

DECREASE OF POOR'S RATE IN THE WEST.—A new rate which has just been struck for the electoral divisions composing the union of Tuam affords a satisfactory indication of a marked decrease of taxation—the result of returning prosperity and the profitable employment of the remnant of the people spared by the onward tide of emigration. A local journal (the *Herald*) thus calls attention to the contrast between past years and the present:—"On the 21st of July, 1849, the number of the poor who were in actual receipt of relief was 17,556, while the debts alone of that union at that time amounted to nearly £13,000. The number of the poor on the corresponding period of the present year is only 900, while the debt against the union is only about £2000. It is only by presenting to the ratepayers a statistical contrast of this kind that they can be made fully aware of the diminution which has taken place in the burdens to which by law they are liable. Or, we may take another mode, but which comes to the same. For the support of the poor of the union from September, 1850, to September, 1851, a rate was declared amounting to £9,240, while at the same time there were outstanding arrears of upwards of £4,000, making a total rate of upwards of £13,000. Rates were declared, within a space little exceeding 12 months, including the rate of £20,000, struck by the vice-guardians, and nearly £10,000, struck by the elected guardians, which amounted to upwards of £30,000. Looking to the gradual and steady decrease of pauperism which has taken place within the last four years, it is not unreasonable to look forward with hope that ere long the number in the workhouse will be reduced to the original average for which it was erected. The house was intended to accommodate 800 only; the number at present—and this has always been the severest month of the year—is only 900. In alluding to the estimate for the forthcoming rate now before the ratepayers, it may be right to mention that no account has been taken of the arrears of the consolidated annuities. They have been excluded, and, we may say, with justice. If the Lords of the Treasury choose to enforce these demands, the injustice of which has been admitted by the House of Lords, and afterwards confirmed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his memorable speech on the late Budget when he published a total remission of these claims, upon the Government and its friends let the responsibility and the odium rest."

LIBEL ON THE PEASANTRY.—Mr. George Roe, Spring garden, Clara, has written a letter in the *Daily Express* from which we extract the following:—"I have just seen, in your paper of the 13th inst., a paragraph taken from the *Westmeath Guardian*, in which it is stated that I had received threatening notices, and had been obliged to bring farm laborers from the Queen's County, as the people of this county had refused to enter into my employment. Now, Sir, I beg to state that both those assertions are equally false. I never received a threatening notice, nor have I been obliged to import laborers from the adjacent county; on the contrary, I have experienced nothing but the greatest civility from the laboring classes since I came to reside in this locality."

An investigation has been held relative to the recent supposed Ribbon outrages at Clara, in the King's County, and it has resulted in the discovery that the shots were fired into the Rev. Mr. Turpin's windows by one of his own servants who stated that he only wanted to terrify his master. The man has been committed by the magistrates, and much satisfaction is expressed that the character of the neighborhood has been saved from the stain of Ribbonism.

A man named Hayden has given himself up to the police on a charge of drawing a young woman in the canal near Dublin. He was committed for trial.

MURDER AT THE BELFAST BARRACKS.—A CORPORAL SHOT BY A PRIVATE.—A corporal of the 12th Regiment of Foot, now stationed in Belfast, was shot, in cold blood, on Monday last, by one of his own comrades—a private, named Robert Henry O'Neill. The deceased was a young man who had joined the regiment in London about four years ago; and besides being a person who had received an average education, his gentleness and inoffensive character made him respected by his comrades generally. He was, indeed, as several of the corps stated to us in relating the facts of this tragedy, "one of the last men in the regiment whom we would have thought likely to excite the revenge of anybody." The murderer O'Neill is a native of Belfast. He joined the regiment so recently as the 1st of April, and since that time has manifested a rather sullen disposition, averse to principles of discipline. The only cause which can be assigned for the commission of the crime is that we have mentioned above, and that it was for some time premeditated, from all the circumstances we have stated, there can be little reason to doubt—the more so, indeed, as the murderer throughout seemed rather to glory in, than regret, the result of the bloody offence.—*Ulsterman*.

