

plainly observe what the duties of the country are at this moment, and we call on the National Press, on the people, and on every part of the nation—Protestants as well as Catholics—to raise their voices in behalf of the Repeal of the Union. Let the National Petition be signed by millions. That petition will be laid at the feet of Queen Victoria; and should its prayer be conceded, this oppressed land, so long blighted by misrule and oppression, will soon raise its head, and take its place once more among the nations of Europe.—Dundalk Democrat.

NAPOLÉON III.—It is most uncomfortable to know that it is very possible France may obtain a large accession of territory without drawing a single sword, or turning away her attention for a moment from those preparations which have already frightened la perfide Albion out of her wits. It is a gloomy thought to feel that every day adds to the strength of France, each new transaction increases her prestige, rendering still more hopeless that contest which is ever looming before England's disturbed conscience. And saddest and most provoking feature of all, Napoleon III does all this in violation of no principle of law or justice, in contradiction to no engagements. Raising France, promoting her interests, advancing her reputation, he is promoting the cause of civilisation throughout the world, and breathing life into those nationalities which have found in England their greatest oppressor since the days of old Rome. No wonder that the eyes of the suffering turn to him from every corner of the globe, that the best wishes of every true patriot are for his success, that the warmest prayers of Christendom are raised for him that he may not stumble or go astray.—Nation.

EMIGRATION.—The current of emigration still continues to flow with a steady and increasing force.—Every week, every day, numbers of young people of both sexes are crowding round the emigration agents' offices, in order to procure their passages to the Far West, to join their relatives and friends who have preceded them. Should the present exodus continue the country must be drained of "its bold peasantry," and there will not be hands left to till the land. The most extraordinary circumstances connected with it is, that notwithstanding the numbers going, and who are mostly of the small farming class and the better sort of agricultural labourers, such as ploughmen, herdsmen, &c., land is more difficult to be got than ever; at least as far as the county of Clare is concerned, there is not an acre untenanted or to be set. The whole kingdom, in fact, is changing into a grazing country. Large farms are the order of the day, and in consequence, the small occupiers are fast becoming extinct. The only remedy for this state of things is to give the tenant some security of possession that would create a tenantry of substantial leaseholders. Let the landholders grant leases to their tenants, as they do in England and Scotland—that is all the farmers want—and we shall hear no more of tenant-right. A farmer with a lease, and a farmer without one are two very different persons. The former feels a security and a permanency in the possession of his holding to which the other is a stranger. Unless the present system is changed for one under which leases will be granted, Ireland will be deserted of its rural inhabitants to that degree that the Nemesis will appear in the shape of unutilised lands and a deserted country. As matters are going on the census of 1861 will be less than the census ten years ago.—Clare Journal.

THE EXODUS.—We have again to record the departure from this neighbourhood of large numbers on their way to join their relatives across the Atlantic. The class of persons now leaving are for the most part the sons and daughters of small farmers, and farm servants who have saved a sufficient amount of wages to pay their passage money. The tide of emigration towards the West seems rather to progress than decline, and the population of the rural districts will undoubtedly be thinned to a greater extent than usual before the end of the season.—Western Star.

LAST WEEK a large number of laborers from Thurles and its vicinity waited on his Grace the Archbishop, and made known to his lordship the great distress which prevailed amongst them. A meeting was at once convened, at which a sum of £74 was subscribed to relieve their immediate wants.—Tipperary Free Press.

MONK TIPPERARY.—This is not the first time we have been able to refer in terms of unqualified eulogy to the high and moral character of the people of Tipperary. We record to-day, another convincing proof of our social progress, and an overwhelming reply to the slanders circulated by the enemies of the people. There is only one criminal case for trial at the approaching assizes for the South Riding; and even the prisoner in this case, Corporal John McKenna, who is charged with the murder of Mary Larkin, is not a native of Tipperary but of a northern county. By a mere accident of location, therefore, we are prevented having a maiden assize, and the criminal Judge is deprived of the ordinary pair of white gloves presented on such occasions.—Tipperary Examiner.

