

THE AGRICULTURAL CLASSES OF IRELAND.—A paper by the Rev. R. Belaney was read at a recent meeting of the National Association. The essay, which is in the shape of a letter, is printed in *extension* in the *Freeman's Journal*, and gives many interesting and practical details on the subject about which it treats. It refers to the system adopted towards the poor in Irish workhouses. Father Belaney says: 'In England the people in their reduced state will, rather than beg, go into the workhouse. But in Ireland a different feeling among the poor prevails. Hence, while one in 20 of the population in England thankfully accepts parochial relief, not one in 85 in Ireland applies for it. Nor is it strange. The principle on which poor law relief is administered in Ireland is to disgust the people with it. The diet alone, two meals a-day and no meat, nor meat soup from Christmas Day to Christmas Day again, is devised to deter the most destitute, who have legs to become tramps, from entering it. Meat, or meat soup twice a week, forms a part of the English workhouse diet. When the Poor Law Commissioners, in 1857, ordered the same diet to be adopted in Ireland, the guardians in the Ballinasloe Union defeated that good purpose, while they appeared to be complying with it. They advertised for tenders from the butchers of the place to supply the workhouse, containing about three hundred inmates, with ox heads. No butcher gave in any tender from the impossibility of fulfilling such a contract. The result has been—that, from that day to this, the paupers of that union and I believe it is the same in most of the unions in Ireland—never see meat or meat soup but on one day in the year—an economy which enables the guardians of the rates to reduce the expense of a pauper in the workhouse to 1s. 7d. a week. Now, this point of attack upon the poor agricultural labourer, like a two-edged sword, cuts two ways.—first, it hinders him from availing himself of union assistance, which is made to many more offensive, especially if they are Catholics, than a jail. Second, while the unemployed will rather die for want than take the relief which they are entitled to, but which they cannot get, except in a way which makes them loathe it—the rate payers—that is, the landowners of the country—the gentlemen who spend the Irish rents in England and the gentlemen who spend it at home—have it to put, along with the half of the labourer's wages in their own pockets. Were the Irish to cast themselves on the rates as the English do, the price of Irish labour would rise to the same level as it does in England. Employers would then find that their best policy was to give work upon terms which would enable people to live by it, instead of paying for their support in the workhouse. But as it is, the workhouse system does not in Ireland as it does in England, serve to protect the rights of the poor man in the labour system. The owners of the land, who have the labour of the country at their disposal, encounter no check on the score of rates (as would be the case in England) for making agricultural labour in Ireland cease to be self-supporting, as it can be demonstrated not to be, at this time.

Nicholas Markoy, one of the six gentlemen who originated the Catholic Association, and whose name was long familiar to the Irish public as the friend of O'Connell and Sheil, died on Monday, at his residence in the county Louth, in the 55th year of his age.

FLAX.—Mr. Kirkman, of Castlebackett, has sold an acre of flax which was grown in 1864, for £48. Deducting the expenses, some where about £12, this shows an immense profit.—*Galway Express*.

Dr. White, city coroner, held an inquest to-day on the body of George Clark, who was murdered on Friday night. From the evidence it appeared that the three men who invaded him to the banks of the canal were Fenians, who believed him to be an informer, but he denied the fact, and is corroborated by the police. A verdict of wilful murder was returned against a person or persons unknown, and that John Lawler, Samuel Kavanagh and a man called 'the doctor' were present at the time. 'Gavin,' who was arrested as 'the doctor,' has been discharged, there being no proof against him.—*Times, Dublin Cor.*

RUN AWAY GOLD.—For the last three days there has been an immense run for gold on all the banks, including the Bank of Ireland. As rumour has it, four million in bullion has been withdrawn from the Dublin branch by England.—*Saunder's*.

