

cerely that the Judges of Assize who would hereafter visit this town would always be able to congratulate the inhabitants of the county Westford upon its immunity from crime, its maintenance of order, obedience to the law, and respect for the rights of others. Such had been the characteristics of the county Westford for a long time, and he trusted it would long retain them: He would only add that additional accommodation would soon be provided for the lunatics in this county."

In Armaugh, where the assizes commenced yesterday the judge found only nine cases on the calendar, two of which stood over since the last assizes. Only one was a serious case. It was a "Whiteboy" offence, committed in the early part of last year. The prisoner, who was arraigned for being one of a party who, by threats and ill-usage, had compelled a man to promise to give up his farm, was tried in the course of the day, but the jury disagreed, and were discharged.

In Roscommon there were seven cases on the calendar, none of them serious. In that county the constabulary have been peculiarly unfortunate. Since the last assizes there had been 56 cases almost entirely of an agrarian character—such as burning corn, levelling houses, injuring cattle, &c. In nearly half these cases the offenders have not been made amenable.—*Dublin Times Cor.*

A writer in the *Cork Reporter*, who visited Cahirmee fair, and heard there what the leading agriculturists had to say on the state of the crops in the province of Munster, makes the following gratifying remarks on the appearance of the crops:—"And, talking of weather, before I proceed to speak of the fair, I think it of much more importance to give you my impression of the effects of the late rains on the crops, of which we have heard so much croaking of late—even some of your Poor Law guardians threatening the country with utter ruin from every shower that falls just now—a prediction that I am in a position to say is fortunately without the slightest foundation, judging from the glorious prospect presented on all sides of a very extensive portion of this county I have traversed, and from the opinions I have heard from some of the leading agriculturists from neighbouring counties that I met on the fair-field. In the first place, the contrast struck me, in the appearance of all cereal crops, as wonderful, compared with what it was when I visited Cahirmee last summer. Then all was blight, the fields presenting an appearance as if newly tilled and hopelessly unproductive; whereas now all is rich luxuriance, particularly the potato crop, which has passed the Rubicon of its fatal day, the 12th of July, which, since the unfortunate famine year, has been looked forward to so anxiously. The crop is not alone looking well, but the produce is good and abundant, and consequently a degree of cheerfulness seems to pervade all the farming classes not known to them for some years. I can also speak most favourably of the oat and wheat crops. Those late rains so much feared have had a most beneficial effect, not alone on them, but crowning the turnip and mangold fields with splendid crops, so that I trust to hear no more whining of blighted potatoes and short grain crops."

HOMICIDES ATTEMPTED MURDER NEAR LARNE.—Friday morning another deed of blood was added to the list of crime in the county of Antrim, which will increase the many serious cases on the calendar at the approaching assizes in Belfast. The entire circumstances are of a most horrible character, and can hardly be in anywise accounted for. In this instance the victim is a man named William McGuigan, or McGookin, residing at Moordryke, in the parish of Kilwaughter, at a distance of about four miles from the town of Larne. Information was conveyed at an early hour in the forenoon of Friday to the constabulary of Larne that a man had been almost murdered at the place named. The facts of the case will be best given, perhaps, in almost the words of the dying man's declaration, and which is, in effect, as follows:—"Yesterday (Thursday), myself and my wife were at the market in Larne, and returned home at night. Before leaving Larne, I bought about half a pint of whiskey, and brought it home with me. I drank about a glass of it before going to bed. I awoke this (Friday) morning about four o'clock, and feeling quite thirsty and my mouth dry, I asked my wife to rise and get me a drink. She got up, and filling a cup with whiskey, gave it to me to drink. I drank it, and fell over asleep again. I was awoke between seven and eight o'clock, perhaps, with the feeling of my throat being cut, and on opening my eyes I saw my wife over me with a knife in her hand cutting my throat. I tried to raise my hands, but they were tied with a string run under my body and fastened to each wrist. My wife then threw herself over my breast and held me there until I bled almost to death, and she got up and left me when she appeared to think that all was over with me. I solemnly declare that it was my wife who cut my throat. She cut the string which tied my hands before she left the house. From these circumstances, if they be all true, it is believed the wife intended it to be concluded that her husband had committed suicide by cutting his own throat, and for this purpose she left the knife in the bed, and left the house herself, so returning, she might have been able to raise the alarm, and leave his death upon himself. The restoration to consciousness of the intended victim, and his discovery in the house by some person, who entered during her absence, has frustrated this, if it were part of her design. Mr. Osment committed her to the county prison for further inquiry at the Petty Sessions of Larne.—*Belfast News-Letter.*