THE LATE MR. COMMISSIONER MURPHY.—Mr. Maguire writes to the Cork Examiner as follows:—"The House of Commons has so changed its personnel since the Member for Cork City took part in its deliberations, that the announcement of the death of Frank Murphy has not, in fact, could not, excite very general regret; for very many of its present members were heard of him save as 'Commissioner Murphy, of the Insolvent Court.' But all to whom he was known, either by political association or in private intercourse, heard the tidings of his death with sincere sorrow. 'Ah, Murphy was a clever fellow—and so pleasant and agreeable. Bless me, how often I have laughed at his capital sayings! And he made a right good figure too, in the House. I hear he was a capital judge.' This is the manner in which he is spoken of; and the testimony is perfectly true. I remember one speech of his, in particular, which produced a very great impression at the time. It was in defence of Lord Torrington's administration in the Island of Ceylon. It was remarkably well arranged, skillful in the highest degree, persuasive and artful, and its delivery was fully equal to the matter. At the time, I felt that the Sergeant did not adopt the side I would have taken; but every allowance must be made for different views and different sympathies, and the impulses springing out of personal friendship. I remember it now as a speech which conferred on the speaker the stamp of Parliamentary success. Had he preferred, or been able, to continue in the House, he must have obtained high distinction as a ready and brilliant debater; or he would have been certain to have reached to a higher office than that which he held. I myself have never seen him on the bench, and therefore I cannot bear personal testimony as to his ability and his bearing; but I have frequently heard others speak of the singular ease with which he got through the heaviest work, and the satisfaction expressed, alike by the bar, the audience, and the public, with his courtesy, his patience, his quick appreciation of the merits of the case, and his strong and almost unerring instinct of justice.—This description applies as well to his discharge of the greater duties of Judge of assize, for he went through several occasions while at the bar—as to his administration of the law as Commissioner of Insolvent Debtors. Although his death was wholly unexpected by his friends, even those who visited him during his illness, he was not by any means unprepared. On the contrary, for nearly a fortnight preceding his departure, he was in daily communication with a layman of his Church, at whose hands he received all the consolations which religion can impart to the soul. From those who watched, with all the affection of friendship, by his sick bed, I have been assured that his death was in the highest degree peaceful—in fact, that of a sincere and earnest Catholic. Many, very many, in your city differed with Mr. Murphy on almost all those grave questions which divide communities into parties; but I do believe there is not a citizen of Cork that will not mourn over the untimely death of one who was a credit to the place of his birth, the brilliant and distinguished son of the kindest, the largest hearted, and most benevolent of men."

AN ORANGE THREAT.—The Evening Mail, like all the Protestant press, is much annoyed that young Irishmen will not enlist in the service of England, but prefer to volunteer in defence of the Pope. It says that every man that joins the Papal standard is a member of a Ribbon Lodge; but it knows in its heart it is false, for the emigrants to Rome are among the best educated men in Ireland, and that nothing but a chivalrous devotion to the Faith of their fathers could induce them to leave home and country behind, for the defence of the Holy Father in the present crisis. But the Orange Mail cannot endure to see the Catholic clergy taking any part in this movement, and 'Maynooth' is accordingly threatened in the Souper, Spunner fashion. 'If (says the Evening Mail) they proceed much longer to raise an army for the Pope and levy taxes for the supply of his military chest, we cannot understand how it will be possible for a British Parliament to maintain such a war-office in the heart of a Protestant Kingdom.' How the Mail has learned that Ireland is a Protestant Kingdom, we are at a loss to understand, seeing that it is one of the most Catholic nations in Europe; but the Orange organ of Dublin never sneered at anything so absurd as this threat, for it is the very last thing the British Government would attempt in this country. The Mail, sneering at the presentation of a beautiful watch, last week by Mr. Donegan, of Dame street, Dublin, to Marshal M'Mahon, says:—"If that splendid piece of mechanism never goes down until the Marshal rides into Dame street at the head of a French brigade, to have it regulated by the maker, we expect it will prove the most wonderful chronometer in the world;" but we shall be a little more serious and assure the Dublin Orangeman that if the Protestant Church Establishment survive the withdrawal of the Maynooth Grant, it will be the most wonderful monstrosity the world ever witnessed; for whenever Maynooth is abolished, down goes the Law Church like a house of cards. God grant it may go down sooner than Marshal M'Mahon's new watch, for it is a curse in the land and an abomination to the people.—Kilkenny Journal.

