

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DIOCESIS OF OSSORY.—The Bishop of Ossory has had the happiness of conveying to the Holy Father the sum of £945 as the contribution of his diocese to the Peter's Pence. The Pope has warmly acknowledged this further proof of the filial love and devotion of the Irish nation to the Holy See, and bestowed the Apostolical Benediction on Bishop, priests, and people of the diocese.

DIOCESIS OF TUAM.—His Grace, the Archbishop has laid the foundation-stone of a new church at Clifden. The cost of building will be about £7,000. The church, which is Gothic in style, has been designed by J. J. O'Callaghan, Esq., of Dublin; and the builder is Mr. Morris, of Sligo. The Rev. Fr. McGee, of Castlebar, has announced his intention to build a new church there.

THE YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—In refutation of the cheap assertions made from time to time, especially lately, that all previous efforts to establish Catholic societies have failed, the Catholic Times instances that great Catholic organization, the Young Men's Society, founded in "The City of the Broken Treaty," Society, founded in 1849. That society by the Von Dean O'Brien, in 1849. That society by the Von Dean O'Brien alone 6,000 members, and numbers in Liverpool alone approach Holy Communion every month. This success is in great part attributable to the action of the Central Council, which is composed of the officers and two delegates from each branch of the society in Liverpool. Each year this body elects its own president, vice-president, and hon. secretary.

The League of S. Sebastian represents the party of action amongst the Catholic body in these realms. Its founders are soldiers who have fought at Mentana and Porta Pia, good men and true, who are not to be discouraged by difficulties, any more than they were frightened by the threats of Italy. Their existence as a body is "a standing act of faith" in the resurrection of the temporal Power.—Catholic Opinion.

At a meeting of members of the League of S. Sebastian, held at Dublin, Sept. 21st, steps were taken for the formation of an organization to afford material help towards restoring the temporal power of the Pope.

Castlebar new Catholic Church will possibly cost £10,000. The preliminary meeting at the Presbytery, held on Wednesday, and at which the Archbishop was graciously pleased to be present, was one of the most agreeable and forcible proofs of the religious and educational aspirations of the people that we ever present at. There was a modesty and propriety of speech and a noble spirit of munificence that shed credit on Ireland and the Irish race. Many a Castlebar man, far away from Ireland, will rejoice in his heart at this grand evidence of the inextinguishable faith and nationality of the people. We refer to our columns for the list of names and the subscriptions which they represent. Within the short space of half-an-hour the amount subscribed reached £1,350.—Haly Examiner.

STRIKES IN IRELAND.—A meeting of the employers of labour in Cork was held on Saturday in the Commercial Buildings, in reference to the present and threatened strikes. The proceedings were private, but we understand that some important resolutions were adopted. It was agreed that those who had engaged in an organized strike should not be received into the service of other employers, and it was resolved to institute a fund to enable individual employers to resist exorbitant demands made upon them. A very large sum was subscribed in the room. The Linerick bakers have declared their intention of refusing to perform night-work after the 7th inst., and their brethren in Athlone have demanded 25s. a week, with perquisites. In Nenagh the smiths have formed a combination to raise the price of their work.

THE RESULTS OF A STRIKE.—Strikes have not been very reassuring to the operatives lately, at least in Ireland. The labourers employed by the steam packet companies in Cork and Dublin did not gain much by their movements recently, but the quay labourers in Belfast have made a decidedly bad hit. The result of the strike, has been that substitutes were obtained, and only a few of the old hands are re-employed, and these at a reduction in their wages of two shillings per week, which they were glad to accept.

THE FENIAN REGIMENT AT CORK.—Three privates of the 43rd Regiment have been sentenced by court-martial to 42 days' confinement in the cells for taking part in the funeral of Bryan Dillon.

