

It is expected that an increased quantity of flax will be sown this year, the crop having proved so remunerative last year.—*Tyrone Herald*.

A young man, named John Cooke, an assistant in a national school, at Cailan, County Kilkenny, has been arrested under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act.

The *Cork Examiner* says that Peter Crowley, who was fatally wounded in the course of the affray at Mitchelstown, made a desperate fight. The bullet which killed him must have been fired when his back was turned. But he received another bullet, which, but for the interposition of a small religious medal, which he wore suspended from his neck, would probably have caused instant death. The position of the medal at the time was over the pit of the stomach. The bullet was stopped by the medal, which it indented so as to give it the shape of the bowl of a spoon. This bullet was the one which subsequently fell from the clothes of the deceased.

JOHN MITCHELL AND THE FENIANS.—The Irish papers copy a letter from a Richmond (Virginia) newspaper, in which Mr. John Mitchell of 1843 celebrity, denies that he has assumed the leadership of the Fenians on either side of the Atlantic. He disapproves of the conduct of those Fenian leaders who, upon the faith of 'insurrection in the harvest' or 'war this year,' obtain large sums from the Irish in America. His countrymen in America are, he says, too impatient. He greatly respects and admires their patriotic eagerness for the destruction of English dominion in their native country, but it is useless to hope for any result as long as England is at peace both with France and the United States. 'War between England and either of those Powers in the essential condition of all effective movements,' and he would have the Fenians content themselves with maintaining their organization in hope of such a crisis.

The correspondent of the *Cork Herald* says:—'One of the chief members of the conspiracy, Mr. Massey, has turned approver, and will be one of the witnesses who will tighten the rope around the necks of his unhappy accomplices. As might be expected from the high position he held as a Fenian, he must know the names of the principal members of the confederacy, as well as their plans, and his evidence discloses some alarming facts. It is said he has named men of high social positions as being implicated in the conspiracy, and has put the crown in possession of important facts relative to the share which some persons have taken in encouraging and assisting their movements. He says the Fenian Brotherhood forms a part of a more extensive revolutionary organization extending not only over Ireland and America, but over the entire of Europe, the object being to unite the various nationalities in a common object, and to secure their co-operation in carrying out their designs. Being asked to name the leaders of the organization he expressed an unwillingness to do so, but he disclosed several other facts, which, if true, would appear to show that Fenianism has received encouragement, if not material aid from several quarters on the continent of Europe. His disclosures, which will be of course given *in extenso* when examined before the petty jury, on the resumption of business by the present commission.

DR. KEOGH'S CASE.—It appears that Dr. Keogh of Carrigrohilly, had been brought before the magistrates at Kilsrush Petty Sessions, on Monday, for investigation, but he was acquitted of the charge. The complaint was for having administered medical relief, or rather aid, to Fennell, the Fenian, who had been concerned in the attack on the Kilkenny Ossington station, where Wilmet, one of the constables, had been nearly killed, and Fennell, one of the five Fenians who composed the attacking party, had been severely wounded by Wilmet, in desperate resistance offered by him. On the charge mentioned Dr. Keogh was arrested twice. The first time he was once discharged, but subsequently was arrested and brought before some magistrates at Kilsrush, where, in the absence of his friends, being at a distance from his home, one of the magistrates present (Mr. B. Cox) became his security for £100 to appear at petty sessions. It now turns out, to the dissatisfaction of those who had a hand in his arrest, if it were illegal, that Dr. Keogh never visited Fennell, and that he had never been sent for that purpose. But the fact is probably this, that when Dr. Keogh had been known to be absent visiting a neighbouring house to see a female patient, Fennell's friends had brought him to the house, and on the doctor leaving after the discharge of his professional duty, they requested him to look at a poor man who was very ill. By this device they thought to procure the services of Dr. Keogh, but in vain, as that gentleman did no more than merely stanch the blood that flowed from the wounds of Fennell. More than this he did not do, if he even did so much; and hence it is the parties who had a hand in Dr. Keogh's arrest will find themselves probably the subject of Parliamentary discussion, if not inquiry.—*Tipperary Independent*.