A correspondent of the Irishman (County Monaghan) writes that a pack of Orangemen met, on the 23rd June, on the glebe land of a Rev. Mr. Tarlton, about three-and-a-half miles from the capital of that county, for the purpose of drumming and firing shots. It seems a sturdy and independent Catholic farmer lives along-side of the glebe, and through an old road traversing his land they wished to proceed; he, however, with his sons cautioned them against trespass. They consulted and promised to return on Monday evening, and pass in their despite; it was thought they wished to wreck the Catholic Chapel, which is on the farmer's (Rice's) land. On Monday evening, however, the Catholics, seeing it absurd to think of appealing to English laws, quietly assembled to the number of a few thousands, quite prepared to politely show them the road back again, which it seems they took.

WHIGS AND TORIES.—The Wexford People in an able leading article, considers the arguments usually put forward on behalf of those Catholics who helped to put Lord Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, and Mr. Gladstone into power, and who still exert themselves to keep them in power. First, as to the old, old story that Lord Derby and Lord Malmesbury were so bad as their rivals, because of Lord Derby's speech, and Lord Malmesbury's despatch, the People says:—"If there was nothing but talk to be considered, the Pope is well accustomed to be abused by both parties, and could contrive to disregard it. But the Pope has been robbed, and it may be well to examine the parts taken by Whig and Tory in the robbery. So far from encouraging the war which resulted, and was intended to result, in the spoliation of the Pope's dominions, the Tory Government did much to prevent it. In the public despatches of the Tory Foreign Secretary, Lord Malmesbury, war is condemned as a means of effecting reforms, and the Pope is alluded to, in this manner—that it would not become a Protestant country, like England, to interfere in his affairs, but it is the two Catholic Emperors of France and Austria agreed in recommending any reforms to the Pope, and if any territorial changes should result, the English Government would give the matter their best consideration. A charge of having proposed the dismemberment of the Papal States, founded on this passage, has been brought by many, against Lord Malmesbury; but it is not able to stand examination. The Tory Secretary only spoke of changes agreed on by the Catholic Emperors, and accepted by the Pope from their recommendation; but not through the employment of violence, which the Government had denounced as an unsuitable instrument of reform. In fact, the Austrian sympathies of the Tories both in England and France. Now, it is notorious that the sympathies and moral influence of England were given to France by the Whigs, during the whole war; but what happened when the war was over? That tale is told in the correspondence of Lord John Russell, laid before the House some time ago. In that correspondence Lord John called the Pope's Government an "effete despotism," and said it would be best for the Pope to have "his temporal and political jurisdiction confined to Rome, and a circuit without the walls"—like the "house and cabbage garden," recommended by M. About, the hired French slaver of the P. O. Note. But this is out all. When Napoleon, in his official correspondence, pleaded that he was bound to protect the rights of the Italian Sovereigns and the Pope by the treaties of Villafranca and Zurich, Lord John insisted that the matter should be decided by a general vote of the Central Italians; to which the Emperor consented, stating that the interference of England, that is of Lord John, relieved him from his engagements with Austria. Thus it was Lord John Russell who caused the consummation and final establishment of the plunder of the Church. Well may the Saturday Review call Irish Catholics, "a most important party in the State," when twenty-one of them had it in their power, last summer, to make Lord Palmerston Prime Minister of England, and Lord John Russell Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Their importance is proved to Napoleon by Savoy and Nice, to Victor Emmanuel by Lombardy and Central Italy, and the Pope cannot fail to acknowledge it, when he thinks of the Romagna. To those who "cannot see any good in putting Lord Palmerston out and Lord Derby in," the People says:—"What did the Pope say to the British Envoy, Mr. Russell, on the accession of the Whigs to office? Why, that his two greatest enemies had come into power, that he expected every persecution, but that he defied the new government to do their worst. If the Pope considered the Tories as bad as the Whigs, he would have said so, or would not have said what he did. Dr. Moriarty, Bishop of Kerry, made a most able and damaging speech against the Tories, at the time of the elections, last year, and has never been accused of Tory leanings. What did he say in his speech at the Papal Meeting? After alluding to the members of his country, who he hoped, would not be changed during his lifetime, such was his friendship for them, he added, nevertheless, "They must give up Palmerston, or we will give up them." Dr. Moriarty knew that Derby would succeed Palmerston, yet he did not qualify the sentiment, or dilute his language, on that account. The Saturday Review, writing on the elections of last year, and the support which the Tories then received in Ireland, says:—"The causes of this irreconcilable league, we think, neither 1846, nor temporary. In the first place, ever since 1846, Dr. Moriarty has been more or less in friendly association with the Communists of the Irish Tenant League, who, after 1848, transferred their allegiance from Mr. Smith O'Brien to the Irish priesthood. It is significant that in his 'Life of

