

THE PROCEEDINGS IN CORK. — The correspondent of the London Times writing on the 30th ult. says:—At the Special Commission for Cork on Tuesday two persons pleaded guilty to the charge of harboring Eugene Geary, who had committed treason felony. The names of the accused were Donahy and Meany. The Attorney General said in the present case it was the anxious desire of the Crown to let these people see what the law was on the subject of harboring persons whom they have reason to suspect of being guilty of such an offence. Under the circumstances, however, it would probably be consistent with the ends of justice that the prisoners should be discharged without punishment at present, on giving substantial bail to come up when called on, and to be of good behaviour. The prisoners were, after an admission from the Bench, discharged upon entering into personal securities of £50 each, with two securities each of £25. True bills were found against the following persons for breaches of the Whiteboy Act:—Connell Curran, Cummins, Cahill, Collins, Creedon, Dwyer, Fitzpatrick, Galvin, Heffernan, Holmes, O'Brien, Thompson. The Attorney General intimated that it was not the intention of the Crown to send any more bills before the grand jury during the present commission. The grand jury were then discharged, and the court adjourned at an early hour.

At the opening of the Commission Court in Cork yesterday morning, O'Brien was asked whether he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced on him. In reply he reviewed the evidence at considerable length. He complained strongly of the mode of identification adopted in Limerick Gaol, and at the conclusion of his review of the evidence said he would now address himself to the inquiry if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed on him and asked if he had the permission of the Court to proceed. By the advice of the Court he held some communication with Mr. Collins, the result of which was that he forbore to make any further remarks.—Mr Justice Keogh then proceeded to pass sentence. He said:—

James O'Brien, you have been called upon to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon you. You have been heard at great length and you have addressed the Court in a manner so becoming and clear, evincing so much self-possession and such remarkable ability, that if anything were wanting to aggravate distress that every being in this Court to day must feel, the remarks you have made would contribute to do so. You labor under a very natural error in thinking that observations upon questions of fact and inferences to be taken from the evidence can have weight in preventing us in now passing sentence. We have no such power. The duty—the imperative duty—of the Court is to pass the sentence which the law awards, unless a matter of law shall be pointed out in the proceedings upon record before us which will justify us in staying the proceeding of judgment; but laboring under that error—our, as I said before, most natural—you have made no observations which either in this matter or manager obscure the position in which you stand.

After reviewing the evidence, his lordship said:—It was proved in evidence that you did all in your power to save the lives of the men who were at one time at your mercy. It was proved by two witnesses, by Browne and by another, that in that trying moment you heartily expressed a wish to save human life; and whatever may happen to you, that wish will be a consolation to you—that effort to save will be recognized by a merciful tribunal. The jury have taken the whole of your case into their consideration, and they have addressed to the Court a recommendation of mercy. That recommendation shall be sent forward without loss of time, but it is not for us to give effect to that recommendation.—We have no power to hold out any hope for you. You know your position. You require no teaching or instruction from me. You are a man of intellect, of self-possession, and except from what I have seen in the evidence of this case, of a well-regulated mind. You have borne yourself with dignity, and it now becomes my most painful duty to pronounce the sentence of the law—the law of which I am the mere mouthpiece.

His lordship here assumed the black cap, and pronounced sentence of death in the usual form, and fixed the 10th of June for the execution.

CLOSURE OF THE CORK SPECIAL COMMISSION.—The Cork Special Commission ended on Friday with the sentencing of nine prisoners who had been found, or who had pleaded guilty, to charges of treason felony:—John Francis Kearns, commissioner, was sentenced to fifteen years penitentiary, Morgan M'weeney, Eugene Lombard, Simon Downing, Mark Moriarty, David Cummins, and Jeremiah Acher, to seven John Cahill and Eugene Geary to five. The sentence on Kearns has created a profound sensation, and it is considered by many persons who attentively weighed the evidence to have been cruelly severe. The Act of Parliament under which he was tried was passed expressly for the punishment of John Mitchell's treason felonies, and he (Mitchell) only received a sentence of ten years transportation which, in accordance with the practice of that time was subsequently remitted by a ticket of leave. Kearns, for not a tithe of Mitchell's offences, has now been sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude, or, in other words, companionship with atrocious criminals.—Cork Herald.

CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF STEPHEN J. MEANY.—We are informed that the lengthened proceedings against Stephen Joseph Meany are about to be nullified by the Government. It will be remembered that Meany was convicted at the Special Commission, presided over by Baron Fitzgerald and Hughes, and that in consequence of no evidence of his having committed a direct overt act of treason in this country having been adduced, the matter was brought before the Court for Crown Cases Reserved, where, four judges dissenting, the verdict was confirmed.—The question has been since considered by the Law Advisers of the Crown, and for certain reasons the convict is about to be released. He was recently confined in Naas Jail, to which he had been transferred from Kilmallock; he has just been recalled, and will in a short time be conveyed to some port of emigration. The police will resign all claim to his person the moment he sets foot on an outward bound vessel, the condition being that he shall not revisit Her Majesty's dominions.—Irish Times.

The Dublin Express says:—A suspicious looking craft has been observed for some days hovering off the coast of Donegal Bay apparently deeply laden. She came to anchor not far from Mullygorm, and after a short time weighed and stood over towards Sreeda. She was boarded by a policeman from Mullygorm, who was unable to learn her name or destination. On Friday morning a coastguard, named Burke, observed a craft going to the sea shore early in the morning, followed it quietly, and found four sailors lying beside a wall, three of whom were wounded apparently by pistol shots. They were brought before Mr. Ormsby Jones, and are detained for further examination. Some days before this vessel appeared, a stranger of Yankee appearance, engaged a smart hooker at the high price of £5 a week and has been since cruising about the coast. He announced himself to be an artist.

Placeards were posted in Dublin on the 30th ult., giving in large type an extract from the Times leader of the 28th, on 'The Right of Rebellion,' and bearing the words, underneath the heading, 'English Opinion'—Frishtmen, your cause being thus sympathized with, you are bound to persevere in efforts to redress Ireland's wrongs.

DUBLIN, June 18.—One of the victims of the recent riot was buried at Waterford to-day. His funeral was the occasion for a great demonstration. A procession consisting of over five thousand persons all wearing the green, followed the corpse to the place of interment.

THE PETITION TO RESERVE BURKE.—The petition for mercy to Burke was placed for signature on the table of the Commercial Reading-room in Cork, but the directors ordered it to be removed, as a political document, in accordance with the rules, one member stating that it ought to be kicked out. This caused great indignation, and a meeting of the subscribers to the room was held on Monday, Mr. William Shaw, J. P., in the chair. The Cork Examiner states that the attendance was large and influential, and a strong feeling of indignation at the act of the committee was evinced. It was decided, in order to prevent the committee again acting contrary to the opinions of the subscribers, that the latter should demand representation in the directory, and that if the demand were refused, there should be immediate steps taken to establish an exchange in opposition to the present room. The following document has been widely circulated in Dublin:—

'Thanks to the Queen.—Fellow Citizens.—In the days of ancient Rome a noble youth whose father had been condemned to death, supplicated the Emperor to spare the life of his food parent. The Emperor yielded to the prayer of filial piety. The son's reply to the Emperor was—'Emperor! I must for ever continue ungrateful!' He intended thereby to signify that no language, no matter how eloquent, could ever convey an adequate idea of the overflowing thankfulness of his grateful heart. I know of no language which can more expressively convey a nation's thankfulness for having spared the life of the condemned prisoner for whom we supplicated than to say—'Most Gracious Queen, we must for ever continue ungrateful!' God save the Queen.

THOMAS CANNON PRESS
'St. Andrew's Church, 48 Westland row, Dublin May 29, 1867.'

DUBLIN June 13.—Corrydon, of whose testimony the prisoners who were captured at Dungarvan have been identified, was, to-day, attacked by a mob of his countrymen at Waterford, and barely escaped with his life.

