

THE CROPS AND THE POTATO DISEASE.—The accounts of the harvest are more favorable during the past few days than they were previously; and the apprehensions of a scarcity, which prevailed for some weeks, are gradually giving way. Prices in France appear to be receding, the highest point having been reached. In England the yield will be superior to what has been predicted; and in this country, with the exception of the potatoes, the appearance of the crops is all that could be desired. Vigorous efforts are now being made to save the grain crops, which, so far as our accounts go, afford promise of a satisfactory return. We regret to have to state that of late the potato disease has progressed to an alarming extent. Hitherto its ravages scarcely extended beyond the leaves, so that the potato in Ireland continued to remain comparatively safe, while much injury was sustained on the other side of the Channel. But within the last ten days the disease has very generally extended to the tubers; and there is too much reason to apprehend that much injury will ensue. As to remedial measures, we really believe that nothing can be done; the nature and operation of the disease are now as much a mystery as when it first appeared. Is it not then deplorable that year after year large quantities of a crop should be grown, the hazardous character of which has been so fully established?—Dublin Evening Packet.

THE CROPS.—The grain crops have, by this time, been all saved and gathered in, and high prices afford to the farmer a prospect of ample remuneration for his toil. Wheat, generally speaking, has not been very productive, but of oats much better accounts are given.—Tipperary Free Press.

THE POTATO.—Our market continues plentifully supplied with potatoes of excellent quality. We regret, however, to learn that in parts of this and the adjoining county of Waterford, the crop, which was up to the present time most flourishing, has begun to show symptoms of the blight, in consequence of which they are being dug with all promptitude, and disposed of as soon as possible.—Ibid.

The following is an abridgment of the commercial report supplied by the Belfast Mercury, one of the best conducted agricultural journals in the province of Ulster.—“Within the last six or eight weeks several movements have been made, through the press and otherwise, for the purpose of creating something like a panic relative to the supplies of food in the coming twelve months. Melancholy forebodings, backed up by a long array of figures, were set forward to the effect that all the home supplies and all the anticipated importations from foreign and colonial markets would barely preserve us from a famine not less intense than that of 1847. Taking Ulster as an example, we have no hesitation in stating that there is at present no sign of what really could be called a scarcity of food. The early harvest is nearly all safely gathered; some grain yet stands in the field, but the greater proportion of cereals which were sown at the commencement of spring is sown in the finest possible condition. Get-to-be-sown wheat, we have heard from many and very different quarters, is likely to turn out a fair average, both as to bulk and quality of grain. With respect to the potato, we have merely to repeat the substance of our recent notice on the subject—that while a few isolated cases of diseased tubers are found to exist, the crop is not only exceedingly large, but the quality is as food superior to that of late years. We have spoken to a great many farmers on the subject, and the general opinion seems to be, that the yield is large, almost beyond precedent. It is, indeed, evident from all this, that should even one-third of the grass produce become tainted, there would still remain an ample supply for table use. At present there seems no reason to suppose that anything approaching such a proportion of the potato crop will become unfit to be used as human food. One great feature in the existing state of affairs, as regards the masses of the people, is the apparent unconcern with which they look upon advancing markets. The earnings of all classes of laborers, from the highest skilled mechanic down to the bricklayer's hodman, are now more than proportionate to the rise in food prices. We therefore hear no sounds of dismay from the home of the artisan, when he reads of upward turns in market rates. Dearthness of food, once the dread of the working population, is at present less thought of by that class than ever before recollected, and yet the advance is very considerable.”

In consequence of the extraordinary scarcity of farm-laborers, the grain crops to the westward of Galway have been this season nearly all cut down and saved by women.

CHARGE OF DESERTION AT BELFAST.—A smart, intelligent looking young man, belonging to the 27th Regiment, was charged by a sub-constable with having deserted from the regiment. It appeared, even from the statement of the sub-constable, that he had acted unwarrantably in arresting the prisoner and placing him in the dock, in the humiliating and degraded position of a deserter. The prisoner, whose regiment is at present stationed in Enniskillen, has been in the army for a number of years, and is stated to be a smart, well-conducted soldier. He got a furlough to see his friends at Portadown and in Glasgow, the extent of the furlough being from the 15th to the 20th inst. He wore plain clothes and the usual military cap, and having seen his friends in Portadown, intended, on Friday evening, to go to Glasgow, and be back in sufficient time to join his regiment, but was arrested by the sub-constable at the quay, and lodged in the Police Office as a prisoner and a deserter. The sub-constable, holding the man's furlough, which he had taken from him, in his hands, said, “It is contrary to all the laws of discipline for a soldier to appear in private clothes.” Mr. Tracy informed the complainant that he was stating what was not correct, and as there was no proof of desertion, directed him to hand over the soldier to his commanding officer.—Ulsterman.