THE FRAY AT KILLOONSKY WOOD.—The surmises hazarded concerning one of the prisoners captured by the flying column on Sunday morning have proved mistaken. We understand his name is really Edmund Kelly, and he is not an American, as his appearance—seemingly, probably, of long residence in America—seemed to suggest. He was born of respectable parents in the neighbourhood of Kinsale, about 28 years ago, and went with them to America when a child, receiving there a superior education, in which military science formed an element. Residing chiefly in Canada, he was apprenticed to the trade of a compositor, but came to Ireland about eight or nine years ago, and, having completed his apprenticeship, has since worked on and off at his trade. He is short and slight in person and of quiet, gentlemanly manner. During several months of the past year he worked at printing offices in this city, and it is stated, he was contemplating returning to his friends in America when the affair with the flying column took place leading to his arrest. Kelly asserts that his party did not fire a shot until they had been fired upon repeatedly by the military—that, in fact, when they were fired upon, and had to run for their weapons to a part of the wood where they were concealed, before they could reply to the first fire of the military, and that they did so then in self-defence. The deceased Peter Crowley is said to have come to Cork on the previous Thursday disguised as a carrier.—*Cork Examiner*.

The farmers all around Bray and Wicklow are reported as busily at work in the fields making up for lost time. Every effort is being made to put the seeds in the ground while the fine weather continues, and it is surprising how much has been done during the last few days. The soft showers and increase of temperature are encouraging the growth of grass, and the cattle, supported with great difficulty throughout the winter, will soon obtain enough of provender from the fields.

The Mayo Constitution says:—Within the past week the emigration of 1867 has set in, and, we regret to say, with more appearance of increased extent than we have observed for years past. The number of emigrants daily leaving our country particularly from the seaboard—is truly wonderful, and their departure is not marked by that boisterous leaving-taking and heart-felt sorrow which heretofore took place, but apparently with a hopeful feeling that they were only separating for a short period. We have learned, on inquiry, that the great proportion of those now emigrating do so on prepaid tickets, being sent for by their friends in America, who seem as anxious to bring over their relations in Ireland as the Irish are to quit their native land.

On Tuesday night no inconsiderable amount of alarm was caused in the neighbourhood of the Meath Hospital, or it being well known that James Kirwan, a reputed head centre in the Fenian conspiracy, had effected his escape from the Hospital, where he had been lying under surgical treatment from a gun-shot wound in the shoulder which he received in the affray

at Tullaght. It will be recollected that a few days ago Kirwan was arrested in a house in Bishop street, when it was discovered that he was suffering from the effects of a gun-shot wound in the shoulder which threatened to be very serious. The authorities considered it necessary to remove the prisoner to the Meath Hospital, and placed him in the special custody of two police constables, who sat by his bedside night and day alternately. On Tuesday night, however, the constable in charge being obliged to absent himself from the room where the prisoner lay for a few minutes, Kirwan seized the opportunity, and, although in an extremely weak and debilitated state, succeeded in effecting his escape from the hospital through a window. On the constable returning and finding the 'bird had flown,' he communicated the fact to the officers, who proceeded to institute a search in the neighbourhood, but no traces could be found of the fugitive. The extraordinary character of the escape and the suddenness with which it was conceived, have created no small amount of interest.

The Irish Protestant bishops have unanimously signed the following reply to an address from a committee of laymen on the subject of ritualistic innovations:—'Gentlemen,—We beg to acknowledge the memorial from the Committee of lay members of the Established Church which you have placed in our hands. We desire to say, in reply, that we feel that it is the right and duty of the laity of our Church to take a lively interest in the maintenance of the sound doctrine and the pure worship which were restored to it at the Reformation, and that the exertions of the Bishops in defence of these inestimable blessings, if they are at any time endangered, would mainly depend for success, under God, upon the cordial co-operation of their lay as well as their clerical brethren. Should such a crisis arise, we humbly trust that we shall not be found wanting in an earnest determination, so far as in us lies, to preserve to the Church her precious inheritance. But we hope that there is no present reason to think that it is in danger. On the contrary, we feel that we have great reason to be thankful that our branch of the Church has been so graciously preserved from those excesses in ritual which have given such offence and alarm in England, and from the errors in doctrine with which they have been connected. And we are happy to be able to say, each for his own diocese, that within our knowledge no cases of excessive ritual exist in this part of the United Church. We trust this happy state of things will, by God's blessing, long remain. But, if it should be otherwise, we can assure you that we are fully prepared to use all the authority and influence that we possess to discourage and resist all changes in the manner of performing Divine service which are contrary to the spirit of our Reformed Church: bore all when, under cover of such changes, it is sought to give a sanction to doctrines which our Church has expressly repudiated and condemned.

