

FENIAN INFORMERS.—In Irish political trials there is a regular performer, who always comes on and leads a specially dramatic interest to the whole. This is the 'informer,' as he is known to the crowd; the 'approver,' as he is more courteously known to the law. It is dramatic to see this actor's entrance; his furtive glance at the galleries, as if there were enemies there ready to spring on him; his timorous answers to the almost contemptuous questioning of the Crown lawyers, who seem anxious to have done with the 'dirty work'; his gradual gathering of confidence as he feels safe; his cowering, look as the prisoner's counsel advance to grapple with him; his fawning explanations and self-justification; his fall-back on brazen impudence and bravado as he is obliged to confess some fresh piece of treasury; his half-averse and defiant confession as he is brought to bay and the truth wrung from him; and the bitter scowl of secret rage at the skilful counsel, who has forced him to make a degrading picture of himself.—*Dickens's 'All the Year Round'*

On Wednesday two young men, who only on that day had come to Dublin from the south of Ireland, were taken into custody at their lodgings in Lower Gloucester street on suspicion of being implicated in the Fenian conspiracy. On searching the room they occupied, there were found, it is said, a revolver, some rifle bullets, cartridges, and percussion caps, also a number of documents alleged to be of a treasonable character. Some arrests for training and drilling, recently performed, have been made at Macroom. In London two men have been committed for trial on a charge of having endeavored to seduce a soldier from his allegiance. A box of arms which arrived at the North Wall by one of the steamers from England, was seized a few days ago by the Customs authorities. With the arms was, we are told, a flag of a peculiar description. This we suppose to have been an Orange banner. If it displayed the harp without a crown, our loyal newspapers would scarcely be so fastidious in their reference to it. We suspect that if the arms were intended for the Orange Lodges, the Government will not long retain them in the Custom house.—*Dublin Nation, 6th Jan.*

It is now beyond all doubt that Fenianism has not struck deep root in Ireland, and that every practical Catholic in the country is opposed to it. We have good authority for asserting that not a man who attended his religious duties, who went to Mass regularly and frequented the Sacraments, has been discovered among the Fenians. The Fenians who profess to be Catholics are outlaws from the Church; and without imputing to them murderous designs against the Priests, we have no hesitation in saying that they are men who detest the preaching and teaching of the clergy against illegal associations, and in favor of order and legality, and who never bend the knee in the confessional. It is true that Ireland had laws and a long career of misgovernment have weakened the feeling of loyalty in the popular breast and engendered sympathy in the public mind with those who are arrayed against the Government, merely because they are so arrayed, but beyond this there is no fraternity, no bond of union, no connecting link between the Irish people and the Fenians—who are at once enemies of the Church and of the Government, and are under the ban of both.—*Weekly Register.*

THE SEARCH FOR ARMS AT CARRICK.—It appears that when the police entered the garden at the rear of Maher's house in Carrick-on-Suir, the Head-Constable placed his back against a certain point of the wall walked forward a certain number of paces, and told the men (pointing to where he stood) to 'dig there.' They did so, and discovered 25 pikes, mostly 28 or 48 manufacture. This would look as if they got information, and it may have been so; but those that hide can direct others where to find; and in times past it was no unusual thing for a scoundrel to hide a pike or a pistol in the thatch of a house, then give information, and receive the reward of his villany. Of course such evidence as the mere finding of those rusty pikes in a man's garden will not be taken as corroborative evidence. When the police were carrying the pikes through the streets, the people laughed and cheered, and seemed to look on the whole affair as a joke; but in times like these, when the government, for reasons best known to itself, is evidently alarmed, it may prove a serious matter to the unfortunate prisoners, who are, we understand, industrious, comfortable people, of very good character. There was a rumour through this city on Wednesday, that an informer from Carrick was in town to look out for parties to swear against in this locality.—*Citizen.*

DISMISSAL OF TWO TURNKEYS IN GALWAY.—On Saturday the Board of Superintendence of the County Prison held a meeting, to inquire into the finding open of a cell in which a Fenian prisoner was confined. About three weeks ago one of the turnkeys named Maude, was going by his usual rounds, when he found the cell door open, and immediately reported the circumstances to the Governor. On that gentleman inquiring into the case, he found that it had been done several times before. Accordingly the board met on Saturday, and after a long inquiry, decided on dismissing two turnkeys—Maude and Feenarty. A watchman, who had been engaged temporarily, was also dismissed. Since the cell door was found open, a guard of police consisting of one constable and four sub-constables, do duty in the gaol.—*Galway Express.*