EXECUTION AT OMAGH.—Omagh, Saturday Evening August 20.—This afternoon, Alexander Mullan, who was convicted at the last Tyrone assizes for the murder of his aunt, expiated his crime on the scaffold, in front of the county jail in this town. About twenty-five minutes before four, the wretched culprit, accompanied by the Rev. M. N. Thompson, Protestant Chaplain, Rev. Messrs. Arnold and Mitchell, with the governor and other officers of the jail, appeared on the scaffold; and in less than one minute afterwards launched into eternity, to the apparent amazement and consternation of the numerous spectators assembled to witness the melancholy scene.

THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS.—Perhaps the whole world does not furnish a more striking instance of the influence of military discipline upon the Irish character than is supplied in the gallant 88th, the Connaught Rangers. The regiment is composed entirely of Irishmen, recruited for the most part in the county Galway, from among a people who have long borne an unenviable reputation for lawless conduct. Daring and desperate, their violence knows no bounds when the passions of hatred and jealousy are excited, and want, combined with the inflammatory harangues and mischievous visitations of a political priesthood, sends them forth to confront the agent or the unsuspecting landlord. Yet, brought within the wholesome and humanising influence of military discipline, placed under a commander in whom the *suaviter in modo et fortiter in re* are most felicitously combined, these Galway men become the most docile, as well as the most gallant of troops—objects at once of admiration and envy. It is a fact, of which the glorious 88th may be as proud as it is of the laurels so gloriously earned in the Peninsula, that crime is totally unknown in the regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Shirley is ador-

ed. He holds up his finger, and the slightest disposition to deviate from the line of duty, upon the part of the most illiterate soldiers, is at once repressed. We have thought the circumstance so remarkable—mentioned, as it was, in our hearing by a general officer on the staff of the highest character—that, at the risk of offending the modesty of the Lieutenant-Colonel and his admirable corps, we have ventured to give it currency.—*United Service Gazette*. [We hope the writer will take advantage of the Great Exhibition and the 'single fare' to come over and judge for himself as to the merits of the Galway peasantry which supply such soldiers, 'the admiration and envy' of all. We assure him he completely reverses the truth, for instead of the daring and desperation—the boundless violence and passionate hatred out of which military discipline has raised up the first of English regiments, the Galway peasantry are, perhaps, the quietest and most gentle race in the world. It is to the moral and religious discipline of the recruit, long before he contemplated 'the service,' that the trained soldier owes all that regularity and virtue which the *Gazette* ascribes to barrack life and parades. The Galway peasant ever before 'an unenviable reputation' for orderly and peaceful habits; and, as the child is father of the man, so do the habits of his early life characterise the bearing of the Ranger soldier.—*Freeman*.]

THE ANCIENT SCULPTURED STONE OF "ST. OWEN'S," DUBLIN.—According to tradition, the above interesting relic of remote antiquity marked the grave of an early Irish Saint. It is of hard granite, in length three feet five inches, in breadth one foot ten, and in thickness five inches. The stone bears two sculptured crosses, symbolical of the Christian faith, one on the front and the other on the back; each cross is enclosed within a circle, the emblem of eternity. The cross and circles are greatly worn by the action of the elements during more than twelve centuries. It stood in "Owen's lane" (which leads from Corn market, through St. Audeon's arch, to Cook-street), near the door of entrance to the ancient church of St. Audeon, or Owen. From time immemorial it was called the "Blessed Stone," and was held in great respect and veneration by the Catholics of Dublin—a respect so great, that for ages past, and up to the time of its removal, all persons when passing by laid their hands on it, and invoked a blessing through the intercession of the intercession of the saint, to perpetuate whose memory the stone was erected. In the year 1826, when the church near which it stood was undergoing repair, this ancient monument was taken up, and, being regarded with slight respect by some workmen, it was carefully removed and buried in a yard in Cook-street, where it remained for some years. It is now in the possession of the Very Rev. Dr. Spratt, of Aungier-street, who, as an antiquarian, looks on it not only as an object worthy of respect, for its great antiquity, but also as a memorial of the piety of people whom ignorance and prejudice have sneered at as barbarous.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ILLNESS OF CARDINAL WISEMAN.—We deeply regret to have to inform our readers that the illustrious and revered Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has been for the last week confined to his house at Walthamstow with a serious internal complaint, and that a good deal of anxiety is felt about him. We sincerely hope that the accounts we have received may prove to have been exaggerated by this anxiety, which friends cannot but feel for so very valuable a life. Meanwhile, we most earnestly recommend his Eminence to the prayers of our readers at home and abroad.—*Tablet*.

