN IRWINE, esq., M. D., surgeon of Moville dispensary.—Mr. EDWARD LARKEY, shopkeeper and farmer.—HUGH LYLE, esq., J. P., treasurer of county Londonderry.—Mr. M'ARTHUR, Castle Carey, agent to Sir A. Chichester, baronet.—Rev. WILLIAM M'CAFFERTY, parish priest of Upper and Lower Moville.—Mr. JOHN M'DEVITT, shopkeeper and farmer.—Rev. M'DONAGH, roman-catholic curate of Upper and Lower Moville.—Rev. SIMON M'LEER, roman-catholic curate of Upper and Lower Moville.—Rev. STEWART MARKS, curate of Upper Moville.—Mr. NEIL O'DOHERTY, shopkeeper and farmer, Moville.—Mr. HUDSON REYNOLDS, farmer.—Rev. JOHN STAPLES, rector of Upper Moville, J. P.

THERE is but one foundling in both parishes. The Rev. Mr. M'Donagh states, that for five years there has not been a second instance; and the Rev. Mr. Marks, not for eight or ten years. In the case alluded to, the parish refused to contribute for its support, and an appeal was made to the judge for a presentment, which was granted. There is no foundling-hospital in the parish, but the child above-mentioned is well attended to; its support costs 5 l. Irish per annum.

*Persons who attended the Examination*Parish Stranorlar,
including Towns of
Stranorlar and
Ballybophay.
Bar. Raphoe.

ANDREW ALLEN, farmer.—JAMES ARMSTRONG, farmer.—JOHN BATTEN, shopkeeper.—JOHN COCHRAN, esq., J. P., Edinmore.—Mr. COCHRAN, gentleman, elder of the presbyterian congregation.—ROBT. CORCADDIN, farmer.—Dr. DAVIS, surgeon, dispensary of Stranorlar.—Rev. Mr. DERINNEY, roman-catholic curate of Stranorlar.—Rev. Mr. DOHERTY, parish priest, Stranorlar.—D. DOHERTY, farmer.—WM. FENWICK, esq., J. P., Raphoe.—Mr. ROBERT FLETCHER, farmer.—Mr. GREER, innkeeper and churchwarden.—Mr. GUNNING, sen.—Mr. GUNNING, jun. shopkeeper, Stranorlar.—Mr. JAMES HOLMES, farmer.—JAMES JOHNSTON, esq., J. P.—JOHN KEAN, farmer.—EDWARD KEAN, farmer.—Mr. ROBERT KILPATRICK, farmer, Longhill.—DANIEL LYNCH, shopkeeper.—Mr. E. M'LOUGHLIN, farmer.—Mr. M'MIMININ, shopkeeper, Stranorlar.—RALPH M'KENLEY, farmer.—THOMAS MAGILL, shopkeeper.—ROBERT ROLLESTON, shopkeeper.—Mr. SMITH, farmer.—Mr. SPEER, gentleman farmer, Knockgannon.—Mr. SPENCER, farmer, Mullindrait.—Rev. J. STEEL, presbyterian minister, Stranorlar.—H. STEWART, jun. Trycallon.—ADAM TAIT, farmer.—Mr. WILLIAM WALKER, gentleman farmer, Kilcordan.—Mr. W. WALKER, land-agent, Drumboe.—CORMACK and HANNAH WARD, two old beggars.

THERE is but one deserted child supported by the parish at present; the average number for the last two years has been two. The practice of exposing children is certainly on the decrease, owing to the closing of the Foundling-hospital and the increased vigilance. It is believed that none but illegitimate children are exposed; there is no instance of a deserted child having perished before discovered. It is nearly out of the question at present for a labourer to think of making any provision for his children in the event of their becoming orphans. Mr. Stewart knew a farm-labourer in his employment, however, who on 10d. a day has saved money, though he contributes to the support of a mother and sister. No cases of private contributions known. The bishop of Raphoe was universally benevolent. The poorer classes do not subscribe for the support of deserted children. All foundlings whose parents cannot be discovered are taken to the overseer of the parish, whose duty is to take charge and provide nurses for them; but since the vestry cess has been abolished, recourse has been had to the judge of assize, and this charge is amalgamated with the county cess. The sum allowed by the county for the purpose is 5 l. only. When the Foundling-hospital was open the expense was generally much more than a year's allowance. There is only one case here of a person who was deserted in childhood of whose character any opinion can be formed, and it is very bad. No instance of the mode of life of those not provided for came under observation. The practice of taking charge of deserted children has decidedly led to their desertion; cases of this kind have decreased since the vigilance which has been lately adopted, particularly since the closing of the Foundling-hospital. It is thought that the present law is more calculated to prevent demoralization than the former one, which gave the Foundling-hospital as a resource and encouragement to the desertion of children.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER, rector.—ALEXANDER BAIRD, farmer, 33 acres.—JOHN BISHOP, farmer, 30 acres.—Rev. Mr. BROWN, presbyterian minister.—Rev. Mr. BRYCE, seceding minister.—Dr. FULLERTON, dispensary surgeon.—DAVID GILMOUR, farmer, 33 acres.—JAMES GLASS, farmer, 40 acres.—HENRY, farmer, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.—THOMAS M'CLEAN, labourer.—DANIEL MOON, farmer, 100 acres.—BARNEY MOONEY, farmer, and under-agent to the Ironmongers' Company.—ORR, esq. J. P.—OSELAND, esq., agent to the Ironmongers' Company.—Rev. Mr. ROLLESTON, curate.—JOHN WALLACE, farmer, 14 acres.

THERE is but one deserted child in the parish; even it cannot properly be ranked in this class. This has been the only case of desertion which has occurred during the last three years, and during 20 years there have not been more than three or four instances. One child perished, as was generally believed, from cold; but some doubts were entertained whether it had not been murdered. The practice of desertion has greatly decreased, principally owing to the vigilance of the parish officers in detecting the mother of the child. With the exception of one above 12 months old (which was refused by the Foundling-hospital), the children have generally been very young, the eldest not being more than two or three months of age. All deserted children are supposed to be illegitimate. The labouring classes are utterly unable to make any provision for their children. No deserted child has ever yet been presented for at the assizes, the churchwardens having invariably taken charge of them. Orphans have never been provided for by the parish, and might therefore be compelled to beg. It was stated, however, that they were very seldom in want, being generally attended to by their connexions.

"I have never," said a labourer, "seen the like of orphans begging; their relations provide for them." Deserted children are given by the churchwardens to nurse to women residing in the parish, who are carefully selected. "There are plenty," said Wallace, "willing to take them." The children are visited once in three months, and exhibited at the Easter vestry. About 6*l.* Irish, annually, has been the limit of the parish expenditure on each child. Mr. Henry, when churchwarden, had given 2*s.* a week to the nurse, and clothes for the child when required, about one suit in the year. The sum was generally reduced as the child grew up. The assessment was made at vestry, but assistance had sometimes been given by the ladies of the parish. No complaints had ever been made of the conduct of the churchwardens. The children usually become farm servants, and living as the children of the country people about them, generally turn out well. As only two children from the Foundling-hospital had been known in this parish, no conclusion could be drawn as to their conduct comparatively with that of the children nursed among the country people. Mr. Browne, however, gave it as his opinion, that their education, at least, was frequently neglected. All the witnesses agreed that the expense of each child in an institution would be very much greater than the sum required for its support under the present system. Mr. Browne was inclined to believe that deserted children usually turn out worse than those of the country people around, because they were generally nursed by an inferior class of persons, who became so attached to them that they would not part with them. He would prefer that no provision whatever should be made for deserted children. "At present," said he, "the mother generally watches the child until it is taken charge of, having deserted it rather from sudden impulse than from premeditation." Mr. Orr would increase the hold on the father, as now the mother absconds, and though the father is known, the child is thrown on the parish. He would also make the assessment voluntary, in which case all the witnesses agreed in saying that they would wish for the power of extending it to orphans.

Persons who attended the Examination.

DAVID CATHER, esq., J. P.—Mr. COLE, grocer.—Dr. DILL, dispensary surgeon.—Mr. DOHERTY, grocer.—Mr. FOREST, farmer and agent.—HENRY GREIR and others, labourers.—ROBERT HENRY, court-keeper.—Mr. HUNTER, grocer.—Mr. LANE, solicitor.—MARCUS M'CAUSLAND, esq., J. P.—SAMUEL M'COY, small farmer.—Rev. Mr. M'DONOUGH, roman-catholic curate.—Mr. MOODY, linendraper.—Mr. O'HAGAN, schoolmaster.—Rev. Mr. OLPHERT, rector.—Mr. O'NEIL, baker.—Rev. Mr. PORTER, presbyterian minister.—Mr. PROCTOR, grocer.—Rev. Mr. STEEN, presbyterian minister.—Mr. STEWART TATE, small farmer.

THE number of deserted children is about four or five, the average being three; but some do not get aid from the parish. Several of those deserted here were from the adjoining parishes, a night's lodging in the town giving (said Mr. Olphert) a facility for leaving a child in lieu of lodging-money. One orphan is now 10 years old, and has been supported by the parish from the age of eight or nine. Desertion is on the decrease. All such children are supposed to be illegitimate; one orphan, however, as above mentioned, is an exception. They never perish before discovery. The working classes, in general, could not possibly provide for their orphans. There was an instance, but considered a very rare one, of a ploughman, constantly employed at 1*s.* per day, who has laid by 40*l.* The attempt to lay by is scarcely ever made. Several orphans are supported by private individuals, who frequently turn out well; but none by religious orders. There are no weekly subscriptions; but two respectable neighbours frequently go round and collect sometimes from 10*s.* to 5*l.* They have never, in this parish, restricted themselves to taking charge of children under 12 months old;

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
Co. Londonderry.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Parish *Aughadowey*.
Bar. Coleraine,
(Half Barony.)

Par. *Drumachose*,
including Town of
Newtown
Limavaddy.
Bar. *Kenaught*.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
Co. Londonderry.Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.Par. *Drumachose,*
including Town of
Newtown
*Limavaddy.*Bar. *Kenaught.*

old ; in some cases they were four or five years old ; and orphans were provided for, in many cases, as deserted children. No presentment has been found necessary, as the parish has always agreed to the assessment. The churchwardens invariably take charge of deserted children, and sometimes orphans, who, by the wish of the parish, are frequently included among deserted children ; and gifts of from 1 *l.* to 2 *l.* have often been made to orphan families, having been raised by assessment on the whole parish. The children are put to nurse to women residing in the parish, who treat them with great kindness. An accurate inquiry is made into the woman's character. The children have never been neglected, except in education. The churchwardens annually, and sometimes quarterly, inspect them, and occasionally visit them. The sum allotted for each is about 4 *l.* or 5 *l.* annually, the average for all being about 8 *l.*, which has been raised by parochial assessment. There is no foundling-hospital. The children, in general, become identified with their nurses' families, and turn out well. There is no apprentice fund. Mr. Porter would prefer the system of nursing in country families to any institution, as the affections of the children have more objects to exercise themselves ; other witnesses preferred an institution, as affording the benefits of education. There were three cases mentioned where children, deserted in the parish, and supported by it, turned out well.

Mr. Porter took a deserted child, as a servant, who had been well educated at a Sunday and daily school in the neighbourhood. A baronial institution would be preferred to a more general one. None of the children who were sent to the Foundling-hospital have since returned. The expense is probably least under the present system. No difference has been observed between them and other children. The majority have turned out well. Deserted children are either provided for by the parish, or by private subscriptions. The Protestant Orphan Society supports none here. The practice of supporting deserted children does not, it is believed, lead to an increase in the number, the attention of the churchwardens having greatly diminished the practice. The parishioners wish to have the power of legally including children above 12 months of age, and orphans ; in fact, those whom they have practically included, in addition to those permitted by the present system.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Par. of *Dungiven*
and *Banagher.*
Bar. *Kenaught.*

— DOHERTY, wandering beggar.—Rev. Mr. GIBSON, presbyterian clergyman.—JOHN IRWAN, farmer 50 acres.— — KING, esq., gentleman farmer.—Mr. KYLE, collector of county cess.—MICHAEL M'CLOSKEY, farmer 22 acres.—MICHAEL M'CLOSKEY, farmer 12 acres.—Mr. MITCHELL, churchwarden.—HENRY MORRISON, grocer.—ANDREW MULLEN, small farmer seven or eight acres.—JAMES O'HAGAN, farmer 16 acres.— — O'KANE, woollen draper.—ANDREW QUIGLEY, farmer 11 acres.—Rev. Mr. ROSS, protestant rector.—MICHAEL ROSS, esq., gentleman farmer.—BRYAN M'TAGUE, and several other labourers.

N. B.—The small farmers in this district all labour occasionally for others, and combine the wants and feelings of both classes.

IN Dungiven there are no deserted children ; in Banagher there are two (one having lately died), who were for two years supported by the parish.

The average number deserted for the last three years was one each year, but there have not been any desertions of late ; this is attributed to the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital, and to the refusal of the parishioners to support even the two who were formerly taken care of by the parish. They are all supposed to be illegitimate. One perished last year before it was discovered ; it had been left on a dunghill, close to the door of a house, it was supposed to have been killed by the pig. One of the two in the parish of Banagher was discovered by a dog.

The working classes cannot possibly lay by even the smallest trifle to secure a support to their children in case of their becoming orphans.

No private contributions have been entered into for the support of orphans, except that those persons who had undertaken the maintenance of the two deserted children in Banagher, when the parish paid for them, are now obliged to solicit the assistance of the gentry of the place to enable them to support them.

There are no religious orders by whom they are provided for ; nor do the poorer classes subscribe for the payment of a nurse. No presentments have been obtained at the assizes for their sustenance. The parish overseers formerly took charge of deserted children, but not of orphans, but take charge of neither now, as the parishioners object altogether "to pay for another man's sins."

When the parish overseers took charge of a child they gave it out to be nursed, always to a woman residing in the parish, by whom it was very kindly treated, and produced at the Easter vestry when the nurse came to be paid. The sum usually given is 3 *l.* annually for each child, 4 *l.* being the greatest sum ever given. It is raised by a parochial assessment, laid on at a vestry. No complaint was ever made against the churchwardens concerning the appropriation of the sums levied for the maintenance of deserted children.

There is no foundling-hospital. Those who were heretofore sent to be nursed by the churchwardens generally became members of the family among whom they were nursed, or went out as farm servants. There was no apprentice fund. One deserted child was adopted by an old couple, who are dead ; he turned out very well, and is now a farm servant. Deserted children, if brought up in the families of the peasantry, where their affections are brought into play, generally turn out well, but if educated in an institution, there is no restraint from the opinion of those around them when they go out into life, and they in consequence

sequence frequently become bad characters. Those who returned formerly to the parish from the Foundling-hospital were very indifferent characters; the boys often stealing, and the girls becoming prostitutes, while those brought up among the country people have generally held good characters, and are more healthy in body as well as in mind. It would be more economical, as well as more beneficial, to the children and to society, to have them brought up in private families than at a public institution. In a private family, 4*l.* a year would be fully sufficient to cover the expense, which in an institution would probably be 10*l.* There are none supported by the Protestant Orphan Society. It is not known whether the mortality is greater amongst those who are sent to a foundling-hospital or those who are put to nurse. The number of deserted children has decreased since the closing of the Foundling-hospital in Dublin. The average formerly in the parish was one each year; during the last two years there have been no desertions; the inference therefore is, that few, if any, mothers will desert their children when there is any chance of their not being taken care of. The mother used formerly to remain somewhere near to see that the infant was attended to, and sometimes paid it a visit, *incognito*. It was not considered desirable that any provision should be made for deserted children, as it was believed that by withholding relief the custom would gradually become extinct.

Persons who attended the Examination.

SAMUEL AIRL.—JAMES ANDERSON.—J. BARCLAY, shopkeeper.—JAMES CHAMBERS.—ALEXANDER CLARKE, esq.—J. DRIPS.—W. FORRESTER, esq., J. P.—Mr. HENRY, apothecary.—J. M'CLELLAND, shopkeeper.—H. M'HENRY, schoolmaster.—P. M'KENNA.—Rev. SPENCER KNOX, rector of Maghera and Tubbermore.—A. MILLER.—S. MOORE, grocer.—Mr. ORR.—T. PETTIGREW, shopkeeper.—D. SCULLION.—JAMES SMITH.—A. WILSON.—E. WILSON.—Rev. Mr. VESEY, protestant curate.—Four of the police, and several labourers.

THE number of orphans in the parish was not known; there were two deserted children, four being the average number deserted within three years. The number of desertions has decreased, owing to the vigilance of the parish officers. All deserted children are supposed to be illegitimate, yet would not, it is believed, be exposed but for the inability of the parents to support them. They do not often perish before they are discovered. No assistance is afforded them from private contributions, religious orders, or subscriptions from the poorer classes. In order to be assisted by parish assessment, they must be deserted under the age of 12 months. Their support continues here until they attain their fifth year. No presentments have been obtained, either for deserted children or orphans, the latter class never being taken charge of by the churchwardens, as there is no statute giving to them such power. Deserted children are put out by the churchwardens to nurse, to women residing in the parish, and are brought to the annual vestry. £.5 is the limit of expenditure on each child allowed by the statute; and for some time past the expense has been paid by the Rev. Mr. Knox out of some balance of an ecclesiastical fund remaining in his hands. No complaints have been made with regard to the distribution of the money by the churchwardens. There is no foundling-hospital. The children nursed by the country people generally become useful farm servants. In contrasting this mode of education with that afforded by an institution, Mr. Knox stated his experience, in which the parish agreed, that on the breaking up of an orphan house, he had endeavoured to obtain places for some of the children with the farmers and others in this parish; and that, in consequence of their having been reared in an institution, and therefore being unacquainted with the mode of living by others in their station, he was quite unsuccessful. The children reared in an institution are moreover believed to be less healthy than those brought up among the peasantry, and the expense of the former system is much greater. Deserted children have been observed to turn out better than those of the peasantry around, the reason being, as is supposed, that they have their good conduct alone to depend on to induce any to become their friends; and very often their nurses become greatly attached to them. The practice of taking charge of deserted children leads, it is believed, to their desertion. It has decreased since the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital. It was thought that the parish should be invested with larger powers of taking care of and supporting deserted children, and in some cases orphans.

Persons who attended the Examination.

ROBERT ALEXANDER, farmer of 130 acres.—Mr. ANDERSON, secretary to the Mendicity Institution.—Rev. A. BOYD, curate in cathedral.—JOHN DENNIS, shoemaker.—HANNAH DERLIN, gives lodging to beggars.—JOHN DERMOTT, small farmer and labourer.—JOHN DOHERTY, farmer, seven acres.—GALLAGHER, bangbeggan.—CORNELIUS GALLAGHER, labourer.—Rev. GEORGE HAY, presbyterian minister.—JOHN KEELER, publican.—THOMAS LYONS, decayed farmer.—Mr. M'ARTHUR, guardian of deserted children.—Rev. WILLIAM M'CLURE, moderator of the Synod of Ulster.—JANE M'DOWD, poor widow, six children.—Right Rev. Dr. M'LOUGHLIN, roman-catholic bishop of Derry.—MARTIN, mason.—JAMES MURRAY, working tailor.—Rev. O'KANE, roman-catholic curate.—CHARLES OWENS, an aged labourer.—RAMSAY, merchant.—Dr. REGAN.—KITTY ROURKE, wife of a labourer, obliged to beg.—ROSS SMITH, esquire.—CHRISTOPHER WALSH, labourer.

THERE were from 16 to 20 deserted children assessed on the parish. Six each year might be a fair average of the number deserted within the parish during the last three years.

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Three

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.

Ulster,
Co. Londonderry.

Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.

Par. of Dungiven
and Banagher.
Bar. Kenaught.

Parish Maghera.
Bar. Loughinsholin.

Parish Templemore,
including City of
Londonderry.
Barony, City and
Liberties of
Londonderry.

DESERTED AND
ORPHAN
CHILDREN.*Ulster,*
Co. Londonderry.Examinations taken by
C. W. Borrett, Esq.
James Peebles, Esq.Parish *Templemore,*
including City of
*Londonderry.*Barony, City and
Liberties of
Londonderry.

Three have been deserted within the last four months; and Mr. M'A—— believed that the practice was rather on the increase, which he attributed to the ease with which, under the present system, children were saddled on the parish. All deserted children are believed to be illegitimate. None have ever perished before they were discovered. The number of orphans, especially since the prevalence of cholera, is very great: in one house there were nine, three only able to work at all. Three got among them a daily allowance from the Mendicity of six pounds of potatoes, one pound of meal and two quarts of buttermilk. Their only mode of earning anything was by spinning. All the witnesses agreed that it was utterly impossible for parents of the working classes, even when in constant employment, to lay by any provision for their children, and that they found it very difficult to support themselves. "They never attempt to lay by," said Mr. Clare; "it is known to be utterly impossible; nor can they even make a beginning." Neither orphans nor deserted children are ever supported by private contributions; but on Mr. Boyd's congregational list are two of the latter class, whose mother is dead and whose father is in America.

Two shillings and sixpence monthly is given to the woman with whom they live, and they receive two suits of clothes in the year; they have been assisted in this way for 10 years, one being now 14 and the other 12 years old; both are turning out well. On Mr. Hay's list is one deserted child. Neither orphans nor deserted children are here provided for, either by religious orders or by subscriptions from the poorer classes. No children have been assessed for who were more than 12 months of age when deserted; nor have orphans ever been included; but the sum spent annually upon each child has considerably exceeded 5*l.* Irish, to which sum only the parish could be legally assessed.

Presentments have never been obtained, nor was it known they might be resorted to. Deserted children have always been taken charge of by three guardians, appointed yearly by the parishioners, with whom the churchwardens never interfere. No assessment can be legally made for orphans; but even were it possible, the parishioners would be inclined to provide in preference for deserted children, who must otherwise either perish or be utterly neglected.

Deserted children are put out to nurse by the guardians to women residing in the parish, who usually treat them kindly and as their own children. Mr. M'A——, however, was lately obliged to remove a child from a nurse who neglected it; but such an instance very rarely occurs. The guardians sometimes visit the children, sometimes have them brought to them, and sometimes require a certificate from a respectable person that the child is properly treated; some such inquiry takes place every month. Mr. M'A—— did not know that there was any limit to expense fixed by law; the usual sum paid to the nurse is 8*s.* 4*d.* a month; besides, allowance is made for contingent expenses, clothing, sickness, &c., the whole funds being obtained by assessment at Easter vestry. No complaints have ever been made, except by the guardians, who have been obliged to advance the requisite funds, the assessment here not being levied in advance as elsewhere. There is no foundling-hospital. The children elsewhere generally become farm servants and join the families of their nurses; but here the eldest child at present supported by the parish is only three years old. Before the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital, all deserted children were sent there. None returned from it here. The guardians think that in this parish an institution would be cheaper than the present system.

The children have hitherto always been provided for by the parish. There are none supported here by the Protestant Orphan Society; but 41,000*l.* was lately left by Mr. Gwynne, from which a number of boys are fed and educated, and an apprentice fee of 10*l.* is paid by instalments; the boys must not be under six or above 12 years of age; there are now 81 in the institution. The present house is inconvenient, having been adopted temporarily to receive the cholera orphans, who were preferred, as being in great destitution. The four executors and 17 trustees have purchased eight acres of land near the town, where they intend building, and expect to be able to receive and educate 100 boys. Some of the boys have been six months apprenticed (the fund having existed but a year and a half), and all but one have given satisfaction; they appear very healthy, neat and comfortable. This fund is not limited to orphans, but they are preferred. Mr. M'A—— was decidedly of opinion that the practice of taking charge of deserted children leads to their desertion, and thought that the mother frequently remained near and watched over the child.

