



DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE PUPILS OF THE DUBLIN MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL IN THE ROUND ROOM OF THE ROTUNDO.

which do not exceed an average of about £11 for each girl. Their progress and proficiency in needlework has been satisfactory to the ladies' committee and Mrs. Noble, who efficiently superintend this important department in female education.

The sanitary condition of the school has been generally good during the past year, and the governors return their warm thanks to Dr. Speedy for the valuable medical services he has gratuitously rendered to the school during the last fifteen years.

During the year 1862 six girls were admitted to the school. Of those now

in the institution twelve are the orphans of brethren of Dublin lodges, whilst twenty-three of them are the orphans of brethren hailing from country or military lodges; and the governors desire to impress this fact on their brethren of country lodges, as the best proof that the school has an urgent claim on their liberality and co-operation.

One of the girls in Australia, one at the Cape, two in England, at the head of large schools, and several in Ireland, as wives or governesses, reflect upon the institution the credit they are themselves to it.

The governors, at the commencement of another year, fraternally appeal to

their brethren for a continuance and increase of that support which they have hitherto rendered with such useful and successful results.

Several addresses advocating the claims of the institution having been made, the hon. secretary, Mr. Oldham, read the list of prizes, handing to each of the girls a certificate signed with the autograph of his Grace the Duke of Leinster. The pupils then came forward to receive their rewards, and were enthusiastically applauded. The proceedings terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.



THE CIVIL WAR IN CHINA : EXPEDITION OF IMPERIALISTS, HEADED BY BRITISH OFFICERS, TO FUNGWHA—LANDING AT FANGCHOW BRIDGE, THE SCENE OF SLAUGHTER AND DESTRUCTION BY THE REBELS.—SEE SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 150.



THE CIVIL WAR IN CHINA: EXPEDITION OF IMPERIALISTS, HEADED BY BRITISH OFFICERS, TO FUNGWHA—BOMBARDMENT OF THE EAST GATE BY FIELDPIECES OF H.M.S. ENCOUNTER AND SPHINX.—SEE SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 150.



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TWO SHEETS, FIVEPENCE

THE INSURRECTION IN POLAND.

BEARING in mind that the vague and contradictory telegrams which announced the outbreak and which indicate the progress of the insurrection in Poland, are given to the world on Russian authority, we deem it necessary to receive the scanty information they contain with more than usual reserve, to sift and compare every portion of it with the utmost vigilance, and resolutely to guard ourselves against forming hasty conclusions. From all the data to which, in common with the public, we have access, three or four inferences may, we think, be drawn without much fear that they will be overturned by subsequent tidings.

It seems certain that the present insurrection is not, or at any rate was not in its commencement, a national revolt—a preconceived struggle of the Polish people to wrench themselves from the gripe of Russia and to achieve their independence. The Czar, in his address to the army, has admitted thus much. Considering the infamous disregard of national rights and susceptibilities with which Poland has been treated, the bad faith which has nullified all the guarantees which should have secured her political freedom, the elaborate and brutal cruelty which has been practised upon her in the hope of extinguishing her life and spirit as a nation, and the frequency with which her ruthless masters have thought fit to

Keep the word of promise to the ear,
And break it to the hope,

no reasonable man could affect surprise, far less indignation, if Poland, more intent upon casting off the intolerable burden of her own woes than careful to consult the convenience of Europe, should seize the first favourable opportunity offered her by passing events to snatch back, if possible, the indefeasible rights of which she has been wickedly despoiled. But European Liberals could not have witnessed an explosion at this moment of Polish patriotism, at least in the shape of massacre and insurrection, without profound regret shaded with disapprobation. The time would have been so ill chosen, the chance of success would have



been so infinitesimally small, the damage inflicted upon that accumulation of moral force which the unhappy Poles have acquired during the last few years would have been so extensive and irretrievable, that no intelligent and hearty friend of Poland could have listened to news of another national uprising without heaving a sigh as for a bitter calamity. It is, therefore, a relief to be able to collect, and that, moreover, from exclusively Russian sources, incontestable evidence that the Polish nation, as a whole, have not committed themselves to a conflict from which nothing can be reasonably anticipated but disastrous failure. Warsaw has remained quiet from the first—a fact which may be explained, no doubt, by the presence of 40,000 Russian troops. But the refusal of the entire body of students to join the insurrection, the inaction of the upper and more influential classes, and the known determination of the best and most trusted friends of Poland, scattered throughout Europe, to discountenance any immediate appeal to physical force, corroborate the surmise of the Emperor that the present is not an organised attempt of the whole people of Poland to recover their long-suppressed national independence or to pluck from the battle-field their political freedom. Poland, it is clear, has not been guilty of wantonly inflicting this needless wrong upon herself.

The origin of the affair which has awakened so anxious an interest throughout Europe is to be found in an act of the grossest administrative folly. Since the death of the Emperor Nicholas, conscription for the army has not been enforced in Russian Poland. It is a rough and exasperating process, even when the army which it is applied to recruit belongs to the country from which the conscripts are taken. Its operation upon the Poles was peculiarly harsh, for it condemned those of them upon whom the lot fell to wear out their lives in the alien and hated ranks of Russia. But the authorities who on this occasion had the management of the conscription, instructed probably by directions from St. Petersburg, converted this odious instrument of despotic power into a political engine

"BLOWING BUBBLES," BY W. HUNT, IN THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

SEE SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 150.