DUBLIN June 14.—The trial of the Feunin Walsh and a number of his companions which has been in progress before the Special Commission in Limerick, has resulted in the conviction of all of the accused.

The supposed Feunins who lived and were captured a short time since at Dungarvan, were subsequently taken to Waterford and confined in the jail there. This week they have been undergoing a preliminary examination, and the testimony given so far shows that four of them had served as officers in the United States army during the late rebellion. Yesterday, while the prisoners were being conducted from the Court House to the jail, a charge of strong police force, a crowd of their sympathizing friends gathered from all parts of the city and made a fierce attack upon the guard, with the intention of effecting a rescue. A fight ensued during which some thirty of the police escort were injured. One of the attacking party was killed, and six are known to have been wounded by the fire of the guard. The latter made a stout defence, and succeeded in safely depositing their prisoners in the city prison, when the mob dispersed.

It appears that a considerable number of the Tipperary 'boys' who were out on Strove Tuesday night have managed to evade the vigilance of the police ever since. But, finding that sort of life intolerable, and being reduced almost to a state of starvation, about 20 of them came to the police barracks at Thurles on Monday, and gave themselves up to Sub-Inspector M'Carthy. They were removed to Templemore where Mr. Gore Jones R.M. accepted bail for 14, to appear at the next sessions. One of the prisoners, named Stapleton, having been with the party which destroyed the Rostker barracks and murdered the boy Keane, was detained in custody but being refused, in his case, and the remainder were set at large. The surrender of others was highly probable; but some, it is believed, will never voluntarily give themselves up. Of these a Captain Joseph Gleeson who would be put on trial for high treason and murder if he were once amenable, and one or two other 'captains' whose offences are of a dark complexion.

COMMUTATION OF THE SENTENCE OF M'CAFFERTY.—An official intimation was received on Saturday evening by the Governor of Kilmallock Prison, announcing that the sentence of death passed at the recent Commission upon the Feunin convict 'Captain' John M'Caafferty, had been commuted to penal servitude for life. The prisoner, who appears to have expected a reprieve, received the intimation with the utmost composure, and made no remark upon it being communicated to him. At a late hour on Monday evening the prisoner was conveyed from Kilmallock to Mountjoy Prison under a strong mounted escort, and delivered over to the Governor there.

COMMITTEE OF CONSTATABLE KELLY AS A LUNATIC.—Constable Patrick Kelly, who, it will be remembered, was in charge of the Feunin Centre Kirwan when he escaped from the Meath Hospital, was on Monday committed to Naas Gaol as a lunatic. Kelly escaped from the residence of his uncle, in Dublin, a few days ago, and proceeded to the residence of his father, who is gatekeeper at Bishopscourt.

