

Charles Napier commands, and, after all the boasts made about it, absurd as many of these were, it will add nothing to the honor of that flag if the single exploit performed by such a fleet in a whole year shall consist of a share in the conquest of a group of islands, having a population about equal to that of an average English parish.

Before 1852 Sebastopol was scarcely fortified on the land side, and was commanded by the surrounding heights; but those hills nearest the town have been partly levelled, and the earth transported to the lower grounds and hollows which might facilitate a besieging force in approaching the place.

Constructions of strong masonry are necessary to constitute fortifications capable of resistance, and a mere rampart is not sufficient; and, in addition, a fortified place must have half-moons and lunettes also in strong masonry. So great a work cannot be executed all of a sudden. However, the report goes that all the soldiers and seamen are now employed on it, to the number of 40,000; and with the Russian method which consists in sacrificing men by thousands for any works whatever, whether of war or not, it is not impossible that the fortifications may be in part finished when the allies arrive before the place.

ENGLISH MORALS. (From the Nation.)

Every one has heard of Catholic indulgences, about the nature of which there has been no little controversy. But there are also indulgences which are purely Protestant, and about the nature of which there can be no dispute. According to English statesmen, the great difficulty of England was Irish poverty; but now—if the same authorities speak truth—the great difficulty is the abundance and enormity of English crime.

England may be defined as a pious nation overfurnished with rascality. Now, when the successful revolt of the colonies has doggedly blocked up the old outlet for British villany, the question is, who will open a sluice-gate or widen a new channel to drain off the waters of this deadly Cyclops?

The philosopher Carlyle, would humanely suggest the expediency of strangling them—"every one of them"—without any superfluous delay, and this philosopher's advice would doubtless be followed with

alacrity and good will if the miscreants happened to be Irishmen. But, as they are for the most part genuine John Bulls, the suggestion is naturally scouted with horror. It is deemed much better to nurse the black villains "tenderly with meat and drink," and by that alchemy of imprisonment, termed the silent system, to try to transmute convicted felons into honest tradesmen.

To remedy this state of things, a new experiment has been tried. Precisely a year ago an act was passed enabling her Majesty to favor jail birds with tickets-of-leave—to allow them to forsake their cages, and live at large in the United Kingdom during such portion of their imprisonment as should seem expedient to her Majesty. That is, to make Britain and Ireland, out of tenderness to culprits or inability to otherwise dispose of them, a substitute for Botany Bay—to filter the dregs and feculence of the jails, by insensible degrees, through the body and mass of the nation—to pock-mark the wide face of the Empire with knaves.

Now let us briefly see what has been the result.—"In some instances," we are told, "the license has been revoked on the score of new crimes, and in others it has been taken advantage of, to abuse the mercy of the crown."

The following extract from a London journal will show how much better it is to be a convict in England than an honest workman in Ireland:—"Large sums of money are given to convicts on their quitting jail. One man, sentenced to eleven years' transportation, was discharged with a gratuity of £6 10s 10d; another, under sentence for stealing a Post-office order, was discharged with a gratuity of £14 3s 11d; another, under sentence for rape, was discharged with a gratuity of £10 9s 7½d; another, under sentence for robbery and violence, with a gratuity of £17 17s 11d; and another, under sentence for larceny, with a gratuity of £16 5s.

The use of this money is to set him up as a thief—at least such is the use the convict invariably makes of it. It keeps him en haleine, as the French say, until he makes a new haul.

The truth is, that crime covers and devours England, like a leprosy. So long as she was able to weed the populace by transporting her criminals to the antipodes, she might boast of her morality.—"Thank Heaven, I am not as other men." But now, when she is forced, like other nations, to keep her villains at home, her boasting will speedily be at an end, and Continental nations who had no such resource, and over whom she used to triumph, will soon surpass her in morality.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM IN LOUISBURGH.—His Grace, after having visited and held confirmation in several parishes in the deaneries of Ballinrobe and Connemara arrived on Wednesday last at westport, shortly after four o'clock p.m., accompanied by the distinguished Missioners, Fathers Rinoldi and Vilas, and escorted by the Rev. Messrs. King, Gibbon, and Moore of Connemara. On entering the parish of Kilgeever a scene presented itself which defies all power of description, and which must have filled with unbounded delight the great and distinguished Metropolitan of the West.

the morning proceeded to the scene of their labors for that day, followed by a vast multitude. On passing through that den of iniquity—the so-called Bulnebhinch Colony—we were forcibly struck with some interesting incidents that here occurred. The cars conveying the Archbishop and the clergy were stopped, and immediately was seen a man coming forth with his aged and trembling father upon his back, taken from his sick bed from one of the houses of this fated colony, for the purpose of getting his Grace's benediction, and asking pardon for his misfortune in having ever joined the ranks of the "merchandisers in men's souls."

