

ON MONDAY NEXT Mr. O'Reilly is going to ask a very unnecessary question about Freemasonry. At an inquest lately held at Sutton, county Dublin, on the body of a boy who was killed at Baldoyle races in consequence of being pushed under the wheels of a railway carriage, a witness named Strahan gave evidence that "there was a very large crowd assembled on the platform, and amongst them five or six respectably dressed men, who had formed themselves into a kind of triangular wedge, and were pushing along the crowd parallel to railway line. Their conduct, he believed, was monstrous, and, as the result of the pushing, he saw people thrown off the platform on to the rails. Almost directly afterwards he heard the shout that a boy was killed. He knew one of the men engaged in pushing, but as he was a brother Freemason, he could not reveal his name." Mr. O'Reilly wants to know whether this witness was "justified" in thus screening a "brother Freemason;" and whether there is such legal privilege for Freemasonry. Mr. O'Reilly need not trouble the Attorney-General for Ireland. Even from the Freemason's point of view, Strahan was not "justified," and of course there is no legal privilege exempting Freemasons from the hostile evidence of other members of the craft. Probably Mr. O'Reilly knows as well as we do that Freemasonry claims no such privilege, but for the sake of justifying Cardinal Cullen's anathemas against the society it may be as well to make a show of ignorance on the point.