The practice of desertion he believed rather to have increased since the closing of the Dublin Foundling-hospital. The present system was, in his opinion, exceedingly bad; and he believed that district institutions, where education would be attended to, would be very useful; and though by their establishment desertions might increase, he would prefer that evil to the risk of the infant perishing from neglect. "There ought also," said he, "to be an apprentice fund, since one evil of the present system is, that as the nurses are of the very poorest class, they, however well inclined, can do nothing to assist the children to settle in life. Orphans too should be provided for as well as deserted children."

See Questions, Nos. 1 and 9, in the SUPPLEMENT, also the ADDENDA.

BASTARDY.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JOHN BOROUGHS, labourer.—JOSEPH BOTHERILL, servant to Mr. St. George.—JOHN BURKE, esq.—Rev. J. FITZGERALD, roman-catholic rector.—Dr. HARTNETT.—Dr. KELLY.—JAMES LYNCH, labourer.—Rev. J. MARA, protestant rector.—JOHN O'FLAHERTY, esq.—JOHN RYAN, labourer.—R. J. MANSERGH ST. GEORGE, esq., Headfort Castle.—Mr. C. JAMIESON, merchant.—LAWRENCE TOOLE, carman.—Rev. J. WALSH, roman-catholic rector.

BASTARDY.

Connaught,
County Galway.Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish Headfort.

Bar. Clare.

"BASTARDS are never supported by the parish, except in cases of desertion, which are very rare. I believe bastard children are more frequently destroyed than is generally admitted; it is a crime very rarely brought to light in this country. There are certainly many children buried in private burial-grounds in this and the neighbouring county, where there is no service performed, and no notice taken of them. Their fathers generally neglect them, unless brought before the magistrates."—(Mr. St. George.)—"Feelings of honour frequently induce marriage before the birth of the child. I have known cases where I was not aware of the circumstances till after the marriage."—(Rev. Mr. Walsh.)

"We have been in the habit of granting wages at petty sessions for the last 20 years. The amount varies from 2 l. to 4 l., according to circumstances. This sum is, in some cases, granted for each of three years. The woman's oath is the only evidence required; her having been a bad character will not affect her claim. We often cause a compromise to be made; and I am sure that, by the influence of a magistrate and a clergyman, any man might be forced into marriage.

"Unless married to the fathers of their children, women who have had bastards seldom get husbands. I never knew an instance of a person marrying a gentleman's miss for the sake of any money which he promised him."—(Mr. St. George.)—"The woman, though not excluded from society, falls very considerably in the estimation of her neighbours."—(Rev. Mr. Walsh.)—"The bastard children are subject to taunts; and a small farmer would, in my opinion, have a great objection to give his daughter to one of them in marriage, unless under very great pecuniary inducements."—(Mr. St. George.)—"The gentleman's bastard is more reproached than the poor man's; the amount of property determines every thing."—(Walsh.)—"A female bastard is never reproached. I think the decent people would prefer half the fortune without the stain that they would get with it."—(Lynch.)

"It is rather doubtful how far we are authorized to proceed against the father; however, we go so far as to issue a decree for the amount against his goods and chattles, in the form of wages for nursing the child, which, in some cases of appeal, have been affirmed by the barrister. In other parts of the county they never appeal, but obey the order, after some little delay. We generally order it in quarterly payments. The father sometimes marries through dread of the order; but this is of very rare occurrence. We never proceed to a distress warrant without the father's acknowledgment. I believe that the child's health is often materially injured for want of proper nourishment, the mother not being able to afford it. The mother's health also is sometimes injured through the difficulty she is exposed to in rearing the child."—(Mr. St. George.)

Persons who attended the Examination.

PATRICK BURKE, esq., J. P., Damesfield.—OWEN CLARKE, small landholder.—PATRICK FOX, formerly brazier, now a labourer.—Mr. JOHN GERRAGHTY, shopkeeper.—PETER JOYCE, labourer.—REDMOND KELLY, mason.—Rev. Dr. KIRWAN, roman-catholic rector.—ANTHONY MARTIN, esq., J. P., Currariva.—JOHN M'DONOGH, housekeeper.—M. M'DONOGH, labourer.—RICHARD M'DONOGH, farmer.—DENIS M'GRATH, formerly shopkeeper, now a butcher.—Mr. JOHN M'KEW, under-agent to Mr. Martin.—Capt. O'FLAHERTY, J. P., Lemonfield.—GEORGE O'FLAHERTY, esq., Lemonfield.—JOHN SWEENEY, carpenter.—Rev. JOHN WILSON, protestant vicar.

Parish Kilcummin.

Bar. Moycullen.

"I AM eight years roman-catholic rector of this parish. I do not think that the number of illegitimate children born in the parish during that period has exceeded 14. No case of infanticide occurred here during the same period; nor have I heard of any such crime having been ever committed in this parish. We have had children deserted in two instances. The churchwardens gave a trifling assistance to the poor persons with whom these foundlings were left to be nursed, for one year in one case, and for two in the other; they then abandoned them altogether, and threw the burden of supporting them upon these miserable individuals, whose abject poverty rendered them fit objects of charitable assistance, but whose benevolent feelings impelled them, up to this day, to share with the infant outcasts their own miserable pittance of potatoes. One of the children is a boy of about 10 years old, and the other, I believe, about six. I know of no case where a father has neglected his illegitimate child but one; and in 12 out of these 14 cases of bastardy I have mentioned, the fathers married the mothers of their children; they were induced to do so, I trust, from a principle of conscience and honour; but I cannot deny that the influence of the roman-catholic clergy assisted much to bring about this desirable result. In all cases where
0.5. a single

BASTARDY.

Connaught,
County Galway.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish *Kilcummin.*
Bar. *Moycullen.*

a single man has seduced a female, whose character was free from any other taint, we use every means in our power to induce him to make the only adequate reparation in his power, by marrying her. In the cases where this reparation has not been made, in one, the man has left the parish altogether (which is the case alluded to before, when I said there was but one instance of a father's having deserted his illegitimate child); in the other there is a great disparity of condition, but the father supports his child. I do not think there are six men in the parish who would marry women who had illegitimate children by other fathers; nor would any influence of persons of the highest rank induce the generality of them to disgrace themselves by such marriages. They form a justly high estimate of female purity; and the woman who has lost her virtue, unless repaired by a subsequent marriage, loses with it, for life, her character and her caste."—(Dr. Kirwan.)—"There was not an instance of infanticide in this parish within my memory, and only one in the neighbourhood. In almost every instance subsequent marriage is induced. There have been four cases of rape sworn with the view of inducing marriage, within the last eight years."—(Captain O'Flaherty.)

"There occur a great many cases of this kind in Moycullen, particularly near the sea-side. Last year three men came to trial, all of whom married out of the dock."—(Mr. Burke.)—"The magistrates, as long as I can remember, regularly give 1 l. 9 s. a quarter before the birth of the child, and from 2 l. to 3 l. a year after the birth, for three years. The man is always summoned; he may prove an *alibi*; but his own oath will not be admitted in evidence. I never heard of a second application. If they wish, they may process before the assistant barrister; but the magistrates will not grant a larger sum."—(Captain O'Flaherty.)

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish *Killimore.*
Bar. *Longford.*

JOHN BURKE.—PATRICK CAMPBELL, labourer.—REV. FRANCIS COGHLAN, catholic rector.—MR. J. DONNELLAN, farmer.—THOMAS EGAN, nurseryman.—REV. MR. KEATING, late catholic rector.—MAJOR KELLY, Longford Lodge.—WILLIAM KILLEEN, weaver.—GEORGE KIRKALDY, esq., Heron Brook.—MR. EDWARD LOVERTY, farmer.—THOMAS LOWRY, farmer.—FRANCIS MADDEN, mason.—JOHN MARA, farmer.—MICHAEL MONAGHAN, esq.—PATRICK MORAN, householder.—BRIEN O'HARA, nurseryman.—MICHAEL WALSH.

"DURING the last three years there have been only six bastards born in this parish. None are supported by the parish but those who had been deserted. There was only one case of desertion since I came to the parish; it was supposed to belong to a neighbouring parish, and I have reason to believe that the supposition was true. It was left at Mr. Kirkaldy's door. A presentment of 4 l. was granted by the judge of assize for its support. I do not know whether this was the entire sum to be allowed, or that the same sum is to be given annually. I did not hear of an instance of a child being destroyed in this part of the county since I became a resident in it.

"A feeling of honour and a desire to make reparation generally (indeed almost invariably where there is no obstacle) induce marriage, it being the only means by which it can be made. Marriage very seldom ensues when both persons do not belong to the same class in society. In three cases out of the six which I speak of, marriage followed; in the other it was morally impossible, two of the women were idiots, and the father of the third was a married man. I have known 50 cases of persons getting married lest the female's character should suffer from malicious but ungrounded reports. When 20 or 30-acre men have bastards by their servants, which frequently occurs, they rear the child, and sometimes pay the mother for its support; the child very often gets a dividend of the property at the father's decease. There have been no wages sought for; if the father and mother are in the same rank of life they generally get married. I have known instances of fathers forcing their sons to marry inferior persons by whom they had children. If the mother and child are not provided for, the mother turns to open habits of vice. There have been instances of women having two or three bastards by as many different men. Generally speaking, there is not much of a disrespectful feeling towards either the bastard or the mother."—(Coghlan.)

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish *Omagh.*
Bar. *Ballynahinch.*

THOMAS BURKE, mason.—CARR, innkeeper.—JOHN CORBAT, builder.—MR. THOMAS CUNNIS, Beleck.—JOHN D'ARCY, esq., Clifton Castle.—MR. J. DUAN, farmer.—MARTIN EVANS, M. D.—REV. PETER FITZMAURICE, catholic rector.—FLYNN, not resident in the parish.—JONES, esq.—JOYCE.—JOHN KELLY, mason.—PATRICK LIDDAN, butcher.—THOMAS MARTIN, esq., M. P., Ballynahinch.—ANTHONY MULLIN, freeholder.—O'BRIEN.—CHARLES ROWE, esq.—REV. J. THOMAS, protestant rector of Omay.—CONSTANTINE TULLY, collector of cess.—MICHAEL WHITE, weaver.

ON an average there are two or three bastards born in the parish every year.—(O'Brien.)—There have been only two children deserted in the parish for the last eight years, the latter of them about three years since; its mother was discovered shortly after it was deserted, and forced to provide for it.—(Rev. Mr. Thomas.)

For

For the last 20 years the magistrates have been in the habit of granting from 3*l.* to 5*l.* wages to the mothers of illegitimate children. This has the effect of lessening the number; wages are not granted till after the birth of the child.—(O'Brien.)—A woman who had a child by a poor man would be looked down on, but one who had a child by a gentleman would be looked up to on account of the money. A young man in this town married a gentleman's miss about six weeks since, for which he got 100*l.*; she had two children.—(Mullen.)—Bastards are generally as well behaved as others; they will not get an equal match; the mothers are despised by their own equals, and are often driven to prostitution.—(Corbat.)

Evidence of his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam.

THE parish does not provide for bastards, as such; it provides for many bastards' foundlings when they are deserted by their mothers, a thing which frequently takes place. The instances of children being destroyed are very rare. Honourable feelings frequently produce subsequent marriages.

Wages are never awarded before the birth of the child; the mother is granted wages, not as mother, but as nurse. The law should be declared in such cases.

The justices below do not concur with the barristers, and the relief has become slow and insecure.

The amount varies according to circumstances; 6*l.* late Irish currency is, I believe, the maximum. The inability of the father to pay a large sum causes the wages awarded to be less than they otherwise would.

While the justices at petty sessions were permitted to proceed without the law being questioned, if any effect could be perceived, it might rather have been in making men more cautious. There is never any punishment inflicted on the applicant for wages, and as the decree is for wages, her having more than one bastard child does not make any difference in the sum granted. Young men generally have a great dislike to marry women who have had illegitimate children, and the sum granted as wages is not sufficient to induce them to forego their objections. Girls thus circumstanced find it very difficult to procure eligible matches. It is very rarely that persons of even the lowest classes can be induced by those in a higher station of life to marry a girl who had an illegitimate child. Women of the lower class do not lose caste much among their own sex in the same class. I think a small farmer would have no objection to give his daughter to a bastard who in all other respects was an eligible match, especially if the reputed father was in the rank of a gentleman.

Formerly, in the absence of all other proof, the mother's testimony was conclusive; in the later adjudications, other circumstances were required to be proved, such as intimacy, company-keeping, flirtation, or the like; but under any circumstances a defence was admissible. A second application for wages is equally as successful as the first, and is looked on as being a confirmation of the former testimony.

From decisions recently made, justices of the peace have been forced to doubt their power to force payment, before it was considered that it, like any other debt, might be compelled to be paid by a decree against either the man's goods or person.

The amount given is always awarded in one sum, and the applicant should apply at the end of three months, unless special cause be shown for the contrary. I have known instances of men being driven to marry the mother through fear of a decree for wages, but the instances are few. When the decree is issued the father is often known to abscond; but even in that case there is no relief afforded by the parish.

I have known many instances of the mothers being obliged to beg, and have frequently known them to go from bad to worse perhaps for subsistence. The children suffer much from being neglected, they are badly reared, and early practised in vice. The father's refusing to support the child leads to bad feeling, and much abuse as a natural consequence. I do not know of women having lost or injured their health by the difficulty of rearing a child without getting the usual assistance from its father; the family rarely cast off a female entirely for this offence.

While the child is on the breast it does not suffer from the mother's poverty; and when it grows up, it does not generally find it very difficult to procure potato food.

A woman's mind must be brought to a high pitch of immorality to encompass such an act as either the desertion or destruction of her infant, yet I never knew a carelessness with respect to the lives of others, ensue from desertion.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM, woollen-draper.—Rev. Dr. BURKE, roman-catholic rector of this parish and dean of Dunmore.—GEORGE CLENDENNING, esq., magistrate.—Mr. COLLINS, a gentleman connected with the press.—RICHARD GIBBONS, small farmer of 12 acres.—Mr. LARGE, clerk of petty sessions and churchwarden.—MATTHEW M'DONNELL, esq. magistrate.—ROBERT W. M'ILVEA, esq., magistrate.—WILLIAM M'MILER, small farmer of 12 acres.—EDWARD M'NALLY, weaver.—JOHN REEGAN, labourer.—THOMAS REILLY, labourer.—Mr. GEORGE WOODS, general merchant.—Mr. JOHN WYNNE, general merchant.

THE witnesses cannot give any distinct account of the number of bastards in the parish, but agree in stating them to be very few. All the cases of desertion that occur are believed

BASTARDY.

Connaught,
County GalwayExaminations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.Parish Omagh.
Bar. Ballynahinch.

Town of Tuam.

County Mayo.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.Parish Aughvale.
Bar. Murrisk.

BASTARDY.*Connaught,
County Mayo.*Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.*Parish Aughvale.
Bar. Murrisk.*

to be illegitimate children. One case of infanticide occurred a short time ago, but beside this, none of the witnesses recollect any other case to have occurred in the parish. The fathers of illegitimate children are generally reluctant to afford them support, unless compelled by legal proceedings, or a threat of such. Mr. Clendenning says, "The magistrates at petty sessions grant the mother wages for nursing the child, but require her to prove some agreement, either direct or implied, on the part of the reputed father; her oath is taken, but he is permitted to disprove her testimony by any evidence he can produce. The sum allowed varies from 5s. to 1l., or 1.5s. per quarter, according to the circumstances of the father. At petty sessions held in Westport for a district containing a population of 50,000, 12 to 15 cases have come before us within three years. When a woman has made a second application of this nature, we have been more cautious in giving credit to her evidence, and when we have believed her, have allowed a smaller sum. We grant a decree against the father's property; if he has no property the case must go to the assistant barrister, who grants a decree against his person. He has frequently absconded until he forced the woman into a compromise on more favourable terms."

McNally says, "When a woman is unable to obtain support for her child from the father, it depends on the goodness of her parents whether they support her and her child, but she is often turned out as a disgrace to the family, and obliged to beg, and I have known instances where women in such circumstances have become prostitutes."

Mr. Clendenning says, "It is commonly a woman's first step towards prostitution, that having an illegitimate child she has been turned out by her family, and had no means of supporting it, it often happens that the family, under such circumstances, take her back to prevent her sinking deeper into vice."

*Persons who attended the Examination.**Parish Cong.
Bar. Kilmeen.*

— BLAKE, esq., police officer.—FRANCIS BURKE, esq.—MR. BUTLER, large farmer.—WILLIAM BUTLER, landholder, 10 acres.—REV. MR. CRAMPTON, protestant rector, and magistrate.—ELWOOD, esq., magistrate.—MR. JOHN ELWOOD, shopkeeper.—JOHN FINN, esq., magistrate and resident proprietor.—THOMAS HOPKINS, labourer.—MICHAEL HYNES, butcher.—WALTER JENNINGS, labourer.—MR. M'DONNELL, large farmer.—PETER MOLOWNEY, weaver.—ANTHONY O'BRIEN, stone-cutter.—REV. MR. WALDRON, roman-catholic rector.

MR. CRAMPTON says, that at petty sessions held for the barony of Ross, in the county of Galway, and that part of the parish of Cong which is situated in the county of Mayo, there are about a dozen cases each year of women applying for wages for the support of illegitimate children. Mr. Crampton says that he himself has always required proof from a third person of some agreement for wages made between the parties; but other magistrates have sometimes adjudicated on the woman's oath, affiliating the child, connected with their own previous knowledge of the parties and the circumstances of the case, with which they are often perfectly acquainted before they are laid before them judicially. The sum mostly awarded is 3l. a year; it sometimes happens that an agreement is proved for more, when this sum is of course granted. The father always has the right of choosing between taking the child himself or paying the mother the wages for its support. The former alternative is generally adopted, or some compromise effected when "the child is reared," at the age of two or three years.

Mr. Crampton has known many cases of the father marrying the woman rather than pay the wages; he also says many prosecutions for rape come before the magistrates, which are dropped on the marriage of the parties. "Nothing so common," he says, "as husband-hunting;" such cases are more frequent since some men have been lately executed for the offence; within the last six months at least six such cases have occurred in this district.

The witnesses cannot give any idea of the number of bastards in the parish, but they all agree that bastardy is rare in it. Rev. Mr. Waldron says, "The woman that is guilty of the offence is slighted and shunned by all her former acquaintances. It is remembered against her grandchild, and is often a reproach to her family for 20 years. There is a great reluctance to marry such a person; but in the poverty of this country a small sum of money forms a great temptation, and is sometimes yielded to."

*Persons who attended the Examination.**Parish Kilgerver.
Bar. Murrisk.*

JOHN BARNES, cottier, holds 2½ acres.—JOHN COX, farmer, holding 8 acres.—JAMES FREHILL, cottier, holds 1 acre.—JAMES GALLAGHER, farmer, 7 acres.—REV. MR. GIBBONS, roman-catholic rector.—MR. AUSTIN GIBBONS, assistant to Mr. Durkin, apothecary.—MILES JOYCE, cottier, holds 1½ acres.—PAT MALLY, an old man past his labour, did hold 2 acres.—ROGER M'DONOGH, cottier, holds 2½ acres.—PAT M'DONNELL, farmer, holding 8 acres.—WILLIAM M'EVILY, farmer, 5 acres.—REV. MR. POTTER, protestant curate.—MR. REED, land-steward to Marquis of Sligo, the principal proprietor of the parish.

BASTARDY is very rare in this parish: no precise account can be given of the number in the whole parish. In the village of Carramore, containing 74 families, Freehill says, "there are

are only two bastards, young or old; none have been born there for many years; if there were others in the village, it would be too remarkable for me not to know it." In the small town of Louisburg, population 350, except one family of illegitimate children, only three have been born in seven years, which Mr. Potter recollects. In Benowen, a village of 39 families, there are two bastards, one an old person, another an infant. Two cases of infanticide have been known within seven years. The fathers of illegitimate children are generally unwilling to support them, they must be compelled by law, which allows the mother wages from the father for nursing his child: she must prove a promise of wages on his part. A woman having an illegitimate child, finds very great difficulty in procuring a husband, "not one in ten of them ever get a husband." The bastard is looked upon through life with a feeling of reproach. A small farmer would be unwilling to connect himself with him; "he would not give him his daughter in marriage," M'Donnell says, "unless he were a snug man, and would take her without a portion."

BASTARDY.

Connaught,
County Mayo.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Parish Kilgeever.
Bar. Murrisk.

Persons who attended the Examination.

EDWARD BURKE, farmer of 13 acres.—BRIEN DEANE, cooper and small farmer.—EDMUND DICKSON, mendicant.—JAMES DONOGHUE, bailiff to Major Bingham, the principal proprietor in the parish.—Widow EARLY.—WILLIAM FEARGUS, bailiff to Mr. Everard.—DOMINICK FREKILL, labourer.—Widow GERAGHTY.—MARTIN HOBAN, labourer.—Captain IRELAND, stipendiary magistrate.—PAT LAVELLE, labourer.—Rev. Mr. LYONS, parish priest.—Mr. WM. MEREDITH, chief constable of police.—Captain NUGENT, magistrate.—Mr. O'BRIEN, parish schoolmaster.—FRANK O'DONNELL, labourer, impotent from age.—HUGH O'MALLY, cottier.—Widow REILLY.

Par. Kilmore Erris.
Bar. Erris.

CAPTAIN IRELAND says, that within the last three years, at petty sessions held for the half barony of Erris, containing a population of 23,000, about 25 cases of application for wages for nursing bastards, have been made by the mothers against the fathers.

Mr. Lyons thinks this may be taken as nearly the whole amount of bastardy within that district; he does not know a single instance of the father voluntarily supporting his bastard, they generally deny them.

Wages are never granted before the birth of the child. The mother's oath affiliating the child is taken, but it must be supported by other circumstantial evidence, as of the parties having been frequently observed in company with one another, or some implied acknowledgment on the part of the father, as sending provisions to the mother or procuring her attendance in her lying-in.

The wages granted vary according to the father's ability to pay them, from 5s. to 11s. a quarter.

These wages are allowed for 18 months or two years; the father having a right at any time to stop them on taking the child to himself.

Captain Ireland says, "the woman who has had an illegitimate child is for ever degraded; she has but little chance of ever getting married, the humblest peasant being as tenacious on this point as a man of the highest rank in society." Mr. Lyons has known, in many years, only three or four cases of such women getting married, and these were cases where the father gave a much larger sum of money than he would otherwise have given as a portion, in order to cover the disgrace of his daughter.

Mr. Lyons is confident that nine out of ten rape cases are fictitious, got up merely for the purpose of forcing marriage; under this impression, a regulation has been imposed upon the catholic clergy of this diocese, not to marry such parties while a prosecution is pending.

Persons who attended the Examination.

THOMAS BRADSHAW, labourer.—MORGAN CROFTON, esq. J.P.—Rev. M. DEVINE, roman-catholic rector of the parish.—Capt. DUCKWORTH, J.P.—JOHN FAREMAN, innkeeper.—Rev. THOMAS HACKETT, protestant vicar of the parish.—The Viscount LORTON, lord-lieutenant of the county.—OWEN LLOYD, esq. J.P.—JOHN MANGHAN, road inspector.—JOHN MULHALL, esq. general merchant.—M. O'BRIEN, labourer.—JOHN ROBERTSON, esq. J.P.