A SWINDLER.—Among the visitors to Killarney this season was a young gentleman, who, it was generally supposed, from his outward manner and style of acting, was a person of some respectability, and who palmed himself off as one that had been distinguished as an officer in McOlellan's army, during the engagement at Bull's Run. In proof of his military knowledge he, on several occasions, went through a series of tactics and manoeuvres which convinced all, particularly the police with whom he became conversant, that he was really the son of Mars. By his liberality and gentlemanly deportment he had little difficulty in increasing the number of his acquaintances, and was never suspected as one who had not plenty to pay his way. He was, in consequence, hailed as a welcome customer at the principal shops where he dealt, and was considered a lucky lodger at the beautiful scenery about Killarney, and thus spent his time as agreeably as possible. Things went on so until his liabilities amounted to something considerable, when no tidings could be had of the military officer who received such dreadful injuries at Bull's Run, and who seems to have taken his parting farewell of this town, to the great regret and loss of his many creditors.—*Killarney Cor. of the Cork Examiner.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

We suppose that the discussion raised by Lord Normanby on Monday, the 7th inst., may be considered as the concluding protest on the part of our Parliament, as far as this session is concerned, against the Reign of Terror now existing in Central Italy. It is the more important, therefore, that the agents of Piedmontese tyranny should be aware that their movements are still watched, and that they and their victims should be accurately informed of the true character of the debate. Unfortunately, the reports in the daily papers have missed some material points in the discussion, and in particular we do not find that any of them have given sufficient prominence to Lord Russell's emphatic declaration of his opinion that the Piedmontese authorities are bound without further delay to bring the prisoners to the trial which they have been so long demanding in vain. Again, it is of importance that Victor Emmanuel's lieutenants and gofers should be aware that the charges against them of having tortured prisoners in order to obtain a confession are not merely general charges, such as the newspapers put

into Lord Normanby's mouth, but that the noble Marquess referred to specific cases which are open to the readiest possible disproof, if disproved they can be. We may especially advert to the cases of Captain Basso and Lieutenant Testa, because both of these were brought before the English visitors—as we suppose they are to be called, Lord Russell having repudiated any direct "commission" on the part of his Government for this purpose. These gentlemen related, in the presence of Count Christen and Mr. Bishop, the tortures which had been practised upon them, and the "visitors" Englishman-like, expressed their horror at the recital in no measured terms—a fact which may, perhaps, account for the careful manner in which their report is held from the public. If, however, Consul Bonham's obsequiousness to Piedmontese oppression keeps back from us these uncomfortable revelations, we understand that the same facts have been brought within the cognisance of a less amenable witness, M. Benedetto, the French Minister, whose remonstrances, we hear, were of a very emphatic nature. Let us hope that these remonstrances may have more effect than the ineffectual intimation of Lord Russell's wishes. We notice that some of the French newspapers, such as the *Constitutionnel*, affect to be startled at the statements that there are 16,000 prisoners incarcerated in the Neapolitan gaols, declaring that the prisons would not contain such a number. We are afraid that the editor of the *Constitutionnel* is not allowed to read the Italian newspapers, or he would have known that this "impossible" assertion was made by Signor Ricciardi, a Neapolitan deputy, in his place in the Italian Chamber, and that it was not contradicted by Turazzi and his colleagues. Against these awkward facts, thus supported, we have nothing but Lord-Russell's counter charges of oppression against King Ferdinand (as if that had anything to do with the matter), and Lord Harrowby's picture of the delighted aspect of the population outside the prison walls. We fear that Lord Harrowby is one of those easy-going travellers who "do" Italy through the medium of a *laissez de place*; and when his lordship gravely tells us that there are but 1,000 Piedmontese soldiers in all Naples, we can only suppose either that he has a very credulous expression of countenance, or else that he fell in with a *laissez de place* gifted with even a larger share of inventive audacity than commonly falls to the lot of that fraternity.—*John Bull.*

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Canada.—In reply to Mr. Adair.

