

may so call it, of the great and highborn gone to, who thus starves old men, helpless matrons and widows, young boys, and even young girls. Hunger, hunger, increasing hunger, is the hard lot of the workhouse pauper, and so I fear it will be to the end of the chapter.—I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant.

“MICHAEL FITZGERALD, P.P.”

LETTER OF JOHN MARTIN.—PARIS, OCTOBER 24TH, 1854.—My dear Dr. Gray,—You have learned that what is called a “conditional pardon” in favor of Messrs. O’Brien, O’Doherty, and myself arrived in Van Diemen’s Land, in July, and that my two friends and I were thereby released from captivity, and were permitted by the British Government to go into simple banishment; and you have, perhaps, learned that I reached France more than three weeks ago. I have no inclination to trouble the public with anything concerning myself alone; but there are some facts concerning the Irish State convicts of 1848 which, perhaps, as the first of them that has approached so near home, I ought to publish, and therefore request that you will oblige me by inserting this letter in the *Freeman*. Our release from captivity took place in this way:—A notice appeared in the Van Diemen’s Land government *Gazette*, to the effect that the English Government had granted a pardon to William Smith O’Brien, John Martin, and Kevin Izod O’Doherty, available everywhere except in Great Britain and Ireland. No official communications on the subject were made to us personally. The form of application required from the real criminals (expressing contrition, promising amendment, &c.) was dispensed with in our case. We had no promise or declaration to make, no form to go through, and nothing whatever to do in the matter, except, (as it were) to walk out of prison, our keepers having opened the gates for us. Of course, none of us had solicited the “pardon” directly or indirectly.

For myself, I wish hereby to offer my thanks to such of my countrymen as may have shown a kindly interest in my fate, either by desiring my liberation or in any other way. But the main object of this letter is to remind the people of Ireland and the generous portion of the British people, that there are still eight state prisoners in Van Diemen’s Land, besides four in Bermuda, or some other British penal station. My friend Mr. W. P. Dowling was transported (for life) from England for practices in which he was engaged as an Irish nationalist. John Walsh, Edwin Tobin, James Lyons, Richard Bryan, Thos. Donovan, Thos. Wall, James Casey, John Donohoe, Luke Lennan, J. Crotty, Matthew Joy, and John Lennan, were transported from Ireland for the attack upon Portlaw Police Barrack in 1849. The seven men first named are in Van Diemen’s Land; the next four were left in Bermuda, when the seven were carried thence to Van Diemen’s Land; John Lennan died at Spike Island. The attack upon Portlaw Police Barrack was made (I believe) in pursuance of a conspiracy for a general insurrection. The conspiracy was entered into at a time when the Irish people were disarmed, their country occupied by an unusually large British army and police force, and ports threatened by British ships of war—the *habeas corpus* act suspended, and the *crime and outrage* act the law; when men whose national sentiments were those of three-fourths of the Irish population were, for sake of those national sentiments, under sentence of death or transportation, and the British governor imprisoned Irish men and women at his discretion; when the hundreds of poorhouses were crammed and reeking with half-starved plague-stricken wretches, once Irish farmers or laborers; when the youth, strength, spirit of Ireland thronged the seaports, flying in despair anywhere from the desolation of their country; in short, during the worst time of the Irish famine. If partial sympathy, or respect for our motives, or generous pity, has induced any person in Ireland, or in Great Britain, to desire the liberation of Smith O’Brien and his comrades, surely there are the same and stronger considerations for desiring the “pardon” of those Irishmen who are yet suffering all the penalties of their patriotism. I am confident that the *Freeman* will gladly exert its influence in favor of the men I have named; and the *Nation*, and many other Irish journals, even such as at ways opposed “Repeal of the Union” will gladly join in so good a cause. For myself, though I would think it silly to have remained in captivity when my keepers threw open my prison gates, I do feel ashamed to enjoy any relaxation of my penal sentence while those poor fellows, all of them as deserving of sympathy or respect, and much more of generous pity, still waste their lives in convict exile, pining for home or for freedom, but forgotten or unregarded by countrymen and foes. Assuring you that I have never forgotten the gentlemanlike and kindly consideration with which you have always treated me, and heartily wishing you health and prosperity, I remain, dear Dr. Gray, sincerely yours,

JOHN MARTIN.

