

CONVERSIONS IN IRELAND.—We have heard that the sons of two legal dignitaries have gone over to the Church of Rome. The departure of one is certain—we are yet unaware whether the other has taken the final step. It is said confidently that an Irish earl and his lady have passed the Rubicon.—*Evening Post.*

Last week a gentleman of the name of Bastard, one of the largest landed proprietors in Devonshire, and a man of great consideration in his county, who obtained a double first-class at Oxford, was received into the Church, I believe by Dr. Newman. Mr. Oakeley also received one of "her Majesty's Clergy," but I have not been able to learn his name.—*London Correspondent of the Tablet.*

CONFIRMATION AND CONVERSION IN PROVIDENCE.—The Rt. Rev. Bernard O'Reilly, Bishop of Hartford, administered the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation to 658 children and adults, in St. Peter and St. Paul's Cathedral, Providence, on Sunday, the 22d instant. Among the postulants was General Tho's F. Carpenter, a distinguished citizen of Providence, of the genuine Puritan stock, who has recently been received into the Catholic Church there, and eight other converts.—*American Celt.*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The determination of the Conservative party in France, to avoid, for the present, every topic likely to lead to controversy, has produced a complete calm in the political world of Paris. The only notable event is the feast given at the Hotel de Ville on Tuesday, in commemoration of the second anniversary of the election of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency of the Republic. It is described as "the most magnificent feast that has been witnessed in the same spot for many years. From 6,000 to 7,000 persons were present."

In the Assembly M. Montalambert has read an immensely long report on the observance of the Sunday. He would have all work suspended on that day and on *fete* days. He said he fully expected to see the members of the Left oppose the proposition, and he was correct, as a running fire of ironical laughter, and disobliging remarks from the Mountain, accompanied the whole of the reading of the report. One member excited great laughter, by crying out at the close of a paragraph the response "Amen," with an exceedingly rich nasal twang. Eventually the report was ordered to be distributed.

The majority of the French Assembly dread a discussion on the Electoral Law. A committee was appointed a short time ago to consider a proposition for a revision of the law; they have now reported against reviving the subject. The number of electors, it is said, has been reduced from 9,618,000 to 6,811,000. The reduction principally affects the towns. There is still a division of opinion as to whether the law can be applied in the election of the President. Mr. Thiers claims that the government should be allowed to act as it may think proper according to its chance of success.

ITALY.

It is a curious fact that Italy seems in no way to care about the ecclesiastical excitement in England. Perhaps it is that Rome, who still considers the sun only six feet broad, also continues to look on us as a small barbarous island, situate in the remote ocean, in the midst of fogs and storms, and of so savage a race, that there is little hope of civilising or saving us. Certain it is, we find no traces of any excitement or feeling on the subject.

SPAIN.

It is said that the Spanish Carlists who have emigrated are intriguing to revive the civil war in Catalonia, and that their intention is to prepare an invasion for the ensuing spring. It appears that the Count de Montemolin is encouraging his defenders by all means in his power to undertake this new crusade. He has granted brevets to all his officers in foreign countries, which are signed by him as King of Spain and the Indies. The immigrant chiefs who maintain an active correspondence with the Pretender are, Cabrera, Elio, Gomez, Arroyo, Yturmande, Zavala, El Etudiante, the Curé d'Allo, Marsal, and Mones.

HESE-CASSEL.

The head-quarters of the Federal forces are now at Rotenburg. The inhabitants of that city have been treated with much cruelty. A proclamation has been issued, declaring the place in a state of siege, and threatening martial law if any opposition should be offered to the measures considered necessary—prohibiting arms or political emblems to be worn. The arms to be delivered up within twenty-four hours; all assembling in numbers is prohibited; the political unions dissolved; and newspapers to be distributed only upon special permission.

PRUSSIA AND AUSTRIA.

The terms of the convention at Olmitz have been published at Augsburg; they differ in no important particular from those of the Conference at Warsaw, "except," says the *Times*, "that Prussia has now consented to take a more active part in undoing her own work." With more delay, with more danger, and with some additional millions of cost, she is once more arrived at the point Count Brandenburg had reached on the 2nd of November. The reduction of the army has been decreed, and leave of absence is to be granted to the greater portion of the Landwehr of the second class. The Deputies have nearly all left Berlin for their respective localities.