Co. Roscommon.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish Boyle.
Bar. Boyle.

AMONG the catholic population in the parish during the last year, there have been but four baptisms of children whose parents were not married. The rite of baptism is never neglected. Mothers very seldom destroy their illegitimate children; the fathers generally neglect them. Mr. Mulhall, during 30 years residence in the parish, did not remember a single case of infanticide. A feeling of honour does not often induce subsequent marriages as a sense of duty.

During three years there has been only one instance of wages awarded by the Boyle petty sessions.

They are never given before the birth of the child. In the case above-mentioned, 4*l.* was given. It is believed that there is no law to warrant any punishment on the applicant.

The general opinion is, that the loss of character to the female is a considerable difficulty

BASTARDY.

Connaught,
Co. Roscommon.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish Boyle.

Bar. Boyle.

in the way of their making respectable matches. This is not so great if the father of such children has been of much higher rank in life than the mother. In some few instances of this nature, money is given by the superior in rank to induce some of the poor class to marry the woman. Women with illegitimate children are invariably looked on as degraded from their own rank, whatever that may be. Some continue to reside with their families and are kindly treated by them. If the conduct of the bastard is not reprehensible, his birth is seldom thought about.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish Kilkeevan.
Bar. Ballintobber.

Rev. Dr. BLUNDELL, protestant rector of Killeekvan.—Rev. JOHN BOYD, catholic curate of Kilkeevan.—FRANCIS CLANCY, farmer.—COX COTTON, small farmer.—JAMES COULON, potter.—Mr. THOMAS DILLON, shopkeeper.—JAMES GAFFNEY, working mason.—Capt. GRAY, Dalefield.—JOHN KELLY, labourer.—Rev. PETER M'DERMOTT, catholic curate of Kilkeevan.—THOMAS M'GRATH, esq., J. P. Castlereagh.—O'CONNOR DON, Clonalice.—Mr. GEORGE VAUGHAN, farmer.—WILLIAM R. WILLS, esq. Castlereagh.—OWEN YOUNG, esq., Harristown.

THERE were eight baptisms of illegitimate children within the last 12 months in the parish of Kilkeevan, none of whom are supported by the parish. The mothers seem as kind and as attached to their offspring as others; and the average number of those destroyed by the mothers is not above two in three years. The mothers latterly resort to a practice of swearing informations for rape against the fathers, in order to induce them to marry; and often they have done so from a feeling of honour. The magistrates do not grant wages to women with bastards, they refer them to the quarter sessions to proceed by civil bill action for recovering a debt contracted by stipulation.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish Moore.
Half Barony of
Moycarra.

Rev. J. ANDERSON, protestant rector of Moore.—MICHAEL CALLANAN, smith.—WILLIAM CLEMENTS, weaver.—BRYAN CONOLLY, labourer.—PATRICK DOLAN, labourer.—PATRICK FLYNN, mason.—THOMAS HARRISON, dyer.—Mr. JOHN KELLY, farmer.—PATRICK KELLY, small farmer.—JOHN KILKENNY, bailiff on Mr. St. George's estate.—ALEXANDER LONG, chief constable of police, Ballydaniel.—Rev. J. M'AVEELY, catholic rector of Moore.—Mr. JAMES MILLER, shopkeeper.—J. M'NAMARA, weaver.—PATRICK MITCHELL, beggar.—WILLIAM MURRAY miller.—THOMAS POWER, esq., J. P., Falty.—LAURENCE WATSON, farmer and appraiser.

"I ONLY baptized one illegitimate child during the last 12 months. There are at present 12 residing in the parish, who were born within it during the past 10 years. Five of these are children of the same parents. The mother was married many years ago, and was abandoned by her husband. There was a report of his death some time ago, and application was made to me to marry her and the father of the children to whom I have alluded. I was obliged to refuse, having no certain proof of the husband's death."—(Mr. M'AVEELY.)—They are never supported by the parish.

A woman, named M'Namara, had a child by a married man; he refused to assist her in supporting it, and after a short time went to America, not taking his wife and family. The illegitimate child was deserted, but the mother being known, she has been compelled to support it. A child was left about 10 years ago in the neighbourhood of Thomastown. The mother was an inhabitant of this parish. Since the child was deserted, she has never been seen or heard of. The infant was only a few months old. The only other instance we can recollect was of a child who was found in a garden near the village; it was supposed to be about three months old, but not to have been born in the parish. The neighbours took charge of it by turns, and it was taken as much care of by each woman as if it had been one of her own children; at the end of nine months it died. During the last three years there have been three or four instances of infanticide. In an adjoining parish a child was found drowned whose parents were unknown. In the same parish another was found lying on the road side; the body had been frightfully torn, it was supposed by dogs; and as a man who was returning home on his car drew near the spot where it lay, the horse started and plunged so violently that the man was thrown and killed by the fall. The mother of an infant, who it is believed was destroyed, was tried for infanticide at the assizes, and acquitted for want of sufficient evidence, though there could not, from the circumstances which appeared, be any doubt of her guilt.

"I cannot say that I know of more than one instance of persons who had been unlawfully connected being married before the birth of the child, except where religious influence has been used."—(Watson.)—"It is the almost invariable practice that both parties should attend confession before marriage. I thought it my duty on several occasions publicly to announce that I will not celebrate what are termed subsequent marriages. I have in a few instances, however, omitted to enforce my own rule, being influenced to do so by the circumstances of the cases; and so seldom have instances occurred during the 18 years that I have had charge of this parish, that I cannot say I ever yet have been obliged to refuse any application of the sort."—(Mr. M'AVEELY.)

Until

"Until about six years since it was a common practice for women to apply to the sessions for wages for nursing and taking care of their illegitimate offspring. In consequence, however, of the exertions of the magistrates and clergy, the custom is now entirely abolished; it was found to give encouragement to crime; and no application for such has been made to the sessions court of Ballydaniel in the last two years."—(Miller.)

When the loss of character is publicly known, women find much difficulty in obtaining respectable matches. Some few instances, however, have occurred where females, after an interval of several years, have married well; but those who marry them are for ever after looked upon as having demeaned themselves, notwithstanding which they generally make good husbands.

We remember but one case in this parish where money could have formed any inducement to such a marriage. Two of those above alluded to have gone to America, though we do not believe it was any feeling of disgrace that made them go. In the instances stated, the women married as well as they could have expected to do had there been no reproach against their character.—(Murray, Watson, M^r Avelly and M^r Namara.)—It is thought unkind to reproach a woman who had fallen from virtue. Those who were her friends and intimates still continue on good terms with her; but it is very different in case only of suspicion. The suspicion is made a bitter taunt, where the fault, though, known would pass without a word.—(Miller.)

In general it is thought to be very unfair to reproach a well-conducted man with a slur upon his birth.—(Mr. M^r Avelly.)—But whenever there is a falling out, it is sure to be brought against him.—(Flynn.)—Bastards almost always make inferior matches. A farmer would reluctantly give his daughter to a man not born in wedlock, but it would be twice as bad to have a son who should marry a woman so disgraced; for a man, no matter what he is at the beginning, can raise himself in the world by his exertions and conduct; but a woman must keep the rank of her birth.—(Miller.)

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. JAMES CALLAGHAN, catholic curate.—PATRICK CUINAN, labourer.—Mr. HUGH GRAY, farmer.—Rev. JAMES M^r HUGH, parish priest.—Rev. GEORGE THORNTON MAUSTIN, parish curate.—Mr. DENIS O'Connor, farmer.—JAMES ROBINSON, weaver.—Rev. WILLIAM TYNDAL, parish priest.

County Sligo.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.
Parish Achonry.

Bar. Tubber-curry.

THERE is only one deserted child in the parish: it is supposed to be illegitimate, and is supported by the parish. Marriages often take place through a feeling of duty on the part of the fathers of illegitimate children, strengthened by the influence of the clergy.

"Girls who have had illegitimate children seldom get married except under peculiar circumstances, especially the possession of a little money or a cow, as sometimes happens with the daughter of a small farmer. Women of her own degree will work with her after a bit, but they always look down upon her, and she is pretty sure to be reminded of what has happened if ever she ventures to quarrel with any body. Farmers would not like to give their daughter as a wife to a bastard, but they would allow it if the young man had a little money, or could get a few acres of land."—(Hugh Gray, farmer.)

W. Jones, esq. J. P. says, "The declaration of the woman must be corroborated by some acknowledgment, part payment, or promise of payment on the part of the reputed father; but we never decide these questions, leaving them always to the assistant barrister, who, on being satisfied with the evidence, generally awards 5*l.* to be paid by small instalments.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. P. COOGAN, shopkeeper.—BRIDGET CUMMAYNE, widow.—JAMES DAVY, labourer.—ROBERT KING DUKE, esq.—JOHN FINN, labourer.—Rev. JOHN GARRAT, vicar.—BARTHOLOMEW M^r KITTRICK, land agent.—MARTIN KEEN, small farmer.—Dr. LONGHEED, dispensary surgeon.—CHARLES MILMO, farmer.—B. MORRISAY, labourer.—Rev. R. O'KEAN, parish priest.—ROBERT ORR, farmer.—MICHAEL PRICE, labourer.

Parish Ballymoat.
Bar. Coran.

THE number of bastards in the parish is supposed to be six; and for the support of such children applications used to be made to the petty sessions, but of late years, from the doubts raised respecting the jurisdiction of the magistrates, they have for some time ceased to make orders, except in cases of admitted paternity; the question is now referred altogether to the assistant barrister, who decides in equity, after hearing both parties. The sum awarded against the father occasionally varies, but is usually about 5*l.*

BASTARDY.

*Connaught,
County Sligo.*

Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.

*Parish Drumcliffe.
Bar. Carbery.*

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. EDWARD ALWARD, protestant curate.—Mr. JAMES BARBER, land agent.—Dr. COULTER, dispensary surgeon.—JOHN FENNY, labourer.—MICHAEL FENNY, labourer.—WILLIAM P. FENNY, farmer.—Mr. P. M'TUCKER, farmer.—JAMES MULLEN, labourer.—Rev. MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN, P. P.—Rev. Mr. SAUNDERSON, presbyterian minister.—C. SYMPSON, farmer.

THERE are very few bastards, and these supported by the parish. The mothers seldom desert their illegitimate children, and there has not been a case of infanticide more than twice these 18 years. The fathers are often induced to marry the mothers, from the fear of the woman's friends, as well of feelings of honour.

If the woman can prove a promise and part payment, she can recover wages at the sessions as a simple debt.

The people have a great dislike to marry a woman who has had an illegitimate child, and many more of them remain unmarried through life than are married. They frequently leave the country, and are sent away by their parents, as they consider it better to send them where they are not known than give them to inferior persons at home; they sometimes get husbands through the influence of persons in a higher station. At first there is great outcry against a girl who has a bastard, but if well conducted it soon wears off, and she is treated as usual, except when quarrels arise, and then they always charge her with her shame. There is also a strong objection amongst the farmers to connect themselves with illegitimate children, and they will not give their daughters in marriage to them, without strong motives to counterbalance the disgrace.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. WILLIAM GROVE, rector, J. P.—Dr. HOMAN, dispensary surgeon.—HYLEAS, esq., J. P.—JAMES MAGEE, parish clerk and farmer.—JOHN MULLOWNEY, blacksmith.—JOHN TENPENNY, farmer.—Rev. — WHITE, parish priest, &c. &c.

*Par. Kilmacshalgan.
Bar. Tyrreera.*

THE number of bastards in this parish is very small, and cases occur not oftener than once in the year, on an average; they are never supported by the parish, and scarcely ever deserted by the mothers, and no instance of infanticide has ever been heard of.

The fathers in general give as much assistance towards their support as they can.

Persons who attended the Examinations.

Rev. M. ARMSTRONG.—Right Rev. Dr. BURKE, roman-catholic bishop of Elphin.—Rev. J. DUNLEVIE, parish priest.—R. FEENERY, labourer.—JOHN HARTE, shopkeeper.—FRANK KENNIT, labourer.—JAMES KENNY, esq., M. D. dispensary.—JOHN MARTIN, esq., M. P.—JAMES RAFFERTY, labourer.—WILLIAM STOPFORD, farmer.

*Parish Sligo.
Bar. Carbery.*

THE number of bastards in the parish is not known, but is supposed to be very small; they are never supported by the parish; are very seldom deserted by the mothers; and cases of infanticide are never heard of.

Wages are never awarded to the mother, except when she can prove a promise on the part of the father and part payment, she then recovers the support of the child as servant's wages.

Girls who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in procuring husbands; no man who knows of her "misfortune," will marry her, unless induced by a good sum of money. Individuals of the poorer classes are often induced by persons of higher station to marry those women. It is the usual way of getting rid of them: a man who so marries is considered "a mean fellow."

Those women who have had illegitimate children are looked upon by the rest of their sex in the parish with great contempt at first, but that wears off. William Stopford said, "In some time she hears no more about it, until they quarrel, and then it is time to be the first thing thrown at her." A good deal of this feeling also goes with the child; "bastard" is a term of contempt, and a small farmer would certainly have an objection to give his daughter to a bastard, though otherwise an eligible match. It frequently happens that women threaten to swear a rape against a man, to force him to marry her; it mostly ends in marriage; they are often married in the dock during the trial.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. GEORGE DAWSON, impropriate curate of Aghade, and vicar of Ballin.—Rev. Mr. KINSELA, P. P., of Ballin.—Mr. MICHAEL LENON, miller and farmer.—Mr. THOMAS TOMLINSON, farmer.

THERE are about 15 bastards in the parish, and none of them have any claim on it for support; they are greatly neglected by their fathers, who show no inclination to repair the injury they have done their mothers, by marriage, or by maintaining their offspring. There is no instance recollected of a mother destroying her illegitimate child, and desertion of them is rare.

From time immemorial it has been customary for women having bastards to apply at petty sessions for wages to be given towards their support by the fathers.

The amount given varies from 3*l.* to 4*l.*, according to the promises and means of the father. The award is never made until after the birth of the child.

The effect of this system of wages can with difficulty be ascertained, as we were unable to compare the present state of the parish with its condition and moral feeling before the introduction of the practice. However it may be, many women can be pointed out who have had numerous children by different fathers. Mr. Kinsela can particularize more than 12 women under these circumstances, all of whom have had more than one child.

A woman who has had many bastards does not on that account suffer any diminution in the amount of wages assigned to her, nor is she ever visited with any kind of punishment.

Public opinion is the only check on her unchastity; for though it occasionally happens that such women succeed in procuring husbands, the repugnance to them is very general with both sexes, and is even extended to their child, who finds the same difficulty as his mother in getting married; nevertheless a bribe will sometimes overcome this antipathy to the parent of an illegitimate child; and Mr. Kinsela quotes two cases, in one of which a cabin with a piece of ground, in the other from 15*l.* to 20*l.* was offered with such a woman, and speedily obtained her a partner. He adds, that the union turned out most unfavourably.

The only thing necessary to procure an order for wages is an avowal of the putative father, who is always summoned to attend the sessions, and a proof of some promise or contract on his part. In these preliminaries her general character is in no way brought into consideration. A second demand for the same purpose meets with no greater obstacle than the first; although it is permitted to the man to disprove her statement, her oath alone not being sufficient to preclude his defence.

Much doubt exists as to whether the law gives the magistrate any power to punish the reputed father should he be unable or unwilling to pay the wages ordered, which are generally in one sum and at once. The appeal to the law, which is made directly by the woman at petty sessions, without the intervention of the churchwarden, inasmuch as the parish has no interest whatsoever in the result, most generally exasperates and disgusts the father, and cuts off every chance of his uniting himself to the woman. In some instances men under such circumstances have left the country, and have been traced, some to England, and, according to Mr. Dawson, even to America. If the mother fail to prove her assertions the maintenance of her offspring devolves entirely upon herself; and her only remaining remedy is the bringing an action by civil bill at quarter sessions, and recovering thereby the expense she had incurred in the nursing the child.

When wages are not granted, the mother has little else left than begging; and the refusal of the father to assist her has in some instances driven her to prostitution as a mode of support for herself and child, on whom are thus entailed all the vices and immoralities of a vagrant state; and in others, has led to threats or even to personal violence to the child or its father. Amidst this state of things we cannot be surprised if privations are sometimes endured which materially injure the health of both mother and offspring.

Vice must have obtained a complete ascendancy in the mind of a woman before she can bring herself to the commission of crimes so unnatural as desertion or infanticide; and it is only just to suppose, that she who has been once guilty of either one or the other, will not only never regain her lost self-respect, but be more prone to similar actions afterwards. We could not learn that any woman here who had remained unmarried in early life had been known to get illegitimate children, in order to secure herself a maintenance in old age; and although it was said that some women had sworn a rape against the father of their child for the purpose of inducing marriage, Mr. Lenon, when questioned expressly on the point, said, "that he could not remember an example."

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Carlow.

Examinations taken by
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.
Captain White.

Parish Aghade and
Ballin.

Bar. Forth.

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Carlow.

Examinations taken by
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.
Captain White.

Parish Carlow.
Bar. Carlow.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Lieut. JAMES BATTERSBY, magistrate, chief constable of police.—Rev. Mr. BLOOD, presbyterian clergyman.—Mr. ROBERT BROWNE, secretary to the grand jury.—Mr. E. BUTLER, magistrate.—Mr. BYRNE, 11 years in the employ of Mr. Coffee, brewer.—Mr. JOHN COFFEE, malster and brewer.—THOMAS COX, esq., distiller and merchant.—Rev. MICHAEL DWYER, r. c. curate.—Mr. SAMUEL HAUGHTON, general merchant and storekeeper.—Mr. T. HAUGHTON, magistrate.—ADAM JACKSON, esq.—STANBY JOHNSON, baker.—ROBERT KENNA, labourer, in the employ of Mr. Coffee, brewer.—ROBERT LAWLOR, grocer.—JOSEPH LYNCH, working carpenter and builder.—Mr. FRANCIS MONTGOMERY, apothecary.—Right Rev. Dr. NOLAN, r. c. bishop.—Mr. MEADE NESBITT STONE, physician.—Rev. GEORGE VERNON, rector of the parish.

THERE are 50 illegitimate and foundling children in this parish, 10 of whom are supported by it. Mothers frequently desert their children.

There is a woman at present in gaol for the offence, who was offered her liberty if she would take the child, and refused. They also frequently destroy them. Lieutenant Battersby, J. P., states that he held three inquests within the last 14 months on destroyed children; two of them were discovered by dogs, who had mangled them. They are sometimes found floating in the river; one child was seen taken up in an eel net. The fathers neglect the children, and never are known to marry the mothers, through any sense of honour.

It is a common practice for women with bastards to apply for wages at the petty sessions, and has been the system for many years.

The amount awarded (never before the birth of the child) depends on the circumstances of the father, never exceeding 6*l.* late Irish currency; the average is 4*l.* Many cases have occurred of women having several illegitimate children, but seldom by different fathers. Their having more than one bastard makes no difference in the amount of wages awarded to them; nor have they ever been punished at petty sessions when making the application, there being no law for the purpose.

No instance has occurred of young men wishing to marry such women for the sake of the wages granted at petty sessions, the amount is so trifling. Girls who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in getting husbands; but a little money generally overcomes it. Sometimes persons of the poorer classes are induced by the wealthier to marry such women, by getting some pecuniary or other aid. Kenna and Byrne, labourers, know three instances in Carlow; and Mr. Haughton mentions a person giving a cottage and a small garden, with a sum of 10*l.* or 12*l.*, to induce a labourer to marry under such circumstances. A labourer, as he states, would have no objection, from his anxiety to get a "piece of ground." The feeling towards such women, by their own sex, is unfavourable; and in the case of a bastard, a farmer would have great reluctance to give his daughter to one, lest he may inherit the bad qualities of his mother.

Before the reputed father is compelled to pay wages to the mother, proof of contract is required as evidence, or promise of wages, supported by evidence or the confession of the father; nor does the woman's oath preclude proof to the contrary on the man's part; and before a decree is issued against the father, it must be proved that he was summoned duly. The general character of the woman does not interfere with her application, where facts are proved. An order of payment within 10 days is issued.

In default of the reputed father paying the sum awarded (the whole of which must be paid in 10 days), he is imprisoned for three months; but if it proceeds from inability, the sentence is mitigated to a fortnight or three weeks. Application is never made to the churchwarden by the mother; always to the magistrate. The sentence has not, in any instance, caused the father to abscond; but in no case would the parish take charge of the child. From the decisions made at petty sessions on these points, appeals have been frequently made to the quarter sessions.

Very often women who have bastards are driven to begging, and usually go out of their parishes to beg; in this way they become inured to all the vices and miseries of a vagrant life; in very many instances prostitution is the result; and it was considered that almost all prostitution may be traced to that cause. An instance was told of a girl being driven from her father's house, and having no other means of support, while the children are almost invariably brought up in vice. Three instances in this town where the children were reared without education or religion. Besides, it is often the source of ill-feeling and of violence when the father refuses to support the child.

"I," (says Mr. Haughton) "as a magistrate, have had frequently to commit women to gaol for outrages on the person and property of the father."

The difficulty of supporting the child has not been often the cause of injuring the mother's health; but decidedly it destroys the children; the majority of them die in childhood. Mr. Vernon states an instance of a young prostitute, 20 years of age, who has a child about every year; they always die before they are six or seven months old.

The woman's mind, before she can desert her child, has become degraded, and she herself more hardened. Mr. Vernon mentions a woman who was committed for trial on two different occasions for infanticide.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. ARTHUR HANS ATKINSON, protestant curate.—PHILIP BAGNALL, esq., J. P. Dunleckney.—Hon. and Rev. DEAN BERNARD, rector of Wells, West Idrone.—Mr. PATRICK BOULGER, farmer, Kilcarrick.—ROBERT BUNBURY, shoemaker.—Mr. WILLIAM CORRIGAN, postmaster.—JAMES DAVIS, millwright and carpenter.—Mr. DOWLING, brewer and grocer.—JOHN HANAHAN, labourer.—Lieut. HUGH HAWKSHAW, chief constable of police.—Rev. Mr. KEHOE, parish priest, Leighlin, barony of West Idrone.—Mr. RICHARD KEHOE, merchant.—Mr. JOHN LITTLE, draper.—THOMAS LITTON, esq., Bagnalstown.—Rev. Mr. M'MAHON, catholic curate of Wells, West Idrone.—JOHN MAGEE, brewer and farmer, Leighlin, barony of West Idrone.—Mr. PATRICK MORAN, grocer and merchant, Leighlin.—WILLIAM O'NEILL, esq.—Mr. TERENCE O'NEILL, innkeeper and farmer, Leighlin.—Rev. Mr. ANDREW PHELAN, roman-catholic coadjutor.—Colonel ROCHFORD, magistrate, Clagrenan.—Rev. SAMUEL ROBERTS, parish priest, Leighlin.—SINGLETON, esq., farmer and merchant.—Mr. PATRICK TIERNEY, grocer and farmer.—Mr. HENRY WATSON, general merchant, Leighlin.

BASTARDY.

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Captain White.

Par. of Dunleckney
and Wells.

Bar. of East and
West Idrone.