AN ABANDONED SHIP.—Captain Brayley, of the ship *Gresham*, has just arrived at Spithead from Hong-Kong and the Cape of Good Hope, and reports having sighted on the 27th of January, outside the Bay of Biscay, at some distance to windward, a vessel apparently dismantled and very deep in the water. Captain Brayley beat up towards the wreck, and near it launched one of his boats, and proceeded on board. It was found to be a large ship water-tight, and evidently of old build. There was no living person to be seen. Over her head swept some tremendous sea, which had carried away her bulwarks fore and aft, boats, deck houses, and one cathead with its anchor. The broken part of the chain cable lay amidships on the vessel's deck, and on a heap of broken spars, the ship's capstan, winch and other gear. Underneath this was lying, jammed down by its weight, three human bodies, frightfully mutilated. One was apparently that of a ship's officer, the others those of two seamen. Captain Brayley supposes them to have formed part of the watch when the vessel was struck by the wave that had wrought such destruction. Where the bodies lay, the decks had been torn up by the ringbolts which the boat had dragged with it into the deep. Through the openings in the riven planking projected parts of the bodies of two more, the limbs forced in between the broken beams. No other remains of life could be found. The ship's stern was carried away and part of the cargo—timber in deals and barrels—was washed out. The bowsprit with all the head and gear and cathead, was gone.—A search among the wreckage on the broken deck led to the discovery of a bell, which had on it the name of 'Jane Lowden.' What has become of the rest who sailed in the *Jane Lowden*, if such be the barque's name, must be mere conjecture, unless news should come that they have escaped to land in their boat. Such a craft would carry at least five or six hands more, than these accounted for.

The Captain, the sole survivor of the barque *Jane Lowden*, of Padstow, which was reported by the troop-ship *Gresham* to have been seen at sea water-logged, has arrived at Terceira, in the *Ida Elizabeth*. He states that nine of the crew were washed overboard, and six died on board of injuries, cold, and hunger. The captain was thirty-three days in the main-top, and during the last twenty-eight days never tasted food. He was taken off the wreck on the 23rd of January. One man lived in the main-top to within ten days of that date.

GREAT BRITAIN.

CATHOLICS IN WORKHOUSES AND PRISONS.—Mr. Galton, the Secretary of the Westminster Clerical Committee, informs us that:—

Two meetings of the Westminster Clerical Committee on Workhouses and Prisons were held on Monday the 29th ultimo, and again on Monday last, the 5th instant, at 8, York Place, his Grace the Archbishop being in the chair, for the purpose of considering the expediency of adopting measures to bring our grievances before Parliament during its present session. Several important resolutions were adopted, amongst which were the following:—

1st. To call upon Catholics throughout England to petition Parliament to remedy the grievances of our Catholic paupers. 2nd. To invite the Catholics of Middlesex to petition for a fair and equal treatment of our Catholic juvenile offenders consigned to the Feltham Industrial School. 3rd. To lay a statement of our poor law grievances and their proper remedies before all members of Parliament in both Houses. 4th. To invite the public press throughout

England to aid us in obtaining redress of these grievances. 5th. To organise a public meeting in London at an early date, for the purpose of exposing our grievances.

Prince Orloff has addressed a letter to the *Times* on the meeting which he attended in London to promote intercommunion between the Anglican and Greek Churches, of which so full an account appeared in the *Moscow Gazette*, and was afterwards, by the medium of the *Times* correspondent at Berlin, published in most of the English papers. Prince Orloff (whose letter is dated Brussels, the 4th inst.) says he has allowed a whole month to elapse in silence, with the view of ascertaining how the idea of intercommunion would be received by his fellow countrymen, and he is most happy to be able to state that the Russian press has greeted with the warmest sympathy the foreshadowing of a prospect of Christian unity put forward by the Eastern Church Association. Two distinct opinions, the Prince observes, were brought forward in the course of the discussion. Some members were in favour of immediate intercommunion, without waiting for dogmatic unity. Others felt that dogmatic unity must naturally precede intercommunion. All, however, were agreed upon one point—that it would be both useful and necessary to promote on both sides a careful study of the history and doctrine of the two Churches, and to work out as clearly as possible the wide extent of Gospel truth held by them both, as well as to limit and facilitate the discussion of all points of doctrine and practice on which they may differ. The impression left upon my mind by this meeting was that a deep feeling of Christian love had brought together persons of different countries assembled in Orloff's name, who, after some hours of conversation, carried away with them the conviction that, let the results be what they might, they, at least, had fulfilled their duty as Christians in striving earnestly to find a means for bringing nearer to each other two important and severed branches of the Church of Christ. Prince Orloff denies that he is seeking the union of the Churches with any political object, and says he would consider such an *arrangement* a sort of sacrilege. He also denies that he has had to excuse himself to his own countrymen for having participated in the prayers with which the meeting opened and closed. The Eastern Orthodox Church has never forbidden its members from joining in any form of prayer with other Christians, more especially with those who pray for the peace of the whole world and the union of divided Christendom. The Prince adds an explanation of the statement that the Archbishop of Canterbury proposed to him to send his orders to Russia. That statement is, he says, an error. It may be of his own committing, though he cannot account for it. At all events, Dr. Longley never expressed any such intention as has been attributed to him. 'It was rather,' says Prince Orloff, 'my suggestion on my part that some learned Churchman might be induced to go there whenever the idea of intercommunion should attain a greater development; for in 1866 an eminent member of the Church of England had expressed to me his desire of visiting Moscow in order to sound the opinions of the Russian clergy, but abandoned his resolution on hearing from me how few among them were acquainted with the English language, and how little the question of intercommunion had been agitated at that time.'

