

## News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Asia, December 8.

## ENGLAND.

The Post denies that Lord Palmerston has any intention of dissolving before Parliament meets. Even if, by so doing, Gladstone, Githam, Russell, Bright, Disraeli, and Cobden were turned out of their present influential constituencies, they would soon find others less influential to elect them. To say nothing of the eminent abilities of the Premier, or the "special qualifications" of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Palmerston has secured the aid of Mr. J. Lubbock, "whose powers as a speaker are entitled to respect," and of Mr. Baines, "a man of clear and vigorous intellect," whose career "justly entitles the country to expect that, as he will have abundant time, he will ably second the noble lord at the head of the Government in repelling all attacks which may proceed from the present coalition Opposition. Instead of having recourse to a hazardous experiment (for the first thing that the three last new Parliaments have done has been to turn out the Ministry that summoned them), Lord Palmerston has so rearranged his Cabinet as to consolidate its strength, to augment its efficiency, and to render it worthy of the continued confidence of Parliament and the country.

We are threatened with an immediate revival of the system of Ballotage for the militia. According to the *United Service Gazette*, it is to extend to all persons, without reference to rank, between the ages of eighteen and forty, the term of service is to be for five years; and, in the event of a refusal to serve, a fine of five pounds is to be paid to the Government, by whom substitutes for the defaulters will be found. The circumstantiality of the statement gives it, at least, a strong appearance of probability; and, indeed, if it had not been well founded, it would, no doubt, before this, have been authoritatively denied.—*Liverpool Mail*, Dec. 1.

Last week a very numerous meeting of the Archidiaconal and local Secretaries of the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel assembled in the Chapter-house, Leeds, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to prevent the loss of funds anticipated through the withdrawal of the triennial Queen's Letter. The Lord Bishop of Ripon occupied the chair, and resolutions were passed for the employment of a paid organising secretary, to be appointed by the Bishop, with a salary of £200 per annum, and travelling expenses.

His Majesty the King of Sardinia arrived early on Friday morning at Dover, where he was received on landing by Lord Byron and the gentlemen-in-waiting sent by the Queen to receive her royal guest, and by the naval and military authorities of the port; and on entering the Ship Hotel, found the Mayor and Corporation in waiting to present a congratulatory address. Mr. Bodkin, the Recorder, having read the address, Marquis d'Azeglio read a gracious reply. Passing to the railway-station, where thousands had gathered to welcome him, the King entered the train, which dashed on to London, stopping only at Tunbridge. The Bricklayers' Arms station had been decorated; and there Prince Albert, the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs awaited his Majesty. The train arrived at ten minutes past twelve; and Prince Albert, warmly greeting the King as he stepped from the carriage, introduced him to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. As the Queen's carriages, containing the King and Prince Albert and their attendants, left the station, escorted by a company of the Blues, the 3rd Regiment of Fusiliers played the national air of Piedmont; and the crowd assembled outside the station, and in the streets on the Surrey side, loudly cheered. The procession passed along the Kent-road, over Westminster-bridge, by Parliament-street and Whitehall, to Charing-cross, and took the same route to the Great-Western Railway-station as that traversed by the French Emperor in April last. The demonstrations of welcome were similar, although not so extensive, as on that occasion. As the King passed the Horse-Guards, a royal salute was fired from the Park, and at the Admiralty a band played the Piedmontese Anthem and "Rule Britannia." Flags and bunting of all kinds were generously displayed from the houses and the clubs at the West end; the Army and Navy Club being particularly conspicuous, though not out of the line of procession. The Sardinian colours were generally prominent, though often the simple Republican tricolour of Italy appeared, either with or without design omitting the shield with its cross and crown. The road through Hyde-park was lined by well dressed persons. At the Great-

Western Railway-station, the King was received by the directors: and the train in which he started for Windsor was drawn by an engine decorated with the Sardinian flag, the French tricolour, and the British union-jack. The train reached Windsor a little before two o'clock. The party proceeded directly to the castle in open carriages, escorted by a squadron of the 2nd Life Guards. The Eton boys stood at the base of the Round Tower and cheered; and as the King entered the courtyard, the band of the Grenadier Guards played the national air of Piedmont. At the grand entrance of the Castle, his Majesty was received by Queen Victoria with her four eldest children, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Palmerston, and the Earl of Clarendon. Afterwards, accompanied by the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Cambridge, his Majesty visited the Duchess of Kent at Frogmore. On his return, he received the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London, and a deputation from the Young Men's Christian Association, of London, headed by the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, with an address, hailing his Majesty as "the bold advocate and uncompromising defender of civil and religious liberty" in his realm; exulting that he had established constitutional liberty, and hoping that he would be successful in extending "Christian civilisation."

THE RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE IN IRELAND.—At Deu's Hotel, in Birmingham, a meeting was held on Wednesday evening, on behalf of the Society for protecting the Rights of Conscience in Ireland. The Archbishop of Dublin, who was come over from Ireland on a mission on behalf of the association, was the principal speaker. He said—When he first went to Ireland many persons came before him, some of them with strong recommendations, chiefly priests, or persons professing to be priests, desiring to be allowed to officiate in his diocese as clergymen of his Church. Upon an examination he found three-fourths grossly ignorant and utterly unfit for the ministry. These he refused to employ, finding them in many instances persons of bad character, thrown overboard by the church of Rome, and then turning converts of Protestantism, in order to "make a gain of godliness." In consequence of that and some other causes he was set down as inflexible and lukewarm to the grand question between Protestantism and Romanism. The same inference was also drawn by many persons on account of his having always advocated perfect civil equality to persons of all religious denominations. (Cheers.) The best friends of the Protestant cause were those who had been lately burning Bibles. (Applause.) Those Bible-burners were proclaiming what we had long known and believed—that the Scriptures were contrary to the principles of the Church of Rome. (Hear.) He would not welcome converts with open arms until he had examined their professions with the utmost caution. Archbishop Whately then referred to the fierce persecution which Irish Protestant converts suffered, such as having their crops destroyed, being refused the purchase of the necessaries of life, and the unmerciful treatment which they met in the workhouse, and afterwards recommended the society as a machinery calculated to stop the evil. As an example of its usefulness, he said that in one district in Ireland, where Romanists threatened to give no work to those labourers who had abjured the Papal errors, the Protestant clergyman informed the employers that he would seek the aid of this association to provide employment for those who had in this way been deprived of their daily bread, when the employers, seeing that it would not do to lose their best labourers, relinquished the persecution (Loud applause.)

