

Sir James Power has contributed £25 towards the Franciscan Chapel in Dublin.

The Lord Lieutenant has contributed £20 towards the relief of the destitute operatives out of employment in Belfast.

John Wilson Lynch, Esq., of Benmore Lodge, has been appointed High Sheriff of Galway, and has nominated Joseph McDonnell, Esq., of the College Road, as his Under Sheriff.

Sir Timothy O'Brien, Bart., was on Monday, Dec. 14, elected governor, and Alderman Moylan deputy governor of the Hibernian Bank, Dublin. There was no opposition.

A bill is being proposed by the Solicitor-General for Ireland for the purpose of simplifying the transfer of land in Ireland.

At the sale of the Marquis of Thomond's estates in the county Clare, the tenants in occupation were the chief purchasers.

Mr. Thomas Greene, of Bannis, agent of Thomas Rice Henn, Esq., has been appointed agent of the property in the county Clare recently purchased by the Lord Justice of the Court of Appeals.

Captain Considine is the purchaser of Inchiquin Castle for £4,200, outbidding two lords in the sale by auction at the Rotundo, Dublin.

Owing to the late fall in prices, tenant farmers in many districts are already seeking an abatement in their rents.

THE MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.—STREVS v. CAMPION.—This extraordinary trial commenced on the 13th ultimo, in the Court of Exchequer, Nisi Prius, Dublin. It is an action for slander laid by Mr. Geo. Strevs, nephew of the late Mrs. Kelly, who was murdered by two men, at Ballinderry, on the 8th of April, 1856, against Mr. Christopher Campion, a solicitor, of Dublin, who was Mrs. Kelly's legal adviser, and was, besides, a personal friend. The slanderous words complained of were used by Mr. Campion, and addressed to Mr. Strevs immediately after the murder. You will see long reports of the trial in all the papers, but, to be clear, I may here mention briefly the facts of the case. Mrs. Kelly was standing in a field in which she had some women at work. Mr. Strevs had accompanied her, and was standing near her, when two men, with cloaks on and veils over their faces, stepped over the hedge, approached her, fired at her, one shot each, and killed her instantly. Mr. Strevs says he was frightened, he "ran about," he would have pursued one of the murderers, but the fellow presented a blunderbuss at him and chased him across the fields. Strevs then went to the house at Ballinderry, which he had left a few minutes before in company with his aunt, and he informed Mr. Campion, who was staying there at the time, of what had occurred. Campion proceeded with him to where Mrs. Kelly lay, and then made use of the words charged as slander in the present action. He said, in a tone and manner which implied suspicion that Strevs had some guilty connection with the deed. "Well, Mr. Strevs, how was the job done? It was well planned; a pretty protection she had." Both Strevs and Campion were soon after arrested: the actual murderers escaped and have never been heard of since. A month had not elapsed after the deed, when Strevs laid his action, but being for some time in prison, and being held to bail ever since, until a few weeks ago, when he was released from his recognizances, he was unable to proceed with it until now. Damages are laid at £5,000. The following extract from one of the Dublin papers, published a few days after the murder of Mrs. Kelly, will give a sketch of a strange eventful history.