A movement has commenced in Tipperary which is the most hopeful sign that has occurred yet as to the disposition of the peasantry who have been duped by the American adventurers. At Dunderum, in that county, on Saturday, about 20 persons appeared when called on in the court-house, and signed the following declaration:—'We, the undersigned, come forward voluntarily, and throw ourselves on the leniency of Government, having been unfortunately induced by the representations of designing adventurers to enter the Fenian movement, which was long since wished to withdraw from, but from terror we were obliged to appear with the insurgents on the 5th of March, 1867.'

Recently, Sub-Inspector McCarthy, of Banaha, and a party of police, proceeded to search the house of a man named Butler, of Thomastown, where they supposed one of the Ballyhurst Fenians was concealed. In a bedchamber with boarded flooring, they discovered a trap door under a bed, which was situated at the end of the room. On raising the door, which had hinges attached on the interior, thereby making it less suspicious from the outside, an excavation, six feet in length, by sixteen inches in breadth, and a foot and a half in depth, was revealed to their view. It presented the appearance of some person having lain there but a short time previous to their coming, from the fresh impression left on the earth.

Some of her Majesty's troops are, willingly or unwillingly, doing good service as detectives, in bringing disaffected persons to justice. A man named Timothy Wright was yesterday brought up at the head police-office, charged with attempting to seduce a soldier named George Henry Russell from his allegiance. Russell, who is a private of the 85th Regiment, had met the prisoner and some other men in a public-house on Sunday evening. Wright and the others began to talk about the Fenians in America, and the prisoner said he had just come from Philadelphia, where he had seen 'the boys' parading.' He added that there were 28,000 of 'the boys' well armed and ready to march upon Canada. Addressing himself to Russell, he asked him to return on Monday night, and he would swear him in as a Fenian. The latter promised to do so. In the interval he informed his commanding officer of the circumstances, and was directed by him to keep the appointment. Another soldier was sent with him, and about five minutes after they entered the public house they were joined by Wright, to whom they gave two glasses of porter. Two detectives entered shortly after, and took Wright into custody. The prisoner, who denied having ever seen the soldier before Monday night, was remanded.

GENERAL MASSEY.—The *Standard* of the 15th ult. says that 'General' Massey, the Fenian leader, who faintly awoke when he was arrested at Limerick, and turned Queen's evidence, 'and it is said that his testimony has assisted materially in establishing true bills against the prisoners charged with high treason at Dublin. His evidence in open court is looked forward to with the greatest interest as affording a complete exposure of the Fenian scheme and intentions.

A SUSPECTED FENIAN.—Londonderry Saturday Night. At the Police-court here to-day (before the Mayor, Edward Reid, Esq.) a very stalwart individual, who said his name was Michael Joyce, was charged under somewhat suspicious circumstances. It appeared that the prisoner had secured a passage in one of the outward-bound Canadian steamers plying from this port, and yesterday he went on board the tender, with the other passengers to be conveyed to the steamer at Moville. He seemed anxious, after some time, to come ashore; but, as the tender was soon to start from the quay, Mr. Groves, shipping agent, intercepted him, and he then assented to custody for this offence, and, on being searched, by the constabulary, a Roman Catholic prayerbook was found on his person. On one of the leaves were written the names 'Burke' and 'Joyce.' These circumstances aroused the attention of the authorities, and a more minute inspection led to the belief that the prisoner is no other than a Fenian named Burke, for whose arrest a reward has been offered, and whose appearance is described in the *Gazette*. Joyce, as he calls himself, gives a very confused account as to how he came to this part of the country. He says he had been in Victoria for the last ten years, and returned to Ireland nearly two months ago. He passed through a portion of England, and then settled in Wexford, where he states he lodged with a person named Stephen Tobin, a publican. He claims to be a native of Kilkenny. His answers to the questions put to him were considered far from satisfactory. He was remanded.—*Express*.

