

ment. National abuses are like beads on a string; cut it to allow one to be removed, and unless hindered, they all roll off. When the people of England, and what is more, when the sensible class of Protestants in Ireland, experience how much good and how little inconvenience has resulted from disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, they will immediately unite with Catholics in demanding the settlement of the Tenant-right question. Justice to Ireland in ecclesiastical matters will be soon followed by the ready and cheerful concession of justice as regards the land the school, and the University. There will be no halting after the gigantic impediment of the Established Church, supported by the religious prejudices and terrors of the English people, has been removed out of the way. English statesmen and Irish patriots of all classes and denominations will combine to make the union between Great Britain and Ireland a reality—a source of prosperity and happiness to the people of the three kingdoms, and of durable glory and strength to the Empire.

HOW THE TORNS MADE APPOINTMENTS IN IRELAND.—One conspicuous example of the spirit of party carried to its most vicious extreme is to be found exhibited in its naked deformity in a Parliamentary return moved for by The O'Conor Don, including particulars of the public appointments in Ireland to which the late Government made nominations in the interval between the 1st December, 1868, and the 10th of the same month. Within that period twenty-two substantial offices in the public service were filled up, fourteen barristers were made Queen's Counsel and a board of twenty-one governors were established to preside over a county lunatic asylum. On the 2nd December Mr. Dierriell issued his famous circular to the Conservative party in which he announced that his Cabinet had determined on resignation. Mr. Gladstone at once was consulted by the Queen, and when his arrangements had been completed, on the 10th December Mr. Dierriell and his colleagues formally resigned their offices, and the new ministry entered upon their functions. Thus the appointments to which we have alluded were actually made while the late Government retained, but a temporary and nominal power, awaiting the completion of the new ministerial arrangements. There are two ecclesiastical appointments for which the warrants were signed on the 9th and 2nd December respectively—the one of the Rev. A. W. Edwards to the deanery of Cork, in succession to Dr. McGee, translated to the see of Peterborough; the other of the Rev. L. Biddam to the rectory of the Fenagh, vacant by the resignation of the former incumbent. It is unnecessary to point out how unjustifiable and almost indecent was the action of the Tory Government in taking advantage of its formal tenure of power to prevent the incoming administration from carrying out the policy indicated in the Suspensory Bill. These ecclesiastical appointments, however, though scandalous enough, are by no means the most remarkable in the singular list which The O'Conor Don has very properly disseminated. On the 2nd December warrants were signed, appointing Mr. J. P. Hamilton, Q. C., and Mr. Darley, Q. C., chairman of quarter sessions for the counties of Sligo and Wicklow respectively, with salaries of £200 and £700; to the chairmanship of the county of Carlow, from which Mr. Hamilton was promoted, with a salary of £700, was conferred on Mr. J. A. Wall, Q. C.; Dr. Kaye was appointed revising-barrister for the city of Dublin, in succession to Mr. Shaw, Q. C., promoted three days before to the chairmanship of the county Monaghan; Mr. Hugh Lane was appointed Master of the Queen's Bench, with a salary of £1,200 a year, and Mr. D. Colquhoun was nominated Mr. Lane's successor as Clerk of the Crown for the county of Londonderry. These appointments were all of them made by warrant on the same day. On the previous day Mr. Maurice Keatinge had been nominated Marshal of the High Court of Admiralty, with a salary of £400 a year, in succession to Mr. Anderson, promoted to the Crown-Solicitorship for Waterford and