—Sarah Kelly was born at Broadstairs, a watering place on the coast of Kent, where her father kept an Inn. At this Inn, fifty years ago, a young Irishman named Merydith, the heir of a handsome estate and a baronetcy, was sojourning. The beauty of the Innkeeper's daughter attracted the attention of young Merydith, and he devoted himself too successfully to the task of her conquest. Miss Birch, for that was her name, fled with her admirer to the "Land of the West," where she, in due time, presented him with a too convincing token of attachment. Love has been said to fly at sight of human ties—in this case his light wings spread for want of them. Merydith, the betrayer, abandoned his victim under circumstances of desertion so heartless, as to induce a Dublin jury subsequently to award a sum of £3,000 as damages in an action brought against him for seduction. Over the next succeeding chapters of Miss Birch's life we desire to pass with as little detail as possible. She led the life of adventure and difficulty, of error and shame, into which her previous misfortune and beauty had, we might almost say, driven her. Mr. Edmond Kelly, gentleman, of Merriem-square, an elderly widower, a land agent, solicitor, millionaire, became acquainted with her. She gave up her city life and became his house-keeper—subsequently, it appears, his wife, and mistress of Rookwood House, county Galway. Mr. Kelly had a daughter by his first wife, but she had disappeared; he had, however, relatives who expected to divide at his decease the enormous wealth, estimated at £500,000, of which he was the possessor. Miss Birch was not as yet known, or, at any rate, not recognized as Mrs. Kelly. She was, however, most assiduous in her attentions to the old man, who every day grew more weak, more eccentric, and, it is said, more imbecile.—Strange stories were told of his last days, how the idea haunted him that he should die of hunger, how his watchful mistress, wife, nurse, or gayer, whichever she was, had his bedroom hung round with eatables of every description. Stories of a death-bed marriage, of a death-bed will; but how much of all this was truth, and how much false, can never be ascertained. Mr. Kelly died. Miss Birch claimed the recognition of her position as his widow, and produced a will entitling her to all the property, real and personal, of the late owner of Rookwood House. His nearest relative, an elderly maiden lady named Thewles, denied the validity of the will, which was, however, ultimately affirmed after much expensive litigation. Mrs. Kelly now set out to enjoy her wealth. She resided in Merriem-square. One day a poor woman with two little children by the hand, pulled the bell and humbly asked the powdered and gold-laced footman to bear to his mistress a note. There was no answer. She called again and often, and as often turned wearily and dejectedly away. It was the daughter of the late Edmond Kelly, who was begging a morsel of all her father's wealth! What a history was hers! She had been brought up with the finest parental care; she had been placed at a first-rate boarding school in Clifton, in England, where no less than £300 a year was paid for her. When her father married secondly, she was removed to an inferior school at Bath, and her allowance gradually reduced. After many trials and vicissitudes, chiefly caused by false information as to her father's death, she was at length abandoned with two children, by a profligate villain who had married her under the pretence of being her father's agent. She married again, a Mr. Moreton. She had heard of her father's death and of his extraordinary will, and she came across to Ireland to see if Mrs. Kelly would not help her in some way. Mrs. Kelly had a confidential solicitor named Birch; she called him her nephew; others said he was a still nearer relative. This Mr. George Birch told the applicant that his aunt would do nothing for her, but that he would do something. He made vile proposals to her—and worse. Her husband, Mr. Moreton, brought an action for assault, and obtained £200 damages and 6s. costs against Mr. Birch. The wealth of Edmond Kelly seemed to rest never; as if it were fated to be the prolific source of strife and contention, a curse and not a blessing.—Mrs. Kelly drove up in great haste one day to a police office in this city and applied for a warrant against her nephew, Geo. Birch, who had absconded with £200,000. The prosecution was not pressed.—Matters were settled. Since then she had resided principally on her estates in Galway, where she has been thus barbarously assassinated.—Cor. of Irish American.