## IRELAND.

Last Sunday was chosen by the inhabitants of the Kells district of the county Meath for an electioneering demonstration in favour of Mr. M'Evoy, called by placard, and held at the rear of the chapel in that town; the whole of the chapel congregation turning out after mass, and being joined by a concourse of persons who came in from the surrounding neighbourhood. There was a large array of Roman Catholic clergymen; Mr. M'Evoy arrived about two o'clock, and the Rev. Mr. M'Evoy, P. P. of Kells, was voted to the chair. In opening the business, alluding to the vacancy, the chairman called upon the meeting to join him in a prayer for the repose of the soul of Mr. Lucas, to which the whole of the parties present responded. Subsequently the rev. gentleman spoke of the Kingstown case as follows:—

"We have seen those pious, and learned, and laborious ministers, who have, within the last few weeks, given the benefit of the priceless blessings of their ministrations to the people of Kingstown, those ministers of the alters, those sanctified servants of the Lord,

about to be sent into the dock upon a charge which these good men again and again declared to be false. Would you know what is the nature of that charge? It was that of committing to the flames a thing which pretends to be the Bible, but which is a vile and blasphemous perversion and corruption of the Word of God. (Cheers.) It was for committing to the flames a volume which, if I myself, in the absence of attorney-general and solicitor-general, were going to commit to the flames, I should take it up with a pair of tongs for fear of soiling my fingers—(tremendous cheering)—and so with the tongs would I hurl it into the consuming fire! (Renewed cheering.) Referring to the Church Establishment, the rev. gentleman said that it owed its existence to the robbery by its present members of the wealth bestowed upon the Catholic Church, and that the robbers were not content with this, but they must also slander and vilify the people whom they had defrauded, and their clergy. This monstrosity must be abolished. He went on to show that by the formation of an Irish party this could be accomplished. When the war would be over, serious questions might possibly arise about the distribution of the gains; a misunderstanding might arise between her most gracious Majesty, whom God may bless—(laughter)—and his Catholic Majesty the Emperor of the French, and the Cabinet might be placed in difficulties so great as to threaten its existence as a Government. That would be the time for a compact party of twenty Irish members to go to the Premier and tell him that their votes counted as forty, and that he should have them if he paid the price for them—namely, justice to Ireland in making the tenant-right and the abolition of the rotten Protestant Established Church Cabinet questions."

It is not said whether Mr. M'Evoy, the candidate, is a relative of the reverend chairman, but he pledged himself to carry out all that the latter had said, and to abide by the principles he had enunciated. The rest of the speech-making, chiefly by priests and the candidates, being got over, the day was wound up with a show, a number of Mr. Meredith's (the Whig candidate) tenants being kicked and beaten for cheating for him; and the windows of some of the inhabitants who had not taken part in the demonstration broken.

## INDIA.

The Santal rebellion is so far from being crushed, that the insurgents still hold Beerchoom, and the peasantry are still harried by an enemy worse than the Mahabatas, and martial law has not yet been declared. Every officer, civil and military, is loud in remonstrance, but the Council will not act. Meanwhile, a paper which explains, to a considerable extent, the origin of the movement, is thus described:—

"It is the confession of Seejoo Manjee, the leader of the insurrection, through whom the Deity was supposed to utter his decrees. This man is not a bad specimen of his race; a bold clear-spoken savage, with no conscience and no remorse for the crimes he has committed. He says the Santals were ground down by the Bengalee money-lenders. The savages are always in want. They are fond of hunting, drink, and dancing, and always anticipate the harvest. The money lenders supplied their wants, and demanded interest at the rate of 500 per cent. The Santals were willing to pay only twenty-five, or, as they phrase it, four annas for every rupee. The Mahajuns beat them, abused them, pulled their ears, and seized their crops. The Santals petitioned, but of course Englishmen, with their fixed ideas of free trade, refused to annul their agreements, or, indeed, interfere. They resolved, therefore, to right themselves."

The *Calcutta Star* of October 20 gives the following brief account of the consecration of Bishop M'Dougall, in the Cathedral of the Indian Metropolitan See:—

"We witnessed the solemn ceremony of consecrating the Rev. Dr. M'Dougall, Bishop of Labuan, and we must say we have never seen any religious rite more affecting. What made it particularly so, and added to its interest, was the circumstance that the Bishop of Labuan was the first missionary Bishop that the Anglican Church has ever sent forth, after the apostolic example, to preach the Gospel and to plant a Christian Church in a heathen land. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Madras—one of the most excellent discourses we remember to have heard for a long while. The church was crowded to excess, so that full a hundred people were obliged to stand. Whatever scoffers may say, or wittlings, who think occasions such as these adapted to the display of their smartness of speech, the gathering at the cathedral on Thursday morning we would fain interpret as a proof that the community of the city are not insensible to the progress of religion. We shall not certainly lampoon them so grossly.