On Wednesday a telegram from the government authorities was received in Spike Island, directing the placing of a large additional number of convict laborers on the works at Fort Carlisle. The fortifications of the harbour are from every indication, to be proceeded with at once, much more vigorously than hitherto. The authorities in Spike Island who have control of the convicts—the labourers chiefly employed in the forts—are kept continually on the qui vive by messages from the authorities as to the speedy completion of the works. It is stated that the entire of the fort walls round Fort Carlisle are to be protected by a chevron de frise consisting of iron spikes projecting at right angles to the wall from its top, and that other steps are to be taken in the speedy and effectual defence of both forts, which either show that the government has got substantial grounds for fearing something in the shape of a speedy attack of these fortresses, or that the panic that has made Cork like a besieged city recently has extended far beyond the borough boundary. Much speculation is excited in Queenstown by those steps.—*Cork Examiner.*

A correspondent of the *Nenagh Guardian* thus refers to the removal of the battalion from Templemore:—

I so long since I informed you that there were very strong grounds for believing that some of the troops stationed in this garrison were tainted with Fenian principles. This being a depot battalion, the majority of the soldiers are recruits, draughted from different parts of Ireland. Tipperary men, it is said, predominate. It had been a subject for remark for some time past that several of the soldiers were constantly walking, entering public-houses, and associating with persons whose feelings of loyalty were not of the strongest description. This fact, I understand, was known to the officers, and also that the men had been spoken to on the subject by the commandant, Colonel Irwin, than whom there could not be a kinder or more considerate officer. That his words had not much effect on those men I firmly believe, and, as their acts subsequently proved. Sir Hugh Rose, the commander of the forces, visited this town a short time since, and, after making a most minute inspection of the garrison, addressed the men, pointing out their duty as soldiers, and the allegiance they were not only bound as loyal subjects, but by the oath they had sworn, to render to Her Majesty, and also showing the evil results that would follow from keeping company with persons of disloyal notions. In about a week after this an

order was received, it is said quite unexpectedly, directing the entire battalion to hold themselves in readiness to leave for Ennis. Rumour, with her busy tongue, has assigned different causes for this sudden route of the battalion, as well as the fact that they are to be replaced by an English regiment, the 59th. The removal of the battalion is the source of much regret to the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood. The officers were justly respected by all parties, as no gentlemen could do more to create amusement, and not one of the least losses felt will be that of their splendid pack of hares, which afforded such capital sport during the past few years.

It is stated that 21 Fenians, fully armed with revolvers, who landed at Sligo on the 10th Jan., were immediately arrested by the Sligo police. Dublin, on the same day, effected the seizure of a large quantity of pikes and percussion caps, and arrested two persons connected with their manufacture.

The trial of Byrne, ex-prison warder, charged with aiding the escape of Stephens, is still progressing.—Latter intelligence mentions that the jury could not agree to a verdict.

It was reported that O'Donovan (Rossa) had been flogged for disobedience of orders.

The *Dublin Freeman* says, Stephens is still believed to be in Ireland.

EXTRAORDINARY CHANGE—FIRING AT AN ENGINE-DRIVER.—We regret to state that an outrage of a very grave character was attempted this morning on the Midland Great Western Railway. The train which conveyed the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Wodehouse to Carrick-on-Shannon was 'haunted' by an engine not having the protection of a hood for the driver and stoker. On the return journey this engine brought the mail train as far as Athlone, but an accident having occurred on the way by the bursting a feed-pipe it became necessary to exchange it for another locomotive. As the event turned out this exchange was most fortunate. The engine substituted had a hood, and when the train emerged from the tunnel between Castle town and Mullingar, a shot was fired at it, the missile striking the hood.—Had the driver being unprotected there is no doubt his life would have been sacrificed. No clue has as yet been obtained as to the perpetrator of the outrage, but it is to be hoped that he will not long remain undiscovered. It is worthy to remark that the place from which the shot was fired is contiguous to the spot where a rail was removed during the past summer, causing the running-off the line of a mail train. By this act Mr. Kelly, of Athlone, was seriously injured, and at this moment the Midland Great Western Railway Company have a claim on account of it against the county of Westmeath for \$2,000 for malicious outrage.—*Dublin Evening Mail.*