On Sunday week, at the parish chapel of Listry, the Rev. B. O'Donnor, P.P., of Milltown, passed a high eulogium on Colonel Herbert for the manner in which he has treated his tenants at Lahard. His agent, Mr. Henry Leahy, too, came in for a large measure of praise. The facts are briefly these: All the tenants have been left in and well provided for, except one, who has been permitted to remain until May, when he will get a farm on another part of the estate.—Tribune Chronicle.

The northern papers mention that great distress exists among the weavers of Ballymacarrett and those of the county Down, and among the sew-muslin workers of Newtownards.

We regret to find that a number of artisans and laborers, natives of Kilkenny, who had long been in good employment in England, have, owing to the suspension of large traders there, been forced to return to our city during the past few days.—Kilkenny Moderator.

Mr. P. Byrne, of Dyer street, Drogheda, has been elected by a large majority Mayor of that town for the ensuing year. Mr. Patrick Ternan was the other candidate.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE CROWN JEWELS.—We find the following in a letter from Hanover, of Dec. 13:—"The hearts of the King and Royal Family of this country have been much rejoiced by intelligence which has just reached them through the Hanoverian Minister at the Court of St. James, that the long dispute between the King of Hanover and the Queen of England respecting the right of certain jewels of enormous value, in the possession of the Sovereign of England, and forming no inconsiderable portion of what have been hitherto called the British Crown Jewels, has been decided in favor of Hanover. Many of your readers are no doubt aware that when the kingdom of Hanover was severed from the United Kingdom by the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne, a claim was made by the late King of Hanover, formerly the Duke of Cumberland, to nearly the whole of the jewels usually worn on State occasions by the English Sovereign, on the ground that part of them, which had been taken over to England by George I., belonged inalienably to the Crown of Hanover; and that the remainder had been purchased by George III. out of his privy purse, and had been left by him and his Queen Charlotte to the Royal Family of Hanover. As the jewels thus claimed are supposed to be worth considerably more than £1,000,000, a single stone having cost £20,000, they were not to be relinquished without a struggle; and I am assured every possible expedient was resorted to in England to baffle the claimant. Ultimately, in the lifetime of the late King, the impertinence of the Hanoverian Minister in London drove the English ministry of the day to consent that the rights of the two Sovereigns should be submitted to a commission composed of three English Judges; but the proceedings of the Commission were so ingeniously protracted that all the Commissioners died without arriving at any decision; and until Lord Clarendon received the seals of the British Foreign Office, all the efforts of the Court of Hanover to obtain a fresh Commission were vain. Lord Clarendon, however, seems to have perceived that such attempts to stifle inquiry were unworthy of his country, for he consented that a fresh Commission should be issued to three English Judges of the highest eminence, who, after investigation, found the Hanoverian claim to be indubitably just, and reported in its favor. The Court here consequently is in high glee this Christmas at the prospect of removing the Crown and regalia, so jealously guarded in the Tower of London, almost bodily to Hanover.—London Globe.

COMMERCIAL MORALS IN ENGLAND.—The subjoined remarks which form a part of the city article of the London Times of the 17th ult., present a dark picture, which we would fain hope, is overdrawn:—"The public are astounded at the commercial disclosures on every side. Even those most conversant for years past with all the great operations of business had no idea of the degree of corruption that at each turn was defeating the efforts of the honest trader. The question is, have they yet any adequate conception of the extent to which the system has been carried? Persons are disposed to comfort themselves by the conclusion that every case of delinquency appears in print and makes a great stir, while the multitude of ordinary transactions are carried on with regularity day after day and excite no notice.—There could not be a greater delusion. On all hands there is a combination to palliate and hush up the practices that have been prevalent, and no more difficult or dangerous duty could be undertaken than that of endeavoring to defeat it. Even if any class of observers happen to be aware of organized schemes of deception, or of the most objectionable and suspicious features in the management of companies or firms, they can do little to warn the community until some open default has been committed, and the final explosion is consequently at hand. The forces that were drawn together at Glasgow, consisting of the aristocracy and wealth of Scotland, to beat down all who might attempt to question the position of the Western Bank, and to expose its vile career, furnished a specimen of the obstacles to be encountered; and it is a fact that, while that concern was applying for help to the other banks, even the statement that these banks wished to stipulate for a winding up of its affairs was widely denounced as a malignant libel. In another case a firm whose position was understood, but which had contrived, through the help of the Western Bank temporarily to arrest an exposure, induced a well known legal house in London to protest against the damage 'recklessly' inflicted on its credit by the mention of its name, although within a fortnight of that date it was shown to be disgracefully insolvent. When Mr. Oliver broke down at Liverpool after a career of speculation, in the height of which he had been presented by his admiring townspeople with a service of plate some of the leading merchants, including the chairman of the Borough Bank, and it is believed, Mr. De Wolf, of the great firm of De Wolf & Co., which has just stopped for about £200,000 showing 2s. in the pound for its creditors, actually posted a notice on the Exchange, contradicting and stigmatizing the announcement as a wanton injury. If this is the experience in the most rotten and hopeless cases, what would have to be expected if a breath were uttered regarding any concern that might still by possibility be patched up so as to allow of its defying all imputations? The case of the North of Europe Steam Company, in which a warning to the public aggravated the injury it was intended to avert, since it drew forth an unqualified denial from the directors which led many persons to increase their investments at high prices, will be fresh in recollection. The habit is universal, and is encouraged in all quarters. There is abundant sympathy for the speculator who has lived in good style for years, and whose position may at last be questioned; but none for the great mass of the people, who, in consequence of his operations, have been paying higher prices for all the necessities of life; none for those who have been tempted by high wages into ever-stocked branches of labor, and who are suddenly thrown into destitution; and none for society in general, which will suffer through many future years from a generation of 'young men brought up to the belief that there is no such thing as honest trade, and that he is greatest who most excels in the adulteration of goods, the manufacture of accommodation bills, and the management of fraudulent suspensions. Such is ever the case. The offender in his distress is a tangible object of pity, while the community he has wronged and dishonoured is only a shadowy conception; and Government in relieving him, even at a cost of violating a law, merely acts out the wishes of the majority. In these circumstances it will be easily understood that not one of the delinquencies that now