The Dresden Free Conferences are to commence on the 18th. Count Alversleben has been chosen by the King to represent the interests of Prussia. It is asserted that the Count is by no means a fervid

champion of constitutional principles: great stress is laid on this fact, since the Berlin papers are impressed with an idea that at Dresden the liberal tendencies of the North will have to contend with the despotic leanings of the South. Bavaria and Wurtemberg have protested against the Olmutz settlement, but this will be of little avail.

A little Union is getting up in Hanover—a union of the "North German middle and petty States," for the purpose of acting in concert at the Conferences. Notes have been exchanged between Oldenburg, and Hanover, and the Hanse Towns, in furtherance of this plan, and to ensure that weight for the smaller States which they could not have if acting singly. Herr von Eisendecher, from Oldenburg, and Herr Duckwitz, from Bremen, have in consequence held several conferences with Herr von Munchhausen, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The great point to be gained by this Union is apparently the entirety of their present system of customs.

A decree has been published in Austria, prohibiting the purchase and sale of copper ore. It appears that many persons were in the habit of accumulating large quantities of copper, for the purpose of providing in case a national bankruptcy should lead to a repudiation of the paper currency. The competition which ensued, and which raised the price of pure copper to 100 florins per hundred weight, proved an annoyance to the operations of the Ordnance department. Hence the decree.

A decree, ordaining the reduction of the army, has been published in the *Gazette*. It is stated that a similar decree reducing the Austrian army will appear in the *Vienna Gazette*.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE LIMERICK ELECTION.—The High Sheriff announced the gross state of the poll to be as follows:—Mr. Gould, 239; Captain Dickson, 199; Mr. Ryan, 128. The High Sheriff then declared Mr. Gould to be duly elected as a member for the county of Limerick.

THE HON. CECIL LAWLESS, M. P.—This gentleman has written to the Very Rev. Dr. Burke, Clonmel, to state that, should the Government attempt to pass any penal law, he will avail himself of all the forms of the House to obstruct progress.

THE FLAX MOVEMENT.—The annual meeting of the Society for the Promotion of the Growth of Flax in Ireland, was held at Belfast on Friday. Amongst those present were, the Earl of Erne, Earl of Roden, Lord Dufferin, Lord Jocelyn, the Lord Bishop of Down, Sir R. Bateson, Mr. Sharman Crawford, M.P., &c. The report gave a very favorable account of the proceedings and prospects of the society; after an expenditure of £1,300 in forwarding the objects of the society, in the proper growth and culture of the flax plant, they have a balance in hand of £365. The Lord Bishop of Down proposed, and Mr. Sharman Crawford seconded, a resolution of thanks to the Lord Lieutenant, for his Excellency's fostering care and unceasing activity to promote the objects of the society. Scotch mills and steeping concerns are about to be established in many places, and there is every prospect of a large breadth of flax being cultivated in most of the southern and western counties next year, which, if well managed and properly prepared for sale, must lead to a steady increase year after year, until the crop is grown on all suitable soils as a regular part of the farming rotation.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.—It is stated that the British Electric Telegraph Company intend to commence operations for laying down a submarine line of communication between Scotland and the north-east coast of Ireland, first forming a line from Dublin to Belfast, and thence across the Channel, which is there narrow, and so very deep as to render it but little likely that the line could be disturbed by passing vessels, or any other contact.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting of this Association on Monday, Mr. John O'Connell announced that the committee had come to the determination to add the word "Catholic" to the present name of the association, "until the intended persecution of Lord John Russell and the bigots of England was repelled." He announced the pecuniary aid as £9 19s 1d.

SALES AT DERRYNANE ABBEY.—The *Evening Packet* says:—"We regret very much that the distress which has overtaken the landlords of Ireland has at length found its way to the halls of the Liberator. At a sheriff's sale at Derrynane some time since, the whole of the splendid furniture and other household goods were sold for the sum of £364 3s 8d, and were bought in by the National Bank of Ireland. The goods were left there pending some contemplated arrangements, but they were again recently brought to the hammer by the sheriff. The purchase of the furniture by the National Bank has been impeached as fraudulent, and on application to the court, an issue was granted last week to try the fact by a jury. All the rest of the property will be sold as a matter of course. The prices at which the National Bank bought the furniture may be imagined from the fact, that the entire furniture, &c., of the Liberator's Room, state bed, &c., sold for £3 8s 6d."