THE ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—We publish elsewhere a letter, from which it appears that not only was no shot fired at the Lord Lieutenant, or anybody else, but that the incident which is supposed to have given rise to the fiction occurred on a different line altogether. Our correspondent states that the entire story was trumped up out of the smallest possible materials, which were these; that as a railway train was proceeding from Mullingar—on the Carrick-on-Shannon line, but—to Athlone, one of the heavy signal posts fell upon a railway carriage, and broke some glass, and slightly injured the roof. We could not blame our English contemporaries for publishing fabricated outrages from Ireland, if they took express care to leave the responsibility of each fabrication with its Irish authors, and to abstain from comment until corroborated. When we find, however, the *Morning Herald*, not only copying as authentic, from some of our Dublin contemporaries, the account of 'An Attempt to Assassinate the Lord Lieutenant,' but commenting indignantly upon the murderous spirit in the Irish population that could prompt so wicked an attempt; and when we know that the story upon which the commentary runs is absolutely false; we can only wonder at the credulity, if we are not to accuse the malice, of the journals that could lend themselves to the diffusion of so monstrous a calumny throughout Europe, when they know perfectly well that it never will be followed by retaliation. The most respectable journals are open to imposition, and in their anxiety to head the running, may give hasty insertion to unauthorised news; but, when the imposition is discovered, they are bound to apologise to the public, and to trace out for punishment, if possible, the authors of the fabrication. A sensational outrage, however, implicating the character of the country in an abominable political crime, is regarded, we fear, by our Conservative contemporaries as too rich a prize to be suddenly relinquished or overheard through small scruple about the truth of the news. Let the news once go abroad and tell; and the correction may be left to take care of itself. It was only lately that one of them originated a statement of the murder of a person at Mountmelick, for no other reason than that the deceased 'had the misfortune to be a Protestant.' While some of the Irish Conservative journals adopt this practice, we are simply without remedy, and our only hope is in that improved sense of duty amongst them for which we have long been waiting. We may protest, which we do as a matter of form, but until there be some change in their political morality, we can be little prospect of a change of habit.—*Evening Post.*

And what of Ireland? We believe she has before her a fairer prospect than has rejoiced her vision for many years. Her Exhibition has been a success. But better still, nor more permanent, if not so brilliant, manufactures are beginning to rear their tall chimneys through the land. In Dublin ship-building has engendered boiler-making and engine-building; in Cork a splendid flax factory approaches completion; elsewhere throughout the country similar sights are to be seen. In addition, we are promised by a Cork paper, what we have long looked for—a company which would purchase lots in the 'Encumbered Estates Courts,' and redistribute them in such a manner as that the tenant should have his property in fee. This is a most desirable thing. We wish it all success, and reflecting that the tenant too frequently gives its full purchase money for the mere 'good will' of a farm, we can see that it is not the cash which is wanting; we may hope for legal changes also.—*Dublin Irishman.*

But a dearer interest than the interests of Irish place-hunters still remains—the interest of the Irish peasantry and of the Irish poor. They are the primary objects of the Priests' of Meath concern, and for our own part we have never made any disguise of the fact that their interest is our rule in Irish politics. All the attraction, all the sympathy, all the zeal all the emotion which we have ever felt in connection with Irish politics has been due to the Irish peasantry and the Irish poor. They are the most helpless and unprofitable clients whose cause men ever advocated, and they are all the dearer upon that account. They have been more shamefully cheated, betrayed, gulled, misled, driven, trampled on and sold than any class in the United Kingdom, and we like them all the better for it, because in every instance they have been cheated by their generous instincts, and by their heroic devotion to their religion and their country; for all the frauds that have been practised in the name of country and religion. They are now being driven from their native soil. Their holdings are being taken from them. Their prospect is a choice between emigration and the workhouse. Truly and honestly, we do not feel confident, that any law that can be passed by the legislature can avail to save them.—But we do go heart and soul with the Priests of Meath in claiming that they shall be made the first consideration, and that all that legislation can do for them shall be done at once. Nay, we are prepared to go still further, and we should rejoice from the bottom of our heart if the Irish Catholic clergy would deem the time come for telling their flocks

that in default of a sufficient legislative security provided for them in the next session, they would counsel them to look to nothing but their own interests and to obtain some protection against evictions by their landlords upon terms of an unconditional surrender.—*Tablet.*