CONVERSION.—On Saturday, August 20th, Edward Lucas, Esq., of Croydon, was received into the Catholic Church by the Very Rev. Dr. Whitty, V.G., Provost of Westminster.

PEACE CONGRESS AT EDINBURGH.—The Assembly of the Friends of Universal Peace is now fixed for the 12th and 13th of October, and a very large attendance is expected both from the Old and New World.

THE QUEEN'S COUNTENANCE OF THE NAVY.—Another Royal Prince is intended as a sailor, if we may draw any favorable inference to assist at such a conclusion from the fact of her Majesty having on Tuesday last, ordered a sailor boy's outfit for his Royal Highness Prince Arthur. The illustrious Prince is only three years and three months old, and godson of the late Duke of Wellington.—*Hampshire Advertiser*.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE RIGHT HON. SIR G. COCKBURN, G.C.B., F.R.S.—Not only the navy and army, but the general public, will learn with great regret the death of one of the ablest and most distinguished officers that ever wore the royal naval uniform, the Right Hon. Sir George Cockburn, Bart., G.C.B., F.R.S., Admiral of the Fleet, Major-General of Marines, and Rear Admiral of the United Kingdom. Sir George Cockburn was confessedly the "Wellington" of the navy, and like his illustrious brother-officer has lived to the great age of eighty-two. His career is one of surpassing interest, not only on account of his gallant actions afloat and ashore, but for his distinguished civil services. He was a sailor, soldier, diplomatist, and statesman, and was eminently successful in all those qualities that constitute a great man. As a sailor his name will live in history with the glorious actions of Nelson, Jervis, Keith, Hotnam, &c.

APPROACHING PROTESTANT CONFERENCE AT HAMBURG.—Early next week, about twenty of the leading protestants, from all parts of Europe, are to meet in conference at Hamburg, for the purpose of taking into consideration, the present position of Evangelical Protestantism on the Continent, and adopting those measures which may be deemed best adapted to promote its principles. The conference will last three days. Among our countrymen who intend to be present, will be Lord Shaftesbury, Sir Culling Eardley, and Mr. John McGregor.

The Wesleyan Conference has for some years had to report an annual decrease in the ranks of Methodism. It is officially reported to the Conference now in session that the numbers of the society have fallen off to the extent of more than ten thousand members during the past year.

The *Globe*, sympathising with the distressed Bishop of Durham, says it has been informed on the unimpeachable authority of a friend and apologist of Dr. Malby, that, after paying the expenses of his two establishments, and meeting the claims of charity, the Bishop of Durham has not more than £7,000 a year left him for his private expenses!