When we do a thing we like to do it thoroughly. We believe in the wisdom of the best—"What thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," and once having put our hand to the plough we do not turn back. In our opinion, the question of the day in Ireland—a question on which the future prosperity of the country may hinge—is that of the utilisation of our fuel supplies. We believe that it is possible so to develop these as to convert Ireland from a fuel-importing into a fuel-exporting country, or at any rate enable the Irish community to supply their own wants, without resorting to England. It was not without deliberation that we arrived at this conclusion, nor do we now desire to lay it down dogmatically, far less to ask any person to act upon or even accept it upon our mere ipse dixit. It is sufficient that the patent fees of the case, the enormous and probably permanent increase in the cost of coal, indicate that the time has arrived when public attention should be seriously directed to our long-neglected sources of home supply, and the question of their utilisation taken into practical consideration.—Dublin Freeman.

Those who believe in Popish bigotry would do well to study the history of Ireland from the period of the so-called Reformation up to the present time. From this it will be seen that when the Catholics of Ireland have been defeated by their opponents they have been treated with the most relentless cruelty, nothing short of their extermination being sought by their persecutors. On the other hand, when the Catholics have been in the ascendant it is a well-known fact that they have behaved in the most chivalrous manner to their opponents, and frequently afforded shelter to refugees driven from other lands by persecution. The Catholics of Ireland are in the majority, and none know better than the Protestants living amongst them, the kindly feelings they display. Far different is it in the portions of Ireland where the Protestants are in a majority. This is luckily but a comparatively small district. This is the North-eastern part of the province of Ulster. Belfast, the capital of this district, which ever prides itself on being the "Irish Athens," has ever been the stronghold of Orange bigotry. It is the only important town in Ireland where the Catholics are in a minority, as here they number but a third of the population. Since the rise of the influential Orange system the Catholics have had to carry on an unequal struggle against their fiendish opponents; for, besides being numerically inferior, they have until very recently been without arms to defend themselves; whereas it is a noted fact that there cannot be less than a hundred thousand stand of arms in the possession of the Orangemen of Ulster, and that most of these were actually supplied by the British Government when there were troublesome times threatened in 1848. With these weapons the Orange miscreants have annually shot down their defenceless Catholic neighbors. It was not in Christianity, that any body of people should thus submit to be murdered in cold blood. There was no justice for the Catholics of Ulster, for the magistrates before whom justice (?) was sought were either Orangemen themselves or Orange sympathisers; and the juries were so carefully packed that it was next to impossible to convict an Orangeman, how-

ever diabolical his crime, or however plain the proofs of his guilt. The Catholics then determined, and rightly determined, to take the law into their own hands. The result has been that arms, comparatively few as compared with those in possession of their opponents, have been procured by the Catholics of Belfast, and as a consequence they are not now shot down as formerly, as a sportsman would shoot down wild animals. They are able to strike blow for blow. Far be it from us to counsel anything leading to bloodshed. The Catholic Church discommunes this; and knowing this, the Orange miscreants have presumed too far and mistaken Christian forbearance for pusillanimity. They have however, on the recent occasion been taught to respect the manhood and bravery of the Catholics, and we say it without hesitation that they have received a lesson they will long remember. There will be no more riots in Belfast.—Catholic Times.