ORANGE OUTRAGES.—A correspondent, writing from Portadown in reference to an outrage committed on the Rev. Mr. Hughes by the Orangemen of Portadown, says:—Father Hughes has had more than once to complain of insults and annoyances offered to him by the Orangemen while he was engaged in the discharge of his duty. He invariably despised their attacks, and never allowed them to influence his feelings of pity and compassion for their authors. On a late occasion a party of Orangemen interfered with him as he was proceeding on a sick call, and even went so far as to toss a large drum between his horse's legs. Fortunately, Father Hughes was then in vigorous health, and had his horse well in hand, so that he was able to set his cowardly assailants at defiance. I cannot describe to you the feeling of horror which the outrage committed on the poor suffering patient on Thursday last has created not only amongst the Catholics, but amongst the respectable Protestants, with whom our worthy pastor is a decided favorite. On the day in question Father Hughes was consoled with a visit from his Grace the Primate, and, during the interview, he more than once referred, in grateful terms, to the sympathy shown to him by his Protestant neighbors, particularly one kind lady who lives at a distance from him, but who even sent her servant to nurse him, in case he required attendance. These consoling testimonies of respect and attachment, added to the unceasing anxiety displayed by his own flock, tended greatly to revive the drooping spirits of the sufferer, when the inhuman gang of Orangemen came with their barbaric tortures to inflict on him excruciating tortures. For more than an hour they continued to pour shouts and yells into the window of the sick chamber, and at intervals accompanied their vociferations with the sound of a large drum, which they beat with savage vigor. Those who were present in the patient's room, and saw his writhings and heard his groans under this savage torture, were nearly driven distracted. Once or twice, as the report of his sufferings spread, and it became a question whether, when the authorities, who were indifferent to such outrages, did not interfere, the people should not take the law into their own hands, the sick man raised himself when he considered or divined that such whisperings were going on, and commanded submission and patience. He said he was willing to endure all for his Master's sake, and that he gloried in his suffering. At the same time, all who were present in the house felt that the outrage was, if possible, exceeded by the culpable indifference which tolerated it, and the Catholics of Portadown feel that they have no protection in the law or its administrators against Orange ruffianism and Orange brutality.—*Ulster Observer.*

On the 11th ult., the Catholic chapel of Ballin-killen was entered on the night of December 14, and several articles, consisting of vestments and altar linen, taken away; the schoolhouse adjoining was also entered, and a thirty hour clock was stolen.—The *Carlow Post* says:—This is only one of the many robberies of chapels which have taken place in this county within the past weeks, and all of a similar character, from which we may infer that it is the same party who have committed the thefts in each case.

IRISH EXPORTS.—The *Express* publishes a return of Irish exports for the last year, and augurs from that the commercial and productive prospects of the country are very encouraging. It says:—