Mr. C. Fortescue said the Canadian parliament had been prorogued, and had separated without raising the force intended for the defence of the colony beyond 10,000 men. Every man capable of bearing arms in Canada was a militiaman, and would be liable to be called out in the event of danger. No answer had been received from the Canadian Government to the offer of a British guarantee of four per cent interest to their railway loan of £3,000,000, in substitution for their original proposal, that they should aid this country in undertaking their railways.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.

Captain Archdall inquired whether the Secretary for Ireland was aware of a programme placarded all over Dublin, announcing that certain proceedings were to take place next Sunday in connexion with the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Irish Catholic University. The placard announced that places would be assigned to members of both houses of parliament, that there was to be a procession, with bands and banners, and that the Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops were to appear in their canonicals. He apprehended that it would be a violation of the law for Roman Catholic ecclesiastical dignitaries to appear in canonicals at a public procession; and he wished to know whether the authorities had taken, or would take, steps to prevent such illegal proceedings; or whether, in the event of the programme being carried out, they would prosecute any Roman Catholic ecclesiastical who might exhibit themselves in the public streets dressed in canonicals.

Sir R. Peel said that his attention had been drawn to the subject, and he had already had communications in reference to it with the department in Dublin. He was not aware that any breach of the peace was apprehended, but of course the government would be prepared to take care that the law should be respected.

We believe that we best retain the spirit of our common ancestors when we continue to look with pity across the Atlantic, and with an ardent desire to see a termination of the desolation which now rages. If, however, it be a pleasure to them to know it, we will not seek to disguise the fact that they have caused us great national evil. Thousands of industrious English families are at this moment hard pushed by want, because as a nation we have been true to our sense of right, and would not go in our strength and take the Cotton which their feeble cruisers kept blockaded. For the same reason, and in consequence of the same strict adherence to that rule of right, more thousands are falling monthly out of employ, and there is a dreary and dangerous winter coming on. If it be a delight to New York and Boston and Washington to know this, be their joy complete, for it is a fact. Our House of Commons before it separates has to make what provision can be made for this great future that comes striding on.—*Times.*

LORD PALMERSTON ON THE WAR IN THE UNITED STATES.—The following is an abstract of the debate on Mr. Lindsay's motion in the House of Commons, on the 18th July:—

Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald moved the adjournment of the debate.

Lord Palmerston said, I hope the House will come to a decision to-night. The question is one of such importance and delicacy that I cannot think a postponement will be at all beneficial, and I confess that I regret very much that my hon. friend has thought it to be his duty to bring it under the notice of the House in the present state of things. There can be but one wish on the part of any man in this country with respect to this war, and that is that it should end; but I very much doubt whether the only end which can satisfactorily be looked for—namely, an amicable separation, is likely to be accelerated by angry discussions in this House, where the war has been eulogised by the champions of either side. It is true that many things have been said gratifying to the feelings of both parties, and on the other hand, in the warmth of debate, likely to be offensive, and it is more of human nature to think of that which is offensive rather than that which is gratifying. (Hear.) I regret that this debate has been brought on, and I earnestly hope the House will leave the future in the hands of the government, content, as I believe the country is with the past.