prevails every branch of trade are likely to come to light. There is no legal machinery to promote any such object, but a most extensive and almost resistless action on the other side. The legislature have always been too busy in meddling as to the nature of obligations which commercial men should be allowed to undertake to be able to devote time to the introduction of laws to enforce under swift and adequate penalties the simple principle that every obligation once made must be faithfully fulfilled, and to bring to justice every one who has robbed another by false pretences. There was much display of business in this line last session, but it has apparently effected nothing. The prosecution of the British Bank Directors was a wonderful effort to mark the inauguration of a new reign of virtue, but it is understood the experiment is never likely to be repeated, the costs and confusion having been awful. Notwithstanding all the notoriety of his case, it is easy to prophesy that Mr. Stephens of the London and Eastern Corporation, will escape, to enjoy the remainder of his life on the marriage settlement acquired from the funds of that establishment. From the first, the other directors have never even been threatened with prosecution. It is true the daily journals are now filled with developments of cases of sequestration or bankruptcy, or of the winding up of fraudulent concerns, but these are all exceptional, and any one reading the proceedings will see that they merely relate to a few stragglers that have been caught out of a whole army of marauders. Every word uttered in the various examinations serves to show how the individual insolvent was but one of a constantly extending circle—how he was terrified into lending more money or granting further acceptances by creditors who threatened to fail and expose him, and how he in turn got more from some one else—in most cases the manager of a joint stock bank—by pursuing a similar course. In one case now pending at Glasgow, a house is shown to have had 75 real or fictitious correspondents, all insolvent like itself, upon whom it had drawn to the amount of £380,000, the whole finally entering in the Western Bank. Is this a solitary specimen? Are there not hundreds of analogous but more adroit cases that might be developed on every side—often, apparently without much difficulty, if any judgment may be formed from the leading figures lately presented in some of the London balance-sheets; and as soon as the present crisis is over, will not all these persons again go to work? In the present state of the law there is nothing to obstruct and everything to encourage them. The belief is that, notwithstanding the recent wrocks and the lateness of the period to which the "relief" granted by the suspension of the Bank Charter Act was deferred, the accommodation paper still in circulation in London and throughout the kingdom would present a total such as few persons not accustomed to reflect on such matters would be prepared to expect. The remedy, of course, would be to punish the drawers and acceptors for conspiracy to defraud. Every bill of exchange purports to have been for "value received." If two men conspire to manufacture such a document and to pass it as genuine into the hands of a third, nothing can be more obvious than the nature of the transaction. But Parliament perhaps would rather pass a whole session in discussing whether they could devise some new measures to interfere with the natural course of enterprise, and direct into such channels as might be fashionable with them for the moment, than descend to so small a matter as this simple application of the criminal law."