IRISH INFORMERS.—Patrick Moriarty, who was arrested for being engaged in the attack on Mr. Leader's house, and who rendered his services to the crown as an informer, has been himself identified since as the man who assaulted Mr. Leader with a poker. His professed evidence has been consequently refuted, his depositions rendered null, and himself committed for trial. McCarthy, another informer, has also broken down most ignominiously. Some suspicions that the hope of reward might have overpowered his reverence for truth seems to have arisen in the mind of the magistrate, who had him confronted with two men who had been in prison some months previous to the 'rising.' McCarthy scanned the men's features closely, and then positively asserted that they were among the party who attacked Ballyknockane police-station. The resident magistrate, it is reported, became rather crestfallen, so did the other officials who were with him, while McCarthy, at once seeing the position of affairs, desired to see the men again; but the resident magistrate would not listen to the request, and thus matters stand at present.

#### GREAT BRITAIN. SCOTTISH CATHOLICS.

To the Editor of the *Glasgow Herald*.

SIR,—Will you grant me a space in the *Herald* to correct a historical blunder attributed to the Right Rev. Dr. Lynch, in his sermon on St. Patrick, in the Catholic Church of Anderson, on the 17th inst? His Lordship is reported, in a Glasgow paper, to have said, 'When they (the Irish) landed in Scotland, in the beginning of the present century, they found no true Church.' That assertion is so much at variance with facts, that it is almost incredible that a bishop in Scotland could have given utterance to it. By the true Church we are sure that he means a Church composed of Catholic bishops, priests, and laity. Now, in the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the Irish began to land in Scotland, there were Scotch Catholic congregations and Scotch bishops, and consequently there was in Scotland at that time the Catholic Church. For brevity's sake I will only mention the names of the Scotch bishops then in this country, as their existence proves, were that necessary, that of lay Catholics and priests over whom they ruled. Let any one consult the recently published first volume of Dr. Gordon's 'Scotch Chronicles,' and he will find that, at the period in question, there lived Bishops George Hay, John Geddes, and John Chisholm. The first of these is well-known by his literary works wherever the English language is spoken. His 'Treatise on Miracles,' in refutation of David Hume, is a masterpiece, and has been translated in Continental languages. History mentions the names of his predecessors. Thus we find that Bishop Thomas Nicholson was consecrated in 1655. James Gordon in 1706, John Wallace in 1720. The fact is that the Reformation never destroyed the Catholic Church in Scotland. In spite of the persecutions to which they were subjected for conscience sake, many of that communion adhered to their faith in every part of the kingdom, as well in the higher as in the lower ranks of society. The most powerful family in Scotland—a family that was able to wage war against the Sovereign—I mean that of the Duke of Gordon, remained Catholic till the last two dukes. The earls of Traquair were always faithful to that creed. There is not a single shire in Scotland where Scotch Catholics are not to be found, but chiefly in Dumfriesshire, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Mearns, Argyllshire, Invernessshire, and Kinross-shire, and that without any intermixture of the Irish element. In some districts of Scotland the great majority of the inhabitants are Scotch Catholics. Glenoe, so celebrated for the massacre of its tribe, was then all Catholic; Glen garry, so celebrated as a nursery of warriors, is chiefly Catholic; Glenlivet, so well known for its whiskey, is mostly Catholic. In conclusion, were all the Irish in Scotland to quit it to-morrow, they would no more carry away with them the true Church than that they introduced it here; but they would leave behind them a Catholic Church composed of Scotch bishops, Scotch priests, and Scotch laity.—I am, &c.,

A SCOTCH CATHOLIC.