Lord George Bentinck, Mr. Disraeli does not conceal his sympathy with this party, that the present Lord Chancellor of Ireland openly espoused its cause in 1852 by his famous proposal of 'retrospective tenant compensation,' and that, this year when addressing the electors of Trinity College, Mr. White-side mingled a pledge of a coming 'Tenant Bill' with his usual anti-Papal fusillade. It is not strange, therefore, that Irish Socialism, in close union with Irish Romanism, which sees it for its own purposes should look with kindness on the only Government of Great Britain which has ever had the audacity to sanction it, and should avow its allegiance by that Government. Further, the infatuation of the Durham Letter has alienated from Lord John Russell the mass of the Irish Roman Catholics; and, as they think that his election is a personal question between him and Lord Derby, many of them prefer the man who, at worst, is merely an opponent to a professed ally who wantonly insulted them.

The Freeman's Journal states that Sir Edmund Hayes, one of the members for Donegal, is dead. Mr. Alexander John Robert Stewart, of Ards, has announced his intention of standing, and it is believed Viscount Hamilton, son of the Marquis of Abercorn, will also seek the honor of the seat.

RETURN TO THE CHURCH IN CONNEMARA.—A trustworthy correspondent writes:—"On Tuesday, the 15th inst., at the village of Sellerna, near Clifden, the head-quarters of Jurmepin in the West of Ireland, a poor man named Michael Conolly, who had unhappily attached himself to what is termed the Irish Church Mission for the last twelve years, having become dangerously ill, begged of his uncle to bring him the priest, that he might make his peace with his offended God before leaving this world. The Rev. Mr. Rowan then requested the minister a Rev. Mr. Shee, who had also arrived in the meantime, to leave the house as he wanted to hear the sick man's confession, and to prepare him for the next world according to the ritual of the Church. This the minister refused to do, until one of the family was compelled to remove him by force out of the house, and to close the door. The Rev. gentleman kept knocking at the door, and pouring out all kinds of abusive language against the Rev. Mr. Rowan and the Catholic religion, till, unhappily, his conduct provoked some person to assault him. Mr. Rowan had to come out of the house several times to push him off from the door, as he could not perform his duty inside the house on account of the annoyance he was receiving. What makes the matter more deplorable is that Conolly's sister has been confined to her bed for the last two years by illness. The priest anointed her also before leaving the house. This poor family is in a most deplorable state of destitution at present. The poor man had 6s a month from this perversion society, which is now gone for ever. The poor man has recovered, and was at the Catholic Church on Sunday, the 17th inst., at Claddaughduff. The police authorities have been out here for the last two days making inquiries into the case, which, I hope, will end satisfactorily. As things are, neither priest nor layman can go along the highways without being insulted by those hired vagabonds. This is the second case of this kind which has taken place here within the last two months."