THE HARVEST PROSPECTS.—It is to be feared that the harvest of 1872 will be a short one—short by about 20 per cent of the average of the last six or eight years. The deficiency extends to every crop except the hay, which is remarkably good and plentiful. Of the other crops, the potatoes have suffered most, about one-third of the tubers being ascertained to be diseased, and the disease being still in full progress. The turnips have also failed in very many districts, the roots being very small even where the fields make a good show. On this important item of our agricultural wealth a loss of 35 per cent is apprehended. Both turnips and all other green crops have suffered severely this year from weeds the excessive rankness of which is due to the wetness of the season. In the still more important item of oats, there is a loss of probably 30 per cent owing to rust; and should the present wet weather continuing for another week of the two or three that remain before the harvest will be completed, there will be a further heavy loss from the corn being lodged and got in in bad condition. The wheat, far less extensively grown cereal, has done quite well on thin light uplands, from which the excessive moisture drains off rapidly; but on the heavy clay soil the yield will be a very poor one. The principal enemy both of the wheat and the oat crop has been the violent rain storms of July, which knocked about and shook the growing stalks, and loosened their hold of their tender roots on the ground. Another adverse circumstance was the damp condition of the earth in March, at the time of sowing. A large proportion of the young shoots could not struggle through the semi-puddle clay to light and air. The Barley is expected to be a fair crop, not very inferior to that of 1871. Of course, all these estimates, except that of the hay crop, which is now beyond the reach of accidents, are subject to contingencies of the weather during the next ten or twelve days. Should the weather prove better than the present appearances warrant us in expecting, the farmer may yet receive a reasonable return for his labors. On the contrary, much rain and little sunshine will make the year 1872 a break in the prosperity enjoyed now for a pretty long period by the Irish farmer. Fortunately, the very considerable savings effected of late years by this large class will prevent anything like distress, or pressure being extensively felt by its members. As to consumers in general, there seems no reason to apprehend an advance on the high prices to which we are now, after a somewhat painful ordeal, getting accustomed. There has been a splendid, an unexampled harvest in France (how that red rain has made the harvest good!) and of that Free Trade will give the Irish consumer the benefit. The high price of coal seems more likely than any other cause to add this year to the pressure on the lower middle class, and to the positive distress and suffering of the actually poor.—Irish Times.

HOME RULE.—The difficulty was to reconcile our people—those who are now as in former times what was called Repeal—to what might seem a lesser demand; but the impression is now well-nigh universal in favour of accepting what is known as Home Rule, or complete independence in all matters that belong exclusively to Ireland, with an independent partnership with England in all purely Imperial affairs. This is possible of achievement—the other is not; Home Rule will be conceded—Repeal will be resisted, and fought out to the bitter end. But suppose we could have the one or the other at our own option, we hold that in local independence and Imperial partnership we would have a much better bargain for Ireland—that is, for ourselves and our families, O'Connell was known to be personally in favour of the principle of Federation, but he could not run counter to the strong popular tide that then rushed and roared in the direction of Repeal. Were he alive at this moment, he would gladly settle the old-standing differences between the two countries on the safe and honourable basis of a Federal Union. It is now some 40 years since the Repeal agitation was at its height; and since that day the world has learned many things, outlived many cherished illusions, and had reason to exchange, or at any rate modify, its opinions—and that, too, without abandoning a vital principle. Since then America has sprung up into one of the Great Powers of the earth vindicating the value of the Federal principle; since then the same principle has been in successful operation in other countries; since then we ourselves have adopted and tested the same principle in the most important of our own colonial possessions. This principle has helped to dry up, as with a magic sceptic, the torrents of blood shed in the war of North and South—may even to wipe out its every trace and, if possible, its very memory. What so gloriously withstood the effect of that tremendous conflict, and outlived that gigantic rupture, must have in its vital elements of union and of health—and of thorough local dignity and independence, too. And surely what so gloriously vindicates itself in the United States, and is so successfully working in Canada, must be good for these countries—must be good for Ireland. Besides, it is not only wise, but really patriotic, to abandon the impossible for the possible; and rather to look for that which may be had without the disruption of any interest, or indeed of any feeling, than to keep our hearts constantly yearning after that striving for which would entail all manner of calamities upon us and our country. But is this Home Rule, or Federation or local independence and Imperial partnership, possible of attainment? In a word, can we have it? The mass of the English people are not opposed to it, or can be got to assent to it—or, in fact, to anything which would not; and then the Irish people can so flood the representation with the National sentiment and demand, that anything like protracted resistance to a sentiment so strong, and a demand so formidable—we mean to Ministers and parties—would be both unconstitutional and impossible. Besides, things are growing from bad to worse in Parliament, and the conviction is becoming stronger and stronger every day that "something must be done" to meet the increasing difficulty; and when that conviction fastens itself upon Englishmen we are certain to be not far from a beneficial change.—Cork Examiner.