THE Rev. Mr. Atkinson says, "there are three bastards;" and the Rev. Mr. Phelan states, "that among the catholics there are six annually in the parish of Dunleckney;" and in the parish of Wells, Rev. Mr. Kehoe states, "that there are 20 annually, and the mothers are frequently known to desert their illegitimate children."

Very few instances are known of men marrying the mothers of their illegitimate child en through a sense of honour; but the Rev. Mr. Kehoe mentions one instance of a man who married previous to the birth of the child.

Mr. Litton states an instance within the last six months, where the mother brought the child and left it at the house of the father.

The Rev. Mr. Kehoe also knows two instances within the last 12 months; and the Rev. Mr. Phelan mentions, that he has known three instances of infanticide within the last two years.

The Rev. Mr. Kehoe states an instance within the last 12 months, where a girl of 18 years of age delivered herself of a child in a field, and in 24 hours after, it was discovered with a fracture in its skull; the murder could not be brought home to the mother, who absconded immediately and has not since been heard of.

Colonel Rochfort says, "that the mothers of illegitimate children are in the habit of applying at the petty sessions for wages, and that the amount granted to them by the sessions is generally from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a year, but varies according to circumstances and the means of the father."

Mr. Litton states an instance of a woman who died about two years since of cholera that had four or five illegitimate children by three different fathers, two of whom are now begging.

Mr. Atkinson knows an instance of a woman who had three children by three different fathers.

"The wages granted at the sessions are too small to be an inducement to marry the mothers of illegitimate children; but even if larger, the men would be ashamed."—(Mr. Litton.)

Colonel Rochfort says, "that there is very little difference in the conduct of her neighbours towards a girl who has had an illegitimate child under a promise of marriage, always supposing her to have been deceived; there is a feeling however against the bastard."

Mr. Magee knows an instance of a father who refused his daughter to a man thus circumstanced, who otherwise would be an eligible match.

Mr. Atkinson knows a case where the friends of a young man were opposed to a match because the girl was a bastard, although he ultimately married her.

Colonel Rochfort says, "Before granting wages at sessions to mothers of illegitimate children, either a proof of contract, or a promise or confession on the part of the putative father is required, and the oath of the woman does not preclude the offering of proof to the contrary on the part of the man. The reputed father must be summoned, and service of summons must be proved before an order is pronounced. The general character of the mother is taken into consideration, although a second application would be equally successful, the wages being granted to her not as the mother, but as the nurse of the child; but after one or two delinquencies, if the magistrates can obtain a strange nurse, they will give her the preference."

They consider they have the power to grant a warrant either against the man's goods or person; but in the event of his inability to pay, there is a doubt of their being authorized to imprison or punish him; the amount of wages is usually awarded in one sum, but accommodation is given to the parties to pay by weekly instalments or otherwise, according to the means of the father. The granting of wages does not, but the intervention of the priest often does, induce the reputed father to marry the mother of his illegitimate child.

Mr. Hawkshaw says, he is aware of several instances where such influence was exercised. Mr. Magee knows an instance of an action having been brought by civil bill at the court of quarter sessions for nursing, by the mother of an illegitimate child, against the reputed father, and a distress levied against his goods for the amount granted.

When expelled by their families and the seducers do not marry them, those women who have had illegitimate children are obliged to beg for their subsistence, and are sure to go

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West Idroone.

away into strange parishes. Mr. Singleton knows an instance which occurred this day of a young woman and her parents threatening a man with violence if he did not marry her, and he has promised to do so.

The Rev. Mr. Kehoe says, "It is usual with women not only to threaten but actually to swear a rape against the reputed father, in order to induce him to marry, and that on an average they succeed in their object in half the number of cases."

Mr. Hawkshaw states two instances as coming under his own knowledge within the last nine months. In the one, the boy married the woman, but within four months subsequently deserted her. In the other, the man is in prison under the charge; but from circumstances which have transpired, very little doubt is entertained, but that the grand jury will ignore the bill.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. JAMES BYRNE, farmer.—Mr. PATRICK BYRNE, farmer.—ROBERT DOYNE, esq., J. P.—Mr. JOHN FINN, farmer.—Mr. GALAVIN, farmer.—Lieutenant HUGH HAWSHAW, catholic curate.—Rev. Mr. KAVENAGH, parish priest of St. Mullins.—Mr. THOMAS MURPHY, farmer.—Rev. JAMES SAUNDERS, vicar of Claragoose.—Rev. Mr. WALSH, parish priest of Borris.—Mr. GEORGE WHITNEY, brewer and farmer.—JOHN WILCOCKS, esq., surgeon.

THE parish never provides for the maintenance of illegitimate children, of which the number at present is about six. None of the witnesses can recollect an instance where a woman has deserted her bastard, although she generally experiences much difficulty in procuring any assistance from the father, and is often obliged, according to Mr. Kavenagh, to have recourse to the extreme step of leaving the child in the father's house, when he either allows her a sum of money, or procures a nurse to take her place. It is seldom that a man thinks himself bound to repair the injury which he has done to the woman whom he has seduced, by offering her marriage at a subsequent period. The Rev. Mr. Kavenagh states, that his persuasions have not succeeded in bringing about such a reparation in more than two or three instances.

Many women, after having vainly endeavoured to obtain assistance from the fathers of their illegitimate children, make application at the petty sessions to be allowed wages, as nurses, and it has been the practice from time immemorial to award them sums, varying in some degree, according to the circumstances of the man, but in general averaging about 4*l.* per annum. "This was the sum," says Mr. Doyne, "which was given in a case that was brought before the bench about six weeks ago." Under this system some women have had several bastards in succession, and one woman is mentioned who has borne four to the same father. The magistrates have not the power of inflicting any punishment on a woman who makes an application of the nature described, and although she should have repeatedly become a mother, they are not authorized, on that account, to make any difference in the amount adjudged to her. It has never been observed, that the money granted as wages has induced a young man to propose marriage to a girl in the receipt of it. The Rev. Mr. Saunders, however, observes, that he recollects a case where an elderly man showed much inclination to unite himself to a woman under such circumstances, and was with difficulty dissuaded by the priest from doing so. He justified his intention by saying, that as it was he had nobody to wash his linen. In general, girls who have had illegitimate children are slow in getting married, and there is hardly an instance where even the promise of money from an individual of a higher class has succeeded in getting them a husband. Mr. Doyne is only able to mention one case where such an inducement was laid hold of: A gentleman, who had had a child by a young woman, gave her 20*l.* to procure herself a husband; a tradesman proposed and promised marriage, but after getting loans from time to time, until her fortune was exhausted, he refused to fulfil his engagement, and on her remonstrating with him he beat her most violently. He was subsequently committed, and fined for the assault. The prevalent feeling towards a woman who has misconducted herself, is one of pity and commiseration; her indiscretion is visited rather more severely upon her offspring, and there are few farmers that would not be unwilling to give their daughter to a man that had not been born in wedlock. A woman who seeks an award of wages applies directly to the petty sessions, without having recourse to the churchwarden; she is required, besides her own oath, to produce some corroborative proof of a promise having been made to her by the man to whom she imputes her child, to allow her something to meet the expenses to be incurred by her in nursing it. At the same time, the man is allowed to disprove her assertions by any evidence in his power, and he is always summoned to meet her when the case is to be heard. As general character is, in some measure, taken into consideration in these cases, a second application by the same woman is by no means as likely to meet with success as the first. If a man be unable to pay the sum decreed by the bench, the magistrates cannot proceed against his person; but if he have any property, they can issue an order of distraint against his goods. The sum is generally ordered to be paid before the next court-day, under the penalty mentioned. The payment of it has never been found so onerous as to force the father to compromise it by marriage; and only one instance is known where a man has absconded, in order to elude it.

It is not the custom here for women to bring actions at the quarter sessions for the recovery of expenses incurred in nursing illegitimate children.

In the instances where wages have not been granted in this barony, the mother has continued

tinued to support her child without being driven either to begging or prostitution, but not without the occasional exhibition of much resentment against her seducer. "One girl," says Mr. Hawkshaw, "who had had two children by the same man, threatened to burn his cabin and premises. The man indicted her, but he failed in procuring a true bill from the grand jury."

Persons who attended the Examination.

Captain CARTER.—Reverend G. DAWSON, late curate of Tullow.—ROBERT DOYNE, esq. J. P.—Mr. DWYER, farmer.—Major EUSTACE, J. P.—Mr. THOMAS GERMAINE, draper and farmer.—Reverend BERESFORD JOHNSTON, rector.—JAMES KEELEY, mason.—PATRICK M'ANABY, labourer.—LAWRENCE MURPHY, carpenter.—Mr. LAWRENCE MURPHY, innkeeper and farmer.—JAMES NEIL, labourer.—Reverend THOMAS NOLAN, P. P., administrator.—Mr. JOHN NOLAN, farmer.—JOHN PAYNE, esq. M. D.—Mr. MICHAEL ROACHE.—Mr. JOHN WHALEY, grocer.—Captain WHELAN, J. P.

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Captain White.

Parish Tullow.
Bar. Rathvilly.

THE number of bastards in the parish is about seven or eight annually; but at present it does not support any. Mothers do not frequently desert their illegitimate children, though Dr. Payne knew one case in the last year and a half, and Mr. Nolan four within the last four years. They do not generally destroy their children; but Mr. Nolan knew three cases in which they did through fear of exposure of character during the last three years; one was strangled and another smothered. A feeling of honour does not induce subsequent marriage. Mr. Nolan has three cases at this moment who refuse marriage; one of them, notwithstanding promises and the consent of parents, and even the banns being published.

The system of women applying with bastards for wages at petty sessions is common; the amount usually granted in such cases is about 3*l.* per annum; the time such a system has been in operation is beyond recollection. Wages are never awarded before the birth of the child; the amount given is not always the same; it generally varies according to the contract or promise of the reputed father. Since the system of allowing wages, many cases have occurred of women having several illegitimate children, and by different fathers. Mr. Germain knew one woman who had five children by five different fathers; Dr. Payne knew a case of seven children by seven different fathers; Captain Carter, of four children by four different fathers; and the Rev. Mr. Nolan knew 10 women having three or four children each, and each child by different fathers. No punishment is inflicted on the applicant for wages, nor is any difference in the amount awarded made on the ground of applicant having had more than one illegitimate child. None of the young men have evinced any anxiety to marry such women for the sake of benefiting by the wages; on the contrary, such girls find great difficulty in procuring husbands. Individuals of the poorer class are frequently influenced by persons of higher station to contract marriages with such characters, who are despised by every one. Mr. John Nolan knew a case where the labourer who married had 60*l.* per annum settled on the woman; she is since dead, and her husband at present is a mendicant. Mr. Germain knew two or three cases. Dr. Payne stated a case where a farm was given to each of two brothers; the one married the mother, and the other her illegitimate child. All present allowed the system to be prevalent. A small farmer would not give his daughter to a bastard unless tempted by some considerable advantages. Mr. Germain knew at present an instance of a father refusing his daughter under such circumstances. The evidence required by the sessions is a proof of some promise or contract by the fathers; the oath of the woman does not preclude any oath to the contrary offered by the man. The reputed father is always summoned to attend the sessions, and the general character of the woman is not regarded: a second application of the woman is successful. The powers of the magistrate to punish the father in case of refusal to pay such wages are doubtful; the amount given or awarded is usually paid in quarterly instalments. The fathers occasionally abscond when the wages are ordered; in such case the support falls upon the mother, not the parish. Dr. Payne stated a case within his own knowledge in which a child was deserted by its mother and discovered at the door of a cabin; it was supported by voluntary contributions for 10 days, when it died. Women have brought actions by civil bill at the quarter sessions for nursing, and recovered.

Women with bastard children are generally compelled to resort to begging, and then quit their own parish, which inures the children to all the immoralities of a vagrant life. The difficulty of supporting herself and children frequently drives a woman to prostitution, in which case the children are necessarily brought up and continue in vice; the refusal of the reputed father to maintain the child frequently leads to ill-will between the parties. Captain Carter stated an instance of the burning of a house and haggard, Mr. Germain of windows being broken, and Dr. Payne mentioned a dwelling-house being set on fire. The difficulty of supporting the child frequently injures the mother's health, and from the scanty provision the child often suffers.

The state of mind into which a mother is brought before she destroys or deserts her child must be highly immoral, and even afterwards it causes her to be less careful of human life. Rev. Mr. Nolan stated a case where a woman co-operated with her daughter to destroy an illegitimate offspring of the latter; and Mr. John Nolan added, that was the second child to which the woman had given birth.

A woman under such circumstances, of course, loses all self-respect, and the habit of conducting

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ducting herself correctly in her relations in life. Women often have illegitimate children at or after 40 years of age; and James Neil has heard beggars declare that when they could not get married, they had such children for the purpose of supporting them in age. Marriage is frequently induced from the women threatening to swear a rape against the father. James Neil remembered ten cases within the last five or six years; one man, he said, did marry under such a threat, but soon afterwards deserted his wife; and he saw a young man who preferred going to Carlow gaol, rather than marry, under the threat.

Rev. B. Johnston thought it was as common for a woman to act so, as for the sun to shine, and recollected many instances where marriage had, in consequence, actually taken place.

Persons who attended the Examination.

County Kildare.
Par. Cadamstown
Union.
Bar. Carbery.

JAMES BAYNE, publican and farmer.—Very Rev. Mr. FLANAGAN.—EDWARD MARKS, labourer.—PATRICK MULVANY, tillage farmer.—J. H. NANGLE, esq. J. P., resident country gentleman.—Rev. EUGENE O'REILY, catholic curate.—Rev. Mr. PALMER, protestant rector.

THE Rev. Mr. Flanagan states, that in the six parishes under his care, with a population of 5,000, there is not on an average more than one bastard born every year. If the parents are known, the parish does not support them. The mothers sometimes desert, but in rare instances destroy the children. The fathers often neglect the children; a feeling of honour has frequently induced them to marry the mother.

The system of applying for wages at petty sessions has commenced lately.

Wages are not given before the birth of the child, except where the promise of a definite sum has been proved. Mr. Nangle says, when a child has been sworn to a man, he generally consents to pay something to its support, which is regulated by the magistrate, according to the means of the father of the child. There are some few instances in which the father refuses to give anything: the magistrates have no power to enforce it. The amount of wages varies according to the means of the father; the maximum 3*l.* per year, the minimum 1*l.* 4*s.*

A young man of the lowest class would feel degraded by marrying a woman who had had an illegitimate child by another. James Marks says, "No Irishman would demean himself by such an act." Girls who have had bastards seldom can get any one to marry them except those men by whom they were seduced; they are looked on as degraded persons, and scarcely associated with. James Marks says, they "are generally looked down on." Bastards are looked on in the same view; a small farmer would refuse a match with a bastard.

The woman's oath is generally attended to; the man usually admits the paternity, on the oath of the mother.

Mr. Nangle, J. P. says the magistrates have no power to punish the reputed father, if he should think proper to refuse wages. The payment is usually made weekly or quarterly; if neglected, the magistrates usually enforce it to the amount of his promise. There are few instances of application to the magistrates to enforce payment. After doing so, marriage seldom takes place. No application is ever made to the churchwardens. The mother invariably supports the child whether she receives assistance or not. Actions for nursing have been brought against the father at the quarter sessions, as well as applications at petty sessions; when the father has engaged a woman to nurse his child, so much as 6*l.* have been recovered at petty sessions.

Women are obliged to beg if wages are not granted, and they always beg at a distance from home; they may return when they think their misconduct forgotten.

The children generally become vagrants, and their mothers are sometimes driven to prostitution.

The refusal of the father to support the child often leads to great disputes, and sometimes to serious outrages.

The necessity of begging often injures the health both of the mother and the child.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Par. Castledermot
Union.
Bar. Kilkea and
Moone.

ROBERT ARCHBOLD, esq. magistrate.—BRYAN BOULGER, labourer.—Mr. JOHN CORCORAN, farmer.—THOMAS DORAN, labourer.—Rev. LAURENCE DUNNE, parish priest of Castledermot and Timolin.—Mr. JOHN DUNNE, farmer.—Rev. R. L. Fitzgibbon, parish curate of Castledermot.—Rev. ARCHBOLD HAMILTON, vicar of Castledermot.—JOHN HUTCHINSON, farmer.—Mr. SYLVESTER KELLY, farmer.—MICHAEL KEOGH, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS MAC DONALD, farmer.—Mr. JAMES MAC DONALD, farmer.—Mr. PATRICK MAGRATH, farmer.—Mr. DANIEL M'LOUGHLIN, farmer.—Rev. EDWARD MURPHY, catholic curate.—Mr. JOHN MURPHY, farmer.—JOHN MURPHY, farmer.—CHARLES NEAL, farmer.—GEORGE PAYNE, esq.—JAMES PAYNE.—Mr. EDWARD SCULLY (who took the census of this parish).—MICHAEL STYLES, farmer.

THE parish never provides, directly or indirectly, for the support of illegitimate children. Child desertion is of rare occurrence; but Mr. Archbold mentions a case of it which came under his notice about a year ago; the mother left the child at the house of its reputed father,

father, but when she was brought before the magistrates she consented to take it back, and she has since deserted it. Still more rare is infanticide; but the suspicions of the neighbourhood have been awakened as to that crime, twice within the last three or four years, by the discovery of the remains of two children at different periods. The fathers of illegitimate children generally neglect them, and it very seldom occurs that a feeling of honour induces them to marry the mother.

The system of applying for wages at the petty sessions, in the case of women who have bastards, is not very common. Mr. Archbold remarks, that sometimes six months intervene between applications of the kind.

Wages are never given before the birth of the child, the amount granted, varying according to the condition of the reputed father, and many other circumstances, depends chiefly on the agreement entered into by the man. "I consider," says Mr. Archbold, "that the magistrate has no power to grant wages, it must be the father who does so, and in the event of his not fulfilling his promise, the bench then enforces the contract he has made."

In the greater proportion of cases where wages have been demanded, the applicant has had a plurality of children, and often by different fathers.—(Rev. Mr. *Hamilton*.)—"I know this instant," observes Mr. Archbold, "four instances where women have had three children each by different men;" and Mr. Fitzgibbon mentions a case perfectly similar.

The magistrates have not the power to inflict any punishment on women who seek for an award of wages, not even when they have had several bastards; nor would this latter circumstance warrant them in making any difference in the sum to be adjudged.

No instance is known where a young man has been tempted to marry a girl who has had an illegitimate child, for the purpose of benefiting by the wages allowed by the sessions, and in general such girls experience great difficulty in procuring themselves husbands; the witnesses cannot mention a case where an individual of the poorer class has been influenced by persons of a higher grade to unite himself to the mother of a bastard. "These women are looked upon by the generality, at least of their own sex, with feelings of pity and contempt; and a respectable small farmer would object to give his daughter to her offspring, unless some great and peculiar advantages were to be gained."

When a woman seeks for an award of wages for the nursing an illegitimate child, it is required that she shall prove either that the father has promised to allow her a certain sum for that purpose, or else that he has actually paid her something on account; her assertion, however, on oath is not sufficient to determine the sentence of the bench; he is permitted to produce evidence in disproof, and he is always summoned to attend at the sessions for the purpose; the general character is not at all taken into consideration, and a second application on her part meets with the same success as the first, if she can make good her statements.

If the reputed father be unwilling to pay the wages ordered by the magistrates, there is no mode of compelling him other than by issuing a warrant of distraint against his goods, in other cases of refusal to pay wages; according to the capability of the father, the order of the bench distinguishes that payment shall be made either in one sum or in several weekly instalments, and it has never been found that the pressure thus occasioned has compelled the man to compromise the matter by marriage; but there are many instances where it has been evaded by the absconding of the defendant. Mr. Archbold says, "that in his own immediate recollection six cases have occurred where the fathers have absconded; and it is his opinion that the greater number of persons so circumstanced adopt the same course." Mr. Archbold and the other witnesses have never heard of a woman bringing an action at quarter sessions for the recovery of wages due on account of nursing an illegitimate child.

When wages are not granted, women that have bastards are in many instances compelled to have recourse to begging, in the absence of any other means of subsistence for themselves and offspring. When driven to such extremities, they generally quit their own parishes, and wander about distant parts of the country, and in this manner their children that accompany them become inured to all the immoralities that arise from such a mode of life. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the difficulties which many women experience in maintaining their illegitimate offspring, no instance has occurred in these parishes where any of them have become prostitutes in consequence; at the same time the refusal of the father to assist them always leads to ill-will, and often to outrage; women are continually brought before the magistrates charged with assaulting, breaking the windows, &c. of men from whom they have been unable to obtain any aid. In other cases, though the effects of penury are not to be traced in the mother, they soon render themselves abundantly evident in the child, whose health suffers materially from the want of sufficient clothing and nourishment. In answer to the question whether it was usual for women to threaten an accusation of rape against the men whom they wished to obtain for husbands, Mr. Archbold replied that it was "very common;" he knew a woman who had sworn to five such charges; and no later than three months ago, a woman who was making application for wages, observed, "Please your honour, I intended to have made a hanging business of it." The man who is accused was subsequently advised by his landlord to marry her.

The witnesses consider that the state of mind at which a woman must arrive before she can bring herself to desert her child, must be of the most immoral and debasing nature: from her who is hardened enough to commit such an act, very little regard for human life is to be expected on other occasions, and there can be little doubt that she would become a bad member of society in every particular.

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Leinster,
County Kildare.

Examinations taken by
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.
Captain White.

Par. Castledermot
Union.

Bar. Kilkea and
Moone.

BASTARDY.

Lcinster,
County Kildare.

Examinations taken by
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.
Captain White.

Parish *Kilcock*
Union.

Bar. *Ikeathy* and
Oughterany.

Persons who attended the Examination.

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS, labourer.—Capt. BRENNAN, chief constable of police.—THOMAS BRENNAN, labourer.—Mr. JAMES BYRNE, miller.—Rev. Mr. CAULFIELD, protestant rector.—JOHN CLARK, labourer.—Mr. MARTIN CONNETON, farmer.—PETER CORRIGAN, labourer.—Mr. PATRICK COSGRAVE, shopkeeper and farmer.—MICHAEL COSTELLO, labourer.—Mr. PATRICK CULLEN, farmer.—THOMAS McDERMOTT, labourer.—MICHAEL FEAGAN, labourer.—Mr. JOHN GILLIGAN, farmer.—Mr. EDWARD GOODWIN, postmaster.—JOHN GORMON, labourer.—Mr. JOHN HACKETT, shopkeeper.—Mr. PATRICK HALIGAN, shopkeeper.—Rev. FRANCIS HELY, parish priest.—EDWARD HOLSON, labourer.—Mr. AMBROSE HUGHES, shopkeeper.—PATRICK IRVING, labourer.—Mr. DANIEL KEARNEY, shopkeeper.—THOMAS KEARNEY, esq., J. P.—Mr. PATRICK LUBE, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES MAGRATH, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES MANGAN, shopkeeper.—Mr. THOMAS MURRAY, farmer.—MICHAEL NEVIN, labourer.—Mr. JAMES O'SHAUGHNESSY, innkeeper.—Mr. JOHN POWER, farmer.—JOHN RATIGAN, labourer.—Mr. MICHAEL REILLY, shopkeeper.—Mr. JAMES REILLY, schoolmaster of National School.—Mr. THOMAS ROBINSON, shopkeeper.—PATRICK SMITH, labourer.—Mr. RICHARD WADE, farmer.—Mr. JOSEPH WALKER, farmer.