CATHOLIC MISSIONS.—The Liverpool Correspondent of the *Tablet* says:—"There is a district in Liverpool which, up to a very recent period, was given up entirely to what are called the dangerous classes. In an official book now before me it is described as having been 'one of the most notoriously corrupt and immoral districts in England, upon the state of which an interesting pamphlet was published not long since by a distinguished Clergyman of the Established Church.' Down the principal outlet of this nest of iniquity 'even the police ventured with reluctance, contenting themselves with a glance down the street.' Five infamous houses were the principal mansions of this City of Sin, and the reformation of the neighborhood seemed hopeless. However, the Rev. Thomas Newsham, a Catholic Clergyman, 'a gentleman to whom the progress of popular education in Liverpool owes a great deal'—and of whom I will add, that he might very properly have been summoned to give evidence on such a subject before such a committee, be thought himself of establishing a school. Not a school on scientific principles; not a penal reformatory establishment; not a thing fashioned according to the shilling modes and humors of the time, but, in plain English—a nunnery. He took upon him to bring over—I believe from France—some young ladies professing all those mysterious and shocking doctrines which are the special inheritance of Nuns, and no doubt, amongst their evil ways, practising upon one another the crime of incarceration. Where the policeman hardly ventured to set his foot the Rev. Thomas Newsham sent a few young women called Nuns, with directions to establish a plain old-fashioned Catholic school. The Superior of these Nuns—says our former official authority—though 'very young,' is "probably one of the most sagacious and accomplished teachers of our time; and though the enterprise was one of no common difficulty or peril, she and her companions applied themselves to it with a good and courageous heart." The result must be told in the official words from which I have already made extracts. "I visited the schools," says Mr. Marshall, the Inspector of Catholic schools, (Report for 1852-3, vol. 2, p. 713)—"four months after its operations had commenced. It then presented the aspect of a long-established and highly organized school; and the deportment of the children who were not only thoroughly subdued and disciplined, but completely under the control and influence of the teachers, was even unusually gentle and pleasing." Mr. Marshall then notices the progress the children had made in learning. "But this," he adds, "was of little importance compared with the whole work effected by the same agency. Of the five houses alluded to above three had been closed within a few weeks after the school opened, and the persuasive ministry of these humble women commenced; and the other two daily sent their younger inmates for instruction. My attention was particularly called to the children of this class, and if I do not attempt to express my admiration at the astonishing work accomplished in them, in the face of moral difficulties which no language can exaggerate, it is because the motions which such a spectacle excites are hardly capable of translation into words."—*Tablet*.

ENGLISH CHRISTIANITY.—I have been comparing notes between the condition of the heathen of London and the heathen of India, and I am compelled to say that, contrasted with the outrages and orgies of Indian heathenism, there are lamentable proofs that heathenism is actually surpassed in wickedness by the metropolis of England.—*Rev. Dr. Duff*.

THE SMYTH FORGERY CASE.—The extraordinary attempt at obtaining possession of estates in Gloucestershire and Somerset, worth nearly £30,000 a year, continues a fruitful source of discussion, and fresh revelations continue to be made as to the life of the claimant, J. Smyth, alias Provis, or, as he calls himself, "Sir Richard Hugh Smyth." The prisoner is confined in a separate cell in Gloucester county prison and occupies himself occasionally with writing. He declines to receive the prison diet, and his meals are supplied to him by his wife, or, as he calls her, "Lady Smyth." He refuses to attend Divine Service in the prison chapel, and represents himself as an Unitarian. He has retained the services of a Gloucester attorney to prepare his defence for his trial, which will not take place until April next. He has been recognised since his incarceration as having resided in Gloucester for some months in 1851, at a period when he swore on the examination at Gloucester assizes that he was living at Taunton.

THE DECIMAL COINAGE.—There are to be no more issues of half-crowns, which are to be gradually withdrawn from circulation, preparatory to a decimal coinage coming into operation.

THE POTATO BLIGHT.—Complaints of the ravages of the potato blight round Bristol and the adjacent district of Somersetshire are very numerous, and in some instances the visitation is as severe as in any year since its commencement.