IRISH GOVERNORS OF THE COLONIES.—The number of Irishmen in charge of Colonial possessions as Governors is very striking. A Parliamentary paper, just issued, gives the following as in office in June, 1872:—Dominion of Canada, Lord Lisgar, Governor-General, Lord Dufferin (just appointed to succeed General Lord Lisgar); W. Robinson, Lieutenant-Governor, Prince Edward's Island; W. W. Cairns, Lieutenant-Governor, British Honduras; John P. Hennessy, C.M.G. Bahamas; Colonel D'Arcy, Falkland Islands; J. T. F. Callaghan, Gibraltar; Right Hon. W. H. Gregory, Ceylon; Sir A. E. Kennedy, K.C.M.G., C.B., Hong Kong; Commander Shaw, Malacca; Sir H. G. R. Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor of New South Wales; and Sir G. Bowen, G.C.M.G., Governor of New Zealand. It is but a few months since the supreme government of the Indian Empire fell into the hands of the Earl of Mayo; the Earl of Belmore had been Governor of New South Wales; Lord Monck of the Dominion of Canada; and Sir R. G. Macdonnell and Sir F. Hincks—all Irishmen—of important colonies. Only one Catholic—F. A. Weld, an Englishman—appears amongst the Colonial Governors.

THE HOME RULE ASSOCIATION.—This association has performed on itself the "happy despatch," by passing a resolution thanking the Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Orange Brethren generally for their forbearance in the recent demonstrations.

CRIME IN IRELAND.—The report for 1871 of the Inspectors-General of Prisons in Ireland is now before the public and affords matter for congratulation as to the moral state of the country. The total number of prisoners in goals of all classes on the 1st January, 1872, was 2,093, showing a decrease of over three per cent. as compared with the previous year, whilst the return for 1871 showed 10,984 prisoners on the 1st of that year. The highest number of prisoners at any one time during 1871 was 2,966 and the lowest 1,523. The Inspectors complain of the inequality of punishment under the present system, the discipline in some goals being very severe whilst in others it is very loose. Unfortunately there is one crime on the increase, drunkenness amongst women. There were, in 1871, 646 females committed for this crime than in the previous year, whilst there was a decrease amongst males of 200 as against 1870.

THE RIOTS IN LURGAN.—The Catholics of Lurgan have memorialized Government for an enquiry concerning the riots that recently disgraced that town.

THE CROP IN IRELAND.—The Observer has the following:—Once more there is a heavy cloud impending over this unhappy island and one which legislation will not avail to remove at least for the present. The potato blight has reappeared with great intensity, and so far as I can ascertain very widely spread over the whole country. Having arrived here from England a short time after the blight occurred, I had an opportunity of ascertaining with great accuracy the circumstances under which it appeared, and also of observing its progress up to the present moment, when the whole of the leaves having been destroyed, and the stalks left perfectly bare.

THE PHENIX PARK RIOTS.—EXPENSIVE LITIGATION.—Since the conclusion of the case of O'Brien v. Marquis of Hartington, in July last, which resulted in a verdict against the Irish Chief Secretary and the police authorities, for an assault committed in the Phoenix Park, at the amnesty meeting in August 1871, negotiations have been going on with the other plaintiffs, eight in number, whose cases are still undecided, with a view to the settlement of the actions out of court. It was estimated on their side that the defendants were willing to compromise the actions upon receiving a guarantee that no more plaintiffs would appear against them. It has now, however, been definitely settled that the actions are to be tried in November. The Treasury Solicitor has intimated that his clients decline to compromise. The cost to the Government on their own side is estimated at £10,000, while the plaintiffs amount nearly £2,500. It is probable the eight trials to come off will cost £40,000.

Some of the quay laborers at Belfast were recently granted an increase of pay to the extent of 1s. per week. This increase has just been withdrawn, there being plenty of hands willing to work and anxious to get work at the reduced rate.

The magistrates of the North Riding of Tipperary met to consider the propriety of asking the Government to reduce the extra police force in the county. A resolution was ultimately agreed to, in favor of a reduction of the number by 50 men. In the course of the discussion the County Inspector, who was present, made a statement, which seemed to indicate that much of the boasted tranquillity of the county—on account of which the reduction is proposed—was in reality due to the effective police arrangements, and especially to the new system of patrolling, which the County Inspector stated could not be kept up if the force were reduced.