Kilkenny, and Mr. Paul Dine had been appointed Clerk of the Crown for the county of Wicklow. The batch of fourteen barristers who received 'silk' from the outgoing Lord-Chancellor were gratified with the same hot haste at the precise moment when Mr. Dierriell was announcing to his adherents in London the downfall of his administration. With equally precipitate anxiety, the Right Hon. R. Warren, Mr. Dierriell's Irish Attorney-General, was elevated to the office of Judge of the Court of Probate with a salary of £3,500 a year. Judge Keatinge had officially informed the Under Secretary for Ireland that he had fixed the 6th December as the day of his resignation; but whether it was that some intimation from headquarters determined his precipitate action or not, he anticipated the time he had himself chosen. He sent in his resignation on the 2nd of December; Mr. Warren was raised to the Bench on the same day, and was succeeded in the little brief authority of a week's office as Attorney-General by Dr. Ball. The remaining appointments of various kinds bear the same stamp as these ecclesiastical and legal nominations above cited. Two medical gentlemen were appointed superintendents of lunatic asylums on the same remarkable day—the 2nd of December. One Tory baronet succeeded another as Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Sligo; one education commissioner and one ecclesiastical commissioner were selected to fill vacancies of long standing. But, perhaps, the most audacious of all these attempts to grasp with hasty hands as much as possible of the patronage that was so quickly passing away was the course pursued in the case of the permanent inspectors of fisheries. Notwithstanding that the act of Parliament under which these officials were to be appointed had only just come into operation, although neither the salaries nor the duties of the inspectors had been definitely fixed, and that although grave doubts were felt as to the working of the statute, between the 1st and the 4th of December four gentlemen were appointed to the newly-created office. Even in Ireland, where unfortunate jobs have not been rare, this proceeding was looked upon as a piece of very sharp practice—the more so that since the question of the legality of the nomination has been raised, two of the appointments have been pronounced invalid by the law officers of the crown. Of the other two inspectors, the appointment of one was cancelled at once, and the other, Mr. Colquhoun, resigned the day after his nomination, being promoted, as we have seen to a valuable legal office.—[Star.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Archbishop of Westminster has refused to allow petitions for the release of Fenian prisoners to be left at the door of Moorfields Cathedral. Two street preachers in London have been ordered to find sureties, the police at the instance of the neighboring inhabitants, having summoned them for creating obstructions in the public thoroughfares. A well known street preacher in Edinburgh visited several baker's shops on Good Friday, and from the cab of which he is the driver denounced the sin of Protestant bakers preparing idols for Papists to worship in the shape of hot cross buns. The London Times of the 6th instant referring to the Alabama claims says:—'It is a great thing to feel ourselves in the right. This country has gone to the extreme of concession in the matter. As for a downright demand for payment this country would of course know how to treat it, but we have not the smallest belief that President Grant's Government contemplates a course of action so unfriendly and so offensive.' Further on it says should it be the desire of the Americans to keep the question still unsettled the British nation will not feel bound to initiate fresh negotiations. The London Telegraph has an article or Spanish American embroglio, in which it asserts that although it is England's interest that Spain should retain their hold on Cuba, she will not enter into present complications; but, on other hand should proffer her good offices with object of bringing about an understand-