THE “GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY” EXEMPLIFIED.—Cork assizes, adjourned from last summer, closed only on Thursday last, after devoting no less than 14 days to the hearing of a case, “Godfrey v. Cross,” which ended in the jury separating without agreeing to a verdict. A “case” which has thus occupied so much valuable public time, and in which one would suppose some vast interest must be at stake, deserves a passing notice, and here is its history briefly summed up by the *Southern Reporter*:—

“This grand piece of litigation, after occupying no inconsiderable part of the ordinary assize period was eventually the cause of an adjournment, for the special purposes of allowing it the full time, which its importance demanded, and occupied, altogether, fourteen sitting days of the Court. For that length of time the Chief Baron of Her Majesty’s Exchequer, twelve respectable citizens acting as jurors, counsel, attorneys, witnesses, police, and others,—in all perhaps 40 or 50 persons,—whose days were more or less precious to them, were occupied in what has proved the fruitless attempt to decide whether one brother-in-law or another—Mr. Cross or Mr. Godfrey—had the right to a stream of water, valued at about £50. The litigant parties, it is estimated, will, between them, have to pay about 16 times that sum for the costs of this abortive suit; and whichever of them has the equity of the case at his side will have to console himself with the reflection, versified for the comfort of such persons, that,—

“If he hasn’t got justice,
“Sure he has had plenty of law!”

After 13 days’ attention to the badgering of witnesses and wrangling of counsel, and a further day occupied by the learned judge, from morn to “drizzly,” if not “dewy,” eve, in the endeavor to elucidate what had been ingeniously and beautifully obscured, they found themselves at last in the satisfactory position of being

able to come to no decision, and separated to return to their homes with the solacing idea—the only one that could have produced any pleasurable emotion in the circumstances, that whenever any of them chose to enjoy the gratification of a lawsuit he could enforce a like waste of time on the part of a dozen of his fellow-citizens for his amusement.”

STATE OF TRADE.—The Dublin reports for the last week are rather better than they have been of late.—The produce and share markets bear an improved aspect, and prices have been well maintained. With regard to the state of the corn-market, it is held to be impossible that the recent unnatural advance, as being more or less fictitious, can be kept up in the face of the enormous supplies known to be ready to pour in.

GREAT BRITAIN.

On Sunday, 29th ult., in all the Catholic chapels in the “diocese of Westminster” a pastoral letter of Cardinal Wiseman was read, and a subscription made in aid of the fund for the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the war. At the Moorfields Chapel the Cardinal himself officiated, and the church was filled to excess, the centre aisle being chiefly occupied by soldiers, both officers and men. The pastoral letter, after calling upon all the faithful to return thanks to God for the present plentiful harvest, alluded to the abatement of the pestilence—the cholera—which had lately made such ravages in this country, and added that, while they had to thank God for two great blessings—the plentiful harvest and the abatement of pestilence—still it should be borne in mind that this country had just entered upon a great war; and in this respect they had cause to be thankful, for so far the arms of our gracious Queen had been victorious. But, while the country had cause for rejoicing, still the casualties of war gave cause for sorrowing to many. The Battle of the Alma was not gained without a great sacrifice of life. Many of the brave fellows who fell in defence of their country had left widows and orphans to bewail their loss—in aid of these it was hoped that the Catholic population would not be backward in contributing. Immediately after the reading of this pastoral letter a collection was made in each of the chapels. The amount at the above church proved the liberality of the congregation. A similar appeal will be made by the various Catholic bishops throughout the country.—*Times*.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE ARMY IN THE EAST.—RECRUITING.—The reinforcements sent out to the army in the East this week, and to be completed in the week to come, amount to 4,000 men. These are to make up for the casualties of the campaign, and are calculated to bring up our effective contingent of the army to the original number sent out, namely, 30,000 infantry, with the usual accompanying force of cavalry and artillery, and commissariat, &c. Indeed, to render the army still more effective than usual, large additions have been made to the medical and commissariat, and also the artillery, which even in the field—without including the siege guns and the guns landed from the ships—is of more than ordinary efficiency and power. Two regiments of the line, the 57th and 46th, have by this time joined, to make up Sir G. Cathcart’s division to its proper strength in the field. Without being too much disposed to take a gloomy view of the subject, it is impossible to deny that great casualties must have taken place in an army of little more than 30,000 from war and pestilence, to require to be recruited by 4,000 men to fill up the deficiencies caused in the ranks. So it is, however.—*London Observer*.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE BALTIC.—The *Daily News* says the War-Office has ordered one hundred new gunboats, with heavy guns in each, and forty floating batteries with seventy guns in each—total, 2,800—to be ready in the spring for Cronstadt. The French have agreed to send a large force.