The Census Commission states that the Census Commissioners have been causing the constabulary to pay a second visit to many houses in the district to inquire as to the religious profession of the inmates in those cases in which they had described themselves as belonging to the "Church of Ireland."

RISE OF COAL AND CULM AT STRIVINGS COLLIERY.—These extensive mines in the county Tipperary, which are being worked by the Mining Company of Ireland, most of whom are Dublin merchants, give employment to a large number of men, and in consequence of their pay having been lately raised the company feel themselves constrained to advance the price of coal 10s. per ton and culm 2s. 6d. per ditto. During the past twelve years deposits have been established at Callan, Thurles, Kilkenny, Nine-mile-horse, Kilmoney, and Mullinglough, and the consumption is so great that it is with much difficulty the supply can be kept up in Callan alone. From 45 to 50 tons of culm is disposed of daily for the last two months.

THE BELFAST RIOTS.—At the usual monthly meeting of the Belfast Town Commissioners there was a discussion respecting the recent riots. Mr. Gaffikin observed that when the costs of the riots were added up the rate-payers would find that the repeal of the Riotous Processions Act was a mistake as far as the North of Ireland was concerned. It was resolved to ask for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the cause of the riots.

The two men who were charged with having shot at and killed constable Morton during the recent riots at Belfast have been committed for trial. The disease among the potato crop is extending. Other riots promise well. It is stated that arrangements are being made by some of the Catholic orders in Ireland to receive such of their brethren as have been expelled from Germany.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER.—A single glance at the Archbishop shows you with how much justice some men are said to have a vocation. His vocation as a great leader of a great Church is visible on every feature, in every line of the whole form. An expression more thoroughly purified of every taint of sensuousness I have never seen. You seem to be looking on so much embodied intellect, and though there is abundant feeling in the face it is of a kind whose operations are but another form of exalted thought. It is the living image in our own day of one of those ascetics of the middle ages with which art has made us familiar. In this view the broad, open brow, the exceedingly delicate and even attenuated features below it, the spare form, its breath altogether wanting in proportion to its commanding height, and the long, thin hands have each and all their harmonious beauty of perfect character and keeping. They form a living illustration of that war between the spirit and the flesh in which Catholicism has ever loved to find its highest glory. All that is merely corporeal in the organization seems to have been wasted away under the consuming heat of spiritual fire. The limbs have no redundancy of strength or fullness; the whole frame is visibly but the subordinate "agent" of the mind and soul. I hear that the Archbishop dies more sparingly than the poorest creature in his diocese, that long vigils and incessant activity during his waking hours are the fixed habit of his life. I should indeed incline to think that nature herself had spared him much of the labour that usually gives the spiritual victory over the earthly affections. He has the make of a born ascetic. It is impossible to conceive any circumstances under which this man could have ex-

alted his body to a sovereignty over his mind. In any age he must have belonged by temperament to the class destined to the exercise of spiritual domination. The secret of that kind of conquest over mankind lying in the initial conquest of self, he would begin his career with that victory all but achieved.—N. Y. World Correspondent.

The London Standard-Protestant—says—"Pius IX. has created a Roman Catholic party in Europe, indeed in every quarter of the globe. It was he who inspired the sentiment, now unhappily so widely prevailing, which found utterance by the mouth of an English Peer—himself once of our own Anglican communion—that a man may be an Englishman, a Frenchman, or a German, but that he is a Catholic first and before all things. That is Pius IX's own doing. * * * Rome, under the guidance of Pius IX., at least knows its own mind, which is more than can be said of perhaps any other influential branch of the Christian Church at the present moment. That in itself is no small matter. But over and above all that, there are certain theories of government, of education, of social policy, and of intelligent people, and of which Rome is now the only defender and upholder. Upon a calm review of all the circumstances of the case, we think it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that were Pius IX. to die to-morrow he would leave the Roman Church far more powerful than he found it, and endowed with a far higher vitality. We think it likely that Pius IX. will be regarded in future Roman Catholic annals as one of the most distinguished and meritorious of the long line of Popes."