A correspondent of the Tablet writing from Dingle gives decisive proofs of the failure of the proselytising schemes. Within two days, no less than 1,920 persons received the Sacrament of Confirmation—their ages averaging from ten to sixteen years. This is a pretty good sign that the Papists are not becoming extinct.

We (Tablet) are authorized to contradict the following statement of the correspondent of the New York Freeman's Journal, viz:—"That the Archbishop of Cashel has made arrangements to give the Jesuits possession of the College of Thurles, which is to be devoted exclusively to the education of Clergymen or the American mission."

Edward Stoney, appointed to the office of bible-reader in Carrigaholt, was recently converted to the Catholic faith there, during the mission of the Jesuits.—Tablet.

The four last church livings in the diocese of Waterford, in the gift of the Duke of Devonshire, were presented to Englishmen, the last £600 a year to the son of his Grace's upper gardener.

The permission granted by the government to Mr. Dillon of returning to Ireland also extends, we have reason for believing, to the other refugees of '48. In fact, the according of such a privilege to Mr. Dillon at all implies its extension to the rest of the party—for, with the exception of the men who were actually tried, no man played so heavy a stake, ran so many risks, and was so deeply implicated in the cause. His name was proclaimed with O'Brien's; and he was with him and Meagher throughout Tipperary. Whether Mr. Dillon will return to reside in Ireland is yet uncertain.—Nation.

One of the greatest engineering enterprises, in Ireland has been brought to a point which leaves no further difficulty. The headings of the tunnel of the Great Southern and Western Railway, under Cork Barracks, met accurately on Saturday last, when the chairman of the company, Sir Edward McDonnell, and other directors, accompanied by the secretary and engineers, walked through from the north face at Blackpool to the Glanmive-road.

The annual show of the Royal Irish Agricultural Society was opened on the 9th Aug., at Armagh, and was considered by judges to have been altogether successful.

THE LOST BRIGADIER.—Nemesis can scarcely inflict upon the Aberdeen Ministry any keener humiliation than they have sustained through the escapade of Mr. Edmund O'Flaherty. It was positively beginning to be rumored in the lobby of the House, that, with his habitual adroitness and audacity, the Ex-Special Commissioner of Income-tax, was about to propose a compromise to the holders of his fraudulent bills, who might assist in hushing the matter up, in order to make the best of a desperate bargain; and that the public were to be once more at the mercy of his adventurous statesmanship; but Mr. Lucas nipped this beautiful project in the bud, by bringing the whole question before the House of Commons. After ruthlessly stripping the veil from the career of O'Flaherty, Mr. Lucas demanded how the Chancellor of the Exchequer could justify his appointment to a position of such responsibility, and whether the public were still in the enjoyment of his valuable services.

EXTRAORDINARY, BUT TRUE.—Limerick, Monday Night.—As your official agent in this city, I hasten to communicate a circumstance, the topic of general conversation to-day, and which has somewhat terrified the female portion of society:—Capt. Gorman, master of the ship Jessie, which arrived in the river last evening from Quebec, reported to the Collector of Customs, at twelve (noon) this day, that, when about four miles off the mouth of the Shannon, he observed, reconnoitering towards land, in very suspicious movement, a large steamer about one hundred and seventy feet long, with black funnel, as high as the mainmast of the ship. She did not hoist the English Ensign when saluted, but bore off. The slow motion of the steamer with heavy swells, precluded Captain Gorman from ascertaining whether she was screw or paddle, but from appearance, the steamer was either American or Russian. In addition to the above, it is stated that Sweeny, the chief boatman at Kiltredane Lighthouse (the farthest point on the Shannon), descried the smoke of the steamer before the circumstance was reported to him by Capt. Gorman. Since writing the foregoing, intelligence has been received through a young gentleman who arrived from Galway, to the effect that the same steamer was observed from thence, also lurking off land; and that the coastguard revenue cutter and a small steamer were sent in chase of her.—Correspondent of Saunderson's News-Letter.