The threatening county meetings in Ireland as a set-off agitation against the No-Popery movement in England would seem to have begun with a demonstration in Mayo county, at which a large number of Catholic gentry were present. Mr. Moore, M. P., for the county, presided; and Mr. O'Connell Higgins, the other M. P. for the county, moved the first resolution—namely, "That this meeting, representing the feelings of upwards of two hundred thousand Catholics in this county, view with surprise and indignation a late letter from Lord John Russell to the Bishop of Durham, in which he abuses his high station as First Minister of the Crown, fomenting religious animosities among her Majesty's subjects, and exciting against one portion of the inhabitants of the country the sectarian hate, the fanaticism, and the fury of the other."

Mr. Higgins said, he considered it now incumbent on all Catholic Members—especially those who prefer their religion to their party—to determine on some common course of action, for convincing Lord John Russell of the "mistake" he has made. The meeting resolved to present a memorial to the Queen, praying her to dismiss from her councils a Minister in whom the people of Ireland have no confidence, and whom they can no longer support with honor.

BOROUGH OF DUNGANNON.—This (Thursday) morning a handbill was circulated, containing an address to the electors from Lord Northland, expressive of his determination to resign at the commencement of the next session of Parliament. It is stated that the Hon. Stuart Knox will come forward as a candidate.—*Newry Telegraph.*

It is currently reported that Sir A. B. Brooke, Bart., M. P., will be raised to the Peerage; and that Colonel Cole, M. P. for Enniskillen, and Captain Archdall, M. P., will be the County Members to represent the new constituency in Parliament.—*Enniskillen Reporter.*

In pulling down the walls of the old St. John's Church, at Limerick, a few days ago, a large cannon ball was found imbedded in the mortar, which is considered to be a twenty-four pounder fired by Cromwell's army during the siege, as that was the precise spot against which he directed his main attack.

EXTRAORDINARY FLOOD.—One of the immense vats of the brewery belonging to the Messrs. Beamish, of Cork, containing 750 tierces of porter burst, on Thursday last, and the flood of beer carried away all before it, including a wall of great strength, and doing a large quantity of damage. The porter itself lost on the occasion was valued at £1,500.

INCENDIARISM IN THE COUNTY DOWN.—We regret to have to state that on the evening of Thursday week, about the hour of ten o'clock, two stacks of oats were fired at the residence of the Rev. James C. Gordon, of Delamont, within about three miles of this town. The fire was at length extinguished, but not until one of the stacks was entirely burned, and the second partially so. We are informed by an eye-witness that nothing could exceed the anxiety and exertions of the country people to endeavor to save all they could of the burning grain.—*Downpatrick Recorder.*

CALAMITY IN DUNDRUM BAY.—A correspondent writing from Newcastle, under date of Saturday, says:—"Another melancholy catastrophe to our unfortunate fishermen occurred here this day. A number of boats went out to fish, as usual, early in the morning, which was fine. In a very short time a violent storm arose, accompanied with a great swell in the sea, when, melancholy to relate, the last boat, when approaching the shore, was upset, and six poor fellows met a watery grave. One of them was observed to hold on in the boat for nearly half an hour, but no assistance was rendered, and he eventually sunk into the deep.—*Newry Examiner.*"