By the accounts which reach us from all parts of the country, the agreeable fact is apparent, that the movement towards the promotion of the Patriotic Fund has met with the unanimous sympathy of all classes and creeds in Ireland. From Cork to Derry there is but one feeling upon the subject; and, from the alacrity with which the Royal appeal has been responded to, there is but one little doubt that the contribution from this side of the Channel will show how cordially the people concur in the benevolent object of the commission.—*Times*.

NURSES FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.—Lady Maria Forrester, daughter of Lord Roden, has offered the government, either to go with, or to send out trained nurses to the East to attend upon the sick and wounded soldiers. Her services, however, have not been accepted.

Our Anglican cotemporary, the *Guardian*, insinuates a comparison between nuns and nurses as follows:—“We send nurses—Miss Nightingale from the Ladies’ Hospital and her subordinates—the French have already on the spot their *Sisters of Charity*. It is not the name that signifies, but the absence or presence of a regular organisation, ready to hand, governed by religious principles and founded on a religious profession. Many people now see, who never acknowledged it before, that there may be some use after all in such bodies of women, dedicated, as soldiers or commissioners are to their several duties, to this way of serving God—ready to be employed anywhere and anywhere—to be sent (as sent they are) to do women’s work in Africa, China, or the South Seas; to tend soldiers in the East, or convicts at Cayenne; to the hospital, the palace, or the cellar. For great occasions, it is said, they are certainly useful. No, their true usefulness consists in their being available for all manner of small occasions. Miss Nightingale is an excellent person for the purpose, and doubtless she has good nurses and pious women among her staff but they are hastily collected for a sudden emergency—unknown in great measure to each other and to her—and we cannot see them depart with the same perfect confidence with which a Frenchman would a draft of that well known class whose great white caps and placid faces are such familiar objects to him in every hospital and sick-room.”

L’ENTENTE CORDIALE.—Of all the vicissitudes which time has brought about none is more remarkable than that which was exemplified the day before yesterday on the Terrace at Windsor Castle. If there was a spot in the kingdom consecrated to the traditions, or, we may say, to the prejudices of a past generation, it was this. On this Terrace King George III. took his habitual walk during a period at which the affairs of the whole world took their color from the antagonism of France and England. There that venerable monarch listened to the music of militia bands, or looked

down into the Park below upon musters of yeomanry and volunteers; all inflamed with an intense spirit of loyalty and with what in those days was an identical sentiment—a martial animosity against France, Frenchmen, French soldiers, and the name of Napoleon Bonaparte. What was the scene on Sunday afternoon? There were the Castle, the Terrace, the Town, and the Slopes. There was the Sovereign of England, with the Royal Family. There were the band and the music, and every other accompaniment of the traditional scene. There were soldiers in the garden and officers on the Broad Walk. But who were these soldiers? They were the soldiers of the Emperor Napoleon, who, arrayed in the costume of the Empire, had come with their band to play at Windsor Castle for the gratification of the British Queen!—What would have been thought 50 years ago if any one had prophesied the occurrence of such an event? There is really scarcely anything more extraordinary in the legendary predictions of Mother Shipton of Merlin.—*Times*.

Whilst numbers of our people are collecting lint and bandages, and making contributions to alleviate the sufferings of the brave soldiers in the East, whether Catholic or Protestant, the patriotic Protestants of Exeter are making preparations on an extensive scale, in procuring tar-barrels and explosive materials, in order to celebrate the feast or faggots in an extraordinary manner, and thereby insult the feelings, not only of their fellow-countrymen, but also of our illustrious allies.—*Glasgow Free Press*.

The government, it is said, have determined upon sending out another Arctic expedition. They have been in communication with Dr. Rae, and that gentleman has prepared a report as to the best mode of carrying into effect two overland expeditions, the one for the purpose of searching for and aiding Captain Collinson’s ship the *Enterprise*, and the other to make further inquiry into the fate of and securing, if possible, some documents from Sir John Franklin’s party, the traces of which were discovered last year. The general outline of Dr. Rae’s recommendation is, that an expedition in two divisions shall assemble at Athabasca Lake, and be equipped ready for starting in June, 1855; that one division shall go down the Black River, to follow up the traces of Sir John Franklin’s party to the westward, and the divisions down the Mackenzie River; to follow up the traces of the *Enterprise* to the eastward; and that these parties shall retire to the Slave Lake and the Bear Lake respectively to winter in 1855-56, when depots of provisions should be sent to meet them, and return home in 1856. Dr. Rae does not consider it necessary that the last-named divisions should consist of more than two boats and 12 men (including an Esquimaux interpreter), commanded by two officers, one of whom shall be a clerk of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The other division should consist of the same number of men and officers, and in consequence of the land and ice portage, two light canoes instead of boats.

CALEMNIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A CATHOLIC PRIEST.—We learn from the Preston papers that on Wednesday week the county petty sessions were occupied four hours in the investigation of a case which brought out Protestant malignity in a painful manner. We need only mention that it was a false accusation of disgusting conduct brought against the Rev. Joseph Bond, of St. Walburge’s. After a protracted hearing, the unanimous decision of the bench fully exonerated the Reverend gentleman from the serious charges brought against him, the presiding magistrate stating that they dismissed the case on account of the contradictions in the evidence, and the numerous improbabilities attaching to the charges made.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS OF PRESTON.—It will scarcely be believed by persons residing at a distance that the entrance to our corporation domain, like Eden of old, is protected by a flaming sword—the sword of true Protestantism. Let a Catholic attempt to approach, and that sword is unsheathed with a vengeance.—“Have you got a candidate for such a ward?” we heard one person ask another this week; “there is Mr. — would be just the man for you.” “But, don’t you know,” was the reply, “that he is a Catholic?” If we were to put him forward, there would be a regular “No-Popery” cry raised, and he would be beaten out of the field.” If we had not seen this more than once, and that not very long ago, we certainly could not have believed it. Catholics pay all the taxes same as others, join in defending their country, are peaceable and loyal, and quite as obedient to the laws as Protestants, and yet, because they are conscientious enough to follow their own convictions in religion—a matter betwixt God and their own conscience—such has been the persecution in this borough that we cannot say there is a single Catholic amongst the forty-eight members of the council, although, to speak under the mark, there are 20,000 inhabitants of Preston connected with that body, and among them gentlemen of wealth, talent, and aptitude for business. If this system of persecution is to continue; if civil disabilities are to be imposed upon the Catholic for his religious belief, the least that their persecutors can do is to exempt them from the payment of taxes, in the dispensing of which they are forbidden to have any voice.—*Preston Guardian*.

“COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE.”—Until the time of their victorious gathering on the glorious heights of Alma, the last occasion when the French and British armies met each other on the field of battle was on the plains of Waterloo, at a spot prophetically called “La Belle Alliance.”

It is estimated that property to the amount of £200,000 was destroyed by the fire which took place in Liverpool last week.—*English Paper*.

It is generally conceded now by those who have made it their business to investigate the subject of national education and its results, that purely secular teaching will neither purify nor exalt the national mind. Some curious and startling facts are given by the writer of a book called “The Power of the Press.” The influence of the Press depends on secular knowledge—the evil which it may so extensively propagate can only be counteracted by religious teaching. In Great Britain there circulate annually 11,702,000 copies of “absolutely vicious” newspapers. “Infidel and polluting publications” have a yearly circulation of 10,400,000; periodicals of the “worst class,” 520,000. “Adding together,” proceeds this writer, “the annual issues of Bibles, Testaments, religious tracts, newspapers, and periodicals of every kind, we find a total of 26,418,620, leaving a balance on the side of evil of, alas! 4,443,380.” This statement refers, it is true, to Great Britain; but who can say how soon the stream of pollution may find its way into this country, the

mind of whose youth has been so industriously secularised by the efforts of our paternal government? It is “righteousness which exalteth a nation”—it is vice which degrades it. There is but one safeguard against the evil, and but one security for the good—in the teaching of the sublime truths of God’s Holy Word. *Daily Express*.

SHAMMY DECEPTION.—In Wales and many districts of the United Kingdom, one coffin or shell serves for the whole parish poor, it being provided with a false bottom. The coffin is lowered into the grave: the bolts are drawn when the mourners have quitted the church-yard: the venerable coffin is drawn up again, and the corpse is then covered with earth, as though it was the carcass of a brute.—*The Builder*.

UNITED STATES.

The number of Catholics in the city of New York alone is, according to last year’s computation, less or more, over 200,000. Besides German and French churches, there are about twenty parish churches in the city limits, in which English is the language spoken.—*N.Y. Freeman*.