THE EARL OF LEITRIM'S EVICTION OF A CHAPEL.—On Tuesday, the Earl of Leitrim took possession of the Catholic chapel of Gortlira, in the County of Longford, under an habere. The Sheriff was protected by a strong force of military and constabulary and no opposition was offered by the crowd who had assembled on the ground. A trial, in which his Lordship was plaintiff and the trustees of the chapel the defendants, took place about three years ago. His Lordship obtained a decree, but to the present he has been kept out of possession. The following description of the scene is from the Morning News:—"At half-past twelve o'clock the cavalcade accompanying the sheriff made its appearance. First came a company of constabulary, headed by a sub-inspector. After followed four more companies of constabulary and a detachment of the 15th Light Dragoons, and next appeared the sub-Sheriff, escorted by Dragoons. The remaining detachment of the cavalry troops then appeared, and the martial procession wound up with about 300 men of the 15th Regiment of Foot. The total number of troops, including constabulary on the ground, was nearly 1,000 men of all arms. The order was given to 'fix bayonets,' and the troops formed up in a line before the assembled multitude. The preparations having been thus made, the sub-Sheriff demanded in the ordinary form, possession of the Church from the Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald. The Rev. gentleman, as on a former occasion, announced his inability to comply with the demand, as the Church was not his to give. After some time the Sheriff advanced to the western door and forced it open, and, entering in a respectful manner, took possession in the name of the noble ejector, the Right Hon. the Earl of Leitrim. One of his Lordship's assistants was then brought up, and the Sheriff handed over the Church to him as representative of the lord of the soil. The next and concluding portion of the ceremony was the bringing up of a smith and his helper, who nailed up the door which had been forced and placed upon it a heavy chain, fastened by a padlock. The military and police were then marched off the ground, and the proceedings terminated. Throughout the entire ceremony not a sound nor a cry was heard from the thousands present. The people dispersed in a most peaceful and orderly manner.

MYSTICISM EVENT.—A few days ago, as we are informed, a young lady of prepossessing appearance, arrived at the Queen's Hotel alone where she lodged under the name of, we believe, Mrs. Carr. Last Sunday, just after the arrival of the tug boat containing the American mails for the Persia, a gentleman, fashionably dressed, called at the hotel, and inquired for Mrs. Carr. That lady immediately appeared with her luggage packed, paid her bill, and went off in the Persia, accompanied by the gentleman. The vessel had gone about two hours, when Mr. Elliott, proprietor of the "Queen's," received a telegram from Dublin offering him £100 reward if he detained the lady. It was too late however, the bird had flown far on her way to America.—Cork Herald.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER.—The deepest concern and anxiety has been felt throughout the week by all Catholics, owing to the receipt of unfavorable news from Rome of the health of His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop. This was indefinitely increased by the publication in the Manchester Guardian of a telegraphic message to the effect that his Eminence expired at half-past four on Tuesday morning. The report was false, but before the public had learned its falsity, every one had time to realise the nature and extent of a calamity which all Catholics implore of Heaven to avert. We regret that up to the time of going to press, we are unable to report that news has arrived of any marked improvement in the condition of His Eminence.—London Tablet.

At a sitting of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council an application was made by Mr. Beal with reference to the non-execution of a monition directing the churchwardens of St. Barnabas to remove certain crosses and other ornaments from the Church. Mr. Beal's counsel argued that the monition should be allowed to go to the present churchwardens, and finally it was decided that the monition be amended in the way prayed for. It will, therefore, be issued at once.