MELANCHOLY REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—The *Evening Mail* has the following particulars in reference to the death, at New York, of Mrs. Bell Martin, daughter and heiress of the late Mr. Thomas Martin, M.P., of Ballinahinch Castle, in the county of Galway. The vast property known as the Connemara estates, to which the deceased lady succeeded, was one among the first brought into the Encumbered Estates Court, and has been for some months past advertised for sale by private contract:—"The vicissitudes of life have seldom produced a sadder or more rapid reverse than that by which the fortunes of this excellent lady were darkened and overthrown. Born to a noble inheritance which extended over a territory far exceeding the domain of many a reigning German prince, her name was known throughout the United Kingdom as that of 'the Irish heiress.' Five years ago her expectancy was considered to be equivalent, over and above all encumbrances and liabilities, to a yearly income of 5,000l. Before two years of the interval had elapsed she found herself at the head of her patrimonial estates, without a shilling that she could call her own. The failure of the potato crop, the famine and pestilence which followed, the scourging laws enacted and enforced by an ignorant Legislature to redress the calamity, and the claims of money-lenders, swept every inch of property from under her feet. Her hopes and her prospects were for ever blighted. Her projects for the improvement of the wild district over which she had reigned as a sort of native sovereign were at an end; and she went forth from the roof of her father's wanderer, without a home, and, as it would almost appear, without a friend. Never was hard fate less deserved; for her untiring and active benevolence had been devoted from her childhood to the comfort and relief of those who suffered, and her powerful and original mind was incessantly employed in devising means of moral and physical amelioration in the condition of the tenantry on her father's estates. She gave up her whole time to such pursuits, avoiding the haunts of fashion and those amusements which might be considered suitable to her age and place, that she might perform the various duties of physician, almoner, schoolmistress, and agricultural instructor. Her almost daily habit was to visit the poor and the sick in the remote recesses of that wild region, sometimes on foot—more frequently in her little boat, well provided with medicaments and food, which she impelled by the vigour of her own arm through the lakes which stretch along the foot of the mountains. How grievous it is to reflect that she should so soon have been driven across the ocean in search of a place to lay her head."

ENGLAND.

A PROTESTANT PROTEST.—The *Liverpool Journal* says, "Neither must we forget that some of the greatest men who have adorned humanity were Catholics—that Fenelon, a Catholic Priest, was all but perfect. It will not do to allege that these were not truly Catholic, because that would only prove that no religion is better than the Catholic religion—an admission not to be expected from any but sceptics. Two-thirds of the civilised world are attached to Rome. Their is nothing to be gained by stigmatising their belief: they will not alter it to please us; but we may make them angry. Like individuals, we cannot long resist the pressure of opinion around us; and it is impossible that the present No-Popery cry can increase the respect entertained for us abroad. It must injure our national character in the estimation of foreigners; for, owing to their better practice, they cannot understand our popular alarm, and will impute it to a defect in our civilization—accept it as an undoubted proof of our intolerance and bigotry. They have forgotten how to persecute, and learned to live in peace with people of different creeds. The Protestants of Saxony live under a Catholic Prince; Catholic Belgium has chosen a Protestant King. The last Minister of Louis Philippe was a Protestant statesman—such as he was—and Catholic Hungary, when it revolted, placed its cause in the hands of Protestant leaders. Exclusive bigotry lurks in the political institutions of Italy, but the people have shown the utmost tolerance. Throughout Austria and Germany, we hear of no religious feuds, except those provoked by infidelity; and even unbelief is permitted to labour unassailed, except

from a legitimate opposition. Great people—America—now closely allied to us, reproach us in a forcible example."