THE ROMISH CHURCH IN FLINTSHIRE

To the Editor of *Berrow's Worcester Journal*.

Dear Sir,—We regret the necessity we are under of submitting to you the enclosed appeal. A few years ago, had any one intimated to us the possibility of Popery ever obtaining a footing in the Principality, we should have been inclined to smile at the idea (for so thoroughly grounded in the Reformed Faith our people seemed to be), but now, with sorrow we say it, many of our people are actually under Popish instruction, and some already perverted.

You would both greatly oblige us, and certainly render invaluable assistance to the cause of truth, by giving publicity, through your able journal, to this our appeal.

We are, dear sir, your obedient servants,  
DAVID JONES, rector of Brynford.  
EDWARD EVANS JONES, horseshod Parsonage.  
[The appeal referred to, and which is too lengthy for insertion, states that in connection with the Church of Pantasfa, in Flintshire, are a large monastery of Capuchin monks, a convent of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, a free school, and an orphanage; and the writers complain that by means of gratuitous education, &c., Protestant children are being converted to the faith of Rome.]—*Weekly Angler*.

In the Birmingham *Journal* of Monday last, we read that Murphy has certainly made one convert, a fellow countryman of his own, and, like him, a man of the lowest order. Unfortunately, however, for the cause of rampant Protestantism, no sooner had his pious catechumen of the new faith appeared on the platform, than he was claimed by the police as an individual who had been 'wanted' for some time, on account of something more than a slight suspicion of robbery, which he effected a few weeks ago at Wolverhampton, and was walked off with handcuffs to goal. Such are the men, such the cause, with which the person who calls himself 'Colonel' Brockman and several clergymen of the English Church are mixed up. Converts like this fellow who was captured at Walsall, when on the platform he was calling for 'three groans for the Pope,' we can afford to lose, but why should the lecturers take such trouble to win them over? In any of the back slums of our large towns they must be found by the hundred, and for very few shillings would join any one who asked them to do so. 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 9.—Mr. Sergeant Armstrong moved to leave to bring in a bill affecting mixed marriages in Ireland. He stated that by an old Act of Parliament all marriages celebrated in a Catholic Chapel in Ireland between a Protestant and a Catholic were illegal. He did not propose to repeal that act, as its provisions were connected with the general subject of the marriage law, but the object of his bill was to provide that where a married man abandoning his wife resorted to a Catholic priest, professed himself to be a Catholic, and married a Catholic woman, he might be indicted for bigamy without taking advantage of the Act of Parliament which declared the second marriage null and void. Leave was given to bring in the bill.

The *Daily News* considers that, according to the maxims of ordinary Parliamentary experience, the Ministerial Reform bill ought now to be safe. But the Bill satisfies no one, and since one-half of its friends support it because it is so radical, and the other half because it is so conservative, it cannot be regarded out of danger so long as it is subject to discussion.

The London *Times* has some degree of confidence that the dangers which have beset the bill are past, and congratulates the country upon the prospect of having a question settled which has been a ministerial difficulty for 15 years. It does not pretend that the Government bill is perfect. Some of its provisions it holds to be so objectionable that a withdrawal or considerable modification of them will be necessary; but, by discussion in committee, its defects may be supplied, and its errors amended.