THE number of bastards in the parish is about three annually, none of whom are supported by it. Mothers do not often desert their children, and very seldom destroy them; but Mr. Kearny recollects within the last 18 months a case of infanticide. The fathers of illegitimate children mostly neglect them, and neither love nor honour induces them to marry the mother.

It is the custom to apply to the magistrates to get something from the reputed father, and 3*l.* per annum is usually granted. But as the mothers are not in general willing to give up the child, a bargain is struck between the reputed father and mother for a certain sum, perhaps 2*l.* or 3*l.* at once, giving up all further claims. Wages are never awarded before the birth of the child, nor is the same sum always given, it depends upon the power and inclination of the reputed father to pay, but chiefly on his inclination.

Mr. Kearny states, "I recollect one woman having two children by different men, and another very profligate woman with four children by the same man." There is no punishment for such women. "If they have a dozen," says Mr. Kearny, "we can only tell them they are great fools for their pains."

There is no difference made in the sum awarded to the woman, whether she applies for a first child or for a subsequent one, she always gets whatever can be got, but this sum is too trifling to induce any man to marry her. There are some instances where persons of the lower classes have been induced by persons of the higher orders to marry girls who had illegitimate children. Mr. Hughes says, "I know an instance at this moment of a man marrying a woman for the sake of a cottage and four acres of land that are settled on her;" but in general such women find great difficulty in getting husbands. Yet they are looked upon with pity by their own sex, supposing them to have been seduced under promises. There is an impression also against marrying bastards, but if otherwise eligible, birth would not be considered. The evidence required at petty sessions is the woman's oath, with some corroboration or admission of the father. But Mr. Kearny states, "the woman usually applies a month or six weeks before confinement, and makes oath as to the father; and on her delivery she applies for a summons, whereon the man is ordered to attend, and the best arrangement the magistrates can make is entered into." The oath of the woman, however, does not preclude any contradictory testimony on the part of the man. As to the powers of the magistrates to enforce the payment of sums awarded, Mr. Kearny considers them doubtful; and Captain Brennan says, "If the father has ever been known to pay any portion on account, then he considers the whole agreement can be enforced."

The amount given is sometimes in one sum, but more frequently by instalments every quarter or half year, although a bargain is made for a specific sum in lieu of all demands. The acknowledgment of the reputed father is not required to enforce wages, if other satisfactory proof were given. The woman makes her application direct to the bench, and not through the churchwarden. In this parish there has been no instance of the father absconding on account of the sum awarded.

Women with bastards, when wages are not granted, very often beg, and generally leave the neighbourhood; for, as Mr. Kearny observes, "the father, mother and family often turn them out;" but the natural consequence is prostitution, particularly if they be well looking; and Mr. Kelly states, "I knew the daughter of a publican who, after having a child, went to Dublin, and became a common prostitute; another instance also, a farmer's daughter, who also turned on the town." The refusal of the man to support the child often is the source of great contention. Mr. Reilly says, "I know a young man who is constantly annoyed by a woman breaking his windows and committing other outrages." The health of both mother and child suffers from want in many cases. Mr. Kearny says, "they generally look pale and sickly."

The woman that would desert her child must have been degraded to the most immoral condition. It has never been assigned as a reason for women having illegitimate children, that they look to these children as a means of support in their old age; yet Mr. Reilly states "that there are three instances in his neighbourhood of bastards supporting their mothers." "I believe," says Mr. Healy, "it is a very frequent occurrence for a woman to swear a rape against a man to induce marriage, and I remember two or three instances of such

such threats, but in none of these cases did it succeed; but I know two cases where it did succeed, and both men immediately after marriage absconded and emigrated to America." Mr. Kearny states, "A woman, about last March, swore a rape before me against a man; he was arrested and sent to gaol; but she quitted the country, and did not prosecute; for anything that appeared before the bench, it was supposed her inducement was money."

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Kildare.

Examinations taken by
T. Nug. Vaughan, Esq.
Captain White.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Mr. BOURNE, protestant rector.—Rev. Mr. BRENNAN, parish priest.—MICHAEL BYRNE, labourer.—Mr. JAMES DIXON, farmer.—Dr. WILLIAM GODFREY DYAS.—PETER ENNIS, farmer.—Mr. JOHN FAGAN, huckster.—Mr. JOHN FARRELL, baker and farmer.—ROBERT FITZGERALD, esq. J. P.—Rev. PATRICK FITZPATRICK, roman-catholic curate.—Dr. JAMES FITZSIMONS, M. D.—WILLIAM FLOOD, farmer.—Mr. WILLIAM GARDENER, huckster.—WILLIAM GORE, labourer and small farmer.—PATRICK GORMAN, mason.—Right Hon. Lord HERBERTON.—Mr. JAMES HYNES, farmer.—OWEN KAVANAGH, labourer.—WILLIAM KAVANAGH, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS KELLY, large farmer.—JOSEPH LEE, blacksmith and publican.—PAT LEE, farmer.—Mr. JAMES M'KENNA, parochial schoolmaster.—Mr. PAT MALONE, butcher.—Mr. MICHAEL MYLOD, farmer and innkeeper.—GEORGE PIM, esq., J. P.—JOHN PIM, esq., J. P.—EDWARD J. TOWNSEND, chief constable of police.

Parish Rathangan.
Bar, Ophaly, West.

THE number of bastards in the parish is about six, and they are not supported by it. The mothers sometimes desert them. Lord Herberton recollects three instances in the last 12 years; but the impression on his mind is that there were more. The fathers almost invariably neglect them. "I have had many women coming to me on that account."—(Lord Herberton.)—Honour does not induce the father to marry the mother of the child; and Dr. Dyas states, "Women have often applied to me to procure abortion; I know four or five instances this moment in the parish."

Women who have had bastards apply to the petty sessions for wages; but having been told that there is no remedy without proof of previous agreement, they have applied but seldom lately.

Wages are never awarded before the birth of the child; but Lord Herberton and Mr. Fitzgerald state that an affidavit is often administered, at the desire of the father, to satisfy him that the child is his, and that the woman has not been inconstant. The sum usually granted as wages amounts to about from 30s. to 3*l.* per annum; and it is only granted as an acknowledged debt for services performed in nursing; the power of the magistrates does not go beyond.—(Lord Herberton, Mr. Pim and Mr. Fitzgerald.)

The system of allowing wages to women who have had illegitimate children has not been known to induce women to habits of vice; but the Rev. Mr. Bourne observes, "Although the system of allowing wages may not have been the cause, I know a woman in this parish who has had three or four illegitimate children."

The wages granted at sessions have not induced any persons to marry such women. There is a strong feeling against such marriages, such women being held in contempt, even by their own sex.

The evidence required to obtain wages is of the same sort as would be required of farm work done.—(Lord H. and all witnesses.)

If the father should refuse to pay, the magistrates possess the same power as in other cases of distraining goods, although, in default of his possessing any, they do not consider they have the power of imprisoning. This mode of punishing of the father has not been known to have induced any to marry the mother; but it frequently happens that the father makes his election of taking the child, rather than pay wages for nursing. Mr. Pim says, "I have had two cases before me where the fathers absconded and went to America."

There are numerous instances of those women being driven to begging; but the children often take a dislike to the parent, and turn to labour. It is often the custom with women to swear rapes against men, in order to induce them to marry; and the magistrates present stated their knowledge of several such instances, in some of which the men were induced to marry, and in others they entered into some compromise.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. Mr. O'BEIRNE, P. P.—LAUGHLIN M'CAN, clerk of petty sessions.—Rev. Dr. CRAWFORD, rector and J. P.—Mr. FARRELL, considerable farmer.—Mr. GREGG, considerable farmer.—JOHN HIGGINS, labourer.—JOHN KEEFE, labourer.

County Longford.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

THERE were last year six bastards born in the parish, but the average does not exceed three; the mothers are of the poorer, the fathers of the wealthier classes. They are not supported by the parish. All deserted children are believed to be illegitimate. No instance of infanticide was known. One woman was lately charged with it and acquitted. A feeling of honour frequently induces marriages before the birth of the child.

The petty sessions are held here for a district including the parishes of Killoe and Clonguish, with part of Temple Michael and Ballymacormick. The magistrates do not adjudge wages to the mother of a bastard, unless where a specific agreement has been proved by a

Parish Cloonguish,
including town of
Newtownforbes.
Bar. Longford.

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Longford.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Parish *Cloonguish*,
including town of
Newtownforbes.

Bar. *Longford*.

third person. The amount has generally been 10 s. a quarter. The number of applicants last year was four, in former years six or eight; the decrease being merely accidental.

There has been only one case of a woman who had four illegitimate children by different fathers.

No punishment is ever inflicted on the applicant for wages. She always obtains the amount specified in the agreement proved.

No young men have been influenced by the wages granted to marry the mother of an illegitimate child. The person marrying her is looked on as devoid of all feeling. Some few, however, are influenced by persons of a higher rank to do so, but always by a great temptation. Next to "guager's spy," bastard is the strongest term of reproach. There is a decided objection to marrying one.

The proceeding to obtain wages is the same as for any ordinary small debt.

Mr. O'B—— had seen beggar women with illegitimate children, but did not know whether they were born before or since she had been reduced to mendicancy.

Such persons would beg in a strange place. He had known such persons also become prostitutes, but could not say whether necessity or inclination drove them to it. Dr. C—— had heard women declare that such necessity drove them to prostitution, and was sure that if any other provision were made for them many would abandon it. The child often suffers from scarcity of the provision which the mother can afford it.

Dr. C—— had been 30 years in the parish, and never knew of a case of infanticide.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Town of *Granard*.
Bar. *Granard*.

Mr. PETER CORCORAN, grocer and general retailer.— — KIRWAN, esq. M. D.—PATRICK MAGUIRE, day labourer.— — MONTGOMERY, churchwarden.—THOMAS MOXHAM, farmer, and proprietor of cabins in the town, occupied by labourers.—Mr. JOHN MURTAGH, cloth-merchant.—Rev. Mr. ROBINSON, rector, and J. P.—Rev. Mr. SHERIDAN, J. P.— — THOMPSON, esq., J. P.

THERE are about three or four bastards born each year in the town; they are never supported by the parish. All deserted children are supposed to be illegitimate. Neither Mr. R——, during 20 years residence, nor any of the witnesses, knew of a case of infanticide. The fathers of illegitimate children are seldom disposed to grant sufficient support, unless compelled by law. Rev. Mr. S—— knew many instances of marriage previous to the birth of the child; few after. The fathers are after compelled to marriage, by the threat of a prosecution for rape.

There are three or four cases of applicants for wages at the petty sessions for the barony of Granard. Wages are not adjudged unless the mother can prove by a third person a specific agreement for the sum sought, upon which a decree is made.

The general rate is 4*l.* per annum until the child is about two years old. The sum is not varied according to the circumstances of the father. This practice has been always usual here.

The proportion of illegitimate children has not been increased by the custom of granting wages; nor has any instance occurred of a woman having several such, though there is no power to inflict punishment upon her.

None of the witnesses had ever known the mother of an illegitimate child married on account of the wages. They scarcely ever get a husband where they are known, and generally leave the district; if their friends can afford it, they are glad to give them money and get rid of the shame they bring on them. Rev. Mr. S—— had known them obtain husbands after several years of a moral and industrious life, but never otherwise, except persons as profligate as themselves. Few are influenced by the higher classes to marry such women. There was no instance in this town; and it must be very unfrequent anywhere, as the man who does so is considered to disgrace himself. The stigma on the bastard is indelible. There is the strongest objection to contract marriage with him.

If an agreement be proved the magistrates have no power to refuse wages.

The reputed father has never been known to be driven, by the order for wages, to marry the mother. He is generally in good circumstances, and can afford to pay; if not he leaves the country. In this case the mother supports the child.

Women with bastard children are often compelled to beg; and Mr. S—— has known them to resort to an adjoining county for that purpose, to avoid the shame of applying for wages. It is probable that they may be driven to prostitution, or much ill feeling is excited between the parties when the mother fails in obtaining wages. Infanticide is not known.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish *Killashee*.
Bar. *Moydow*.

THOMAS BURKE, farmer, who holds 20 acres of land, and occasionally labours himself.—Rev. Mr. O'FERRALL, P. P.—CHRISTOPHER GEEHAN, day-labourer.—Rev. Mr. POWELL, protestant curate.—Rev. Mr. PRICE, wesleyan clergyman.—MICHAEL SHANLEY, schoolmaster, surveyor, and occasionally labourer for hire.—VALENTINE SKIPTON, esq., J. P.—ROBERT WILSON, middle landlord.

THE bastards in this parish amounted only to three in number for the last 11 years, according to the testimony of the priest, none of whom were supported by the parish, nor have

have any been deserted or destroyed by their mothers. The fathers would be ever willing to throw the support on the mothers. Some men have been known to marry women after they had proved pregnant; but instances of pregnancy before marriage were very rare in this parish.

The applications to the petty sessions for wages by women with bastards have amounted only to four in the last three years, in a district including four parishes. Mr. Skipton has given the following account of the arrangements usually adopted in such cases:

The woman is required to prove by her own oath that the defendant is the father of the child, and also that he has in some degree assumed the support of the child by promise or by giving money; proof of the contrary offered by the father is not precluded. The smallest reasonable sum for nursing the child is awarded to the mother, who keeps the child till weaned; if the father takes it, then the wages cease. If the woman can prove no undertaking of the father, the matter is referred to quarter sessions. Punishment has not been inflicted on the woman applying for wages. No instance of a second application by a woman has taken place in this district; nor has any man seemed anxious to marry a woman for the wages allowed at sessions. Girls who have had illegitimate children, because the scandal is so great, go to England or America. There is but one instance in the parish of a girl in such circumstances having got a husband, and he is an Englishman and pensioner, who seems not to feel the disgrace very sensitively. In the case of inability or reluctance on the father's part to pay, the treatment is the same by the magistrates as in ordinary cases for wages.

There has been no instance in the district of the order for wages, or the punishment on disobedience of it, having driven the father to marry the woman, nor to abscond, it having so happened that in the cases occurring in this district, the father had a stake in the parish. No application has been made to the churchwarden previous to applying to petty sessions. Two instances in the parish were adduced of women having been driven to beggary by having bastards, but none to prostitution.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. CARBRY, general merchant.—Mr. DWYER, churchwarden.—Mr. GANBY, baker, grocer and spirit dealer.—Rev. Mr. HUDSON.—Mr. KEENAGH, baker.—Rev. Mr. KENNEDY, presbyterian minister.—Rev. Mr. O'DONOGHUE, roman-catholic clergyman.—Mr. WILLIAMS, town-serjeant and under agent to Lord Longford.

THE number of bastards in the parish is not known, but the average number born each year among the resident population is about three or four, and as many more among the vagrants; this does not include deserted children, who are almost always bastards. They are never supported by the parish. Infanticide very rarely, if ever, occurs. Mr. Kennedy has been 16, Mr. O'Donoghue six, and Mr. Carbry four years in the parish, and none of them have ever known an instance. The fathers of illegitimate children always neglect them unless compelled to provide for them.

A feeling of honour frequently induces marriage while the woman is pregnant. Many are induced to marry from the fear of being charged with rape. This threat is commonly held out; and Mr. Carbry states, that three or four men charged with rape are acquitted on these grounds each assizes; and that in two years he has known 10 or 12 instances of men yielding to these threats.

The magistrates do not usually deal with such cases in this district, they are always referred to the quarter sessions. Mr. Carbry did not know of any instance among the industrious labourers where a young man had evinced an anxiety to marry a woman who had an illegitimate child, for the purpose of benefiting by the wages allowed at the sessions. Such women find great difficulty in procuring husbands; the man who marries them is disgraced for the time, but may recover character by the good conduct of himself and his wife.

There are some instances where individuals of the poorer classes are influenced by persons of higher rank to marry women by whom they have had illegitimate children; but the consideration given in these cases is always very large, as there are stronger objections entertained against such a woman than against one who has misbehaved with a man of her own rank in life. The bastard is considered in a very unfavourable light, and a farmer would have decided objections to give him his daughter unless he was above his own rank: in this all the witnesses concurred.

Women who have illegitimate children are, according to two witnesses (Mr. C. and the Rev. Mr. O'D.), constantly compelled to resort to begging; Mr. G. has known some instances. The difficulty of supporting herself and child leads rather to begging than prostitution. The refusal of the reputed father to maintain the child produces in most cases ill feeling between the parties, and sometimes is the cause of violence. The difficulty of obtaining support is frequently injurious to the health of both mother and child.

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Longford.

Examinations taken by
John Spencer, Esq.
Wilson Gray, Esq.

Parish Killashee.
Bar. Moydow.

Union of Temple-
michael and Bally-
macormic.

Bar. Ardagh.

BASTARDY.Leinster,
County Westmeath.Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.Par. Ballinacarrig
Kilbrisy.
Bar. Moygish.*Persons who attended the Examination.*

Rev. GERALD BEERE.—Dr. COTTER, dispensary surgeon.—WILLIAM COX, labourer.—Mr. WILLIAM CURRIES.—Rev. MICHAEL MULLEN, parish-priest.—PATRICK MURTAGH, labourer.—HENRY O'CONNOR, esq.—JAMES WEST, esq., J. P.

IN this parish there are some, but not many bastards, none of whom are ever supported by the parish. Instances have taken place, but very rarely, of mothers deserting their illegitimate children, but there are no cases known of their destroying them. The fathers however generally neglect them; and it does not often happen, though it has occasionally occurred, that a feeling of honour has induced the fathers of illegitimate children to marry the women subsequently.

Wages are only granted to the mother if she can prove a promise or part payment from the father. Girls who have had illegitimate children are looked on with a mixed feeling of pity and contempt, and find great difficulty in obtaining husbands, and a stigma remains upon the children, which it is very difficult for them to obliterate.

When wages are not granted to the women they generally commence begging, but the greater part become prostitutes. Most of those females who infest the streets of cities are such persons, and the children are reared in all the degradation and vice of vagrancy and prostitution. The difficulty of supporting the child also often injures the health of the mother. Dr. Cotter states an instance of a woman who came to consult him for a general debility, and had a well grown child at her breast, which he described should be weaned at once; she answered it would be impossible, as she had no other food to give it; such instances are very frequent.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Benowen.
Bar. Kilkenny,
West.

WILLIAM CONLON.—Rev. T. CAULFIELD, rector.—MICHAEL FINNEY, beggar.—PATRICK GERAGHTY.—Rev. J. KEARNEY, P. P.—PEGGY KIERNON, beggar, with three children, her husband begging with three more in another part of the country.—Mr. CHARLES LENNON, farmer.—Mr. PHILIP LENON, farmer.—JOHN MIARS, labourer.—JOHN MONREAL, miller.—THOMAS STUBBS, esq., J. P. of Cork, residing here.

THE number of bastards in the parish cannot be known; they are never supported by the parish; there is scarcely ever a case of the mothers deserting their illegitimate children, but the fathers frequently neglect them.

"If the woman makes application before the birth of the child and swear it to a man, he is obliged to support it."*

Girls who have had illegitimate children are very seldom married afterwards, except farmers' daughters who can purchase husbands.

Sometimes the very poorer classes are induced to marry such women, by persons in the higher ranks.

With regard to the estimation in which the mother and child are held, it was said, "People will associate with the mother of an illegitimate child, but they have a feeling of contempt;" she is not a honest woman. Bastards would not get a farmer's daughter to marry them unless they were much richer.

The mothers of illegitimate children are frequently driven to beg, and usually leave their own parish, because there is some objection to relieve them where they are known.

They often become prostitutes, but not from the difficulty of supporting themselves and the children, but because they are more open to temptation.

In general the children do not grow up vagrants, as they seldom remain with their mothers longer than their tenth year, when they are employed by farmers.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish Castletown
Delvin.
Bar. Delvin.

Rev. JOSEPH FITZGERALD, P. P.—LAURENCE LLOYD HENRY, esq. J. P.—Mr. MICHAEL HOPE, farmer.—Rev. ROBERT A. MARTIN, protestant curate.—Mr. JAMES SEERY, farmer.—ROBERT MORGAN TIGHE, esq., J. P.—The Marquis of WESTMEATH, lord-lieutenant of the county.

THE number of bastards in the parish was, according to Mr. Henry and Mr. Hope, large; according to Mr. Tighe, but small. The Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald said, among the poor there were not more than four. They are never supported by the parish. Mothers seldom desert,

* This is doubtful; there are conflicting opinions. I may remark in general, that no point gives us more trouble to get a distinct answer than this, though one of law and fact. The magistrates themselves contradicting each other, so as to leave us completely at a loss what to believe.

desert, and very seldom, if ever, destroy their illegitimate children. Their fathers often neglect them, but a feeling of honour sometimes induces subsequent marriages. Lord Westmeath observed, that the priests are generally the cause of this.

The system of applying for wages at petty sessions is common. The custom is, that unless the woman can prove a promise of wages by the father, she must keep the child herself. Lord Westmeath says, the amount of wages when granted is at the rate of 4*l.* per annum; this system has been in operation for at least 20 years. Wages are seldom awarded until after the birth, but the woman is expected to swear the child to the father before the birth. The amount given is not always the same, it varies according to the means of the reputed father. Punishment is never inflicted upon those who apply for wages, even though they may have had more than one illegitimate child, nor is any difference made in the amount of wages awarded.

No instance has occurred where a young man was anxious to marry a woman for the purpose of benefiting by the wages allowed. Girls thus circumstanced find much difficulty in procuring husbands, but some individuals of the poorer classes are influenced by persons of higher station to marry the mothers of bastards. Such women are looked upon with contempt, especially by their own sex; but Mr. Hope thought that this feeling was becoming less strong as the fault became more common. Lord W. and Mr. F. thought there was but little objection entertained to marrying a bastard, especially if he were a good match; Mr. Hope said there was a strong objection. The evidence required by the sessions previous to the decision is the woman's oath, and that arising from confronting the parties and sifting the case. The reputed father is always summoned to attend. The woman's oath does not preclude any testimony offered by the man. The magistrates use their discretion as to the general character of the woman, on a second application. If the reputed father is unable or refuses to pay the wages ordered by the magistrates, they have no power to punish, but the wages are ordered to be levied as wages of labour for the service of nursing.—(Lord W.)—The wages awarded are by an order for weekly or periodical payments. The order for wages often drives the reputed father to marry the mother of the child; in a case of manifest seduction, the magistrates are glad to see it produce this effect. The acknowledgment of the reputed father is not, under the present system, indispensable to enforce an order for wages, but is sufficient without anything else. Mr. Henry said it was absolutely necessary.

The application is not made in the first instance to the churchwarden. When the father absconds, the support of the child falls altogether on the mother. Men are sometimes sued by civil bill in the assistant barrister's court, and wages recovered from them, especially if they have promised any.

Women who have bastard children are generally obliged to beg, and leave in most cases their own parishes. The children beg until about the age of 14, and then become servants, labourers, or enter the army. The difficulty of supporting herself and child sometimes leads the woman to prostitution. The children are in such cases generally brought up in vice, but are accustomed to labour and support their mother when they can. The difficulty of supporting the child is often so severe as to injure the mother's health; and that of the child frequently suffers from the scanty provision which she is able to afford it.

The children are often neglected by the mother, but the witnesses never knew more than one instance where there was even a suspicion of infanticide, and there were in that case but very slight grounds.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. JOHN BURKE, P. P.—Rev. ADOLPHUS DROUGHT, protestant curate.—WILLIAM FAGAN, farmer.—Mr. SIMON FAGAN, farmer.—THOMAS HALPIN, farmer.—Captain PAKENHAM, J. P.—WILLIAM DUTTON POLLARD, esq., J. P.—NICHOLAS RIEVE, farmer.