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—Saunders' News Letter says:—The tide of emigration from Ireland continues; and, as it does not show any sign of diminution, the probability is that in the course of a very few years the population will be reduced sufficiently to satisfy those who think that the number of inhabitants is too great at present in comparison with the resources of this country. Although the southern and western parts of Ireland furnish the largest number of emigrants, yet the north is contributing its quota to the Irish exodus. It appears from the Londonderry Standard, to take one instance, that the emigration from that port is greatly on the increase, and that at the present time 'the outgoing steamers, both by the Canadian and Anchor Lines, find it very difficult, and frequently impossible to accommodate the numbers seeking passage, and parties have frequently to be left behind for want of room.' Some sixty young men and women, belonging to the labouring and small farmer class, appeared before the Mayor of Derry the other day to explain that after they had left the usual deposit with the vessel of the American steamer 'Anchor Line' the vessel had left without taking them on board. This was a matter beyond the jurisdiction of the magistrates, and we only refer to it as an indication of the prevalence of emigration on an extensive scale from the most prosperous part of Ireland.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ADDRESS OF THE CATHOLICS OF ENGLAND TO THE POPE.—'Most Holy Father.—On the eighteenth Century of the Martyrdom of St. Peter, which approaches to add a greater lustre to your pontificate, while our pastors are about your throne we, your faithful children in England and Scotland, desire to be present also in our hearts and prayers. In you we recognise the person and prerogatives of St. Peter, prince of the apostles, to whom the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, the care of the whole flock, and the guidance of the Universal Church on earth, were committed. In you we recognise also the Vicar of Jesus Christ. You exercise in the world the visible jurisdiction of the divine head of the Universal Church. In our clergy, secular and regular, are the representatives of the martyrs who in chains and death remained faithful to the Holy See. In our ancient families are the successors of those who risked the loss of all earthly possessions for the sake of their attachment to the same centre of unity. In you we acknowledge the prerogatives declared by the Great Council of Florence, 'That the Roman Pontiff holds the primacy over all the world, and that he is the successor of St. Peter, the prince of the Apostles and true Vicar of Christ head of the whole Church, father and teacher of all Christians, and that to him is the person of the blessed Peter, the plenary power of feeding, ruling, and governing the Universal Church was delivered by our Lord Jesus Christ. To you, therefore, as the teacher of all the faithful, we conform our hearts, minds, and wills, with filial submission and glad fidelity—knowing that whatsoever you teach is true, whatsoever you condemn is error. We are bound to you as the successor of St. Gregory who opened the Kingdom of eternal life to our nation; and as our father who has restored to England once more the fulness of the Catholic hierarchy.

'Holy father, we, your humble but faithful sons of every estate draw near to you in this hour when for twenty years the nations have prophesied and desired the downfall of the state and dignity which God has given to you above the pastors and princes of the world. May the great Shepherd of the sheep watch over you; may the Prince of the Kings of the earth uphold you, until all men shall know that benediction!'

Here follow the signatures, comprising the names of Britain's noblest gentry and aristocracy—the best blood of Europe.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the London Times.

Sir,—In the second report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the schools in Scotland, page xx. I find it stated that 'out of 5,736 scholars in Roman Catholic Schools, 5,229 are Catholics; but there are 7,343 in Protestant schools.' This statement has conveyed to many persons the impression that there are only 5,736 scholars attending all the Roman Catholic schools in Scotland. In the Roman Catholic schools visited by me in Scotland in 1864 I found present on the days of my visit 8,143 scholars; the average attendance at these schools was 8,143; and the number of scholars on the books was 11,203.

There are many Catholic schools in Scotland not under Government inspection. I am unable to say anything from personal knowledge of the number of Catholics in Protestant schools, or the number of Protestants in Catholic schools.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY J. LYONS,
Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools.

INQUIRY TO CATHOLIC PRISONERS.—At the Middlesex Sessions a motion was made to allow Mass to be celebrated in Colcheth Fields prison on Sunday for the Catholic prisoners. The motion was just and reasonable, considering that the Catholic prisoners are at least one third of the inmates. Mr. Serjeant Payne, who has frequently distinguished himself for his liberal spirit, proposed an amendment, which was carried by a majority of one; thirty-one voting for the motion to allow Mass, and thirty-two for the amendment.

PROTESTANT RIOTS.—London, June 18 2 p.m.—Information has been received here of a very formidable anti Catholic riot in Birmingham to-day. Two streets have been taken possession of and completely sacked by rioters, who are out in great force, preventing very formidable appearances. The Catholic Chapel has been attacked, and it is threatened with demolition. Most intense excitement prevails, and further trouble is apprehended.

3 p.m.—At this hour the Protestant rioters are in possession of the city. All efforts to preserve order and peace have proved futile. Large bodies of troops have been sent to the scene, with orders to put down the riot at all hazards, and stop further destruction of property.