I do not ask this as a matter of confidence in the government of the day, because I think that, whatever party be in office, a question of such delicacy and immense importance should be left in the hands of the Executive to deal with. For it is not one which the House by a resolution pointing out a specific cause can take upon itself a responsibility which properly belongs to the Government. The motion points to two things—the mediation and acknowledgment. The right hon. gentleman has ably laid it down, and I do not dispute that we should be perfectly justified if we saw fit to acknowledge independence of the Southern States, provided that that independence had been in the words which he used, firmly and permanently established. I quite concur that the fact of our acknowledging that independence would give to the Northern States no cause of offence towards this country; but the case of the South American republics are very different to this. These were not acknowledged until the lapse of fifteen years, although they had practically achieved their independence, and it was quite clear Spain could not re-establish her dominion over them; but in this case now? Only a fortnight ago it was doubtful whether the Federals or the Confederates had pos-

session of Richmond. It was but a few days ago that the whole course of the Mississippi was believed to be in the hands of the Federals. I know that New Orleans was, and that Charleston might possibly be captured; and I contend that whatever opinion we may have of the recent battles, and of the determination of the South to fight to the last for their independence, that practically the contest has not yet assumed a character to justify the country assuming that the independence of the South is fully established. Some imagine that the acknowledgment of the South would establish a different position between it and this country. It would do no such thing, unless followed up by active interference, although neutrality is perfectly compatible with acknowledgment. The right honorable gentleman opposite said that the concession of belligerent rights was a step towards acknowledgment. I cannot admit that. No one can be insensible for a moment to the vast importance to this country of a speedy termination of the war. We all know the privations and sufferings which a large portion of the people are now undergoing in consequence of this unfortunate war; but, on the other hand, it has been well said by the Hon. member for Bradford that any attempt to put an end to the war by active and violent interference would only produce still greater privations. There is no instance in history of a contest of such magnitude as that now going on between two nations of the same people. There is said to be nearly a million of men in arms on one side and the other, and their mutual irritation and exasperation is admitted by all; and it is at this moment at which a successful offer of mediation is likely to be made to either party? I wish to guard myself against any expression of opinion as to the future. This war has been so contrary to every experience, that it would be a bold man who would venture to prophesy the state of affairs a month in advance. The country, I believe, is of opinion that the conduct of the government has been wise and prudent. We should be happy at any time, if an opportunity presents a reasonable prospect of doing so with success, to assist in putting an end to this desolating war.— I think it had better be left in the hands of the government to judge of the occasion as it arises. It is on this account that I do not enter into the discussion as to the right of either side, for if at any time we shall be able to offer our good offices, it can only be as impartial parties committed to no opinion in favor of either side, but only anxious to promote a settlement as consistent as possible with the interest and the feelings of both parties. He therefore hoped that the motion would be with drawn. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. Fitzgerald said that Mr. Lindsay had incurred a great responsibility in bringing on the motion, and if it was persevered with he should support it. The government were, however, incurring the most serious responsibility from the manner in which they were dealing with this question.

After a few words from Mr. Hopwood, the motion for the adjournment was withdrawn, and Mr. Lindsay withdrew the resolution.

THE ROYAL SUPREMACY.—The Bishop of Oxford is quietly feeling his way towards the getting rid of the Royal Mandate for the consecration of Bishops. To the Right Rev. Prelate, and to the whole of the High Church Party, it is a sore grievance to know that the complexions of the Episcopal Bench depends upon the capricious, caprices, or interests of the Prime Minister, and that pleasant scoundrels like Lord Palmerston are the persons upon whom the Church has to depend for the selection of shepherds to feed the sheep and the lambs of the Christian fold, not only in England, but in the Colonies. But, as it would never do to begin with an open condemnation of the Royal Mandate in all cases, the clever Prelate begins by introducing a bill which declares it not to be expedient to issue such mandates for the creation of Bishops, sent forth to preside over missions to heathen nations, in regions external to the dominions of her Majesty, but that, when such Bishops are required, it shall be lawful for the Archbishop of Canterbury to consecrate them, without any reference to the Crown or to the Civil Authorities. Lord Palmerston has seen too many strange things happen in his day not to be sensible of the early effects of the passing of this bill, and, therefore, there is little chance that it will pass while he remains Prime Minister. His is not the hand that will assist in releasing the Church of England from the bondage in which her Bishops are held by their essentially Royal creation and official State appointment.—*Full Advertiser.*