We are enabled to-day to publish a return of the Irish exports for the last year, which will be read with general satisfaction. They prove by unerring testimony that, in spite of some prejudicial influences which are now fast declining, the country has considerably improved, and is exhibiting substantial proofs of commercial activity and progress. As regards the port of Dublin itself the report is especially encouraging. The exports of porter show an increase of more than 50 per cent, when compared with those of 1862. It is a still more noticeable fact that in the last year the spirit trade has shown a greater buoyancy, and seems to be recovering from the long depression caused by excessive duties. A much larger quantity of whiskey has been exported than for some years past. This may, perhaps, be attributed to more successful exertion in pressing the article upon the English market, and to the increased demand for admixture with other spirituous liquors. In the exports of sheep and pigs we find a very large increase, sufficient to leave a very considerable balance of advantage after setting off a decrease in the exports of cattle. The falling off in the latter may be accounted for by the alarm occasioned by the spread of the rinderpest in England, and the natural disposition to purchase beef in large quantities. The timidity of English dealers and the distrust which consumers felt in some localities have checked for a while the supplies from this country; but as soon as confidence shall have been restored we may expect to see a strong reaction setting in. The condition of the farmer during the year has been more prosperous. We hear no more the monotonous cry of the 'three bad harvests,' which politicians uttered so long that the phrase became a miserable proverb. Agricultural produce has commanded better prices, and the harvest last year was, on the whole, early, abundant and well saved.—The steady advance in the railway receipts is an other symptom of renewed health and energy in commercial life. Another circumstance which must be regarded with pleasure in the general stocktaking of the year is the successful establishment of new companies for the investment of capital in Irish undertakings. Within the last year a new and promising group has been added. We need only refer as instances to the National Building Company, the New Brewery Company, the Palmerston Flax Company, the Munster Spinning Company, the Civil Service Building Company, to say nothing of railway speculations and projects in which private firms and individuals have embarked. As regards our own metropolis, we are happy to notice unmistakable proof that a new spirit of enterprise has been infused into it, and that some of the industries for which in former years Dublin enjoyed a high reputation are being revived and developed. We need not point as any collateral evidence of improvement to the many local bills presented to Parliament, on the ground that they are required to keep pace with the increasing demands of the public, and to provide for the expansion in the traffic of the port and city already manifest, and which is expected to outgrow existing arrangements. We refer with pleasure, however, to the marked improvement in the silk trade, which, in the hands of such manufacturers as the Messrs. Pim and Fry, has received a fresh impetus, and is pursuing a prosperous career, winning every day greater favour in the English and Colonial markets.

FACTION FIGHTING AT NEWPORT, TIPPERARY.—Although there was not a large attendance of persons at the fair of Newport, held on Wednesday, still it is evident there happened to be plenty of materials for a jolly good faction fight. As usual in such cases, the ball was opened by one or two votaries of the 'Jolly God,' who would have fought with 'shadows' had they not succeeded in inviting 'substance' of a rather unpleasant nature, which soon sent them to mother earth in gorges of blood. For several minutes the main street was a scene of the greatest possible excitement; stones fell on every side like hail.—The police ultimately put a stop to the 'sport,' and the lock-up became so full of prisoners, that several of them had to be removed to bridewell for safe keeping.—Some skulls were fractured dangerously in the melee.—*Limerick Southern Chronicle.*