INDEPENDENCE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.—Parliament has met, and up there starts, on the opposite wall, an uncouth, misformed, colourless shadow, like that which occasionally puzzles even an elderly, experienced horse. This is Convocation. At least half our readers will ask every year what it is, what it does, who made it, where does it meet, what is its for? These are questions very natural to ask, but not easy to answer. When the Grand Duchess asked what the fellows of All Souls did, there was at least no doubt as to their legal incorporation, their uninterrupted existence for four centuries, their handsome buildings, their magnificent library, their very moderate endowments, and their select quality. Convocation, on the other hand, depends on the breath of Lord Russell's nostrils; it has no locality, no money, and has to ask the neighbouring authorities for the use of a room, and a trifling allowance for current expenses, which last we rather doubt of its getting. It does not possess a head's staff, a candlestick, a broom, or a dog-mat. It can do nothing, except obtain by an indirect, but infallible, method the legal recognition of a heresy; for it has only to condemn a book and the lawyers will take care to approve it.—*Times*.

THE VICTIMS OF BLEEDING.—The lancet is said to have helped another distinguished man out of this world. M. Foucher, the accomplished French barrister, having been struck with paralysis or apoplexy while in the act of pleading in the *Cours des Casation*, was removed to the Judge's chamber, while doctors were sought in all directions. When the doctor arrived he forthwith bled the apparently dying man. M. Foucher never rallied, and died before midnight. Of course, he might have died if no lancet had taken away his life-blood. But how long we cannot help asking, will it be before the denunciation of bleeding in all cases of exhaustion, which is now universal among the best English doctors, is taken up generally by the medical profession abroad. It is only a few years since the lancet did its work with *Cavour*, and the practice of spring and an unusual bleeding still prevails in Italy to a wonderful extent. It is said to be a regular rule in many convents, and the most delicate women are 'let blood' in anticipation of their accouchements. Here, in England, even the agricultural mind has happily become anti-phlebotomist, and only the most ignorant farmers bleed their horses and oxen every spring and fall.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A DREADEFUL CALCULATION.—In the course of a speech delivered at the Burns Club annual dinner at Edinburgh on Thursday evening, Professor Masson, who proposed the toast 'The Poets of Scotland,' said he had made a calculation that probably in the British Islands at the present moment there are 200,000 people writing verses (laughter). 'I stick to 200,000 exactly. I cannot give you the data on which I made my calculation, but they satisfied myself at the moment when I made it. And they are not only making verses, but I assure you making verses which would have attained a reputation had they been written in the last century. The quantity of verse which is being produced in English and Irish villages, in Scotch manse, and in all sorts of places, is utterly enormous. I do not think that it is any objection to literature that it is becoming numerous, and that its practitioners are becoming numerous.—Perhaps in some future time the distinction of a man will be, that he will be pointed out on the streets as a distinguished man, that he has not written a book' (laughter).