Don Quixote is still in the flesh, though he no longer tilts at windmills, but contents himself with making raids upon beggars. He calls himself Thomas Weldon Trench, a name not altogether inappropriate, for 'Well done, Trench,' is about the last thing we should think of saying to him. This energetic impetuosity of obstreperous wrongheadedness has won for himself the honour of embalmment in the national archives. His name is inscribed on the Journals of the Legislature, and his exploits are chronicled in a parliamentary return. The edification of future ages being thus provided for, it still remains necessary to take some steps for the information of our own. The general public do not read the papers printed by order of the House of Commons—a privation which cynics may feel disposed to look upon as a blessing. But the contents of such a document as the correspondence on the case of Alice Delan cannot be too widely known. The incidents recorded in it are unfortunately not wholly exceptional and the chief actor in the farce which ended in a tragedy is a type of a class a great deal more numerous than might be desired. Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench is one of the Great Unpaid—very properly so, for the amount of discretion and legal learning which he apparently possesses would be dear at the smallest coin of the realm per annum. He sheds the light of his wisdom on King's County, Ireland; and following in the footsteps of the immortal Alderman Cute, he has resolved to 'put down' beggars. In the pursuit of this self imposed mission, he is not content to be at the head that directs—he must also be the hand that executes. Not content with the powers of a magistrate, he assumes to himself the function of detective, prosecutor, and judge. He lurks about the streets eagerly on the watch for miscreants who dare to ask for alms. He has the New Testament always in his pocket ready to swear the unwilling witness upon the spot. He makes the kerb-stone the seat of judgment, and rolls up the individualities of tipstaff, clerk of the court, and gaoler in the person of a policeman. As a sample of his course of action, vouchered for by the most competent witnesses, let us take his proceedings in the case of Alice Delan. This poor old woman was seventy-nine years of age, and witnesses attest that she was a decent woman, earning her bread by honest dealing. But business is not always thriving, and humble folks have no capital to fall back upon when profits are not forthcoming. So it happened that on the 21st of December, 1861, Alice Delan, being in the streets of Gosshill, entered the passage of the dispensary, and asked Miss Frances Carter if she would bestow upon her a little sugar. Not being in a public place, she clearly committed no offence within the terms of the Vagrant Act; but Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench was not the man to be deterred from prosecuting his favorite crusade by such a trifling impediment as illegality. So he rushed gallantly into the field—it is to say, into the passage—and demanded from Miss Carter an account of the old woman's business. Being informed that she had solicited alms, he produced his New Testament, swore the young lady then and there, and summoning a policeman, ordered him to convey the prisoner to the barracks, as it was his intention to commit her to jail. The information was drawn up by a policeman, which the law interdicts; it was signed and sworn to by Miss Carter in the absence of the prisoner, which the law equally prohibits. An ass's car—not be it understood, the private carriage of Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench—was provided to carry Alice Delan to Tullamore gaol, but not alone. Her companion was Jane Egan, an old woman, seventy-two years of