The Standard gives the most unfavorable accounts of the potato crop in Great Britain. It states that the Scotch potato crop has been utterly ruined. On last Sunday, we are told, "a heavy cloud of 'hoar' passed over the Scotch potato districts, and it is declared that a disease fixed itself instantaneously upon her uric potato crop. In a comparatively few hours expected yields to the value of hundreds of thousands of pounds were lost beyond hope or chance of recovery. Then the fine beds of the East Lothian, whence England derives her choicest qualities, have in this respect suffered still more severely." As to England itself, the accounts are equally gloomy. "Lincolnshire, so far as potatoes are concerned, is nearly barren; so is Staffordshire, and so is Shropshire." It is on all hands conceded that the weather is responsible for this calamity. We have had abundant thunder-storms this summer, and Mr. Hughes writes from Tiverton that immediately after any great electrical disturbance in the atmosphere he has noticed the well-known blotch upon the plants, indicating disease and worthlessness as food; and that instantly subsequent to sunset an offensive odour has emanated from the fields. During the summers of 1869, 1870, and 1871 there were very few thunderstorms—scarcely any of noticeable violence—and in those years there was little, if any, potato blight; but this season the blight seems to have followed the weather with undeviating, or to employ a more forcible term, malignant regularity. "In effect, then," continues the Standard, "we are threatened with an obliteration of the potato crop. Certainly with a potato famine, and a furious feud between master and man, the prospects of rural England look gloomy enough during the coming winter."

FASHIONABLE WOMEN.—Fashion kills more women than toil and sorrow. Obedience to fashion is a greater transgression of the laws of woman's nature, a greater injury to her physical and mental constitution, than the hardships of poverty and neglect. The slave woman at her task will live and grow old and see two or three generations of her mistress pass away. The washerwoman, with scarcely a ray of hope to cheer her in her toils, will live to see her fashionable sisters all extinct. The kitchen maid is hearty and strong, when her lady has to be nursed like a sick baby. It is a sad truth, that fashionable-pampered woman are almost worthless for all good ends of life: they have but little force of character, they have still less power of moral will, and as little physical energy. They live for no great purpose in life—they accomplish no great ends. They are dolls formed in the hands of milliners and servants, to be fed to order. If they rear children, servants and nurses do all save to conceive and give them birth. And when reared, what are they? What do they ever amount to, but weaker scions of the old stock? Who ever heard of a fashionable woman's child exhibiting any virtue and power of mind for which it became eminent? Read the biographies of our great and good men and women. Not one of them had a fashionable mother.

A WIFE'S CREDIT.—In the Sheffield County Court the judge has given his decision in a case in which a grocer named Gray sought to recover £18. 3s. 11d. from a colliery steward named Wigley, living in the same place. The evidence showed that defendant, who worked all day in a coal pit, earned 27s. a week. He was in the habit of allowing his wife 20s. every week, and the whole of the wages earned by his two sons, who resided with their parents. He discovered last Christmas, when the account had been going on for the space of three years, that through his wife he was indebted to the plaintiff in the sum claimed. The judge decided that the defendant was not liable to pay this, as he had not given his wife any authority to pledge his credit.

MORTALITY IN ENGLAND.—The Registrar-General's return reports 5,114 births, 3,402 deaths. In London and 20 other cities and towns, for the week ended Saturday, the mortality was 24 per thousand. London, 19; Bristol, 20; Wolverhampton, 23; Birmingham, 30; Leicester, 30; Nottingham, 30; Liverpool, 30; Manchester, 31; Bradford, 25; Leeds, 22; Sheffield, 23; Newcastle, 35. At Leicester deaths from scarlet fever were at the rate of 19 per thousand.