We clip from the *London Times* the following article on "Brutality to women" in Protestant England:—"The cases coming daily before our police-courts of savage assaults upon women must excite universal disgust, indignation, and horror at the depravity from which they arise. The new law giving a magistrate a summary power of ordering imprisonment with hard labor does not appear to have any effect on the wretches whom it was meant to deter, and the number of offences actually shows an increase. A sort of mania for woman-beating has taken possession of the ruffian class, and greater severity of punishment has hitherto been accompanied by augmented violence and brutality. It is obvious that if the women of the humbler classes are not to be reduced below the condition of Indian squaws, some check more effective than we now have must be placed on the savage impulses of their husbands. This week a woman complained of her husband, to whom she had been married for 30 years. He was seen to drag her by the hair along the garden of his house, to beat her with all his force on the head and face, and to tear the hair from her head by handfuls. The wretched woman was rescued by her neighbors, and appeared before the magistrate with the marks of frightful injury bearing witness to the treatment she had received. Either through terror, or a natural softening of the heart of the wife, she endeavored to mitigate his offence when giving her evidence, and Mr. Beadon ordered the husband to find bail for his good behavior for six months. Why he did not inflict the penalty of hard labor is to us a mystery. Another ruffian, who was constantly in the habit of beating his wife, and who had been previously imprisoned, was brought up on Tuesday at another police-court. He had been married six years, and had

three children. He was idle, never contributed to the support of his family, and, in the words of a witness, "made his wife work like a horse to get money." The woman appeared in the witness-box, "a horrible sight," "her face having been kicked into one mass of wounds and bruises." She had also been attacked in the most deliberate manner by her cruel husband. He knocked her down, kicked her about the head with his nailed shoes, hauled her by the hair, hammered her head against the floor, and beat her about the body with an iron bar. She had her infant child in her arms, and vainly supplicated for mercy for herself and the poor baby. The energy of the mother in saving her child gave her strength to escape into the street. He flung a pail of water over her, and followed her, but a passer-by knocked him down, and the woman was protected from further violence. The magistrate, who justly described the husband as "worse than a wild beast," sentenced him to the highest punishment he had the power to inflict. Another "muscular-looking fellow," also for years in the habit of ill-treating his wife, and who had lately been imprisoned for assaulting her, was on the same day convicted at a different court of unmercifully beating his wife and daughter with a poker. He was excited to brutality because they could not supply him with money for debauchery. Another, married for ten years, had coolly warned his wife to secure herself when he was drunk, as he meant to destroy her. We find in another case an "unfortunate" cruelly beaten for laughing at a drunken ruffian. A young woman who interfered to save a wife being kicked and beaten by the husband until she became insensible was herself served in a similar manner by the infuriated brute. The last fortnight alone would swell out a column with a simple catalogue of cases in which women have been subjected to every variety of cruelty by their "natural protectors." Mr. Hammill in adjudicating on one of these cases, expressed his regret that he could not award corporal punishment, and we entirely concur with him. The very brutes do not tear their mates, and men who sink themselves below the brutes should be placed in the class they choose for themselves. These monsters outrage every law of civilized man, and violate every instinct of human nature. The lash may fail to correct them, but no squeamishness ought to induce us to spare it to them. The triangles erected in front of the goal, and a scourge in the hands of the executioner, is the picture which should be presented to the eyes of those who forget that they are men.

CONVERSIONS TO CATHOLICITY ON THE CONTINENT.

The *Univers* gives the following as an imperfect list, correct as far as it goes, of the principal conversions to Catholicity that have recently taken place in Germany and Switzerland:—

"Wickelmann, author of 'The History of Arts,' Leibnitz, philosopher, theologian, &c.; Geo. Zoega, archaeologist and restorer of Egyptian antiquities; J. G. Hamann, orientalist, and surnamed the 'Magnus of the North'; Comte Fr. Leop. de Stolberg; Frederic Schlegel, Adam Muller.