The Davenport Brothers and Mr. Fay made their first appearance in this country in the Queen's Arms Hotel, Upper Sackville street, where they had a private seance on Thursday evening. There was a highly respectable, though not numerous attendance, there being, however, as many persons present as the apartment could conveniently hold. The feats of the brothers were of the most extraordinary character, inexplicable, and unaccountable—save, we suppose, to the initiated—to the last degree. We can only detail a few of the phenomena that occurred, and profess our utter inability to account for them; and to state also our incredulity, equally strong, in any statements as to spiritual agency being employed. On a slightly raised platform, with stage footlights, at one end of the room was the famous mahogany cabinet, placed on three stands, two or three feet high, effectually cutting off communication, if such were possible, with trappings in the floor. It resembled a large wardrobe, and was constructed in such a manner as to be easily taken asunder, folded up and packed into a comparatively small space. A most careful examination satisfied us that there were no false bottoms, sides, or tops, and of the apparently complete isolation of whose interior, was inside when the doors were closed. We say apparently advisedly, for so much mystification prevailed, one would be almost inclined to doubt their own senses. Mr. Cooper, the manager, before the performance commenced, denied the truth of the statements that the Davenport Brothers had been exposed either in London or Paris, and he asserted that they were honest men, who performed certain feats which they left the audience to account for.—Two gentlemen were then chosen by ballot from the audience to detect any attempt at imposition, and the Brothers Davenport were introduced. The cabinet was then opened, and there appeared to be nothing in it but a violin, a tambourine, a guitar or two bells, and a brass horn. There were seats around the interior, and on those, at either end, the brothers took their places. The committee then securely fastened each of the brothers with three ropes to the seats, the hands, legs, and body being bound separately. The lights were lowered and the doors closed; but scarcely was this done when the brass horn was thrown through an aperture near the top, and altogether out of the reach of either of the occupants, even if their hands were free. The doors were immediately opened, and the brothers found exactly as they had been left. A series of similar tests were then performed. The musical instruments inside were played or shown at the aperture; sometimes a hand or a hand and naked arm were thrust through as far as the elbow, or indelible noises were heard; and almost in the midst of all, when Mr. Fay suddenly threw open the doors, the brothers did not appear to have altered their positions, even as to the ropes with which they were tied. On one occasion a rough kind of concert was played on the violin, tambourine, guitar, and bells, while the hand was protruded simultaneously through the aperture; and, in fact, the work of six or eight hands were produced, while there were only four hands firmly tied within the cabinet. It is to be observed that the cabinet was never closed for more than a minute or two at a time while these things were being done; but, subsequently, when the performers inside were being unbound, about three or four minutes were occupied by each. The only approach to the solution of the mystery that was attempted was when one of the committee remarked that he saw one of the brothers struggling violently just as the last door was closing; and again, it was observable that when the same person had freed himself he was very much heated, as if from exertion. A gentleman of undoubted position and intelligence went into the cabinet with the brothers, and the same noises were heard, but the hand did not appear. When he came out he expressed his inability to explain why the musical instruments obeyed him in taking up positions he assigned them, the Davenport being still bound, and he having a hand on each to ascertain if they stirred. The last test of this kind was by placing some flour in the hands of each of the Davenports, and binding them as before. On the doors being closed the same phenomena occurred; the hand was shown, the noises were heard, and when the Davenports re-appeared they were in precisely the same position, and having the flour in each hand. Of that part of the performance, nor, indeed, of anything we saw, can we now give the slightest solution. We merely record what we witnessed, of which the above gives but a faint conception. The dark seance followed, in which some strange phenomena occurred. The room was totally dark. A table was placed in front of the audience. Beside it sat one of the Davenports and Mr. Fay. The gas was extinguished, and, when relighted, they were found firmly secured by ropes to their seats. When placed in darkness again, the company distinctly observed the instruments, which had been covered with phosphorus, lifted and whirled about the room, playing all the time. A gentleman then reached the ropes, tying Mr. Fay, whose hands were secured, to the back of the chair. The audience being again in darkness, Mr. Fay's coat was taken off him at the command of one of the audience, and light being restored, it was found suspended from the gaselier. A gentleman then took off his coat and laid it on the table. The lights were put out for a moment, and when restored, Mr. Fay was found still bound and seated as before, but with the gentleman's coat on. These are the principal features of the manifestations. For three hours we were in an atmosphere so pervaded with mystery and wonder that long ere the performance was over we had given up all hope of finding the key to anything we saw. The Davenports will continue here for a few days longer, and perhaps the mystery may be cleared up.—*Sunderland.*

Obtaining a curacy by false pretences.—At Brigglewade, on Saturday, the Rev. George Henry O. Peery was charged before the magistrates with having obtained a curacy by false pretences. It appeared that in the early part of November last the Rev. Arthur Sydney Pitt, incumbent of Northhill, Bedfordshire, advertised for a curate. The accused applied for the appointment, representing himself as having graduated at Oxford and been nine years in holy orders, and referring to the Rev. Frederick Parry, incumbent of Christ Church, 129, Tachbrook-brook-street, S. W. Mr. Pitt forwarded a letter to the address mentioned, and received a reply, signed 'Fredk. Parry, incumbent of Christ Church,' stating that Mr. Peery had been known to him for several years, and he always found him earnest and sincere in his duties. Other correspondence followed, and as the answers of the applicant appeared satisfactory, an engagement was concluded. On the 15th of November the accused made his appearance at Northhill, and a few days after he was comfortably accommodated in the pleasant hamlet of Caldecote, not far from the village. He made himself very agreeable to the neighbors, patronised the tradesmen in the adjoining towns, and seemed to be living in clover. A month, however, had scarcely elapsed when a clerical friend intimated to Mr. Pitt his suspicions that the new curate was an impostor. Mr. Pitt went immediately to London, and on enquiry at 129, Tachbrook-street, discovered that no clergyman named Parry resided there. It was also ascertained that there is no incumbent named the Rev. Frederick Parry in the diocese of London. At the conclusion of the evidence, after the usual caution, the accused said he should reserve his defence. He was then fully committed for trial.