COLLIERS' MOVEMENT.—The Fife and Clackmannan Colliery masters have announced that they will give no further rise than 1s. per day, and henceforth they will individually settle the affairs of their respective collieries; the men are determined to press their demand for 1s. 6d. per day, and a mass meeting has been summoned for Thursday at Dunfermline. The top men of the South Yorkshire collieries encouraged by the concessions to the miners, are agitating for an increase of about 20 per cent.

At Wolverhampton a man named Gough has murdered his wife, the crime being apparently attributable to drunkenness; at Wenhaston, Suffolk, a woman living apart from her husband has murdered her daughter, six years of age, her statement being that the child was disobedient and she thought she would kill it; and at Tringley, near Bolton, a joiner named Jones, in a dispute with a young man with whom he had been playing bowls, plunged his chisel into his stomach, inflicting a mortal wound.

EMIGRATION.—During the month of August there sailed "under the act," from Liverpool to the United States, 34 ships with 2,433 cabin and 12,896 steerage passengers, showing a slight decrease when compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The Warrington Guardian announces the arrival of eight Jesuits at Ditton-hall, near Warrington. A spacious residence has been placed at their disposal as a home and for educational purposes, by Mrs. Stapleton Bretherton, of Rainhill.

COAL.—The total quantity of coal raised in the world is estimated at 1954 million tons, Europe yielding 1673 millions; America 27 millions, almost entirely from the United States; Asia and Australasia nearly 1 million.—Mechanics Magazine.

The Liverpool Mercury says that of the 73 prisoners for trial at the present sessions for that borough only 5 can read and write well. 17 can neither read nor write.

Dr. Hooker, the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, near London, has written to the London Times to say that it has been suggested to him by Mr. Gladstone that now that England is on the eve of a potato famine, he should give the widest publicity to the very simple method successfully introduced by the late Rev. Professor Henslow into certain villages in Suffolk and elsewhere for utilizing the diseased tubers; and he goes on to explain that the method depends on the fact that the starch of the potato is not affected by the disease, but retains its nutritive properties, and consists in rasping the peeled tubers upon a bread-grater into a tub of cold water. In a few minutes the starch will be found to have sunk to the bottom, and the diseased matter, woody fibre, &c., will be suspended in the water, and should be poured away with it. Fresh water should then be added, the starch stirred up and allowed to settle. Two or three of such washings will remove all impurities, and render the starch fit for use. If thoroughly dried it will keep for any time, and can be used as arrowroot for puddings or cakes, or, mixed with flour, as bread. A flat piece of tin, prepared as a grater, may be had of a tinsmith for a trifle, and nothing else is required but a knife and a tub of water.

A NEW CATHOLIC BISHOP.—The Scotsman gives currency to the rumor that Dr. Herbert Vaughan, editor of the Tablet, will be appointed Catholic Bishop of Salford, in the room of the late Dr. Turner.

GOLD COIN ACT.—In the three years ending the 31st March, 1872, gold coins of the nominal value of 1,975,716 were cut by the Bank of England. The loss sustained by the owners of the coins amounted to £25,413, a seventy-eighth part of the nominal value.

In England 3,329,500 acres yield 12,482,400 quarters of wheat, or 29 nine-tenths imperial bushels per acre.

UNITED STATES.

THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE.—The elevation of Dr. James Roosevelt Bayley, Catholic Bishop of Newark, to the Archbishopric of Baltimore and the Primacy of the Catholic Church in the United States is a striking illustration of the great change which has occurred during the last quarter of a century in the condition of the Catholic Church in Protestant countries. Dr. Bayley, like Dr. Manning, Archbishop of Westminster and Catholic Primate of England, was bred a Protestant, and began his ecclesiastical career as a clergyman of the Anglican Church. He is a native, too, of the United States, as Dr. Manning is of England. A generation has scarcely passed away since to be a Catholic in England was to be disfranchised politically and to be suspected socially. A generation has not yet passed away since a great proscription party was organized in this country on the express ground of hostility to the Catholic Church. It suited the purpose of the time serving politicians so well in those days to join such a party that Henry Wilson, now the Radical candidate for the Vice-Presidency, early became an active member of its council, took the "Know Nothing" oaths, and by its help was elected a Senator of the United States. At the same time Mr. Blanton Duncan, who is now attempting to help Mr. Henry Wilson into the Vice-Presidency by organizing an "independent" Democratic bolt, was also an active proscriptionist, and, as a Washington journal shows, took part in a hideous massacre of Catholics and Irishmen which then disgraced the fair City of Louisville.