PRESENT OF A BIBLE TO GENERAL GARIBOLDI.—The British League Bible-classes of Edinburgh and Leith have forwarded to Garibaldi an Italian Bible, in seven parts, and bound in purple morocco, and bearing the following inscription, both in English and Italian:—Presented to General Garibaldi by the British League Bible-classes, in admiration of his private worth, his patriotic and heroic achievements in the cause of Italian liberty, and in grateful remembrance of his daring, self-denying deeds, having, under providence, procured for liberated Italy the free use of the Word of God, which alone can make a people free indeed. Mr. Hope, the patron of the classes, has received the following letter from Caprera, in acknowledgment of the gift:—'Caprera, Jan. 1866. To Mr. John Pope—Sir, The General being unable to return thanks with his own hand, because of indisposition, he leaves to me the agreeable duty of expressing his unqualified gratitude for the gift of the Bible.—Believe me, your most obliged, Francisco Pallutelli, Secretary to the General.'—*Morning Post*.—[What will be do with it.] It is stated that sixty-four election petitions will be presented in the House of Commons within the next fortnight.

THE DANDY OF THE CABINET.—Mr. Goschen is what you would call a young 'well—a dandy.' He wears the brightest and latest of gloves, the most infinitesimal of white neck-ties, silk facings to his coat, elaborate shirt front, diamond studs, and the rest of it. In fact, he is quite an aristocrat, the very opposite of his patron, Mr. Gladstone, who swabs his neck in a wisp of black silk handkerchief, and wears a 'frock' coat at least six seasons out of date and fashion.—*London Letter*.

The *Times* of Monday, in a leader on the Reform Bill, says: 'As the time draws near for revealing the plans of the Ministry, it appears to become more and more certain that the Reform Bill of 1866 will consist simply of clauses lowering the franchise in boroughs to £5 rating, and in counties to £15 occupation. It would seem, unless he has been sadly misled, that Lord Russell has acted upon the advice of Mr. Bright, and has, greatly daring, resolved, to stake the existence of his administration on the success of a bill which shall give us £5 for £10 householders, and £15 for £50 county tenants. We cannot suppose that the Government believes that such a bill as is now predicted will be accepted as a settlement of the Reform question. It is crude, violent and offensive; it expresses no policy, it corresponds to no aims. The conduct of the Ministry on Reform seems to show that they are themselves conscious they are settling down. They yaw from side to side, and roll and plunge with every fresh gust and every passing wave, but such things are premonitory of disaster, and we can only hope that if there is to be a shipwreck, something valuable may be left by way of salvage.'

A RACE AFTER A CRIMINAL.—A race of rather an exciting character is going on at the present moment the course being on at the present moment, the course being the broad Atlantic and the goal New York, and the circumstances are somewhat similar to those that occurred in the case of the notorious culprit Muller when he made his flight from this country after the Murder of Mr. Briggs. The culprit on this occasion is a man named John Burton, who held a responsible position in the establishment of a City merchant, and who also holds the appointment of consul to a foreign State, and the crime of which he is accused is the forgery of a cheque for £300 upon the City Bank, Threadneedle-street. It would appear that the above amount was presented at the bank, purporting to be drawn by the firm to which the abscinding clerk belonged, and the signature seemed to have been so well fabricated, and the cheque was presented under such circumstances, that no suspicion was entertained, and the money was paid. The culprit's plans seemed to have been well laid, for he sailed in the Saxonian one of the swiftest of the New York mail packets, on the very day after he got possession of his booty, and before the forgery was discovered he was fair on his way across the Atlantic. His absence from his duty of course created suspicion and this led to inquiry and to the discovery of the forgery. Inquiries were at once set on foot, and the matter was placed in the hands of Heydon, the experienced City detective, and succeeded in tracing the fugitive, and he ascertained beyond a doubt that the criminal had taken his passage on board the above-named vessel for New York in an assumed name, and that he was accompanied by a lady. Within four days of this discovery being made the officer had started in pursuit, and the two vessels are now making the best of their way to their destination. It will be remembered that in Muller's case that the criminal took his departure in a sailing vessel, and that his progress was consequently comparatively slow, and the result was that although Inspector Tanner did not get after him until several days had elapsed, the steamer in which he took his passage outstripped the other vessel, and arrived at New York a long time before her, and the vessel containing the culprit was boarded by the inspector upon her arrival at a short distance from New York. In the present case, however, there is no chance of the Saxonian being outstripped by her follower, and she will, in all probability, arrive at New York several days before the one in which the officer has taken his passage, and if Burton should make his way from New York into the interior, the chase may probably prove a very lengthened one. It is anticipated, however, that he will make a short stay at New York after his voyage, and in this case the officer will be quickly on his track, and as there is a treaty for the extradition of criminals between this country and the United States, there will be no difficulty in the culprit being delivered up and brought back to this country. It is believed that the culprit has nearly, if not the whole, of the proceeds of the forged cheque in his possession, and this will, of course, be recovered in the event of his being apprehended.—*Star*.