The franchise section of the Reform Bill, passed through Committee on Tuesday. It will establish in the borough household suffrage, and simple, qualified only by the condition of a year's residence and of a full personal discharge of the municipal rates due on the occupier's house; and it will give in addition a lodger franchise also qualified by a condition of twelve months' residence, to any one who has paid six months as £10 annually for the apartment occupied by him exclusive of all charge for furniture. For the counties the occupier's qualification is to be land or tenement's rate at £12 annually. The change is vast. Mr. Bright said on Tuesday that the Bill he advocated was precisely what Mr. Disraeli has now carried and he did not doubt that Mr. Disraeli had borrowed it from him. He congratulated the country gentlemen on their wonderful change of opinion, but thought the result ought to warn them not to take for granted so easily as they did last year the alarmist views which their leaders impressed upon them. Mr. Disraeli, a little nettled, congratulated Mr. Bright on another speech of 'incoherent contumeliousness' to the Tories, and had the audacity to express a doubt whether he could prove that the Tory party had changed their opinions which raised such a shout of derision from both sides of the House that Mr. Disraeli was driven to put on that most useful incapacity to understand, with which he so often veils his embarrassment. None feel more keenly than the Tories the ludicrousness of their own political superstition.

A good story is told illustrative of this feeling. An Irish boy meeting an old country member descending the steps of the Carlton Club asked him, 'Please, Sir, is this the Reform Club?' 'No, damn you! growled the old Tory, 'The Reform is next door. This is not the Reform; this is the Revolution.'

THE SCOTCH AND IRISH REFORM BILLS.—Forty two Irish Conservative members held a conference yesterday afternoon in the 'Tea room' of the house of Commons. General Dunne presiding, and discussed the probabilities, with a view to some decided action, of the coming Reform Bill for Ireland. There was a good deal of conversation, and a general feeling was expressed in opposition to any lowering of the franchise, either in the counties or boroughs, while the extensions of the boundaries of small boroughs was advocated in preference to the anticipated plan of grouping with other towns. It was resolved that, in furtherance of these views, a deputation should communicate with Lord Naas and have an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Mutual concessions are likely to be made by the Government and the representatives of Scotland in respect of the provisions of the Scotch Reform Bill. There are grounds for believing that the Government will yield to the objection as to the regrouping of boroughs, the Scotch members accepting the proposition as to the division of counties. One effect of this arrangement would be to reduce the number of new members for Scotland from seven to six.—The Gael.

TURNING A BABY TO ORATORICAL ACCOUNT.—Lord Granville, at a public meeting lately, said that he had been charged by an Episcopal opponent in the House of Lords with incompetence to discuss the subject of education on the ground that he had no children. 'A recent circumstance,' said his lordship with the perfect coolness of his caste, 'has put me in a better position; but I cannot say that it has changed a single view which I ever held on the subject of education.' Was a baby ever turned to more admirable oratorical account?

At a meeting of the Council of the Reform League Mr. Beales, the President, complained that he was placed in a position of some difficulty. All their friends on the Liberal side of the House were doing nothing but complimenting the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It looked as if they considered the Reform Bill the greatest boon that could be conferred on the country. The League, however, had yet a great deal to do, and he was not prepared to lower the banner of manhood suffrage. The League could also be useful in other matters. A resolution was adopted in favor of the League earnestly pressing for the ballot, and that the Executive Council should carefully consider the redistribution of seats.

LONDON, June 18.—A Reform mob attacked a Tory meeting to night at St. James' Hall, stormed the platform, and erected a red flag surmounted by a Liberty Cap. There was much fighting, and many arrests have been made.

It appears, after all that Paris is not to have the monopoly of Crowned Heads for this season. Rather more than the crumbs from the rich feast of our neighbours will fall to our share. The Sultan is expected to visit London immediately on leaving the French capital, and there is every probability that the Emperor Alexander of Russia will also be our guest. We say, adverbially, that these great Monarchs are coming to us, for it is on ourselves, on all of us on the whole English nation, that the duties of hospitality will devolve. Buckingham Palace, we understand, is to be placed at the disposal of Abdul-aziz, but the gracious Lady of the mansion will not be there to do the honours to the Sublime stranger; and, although full reliance may be placed on the courtesy and attention with which the heir to the throne will dedicate himself to the entertainment of so exalted a personage, it will be London that he comes to see and London that the Prince will have to show him.—Times.