The Guardian publishes a case and opinion, some three columns in length, on the new Divorce Law, together with a letter nearly as long from the "preparer of the case." The opinion given by Dr. Philimore and Mr. Roundell Palmer comes in few words to this, that the new Act completely overrides all ecclesiastical laws, canons, rules, prayers, and formularies; and that the dissolubility of marriage, and the lawfulness and validity of remarriage during the life of the divorced parties, are henceforth the rule of the "Church of England;" but that whenever the law gives to any Clergyman a power of acting on his own mere discretion without giving a reason—as, for instance, when he has to give or refuse a marriage license, or being a Bishop, to allow or prohibit an unbenedicted Clergyman to officiate in his Diocese—he may use that discretionary power to mark individually his disapprobation of the law which directly he must obey. No doubt he may, and the complaints of the Guardian should go farther back. For three hundred years it has been the recognized and established rule of the Establishment that any ecclesiastical rule may be allowed by an Act of Parliament. The power has been exercised in a hundred instances, even in matters which touched the Faith. To complain of this now—a-days is childish; it is to object to the practical operation of their own fundamental principles. True, this law set aside is undeniably of Divine origin—undeniably, we say, because though there are few persons who imagine that conjugal infidelity dissolves the marriage tie, no one ever dreamed that it was, according to the law of God, dissolved by the other causes allowed as sufficient in this Act. Still this is only a detail. The "Glorious Reformation" consisted in making the Civil Government supreme in things relating to God. At the time the formula by which this was expressed was "The Royal Supremacy;" it is now the omnipotence of Parliament. At the bottom both are the same. They mean that the national Government, not the Divine Law, is to be supreme, and do but echo the cry, "We will not have this Man to reign over us."—Weekly Register.

PURCHASE IN THE CHURCH.—A paragraph is taking the grand tone of the newspapers, stating that—"There are several livings in the market which hold out great inducements to Clergymen who have money to help them on to preferment. The rectory of Chisleton is to be sold by auction. It is described as being two miles from Chester, worth £800 a year, with a rectory-house on a beautiful lawn of sixteen acres. The population is small, and purely agricultural, and the present Incumbent is in his sixty-second year. The rectory of Odell, near Bedford, is to be sold by private contract. The rectory is reputed to consist of a good house, offices, and garden, nearly 500 acres of land, and a rent-charge of £20, producing an income of about £400 a year. The population is 500, and the present Incumbent is in his seventieth year. Lord Combermere's vicarage of Audlem, Cheshire, is offered for sale. The parsonage, it is said, is a comfortable residence, with carriage-house and stabling; the income is £670 a year, and the Incumbent is sixty years of age. Next in the list is the rectory of the adjoining parishes of Great and Little Wrattling, Suffolk, worth £600 a year, and the present Incumbent seventy years of age." Foreigners meeting with this will be apt to say that we sell everything in England, rectories as well as regiments, and commissions in the Church Militant as well as in the army. In truth, it must be difficult to believe that anything is not venal in a country where even benefices with cure of souls are set up to be sold by auction. No doubt there are plausible modes of reconciling this strange traffic with the feelings of devotion and interests of religion; but let us advocates be ever so ingenious, it will never be an easy matter to preserve a proper respect for the Church and the Clergy, with a George Robins in the mind's eye puffing a vicarage as he might a villa, and knocking down the lot of a Christian shepherd, sheep and all, to the highest bidder. The flock, however, in these announcements, appears in the schedule of incumbrances. The smaller it is, the greater attraction for the lot. We can imagine the Ecclesiastical auctioneer holding forth with an auction on the various charms and advantages of the rectory of Chisleton, for instance. Eight hundred a year, gentlemen, punctually paid, and only a step into Chester; not a nice thing in the Church. What shall we say for it? A capital globehouse, one of the choicest in England, standing on a lovely lawn of sixteen acres; and little or nothing for an Incum-

ber to do; a tribe of a congregation, all simple, ignorant rustics; any kind of preaching good enough for them; in fact, the thing is the same as a sinecure. Such an opportunity, gentlemen, may never occur again for providing for a fast young man, or one who has been plucked at college. Chisleton will, no doubt, bring a handsome sum, having so many recommendations, particularly the few souls to be cured in Chisleton. On the other hand, the rectory of Odell will not fetch much, with its 500 parishioners to counterbalance the attraction of its 500 acres of land. The population of Audlem is not mentioned at all, which looks ill, as if there was more spiritual labour in the parish than one of the knowing ones would undertake for the income, although £670 a year, is not so very bad. But then, as a set off, Audlem has got a jewel of a parsonage, with coach-house, stabling, and all that—splendid materials for auctioneering genius to work with. Why, Robins might assure the circle of Clerical speculators round his pulpit that none of the four Evangelists or twelve Apostles ever possessed either coachhouse or stable, though they probably often slept in such places, as did a Diviner being than either Apostle or Evangelist, when He had not where to lay His head at all.—Examiner.