ing between Spain and the United States. It also reports the seizure of the 'Mary Lowell' in British waters as a mad act which will embroil the British and Spanish governments unless an apology and reparation are instantly tendered. The London Owl, of the same date generally speaking one of the best informed papers in England, says, that Grant is mad on Cuban affairs and that England and France would likely declare war against the United States if he attempted to acquire the island by forcible means. The Owl goes on to say that Grant is desirous of engaging in a foreign war for the purpose of satisfying the intense feeling of hatred displayed against England by nearly all the American officials.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, on Wednesday, a discussion took place on a report recommending the council to petition in favor of the Irish Church bill. A motion was made for the approval of the report, and two amendments—one to the effect that the council should take no action in the matter, and the other that the council should petition in favour of the bill, with a reservation to regard to Mayo, indicating in the petition that the same principles ought to regulate the settlement with the priests of Mayo College as with the ministers of the Established Church. On a division the latter amendment was carried.

In Parliament the course of the Irish Church bill and their English allies is clear. On the principle of the Bill there can be no compromise whatever. The Church must be disestablished, and its endowments which adhere to Establishment must be many things open to criticism, and hot debates will give opportunities for successful interposition. To speak in plain terms, the Irish Church must be content to direct its efforts to keeping as much of its property as possible, and to the action of the Opposition must come at last, whatever protestations and denunciations may be indulged in at present. The Government would probably be willing to conciliate the Irish Churchmen and would yield more, perhaps, than strict justice demands. The Catholics will get their Mayo vote, their right to which is very doubtful, simply because there is a disposition to content everybody in such cases as this. So the Protestants may even better the very liberal terms which the Government has offered them. On the other hand, 'No Surrender' will be utterly ruinous in Committee. We may as well inform our Irish friends that the present House of Commons will not tolerate for a single evening Amendments the object of which is plainly to defeat or delay the Bill. If the House be provoked by any such tactics, it is quite capable of rejecting the Amendments of the Opposition in mass, and Irish Churchmen will have only their own misdeeds to thank if they receive but bare justice.—Times.

The notorious Murphy has again been exciting riots and bloodshed in the North. It does seem an extraordinary thing that the so-called lectures of this man cannot be stopped by the law. As surely as a lighted match thrown into a barrel of gunpowder will cause an explosion, so surely will this apostle of batonage inflame the sensitive natures of the Irish. Were any great religious or moral principle advanced by the fellow, we might wish his tongue unfastened; but as his only eloquence is abuse, and his only arguments are lies, the Government might advantageously try the experiment on the boasted common sense of Englishmen, of forcibly suppressing a noxious creature whom neither prosecution nor persecution could elevate into a hero.—Tomahawk.

WHAT PROTESTANTISM HAS DONE FOR SCOTLAND.—Although Scotland is, as every one has heard, more pious than any other portion of the United Kingdom, there is one circumstance constantly brought to light by the Registrar General's reports which is seldom commented upon by Scotch divines. These authorities often boast of the superior intelligence of their countrymen and women, but they never explain the cause of an awkward proportion between the number of legitimate and illegitimate births in that part of the country. Last year, for instance, 115,673 children were born, and of these 11,266 were illegitimate. In the north-eastern division the young women who became mothers without being wives were in the proportion of 15.2 per cent. At Kirkcudbright it was 17.3 per cent. And yet at Kirkcudbright all pious forms and ceremonies (save marriage) are rigidly observed, and a man dare not even brush his hat on Sundays. The improving influence of the Scotch example of national character is, unfortunately, diminished by the irregular and crimes of their population. Have the writers and divines who reprove immorality in the darker parts of these islands nothing to say about the little failings of the 'uncle good'?—[Pall Mall Gazette.]

THE RITUALISTS ON EASTER SUNDAY.—On Sunday the services in London churches where Ritualism prevails were of a very advanced character. At all of them there were processions with banners and processional hymns, processions being held to be the Christian way of obeying the injunction of the Psalmist, 'Oh, praise God with dances.' At St. Alban's, Holborn, the banners were of a very rich character, and the procession a very large one. Mr. Mackenzie and other clergymen were habited in gorgeous eucharistic vestments, yellow being the prevailing color. Some of the choirsters wore red cassocks. Arrived at the church, Mr. Mackenzie who was the celebrant, with his deacon on his right, and his sub-deacon on his left, took his place below the altar steps with the choir sang the Introit. The altar itself was adorned with flowers—the trumpet lily, the cypress, the ciceraria, the szalea, the hyacinth, the hydrangea, the pelargonium, the red and white camellias. At the previous service, morning prayer only, a large number of tapers were burning on the altar, but these were extinguished before the commencement of the Communion office. The celebrant and his assistants did not kneel during the consecration prayer but they bowed so low at various portions as nearly to prostrate themselves. At the close of the consecration prayer the bell tolled sixty-eight times—a novelty, of which there is at present no public explanation. Comparatively few persons partook of the Holy Communion, as there had been four previous celebrations during the morning; namely at six, seven, eight, and nine o'clock. At the churches of St. Michael, Shoreditch; St. Paul's, Walworth; St. Ethelburga, and Bishopsgate; St. Matthias, Stoke Newington, and other Protestant churches, the services were of a similar character. The modification of Ritualistic practices which was observable at All Saints' Church, Lambeth for some time after the judgment of the Privy Council in the Mackenzie case, has at length subsided and there was full service, with advanced Ritualistic observances of even a more pronounced character than previous to the decision. The altar was profusely decorated with flowers and the chancel with floral ornaments, and reading desks and altar-rail being ornamented with floral devices. At the commencement of the service a procession entered the church from the restry, and paraded slowly down and up the side and centre aisles to the altar. The procession, which consisted of the celebrant priest, assistant priests, acolytes, co-singers, and others, to the number of forty, bearing banners, flags and other ecclesiastical insignia, was headed by a youth bearing the processional cross on high, supported on either side by an acolyte carrying large lighted candles. The processional banner was followed by the center-bearer, from whose coffer was made to ascend clouds of incense as the procession slowly proceeded to the foot of the altar. The sermon was preached by the newly appointed curate, the Rev. Patrick Levey. Holy communion was celebrated by the Rev. F. Lee, the vicar, and during the consecration prayer the patent and cup were elevated on high, the celebrant genuflecting low at the conclusion. After the service the procession moved out of the chancel in the same order as it entered,