"PROTESTANT PASTORS.—L. Mosheim, nephew of the historian of that name; B. de Castleberg, a Swiss; V. de Castleberg, Swiss; Arendt, author of the life of S. Leo the great, professor at Louvain; Frandenfeld, Professor at Bonn, died a Jesuit; Dr. Hass, publicist; Dr. Herbst, publicist; Huguee, at present a Redemptorist, translator of the works of St. Liguori; Wolz, at Carlsruhe; Bunge, at Dresden; Dr. Maurice Muglich (Saxony); Singer (Swiss); Christfreund (Nassau); Hasert, pastor at Bunzlau (Silesia); Lutkenmuller, (Prussian); Meinhold, overtaken by death before his formal abjuration; the two sons of the latter, one of whom is in the seminary of Breslau, and the other in the propaganda in Rome.

"PROFESSORS, LITERARY MEN, &c.—Werner, a dramatic poet, died a Redemptorist; the two Gagerms, Dr. Eisenbach of Toubingen, N. Moller, at present a professor at Louvain; Durt, a professor at Dusseldorf; several professors of Jena, Dr. Phillips, professor at Berlin; Dr. Jarcke, professor at Berlin; L. De'Or, Dr. Bartholome, Charles Vogel, at Dresden; C. Fleischer, at Frankfurt; Dr. Konier, at Wurzburg; Propst, at Basle; V. Schmidt, at Berlin; Massen, editor of the *Correspondent du Nord*; de Florencourt present editor of the *Volkshalle*; the Countess Hahn-Hahn, religious of the Good Shepherd; Stork, author of the *Banquet de Theodule*; Cl. Brantano, poet and litterateur; Chr. Schlosser, professor at Bonn; Fr. Schlosser, litterateur; and publicist; Baron D'Eckstein; Ch. L. de Haller; Fd. Hurter, at Vienna; Aug. Theiner, Oratorian at Rome; Ranke, at Worms.

"STATESMEN.—The Count de Seuff-Pilasch, Ambassador of Saxony in France; Count de Beckendorf, Prussian Minister; Rintel Referendary of the Regency of Königsberg in Prussia; De Haldeberg, Riedel, Counsellor at Erfurt; De Sohadt, president at Weimar; Comte de Hardenberg, ambassador of Hanover, at Berlin; Snell, Secretary-General of the Swiss Confederation; Comte de Degenfeld-Schomburg, Aide-de-camp to his Majesty the King of Wurtemberg.

"ARTISTS.—Overbeck, painter, at Rome; Veit, painter, at Frankfurt; Schadow, painter, at Dusseldorf; Sorg, painter, at Mayence; Fred. Muller, painter, at Cassel; Zandf, architect, at Berlin.

"PERSONS OF RANK.—The Prince d'Ingenheim, brother of the King of Prussia, Frederick William III.; Duke Adolph. of Mecklenburg-Schwerin; Prince Frederick of Hesse Darmstadt; a Duke of Saxe Gotha; Princess Charlotte Fredericque of Mecklenburg-Schwerin Prince and Princess Dimitri-Gallitzin; Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, on his death bed; Prince de Waldourg-Zeil, Jesuit; Comte de Gertz, at Mayence; Baron de Rumour, Ch. de Schnorr, Ed. de Schnorr, Baron de Berlepsch, Stadel, banker at Mayence; Comte de Vogelsang, Baron de Ketterbourg (Mecklenburg); de Bulow, de Rochow, de Patow, Pf. de Diersdorf, (Prussia); Oleszewsky, de Potritten; de Morgenenthal, de Rovera, of Rovera, of Berne; Bernouilly, major; Huber de Basle, Du Pont Villamez, Bertholet de Ferriere, Swiss; Countess de Salis, Mme. de Bernardy, sister of the poet Tieck; Countess de Zichy, at Vienna; Julie de Schaal, at the Court of Hesse Cassel; the Countess de Kiehlmannsegge, an English nun; Octavia de Watercoop, a Sister of Charity; the Baroness D'Ordre and Madame de Bresson, both Swiss; the Countess de Salm Hoogstraeten; the Princess of Wasa, &c."

The *Univers* remarks that the list is very incomplete. Several of the names have been extracted from a publication of the Abbe Rohrbacher, and the conversions since 1843 have been added from memory.