Par. Castlepollard.
Bar. Halfpoure, or
Demifoure.

BASTARDS were not numerous in the parish, nor ever supported by it, and though the fathers desert the children, the mothers seldom do, and never are known to destroy them. The fathers are not led to marry the women afterwards by any feeling of honour, but sometimes the dread of the women's friends induces them to do so.

It is the custom for a woman to apply for wages to the petty sessions, and if she can prove a promise on the part of the father, the money is recovered by civil bill, as a simple debt; no wages however are awarded before the birth of the child, nor is punishment inflicted on the woman who applies.

Girls who have had illegitimate children are looked on with great contempt both by men and women, and are seldom married, nor would a farmer give his daughter to a bastard, except he was much richer.

Women have been known to bring actions against the reputed father for nursing, and recovered in the shape of wages.

Women who have had bastards are sometimes driven to begging, and in some instances to prostitution, and with regard to the children, the females are, in general, brought up very badly. The males sometimes get service.

The scanty provision which the mother is able to obtain of course often injures the health of the child.

BASTARDY.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Leinster,
County Westmeath.

Examinations taken by
Thomas Osler, Esq.
James O'Flynn, Esq.

Parish Killucan.
Bar. Farbill.

Rev. JAMES ALEXANDER, rector.—Rev. JOHN CURRAN, P. P.—GEORGE M. T. DROUGHT, esq., police magistrate.—MATTHEW KEEFFE, farmer.—DAVID MOORE, shopkeeper.—PETER PURDON, esq.

THE number of bastards in this parish cannot be ascertained, as they are never supported by the parish; the Rev. Mr. Curran said, "perhaps five in a year."

Mothers are never known to desert or destroy them, but they are often neglected by the fathers. Marriage between the parents is frequently brought about by the interference of the clergymen.

Wages are never ordered by the magistrates (Mr. Drought said he was not aware they had any authority to do so,) except when the woman can prove a promise of wages and part payment; then they are ordered by the sessions merely as a simple debt.

Women who have had illegitimate children find the greatest difficulty in procuring husbands; in fact, are scarcely ever married, except when persons of a higher station induce men by money to marry them. The woman is treated with the greatest contempt by the women of her own class, and a great portion of that feeling extends to the "bastard," who would not receive in marriage, unless much richer, the daughter of even a small farmer.

Some thought that the objection would wear away if the person was a well conducted man.

Mothers of bastard children are sometimes obliged to resort to begging, and mostly leave their own parish; the children thus very frequently become inured to a vagrant life, and the woman is often driven to prostitution. In those cases the child suffers very much for want of proper care and nourishment, the mother being negligent of it.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Par. Moatgrenogue.
Bar. Clonlonon.

CHARLES ARABIN, esq., J. P.—Dr. BEWLEY, physician, &c.—CUTHBERT CLIBBORN, esq., J. P.—DANIEL CLUFFY, labourer.—JOSEPH MORTON DALY, esq.—Mr. GEORGE DIXON, farmer.—Mr. EGAN, landholder.—Mr. BARNEY FARRELL, farmer.—PATRICK KENNEDY, labourer.—HUGH LANIGAN, farmer.—Rev. PATRICK LEE, parish priest.—Mr. JOHN LOWE, farmer.—Mr. EDWARD MEARES, farmer.—PATRICK MULVANNY, labourer.—Rev. WILLIAM O'BRIEN, roman-catholic curate.—Rev. ARTHUR ROLLESTON, protestant rector.—Mr. CHARLES SWEENEY, farmer.

THERE are but few bastards in the parish, perhaps not more than four or five annually. The fathers sometimes are induced by a feeling of honour to marry, and are advised by the clergymen to do so.

The oath of the woman is insufficient without some acknowledgment or part payment by the father, and the sum allowed is from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per annum, the maximum not exceeding 10*l.* Irish. Girls who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in getting husbands, as they are looked on with contempt and aversion.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Par. Multifarnham.
Bar. Corkany.

Rev. CHARLES BROWNE, M. A., Wilson's Hospital, protestant clergyman.—OWEN DALY, esq., magistrate.—JAMES DOWLING, P. P.—Mr. JAMES FLANAGAN, farmer.—Mr. GEORGE GIBSON, farmer.—Mr. DENIS KANE, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS MOORE, farmer.—Sir PERCY NUGENT, bart., magistrate.—Rev. THOMAS YOUNG, protestant curate.

THE number of bastards in the parish is not known; very few instances have occurred where women have deserted their illegitimate children, and none where they have destroyed them. A feeling of honour sometimes, and occasionally the dread of the mother's friends, induces subsequent marriages.

If the woman can prove any promise or agreement on the part of the reputed father, she may recover wages by civil bill process, the sum awarded being usually 5*l.* The oath of the woman was formerly sufficient to fix the paternity; such is not the case now. Young men have never been induced by the wages granted to marry the mother of an illegitimate child, who usually find the greatest difficulty in procuring a husband, except in the few instances where the man has been paid to marry her; she is indeed generally looked upon with contempt, and the child is himself regarded among his equals as an objectionable match.

The mother generally labours to support the child, either by spinning or by agricultural labour, during 10 months of the year. The children are seldom inured to habits of mendicancy. The farmers who were witnesses did not think that the mother was often injured by her efforts to maintain the child; but Mr. Dowling believed that women were frequently obliged to suckle children much longer than was natural, from the impossibility of obtaining for them suitable food. The child in turn suffers much from the scanty provision which the mother can provide for it.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. JOHN BOOKER, Killuran parsonage.—Mr. JOHN DALTON, farmer, Foulker Mill.—Mr. JOHN LETT, farmer, Kilgevin.—Rev. CHARLES D. OGLE, Clonmore Cottage.—Rev. JOHN W. STOKES, Castlebridge.

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parishes *Horetown,*
Clonmore, Ardcolm,
and Killuran.

Bar. *Shelmalier.*

IN the parish of Clonmore there have only been five bastards during the last 10 years; they are never supported by the parish; mothers less frequently desert their illegitimate children now than formerly. Instances have been heard of their destroying them, but very rarely. The fathers often neglect them. A feeling of honour, it is said, occasionally induces subsequent marriages.

Women with bastards commonly apply for wages at petty sessions, when a sum from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a year, according to the specific agreement between the parties themselves, is usually granted, but never before the birth of the child: this practice has been in operation since within recollection.

The young men of the neighbourhood have not evinced any anxiety to marry a woman who has had an illegitimate child, for the purpose of benefiting by the wages allowed at the sessions, on which account such women certainly find much difficulty in procuring husbands. Individuals of the poorer classes are frequently influenced by persons of higher station to marry such, despised as they are by the generality of their sex in the parish. As to the feeling with which a bastard is regarded, he is seldom upbraided with his birth, if well-conducted; a farmer would have a great objection to give him his daughter, although otherwise an eligible match.

The amount awarded as wages at petty sessions is usually in one sum; the order for which, or the punishment consequent upon disobedience to the order, never drives the reputed father to marry the mother of the child; his acknowledgment is invariably required to enforce the order; never heard of a man absconding when wages are awarded by the magistrate.

When women who have bastards are compelled to resort to begging, they generally do so out of their own parishes; the difficulty of supporting themselves and their children often drives them to prostitution, and in such cases the children necessarily become inured to a vagrant life, with all its immoralities, and without doubt are brought up and continue in vice. The refusal of the reputed father to maintain the child frequently leads to ill feeling and violence between the parties. It is not ascertained whether the difficulty of supporting her child is often so severe as to injure the mother's health; the child is often known to suffer materially from the scanty provision the mother is able to afford it.

The state of mind to which a mother is brought before she can destroy or desert her child is highly immoral, and is universally held to be so; it is not thought that, after such a circumstance, she would lose all self-respect.

Persons who attended the Examination.

RICHARD BOLTON, esq., town of Gorey.—JOHN P. BROWNRIGG, esq., Barnadowen.—Rev. T. O. MOORE, Leskinfere Glebe, Camolin.—Captain OWEN, Millmount.—Major OWEN, Woodlands.

Parishes *Kilcor-*
mack, Gorey, Clough
and Leskinfere.
Bar. *Gorey.*

IT is impossible to ascertain the number of bastards. The parish supports them when deserted, and not otherwise. Mothers very seldom desert their illegitimate offspring. Within an extensive district, in the course of 10 years, three or four instances of infanticide have occurred. The fathers of illegitimate children very often neglect them, but, influenced by a sense of honour, frequently intermarry with the mothers of those children.

It is very common for women with bastards to apply at petty sessions for wages, the amount of which usually granted varies from 1*l.* to 4*l.*; if no sum were specified in the agreement, the magistrates would decree to the full legal amount. This has always been in operation. The amount of wages seems to vary according to the condition of the parties, but are never awarded before the birth of the child. Punishment is never inflicted upon those who apply for wages to the sessions; and the magistrates, in decreeing the amount, cannot take into consideration whether the applicant has had more than one illegitimate child. The young men of this neighbourhood do not seem anxious to marry the mothers for the sake of the wages allowed them by the sessions. Such women are not supposed on that account to find much difficulty in procuring husbands. No instances are known of persons of the poorer classes being induced by those of higher rank to marry the mothers of their bastards. In this parish a woman is not on this account always degraded in the estimation of the generality of her sex, though her bastard is looked upon with mingled feelings of contempt and compassion; and with respect to a small farmer giving his daughter to a bastard, in other respects a suitable match, there is as much family pride amongst the farmers on this matter as amongst the highest class of society.

Should the reputed father of a bastard be unable or unwilling to pay the wages ordered by the magistrates, they have no power of punishing him. The amount of wages awarded is generally by an order for a quarterly payment; there is no rule for fixing the amount. The order for wages often induces the father to marry the mother of the child. The application for wages is made directly to the petty sessions; and to enforce the order, it is neces-

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. M'Cullagh, Esq.

Parishes Kilcor-
mack, Gorey, Clough
and Leskinfere.

Bar. Gorey.

sary that the reputed father acknowledge the child. The father sometimes absconds when wages are ordered by the magistrates. Women are not here known to bring actions for nursing against the reputed fathers of their children.

Women with bastard children, in a majority of cases, do not beg where they are known. It frequently happens that bastard children become inured to a vagrant life with all its immoralities. But a wide distinction is to be drawn between the mother of one illegitimate child, and her who has had more than one; the former often supports and educates her child well and decently, and ultimately may regain her former station in society; the offspring of the latter are often regarded as a nuisance in the neighbourhood. The refusal of the reputed father to support his child often leads to contention and strife between the parties, and the difficulty of supporting her child frequently injures the health of the mother and that of the child, and there is reason to believe often drives her to prostitution. There cannot be a doubt that the children reared under such circumstances continue in vice.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parishes Maglass,
Rathmacnee and
Mulrankin.
Bar. Forth and
Bargy.

RICHARD DEVEREUX, esq., merchant, Wexford.—Rev. WILLIAM HICKEY, rector of Kilcoman.—Rev. GEORGE MURPHY, roman-catholic curate, Wexford.—J. E. REDMOND, esq., banker, Wexford.—CHARLES A. WALKER, esq. M. P., Belmont.—Mr. JOHN WALSH, general agent, Wexford.

THE number of bastards here is not known; they are not supported by the parish. Mothers sometimes desert, but rarely destroy their illegitimate children. Mr. Walker, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Redmond thought that the fathers of illegitimate children almost always neglected them. Mr. Murphy, Mr. Devereux and Mr. Walsh believed there were more cases of protection by the fathers than of neglect. The parties are frequently incited from a sense of religious obligation, but rarely the influence of a feeling of honour.

Women with bastard children frequently apply for wages at the petty sessions; the amount usually granted is about 5*l.* per annum. The system was different in form before the establishment of petty sessions courts; the latter is in many respects preferable. Wages are never awarded before the birth of the child; the amount varies according to the agreement between the parties. The petty sessions have not the power of awarding wages, but can only enforce the fulfilment of an agreement between the parties; they cannot in any case act, except upon the admission of parentage on the part of the man. Punishment is never inflicted upon applicants for wages. The young men of the neighbourhood have never evinced any anxiety to marry a woman with an illegitimate child, in order to benefit by the wages allowed: these women bear a stigma attached to them which prevents their marriage; "but," said Mr. Hickey, "a man marrying such a one is sometimes said to have married an injured woman." Individuals of the poorer classes are, in some instances, influenced by those of a higher station. The feeling both against the woman and the bastard is stronger as the ranks ascend.

The Rev. Mr. Murphy mentioned a case well known, where a young man well educated and of excellent character, holding a farm of 140 acres, was refused by several women beneath his own rank in life avowedly owing to the stain on his birth; he afterwards married a servant. The reputed father may be decreed for any wages which he has legally undertaken to pay. The wages are usually given, not by weekly payments, but in larger sums. The order for wages never drives the reputed father to marry the child's mother. The churchwarden has nothing to do with the arrangements. There were no cases known where the father had absconded when the order on him for wages was granted; nor have women ever brought actions and recovered from the reputed father.

Women with bastard children do not generally beg, nor are they often driven to prostitution by the difficulty of supporting themselves and the children. The refusal of the reputed father to support the child frequently leads to ill-feeling between the parties. The difficulty of supporting the child is rarely so severe as to injure the mother's health; nor does the child generally suffer from the scanty provision which the mother can provide.

The state of mind of a mother who can desert or destroy her child must be highly immoral, and in some cases she would be for the future less careful of human life.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Parish Monart.
Bar. Scarewalsh.

EDWARD COOKMAN, esq.—Rev. MICHAEL FENWICK.—JOHN NIXON NUNN, esq.—Rev. SOLOMON RICHARDS.—Mr. PATRICK WHITE, corn merchant.

BASTARDY is of rare occurrence in this parish; there was but one case in the course of last year.

Bastards derive no support from the parish, yet have not been deserted, and never destroyed by their mothers; the fathers, on the contrary, totally neglect them, nor has it occurred that a sense of honour has induced a man to marry the mother of his illegitimate child.

It is very common for women to apply for wages to petty sessions, where they receive, according to the engagement, from a few shillings to 6*l.* Irish. This sum cannot be exceeded. This system has been always in operation in this parish. But wages are not given before the

the birth of the child. Punishment is never inflicted on those who apply at the sessions for wages, whether it be the first occasion or not, nor is any difference made as to wages in such case. Girls who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in getting husbands, none of the young men of this neighbourhood being induced, by the wages received at petty sessions, to marry them. Sometimes indeed they are influenced by persons in higher stations to do so. The feeling evinced towards a woman thus circumstanced is, in some of her own sex, a feeling of reproach, in others of compassion, but the bastard is everywhere received with reproach and contempt. In case of inability on the part of the father, it has not been the custom in this parish to visit him with punishment for not paying wages; the sum awarded is generally in one large amount, but occasionally by an order for weekly payments; there is no fixed amount nor rule for giving, but this award has sometimes driven the reputed father to marry the mother, and frequently to abscond. The churchwarden does not interfere; the mothers sometimes bring actions against the fathers for nursing, but very often do not succeed.

Frequently women who have had bastards are driven to begging, but not in their own parish; sometimes to prostitution, while the support of herself and child occasionally injures her health; and as to the children reared in such circumstances, they grow up in vagrancy, become inured to its immoralities, and continue in its vices, and at the same time must suffer in health also from the privations to which both they and their mothers are exposed.

Desertion did not seem to some of the witnesses to be the result of an immoral state of mind in the mother, to others it did; but they agreed in thinking, that a woman capable of such an act would be less careful of human life, and be likely to conduct herself worse in all relative situations.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. WILLIAM BRENNAN, roman-catholic curate.—JOHN BERKELEY DEANE, esq.—WILLIAM R. FARMER, esq.—Rev. WILLIAM FLENXON.—MARTIN FOWLETT, M. D.—Rev. THOMAS HARMAN.—EDWARD KEOGH, esq., dep.-sovereign, New Ross.—Rev. JAMES MORGAN, vicar of St. Mary's.

Par. of Old Ross,
Rosstroit, Clonmore
and Enniscorthy.

Bar. Bantry.

THERE are only two bastards in the parish of Rosstroit, and it never has been the custom for the parish to support bastards. Mothers of illegitimate children in this district seldom desert them, and never have been known to destroy them; but the fathers mostly neglect them, and if they are afterwards induced to marry the woman, it arises more from religious apprehensions than from any feeling of honour.

When women have had bastards they usually apply to the petty sessions for wages, and in most cases are awarded about the same sum, viz. 5*l.* per annum; but no award is ever made before the birth of the child. This has been the system prevailing in the district since recollection. Before the establishment of petty sessions the same power was exercised by the magistracy in a different way, one which was in every respect worse than the present system.

If a woman with a second illegitimate child apply for wages, she is treated in the same way as before; she is never punished, nor are witnesses aware that the magistrates have any power to punish in such cases. Girls who have had illegitimate children are held in very low estimation, and find great difficulty in obtaining husbands; and bastards, too, are looked on with reproach, but much depends on their own conduct. The sum granted to a woman with a bastard never exceeds 6*l.* Irish per annum, and is paid at once in one sum, or in partial payments, according to agreement; but the acknowledgment of the reputed father is absolutely necessary, before any order for wages can be enforced. It does not appear that the magistrates have any power to punish the father, in case of his inability or refusal to pay; neither does it often happen that a man has absconded from fear of any punishment.

When wages are not granted to a woman with an illegitimate child, she is necessarily driven to beggary, and herself and her child are thus exposed to the miseries and vices of a vagrant life; in the opinion of witnesses, such a woman is often driven by her wants to degradation and prostitution, and her child must be reared in vice.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. JOHN CHARTRES.—Mr. WILLIAM GOODISON, farmer.—Mr. THOMAS SPARROW, farmer.—Mr. EDWARD WEBSTER, farmer and miller.

Parish Temple-
shannon.

Bar. Ballaghkeen.

IN the parish of Enniscorthy there are 12 bastards, none of whom are supported by the parish. Mothers very rarely desert their illegitimate offspring, and there is no instance of their destroying them; but the fathers almost always neglect the children, and very rarely are induced to marry the mothers, after the birth of the children; indeed, in the majority of instances, the fathers are married men.

It is the custom for women who have illegitimate children to apply to the petty sessions for wages, and the sum granted is, in general, from 3*l.* to 6*l.*; but wages are not awarded before the birth of the child, nor is the amount a fixed one.

BASTARDY.

Leinster,
County Wexford.

Examinations taken by
Francis Diggins, Esq.
W. T. McCullagh, Esq.

Parish *Temple-*
shannon.

Bar. *Ballaghkeen.*

No instance was known of any man marrying a woman for the wages thus granted; but frequently persons of the richer class have induced individuals of the poorer orders to marry their mistresses.

Women who have had illegitimate children are generally looked on with a mixed feeling of scorn and pity; and though a bastard is seldom reproached with his illegitimacy, yet it requires particularly steady conduct to overcome the disadvantages it occasions.

The amount awarded at petty sessions is usually ordered to be paid to the woman in one sum; but in case the father of the child refuses to pay it, there is no punishment ever inflicted upon him. It may however happen, though not often, that the order to pay wages might induce the father to marry the woman, but it occasionally has caused him to abscond. The woman never applies to the churchwarden, but directly to the petty sessions, and if the acknowledgment of the reputed father be not proved, no order for wages is given.

If wages be not granted, the woman is obliged to beg, and thus expose herself to all the miseries and immoralities of a vagrant life, and likewise to rear her child up in them. When driven to beggary, such women go in search of alms, where their disgrace is not known; they would be ashamed to remain in their own neighbourhood.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Mr. JOHN BLAKE.—WILLIAM GLASSCOT, esq.—JOHN ROSSITER, farmer.—JOHN USHER, esq.

Parish *Whitechurch-*
Tintern.

Bar. *Shelbourne.*

THE number of bastards in this parish was not exactly known, but none of them are ever supported by it. Mothers often desert their illegitimate children, but seldom destroy them; and the fathers always neglect them.

It has been always the practice for the mothers of illegitimate children to apply at petty sessions, and the amount usually granted on such applications is from 3*l.* to 5*l.*, though the sum is not fixed, but depends on circumstances. Nothing, however, is ever awarded until after the birth of the child, but then the sum would not be diminished because the application of the woman was made for a second child. Girls who have had illegitimate children are looked on with reproach, and find great difficulty in getting husbands; but sometimes persons of a higher rank influence those of a lower class to marry such women. The amount awarded to women who have had bastards is ordered to be paid in one sum, but no punishment is inflicted on the man for not paying; and in every instance the acknowledgment of the man is necessary, before any order for wages can be enforced. No cases were known to witnesses, where the order for wages had the effect of making the man abscond, nor was it usual with women to bring actions at quarter sessions for nursing.

If wages be not granted to women who have had illegitimate children, they are sure to be driven to beg, in which case they always go away from home, and want too often drives them to prostitution. The child also is reared up in all the immoralities of a vagrant life, and suffers, as well as its mother, all the miseries of destitution.

Persons who attended the Examination.

Munster,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

Par. *Abbey and*
Oughtmanagh.
Bar. *Burren.*

PATRICK M'DERMOTT, farmer.—M. GILLOUGHY, weaver.—JOHN FINN, tailor.—JOHN HEHIR, carpenter.—CONNOR HOGAN, a retired shopkeeper.—JOHN HYNES, corn dealer, and occupier of 200 acres.—JOHN HYNES, junior, farmer.—PATRICK NORTON, serjeant of police.—PETER O'LOUGHLIN, labourer.—THADDEUS SALMON, farmer.—THOMAS SCANLAN, farmer.—WILLIAM SCANLAN, schoolmaster.

IT would be extremely difficult to ascertain the number of bastards at present in the parish; but it is thought that not more than two illegitimate births take place there in the course of the year. As there is no court of petty sessions, there are no applications for wages for the maintenance of illegitimate children; and Mr. Haynes observes that public attention is not in general drawn to the occurrence of bastardy cases. There has not been a case of desertion for the last eight years, and he did not recollect a case of infanticide at any period. Scanlan said, that in the greater number of instances the father evades contributing to the maintenance of his offspring, which is then thrown entirely on the hands of the mother, who, if she happen to be in service, is sure to be turned out of doors; and after having found shelter in the cabin of some one nearly as destitute as herself, and endeavouring for some time, in vain, to support herself and her child, is at last compelled to have recourse to occasional begging, and perhaps to prostitution; in which latter case she generally leaves the parish. It does not occur, in more than one case out of three, that the man repairs the injury he has done by marriage; and even then not without much difficulty experienced on the part of the friends of the girl to bring about such a step, as the seducer takes advantage of circumstances to induce them to make up a fortune for the girl; but the parish in no manner ever gives any assistance to the mothers of bastards.