The Standard says:—The Sultan is coming to London, and he will be lodged in Buckingham Palace, as the guest of the Queen. We are not aware that the date of his visit is fixed, but it will probably be at some time towards the end of July. Another journal says: 'The preparations for the reception of our illustrious visitor will, we believe, be worthy of the occasion.'

The Archbishop of York has written a letter, in which he notes the interest in the question of a national 'laymen' society beginning to apply. 'The danger,' he says, 'is great, if it is diminishing, and it is well that all classes should awake to it, for it concerns the interests of all.'

A SCOTTISH DISCIPLE OF COLEMANO.—The London Church News says:—We are informed on the most credible authority, that one of the most influential prelates on the English bench, on the part of one of his brethren, has made a complaint to certain Scotch bishops of the recent charge of Bishop Ewing, which so many persons hold to be as dangerous in its tendency and asound in its character as any of the writings of Bishop Colemano. Two addresses to the Scotch Princes on this subject, which were signed by Scottish Episcopal Presbyters, were withdrawn through his influence. But we believe it to be no secret, now that Bishop Ewing has returned to England, that the charge will be fully brought before the Argyll Synod of the able but impartial Provost of the College of the Holy Spirit at Glasgow.

THE PAN-ANGELIC SYNOD.—The John Bull understands that, at the usual meeting of the bishops at Lambeth on Ascension Day, the Universities Tests Bill will be considered, and the programme arranged for the Pan-Angelic Synod.

Lord Shaftesbury (writes a correspondent of the Church Times, Anglican paper) was great upon Bishop Grindal the other evening, and gave copious extracts from that anti-bible prophet. Here is another, which I would recommend to his lordship, written whilst hunting down those who attended Mass, and suggesting torture as a fitting means for obtaining evidence. 'On a search of Lady Gately's house, neither the priest nor any of his assistants, not even his kitchenmaid, would tell anything. Some thought that if this priest were put to some kind of torture and driven to confess what he knew, he might gain the Queen's Majesty a good sum of money.'—(Bishop's General and Vice to the Council, September 1. 'Borough Papers,' vol. 1.) By all means let Lord Shaftesbury follow the steps of his model reformer, and duly suggest to the Royal Commission to put down the Rites by the due employment of thumb-screws and faggots.

The recent proceedings of the Irish Courts, and the fearful interest aroused by the question of life or death dependent upon them, have naturally turned attention to the existing law of High Treason.—Nothing is more curious than the history of this branch of our jurisprudence, nothing more illustrative of the tortuous manner in which English law has been created. Law Reform seems somewhat, in these latter days, to have gone out of fashion; but it is still worth while to point out the amount of amendment that is required before the provisions of English law can be brought into unison with common sense and sound reason. Before the reign of Edward III. Treason was an offence of the vaguest possible nature. It is hardly too much to say that almost every offence against the law of a violent or public nature amounted, in the opinion of our old lawyers, to Treason against the Crown. This Treason was first restricted in the reign of Edward III., but that Statute was as much too narrow as the Common Law had been too wide. It restricted the offence in substance to attacks upon the life of the King, to violation of the principle of fealty as distinguished from the principle of patriotism. The narrowness of this definition was widened by judicial construction, so that it has come to include offences not only against the person of the King, but against the civil Government; and this extension of the law was formally added to the old definition of Treason by an Act of Parliament passed in 1795.