FEIANISM IN LIVERPOOL.—A letter from Liverpool states:—It would appear that, in spite of all the efforts of the government to crush out the conspiracy, it still contrives not only to flourish, but to spread, particularly in England. As previously stated accredited agents constantly pass between Liverpool and New York, but by the rapidity of their movements, their reticence, and care in keeping documents, &c., out of sight, they completely succeed in baffling the police. One of the most energetic delegates from New York has recently been hard at work in Liverpool, and induced some forty or fifty Irish residents, mostly of a better class, to assemble together to discuss the present aspect of the brotherhood in the district. We understand that the principal resolutions passed at this meeting were—first, that every effort should be made to counteract the teachings and preaching of the Catholic clergy who denounce Feianism; and secondly, that no means should be left untried to induce Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen to join the Feian ranks. To attain this object, the delegates make use of lavish promises of land in Ireland and Canada, and promotion to such of the brotherhood as may take part in the military movements. After working with considerable success in Liverpool, the delegate proceeded to the manufacturing towns of the North, and it is understood that his reports give a glowing account of his success, not only amongst the Irish population, but amongst the English and other operators. As a matter of course, the delegates do not trust to promises alone. They appear to be always well supplied with money, and timely gifts of small sums have been found particularly effective in securing a large number of recruits from all classes of the working community. A few days ago the delegate mentioned went over to Ireland to have an interview with the ambassador, whose arrival in this country, from New York, we anticipated a few weeks ago. With respect to Ireland we are informed that, in spite of the trials and convictions of some of the chief Feian leaders, the movement is still progressing, and that in several counties hitherto unsuspected, drilling and other illegal practices are common. It is said that even women are now employed in the making of bullets and other warlike articles, it being supposed that they can more easily escape detection than men. In Ireland, where the people are naturally more credulous than in this country, there is still great talk of Canada being annexed to the 'Irish Republic,' and that the Emperor Napoleon has positively promised, when the time for the insurrection arrives to aid the brotherhood with all the power and might of France. All this may sound very ridiculous to many newspaper readers, but the fact is undeniable that, in spite of the partial collapse of the movement in America, in England and Ireland it is on the increase.

IS THE CATTLE PLAGUE SMALLPOX?—The question so carefully and ably discussed by Dr. Murchison in his paper last week has necessarily excited much professional interest. Besides the communication which we print this week we have received many others that deserve attention, but for which we cannot find space. It is not very useful to indulge in speculative discussion on a matter which admits of