There are not more than half a dozen individuals in both parishes above the condition of small farmers, and not one who could be classed in the rank of the gentry. Considerable difficulty was experienced, therefore, in procuring accurate information upon the question of persons being influenced to marry these women by the interference of the gentry, and also upon other subjects connected with the inquiry, from the want of persons who had leisure

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to attend to the condition of the working classes. The catholic clergyman was unfortunately absent in another province during the entire time of the inquiry; and there is but one protestant clergyman resident in the barony, and his duties do not extend to this parish. It appears, however, that the influences alluded to are very uncommon; and Mr. Hynes said that he never had ground for suspicion in more than two cases. A failure in chastity on the part of the woman is never absolutely forgotten; but if she conduct herself well in other respects, she is not refused, upon that account, the small amount of employment which is open to females. She will, however, find it nearly impossible to procure a husband other than the father of her child, and will not experience at any time that kindly feeling which is displayed towards widows with young children. A bastard always labours under a stain, which is sure to be refreshed in case of a quarrel; and it is curious that the only two brothers remaining unmarried in the parish, at an advanced period of life, are of illegitimate origin. Women have rarely brought actions against the reputed fathers of their bastards; and it was thought that the distance of the petty sessions at Corofin (16 miles) operated as an impediment to their doing so. The refusal of the father to maintain the child has not often led to any acts of violence, except where the woman has had children by more than one father; but if the father of the second child refuse to assist her, she has in some instances perseveringly annoyed him, and even threatened violence; while, however, she has but one child, she is apt to remain quiet in the hope of being made "an honest woman of," and still has some remnant of modesty left.—(*Hynes.*)—The penury in which the mothers of illegitimate children often live, is not only injurious to their own health, but also to that of their offspring. Kate Hayes, a wretched old creature, who lived in a dark hovel of sods and straw not more than six feet square, said that her daughter, a poor drivelling idiot, whom she exposed at her door in a state approaching to nudity, though nearly 20 years of age, was a healthy child until she herself, on having a second bastard, was driven out of house and home in winter, and obliged to sleep under walls in the open air, when she had hardly clothes to cover her.

BASTARDY.

Munster,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

Par. Abbey and
Oughtmanagh.
Bar. Burren.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JAMES BOURKE, baker.—M. CAHILL, a small farmer, with about nine acres.—*JOHN CARRIG, labourer.—ANTHONY CURRY, process-server.—Rev. MICHAEL DYNON, roman-catholic curate of Kildysart.—The Rev. MICHAEL FITZGERALD, protestant rector of Kildysart.—Dr. GEARY, dispensary physician.—TIMOTHY GORMAN, a small farmer, with about 12 acres.—DENNIS HURLY, shopkeeper.—*JOHN KINNAHAN, labourer.—PATRICK M'CABE, weaver.—MARK M'MAHON, grocer in the village of Kildysart.—Mr. M'NAMARA, postmaster, and extensive farmer.—PATRICK M'MAHON, farmer, steward to Bindon Scott, esq.—MICHAEL MYERS, a small publican and labourer.—*MICHAEL O'BRIEN, labourer.—JAMES O'DEA, broker in the village.—DANIEL O'GRADY, esq., an extensive gentleman farmer.—MICHAEL O'SHAUGNESSY, victualler.—HENRY ROSS LEWIN, esq., J. P.—Serjeant SCOTT, police serjeant.—The Rev. P. SHEEHY, roman-catholic rector of Kildysart.

Parish Kildysart.
Bar. Clonderalaw.

M'MAHON computed the entire number of bastards in the parish to be 40; but Mr. Sheehy said that it would be very difficult to ascertain the number exactly. He stated the average amount of illegitimate births to be about four; and that the crime, though still too frequent, is decidedly on the decrease. The number, however, does not afford a perfect clue to the morality of the parish, as those children only are considered illegitimate who are born out of wedlock. Many instances, however, occur when they are conceived before marriage, which is sometimes hurried on to save the character of the female. The mothers of bastards, in three cases out of four, are farmers' servants, who are particularly exposed to danger from the promiscuous manner in which such servants, both male and female, are obliged, from want of other accommodation, to sleep together. Farmers' daughters, however, are rarely known to become pregnant from this cause. They are, from their possessing fortunes, more exposed to another danger, that of abduction; which has, however, become less common of late years. Bastards are never supported by the parish. Infanticide also is a crime almost unknown. About four years ago a child was found dead at Ballynacally, but it was proved on the inquest that it was still-born. Rev. Mr. Dinan observed, that if ever this crime be committed by a mother, he was convinced that it arose rather from a wish to hide her shame than from any unwillingness to support her own offspring. Several women came to him and asked him to assist them in getting their children out of the fathers' hands, and declared that they would rather beg for them than be deprived of them. Mr. Sheehy stated that there had not been a child deserted within the parish during the last nine years. When the father is in bad circumstances, he generally makes every exertion to elude the claim of the mother; but of those whose means admit of it, the greater part privately agree with the mother about the maintenance of the child. A feeling of honour very often brings about a marriage; and a union that takes place under these circumstances is considered to replace a woman very nearly, if not altogether, in her former position.

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* These three men have no land attached to their cabins; they take "muck ground," (con acre) for which they pay from 5*l.* to 8*l.* per acre, according to the quality of the land.

BASTARDY.Munster,
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish Kildysart.
Bar. Clonderalaw.

It is a common practice to apply for wages at the petty sessions, but it is found that no men but the poorest allow matters to go so far as the issuing of a summons against them. Sometimes the women apply privately to the magistrates, and they are advised rather to bring their case before the quarter sessions. This system has been in operation longer than any magistrate present remembered.

Wages are never granted before the birth of the child, because they are looked upon rather as a reimbursement for expenses incurred. When the woman makes her application, the magistrates award her about as much as she could have earned by her usual occupation in the period of time during which she represents herself as having been unable to continue such occupation. As to the amount given in the case of a farm servant, the most usual case of seduction, it was calculated from about 10 s. to 15 s. a quarter; but this is subject to variation, in some measure depending on the power of the party to pay.

The number of illegitimate children bears each year a decreasing proportion to the number of legitimate births, and as wages are rarely continued beyond the period of weaning, it can hardly be expected that any consideration of their value should have any influence on that ratio. Major Ross Lewin stated, that though cases can be adduced of women having children by different fathers, there were but two instances known where they had been successful in getting decrees for wages, partly because they are entitled to less credit, and partly because it is not probable that a man would enter into a contract involving the maintenance of a child with a woman whose character had been already injured.

No punishment is ever inflicted upon those applying. No difference is made in the amount awarded, on the ground that the woman has had more than one child; but she finds more difficulty in substantiating her assertion, that a promise or contract had been entered into with her.

No instance was known of a young man evincing an anxiety to marry a young woman for the sake of the wages. These women find the utmost difficulty in procuring husbands, and there is a decided feeling against them, "so much so," added Harly, "that she is always the last to get a partner at a dance, and nobody will step out with her as long as he can find another." Mr. Sheehy calculated that not more than three out of twelve such women get married to any others than the fathers of their children. There were a few instances, perhaps a dozen, where money given by the wealthy father has succeeded in getting husbands for such girls; they have all been ill-conducted fellows, too, who have accepted such conditions, and though some of the marriages have, in other respects, turned out happily, yet the man is much looked down upon by his equals. Rev. Mr. Dinan said, he knew several instances where small farmers' sons have refused considerable sums held out as an inducement to marry a gentleman's illegitimate sister or daughter; but still there were other instances where such offers were attended with success.

With regard to the necessary proof at the petty sessions, it is simply required that some contract has been made by the father to support the child, or that he has at any time made a promise to the mother to support it. The mother often swears the child before birth, and makes use of her affidavit afterwards when she brings forward her claim. Her testimony is also considerably enforced, if she can prove that the father has ever given her any money to meet the expenses which she has incurred. The man is always allowed to bring his witnesses to disprove the assertion of the woman, and for this purpose a summons is always served upon him to attend at the petty sessions on a given day. If the woman can prove the promise, the magistrates have no discretionary power to refuse her application; they can only use additional strictness in examining the witnesses produced.

Should the reputed father be unable or unwilling to pay the amount ordered by the magistrates, they have not the power of inflicting any punishment on him; they can issue a warrant for the distraint of his goods, but they cannot attach his person, such a jurisdiction belonging exclusively to the court of quarter sessions. The amount given is usually awarded in one sum, but time is often allowed to the father to pay it in instalments, either by the woman herself, or at the discretion of the magistrates. No case known of such a procedure having driven the reputed father to marry the woman.

The acknowledgment by the father is not considered necessary, but it is rarely ever wanted. The point upon which a man usually endeavours to avoid an order for wages is not that he is not the father of the child, but that he has not made any promise or contract. The parish is in no way concerned about the business. Major Ross Lewin said, that women have been frequently known to bring actions for nursing, and have recovered in them. That when they apply in private to the magistrates, they rather advise them to bring their case before the assistant barrister, because even when a contract or promise has not been made, that officer is empowered to adjudicate and to award damages where a loss of time has been incurred. A case which the petty sessions have ceased ever to entertain.

Applications to the quarter sessions are very generally successful, and the expense incurred is but 5 s., which is always ordered to be paid by the individual against whom a decree is obtained.

"When wages are not granted," said the Rev. Mr. Sheehy, "the woman with more than one bastard has hardly any other resource than begging; while she has but one she endeavours, if possible, to support herself by occasional labour; but she does not obtain it very readily. In certain months she may find work in the fields; but people are unwilling to admit her into their houses. If she has more than one child, she is too much occupied in the charge of them to be able to earn her livelihood by industry, and she is sure to resort to begging, of which there are four or five instances known here, and sometimes, though rarely, to prostitution."

The Rev. gentleman described the condition of the unfortunate creatures who are driven

to

to this extremity as deplorable in the extreme. Unable to pay their rent, they are first driven from their cabins; they then rear a wretched hovel of sods against some ditch, which, as soon as it is discovered by the farmer on whose ground it is, is immediately pulled down, in order to prevent the corruption of his children and of his servants. She then goes to another place, and finds the whole neighbourhood leagued against her; she is thus compelled to lead a wretched and vagabond life, and gradually rendered reckless by her sufferings, and by a consciousness of her degradation, she instructs her children in every kind of vice, and ultimately takes refuge in a town, where she soon terminates her miserable existence. Few of the children of these women outlive the period of infancy; but if they do, they become the pest of society, and endeavour to make other children as bad as themselves. "Last Sunday," said Mr. Dinan, "on going to a chapel that I have up towards the mountains, I found that such a woman as Mr. Sheehy has described had erected a hut by the side of the road. I caught her son, a boy of seven years of age, in the act of teaching the most horrible imprecations and acts of the grossest obscenity to a child of only five years old. I chastised the elder boy, and thereby drew down on me the abuse of the mother, who said that her child had a right to do what he liked."

Persons who attended the Examination.

ANDREW CLANCY, farmer with 100 acres.—Dr. COSTELLOE, of the dispensary.—Rev. ANDREW DAVORAN, protestant rector.—MICHAEL HEHIR, innkeeper.—JOHN KEANE, a farmer of seven acres.—MATHIAS KEARNY, an extensive farmer.—Rev. P. M'GUANE, roman-catholic curate.—JOHN MAGUIRE, blacksmith.—DANIEL M'KNIGHT, weaver.—THOMAS MOLONY, blacksmith.—F. G. MORONY, esq., J. P.—Mr. MORONY, postmaster.—MICHAEL MURROUGH, farmer of 11 acres.—PATRICK MURROUGH, land surveyor, and a farmer holding 10 acres.—JOHN OWENS, grocer.

Rev. Mr. M'Guane declared himself unable to ascertain the entire number of bastards in the parish, for that as they arrive at an adult age they merge in the population, and the stigma of their birth is almost forgotten. He could, however, speak more positively as to the absolute number of legitimate births, as compared with others. He found 1,000 births in his parochial books since the census of 1831, and out of that there were not more than 20 illegitimate; that is, in the proportion of 1 to 50. The parish never undertakes the support of bastards, unless they be deserted; and there have been but three instances of that crime during the last 10 years, in each of which the children were supported by contributions collected by the roman-catholic clergymen. During the 30 years that Mr. Davoren had been acting as a magistrate at Miltown there had not occurred even a suspected case of infanticide. The majority of bastard cases occur between farm servants, male and female, who, from frequent opportunity, are more exposed to temptation. Under these circumstances the father is generally poor, and shows much reluctance to assist in the maintenance of his offspring. Those of a better class are not, however, found so willing to do so. When there is not any disparity in the condition of the parties, the parents of the girl often make up a sum of money as a portion, and thereby succeed in effecting a marriage between them; "but," said Mr. M'Guane, "this effort is frequently not necessary, when a feeling of honour induces the man to marry his victim, as the only reparation in his power; where there is great inequality between them, however, I do not press this reparation, as it is not likely that the girl herself could have expected it when yielding to solicitation."

The mother has no direct mode of procuring assistance from the father unless he gives it voluntarily, except by applying to the magistrates for an award of wages, for expenses incurred and work performed in nursing the child. It has been the practice of the bench to entertain such questions for the last 20 years; but applications of the kind are not very numerous. Mr. Davoren stated that there had been one the last Thursday, and he did not recollect when there had been one before, certainly not for the last two years. From the point on which the claim is founded nothing can be awarded before the birth of the child; as to the sum granted, it altogether depends on what had been promised by the father. In the case above alluded to it was 2*l.* for the year; and in general it may be set down as between 10*s.* and 15*s.* a quarter.—(Morony.)—Any variation in the amount depends not on the power of the father to pay, but merely upon what it can be proved that he has in any manner contracted to give.

The system of granting wages for the maintenance of illegitimate children has been in operation for such a length of time, that it is difficult to compare the present state of the parish, as to bastardy, with what it might have been previously. Both Mr. M'Guane and Mr. Davoren, who knew the parish previous to its introduction, did not think that it produced any alteration. There are a few women who have had children by different fathers, but they are, for the most part, women whose characters would render it exceedingly difficult to substantiate a statement of a promise made to them by any individual; and in point of fact, there is but one of them who has endeavoured to derive any advantage from her intrigues, by an appeal to the laws for wages, and she was unable to prove her case.—(Morony.)—Mr. M'Guane had met only with one instance where it had appeared that a woman was anxious to have a child, in order to benefit by the wages to be received in this manner; and he stated as follows:—"I was holding a station* at the mountain foot, and

BASTARDY.

Munster,
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish Kildysart.
Bar. Clonderlaw.Parish Kilfarboy,
including town of
Miltown Malbay.
Bar. Ibrickane.

* A place appointed for hearing confessions in the country.

BASTARDY.

Munster,
County Clare.

Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.

Parish Kilfarboy,
including town of
Miltown Malbay.
Bar. Ibrickane.

amongst others a boy of about 18 came to me, and I asked him, of course, whether he had anything to do with the other sex, and he said no, but that it was not for the want of offers, for that a girl had asked him to do what he liked with her, and said that she would swear the child, if she had one, to another man."

The magistrates have no power to inflict any punishment upon those who apply for wages. No difference is ever made on account of the applicant having had more than one child, as the amount awarded always depends on what it can be proved that the man promised.

Kenny, Clancy and Molony agreed that the sum awarded for wages never operated as an inducement to any young man to marry the girl in the receipt of it. Any young woman who has had an illegitimate child always finds considerable difficulty in procuring a husband; but there are cases known where this general repugnance has been overcome by the offer, on the part of individuals of the upper classes, of certain advantages to be received by the man who would consent to take as a wife the woman who had cohabited with them. Mr. Maguane observed upon this point, that he perceived with regret that a female, who has been seduced by a gentleman, is not looked upon as being altogether so impure as one who has been led into error by one in her own station; and he added that this leniency of opinion arose from the probability that she had weighty reasons for her yielding. The eagerness to procure land is so great, in consequence of its being the only source of support to the peasantry, that nothing is so likely to procure a partner for such a girl as the temptation of a small farm; and he knew of instances where such temptation had not been resisted. Kenny said, that if a girl who has been "unfortunate" continues to behave herself properly in other respects, and does not degenerate into a prostitute, she does not suffer much in point of fact, further than the difficulty of finding a husband. She is readily taken as an out-door servant, and sometimes even as a house servant by farmers; but in consideration of her being somewhat occupied in attending to her child, she is obliged to accept half wages; "as for the bastard," said Molony, "there will be always somebody to recollect how he came into the world; but if he is a quiet boy no one will speak against him; and if he be well off, a small farmer would not be such a fool as to refuse him his daughter if he deserved her, but perhaps if he was poor it would be otherwise."

As to the description of evidence required at the sessions, Mr. Davoren stated, that the magistrates require that the woman who applies for wages should prove, either by her own testimony or by that of other witnesses, that the father of her child has at any time undertaken to pay the expenses for the labour to which the maintenance of such child shall have exposed her. If it can be proved that the father has given money for such a purpose, even without a verbal declaration on the point, such an act is looked upon as an acknowledgment of the obligation; and though he is always summoned to attend and to disprove, if possible, the statements of the female, it is not very likely that he would escape. Mr. Morony, the magistrate, said, that they would look upon the question merely as any other contract for wages, and would decide solely upon the evidence, without any regard to the character of either party.

The magistrates have no power to punish the reputed father if he refuse to pay the sum awarded against him; they can issue a warrant of distraint against his goods; but that proceeding has hardly ever been found necessary, as obedience has almost always been yielded to their decree. The father is ordered to pay the sum at once, but in general the period of payment is a matter for arrangement between the parties, though the time nominally given by the bench is 10 days. A second application is seldom resorted to. The father continues to pay until the child is weaned; and it has never been observed that the burthen thus imposed for so short a time has had the effect of driving him to marry the woman. The churchwardens do not interfere in the business, which does not in any way concern the parish generally, neither is it deemed necessary that the man should acknowledge his paternity.

Some women adopt another mode of procuring indemnification, by bringing actions against the father at quarter sessions for the recovery of wages for nursing. If they make good their case the assistant barrister may grant them a decree; and if any delay should occur in the payment, he is empowered to commit the recusant to prison.

The charge of a single child unsupported by wages, drawn from its father, does not necessarily drive any woman to beggary. She may sometimes be turned out of doors by her father, but she will be sure to get something underhand from her mother or other relations; she may even gain a partial subsistence by occasional work; but if she have more than one child she can hardly escape mendicancy, and she will not pursue it in her own parish but at a distance. Mr. Maguane observed, that there was more than one woman at that time in Miltown supporting herself and several bastards by begging, but they have all come from other places, though some of them have increased their families since their arrival. It is not unlikely that natives of the place, who have left their home after their seduction, are following the same mode of life elsewhere; and Molony said he has actually seen one woman doing so in the town of Kilrush.

Mr. Davoren observed, that all the women alluded to were bad characters, and their children participated in the vices of their mothers; but there are a few women who have had but one child to whom this remark did not apply, and who when the fathers of their children have refused to allow them anything, are cautious in their conduct, and avoid doing anything offensive, through the hope that they may at some time be induced to marry them; "but," observed Mr. Morony, "it is when the man has chosen another girl for a wife that the mischief begins, and then it is that we expect her to prefer a claim for wages."

Persons who attended the Examination.

Rev. MICHAEL COMYN, roman-catholic rector.—Rev. DANIEL CURRY, roman-catholic curate.—SIMON CURRY, nailor.—JOHN CURTIL, cottier, holding two acres.—JOHN DALY, able-bodied beggarman.—MARY FINN, widow, lately dispossessed of her holding.—GEORGE FITZGERALD, esq. gentleman farmer.—THOMAS FOLEY, small farmer.—THOMAS HEALY, beggarman.—PATRICK HEHIR, large farmer and shopkeeper.—PATRICK KENNEDY, small farmer.—WILLIAM M'DONNELL, labourer.—JOSHUA M'ENERNY, middling farmer.—JAMES M'MAHON, labourer.—Rev. Mr. MURRAY, protestant curate.—Dr. RYALL, dispensary physician.—THOMAS STUDDERT, esq., J. P.—PATRICK SHILLAGH, middling farmer.—CROFTON MOORE VANDELEUR, esq., J. P.—And several others, farmers, tradesmen and labourers.

BASTARDY.

Munster,
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish Kilferagh,
village of Kilkee.

Bar. Moyarta.

THE exact number of bastards could not be ascertained, but the opinion of all present was, that, considering the extent of the parish and the density of the population, the number was extremely small. The attachment of a mother toward an illegitimate child is very strong, and a case of deserting a child never occurs here; indeed, it is with the greatest difficulty women can be prevailed on to give up an illegitimate child to the reputed father, in order that he may support it. No case of infanticide or of finding a child dead has ever occurred in this parish within the knowledge of the witnesses. When the woman is brought to bed her friends generally apply to the father for some maintenance for the child, and if his means are at all adequate, he usually makes some provision for the offspring. In cases, however, amongst the poorest, which rarely occur, an attempt is often made to elude any promise; if a promise can, however, be proved before the magistrates, they will recognize the claim and award the sum agreed on between the man and the woman. Very frequently a feeling of honour and a desire to repair the injury done to the woman's character, leads to marriage, and marriages under these circumstances have been observed to turn out happily.

Mr. Studdart says, "If the petty sessions were regularly held here throughout the year, the number of applications would certainly average eight; at present, held as they are during the summer only, they do not amount to more than four, and these applications proceeding only from those in very poor circumstances; the more comfortable farmers seldom allow these matters to go so far; public opinion does not encourage such an exposure."

Before the birth of the child wages are never granted, and then the sum seldom or indeed ever exceeds 3*l.* or 4*l.* This, however, depends entirely on the sum applied for; the woman claims so much wages for the nursing of her child, and, if proved by the testimony of another witness, she will receive it.

The system of granting wages has not produced any sensible effect in increasing the number of illegitimate children; they are rather on the decrease, though the population for the last four years has wonderfully increased.

Mr. Studdart says, "We have never yet had a second application for wages from the same woman."

The sum granted as wages is so small it could not induce any man to marry the mother of an illegitimate child, and such women seldom get any one to marry them, unless (which sometimes, though rarely, happens) a sum of money was raised among her relations as a dowry, to induce some one far inferior to her in condition to marry her. M'Inerny says, "The loss of character, when publicly known, deters any respectable person from being seen courting her; besides, by her own sex she is looked down on as degraded, and I should be sorry indeed to have my daughter seen speaking to her; but it would be cruel to taunt her with it, for I am quite sure she feels it enough one way or another, without speaking to her on the subject; neither would the bastard ever be upbraided by his neighbours, unless he did something to make them angry; and if he wished to get married into a respectable family there would be a great deal to do, and I do not think, unless he had a tolerable fortune for one of us, he would find it an easy matter to get a wife." The Rev. Mr. Murray says, "I have generally observed that bastards among the more respectable agricultural classes marry people of inferior families."—"You ought to make some difference," observed Kennedy, "between a male and female bastard. A woman will seldom or scarcely ever make a decent match, because she is not able to work her way in the world as a man can do."

The reputed father is summoned to attend the petty sessions; and then it is necessary for the woman to prove, by the testimony of a witness, either a promise on his part to maintain the child or some act of adoption, such as giving money for the child's support; the man also is allowed to produce witnesses to disprove the story told by the woman; if he succeeds in doing so, the case is dismissed; if he fails, the sum claimed is awarded against him. It has happened, however, that the case for the appellant has been clearly proved, and equally so that for the defendant, the magistrates then settled the case to the best of their discretion. The woman's character is not taken into consideration; the only thing required is, that she shall have her case clearly proved, and if she would do this 10 times over, she would be entitled to get relief.

If the reputed father is unable or unwilling to pay the sum, the magistrates can only issue a warrant against his goods; his person cannot be touched, except by a decree from the quarter sessions; the amount is awarded in one sum; frequently a few days are granted to the reputed father to pay it. "This is done," Mr. Studdart says, "because it would be cruel to force a man to pay a large sum at once." To enforce wages, the acknowledgment of the reputed father is not necessary. "In fact," observes Mr. Studdart, "they generally

BASTARDY.*Munster,*
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish *Kilferagh*,
village of *Kilkee*.Bar. *Moyarta*.

acknowledge the child long before they come to us; the point we are called on to decide is, whether the promise to pay has been made or not." No case has occurred here of a father absconding to avoid the payment of the sum awarded against him.