A PROTESTANT PROPHECY.—For some time past Murphy, the howling Irish anti-Papist lecturer, has been stirring up riot and ill-will among the population of the midland counties, by his denunciations of a faith held by a large number of our fellow-countrymen. At Wolverhampton some few weeks ago, to such a pitch had this intemperate demagogue wrought the feelings of the inhabitants that the authorities were unable to preserve the peace with the civil force at their command, and had to call in the aid of the military. Nevertheless many serious riots occurred; the parish was put to enormous expense; and ill-feeling engendered among classes, which cannot fail to be productive for a lengthened time of serious consequences. And all this for the benefit of a man who, evidently designed for manual labour, finds he can obtain a better means of subsistence by trading upon the credulity of dupes to whom the cry of 'No Popery' is fraught with a charm beyond anything else; and by poisoning the minds of youth with disgusting obscenity raked up with much evident exertion from the oblivion of past ages. Were a person to come forward and announce a lecture on anatomy, and its many kindred subjects, merely with the design of selling the quack obnoxious which the walls of our towns and villages advertise, the police would very properly soon disperse the itinerant and his stock in trade, and the proceeding would, doubtless, be endorsed by the voice of the public; yet we question if these contain anything near so disgusting as may be found in the pages of 'The Confessional Unmasked,' by the sale of which the man Murphy is making an easy fortune. After travelling through the country for nearly two years disseminating his obscene trash, some few weeks since the Wolverhampton magistrates—well praise to them for so doing—condemned 'The Confessional Unmasked,' as unfit for publication. We should have thought to every right-thinking man and woman would have felt grateful for the proceeding which prevented the minds of their sons and daughters being poisoned with the seed of evil thoughts which could hardly have arisen without the aid of such a publication. But to the shame, and we say emphatically, the disgrace of those who took part in it, a meeting of so-called Protestants was held at Wolverhampton on Monday last, at which they protested against the decision of the magistrates, and passed resolutions condemning the course taken by them. Depraved humanity has many subtleties, and we are seriously afraid that those who look upon 'The Confessional Unmasked' as a book fit for the reading of their sons and daughters, or themselves, would gleat with pleasure over the vilest quack obscenity of the day, were it accompanied with a spice of religious sagging. It is almost a surprise that the publishers of these latter works have not taken a hint from the Protestant religious world, and hired 'religious lecturers' to denounce their publication, selling them to their audiences as a substantiation of their 'arguments' in condemnation of them. As a proof that even Murphy was 'hard up' for arguments, nothing can be stronger than the fact that he had to rake up a book which belongs to a by-gone era and which might never have been heard of had not this quasi-religious demagogue got it translated from Latin into English, a language in which we believe it never before appeared. We well remember the scenes of disorder and riot which the advent of Murphy and his industrious satellite Colonel Brockman, caused in this town, where the members of the Roman Catholic Church are so few. How much more so, then, must be the irritation felt in such places as Wolverhampton and the surrounding district, where Irishmen form so great a portion of the population. We seriously ask the question: Is Murphy doing any good? There can be but one answer, and that is in the negative. Why, then, should he be allowed to wander about the country, sowing the seeds of evil, which are fraught with results almost to dire to contemplate, and entailing upon towns an enormous expense to enable him to insult the inhabitants generally? We quite agree with freedom of discussion, and should be very sorry to see it curtailed of any of its proportions; but when this freedom degenerates into licentiousness, it is high time that by legislative enactments the peace of the people should be preserved, and such men as Murphy forced to get a more honest living either by the spade and mattock, as dock laborers, or any of those useful employments for which they are so peculiarly fitted both bodily and intellectually. Murphy has been lecturing at Walsall during the past week, with the same results as at Wolverhampton. The magistrates have found it necessary to swear in about 200 special constables, including about 100 lay volunteers, and to employ the services of about 100 of the county constabulary and a troop of the 8th Hussars. To counteract the evil effect of Murphy's declamation and gratuitous insult upon the minds of the people, an admirable address recently delivered by Bishop Ullathorne, in the two Roman Catholic chapels of the town, has been printed, and extensively circulated. It is an appeal to the members of the Roman Church to stay away, even from the vicinity of the hall, and exhort them to good and peaceable behavior. The local Roman Catholic priests, Fathers Levi, Dunne, and McGahern, also issued a temperate and Christian-like appeal of similar purport containing an invitation to the members of their flock to attend special services, which were held at the Roman Catholic chapel each night of the week. 'Papal intolerance' is a favorite cry with lecturers of the Murphy stamp; but we think that the 'Protestants' who encourage them are taught a lesson by those whom it is their pleasure (and trade perhaps) to revile. At all events, the Roman Catholics of Walsall have shown their desire to follow peace with all men, even under circumstances when wrath and indignation would be, to say the least, excusable. We hope the example set by them will be followed by their brethren of the Roman Church in every place where Murphy may seek to annoy them.—There can be no better way of dealing with such men than to treat them with contempt. They, like a certain fraternity of light-fingered gentry, can only successfully carry out their objects by agitation, and the more riot they create the more easily will they find it to transfer to their own pockets the silver and gold of better and honest men.—*Cheltenham Times and Musical Record* (Protestant).