increase being freely hurped by the way, most of the processions in addition to being habited in the most advanced Ritualistic vestments.

RELIGION IN ENGLAND.—Christianity, as we understand the term, has lost its hold upon the masses; though we admit that you will seldom meet an Englishman, as you will an American, in an omnibus or on a steambath, who will blantly assure you, without any introduction, that he holds no religion; 'Sir, I am not religious, I'm not.' In England this would be bad tone. Indeed, it is happily undeniable that the great mass of our countrymen admit and respect the idea of a Supreme Being, the immortality of the soul, and certain broad principles of morality. But they have less 'religiosity' than Mohammedans, and their moral code is inferior to that of the Heathen Epicurean and to the teaching of Confucius. Probably not one half of the English people are baptized. Baptism has come to be considered little more than an ancient and respectable rite for imposing a name; but it is found by experience that this can be done with equal efficiency at the Registrar's office; and the highest Anglican ecclesiastical Court has declared that the doctrine of baptism is an open question; and so the large majority of the English people go unbaptized. But the Catholic Church teaches that the unbaptized are not Christians. Another test of Christianity may be the observance of Good Friday. Till within late years this day was one of religious observance. The nation closed its shops and offices in order that the day might be spent in prayer and commemoration of the great solemnity. But now Good Friday inaugurates the season of excursion trains, and is spent in every kind of amusement and dissipation. Good Friday conveys no other idea to hundreds and thousands than a day of recreation. It has been observed that the sole effect of the Oracifixion upon a large part of the English nation has been to give them one additional holiday. Yet it would be deemed a national insult to say that the English people are not Christians. The unbaptized and the pleasure makers of Good Friday consider themselves religious, and no doubt, when it is a question of Education, they go with their minister in favour of Denominational System. But as to particular dogmas, distinctive religious tenets, except that we are all probably redeemed and shall certainly all go to heaven, the English people are bewildered and sick of them. This is eminently the temper of the House of Commons. And the present House, more than its predecessor, is averse to sectarian differences and the religious difficulty. The gates of the Universities are to be thrown widely open to all; middle class educational bequests are to be ag in converted, and turned to the purpose of the most latitudinarian instruction. Application to the schools of the poor of the principles applied to the Universities by the rich must follow. Then will come the completion of the severance already begun between Church and State.—[Tablet.]