There have been alarming symptoms of a mutinous spirit in the prisons at Portland, where 1,600 convicts are confined, 500 of whom are undergoing penal servitude for life. An addition has been made to the military force.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.—The "Hertfordshire Incomer" writes to the Times on this subject, enlarging on the frightful effects of an invasion, and the absolute necessity of preventing such a calamity:—"Most inhabitants of our provincial towns have had some experience of the wide-spread wretchedness which results from even such a trivial misfortune as the stoppage of a local bank. The neighboring small farmers at once dismiss as many of their laborers as they can possibly get rid of, and those who are a little better off dispend with the agricultural implements they had intended to purchase, or defer the projected drainage of their wet lands to a more convenient season. Manufacturers and ministers, deprived of their wonted pecuniary accommodation, become insolvent, and their journeymen are thrown out of employment. Landlords postpone contemplated improvements, and builders, brickmakers, carpenters, and the like are all driven to reduce the number of their hands. But a more local misfortune operates within narrow limits. The neighboring gentry, even if they suffer, rarely suffer more than a temporary inconvenience. The more benevolent by their heads together with the clergyman and contrive something to mitigate the worst cases of misfortune, and in the last resort the Poor Law interposes a barrier against absolute starvation. Now capitalists soon take the place of those who have been ruined; active employment recommences; and in two or three years no manifest trace remains of much misery except in the form of several new names among the tradesmen and employers, and an unusual number of young children in the burial register for the winter succeeding the crash. But how different would be the effect of a blow, which annihilated for an indefinite period all industries except those engaged in the supply of the mere necessities of life. Some faint idea of the consequences may, perhaps, be formed by conceiving every town in the country reduced to the condition of one in which a local bank has recently stopped, and the metropolis itself retaining the appearance all the week which it now presents on Sundays. This illustration, however, involves the assumption that the victorious enemy not only abstains from all violence himself, but contrives to keep in their normal condition the 20,000 or 30,000 thieves and vagabonds who are now held as it were in solution in the circulating tide of industry. How would the working men fare after a fortnight of such a state of things? What would then be the rallying cry of the trades-unions when they were reduced to multitudes of hungry men, clamorous for employment at any wages, with alas! no employment for them even on such terms? No employment; and what is more, no parish relief! In such a state of things as would arise, strong men would die by hundreds, and women and children by thousands throughout the length and breadth of the land. Depend upon it, the security of the country and the inviolability of the metropolis is emphatically a people's question. Happily, the dreadful contingency which has for some time loomed before the eyes of many men who are far from timid, is next to impossible, if Englishmen are only true to themselves, and magnanimous enough to prefer the honor of their country to the interests of their party. A war with this country must always be the last throw of a desperate gambler. But a despotically governed kingdom is a high-pressure engine without a safety-valve. Even the ablest ruler can never be secure that the treachery, the folly, or the fears of his agents—and in the last case, of himself, in his weak moments—may not at any time produce an explosion; and should this occur, we may be pretty sure that some desperate gambler will arise. It is, I believe, undoubted that in 1848 the proposal for a coup d'état in London was made to the revolutionary government of France, not by any obscure adventurer for civil as well as military qualities. True, our power of resistance then was to our present as the strength of a child to that of a giant; but our defensive resources have grown, so have the offensive powers of our only possible assailant, while in the meantime the contrast between his institutions and our own has become far more striking, and the proximity of the two countries proportionally more pregnant with danger."

THE PROPOSED FORTIFICATIONS.—We are on the road to an expenditure without end. To buy safety at any price is now the received cry; but the time will come when people will ask whether even safety may not be bought too dear, or whether protection may not be carried to such a pitch as to leave little to be protected. So in the middle ages it was not uncommon for a man to ruin his estate utterly in fortifying and securing his house. And let not people who are ready to make any sacrifices for defence be too sure that they will get the thing for which they will certainly pay dear. Fortifications are not more infallible than gun boats, but they are not so fallible. Provided they are extensive and proportionately expensive they pass for good, however defective, till an enemy is found to bring them to the test. On paper our military engineers have it all their own way, but they have never shown practically, and were no match for the Russian at Sebastopol.—Examiner.