ABOLITION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S GOVERNMENT.—We are enabled to confirm the following announcement, which appears in the Times' City Article:—"It is understood the East India Company have received formal notice that it is the intention of the Government to bring in a bill for the abolition of the double government." The announcement is substantially correct; the Chairman has received an intimation that it is the intention of Lord Palmerston's Cabinet to introduce a bill for bringing the administration of India under the direct government of the Queen. The intimation cannot have surprised any one. For some time past the whole tendency of public opinion has set in the direction of this resolve, independently of many reasons for dispensing with whatever can occasion hindrance in the administration of India hereafter, it may be reasonably anticipated that the introduction of improvements will be facilitated by the direct action of the supreme Government. And not the least advantage, after the recent events will be the moral effect of the proclamation in India itself that it is the Sovereign of the British Empire who rules. The announcement following on the heels of those which have already been made will show how far Lord Palmerston's Government seeks to shelter itself under delays, or prefers to accept with promptitude and decision the responsibilities which the interests of the country devolve upon it.—London Globe.

IMPROVED APPARATUS FOR LAYING THE TELEGRAPH CABLE.—There was on Tuesday, exhibited at the Merchants' Exchange, N.Y., the new apparatus which is to be used in the next attempt at laying the ocean telegraph, and which promises to obviate one of the greatest causes of danger which is experienced in its undertaking, that is the unequal strain caused by the rise and fall of the ship. It is the contrivance of Mr. Henry Berden, of Philadelphia, which was taken to England by Mr. Everett. It is a new combination of machinery to equalize the strain to which the cable shall be subjected, so that the heave of the ship will not effect it. On board of the Niagara last summer the cable was passed over and under a series of ponderous drums, in a way which afforded no elasticity—no giving when the ship rose with a heavy sea, and the only contrivance for modulating its running out, was a simple brake, the use of which depended on the judgment of the engineer on watch. Under the arrangement the cable brake twice during the first day out, and on both occasions from this cause alone. All this is obviated by this new invention, which gives an elasticity which is self-regulating, and this too by the application of the most simple mechanical principles. This end is achieved by having one of the drums around which the cable passes, not stationary, but on a car running on a track on deck, and so regulated that the cable drawing it in one direction is balanced by a weight drawing it the other, so that the effect of these two forces, varying in intensity with the motion of the sea will keep the car constantly running backward and forwards, the strain on the cable drawing it one way as the vessel rises with a heavy sea, and the counter-acting weight impelling it forward as the ship falls in the trough of the sea. Aside of this, the cable is made to pass over and under five other drums, which guide its passage from the hold of the ship to the stern of the vessel. The whole apparatus will be ponderous, costing between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and occupying the deck between the main and mizen masts of the Niagara. Its ability to fall in derangement, may, however, impair its usefulness, for let the running out of the cable for one moment cease, and the labor of another year is wasted. The position of Mr. Everett, as chief engineer of the Niagara, will be applied during the coming year by Mr. Joshua Folsome, formerly of the San Jacinto, who is one of the two or three oldest engineers in the service. The Niagara is to go in the dry dock for repairs during the coming week, and will undergo some considerable alterations touching the arrangement of the cable.

A "WASSER" OF WRATH.—The exultation of the Editor of the Record at learning that the second attempt to launch the Great Ship had failed was perfectly ecstatic. The amiable religionist has specified his belief that the defeat of the first attempt, and the killing two of the workmen, was a judgment of Providence upon the directors of the company for calling the ship "Leviathan," a name which some interpreters of The Book conceive to mean Satan, while others think it denotes something the Record considers a great deal worse, namely, the Church of Rome. The Record appears to believe that unless the name is changed, the vessel will, if launched, sink. The ill-success of the new attempt, on Thursday, the 19th, has confirmed our contemporary's convictions. Yet, if the name of a ship is really of such awful import, what would the Record say to one who should set out on a missionary excursion, deliberately embarking on board a vessel named after two Pagan demi-gods, who, when on earth, were the foulest criminals, treacherous murder being one of their offences. The so-called Evangelists are not celebrated for their learning, and therefore we will explain that the Discursi, better known as Castor and Pollux whose names were born by the Alexandrian vessel selected by the great Apostle of the Gentiles, to take him to Italy—and which did take him there in perfect safety. But it would not in the least surprise us to find the Record, with its superior lights, accusing St. Paul of "presumption"—the school to which our contemporary belongs is by no means reverent when its Pharisical tenets are controverted.