Under the influence, no doubt, excited by the French Revolution. In 1843 the Treason-Felony Act was passed, which, applying to the acts which under the Statute of 1795 were Treason, converts them into felonies, punished at the utmost by penal servitude for life. So that we have existing at the same time in this country the Statute of Edward III., together with a forced judicial construction upon it; the Statute of 1795, which strives to reduce that construction to law, but cannot from the nature of the thing be absolute, identical with it; and the Statute of 1843, which, being identical in terms, differs from it in inflicting a milder punishment. But this is not all. There are many differences between the procedure in the case of Treason and other crimes. The preliminary challenges allowed the prisoner to the number of thirty five, the right to have a copy of the indictment and the names of the witnesses ten days before the trial, the requirement of two witnesses to prove the Treason, are all safeguards the necessity and propriety of which have long ceased to exist. Every prisoner ought to have all the information that is necessary for the preparation of his defence, and no one ought to have more. Either then, the law of Treason requires too much, or the ordinary law requires too little. The difference between the two is indefensible. So with the number of witnesses. The modern theory of evidence is that the proof of a fact depends much more on the credibility than on the numbers of those who attest it.—The time is long past when a trial for High Treason was looked upon as a proceeding in which the prisoner was placed at any peculiar disadvantage, or liable to be crushed under the overpowering influence of the Crown; and this danger having become quite obsolete, any exceptional precaution against it must become obsolete also. Then there is the sentence of Treason, the most barbarous, the most proteque, and the most impotent instrument that was ever devised by tyranny to terrify mankind into obedience. It seems incredible that until the year 1814 the law of this land should have been that every person convicted of Treason should be hung, but not until he was dead; that he should be cut down alive, six turns of the rope being the usual period allowed; that his heart and bowels should be taken out and burnt before his face; that he should be beheaded and quartered, and his head and quarters exposed. The sentence now runs that the prisoner shall be hung till he is dead, that his head shall be struck off and his body quartered. The former was the sentence pronounced against Wallace, Sir Thomas More, Lord Essex, the Earl of Strafford, Lord Russell, Algernon Sidney, and the rebels of 1715 and 1745. A curious adjunct of it was the dispensing power of the crown. It was the practice in the case of the prisoners of superior rank for the King to pardon the criminal all the sentence except the beheading; and this practice is retained in modern days, it being usual to remit the quartering though the beheading was retained in the cases of

Brandreth, the Ludlow leader, and the Cato-street Conspirators. Surely it is time that this barbarous anachronism should come to an end?—Times.

SPIRITUALISM IN ENGLAND.—The London Court Journal tells the following:—

There is a strange story current just now, in military circles. An officer of one of the regiments now, or lately stationed at Aldershot, a short time ago learnt that he had unexpectedly become entitled to a valuable property. Everything seemed to promise fair, and he thought he had only to take possession, when he found himself checked by an unexpected obstacle. He had to prove his identity, and to do that must produce his baptismal register. But he had not the remotest idea of where he was baptised, and thus he realized the full meaning of the proverb about the ship 'twixt port and starboard. Brooding over his misfortune he heard one day of the wonderful deeds of the Spiritualists, and how they revealed the most hidden secrets and cleared up the most perplexing mysteries. More especially was he told of the particular medium who lived in one of the suburbs of London. He determined to see whether any help was to be had from that quarter. Just as he was starting a letter was brought by post which he put into his pocket without looking at it. On reaching the house of the medium he entered into conversation and tried a few experiments, the result of which a good deal astonished him. The medium told him his name and where he came from. 'Thinking himself of his letter, he asked what there was in his pocket. He received a correct reply, with a description of the manum and issue of the writer, both of which he found were truly reported. He then asked more questions, and at last the question; and in reply was told that he was baptised at a certain church in the West end of London. He did not prolong the interview after that having paid his fee, made his way to the church, found the baptismal entry, and soon after wards returned upon his inheritance. A little later he related his experience at Aldershot, and was of course, considered to be romancing. His solemn assurance that he was speaking the truth induced one of his fellow officers to put a riddle to the same medium. The new applicant began by asking a few questions about his regiment—when would it leave Aldershot, for instance—but was told that mediums could not unfold the future. Then he changed a revelation with regard to the past, and in answer to the challenge was told that if he would think of some one who, if alive, would take interest in him, the spirit of that one should be summoned. After thinking but without his mentioning the name, he was told that it was a sister who had died many years ago in infancy. The statement was true, and he was staggered, but still refused entire credence, and challenged the spirit to address him by the usual rags. He held out at arm's length a newspaper so that there could be no collusion, and soon felt the raps between his fingers. They announced to him that his sister had been committed to watch over him, and his life three times. Thoroughly convinced, and as thoroughly alarmed, he rushed out of the house, and in his haste to escape, forgot to pay his fee to the medium.