age, whom the active magistrates had seen speaking to Mr. John Comyns. Him did he straightway interrogate, and upon learning that Jane Egan had audaciously prayed for the gift of the enormous sum of one half-penny, out came the New Testament again, and the witness was sworn upon the spot. In this case, too, the law was twice violated; the information was drawn up by the police, and it was signed and sworn to in the absence of the prisoner. At this time it appears that Alice Delan was weak and ill, and while in the police cell exhibited symptoms of severe suffering; but it is only fair to add that there is no evidence to contradict the assertion of Mr. T. Weldon Trench that these facts were to him entirely unknown. It may readily be imagined that a journey of six Irish miles to about seven and a half English miles in an open car in the middle of December—did not do her much good, and it appears from the testimony of her fellow-prisoner that from the moment of their arrest until nine o'clock next morning neither of them had a mouthful of food. Perhaps some persons may not deem these facts sufficient excuses for the act of indecency which Alice Delan committed in dying ten days afterwards. Be this as it may, it is certain that she then expired, and that on the inquest Dr. John Ridley deposed that 'it is likely, carrying a woman of deceased's time of life, delicate, and poorly covered, in an ass's car, six Irish miles and detaining her some days in jail, would be likely to accelerate her death.' The coroner, Mr. William A. Goring, behaved very well, and the majority of the jury extremely badly. They stopped the case before all the evidence was heard, refused to accede to the coroner's request that they would receive testimony as to how the deceased 'received the marks of violence she had on her, and which they saw,' and declined to examine Miss Carter, of whom Sub-constable Patrick Payne, who arrested Alice Delan, averred that she told him that the prisoner 'was a decent poor woman, and was not annoying her.' Ultimately a verdict of death from natural causes was returned by fifteen out of the twenty-three jurors. This finding can only be justified in the sight of reasonable men by including among natural causes that ignorance of the law on the part of Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench which induced him to send Alice Delan to jail upon a committal which was bad both in substance and in form. The conduct of this remarkably unqualified magistrate was brought by the Irish Solicitor-General under the notice of Lord Chancellor Brady, who, after demanding and receiving from him an explanation pre-eminently lame and wholly unsatisfactory, addressed to him a formal reprimand, in which he was nothing to find fault with but his conclusion. He remarked that in each of these cases he 'acted as magistrate, prosecutor, and judge,' and characterized the cases as 'got up,' adding, 'in neither case was there in fact any distinct complainant, the persons nominally stated as being complainants on the face of the proceedings acting merely as your instance in giving evidence as witnesses.' Concerning Jane Egan, he stated that it is doubtful whether the conviction in her case was legally sufficient in form. With regard to Alice Delan, he observed, that her conviction was 'illegal both in form and substance,' and that 'the whole proceeding was hasty and irregular; it had the appearance of great and unnecessary harshness, and the conviction and committal were both illegal.' He significantly remarked that 'a very serious question is involved in these proceedings on account of their illegality—that of the extent to which you might be held responsible for the unfortunate event which has happened—viz. the death of Alice Delan,' and added that though the result of the inquest did not attribute her disease to the treatment which she had undergone, 'it would not have created much surprise had the case been otherwise, had these agitating proceedings led directly to the fatal result, and had the verdict of the jury, in consequence, been of a very serious character as against you and all parties concerned.' Yet strange to say, he wound up this elaborate and severe censure by intimating that he did not deem it necessary to remove Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench from the commission of the peace, though he admitted that he had 'much difficulty' in arriving at that conclusion. That we can easily comprehend, for to most people it will seem an impossible deduction from the premise. Here is a magistrate whose conduct is stigmatised by his superior as irregular, hasty, harsh and illegal; who is declared by the same authority to be ignorant of the limits of his functions, of the provisions of the law which he has to execute, and of the means by which he may give them effect; yet it is added that he may be suffered to remain on the bench 'without peril to the administration of justice.' Most people will probably dissent from the reasoning of Lord Chancellor Brady, and hold that it is the intention of such hot-headed incapables as Mr. Thomas Weldon Trench in positions which invest them with the power of doing infinite mischief, which excites instead of our rule and brings our laws into contempt.—*Star.*

The *Times* has confessed that the Roman Court stands *facile princeps* in the International Exhibition.

SUICIDES.—The juries on coroners' inquests in England and Wales found 1,324 verdicts of suicide last year—one in every 329 deaths; 961 of these unhappy persons were men, and 363 were women.

A youth, named Dinnae, committed suicide at Nuthurst, on account of the sufferings he endured from toothache.

The bodies of several murdered infants have been found in London during the week ending the 19th ult.