The knowledge of Catholicism has never been brought home to the hearts of our working classes. Our empty wharves, they call a class religion, pride, and self-indulgence, and the dislike of being schooled, keep the artisans in our large cities from the doors of the Established Church. Since the days of Whitfield and of Wesley, the dissenting chapel has lost its hold over the hearts of the working men.—The largest proportion of the middle classes will, long after the silent apostasy of the intellect and of the sinews of the country, crowd with a decorous observance round the pulpit of the preacher, and listen still with reverence to the words of Sacred Writ; but such a state of things from its very nature, cannot last, especially in these days, when knowledge is spreading, though it is true wisdom lingers. And after the collapse of Protestantism what next? There seems to be no prospect in the dark look out; one does not like to contemplate the possibility of blank unbelief taking up its abode in the English mind, yet the question of such a possibility can no longer be blinked. Intellectual scepticism is already leaving its mark on the national mind, its harshest tones are greeting on the ear, its daring speculations court publicity in a manner which contrasts strangely with the religious decorum which prevailed in English literature twenty years ago. Indeed it has now come to this that we confess to a misgiving that we are, after all, no better than our neighbors, that neither the English Constitution nor the English religion is proof against the advance of French Democracy, or of German Infidelity.—*Westminster Gazette*.

The London and Royal Western yacht clubs have opened all their matches to all American yachts.

FREE CHURCH PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH.—A meeting of the Edinburgh Free Church Presbytery was held yesterday.—Mr. Brown, St. Paul's Moderator.

Mr. Pirie read a report by the Committee on intemperance, and the best means for its suppression. The report stated that all the inquiries made by the committee went to confirm them in their opinion that drunkenness was rapidly on the increase—that it was the prevailing sin of the day, and was intimately connected with the poverty, crime, and immorality which abounded to so large an extent in our community. [So much for the Forbes Mackenzie Act.]—*Edinburgh Courier*, March 27.

THE LONDON MAY-FESTIVALS.—On these occasions 'lay Scripture-readers' are generally brought over from Ireland to tell their experiences, in their own simple style, of the way in which the gospel of soap is spreading amongst the Irish Papists. I know not what cruel fate it is which has ordained that these men should be indescribably coarse, ugly, and repulsive in features. But such they invariably are. Perhaps were they clad in their accustomed frieze and corduroy, the clowns would pass muster. But on these occasions they are clad into broad cloth and white chokers, and the results would be very laughable if they were not absolutely disgusting.—A couple of years ago, I was 'professionally' present at a breakfast of one of these Irish missionary societies in St. James's Hall. A very intelligent gentleman, a clergyman of the Church of England, sat beside me. Opposite me were two 'Scripture-readers,' whom, by their peculiar brogue and type of face, I recognised as natives of the most Orange part of the county Londonderry. They were both clad in fresh shining broadcloth that had still the hot smell of the tailor's goose upon it; and two uglier, more vulgar, and more forbidding clods I never beheld. The clergyman, who had no notion who or what I was, entered into conversation with them; and the rascals immediately brimmed over with their confidences. Seeing the effect their conversation was producing on this well-bred gentleman, I (cautiously, I confess) proceeded to draw them out; and the rascaldness, the bigotry, the malignity, and manifest falsehood of the couple of white-chokered backwoods so overcame the poor gentlemanly English parson, that he turned a weary appealing look on me, drank off his coffee, rose with a look of profound disgust, and removed to the other end of the room.