It would appear that the famous Palfner shot had not yet quite placed the attacking power of guns above the defensive power of armour plating. On Friday last a 6 inch plate, taken at random from a heap of plates just rolled by Messrs John Brown and Company, of the 2 1/2 Works, Sheffield, for Her Majesty's ship Republic was fired at in the proof room of the Gun Store, target ship at Portsmouth, and resisted with extraordinary success the attempts made to penetrate it with three descriptions of projectile from an 8 inch smooth bore gun. The distance from the muzzle of the gun to the face of the plate was 28ft., and full powder charges were used. Five cast-iron shots fired one upon another 16 inches square, only produced an indentation at the deepest part of less than three inches, with a very slight appearance of cracks confined within the circumference of the indentations. A crucible steel shot from the same 8 inch gun only produced an indentation of 2.8in., and a Palfner chilled shot could only get in to a depth of 2.46 in.

INCIDENT ON THE DEERY DAY.—At Clapham Common, a lady who was witnessing the traffic pointed out a well-dressed man as having just robbed her of her watch. He was immediately seized by a number of respectable mechanics, who first took the watch from him and restored it to its owner, and then deliberately threw the small man into a horsepond, repeating the said deed several times, to the amusement of the spectators and the chagrin of the sufferer, who was at length allowed to stalk away.—Globe.

UNITED STATES.

The Chicago Republican recently contained the following respecting the crop prospects in the West:

We publish elsewhere fragments concerning the condition and prospects of the grass, grain and fruit crops in different parts of this State. These statements are made by reliable intelligent agriculturists, who knew from actual and experienced observation of what they are talking. Accepting these reports as fairly representing the different sections of the State from which they come, there is cause for congratulation. The uniformity of the favourable tone of these reports with reference to the prospective harvest is somewhat remarkable. Spring grain uniformly looks well. All the varieties of fruit promise abundantly except cherries. With one or two exceptions, winter grain, when spoken of at all, receives favourable mention. There is manifest no tone of discouragement concerning the corn crop. Though late, it is starting finely under the influence of the June heat; and there is plenty of time for it to grow and produce a heavy harvest, if the season is favourable. In the more western sections of the State the potato crop is seriously endangered by the presence of the new potato bug, which seems to be moving eastward slowly, but steadily, devastating the crop wherever it appears. Some of our correspondents mention it as having already appeared and commenced its depredations upon the young potato vines. The advice given in one of these letters, that an increased area be planted in localities where this pest has not appeared, is sound though rather late to be available. There are varieties of potatoes, however, that will mature a crop if planted at any time during the present month.

SUFFERING FROM STRIKES.—The Chicago Tribune draws a dismal picture of the strikes in Chicago. It says that the eight-hour question is fading away from the attention of manufacturers, and that the strike of thirty days ago is now ignored. During ten hours a day, from the chimneys of hundreds of manufacturing establishments in the city, the black smoke rolls out, and scarcely and much law has yielded to the inevitable laws of trade the majority of those who were induced to join in the strike having become convinced of their error and returned to their occupations. Several persons have been sent East to obtain funds to furnish the food of which those who threw away their means of living have become sorely in need. It is say the Chicago newspapers—very easy for their fellow craftsmen, some hundreds of miles away, to 'write encouraging letters, but when it comes to paying out of their hard earned wages money to support the strikers the enthusiasm soon dies away.' The newspapers publish the names of many of the leading manufacturers in Chicago, all of whose establishments are in full operation at ten hours a day, and obliged, in consequence of the lightness of work not to employ a full number of hands. It is added that many of those who went to work at eight hours a day abandoned that course, having learned that they must submit to a reduction of wages at the week's end, and the conclusion is reached that while the strike has benefited no one, it has injured a host of honest workmen.