absolute experimental test. If the cattle-plague be smallpox, four things follow:—1. Cattle which have suffered from the plague and are convalescent should be incapable of taking smallpox by inoculation, or of being successfully vaccinated. 2. Cattle which have suffered from the true cowpox should be protected from the cattle plague. 3. Cattle which are vaccinated with lymph from vaccine pustules in the human subject, or with matter taken from human smallpox pustules, should also be protected from the cattle plague after the first induced disease has passed through its stages. 4. Human beings inoculated with the matter of the cattle plague should show characteristic symptoms such as those of Mr. Hancock, and capable of further propagation. Of course all these experiments will be tried carefully, but to carry them out successfully under conditions of scientific accuracy is not within the opportunities of everyone. The exanthematic character of the cattle plague has now for some little time impressed itself on English observers. Mr. Ceely, of Aylesbury, who is one of our first authorities on the subject of smallpox and vaccination, and who is one of the Cattle Plague Commissioners, was, we believe, early impressed with the resemblance of the eruption to that of smallpox, and had laid this view before his medical colleagues. Dr. Sanderson, whose letter we publish to-day, and who has an important part of the experimental inquiry now in progress for the Commission, explains the difficulties which have impeded experiments. No doubt they will now be pushed on with activity. Dr. Sanderson, however, has, it will be seen, grave doubts of the validity of the analogy on which Dr. Murchison so strongly insists, and which he supports with so much learning and acuteness. The majority of those who have investigated the matter at all concur with Dr. Murchison. Besides Mr. Ceely's first impulse in this direction, and the observations of the Norwich Medical Committee, we have Mr. Rayner, of Uxbridge, an experienced and able practitioner, who at once detected independently the resemblance of the communicated eruption on the one hand of Hancock to cowpox; then Dr. Quinn, who saw the same patient Professor Spooner, and Dr. Murchison. Mr. Hancock was brought by Dr. Quinn on Tuesday night to the Pathological Society. We give an account of the discussion which ensued. But discussion is of little avail where experiment can decide. An unexpected difficulty has arisen, it is true, in the alleged deficiency of vaccine matter at the National Vaccine Institution. It is said that the authorities there do not feel justified in giving up for basins what was meant undoubtedly for all mankind; but then for mankind only. They have not funds to obtain and supply the quantities asked from them since the publication of Dr. Murchison's paper. This difficulty, however, we apprehend can soon be got over.—Meanwhile, we hope private practitioners, having smallpox cases or recent vaccination on hand, will prepare points and lead their aid in distributing them. Dr. Murchison is personally in want of vaccine matter at this moment for himself and various correspondents.

UNITED STATES.

A R. O. BISHOP'S OPINION.—Bishop Timon, in a sermon preached at Emma's, N. Y., last Sunday, strongly denounced the Fenians, their organization and its objects and purposes. The Bishop pronounced the whole movement the most gigantic swindle and humbug of the age, and said he verily believed that if the so-called Fenians persisted in their suicidal career, and issued nation of conquest, they would not only bring disgrace upon themselves, but destruction to the poor deluded people of Ireland.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON THE STRIKE.—Speaking of the late performance of their Chief Magistrate, the Washington correspondent of the *Tribune* says:—'The spectacle he presented stands alone in the history of this country. Before him a surging crowd with wild and excited faces; among the number many who during the war were notorious for their disloyalty to the country; interrupting the President with those boisterous and coarse exclamations which are familiar to the habits of the prize ring and drunken ward meetings; and before that crowd the President of the United States, talking in a loud and excited tone, gritting his teeth and accompanying his words with violent gesticulations; denouncing the majority of Congress in unmeasured terms, indulging in vulgar attacks against persons he called by name; speaking in a style which Marshal Rynners would hesitate to claim as his own, and, in accusing his political opponents of a desire to assassinate him, playing a trick of demagoguism which would be amazing only but for the sad circumstance that the actor was the Chief Magistrate of this country. A performance like this could not but have a very serious effect upon the relations between the President and the legislative branch of the Government. The speeches addressed to the multitude during the day by some of the most unscrupulous leaders of the Copperhead party had all consisted in violent denunciations of Congress, and expressions like this: 'The stable on the bill yonder must be cleaned out.' had been used more than once. When after all this the President followed in the same strain, proclaiming himself the martyr of the cause of popular rights that was to be assassinated, the provocation was about as direct as it could be made, without raising the cry that Congress must be driven out, and designating the victims. The whole proceeding was not only the grossest violation of propriety, but it disclosed in the Chief Executive of the Republic a recklessness and violence of temper which in times of excitement like these cannot be looked upon with-out alarm.'