THE ROTTEN GUNBOATS.—A return has been laid before Parliament, entitled "Navy Gun Vessels," relating to the gunboats which were built for the government by Messrs. Green, of Blackwall, in the year 1855, and which were found to be rotten in the year 1858. The first documents called for and given in this return are copies of the contracts entered into with Messrs. Green for building these vessels. These contracts are two in number. By the first, which is dated the 15th July, 1855, Messrs. Green engaged to build "in substantial and workmanlike manner, and with good sound, and proper material of every kind," to be approved by a government inspector, two despatch boats; and by the second they agree to build also, "in a substantial and workmanlike manner, and with good sound, and proper materials," six gunboats. The next paper called for is "any document in the office or correspondence on the subject of unseasoned timber, and of the inability of Messrs. Green to procure seasoned timber." It is stated that "No record of any documents or correspondence exists on these subjects." The third paper is the report from Malta on the state of the Coquette, one of the vessels built by Messrs. Green. From this report it appears that the Coquette was reported to be afflicted with dry rot at Malta, on the 28th of February, 1858. That many of the timbers were stated to be rotten, and that it was necessary to repair her in almost every part. With regard to the Caroline, built at the same time, it was reported that she was very defective. The timber was stated to be rotten, some of the planks were not worked close to the timbers, and not well fastened, very few bolts in the bottom were clenched, and many of them were too short, some of which (67 in number), were forwarded to the Admiralty for inspection. Another paper in the same return states that during the building of the gunboats there were two persons employed as inspectors at one period, and one at another; and that the inspecting officer of the controller of the navy's department was constantly going his rounds. The return concludes with an account of the means now adopted at Portsmouth to prevent the extension of the dry rot in the other vessels built about the same time.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.—There is an end to the prestige of the British Navy. Its glories are dimmed for ever; its sun is set. There is still a British fleet, there may be even a powerful British fleet, but its grand function, the purpose for which it was raised and petted, it is no longer able to discharge. Say no more about the wooden walls, talk no more of ruling the main, blot out the lines which say that "Britannia needs no bulwarks, no towers along the steep," for the National Defence Commission declares that she does need them sadly! The very echoes of the old sea-songs must henceforth be forgotten, the stereotyped replies to the toast of "The Navy," must be remodelled, and the idea of England's naval supremacy, however dear it may be to the

hearts of Englishmen, must henceforth be abandoned. It will not do to repeat any longer in fancied security behind the British fleet. "The outer line of defence is carried. The 'wet ditch' is proven to be but of small avail—nay, it is even admitted that 'our army' is not sufficient to prevent a hostile force from marching on London, or proceeding whither soever they please throughout the country. As for the Militia and the Volunteers, the less said about them the better. All that can now be done is to erect certain fortifications at some half a dozen different spots in England, with a view of saving the English generalship as furnished food for merriment to the French soldiers in the Crimea.—Nation.

DISTRESS AMONG THE PEASANTRY.—A meeting of agricultural laborers was held at Swindon a few days ago, for the purpose of considering the rate of wages which they are receiving. Most of the speakers stated that they received only nine shillings a week, and a great deal of distress appeared to exist among them. A strike was recommended by one speaker, but the suggestion was not embodied in a resolution.