We deeply desire the restoration of the Irish nation, as a politically independent State. We would hopefully accept that independence, under the form either of Monarchy, or under a Federal Union with England and Scotland. As a separate republic, we do not think Ireland could exist for one year, but we are quite willing to leave that, and every other Constitutional question, to the free suffrage of the adult male population. The few persons who, like Mr. Mitchell, talk of invading Ireland from America, and imposing a foreign rule on the national life, would talk treason, only they talk nonsense. To impose a republic by invasive force, is just as criminal as to impose a monarchy; to bring in the Reds, would be even worse than McMurrugh's crime of bringing in the Normans.—American Celt.

IRISH POLICE.—It appears from the annual return of the effective strength of the Irish Constabulary, and the expenditure on account thereof for the year 1853, that the force was 12,166 strong, including one Inspector-General, with a salary of £1,500 per annum; two deputy inspector-generals, with £800 a year each; and two assistant inspector-generals, with £500 a year each; a receiver with £750 a year, a surgeon, with £300; and a veterinary surgeon, with £100 a year. The force also includes thirty-five county inspectors, with salaries ranging from £298 to £220, exclusive of allowances, &c; 248 sub-inspectors, with salaries varying from £150 to £100, exclusive of allowances, &c.; 335 head constables, with salaries varying from £60 to £50, &c; 54 mounted constables, with a pay of £38 a year; and 1,651 infantry constables, with £36 a year each, allowances, &c.; 339 acting constables, with £30 a year each; and 8,216 sub-constables, first rate, with £27 14s a year each; and 1,275, second rate, with £24 a year each. The pay of the constables is exclusive of allowance for accommodations and lodgings, where there is no barrack accommodation. The total expenditure during the year 1853 was, £571,628 12s 6½d.

DECREASE OF CRIME IN IRELAND.—The gratifying evidence that the decrease of crime in this country, which our late assizes' reports so unequivocally furnished, is still further confirmed by the returns placed before the public in the reports of the Inspectors General of Prisons, which has just been printed. Since 1850, the decrease in the number of committals has been 25 per cent. Thus in 1850, the total number confined was 115,781; in 1851, 113,354; in 1852, 92,638; and in 1853, 83,105. The reduction shown by the returns for last year would have been still more but for the addition of a new class of offenders to the list, those committed under the Vagrancy Act, which had before been but little put in force. In the different provinces the committals last year were as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Province, Males, Females. Rows: Ulster (5,626 Males, 3,135 Females), Munster (15,601 Males, 8,001 Females), Leinster (17,694 Males, 17,477 Females), Connaught (3,471 Males, 1,824 Females).

Regarding the convictions and acquittals during the period embraced by the returns, the following figures are interesting; showing as they do the great activity of the authorities in making every species of petty offence amenable to the law, though, as will appear, the number confined is but a small proportion of that of persons made amenable.

Return of the number of cases in which parties have been made amenable in the year 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853:—

1850—Total number of cases, 214,181; convictions, 126,283; acquittals 53,573; bills ignored, 2,343; no trial, 31,177.

1851—Total number of cases, 227,092; convictions, 140,880; acquittals, 52,837; bills ignored, 1,631; no trial, 31,744.

1852—Total number of cases, 227,569; convictions, 143,622; acquittals, 52,363; bills ignored, 1,223; no trial, 30,361.

1853—Total number of cases, 236,077; convictions, 150,933; acquittals, 52,602; bills ignored, 991; no trial, 31,551.

The expenditure on jails throughout the country has, as a matter of course, very materially decreased with the reduction of the number confined; for instance in 1849 the expenditure was £121,630

Table with 2 columns: Year, Expenditure. Rows: 1850 (102,963), 1851 (95,492), 1852 (86,868), 1853 (86,566).

The expenditure on bridewells has declined from £10,634 in 1849 to £6,147 in 1853.

POTATO BLIGHT.—The blight has extensively appeared within the last few days in a large district comprehending the neighbourhood of Callan, Mullinahone, Ballingarry, New Birmingham, &c.; as yet it is chiefly confined to the leaves and stalks, and it is truly melancholy to behold fields which a few days since, were so luxuriant, burned as it were by some mysterious agent, the leaves drooping, and perfectly black. There seems to be no doubt that it is in a measure connected with atmospheric influences, as it appeared immediately after the lightning observed on the 25th and 26th ult.; and as has been observed before, there were several fogs about the same time, some of which were observed to have a foul smell.—Clonmel Chronicle.