A SINGULAR CASE IN BALTIMORE.—A case has come to trial in Baltimore and dismissed by the prosecution on account of inability to sustain the indictment, which interests a large class of persons in that city. It is another story of partisan and sectarian malignity directed against Dr. Wm. H. Stokes, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and some Sisters of Charity who were indicted with him. The indictment averred that Dr. Stokes and Sister Euphemia, who was in charge of Mount Hope Institution from June, 1864, had conspired, by false pretences and representations, to entice people having the care of insane persons to place them at Mount Hope, in charge of said conspirators in order to cheat and defraud them of what money they might pay for board. The false pretence on the part of Dr. Stokes was alleged to have been in his published reports which he knew to be false and which were calculated to mislead, by making the public believe Mount Hope to be a well managed institution, whereas, in fact, it was not, but was used to confine people improperly, and to wrong and maltreat them, &c., &c. Pretty serious charges. To the indictment the defendants demurred. The prosecution introduced Dr. Stokes's reports covering twenty years, which were objected to by the defendant on the obvious ground that they covered a space of eighteen years prior to the connection of Sister Euphemia, his alleged co-conspirator, with the institution, and beyond the scope of the period named in the indictment. The Judge, however, allowed the reports to be given in evidence—not to all intents, as offered, but with qualifications and restrictions, and the next question arose as to the character of proof by which their integrity might be assailed. Upon this point the Court ruled, that if the prosecution desired to establish the guilt of the parties and the falsehood of the Reports by proof of specific acts of misconduct, they must, of course, prove those acts to have been committed with the participation, or at least, knowledge of the accused. This the counsel for the prosecution confessed their inability to do. In other words they substantially admitted, in open court, that they could not convict the parties thus wantonly assailed, without being allowed to attempt to prove facts, in which the defendants had no part, and of which they had never even had a knowledge.—*Boston Pilot*.

The *Baltimore Gazette* remarking upon this case says:—'That there would have been no such effort to injure the Mount Hope Asylum, or prosecute those who conduct it, if it had been other than a Roman Catholic institution, every one in this community is fully aware. The moral impossibility that the charges could be true, is equally well understood here, and we shall be glad if we have contributed to the dissemination of that knowledge elsewhere.—There are circumstances connected with the origin of the prosecution to which, perhaps, we may hereafter call the attention of the community.'

It is reported from New Orleans that recently the negroes on several of the Red River plantations rose and tried to murder their overseers. They were then dispersed by the militia and several of their ringleaders were captured.

The *Rochester Evening Express* says:—'With cheap farms and no war burdens to shoulder, the producer in Canada has a great advantage over the people of the United States.'

The *Washington Intelligencer* asserts and re-asserts that Congress will impeach and remove President Johnson, and the *Chronicle*, another of 'Dead Duck' Forney's papers, that all our Johnson talk about impeachment and assassination is meant to prepare the country for a forcible interference with Congress, unless it be done before long to his will.

New York, Feb. 27.—The *Herald's* Toronto telegram says:—'Reports from the English detectives, at Pittsburgh, say that the Fenian Gen. Sweeney's plan is, to make a demonstration against Canada, about the middle of March, with a small force, and strike New Brunswick via the Maine frontier with the main columns.'

Sweeney's plans have been adopted by the Fenian settlers in Council at Pittsburgh, and a million of dollars appropriated towards carrying them out.—At the same meeting, Senator Edward L. Carey, of New York, took the floor, and said when he was invited to join the Fenian Brotherhood he was promised that they meant fight, and he pledged every dollar he was worth and his life to the cause; but 'instead of fight he saw the large amounts expended in the purchase of houses instead of shops, furniture instead of muskets, patent leather boots instead of shell and shot, and cocktles and oysters instead of powder and ball.' He concluded by saying that he was authorized to state to the convention that a certain Irish merchant in New York when the movement began would present them with two large ships.

In a recent American paper we find the following:—'A Fenian delegation, consisting of Mayor Welch of Washington, B. Doran Killian, George W. Train, Congressman Rogers and Hogan, and others, had an interview with the President last evening.—The President appointed Wednesday for a special interview, so that papers concerning the recent alleged outrage on American citizens in Ireland can be perused, and a reply prepared. Comment is needless.—*Montreal Gazette*.'