ENCOUNTER OF THE EARTH WITH THE TAIL OF A COMET.—This extraordinary event, against the occurrence of which, according to Arago, there are more than two hundred and fifty million chances to one, actually took place on the 19th of June, 1861, the earth having been for four hours totally immersed in the tail, according to the calculations of M. Liss, founded on observations made by him at Rio de Janeiro. The earth was plunged into it to the depth of 110,000 leagues, and yet no effect was produced on the weather, not even a fog; a proof of its extraordinary tenacity, compared even with our atmosphere.—*Scientific Review.*

ARMY REDUCTIONS.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* of Saturday contains an announcement that two companies of each battalion of the Line will be reduced in the ensuing year. We have reason to believe that our military contemporary's statement is exaggerated, or at least premature. All that is as yet talked of is the reduction of two companies in each of the battalions serving in the United Kingdom, and not more than 50 regiments would be affected by this step. Indeed we have reason to think that the whole question of military reductions is as yet only under the consideration of the Government, although, naturally, upon a subject of such deep consequence to the army, much professional gossip is afloat upon the course which may be adopted.—*Globe.*

At the winter Circuit Court in Glasgow on Wednesday, before Lord Jerviswood, John Morgan was accused of having on the 5th of September burglariously entered the premises of the late Bishop Murdoch, Great Clyde street, Glasgow, and stolen therefrom a large number of silver spoons, ladies and other articles. It will be remembered that the prisoner, with a female companion, was arrested in Smithfield in Dublin, on the 6th of September, with a quantity of the plate in their possession, by Acting-Constable Michael Bowright, who brought the prisoners before the magistrates, and afterwards succeeded in finding an owner for the property, and the male prisoner was transmitted to Glasgow. After hearing evidence in the case, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty, and Morgan was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING OF ORPHANS.—The *Daily News* comments on the case 'Re Newberry,' which came before Vice-Chancellor Stuart on Tuesday. The late Mr. Newberry was a clergyman of the Church of England, and he appointed his wife and another clergyman joint guardians of his children. Not long since the widow joined the sect of Dissenters called the Plymouth Brethren, and thereupon a difference arose between her and the other guardian as to the religious bringing up of the infants. The eldest child, a boy of 15, made an affidavit that he had attended the religious service of the Plymouth Brethren, and conscientiously approved of their opinions, but the Vice-Chancellor, without, so far as appears by the report of the case, testing the truth of this allegation by a private conference with the boy, decided that both he and his sister must be brought up in the religion of their father. Now if this were a case of first instance we should not be inclined to quarrel with the result. But looking at the general tenor of the decisions on similar questions, is certainly seems as though circumstances had unfortunately combined to give them a perhaps undeserved colour of unfairness. In the case of 'Stourton and Stourton,' and in the parallel case of 'Alicia Raes,' the fathers were Roman Catholics and the mothers Protestants. In both these cases, though the children were of very tender years, the court ruled that their recent religious impressions must not be disturbed, that their fathers' creed must be left out of consideration, and the children brought up in the creed of their mothers. In a later case, however, in which the positions were reversed, and the living mother was a Roman Catholic, and the dead father a Protestant, the infant was educated in the latter faith. And now we have another case, in which the alleged convictions of the child are not in conformity with the church of England, and yet his religious education is intrusted by the court to a clergyman of that Church, in counteract the theological influence of a Dissenting mother. We do not at all say that in both these last-mentioned cases there were not peculiar circumstances which justified the decision of the Court, and made it consistent with those which had preceded it. A little additional misstatement in pointing out the distinctions of circumstance between one case and another may make all the difference between a satisfactory and an unsatisfactory judgment.

The trial of Charlotte Winsor at Exeter is probably destined to mark an epoch in the history of criminal law. The crime of this woman was peculiarly atrocious, and we would fain believe, unparalleled. She was a hired child murderer; she pursued the vocation of strangling infants as a trade, and had her regular tariff of payment for assisting guilty mothers to put out of the way the unwelcome evidences of their shame. There were two trials. On the first occasion, the testimony for the prosecution failed to satisfy the jury, and, after they had been kept together for a long period without agreeing upon a verdict, they were discharged; but the prisoner was retained for a fresh investigation. On the second occasion, a companion in guilt, who was allowed to appear as Queen's evidence, gave testimony which put the criminality beyond dispute. The wretched being was convicted and sentenced to death. The execution of the sentence has, however, been stayed pending the adjudication, of the Court of Queen's Bench upon a technical objection raised by the prisoner's counsel. It is contended that a prisoner can not be twice tried for the same felony, and that as Charlotte Winsor had been duly arraigned before one jury, it was not lawful to put her to the peril of a second trial. The miserable object of this forensic disputation has for six months past been lying in Exeter jail under sentence of death, and through a deplorable procrastination, her fate still remains undetermined. In the event of its being decided that, in cases like this, the judges have not the power of discharging the jury and leaving the accused to be tried by another, it is probable that the aid of the legislature will be invoked to correct so palpable a defect in our criminal procedure.—*Daily Telegraph.*