ATROCIOUS CRIMES seem to be greatly on the increase. Some of these are undoubtedly the result of insanity, but in other cases the perpetrators are in full possession of the mental powers. Amongst the former may be mentioned Mrs. Vyse, who murdered her two children, and was tried on Thursday at the Criminal Court for the offence. Of her insanity no doubt existed—it was hereditary, and the unhappy creature will be imprisoned for life. A madman at Sutton, near Weymouth, seized the parish surgeon, and—horrible to relate—succeeded in literally sawing off his head! The same Criminal Court that tried the insane murderers, Vyse, convicted James Lawrence for deliberately shooting a woman he had been courting as a suitor. The murder of the unfortunate policeman at Ashton has been followed by the arrest of his assassins, and the evidence is likely to lead to their conviction; and now we learn of the arrest of an old man in Glasgow, upwards of eighty, charged with the murder of a domestic servant in the house in which he resided, and the inference is, that he committed the crime to conceal a criminal attack which he had previously made on her. Poisoning cases are by no means rare, and one of them, followed by death, the work of a woman, has been undergoing investigation at one of the police courts of the metropolis, which reveals a fearful episode of guilt. Some philosophers have given expression to the fanciful notion that certain seasons give rise to certain kinds of crime from which other seasons are exempt. In summer, according to this theory, love, jealousy, and revenge, are the passions which incite to deeds of blood and murder; in winter, robbery from the person, burglary and acts of violence are the prevailing offences against the law. This theory is ingenious, but we suspect that the exceptions must be nearly as numerous as the rule. It was always held, and we believe correctly, that in seasons of dearth when food was dear, in contradistinction to seasons of plenty, when food was cheap, crimes to support nature became more general; but beyond this all must be more or less speculative.—*Willmer and Smith's European Times.*

In the year 1861 there were 187 petitions filed for dissolution of marriage, and 49 for judicial separation; 249 judgments were given in the year, but unfortunately the return omits to state their nature, so that it does not appear in how many cases man and wife were put asunder. The applications for dissolution of marriage were 244 in 1860, 211 in 1859, 210 in 1860, and 187 in 1861.—*Times.*

UNITED STATES.

OUR DEAD CATHOLIC SOLDIERS.—WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THEIR ORPHANS?—Now that so many thousands of Catholics have lost their lives in defence of the Union, it becomes the duty of the Catholic press to ask what provision will be made for the numerous families of orphans thus thrown on the mercy of the world. We may be told: 'Oh? that is all right—they will be taken into orphan asylums and well cared for.' Now, even if this be the case, we say it is not 'all right'—but very far from it, as regards Catholics. The orphan asylums provided by the State will do admirably well for 'Protestant,' but certainly not for Catholic children. We have, unfortunately, but too good reason to know how such public institutions are governed here in relation to Catholics, and we cannot, or will not rest satisfied with them as asylums for the orphans of our brave soldiers. These children have a special claim on the country; they are, as it were the wards of the American people,—shall it be said they were neglected or robbed of the only inheritance their father left them—the Catholic faith? Daily experience shows that they will not be brought up as Catholics in the common institutions of this country, and knowing that their fathers—at least the Irish portion of them—could not die easy, and think of their children being perverted from their faith, it is incumbent on us to ask what security will be given to the Catholic people of this country that these orphans shall be brought up in the faith of the Catholic Church. Are they to be left to the tender mercies of benevolent old ladies and 'zealous clergymen,' such as those of the Jersey Almshouse and the Western Pennsylvania House of Refuge?—*N. Y. Tablet.*

A FREE COUNTRY.—Mob Law rules in the United States. The *St. Louis Democrat* shows how they are treated by the rabble who as British subjects seek to obtain from the British Consuls certificates of their nationality as guarantees against the apprehended conscription:—