GOLD DIGGINGS IN CAITHNESS.—We have mentioned repeatedly since the discovery of gold in Kildonan that there was every appearance that gold would be found in this county, especially in those districts which adjoin and run from the auriferous regions of Sutherland. Several 'prospections' on a limited scale have been made, with a highly favourable result, especially about Dunbeath and Berriedale where some very fine specimens of gold of first quality have been obtained with exceedingly little trouble. What may be done at Dunbeath and neighbourhood remains to be seen, but at Berriedale his Grace the Duke of Portland has authoritatively ordered that any attempt at digging for gold shall be prevented, and has established a posse of watchers to carry his orders into effect. This resolution has raised considerable excitement, both in the immediate neighbourhood and among the diggers at Kildonan, and from the indications which were manifested on Friday, when a band of 22 men, accompanied by a fiddler, visited Berriedale, and prospected, it is feared, that some disturbance may occur. Hints were given that the whole body of Kildonan diggers would cross the hills on Monday, headed by an enthusiastic Welsh digger, but the fears of such a raid turned out vain, as the day was too fine to admit of their leaving the diggings and there were no indications of any attempt from other quarters. We believe that on Monday the Duke presented a petition to the Sheriff for an interdict against about 30 persons from Dunbeath, Lathron, and neighbouring districts, who had either visited Berriedale, or threatened to do so, and the petition has since been served upon them. Meanwhile, nothing worthy of the name of disturbance has occurred; but it is not to be denied that there is a strong popular feeling, which is greatly increased by the liberal manner in which the Duke of Sutherland has behaved towards the diggers, greatly to the good of the district and to the whole north. We would fain hope that no collision may occur, and that in a matter of such vital public interest the Duke of Portland will devise liberal things, so as to admit of the district being freely prospected. In the event of popular anticipations being disappointed, the amenities of Langwell will be far more effectively preferred by a full survey than if the estate were hermetically sealed against all investigation, and the populace were allowed to dream dreams of gold nuggets, and be tempted to violate the law and break through all order.—[Northern Knight.]

THE CRIMINAL HABITS OF SOUTH LONDON.—To the Editor of the Times.—Sir,—I should not be doing my duty to you, or through you to the public, if I failed to give some short notice of the dens of infamy in the South of London. The East-end is bad enough, but it is so to speak, mottled here and there with equal districts, the inhabitants of which only offend against the Poor Laws by becoming paupers, and districts like Tiger Bay and Burgate Fields, which though to outward seeming clean and respectable enough, are, nevertheless, the haunts of inveterate criminals. The Queen or Christiness, of this last-named abominable locality is known in the neighbourhood by the sobriquet of 'Cast-iron Poll.' Our party were curious to see her, for in her way she is a celebrity, having been convicted, as was proved at her last trial, 'no less than fifty-three times; yet from the time that this infamous woman was 15—and she is now near 50—she has seldom been much more than a month at a time out of prison. We were not gratified with a sight of this strange heroine of the place, as one of her companions (who our detective assured us had herself been convicted nearly 20 times) said that Poll who at her last sentence got three years' penal servitude for a daring robbery from the person, would not be 'out on the spree' for nearly another month. It may seem incredible, but I was assured it was the fact, that the police of the district almost dread the release of this woman, so much trouble does she give them. She has got so accustomed to, and apparently enamoured of, the goal life that she will literally do anything after a short 'spree' at the East-end of London to get back to it. She will go to an East-end police station and insist on being locked up; but, of course, as there is no charge against her, her unusual request cannot be gratified. 'No charge, she says, 'well, I'll soon make one!' and out she goes and attacks with teeth and nails the first man or woman she meets, or breaks the windows of a public-house, or as she has done over and over again, the windows of the station-house itself. Then when she is brought back she coolly asks the Inspector why he did not lock her up when he knew she was going to commit her offence, and the same question is likely to occur to many of your readers, not alone in the case of 'Cast-iron Poll,' who has an idiosyncrasy for violent outrages, but in the case of the hardened thief, who are ready to turn their hands to anything that is criminal, and become passers of bad money, floggers of watches or seizers of the throats of belated pedestrians who are quietly walking home of a night. The East-end is, as I have said, very bad; but on a calm consideration, I am bound to confess that the south side of the water—those parts round the Mint