The Recorder of London has issued a warrant for the apprehension of Mr. F. A. Glover, the late member for Beverley, on a charge of having made a false declaration to the House of Commons as to his qualification to sit in that House. The Star says, it would be a curious subject of inquiry to ascertain how many hon. gentlemen now sitting and voting in the House might be placed in a similar position.

Henry S. Bright, who but a short time ago was a respected and influential citizen of the town of Hull, being engaged in most extensive mercantile transactions, and taking a foremost part in all Protestant movements, is now a convicted felon. At the York Assizes, on Tuesday, he was found guilty of the grave crime of forgery, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

THE ENGLISH ASSIZES.—Not long since, during one of those official tours which the English judges perform, the journals of England were startled into cognisance of an amount of crime, the bare intimation of which, till then, they would have resented as a libel. One of them summed up a list of the capital convictions, and called that particular tour of the judges, "the bloody assize." Although the traditional and religiously observed policy of the Eng-

lish journals towards this country has been to make the Irish Assizes a periodical opportunity for the most foul and ferocious diatribes about "Irish crime"—representing us as depraved and bloodthirsty monsters, and attributing to our religion every crime in the calendar; we felt that nothing would be more unworthy of us, as Irishmen and Catholics, than to turn to account this terrible opportunity of not simply retaliating upon our defamers but covering them with confusion and shame. Of all proceedings that of endeavoring to prove one another more and more like fiends, is, or ought to be, revolting to rightly constituted minds. However ready we had ever been to uphold the claims of the Irish people to morality, virtue, and religion, we refused to seek any victory by the questionable means of proving our rivals to be hellfiends. This process we left to the English Journals. While "the bloody assize" was being held across the Channel, in this country the sheriffs were going through the ceremony of "presenting white gloves" to the judges. We know well what the journals at the other side would have done had circumstances been the other way; but we uttered no taunt, we rather shared in their grief and humiliation—for, said we, our common humanity is outraged and disgraced by such crimes; let us not plead that they were done at this or that side of a boundary line. It is, therefore, with unfeigned reluctance we approach the few observations we are compelled to make to-day on personal of the English papers containing the Winter Assize Reports. It is in no unchristian spirit we have to record our abhorrence of a certain class of crime which they proclaim to have spread like a filthy leprosy over the land; it is in no Pharisical or taunting spirit we raise our hearts to Almighty God, and say, that through His mercy, this we have been preserved from, and pray that we may still be so preserved. We feel all the more difficulty in making any observations at all on this subject, for the fact, that though the enlightened English Journals are copious enough in their details to gratify the most prurient taste, we feel that mere allusion to the facts is more than we should wish to lay before our readers. We are not about to cull out reports few and far between; we will take up a single Journal, reporting one day's proceedings at the assize of one district, and that not in a remote and "uncivilized" region, but in the heart of the flourishing county of Lancaster. What a horrible state of things is disclosed! Well might Lord Palmerston knock to the winds the last vestige of religious reverence pertaining to the marriage tie, the popularity of the questions of "divorce," and "marriage with a deceased wife's sister" are most truly set forth here:—

"James Farrady (37) Turner, was indicted for having at Blackburn, on the 13th of Sept. last, feloniously stabbed and wounded Agnes Lakeland, with intent to do her grievous bodily harm, and a second count in the indictment charged him with intent to kill and murder. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner and the prosecutrix stood in the relation of brother and sister-in-law, the prisoner having married the prosecutrix's sister. About four years ago his wife died. The prosecutrix herself was a married woman, but she had been separated from her husband eight or nine years, and for the last three years she had lived with the prisoner as his wife."