GREAT BRITAIN.
ANGELIC MONASTICISM.—The monks of the English order of St. Benedict have been celebrating Christmas in their own way at Norwich. At the services two large statues of angels, with the figure of the infant Jesus between them, were exhibited, and the altar was covered with candles, while on the super-altar was an ivory crucifix. The super-altar was draped with white satin, and there were two alcoves with a lesser number of candles, and with figures in both. The general effect was lighter and more cheerful than it was last year.—The brethren entered the chapel in procession, a large brass crucifix being carried before them by one of the choir boys, who wear red and blue dresses covered with white surplises. The service consisted of portions of the Book of Common Prayer jumbled together in an odd fashion, but rendered more intelligible to the visitor by greater distinctness of intonation than that which prevailed under the regime of the Rev. G. J. Ouseley, whose connection with the monastery as chaplain has now ceased. The service was almost entirely sung, and towards the close all the candles about the altar were lighted, the blaze of light being afterwards dimmed, however, by clouds of incense.—*Court Journal.*

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Obtaining a curacy by false pretences.—At Brigglewade, on Saturday, the Rev. George Henry O. Peery was charged before the magistrates with having obtained a curacy by false pretences. It appeared that in the early part of November last the Rev. Arthur Sydney Pitt, incumbent of Northhill, Bedfordshire, advertised for a curate. The accused applied for the appointment, representing himself as having graduated at Oxford and been nine years in holy orders, and referring to the Rev. Frederick Parry, incumbent of Christ Church, 129, Tachbrook-brook-street, S. W. Mr. Pitt forwarded a letter to the address mentioned, and received a reply, signed 'Fredk. Parry, incumbent of Christ Church,' stating that Mr. Peery had been known to him for several years, and he always found him earnest and sincere in his duties. Other correspondence followed, and as the answers of the applicant appeared satisfactory, an engagement was concluded. On the 15th of November the accused made his appearance at Northhill, and a few days after he was comfortably accommodated in the pleasant hamlet of Caldecote, not far from the village. He made himself very agreeable to the neighbors, patronised the tradesmen in the adjoining towns, and seemed to be living in clover. A month, however, had scarcely elapsed when a clerical friend intimated to Mr. Pitt his suspicions that the new curate was an impostor. Mr. Pitt went immediately to London, and on enquiry at 129, Tachbrook-street, discovered that no clergyman named Parry resided there. It was also ascertained that there is no incumbent named the Rev. Frederick Parry in the diocese of London. At the conclusion of the evidence, after the usual caution, the accused said he should reserve his defence. He was then fully committed for trial.

ENCOUNTER OF THE EARTH WITH THE TAIL OF A COMET.—This extraordinary event, against the occurrence of which, according to Arago, there are more than two hundred and fifty million chances to one, actually took place on the 19th of June, 1861, the earth having been for four hours totally immersed in the tail, according to the calculations of M. Liss, founded on observations made by him at Rio de Janeiro. The earth was plunged into it to the depth of 110,000 leagues, and yet no effect was produced on the weather, not even a fog; a proof of its extraordinary tenacity, compared even with our atmosphere.—*Scientific Review.*

ARMY REDUCTIONS.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* of Saturday contains an announcement that two companies of each battalion of the Line will be reduced in the ensuing year. We have reason to believe that our military contemporary's statement is exaggerated, or at least premature. All that is as yet talked of is the reduction of two companies in each of the battalions serving in the United Kingdom, and not more than 50 regiments would be affected by this step. Indeed we have reason to think that the whole question of military reductions is as yet only under the consideration of the Government, although, naturally, upon a subject of such deep consequence to the army, much professional gossip is afloat upon the course which may be adopted.—*Globe.*

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