and Kent street in the Borough, the streets leading back from the London road, some streets off the Kent road, and some leading from the railway station at the Elephant and Castle are emphatically the worst neighbourhoods in London. A few effeminate men and women of the chief classes of offenders against the laws may be found here in abundance—men and women who are literally looked up to with a dull sort of professional admiration as proficient in their trade. Murderers as murderers, of course, you never see. Murder is a crime among the companionship of thieves which is taboored not so much as a crime, but as a blunder. It attracts too much notice, and its supposed perpetrators are too keenly sought after to make the usual thieves' abiding place quite comfortable for the rest of the community. It, in fact, unsettles all their little domestic arrangements for a week or more, and there is generally some timid member of the fraternity to be found to say whether it was 'Surrey Johnson' or 'Dark Bill' who threw the man on the cushions and fractured his skull after having garrotted him, and got his watch and money. Yet, though murder is as much as possible avoided among professional street robbers of a night, they make not the least scruple of using such violence as will secure their escape, and, if possible, leave their victim senseless for a time. But the lice to be drawn between stunning a man for an hour and killing him outright is so exceedingly fine that, in thieves' parlance, it is no wonder that 'accidents' often happen. In the haunts in the South of London I was shown many men who were suspected to be garroters—that is to say, men whom the police had never caught in the fact, but of whose nightly occupations closely as they watched them, they had very little moral doubt, though the legal proof was wanting. I was shown in the East and South sides of London what I may almost say were scores of three men, about whom the detectives expressed grave doubts as to my life being safe among them for a single hour if it were known I had £20 or £30 about me; and, above all, if the crime of knocking me on the head could be committed under such circumstances as would afford fair probabilities of eluding detection. I don't mean to say that these desperate criminals are confined to any particular quarter of London; unfortunately they are not, or, if they were, there is only one particular quarter in which we should wish to see them all confined, and that is Newgate, but, no matter how numerous they may be elsewhere, there is certainly one quarter in which they are pre-eminently abundant, and that is around the alleys of the Borough. Here are to be found, not only the lowest description of infamous houses, but the very nests and nurseries of crime. The great mass of the class here is simply incorrigible. Their hand is against every man; their life is one continuous conspiracy against the usage, property, and safety of society. They have been suckled, cradled, and hardened in scenes of guilt, intemperance, and profligacy. Here are to be found the lowest of the low class of beer-shops in London, and probably in the world, the acknowledged haunts of 'smashers,' burglars, thieves, and forgers. There is hardly a grade in crime the chief representatives of which may not be met among the purlieus of the Borough. There are people who have been convicted over and over again, but there are also hundreds of known ruffians who are as yet unconvicted, and who, by marvellous good luck as well as by subtle cunning, have managed up to the present time to elude detection. Nothing impressed me more during the many visits I made than the organization that evidently exists among thieves' quarters. They have their own set of 'leaving-shops,' publichouses, and tradesmen. They are, in fact, a distinct community, and the thief who 'penches' upon another—as they will sometimes do from anger or disappointment in their share of booty—must leave the community for ever. Apart from his being not safe, he would never be trusted again, and, under an assumed name, he must seek his life by crime in Liverpool, Birmingham, or Manchester. As our party went round the South of London our coming was generally known at all the haunts we visited, but it made no difference. They knew we had only come to see them, and though perhaps they might have left off 'larking,' they were otherwise much as they usually are. The first house we entered was at the end of a narrow, villainous looking alley off Kent street, and at the door of the house were some half dozen 'roughs,' who in a verbal telegraph instantly passed downstairs the notice that we were coming. Before we entered my conductor told me, that I should see nothing but the most notorious and convicted thieves. Had he sworn to me that I should see nothing but honest men I could not have believed him. We passed through a low doorway, and down into a sort of cellar, or underground basement floor, which had been turned into a kind of kitchen, and here were assembled, to the number of about 30 or 40, some of the worst types of the most criminal classes in London. They were essentially of the criminal class, and any one who is familiar with the aspect of the inmates of Portland and Dartmoor will learn at once what is meant when I say this. They had the same low, retreating foreheads, the same eager cunning of their deep-set eyes, the same hard-set, yet shifty contour of the mouth—a kind of mouth that you could almost see was one that could whine for mercy in one breath and refuse it in another. There was not one of all those present whom a respectable person would not instinctively have shrunk from meeting in the day or night.—They were mostly young men and young women—or, I had better say, young girls. Not one single one, from first to last could give any account of himself as to saying where he worked, what he worked at or who had ever employed him. Some said they lived 'By odd jobs'; some said they worked 'Down the river.' The girls said they sold matches, some said they sang in publichouses, some that they 'berged'; but not one man or woman could name an employer, not one could name a single piece of honest work he had been engaged in, and there was not one who did not deny that he had got a penny that week. And this was Friday night, and the men were all smoking and drinking beer, and the women, I was told (it was then past 10 o'clock), had their suppers more than two hours ago. I spoke, to many with a view of ascertaining if they had ever been in Casual Wards or Refuges. Of the scores that I questioned, I only met with one who had ever been in a Refuge, and this was the conversation that passed in the presence of my friends and my conductor. My witness was a young man of about 25, a convicted thief, a known rough, and associate of regular thieves. I asked him had he ever been in a Casual Ward. He said, as all the rest said, 'No; and I believe quite truly' that he liked getting his own living and not going to a workhouse.