On the 17th September 121 ships, navigated by 1287 seamen, and with a registered tonnage of 29,699 tons, arrived in the port of London. Of these only fifteen were foreign vessels; the rest belonged to this country. They came from the east, west, north and south; and to trace their course, we should have to round the entire globe. Beginning at the north, they were from Archangel and St. Petersburg; from the Prussian ports, and from those of Hamburg. Holland, France, the Channel Islands, Portugal, Gibraltar; from five of the Mediterranean emporia; from the west and south coast of Africa; from the Indian presidencies and the Straits of Malacca; from Canton and Shanghai in China; from Mantilla in the eastern Archipelago; from Adelaide and Port Philip in Australia; from the coasts of South America, and nine of the English, Spanish, and Danish West India Islands; from New York and Boston; and from Halifax, Quebec, and Newfoundland.—It may be conceived that the cargoes of these ships formed a very miscellaneous assemblage of the treasures of commerce; among the more necessary articles were some 300,000 cwts. of sugar; not a very extraordinary quantity, since 7,090,000 cwts. were imported in the course of the year—an aggregate which paid nearly £4,000,000 sterling to the revenue. There were 16,000 chests of tea; an inconsiderable portion of the 53,000,000 lbs. imported during the year in 80 or 90 ships, and paying about £5,500,000 of duty. There were 7,400 packages of coffee, out of 63,000,000 lbs. for the year, presenting to the chancellor of the exchequer £640,000. Besides the more important articles, there was many of less moment—such as rice, cocoa, tapioca; upwards of 3000 sheep and other animals, 8000 packages of butter, 50,000 cheeses, and 90,000 eggs. The year's supply of the last, drawn chiefly from France, numbered nearly 98,000,000, and paid £36,760 duty.—Among articles of another description may be mentioned 4,458 bales of wool; the importations for the year being about 76,000,000 lbs., added to 100,000,000 of home growth. Elephant's teeth, hides, horns, tallow, wood and timber of all kinds, copper ore, zinc, cork, cod liver oil, and Peruvian bark, are a few of the other articles in this department. Among the more curious importations, are 1,250 tons of granite from Guernsey, 1000 bundles of whisks from Trieste, bones of animals collected from the plains of South America, their hoofs from Australia, and heaps of rags from Austria, Italy, Hungary, and Germany.—Some of the articles of luxury are silk, wine, rum, spices, anchovies, turtle, and pine apples; together with statuary marble and alabaster figures and ornaments. Tobacco should have a sentence of its own, since the yearly importation was 43,000,000 lbs.; the ruined and ill-used people of England spending upon the filthy indulgence between £4,000,000, and £5,000,000 of good money. Another item that may be worth mentioning is 219 packages of treasure, consisting of Spanish dollars or doubloons, Sycee silver from China, and rupees from Hindostan.—So much for the arrivals; but the warehousing of goods previously arrived forms an important part of the business of the day. We need not go into particulars, however, on this subject, since the articles are pretty nearly the same as those already enumerated—with the addition of fifty marble mortars, and 1075 slabs of tin. But the goods un-warehoused, or, technically speaking, "taken for consumption," give a good idea of the omnivorous appetite of London. Whale fins and sperm oil from the fisheries—corals, or silk handkerchiefs, indigo, camphor, shellac, lac, dye, saltpetre, hemp and jute, from India—quicksilver from Spain—isinglass and bristles from Russia—Iceland moss, honey, and leeches, from Hamburg—bees' wax from the coast of Africa, manna from Palermo, macaroni from Naples, sugar candy from Holland, lemon oil from Messina, 81,000 lbs. weight of currants from the Ionian Islands and 5760 bars of iron from Sweden—such are some of the articles that on this day were carried away in hundreds of groaning waggons, to disappear in the ever craving maw of the metropolis.—*Chambers.*

PORTRAIT OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—(From *John Bull*.)—A Protestant in London, and a Papist at Dublin—a "Puseyite" in Belgravia, and a Presbyterian at Crathie—a Christian at Chesham-place, and a quasi-Shylock in the City—a Gallio in the House, and a Julian Apostate in Downing-street—such is the chameleon of a man to whose safe keeping the honor and the principles of this great country are at present entrusted. Compared to him, Proteus is a pattern of simplicity, Tartuffe a specimen of guileless innocence. Surely, neither we nor our Queen—God bless her!—are sunk so low as to endure as the deputy-ruler of this great empire a mere trickster, an artful dodger, who utters swelling words of zeal for the purity of the faith in Protestant England, while he is ready to eat up every one of them in Priest-ridden Ireland. What meant Lord John by the "mummories of superstition," by the "laborious endeavors now making to confine the intellect and enslave the soul?" In the depth of his self-abasement before the Irish Papist tail Lord John now says—or suffers his creatures and apologists to say for him—that he did not mean Popery, but only the imitation of Popery.—*Tablet.*

The *Cambrian* says, that a local preacher of the Primitive Methodist Society has been dismissed his circuit for conjuring! "the said conjuring consisting in practising Phrenology and Mesmerism—examining bumps at 'the low charge of a shilling each cranium,' placing the possessor of the aforesaid cranium into a state of coma, and then, we suppose, inciting him or her to various unmethodistic feats. After this, Spurzheim may be forgotten, and Gall and Combe hide their diminished heads, for the Methodists will 'have none o't.'"

SCOTLAND.

The Commission of the Church of Scotland have adopted indignant resolutions, moved by Mr. Hill, upon the Romish Invasion. Parenthetical assaults on the Free Church were made by Dr. Byce; and an attempt was made by Dr. Mackenzie to censure the Romanistic tendencies in the English Church, which was overruled on representations by Dr. Simpson and others of the "inexpediency" of such an interposition.

The Commission of the Free Church have done likewise. The resolutions were moved by Dr. Candlish with characteristic enforcements. He referred with contempt to the wishywashy opposition of Tractarians, as meant beguile the public; but confessed that he has great apprehensions of a large outbreak of Popery in a circle of individuals of the highest and most cultivated minds in Scotland.