"To our uncivilized Irish ideas of morality, this is, of course, objectionable. But surely, it will be urged, such cases exist as much disgraced in England as here; this was some ruffian reproached by all who knew him—probably an escaped convict. Not a bit of it. Most 'respectable' people stepped into the witness-box to— we state the fact, no matter how improbable—to plead for him on the ground of 'his good moral character.' He was no ticket-of-leave man, by any means, but a foreman of very extensive works; and we believe his employers were amongst those who asked for his acquittal on the grounds that he must have been drunk when he stabbed his paramour, as he was always such a 'good moral character.' This is what we regard as the most shocking feature in the case, and the most conclusive evidence of a rotten state of society; 'respectable' people see nothing immoral in Mr. Farrady 'living with' his self-divorced sister-in-law. They do, indeed, deplore that he got into a hobble by stabbing her in the throat, but then he must have been drunk; had he been sober he would have continued to 'live with her' peacefully, for he was such a 'good moral character.' We glance down the page and are presented with a somewhat similar sketch:—

"John Guy, a carter, charged with having administered poison to his wife, was brought up on remand. Samuel Campbell, a young lad about 16 years, was examined, and deposed that the prisoner was in the constant habit of coming to Mrs. Ledson's house, where witness lived; he often slept there.—Mr. Clough: Who slept with him?—Why, they all slept there; it was a double bedroom.—How many of them? Eight. He heard Mr. Guy and Mrs. Ledson cursing Mrs. Guy for a '—', and he heard both Mr. Guy and Mrs. Ledson threaten her. Mrs. Ledson said, 'she ought to be his mistress, not that —, who was not married.' They said they would be ready to hang for her, or to serve fifteen years for her."

"It was a double-bedded room—in which 'eight of them' slept. His friend Palmerston's "Divorce" Bill not being yet in operation, poor Mr. Guy, it was alleged, tried a more summary method for removing his wife, in order that Mrs. Ledson might 'live with him.' The continuation of the evidence reveals a state of things too disgusting to be quoted. But the page before us has more revolting cases still. Our flesh creeps as we note the frequency of cases where the charge is "criminal assault," or worse "upon a child under ten years of age!" In one peculiarly revolting case death ensued; the details—horrible, loathsome, and sickening—are given at copious length by the English journals; but we cannot think of befouling our pages with any extracts. We would pass by these peculiarly atrocious cases but that we see with regret that such a species of crime is alarmingly frequent, judging from the record before us. Is not this horrible? Now, we repeat, it is to us painful to be obliged to notice such crimes, and we do feel ashamed and humiliated even though they be in England. But we cannot avoid one day to an English journal which, no later than a few days ago, spit its venomous slander on the Irish Priesthood, asking "if any thing could be lower than such a creature—An Irish Priest." For centuries the Irish Priest was debarred from exercising his functions; he had to exercise them by stealth and at peril of his life. His sermons were preached in caverns or whispered in garrets, and often interrupted by the bandogs, who dragged him to the gallows-tree, or left his weltering corpse upon the humble altar steps. Nor was it merely religious education alone that was denied and proscribed; it was as penal to educate the Irish peasant as it is now to murder an English child. Turn we now to a corresponding period in the country of the calculminating journalist. There the religious system professed by the people was not merely encouraged but supplied with unlimited means; wealth was its own, it had statutes and acts of Parliament for the asking. We invite the ruffian slanderer of the Irish Priest to search our island through for such a state of society as this existing at his own door. Let him contrast what the Irish Priest—whom he thus characterises—has to show for his obstructed—nay, proscribed—labors, with that which is exhibited by his own well-fed, by-and-by-supported church, and ask his conscience—if he be even as good as a "moral character" as his fellow-countryman Mr. Farrady—whether he is the man who ought to say of the sainted pastors of a virtuous people, "if anything can be below such a creature." We recommend him to a study of some of the English assize reports; and when he sees case after case of baseness—when he sees some loathsome "thing" like "Amos Greenwood, 23 Weaver," whose abominable crime killed little Mary Johnson, at Heap, near Bury—should he be disposed to ask "if anything can be below such a creature?" we reply, "yes—you are that thing."—Nation.