A CONTRAST.—Although Great Britain, in common with France and other European powers, recognized the belligerence of the Confederate States, yet she always refused to hold official intercourse with any representative of the Confederate Government, because she never recognized the confederacy as a nation. Confederate agents in Canada were likewise persistently refused any official intercourse with members of the Government here.

The *Boston Traveller* states that:—'At the United States arsenal at Watertown, Massachusetts, three hundred and sixty men are still engaged in the manufacture of iron gun-carriages, the Rodman pattern, designed for the thorough arming of the forts of the coast from the borders of Maine to the shores of California and Oregon. The carriages are forgings of ten or fifteen-inch bore, and at present orders are on hand for one hundred and fifty.'

DISGUSTING.—The telegraph informs us that what the action of the Senate or when the vetoed Freedmen's Bill was made public, the negroes in the galleries raised a storm of hisses, while in the white galleries evidences of applause and disapproval were both manifested. The negro as long as he behaves with propriety has no doubt a perfect right to admittance to the halls of Congress, but no black-guard or boor should be permitted to vent his opinions regarding grave questions of state, be he white or black, in any such way. It is but to be expected that such things would be tolerated, and the time is fast approaching, we trust, when our representatives will be selected from a class who at least understand the common forms of politeness and decency.

DISGUSTING MEAT.—A Chicago contemporary makes the following strange statement:—'We are assured by daily eye witnesses of the fact that hogs being the hog cholera,' sheep afflicted with the disgusting disease known as the 'soak,' and diseased beef cattle, are sold in large numbers at the Union Stock Yard in this city for Chicago home consumption. We are assured that hundreds of 'cholera hogs' and scores of diseased sheep and cattle are purchased every week at those yards by our city dealers because of their cheapness in price, and are slaughtered and exposed for sale in the beef market on Kinzie street, where nearly all our city butchers are supplied with fresh pork, beef, and mutton that is furnished to our citizens.'

HAUL OF SMUGGLED CLOTHING BY THE U. S. AUTHORITIES.—Not long since the revenue officers at this port were notified that a Canadian, whose name we are requested to suppress for the present, had sent an agent to this city to solicit orders for garments to be made of British goods in Canada and sent down innocent of Custom house duties. The agent procured some thirty or more orders from various well-known people, some of them considered loyal citizens, and others, again, whose antipathy to the Federal Government is no secret, and by some unknown means the garments, made up to the measure of those ordering them, were smuggled across the river to Detroit, and from thence forwarded to this city, by care of some fictitious party. A portion of the goods had been delivered, when the officers made a seizure, capturing twenty-eight suits or parts of suits of manufactured clothing, together with three large trunks full of unmanufactured and contraband fabrics.—Parties having received their suits were visited and obliged to give them up to the officers or pay the full duty thereon. The whole amount of the seizure is estimated at \$2,500. As yet no arrests have been made. The list of those who sent their measure and an order to the Canadian merchant, contains names that will astonish the public when promulgated.—*Chicago Journal*.

The *Chicago Republican* publishes full statistics of the Whiskey manufacture of Illinois, which declares shows that while the Government has derived an apparent increase of revenue under the \$2 tax, its operation has been to close most of the distilleries, or cause them to materially curtail their business. The farmer too, has been deprived of a market for many millions of bushels of grain, which, under a more moderate tax, would have been consumed in the manufacture of spirits. During the three months that the 60 cent law was in operation, the revenue which it yielded to the Treasury was as great as during the whole nineteen months under the 20 cent law, while the consumption of grain was fifty per cent greater in proportion. During the six months in which the \$1.50 tax was in operation the relative revenue fell off, as compared with the 60-cent rate, nearly three-fourths, while the consumption of grain decreased nearly to one-half million of bushels. And during the operation of the \$2 tax the decrease of consumption of grain as compared with the 60-cent standard, was over six and a quarter millions of bushels, and over eight and a quarter million of dollars less revenue was received than under that rate. This, it thinks, is pretty fair evidence of the wisdom of a more moderate rate of taxation on the branch of home manufactures.