Mr. Soule, American Minister to Madrid, having sought to revolutionise the received principle of diplomatic intercourse in Europe, has received a personal rebuff from the French government by a refusal of leave to enter that country. Our government will, of course, leave Mr. Soule to settle his personal affairs in his own way, without interference in his behalf.—*ib.*

A New York writer in one of the morning papers states that there were no less than nine sermons advertised to be preached in that city on last Sabbath, in reference to the then coming State election; and among the speakers at a political meeting held in New York last week, we notice the names of two city pastors.—*Philadelphia Presbyterian*.

The city of Williamsburgh has this week been joined, in the category of outrage, with Newark and Ellsworth. We have there seen bands of infuriated men repeatedly assailing a Christian Church, leaving perforce its shell standing, to testify to their hatred, and the laws’ abuse. The commonness of this crime of sacrilege is one of the worst symptoms of our state. If half a dozen rowdies got into a brawl, the cry of the gathering crowd is, “down with the church!” It is not against the particular offenders or offence that the multitude is so ready to rush, but against the general institution. The most odious sign to their eyes is that sign of the Cross, considered in all Christian lands the most sacred. Not since Pagan times has so mad a hatred of the final instrument of the Atonement, been exhibited in any quarter of the World, as in this America. The last generation with whom it was held infamous, were those whose threats were hoarse with the cry,—“the Christians to the Lions!” *N.Y. Freeman*.

THE KNOW-NOTHINGS IN COURT.—In a rape case before the Common Pleas at Lowell, Mass., last week, criminal term, Justice Bishop, presiding, B. F. Butler, asked H. C. Snow, of Groton, a witness on the stand if he belonged to the secret society of Know-Notthings. At first Snow denied that he did, but finally, after consulting counsel, answered in the affirmative; and a long cross examination elicited further answers. He had been a member of the society four or five months. Upon joining it he took an oath, “So help me God.” There are two degrees in the society. Had seen at the meetings Dr. Norman Smith and Deacon John Pingree, two other witnesses in the case. Refused to tell the form of initiation, because it might criminate him and expose him to punishment from the society. Judge Bishop said it was a startling revelation that men took secret oaths, which they regarded as above the oaths administered in the Court. A. M. Gage, another witness testified that he had belonged to the secret order, but left it three months since Dr. Smith, above mentioned, admitted that he belonged to the Know-Nothing society, and that it exercised a political and religious influence; a Roman Catholic cannot be admitted, although an American born citizen, nor a Protestant if his wife be a Catholic. Could not tell the form of initiation, because it would expose him to punishment; and for the same reason could not tell what office he held in the lodge at Groton.

THE SLAVE-TRADE—AN IMPORTANT TRIAL.—In the United States Circuit Court sitting in this City, one Captain James Smith has been convicted of having been engaged in the *Slave-trade* between the Coast of Africa and the Island of Cuba. The sentence of the law, which is death, was suspended in order that his counsel might take the necessary steps to move for a new trial.—*N.Y. Times*.

It is contemplated to tunnel the Ohio river at Louisville, Ky., and Jeffersonville, Ind., at a cost of \$1,200,000, the whole to be raised by a cash subscription, no part payable till the whole amount is subscribed.

There has been at Menasha, and is now at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a floating pottery, with a lathe turned by bears. They are contented looking animals, and do not seem to dislike the occupation. That is, indeed, making the wild beasts subservient to man’s purposes.

A good Deacon, at a conference meeting in the town of D—, about thirty miles north of Boston, addressed his auditors one Sabbath evening as follows:—“My friends, there is a new doctrine going about now-a-days. We are told that all mankind will go to Heaven. But, my brethren and sisters, we hope for better things.”

The *N.Y. Tribune* thinks that “over-trading” is swindling. A very good definition of the term.

We have to record another fearful disaster at sea; the loss of the *New Era* from Bremen to New York with about 380 passengers. The ship managed to go on shore in a thick fog, and with a heavy sea running. As usual the noble captain and gallant crew saved their own lives; but left the passengers—the women and children to perish.

The Millerite delusion is again spreading in many parts of the country. It is astonishing that the repeated explosions of this humbug, this miserable disappointment of its believers, and the impoverishment of many of them by their own acts of insane folly, in giving away their goods, wares and merchandise, should not have operated as a check upon any further manifestations. But it seems that the population of our country has become of so peculiar a cast, that, no delusion is so silly as not to have followers. True, these poor people injure no one but themselves; yet their follies are a sad reflection upon our boasted intelligence, education, natural shrewdness, and decided progress towards society refinement.—*Troy Whig*.