The Consul's office is in a front room on the second floor. Around the foot of the stairway and in front of the door were gathered those whose purpose it was to attend to the obnoxious applicants for Consular certificates. In the hall at the head of the stairs, removed a few feet beyond the Consul's door, was placed a table, and two chairs, in each of which sat a sturdy vigilance committee-man. On the table were ink paper and pen. Persons desirous of visiting the Consul were permitted to pass up, and if they sought to do so, to enter his room without molestation. On their appearance at the head of the stairs, however, the hall clerks politely greeted them, pattingly inquired if they wished protection papers, and if the reply was in the affirmative, rose and pitched them down the stairs! They had then to run a gauntlet of fist blows until they could manage to escape from the enraged crowd. Under these circumstances of inconvenience scarcely a dozen persons succeeded in getting protection papers yesterday. The efforts of the police to preserve order were of no avail. The increasing crowds and disorders at last attracted the attention of Col. Merrill, who visited the scene and perceived the necessity of repressing the disturbances. A detachment of the Provost Guard was ordered to the spot, and the crowds were cleared from in front of the Consul's office. Numerous arrests were made. Several affrays and struggles occurred between disturbers and policemen, and one or two ineffectual attempts to rescue arrested parties. Several of the victims ran for protection into the Provost Marshal General's office, near by, but were followed in, drawn out and pitched down the stairs. One of these martyrs was met at the foot of the stairs and three times cut with a knife, but we cannot learn that he was dangerously wounded. Rumor magnified the affair into several horrible homicides. It is estimated that during the day at least 150 persons passed up the stairs leading to the Consulate office and returned with remarkably accelerated speed, laden with a profusion of weighty compliments that left them no desire for any further experiment of the kind. One luckless wight, having found nothing but protection in his papers, sought it in a passing street car, but was followed, hammered through the open windows, drawn out, and kicked for a square. After the dispersal of the crowds in the street, the vigilance men in the hall still retained their posts. Squads of the Provost Guard were placed on each side of the street and at the street corners near, to prevent any further collections of the excited and curious. This appearance of restored order led some dozens of unsuspecting 'protection seekers' singly to undertake a visit to the Consul's office. But the prim Corburi remained at the table, received them with exemplary civility, encouragingly inquired their business, and then sympathizingly 'rushed them through the hall to the yard, where they were precipitated down the steps into a yard, lagged into penitence, and then permitted to escape through the alley. The knights of the table remained till some time after the closing of the Consul's office, and obligingly attended to his affairs in his absence.— The acting Consul is a brother of Consul Wilkins, who at present is out of the city. Had the official expressed to the authorities a desire that the disturbances so near his premises should be made entirely to cease, doubtless his wish would have been complied with. We are informed that the services of the entire police force were placed at his disposal, and would have been promptly given. The inference is, that he was perfectly satisfied of the utter unworthiness and meanness of the mass of the appeals made to him. In granting the desired certificate, on the oath of the applicant, he simply obeyed his explicit instructions; and even the spirit of them under the circumstances, and with his knowledge of the facts, could not require him to do more.

The *New York Times*, in a lengthy article on Counterfeiting as a particular domestic institution of the Union, says that there are 1339 Banks in the United States; the issues of all but 253 are counterfeited, and those of the balance are either worthless or at so large a discount as to discourage imitation. The total number of varieties of counterfeit paper in circulation is (5802) five thousand nine hundred and two, of these 3033 are altered, 1685 spurious without imitation, 401 spurious imitations, and 717 various frauds. During the last six years the number of varieties of counterfeit bills has doubled; the increase in the number of Banks was only 72, but the increase of counterfeit bills on them, 2995. The sum of counterfeit bills in circulation is variously estimated from six to six millions of dollars. The *Times* says:—It is a spectacle alike degrading to our national character, as well as an overwhelming condemnation of the system of Banking and Bank-note engraving, which admits of great loss in time and money, of irreparable damage to the poor and innocent victims of these numberless frauds, but it is undermining our morality as a nation. The road to wealth by such easy though dishonest means, presents a temptation which the young, too often are incapable of resisting, and which, in many cases, leads to the brothel, the gaming-house and the gallows. The plentiful supply of fraudulent bills renders the people familiar with seeing it offered, and men who would scorn to pick a pocket, or commit a highway robbery, will pass a bad bill on a friend with the utmost nonchalance, and think their success a good joke. Then, the friend must repeat the experiment, and so the evil becomes widespread.

THE "MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL" IN VIEW OF THE DEATH.—The *Newburyport Mass.* *Herold* describes the apprehension of being drafted, to be productive of singular effects in that place. Men who have been wearing wigs and dying their whiskers, and passing for thirty-eight or nine years of age, have suddenly opened up to forty-five, while young bucks who have passed with the girls for twenty, have shrunk to the other side of eighteen.

The War Department has issued an official order for drafting to commence on the 15th of August.