Women have never been reduced in this parish to beg, in consequence of their having bastard children; they will sometimes get work in the fields in setting or picking potatoes, but seldom would a woman who had lost her character be admitted into a farmer's family as a farm servant. Neither have such women become prostitutes in this parish. "But I am sure," says Fitzgerald, "frequently the beggarwomen who come into this part of the country, have been obliged to leave home in consequence of their misconduct; indeed, no complaint is so common, during the summer, as that they have been forced to fly from their own parishes owing to a 'misfortune;' and no woman would admit this but one who had undergone great privation and hardship." The Rev. Mr. Comyn further observes, "The very act of begging from infancy, coupled with the scenes the young children must be brought up in, of necessity renders them also loose members of society." In this parish the father seldom refuses to support his illegitimate child; on the contrary, it has often been the subject of remark, how such and such a one maintains his illegitimate child; should he however do so, injury must necessarily accrue to the mother's health, when she is obliged to wander up and down in all seasons, exposed to the uncertainty of procuring a night's lodging.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Killaloe*.
Bar. *Tulla*.

JAMES BURKE, small shopkeeper.—PAT COURNEEN, weaver.—MARY COURNEEN, his wife, employed to nurse a deserted child.—PAT CURTIS, farmer of three and a half acres.—PAT DOOLAN, a resident beggar.—MICHAEL EDWARDS, farmer of 10 acres.—JOHN GILMORE, innkeeper.—PAT HEHIR, a mendicant.—PAT M'DONNELL, labourer.—Captain Martin. J. P.—JUDY MINAHAN, a town beggar.—Mr. O'BRIEN.—PARKER, esq. a barrister, living in the parish.—Dr. PURDON, dispensary surgeon.—MICHAEL RYAN, shoemaker.—Rev. Mr. SCANLAN, roman-catholic curate.—WIDOW SLATTERY.—Rev. Mr. ST. GEORGE, protestant curate.—Rev. Mr. VAUGHAN, roman-catholic priest.

MOST of the witnesses examined bore testimony to the rare occurrence of bastardy in the parish. No person could tell the entire number of bastards; but Mr. Dunear and the Rev. Mr. Vaughan said, there could not be more than three or four cases of it in a year, and at any rate it is not on the increase. They are never supported by the parish, except when deserted, and then a cess is levied for their support. There are only three deserted children in the parish; and Mr. Martin says, these have been the only instances of desertion within the last five years; and though it would of course be hard to prove it, he thinks they were deserted by women from other parishes. There is no instance known of women destroying their children. About a year ago a woman was tried who had thrown her child into the canal, but it was proved by medical men that the infant had been still-born. If the father be sure of the paternity, he is well inclined to support his child, and will often marry the woman, a practice which the Rev. Mr. Vaughan says he always encourages.

The bench of magistrates at Killaloe do not at present grant wages to women with bastards. Mr. Martin got a legal opinion, which induced him to refuse applications for that purpose.

At Clonrara, a short distance off, the magistrates do give wages, and there are generally four or five applications in the year. The woman obtains about 5*l.*, but the sum is regulated by the circumstances of the father. Since the petty sessions have refused to interfere at Killaloe, women have not had recourse to the quarter sessions for compensation.

When wages were given it was usual for women to swear the child before birth, that in case of being unsuccessful before the petty sessions, she might be able to substantiate the charge before the assistant barrister.

Since the system of not giving wages has been adopted, the number of bastards has not varied; and Mr. Martin thinks the numbers small in a population of 8,000.

About five years ago, when the practice of giving wages existed, a woman applied against a man whom she stated to be the father of her second bastard, as he was of her first. She was awarded but a very small sum, being considered undeserving, in proportion to the number of her illegitimate children.

The high spirit of the young men in this quarter would never allow them to marry a woman merely for the wages obtained on account of her child; such a thing was never known. When the character of a girl becomes suspicious from her behaviour to a young man, she is more apt to be treated with scorn than if she had even had an illegitimate child. In the latter case a feeling of pity is excited; but it often happens, according to Mr. Vaughan, that in the former a young man will marry a girl merely to free her from this suspicion. Girls who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in getting husbands. Mr. Martin knows one instance only where a girl of the kind got married to a man who was not the father of the child. The match was made through love on the part of the husband, and it has turned out well. If her frailty extends no further than having one child, and she be in other respects well behaved,—though in such a case a woman will certainly have lost her caste,—it is not usual with her equals to treat her harshly. "I would not like much," says Mrs. Mahony, "to see my daughter keeping company with her, but sure, if her misfortune possessed over her," (*i. e.* if she has but one child,) "she is to be pitied, poor thing."

The

The bastard certainly suffers from the incontinence of his parent; for though he is not an object of disdain, yet he is liable to be taunted with his misfortune on all occasions of quarrel. It does not appear, however, that if he had a little money, he would find any difficulty in getting a wife.

There are no wages granted at Killaloe; but at Clonrara, a neighbouring parish, the woman is obliged to prove previous promise on the part of the father, though he is allowed to produce any evidence against the charge, which he may be able to bring forward. If the woman be of otherwise good character, and the man not so, Mr. Martin says the magistrates would take her testimony in preference.

Mr. Duncan states that he does not know an instance where the father has refused to pay the award. The warrants are all directed to him, and he does not find any difficulty in levying the amount. If the father refuses there is no authority to punish him, the only mode of compulsion is to distrain his goods; the person is safe. The sum awarded being considered as wages due for services performed, or expenses in nursing, or as a debt resulting from a previous promise, is usually directed to be paid at once, but the mother generally draws it in small portions, without the necessity of more than one application to the magistrates, as the parish at large is in no way concerned in the matter. The churchwarden, who represents the parish, never interferes *ex officio*. The woman applies directly for a summons against the man she charges. There is not at the present moment a single woman in the parish of Killaloe who is in the receipt of a legal compensation for an illegitimate child.

There is only one beggar with illegitimate children in the parish, and she is a stranger, having been driven out of her own parish by the force of public opinion. And as to a woman being driven to prostitution in consequence of having an illegitimate child, there is not a prostitute in the parish except those who have come after the soldiers from other places. Mr. Vaughan says, that in the rare opportunities he has had of making any observations, he has found that great affection is shown by mothers to their illegitimate offspring. He recollects where a woman carried on a regular system of annoyance to get her child out of the hands of the father. An illegitimate child cannot be much worse off than the children lawfully begotten of the lower class in general.

Persons who attended the Examination.

AUSTIN CARRIG, one of the late enumerators under the Commission for the Public Instruction.—THOMAS CURRAN, dyer and pawnbroker.—JAMES DALY, apothecary and innkeeper.—LAWRENCE DOHERTY, labourer.—JOHN DONOGHUE, a cottier, holding five acres.—DOCTOR FINUCANE, dispensary surgeon.—JOHN HIGGINS, labourer.—JAMES KEANE, farmer of 12 acres.—THOMAS LYSAGHT, labourer.—AUSTIN MC CARTHY, a cottier holding two acres.—Rev. Mr. MC NALLY, P. P.—PATRICK MC NAMARA, weaver.—MR. MALONE, farmer of nine acres, and tithe collector.—JOHN MALONE, a cottier holding four acres.—JOHN MORISSY, weaver.—JAMES MULQUENY, farmer of five acres.—JOHN O'REILLY, publican and farmer.—PATRICK QUINN, baker.—Widow ROURKE, widow of a carpenter, supporting four orphans.—MATTHIAS THYNNE, shopkeeper.—Rev. Archdean WHITTY, protestant rector, and justice of the peace.—Mechanics, labourers and others, besides the above, were examined by the Assistant Commissioners.

Parish Kilmana-
heen.
Bar. Corcomroe.

ALTHOUGH the assistant commissioners are unable to ascertain the number of illegitimate children in the parish, yet it was found in the course of the inquiry, that the applications to the magistrates in cases of rape, had somewhat increased. Bastard children were never supported by the parish; and it was stated that there had not been a case where one of them was deserted by the mother for the last four years. There were then, however, two foundlings supported by individuals, who were exposed about five or six years ago, and whose expenses had not been paid for some time back. Collections are made at the roman-catholic chapel for nursing two other foundlings, who were also exposed anterior to the above-mentioned period. There had been only one case of infanticide within the last 10 years. The infant was found in a bog lake, but no traces of the mother could be discovered at the time. When the investigation commenced there was the greatest anxiety evinced to detect the parent, but this zeal soon wore off, and it was ascertained eventually, that the suspected criminal had been screened, and got out of the way. It has been observed in that district, that the fathers of illegitimate children generally maintain them very well, according to their means; and Archdean Whitty said, that most applications to the petty sessions arose from the mother's making exorbitant demands, and not from the unwillingness of the reputed father to contribute to the support of the child. On these occasions the general defence set up, is the unreasonable amount claimed by the mother; and the assertion by the father, that if the child be left to himself he would be able to maintain it at a much less expense. Several of the witnesses remarked that the business is generally hushed up, until the reported marriage of the man, when the mother, fearing that no allowance will any longer be made, brings the matter before the public. There had been no instance known there of a marriage having taken place from feelings of honour, after the affair had been made public by being brought before the bench of magistrates.

The system of granting wages has been in practice there ever since the sessions were first instituted; but where applications are made to the magistrates before the birth of the child, they always refer them to the quarter sessions. As to the amount usually granted, although

BASTARDY.*Munster,*
County Clare.Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.Parish *Kilmana-*
*heen.*Bar. *Corcomroe.*

the women often apply for the whole 6*l.* allowed by the Act of Parliament, yet the magistrates very rarely decree more than 3*l.* Out of 20 applications which had been made at the petty sessions, there had not been more than five successful, owing to the evidence to make out the case having failed. The amount awarded in these cases varies according to the contract made between the parties. In entertaining the question, the individual circumstances are never taken into account, the magistrates conceiving that their power is limited to the consideration of the bargain alone, and no farther.

It was the opinion of all present that the amount generally awarded was so trifling, that there could be no inducement thereby held out to incontinency; besides, as Archdeacon Whitty declared, he must do the people the justice to say, their chastity is marvellous, when their poverty and wretchedness are considered; and several persons added, that the morality of the women had considerably increased since the military had been withdrawn.

With regard to the difficulty that girls who have had illegitimate children would have in procuring husbands, four different witnesses stated that a great difference would be made on that point between a woman who had a child, by a countryman, and one who had connected herself with a gentleman. In the former case, no one would have anything to say to her, while in the latter many would be anxious to marry her, in the hope of getting money; all agreed, however, that by far the greater number of women who had committed themselves, remained unmarried. It does not always follow, however, that a woman loses all respect because she has had a child; and Mr. McNally said, that the people are discerning enough to, and do consider particularly the circumstances under which she had been seduced. There was only one instance remembered there of a person being induced to marry a woman under these circumstances, through the influence of one of the higher orders. The case occurred in a grazing part of the parish, and the woman was allowed five cows, which tempted a young man, who was her inferior in station, to marry her. The stain, however, never wears off the child, and several cases had occurred there of intended marriages being broken off in consequence of a discovery that one of the parties was illegitimate.

In a case of an application for wages for nursing a child, proof of a contract by a witness is all that is required, before it can be adjudicated on by a bench of magistrates. The woman's own oath and that of her witness, does most, however, preclude any proof to be offered by the man to the contrary, as he has it in his power to disprove by witnesses the statement made by the complainant. The reputed father is always first summoned to attend; and as the magistrates do not consider that they have any jurisdiction beyond the simple case brought before them, they do not go into the character of the women, consequently a second application might be equally successful with the first.

In case the reputed father should not pay, the magistrates can issue a warrant against his goods, a course, however, which it has never been necessary to adopt there. As to the time within which the amount awarded is to be paid, the magistrates, when they find the person decreed to pay is in poor circumstances, generally recommend the woman to receive it in instalments. This has been found, from experience, to be the best and most convenient way for both parties. It has never been known that the order for payment of wages has driven the reputed father to marry the girl, because the wages are not continued beyond the weaning of the child. It was also stated, that after the case has been once brought before the magistrates, the fathers continue to pay very regularly for the child until it is weaned, but after that period, the bench would not entertain the question. No acknowledgement by the reputed father is necessary to enforce an order for wages, nor is there any application made in the first instance to the churchwarden; it is made to the bench direct. The reputed father has never been known to abscond, where wages have been awarded against him. The men, however, sometimes leave the place where they reside for a few weeks or months, when they anticipate a claim being made upon them, but the woman invariably watches them, and brings her case on the very first opportunity when they return. This fact has been ascertained by the magistrates often asking the woman why she had allowed so long a time to elapse, without coming to them, which they have generally answered, that it was in consequence of the man thus leaving for a short time, in the hopes of escaping all expense.

A woman thus circumstanced will not be forced to beg, because she will be taken care of by her parents, while she receives the wages; but this remark only applies to women who have been unfortunate once, for a bad character would inevitably leave her home and parish.

*Persons who attended the Examination.*Parish *Kilnaboy.*
Bar. *Inchiquin.*

Rev. J. HASTINGS ALLEN, perpetual curate of Corofin.—AUSTEN CURTEN, carpenter.— — DAVIS, weaver.—GEORGE DIXON, farmer and tithe collector.—MICHAEL EGAN, carpenter.—JOHN EMERSON, slater.—WILLIAM FITZGERALD, esq., J. P.—GEORGE FITZPATRICK, innkeeper.—TIM FITZPATRICK, publican.—MICHAEL HALLORAN, labourer.— — HEHER, weaver.—JOHN HICKEY, postmaster, and farmer of 15 acres.—GEORGE HOGAN, labourer.—TIM HOGAN, farmer.—JOHN KENNY, shopkeeper.—THOMAS M'MAHON, labourer.—CHARLES M'NAMARA, farmer of eight acres.— — MARTIN, weaver.—MICHAEL MORIARTY, farmer, holding 15 acres.—JAMES NOLAN, farmer.—Rev. Mr. WALSH, roman-catholic rector.

BASTARDS are never supported by the parish; indeed, the cases of deserted children are very rare, and no instance has been known here of a woman destroying her illegitimate child.

Women,

Women with bastards very commonly apply to the petty sessions for wages. This, indeed, has been the custom of all since the establishment of petty sessions. No wages are ever granted before the birth of her child. The system of granting wages at petty sessions does not appear to have made any difference whatever in the number of bastards, nor have any women made applications for a second child.

No punishment is inflicted on a woman who makes application for wages. The petty sessions have no such power.

Young men in this district have never evinced a desire to marry women for the wages they might receive for the support of illegitimate children; nor have they been induced by any of the richer classes to marry their mistresses. Indeed, women who have had illegitimate children find great difficulty in getting husbands; they are shunned by their own sex, and looked down upon by all their neighbours. If a bastard behaved himself well, and became an industrious member of society, the circumstance of his unfortunate birth would be forgotten; at the same time several of the farmers stated that they would "move heaven and earth to prevent their daughters marrying bastards."

The magistrates can issue a distress warrant against the goods of the reputed father, but they conceive they have no power to levy an attachment against his person. If the amount claimed by the mother of the child as wages for nursing be proved to the satisfaction of the magistrates, even without the acknowledgment of the reputed father, it is ordered to be paid; but whether in weekly or quarterly sums is a matter of convenience among the parties. The award of wages has never here induced the reputed father to marry the woman. Men sometimes marry to get rid of charges of rape.

Persons who attended the Examination.

JAMES BRASIL, farmer, holding seven acres.—THOMAS CARROLL, labourer.—Rev. Mr. COFFEY, roman-catholic curate.—M. COLLON, weaver.—Major CREAGH, J. P.—MARY FITZGERALD, a beggarwoman.—Dr. FRAZER, dispensary surgeon.—Widow GRIFFEY, widow of a labourer.—Mr. HACKNEY, steward to Sir A. Fitzgerald.—MARTIN HALPIN, labourer, occasionally employed.—MARY HALPIN, his wife, always begging in Newmarket.—MICHAEL KEOGH and JAMES GEARAN, small farmers, holding about 12 acres each.—Rev. Mr. M'CULLAGH, rector.—JOHN M'NAMARA, labourer.—JOHN MOLONY, clerk of the petty sessions.—RICHARD MOLONEY, a decayed shoemaker.—HENRY O'BRIEN, esq.—LUCIUS O'BRIEN, esq., late M. P. for the county of Clare. Rev. Mr. O'BRIEN, roman-catholic curate.—PATRICK SHIELDS, carpenter.

Par. of Tomfinloe,
Kilnasullagh,
Kilmaleary and
Drumline.
Bar. Bunratty.

In this parish the usual clue to the number of bastards is wanted; namely, a distinguishing mark after the entry of their baptism in the register kept by the catholic clergyman. The number of women to whom the ceremony of churching has been refused would in some measure have been a guide; but the Rev. Mr. Coffey could not find his papers upon that point. The clerk of the petty sessions supplied, however, a list of the number of applications for wages for the nursing of illegitimate children within the last three years; but the information thus obtained is only an approximation, as of course many cases of bastardy are never brought before the public. The number of such applications in 1831 was 13, in 1832 it was 15, and in 1833 it was 21. The parish never undertakes the support of illegitimate children. Instances of desertion are rare in it, and Mr. Coffey could not recollect more than one case during the last six or seven years. About a year ago, however, an attempt was made by a woman who left her child in a ditch, but fortunately a boy passing near the spot at the time questioned her as to her intention. She said that she was only leaving it for a few moments, and taking it up again she went away. It was afterwards ascertained, however, that she was successful in deserting it without detection, in the next parish of Clare Abbey. "In general," said Molony, "women are fond of their illegitimate children, and seem grieved when the magistrates order them to give them up. In some few cases they have even preferred forfeiting their wages to losing their young one." The Rev. Mr. Coffey stated that the crime of infanticide occurred but once since he came to the parish, a period of about nine years. A child was found in a drain that runs into Lough Gash. It was impossible to make any satisfactory examination of the body, as it was totally disfigured by water rats. The affair created a great sensation, and a woman was taken up and interrogated three times. Although a surgeon was of opinion that she had been recently delivered, yet she was ultimately acquitted of infanticide for want of evidence. The fathers of these children are generally too well inclined to escape supporting their own offspring. They will sometimes take the child for a short time, but they soon get tired of it, and return it to the mother after making a compromise, and agreeing to pay her something for nursing it. Subsequent marriages are seldom brought about on these occasions from a feeling of honour; and the catholic clergyman does not press the matter unless there be equality between the parties. He considers that if there be much disparity, it is very unlikely that the girl could have become the dupe of a promise of marriage. Women who have had bastards sometimes apply at the petty sessions for wages; and Major Creagh said that this practice has prevailed for the last 13 or 14 years; the demand being made for services done, and expenses incurred in nursing the child. Wages are never awarded before birth of the child, nor indeed until some time after it.

The general amount awarded varies from 10s. to 3l. It varies according to the character of the mother, but still more according to the circumstances of the father. Most applications

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County Clare.*Examinations taken by
P. F. Johnstone, Esq.
E. B. Molloy, Esq.*Par. of Tomfinloe,
Kilnasullagh,
Kilmaleary and
Drumline.**Bar. Bunratty.*

tions are directed against farm-servants, they being most commonly the fathers of bastards; and Dr. Frazer said he is surprised it does not happen oftener, in consequence of the promiscuous manner in which male and female servants are permitted by farmers to sleep together in barns and outhouses. And he added, that he has even known incest to be the consequence of this disgraceful neglect of decency.

As to the moral effects of granting wages, the Rev. Mr. Coffey said that he had never been able to trace any increase of incontinence to it; he mentioned, however, several children by different fathers, and also the case of three sisters who had children by one and the same father; and Major Creagh, who had been a magistrate for a long time, was also unable to supply any information on the increase or decrease of bastardy; but judging from the return above given, it would appear to be on the increase.

The magistrates have not the power of inflicting any punishment on the woman who applies for wages. Although the amount awarded must chiefly depend on the contract or promise made by the father, yet if the woman have a general bad character, or have had more than one illegitimate child, great caution would be adopted in admitting the evidence she might bring, or in giving credence to her oath.

Wages are never awarded beyond the time at which children are usually weaned; never for more than two or three years, and therefore, observed Molony, one is not surprised to hear that no young man has been so mean as to marry a girl for so paltry a consideration. Some years ago, a mechanic did marry a girl who was in the receipt of wages for her illegitimate child, but as she was remarkably handsome, few thought that he was influenced by such a base motive. In general, indeed, girls who have had bastards find the greatest difficulty in procuring husbands, and there is not even an instance known where any one has been tempted to marry one by a bribe from the richer classes. Keogh observed, as to the way in which such women are generally received, that if one has had but one child, she does not necessarily suffer much from her frailty; if she can procure employment and get some one to take charge of the child, she is to be found labouring in the fields with other girls, and at all times she is freely admitted into their society. The bastard suffers more than his mother; and it appears that he is more alive to the stigma which is sometimes thrown upon him by ill-natured people, and bastards when they grow up frequently leave the place or even enlist.

Previous to the last two years, it was the custom with the magistrates to order a small amount of wages, even when no previous promise did exist; they ceased to do so, however, when they found that the law did not warrant it: at present it is required that the applicant for wages shall produce proof that a promise had been made to her, or that the father has at any time acknowledged the child by giving her anything for its support; a promise is generally obtained at some unguarded moment, at a time when nothing is likely to be refused. The man is always summoned to attend on the day when the woman is to apply, and is permitted to bring forward what testimony he can, to disprove her assertions.

If the father be unable or unwilling to pay the amount awarded, there is no way to compel him but by issuing a warrant for distraining his goods, and if he has none, the matter goes no further. If the mother rears the child for six months, or longer, under a promise of so much per quarter, she procures a summons for the amount, and the man, if he be able to pay it, does so at once; as he cannot be punished for disobeying the order, there is no inducement to him to marry the girl. Molony observed, that the men hardly even deny their children, however unwilling they may be to contribute to their support. The application for wages is never in the first instance made to the churchwarden, as the parish is not interested, but always to the petty sessions directly. Molony stated, that he knew instances of individuals absconding before the warrant consequent on their refusal to pay was issued.

When wages are not granted, in general women who have had only one bastard are observed to be very cautious in their behaviour for some time at least, in the hopes of getting married to the men who seduced them.

A woman who can bring herself to destroy her child must be dead to all the feelings of nature; and Mr. Coffey said he feared that the example given by the case of presumed infanticide, mentioned above, was not without its bad effects. The woman suspected had a sister who was observed to be in the family way; a week after the discovery of the dead child, groans were heard in the house of the two sisters as of a woman in labour, and in a few days the size of the sister was remarked to have diminished, but no infant was forthcoming.

*Persons who attended the Examination.**County Cork.*Examinations taken by
Thomas Martin, Esq.
John Lalor, Esq.*Parish Holy Trinity,
or Christ Church.**City of Cork.*

Mr. ABRAHAM ABELL, officer of health.—Mr. MICHAEL JOSEPH BARRY.—Rev. CHARLES H. LESLIE, rector.—Mr. GEORGE LOVE, overseer of the parish; appointed by the officers of health.

It is impossible to tell the number of bastards in the parish; there are no cases known of bastards being destroyed. It is not usual for women with bastards to apply for wages at petty sessions