So the Norwich mystery is solved, the Vansittart inquiry has ended, and the great kidnapping case has blown up ignominiously. After a speech from Mr. Ballantine, the like of which has not been heard since Sergeant Bunfax appealed on behalf of Mrs. Bardell to a British jury against the villainy of Pickwick, after Master Vansittart had confessed himself a perjured little scoundrel, after Mr. Woollett had improved the occasion and left each Norwich dogberry nothing better to do than to insist on being written down as ass, the case was dismissed. It ought not to end here. Strictly speaking, indeed, Master Vansittart ought to be prosecuted for perjury, and an example should be made of him. The Mayor and the Bench before whom the perjury and the avowal of it were made, should see to that, but it does not appear from the report that they have the least idea that perjury is wrong when its object is to involve a priest in a charge of conspiracy. But though it is by no means certain that some may not consider it their duty to bring the young ruffian to justice, and though there is a difficulty in letting him escape unpunished, lest the impunity which has attended his bad deed may induce others to risk themselves in similar ventures, it is not very likely that any such step will be taken. The boy will probably be left to Mr. Vansittart, who may comfort himself with the reflection that if his sour bigotry and u-Popery prejudices had not fettered his intellect and enslaved his soul, he would have disbelieved his son's preposterous story, and have saved himself from public ridicule, and his son from public infamy. But there is one person who ought not to be allowed to get off so easily as the Vansittarts. The Mayor of Norwich has set an example of a most dangerous consequence. It is not too much to say that neither the liberty nor the property of any Catholic in England would be secure for a twelve-month if his conduct were allowed to establish a precedent. It is an unwholesome thought that any Englishman can be required to give bail, and to give him again in double the first amount, while he vainly asks, "Against what charge am I to defend myself?" and is answered, "This is a preliminary inquiry." But doubled bail to secure one's personal liberty while an enquiry is being held to see if anything can be found out on which a criminal charge may be founded! As to the law of the case, I admit not of a moment's doubt. Nobody had any legal right to the custody of young Vansittart's person except himself. By the law of England he had a right to go where he pleased, and the notion of a conspiracy (in the legal sense) to induce a child to leave school is as great an absurdity as the notion of a conspiracy to induce him to eat his dinner.—There is involved in this matter of the Norwich investigation, a good deal more than at first strikes the reader. It involves the question whether the criminal jurisdiction of magistrates shall be limited to offences known to the law, or shall be extended to offences against their own notions of taste, good feeling, discretion, and propriety. But for the present we will only speak of the Vansittart case itself, its ignominious collapse, and the ridiculous position of the enlightened Liberal press. Is there any use in asking our Protestant countrymen to profit by this incident? Is there any use in asking them to measure the amount of unconscionable prejudice and of pre-disposition to be deceived, that must exist among them before they could possibly have been so victimized by this concerted appeal to their Protestant feelings? We Catholics are not in the habit of making pretensions to any great superiority in intellect, penetration, sagacity, and shrewdness over our Protestant brethren. But how comes it that on such an occasion as the present every Catholic is sufficiently quicksighted, sufficiently the man of the world, sufficiently discriminating to detect at a glance the imposition which guiled the enlightened British public, and the most self-sufficient of our public instructors? The reason is, that as soon as ever the question of Popery is raised the good sense of the British deserts him. He becomes nervous, fussy, stupid, cross, and credulous. He is at the mercy of a child. We Catholics are very forbearing and good natured upon these occasions, because we know that those with whom we might be inclined to be angry are not fully responsible beings. On this question of Popery almost every Protestant is a little cracked. There remain, however, two points to be notified. The newspapers have assumed and stated that this boy Vansittart was rich, and the heir to much property. There is not the least foundation for the statement. It is quite false. But it is invented to account for another falsehood, that he has been always "haunted by the priests," the fact being that a number of priests have been pestered by him with letters, and attempts to draw them into correspondence with him. The father and the son are both religiously diseased, and both are partially insane upon the question of Popery. But the morbidity of the father's mind induces itself in his "perfect horror" of everything like Popery, while the morbid excitement seeks to gratify itself by playing with the ghost that terrifies his father, and by humbugging the priests of whom his father lives in terror. Father and son are worthy of one another. They are cause and effect, one is the other's complement.—London Tablet.

CRIMES IN ENGLAND.—The judicial statistics of England and Wales for the year 1859 have just been published, and they afford the London journals a fruitful subject of remark. It appears that there are in the kingdom no less than thirty-nine thousand five hundred and thirty professional thieves; thirty-seven thousand six hundred and eighty-eight suspected persons constantly under the eye of the police, and twenty-three thousand three hundred and fifty or, in all, 104,985 criminals at large. Those figures make little impression on the mind, as they are written on paper; but if the reader will imagine the whole of them brought together, as one of the London journals suggests, he will get an idea of the number of depredators at whose mercy the subjects of our Queen hold their property and their lives. Organized in military fashion they would make more than seventy regiments of the line—placed together in a row they would extend over twenty miles of ground—and a good walker would require four or five hours of steady walking to inspect the troop. Their direct cost to society, supposing each man to consume two hundred dollars worth of value a year, is over ten millions of dollars. But this is only a part of the expense to which society is put on their account. The police and constabulary forces are supported mainly to watch over their delinquencies, and the greater part of the prison and judicial expenditures have the same origin. Putting these together, it is estimated that the rogues cost the United Kingdom about \$150,000,000, or about double the sum spent upon the Royal Navy.—Montpelier Pilot.