Will you ever been to a Refuge then?—Yes; I tried to go once. Did you stay there?—No, I didn't. They ask too many questions, and they ask them over and over again, and when you forgets what you've said first out you goes. But if you tell the truth at first you surely can't forget that?—Oh, yes you can't though, when you are asked over and over again. What questions did they ask you? (a very long pause)—They asked me if I had a father or mother alive. Will you have you?—No; the're both dead. Well, if you were asked that a dozen times you would not forget it, would you?—Yes, I did, and they turned me out. The truth is you cannot get your beer and pipe at the Refuge?—Yes; that's it (a great laugh at this), and they makes you say prayers, and (this was said with a bit of intense disgust) they makes you wash.

vessels at the Portsmouth and Charleston navy yards to be got ready for active service immediately.

The World's special says: A Pacific coast Senator says an extra session of Congress will be called within sixty days to fix issues on the Cuban business, and reports vaguely a programme of annexation, if need be by force. If by force a reconstruction of the Cabinet will be necessary, as Secretary Fish is opposed to all designs calculated to embroil the United States in war with Spain.

As if to illustrate and confirm our assertion in another column that a transfer from religion to politics is looked upon by ministers as a sort of promotion on account of superior intelligence, we find an anecdote going the rounds of the papers to the following effect:—A clergyman had taught an old man in his parish to read, and had found him an apt pupil.—After the lessons had finished, he had not been able to call at the cottage for some time, and when he did he only found the wife at home. 'How's John?' 'He's canny, sir,' said the wife at home. 'How does he get on with his reading?' 'Nicely, sir.' 'Ah, I suppose he'll read his Bible very comfortably now.' 'Bible, sir, I bless you, he was out of the Bible and into the newspaper long ago.'—Irish People.

IS THERE AN EMPEROR AMONG US?—Perhaps the most startling event of the week just passed is the announcement that two papers are to be published in the interest of a new programme looking to a change in the form of our government. Such a thing has been predicted, as an event in the far future, but we were not prepared so soon for the startling announcement contained in the prospectus before us, that on the ruins of our republic shall be raised the structure of an empire. One of these papers, the Imperialist, avows its programme to be revolutionary, and contains:

The conductors of this journal believe democracy to be a failure. Though theoretically possible, in its practical workings it has been found totally inadequate to the wants of the American people. We believe that the national faith, left in the keeping of the populace will be sullied by the sure repudiation of the national debt, and that an Imperial government can alone protect the rights of national creditors. We believe that an Imperial government, in its paternal relation to the people, will care equally for all citizens, and, while guaranteeing equality to the rights of capital, will jealously protect the interests of the industrial classes.