Now we find such men as Mr. Wilson and Mr. Blanton Duncan eager to conceal their past connection with this proscriptionist crusade, not, we fear, because they have learned tolerance or liberality, but simply because the Catholic Church which was then feeble and struggling is now a prosperous and powerful body of believers among us. The great mass of American citizens, however, we believe, have made more progress in this matter than the politicians. They have learned by the contact and experience of daily life that men may be good Catholics without being bad citizens. It is more easy to hate a church or a nation when we see little of the individuals who belong to the one or the other than it is when they meet us in our daily walks and mingle with us in the incessant offices of life. The spectacle of an American Catholic Church with a primate of American birth and of Protestant antecedents ought to be considered, and by all thoughtful and liberal men will be considered, a symptom of genuine progress and a pledge of future peace and harmony among us.—N. Y. World.

SETTLEMENT OF THE "ALABAMA," ETC., CLAIMS.—The N. Y. Herald, with its usual enterprise, has given a full description, in regard to the Arbitration at Geneva, and its results. Owing to the singular and disgraceful concessions of the English Government, several points have been accepted, as agreed to, that nullify all previously-recognized obligations of "international law." But the very mention of "international law" excites a sinister laugh. There was, once, a Christendom. There was, as the moral Heart of all the nations of Christians, an Authority that, in the esteem of the Christian peoples interested, was "mightier than the sword." This has been done away with. There is no longer, among Nations called Christian, a Prophet, nor any one that can tell "how long" any given Nation will keep its pledges. The rule of morals, between Nations, is ignored. Now, it is greed or craft, or cowardice, that takes the place of the old Public Conscience.—England has, in this Geneva Arbitration, submitted to a signal humiliation! England claims, and rightly, according to former precedents, that no breach of international law was committed, by her, during our late civil war. England may, by her organs of the press, make light of her humiliation. Her newspapers may say, as they please, that it is a sum paid in view of great advantages to be gained hereafter! But! There never was an international treaty made that had not a hundred loopholes in it! It is not to be denied, stupid as Gen. Grant's Administration, in Foreign Affairs, has been—with Fish as Secretary of State—that England has been greatly humiliated! England was altogether right in saying that, according to all settled notions of international law, she did not owe the United States a penny! But she has consented to pay fifteen and a half millions, in coin. It is the fine imposed on England, for her malevolent ill-will to America! But it is far enough from making a "ruled case" whenever a political crisis may arise.—N. Y. Freeman.

It is a peculiar characteristic of the French mind to prefer the dice to the utile—the look of the thing to its use. Witness the following from a great English authority on French doings: "A new costume for sea bathers at Trouville has been invented; it is of indiarubber and quite waterproof. It looks well." Unintentional sarcasm evidently—that last sentence: "It looks well" but of what earthly use is a waterproof bathing dress? And yet we have not the least doubt that some of Mr. Darwin's undeveloped relations will be aping this idiotical fashion next season at Long Branch and elsewhere.

A PIOUS JAIL-BIRD.—Rosenzweig, who caused the death of Alice Bowlsby, has become one of the most pious men within the walls of Clinton prison, and his voice in the choir is heard far above his fellow-singers.

POOR EDITORS.—Somebody says editors are poor, whereupon a Yankee editor says—"Humbog. Here we are, editor of a country newspaper, fairly rolling in wealth. We have a good office, a paste pot, a double barrelled gun, two suits of clothes, three kettles, a Newfoundland pup, two watches, three days and two night shirts, carpet on the floor, a pretty wife, have ninety cents in cash, are out of debt, and have no rich relatives. If we are not wealthy, it is a pity."