Society Taking Holiday.—In what pot house, singing saloon, or other moral centre of rational amusement, these two exemplary Irish Suppers spent that night, I cannot tell. But I desire to call your attention to the curious coincidence, that these pious meetings in London are never held except when what is called 'the season' has opened. Now 'the season' means the return of all sorts of gaiety, and the promoters and engines of gaiety to London. The singing and dancing saloons are at the height of their gaiety. The Greenmore Gardens are thrown open to the fittest youth and demi-monde of the metropolis.—The opera flourishes, and the ballet is brilliant. On these occasions I have seen pious people, who sternly denounce carnal amusements in their conventicles at home, enjoying themselves mightily. In the year '51, I was charmed to see a well-known Belfast Presbyterian minister (fresh from denouncing the Belfast Theatre) sitting in a box at her Majesty's Opera House, and evidently greatly relishing the pinettes of Madame Cerito, whose drapery struck even me (young as I was) as unnecessarily scanty. On another occasion, in the charming month of May, I whilst showing a country friend the various sights of London, was marvellously perplexed on beholding a couple of dignitaries of the Belfast Corporation (whose united ages exceeded a hundred) whirling round the central platform in dizzy mazes of the waltz with two fair damsels whose years put together would certainly not much exceed forty. Such are the charms (so suggestive of primal innocence) of the sweet months of April and May in Christian London.—*Cor. of Dublin Irishman*.

Mr. Gladstone is much censured by the members of the Liberal party and the friends of the Liberal cause for what they term his mismanagement of the Reform movement.

#### UNITED STATES.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE CHURCH.—We copy the following from the Newburyport (Mass.) *Herald*:—'Last year a quarter of a million foreigners were added to our population by immigration, and more are expected this year. This would be a consolation to those who pride themselves in the American race, as we sometimes call it, though we have not been here long enough to be thoroughly acclimated, if they could see that these new comers were to be absorbed in our population, but it is a fact pretty well established now that the foreigners are absorbing us, or taking the place of the old American families. Even in Massachusetts the births of foreign parents are now equalling those of natives, and at the rate things have been going on in the last twenty years, before the expiration of this century the majority of the people must be foreigners or their immediate descendants, and it is not so clear that a majority of church members will not, as a consequence be Catholics. The cause of the change is very clear; it is the Catholic Church outside is murder, and a child dying in the womb is unweaned, because unbaptized; and those foreigners who are not Catholics have no objection to children. On the other side, among Protestant Christians outside is not regarded as a crime, and those who make no profession of Christian faith live for themselves and not for posterity.—Where such theories obtain humanity will suffer for its violation of the natural laws in the everlasting course of God.'

The Rev. Father Hewitt (Paulist) recently delivered an able and elaborate discourse in the Paulist Church, New York, on the 'True Destination of the Irish People.' It was an honorable and glowing tribute to the steadfastness of the Irish people to the true faith. He proved that they were, as a race, the oldest in Europe; that even when they were Pagans, they were the most decent Pagans ever read of; that they received the faith without ever spilling one drop of blood; that the martyrdom of the Irish was left for a later date, to be enacted by men who called themselves by the name of Christians! In speaking of St. Patrick, he said he was sorry to say some were ashamed of the name of Patrick, the noblest and greatest name ever given man—it was, as its very name implied, noble—*Pariculus* 'a noble of Rome,' and yet it was now looked upon by ignorant men as a title of obloquy. No Irishman should be ashamed of the name of Patrick.

The present indications are that the trial of Jeff. Davis will not take place in Richmond next Monday, but that his further postponement is to be made. The advisability of admitting Davis to bail is now being considered. Several prominent persons have been lately inquiring regarding the case of J. F. Davis, with a view to obtain his trial or release. It is asserted, on the highest authority, that the government offered to release Davis on his own parole, but he positively declined to accept freedom unless unconditionally.

CONOVER THE PERJURER.—Justice has at last been done to Sanford Conover, alias Charles Dunham. He was on Thursday sentenced by Judge Fisher, of the Criminal Court of Washington to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Albany or Jersey. It will be recollected that he returned before a military commission which tried Harriet, Maud, and Mrs. Surratt, that J. F. Surratt, Oliver O. Olney, Jacob Thompson, and others were a corner in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln. Conover went into great minuteness of detail, and had so arranged his bogus testimony as to mislead many. His confessions, however, not receiving any portion of the reward which Conover expected to get, he tricked the scheme, and his sentence to-day for perjury.