We believe that the republic means lawlessness, corruption, insecurity to person and property, robbery of the public creditors and civil war; that the empire means law, order security, public faith and peace.—Northern Star

THE TRIUMPH OF OUR NEW IMPERIAL COURT.—As each great court has a system of court rules of its own, it is well for those who aspire to high positions at Washington to study the ways and modes of President Grant and his republican Senators. The following, from the Herald's correspondence, under date of Washington, April 12th, has been published, and the general correctness of it has not been disputed:—

Ross (Rep. Senator from Kansas), was admitted at the same time as old Zerk Chandler, but had the first chance to speak to the President:

'I come, Mr. President, to talk with you about the appointments for my State, having heard that you intended to make certain nominations that may not harmonize with my desires if you deem it worth while to consult them in the least.'

To which General Grant laconically and interrogatively responded: 'Well, sir?'

This Presidential response was not in the true manner to be relished by the Kansas Senator.

'Am I to understand that I am rightly informed as to your stated intention to disregard my preferences in the matter of appointments, Mr. President?' inquired the Senator.

'This is a question hardly susceptible of an answer, sir. To what appointments do you allude?' inform me, and then I can reply,' rejoined Grant.

Senator Ross liked the second answer as little as the first; but having come for enlightenment, he was determined not to go away in a fog. The Senator, therefore, with suppressed rage, explained the appointments to which he had reference.

'Frankly, sir,' said Grant, 'I intend not to make those appointments.'

'What, sir, you scorn to accommodate me in the least?' exclaimed Ross, boiling over with rage.

'Sir, I believe I have given you my answer, firmly but sternly replied Grant.

'This is not treating me fairly, Mr. President; nor as one gentleman should treat another,' uttered Senator Ross.

'I have no intention to be dictated to, sir,' said Grant sharply.

'Nor have I to be insulted, even by you, sir, were you twenty times the President,' exclaimed Ross, with his ire stirred up to white heat.

'I must decline to be annoyed any further on the subject,' muttered Grant between his teeth, 'and desire that the interview should terminate.'

'You and your desires may go to hell roared out Ross.

'Leave the room, sir! Leave the room, or I shall force you out!' thundered Grant.

Ross took his departure accordingly, in a terrible rage, quitting the White House like one rushing from a plague, and hurried to the Capitol. President Grant threw himself into a chair the moment the door closed, and wiped his brow with his pocket-handkerchief, evidently much agitated. Old Zach Chandler approached, and was thus addressed by the President: 'Excuse me a few moments; after that interview I must take a little time to cool off.'

'Such is the account which I have learned, and which I give substantially as it came to me. I do not vouch for its truth, but have good grounds to believe it is not very different from the actual occurrence.

CAN A STATE SEcede?—Chief-Justice Chase, sustained by a majority of the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court has rendered a decision in the Texas Bonds case, which is very important in its bearings on many other questions. The purport of this decision is that the States that pretended to secede never at any time lost their legal status as States in the Union. That no State can secede, in the sense of withdrawing its territory and population from the jurisdiction of the United States, we hold to be sound constitutional doctrine; but that the States passing secession ordinances and joining and forming a confederacy hostile to the Union and making war on it, retained, all the time, their legal character as States in the Union, and, therefore, equal rights with the States that did not secede, we must say, with all deference to the nisi prius lawyers composing the court, strikes us as very extraordinary. Such a decision legitimates the several State governments of the States that seceded, declares that there was no rebellion, no resistance to the authority of the Union, for the Southern people throughout acted in obedience to the legal authority as their State governments, which remained an integral part of the national sovereignty. This decision virtually condemns the late war as an act of wanton tyranny and injustice, on the part of the General Government, and wholly without excuse. It declares that Government wrong, and revolutionary in treating, after the Confederates laid down their arms, the several State Governments of the Confederacy, as illegal, and setting them aside, as no Governments at all. It also implies the unconstitutionality of all the Reconstruction measures of Congress, declares, in its logic, the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution to be void, for they evidently were never adopted by the requisite majority of three-fourths of the States, and probably it imposes on the Union the obligation to pay all damages done, by both the Federal and Confederate Armies, and the debts contracted by the Confederacy, as well as those contracted by Congress.—N. Y. Tablet.