WILD SPORTS OF THE WEST.—A western paper (the Ballinasloe Star) gives the annexed sketch of a highly characteristic scene which occurred on Sunday week at a place called Tanghamacconnell, within five miles of Ballinasloe:—“It appears that a man named Luke Spellman, who held some few acres on the property of Sir Charles Coote, had been ejected by the Sheriff in May last for non-payment of rent, burning his land, and other causes. Though far behind in arrears, he claimed a right to a quantity of potatoes and oats which he had sown before the ejection took place; and on Sunday last the peasantry assembled to do him justice. Between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening about two hundred of the peasantry of both sexes appeared on the grounds, and, being prepared with reaping hooks, horses, and carts, in less than half an hour everything was removed. It is worthy of remark that

the movements of the parties engaged in this scene were performed with a degree of regularity, out-posts being placed in a circle round the lands, and at a convenient distance to prevent a surprise. When the complete removal of the crops had been effected, those assembled were treated to a plentiful supply of poteen, after which they danced a number of jigs and reels and petticoates in exultation at their success over the unconscious landlord.”

IRISH GALLANTRY.—Three ladies, whilst reading on a reef of rocks, on Tuesday last, were struck unawares by a huge wave which rolled in fast, completely submerging the ground, and carrying them out to sea with its rapid reflux! Immediately three young gentlemen, most happily convenient, Messrs. Eyles, Organ, and Evans, dashed into the sea after the drowning ladies, and with much difficulty, and a great risk to their own lives, brought them safe to shore, where they lay insensible. Dr. Griffin was quickly at the distressing scene, and, under his treatment, the patients gradually recovered. Under Providence, their escape from almost inevitable death was owing to the courage and humanity of the gentlemen above named. Mrs. Bewley, of Dublin; Mrs. Clibborn, Liverpool; and Miss Clibborn, Moate, were the ladies.—Limerick Chronicle.

WILL THE GREAT EXHIBITION PRODUCE LASTING BENEFITS FOR IRELAND?—The Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator replies to the query prefixed that “we do believe this great national effort will date a new era in the history of our country. From what we ourselves have seen—from the successful efforts made to exhibit the energies of our people and to develop the resources of Ireland and its capabilities, we cannot for a moment doubt that a brighter future is in store for us—that the minds of Irishmen will be imbued with a knowledge of what can be done by themselves and that a spirit of self-reliance, energy, and industrial perseverance, will be evoked, which cannot fail to realize the hopes which the gorgeous display at our Art-Palace has given birth to. It would, indeed, be lamentable if the occasion which has brought delighted thousands from every clime to witness the effort of a poor and ill-governed country to put forth its claims to rank amongst civilized nations, should terminate in an empty pageant. We have no fear of such a barren result. It is not possible that a national demonstration of a people's genius, for the first time, should bear no fruit except the transient admiration which it has excited. It is incredible that the abounding evidences of artistic excellence, of mechanical genius, of startling invention in every department, taste in design, and unsurpassed beauty in fabrication, should fail to give impulse to continued development, or to create a demand for what until now was not thought to be in our power to supply. We shall not particularise any branch of art or manufacture. It will suffice to state that, in all, the power to produce, and the ability, the talent to complete the highest designs of art have been triumphantly demonstrated. Of this gratifying truth our neighbors across the Channel have been astonished witnesses. Foreigners from every European State have had ocular proof of what the Irish nation is capable of; and our American relatives have rejoiced in the sudden, because for the first time cherished, success of the genius of a people hitherto repressed to the earth by causes manifold to the world, but to which just now, we feel too dated to revert. For some time the most creditable exertions have been made to promote our domestic manufactures, to cultivate the minds and exalt the tastes of our humbler fellow-countrymen and women. Ages of neglect, and more particularly after recent years of privations, to effect these great objects was no little difficulty. To educate a people, and to elevate their moral sense, amid physical suffering, require time, and a system adapted to their circumstances. But that, notwithstanding all obstacles, such a mass of knowledge, and of the most refined taste, as the Exhibition proves to exist, is a matter of pride to us, as it must be of wonder to those who received their opinions of the Irish people from the columns of the London Times.”

In the Chapel Street Police Office, Dublin, Mrs. Sarah Kelly has appeared to a summons charging her with perjury. Mrs. Kelly was the successful litigant in a great will case, “The Wicks v. Kelly,” involving property to the amount of £250,000 left by the deceased Mr. Kelly. It is alleged that Mrs. Kelly, who swore that certain letters, copies of which were produced, were not written by her, had really paid £500 to have the originals destroyed; the letters asked the aid of a Mr. Malone to get Mr. Kelly to make a will entirely in his wife's favor, she promising to marry Malone if this should be effected. The investigation came to a premature close, from absence of the affidavit made by Mrs. Kelly; the summons was adjourned sine die. Proceedings are in train in the court of Chancery. Mrs. Kelly's counsel impressed upon the public that the statements made before the Magistrates were quite ex-parte he has a complete answer to them.

A dispute occurred on Saturday between a bailiff of Lord Ormonde's and a defaulting tenant, named Lee, when a scuffle ensued, and the bailiff (Hurley) fired a gun at and badly wounded Lee, who lies in a dangerous state in Kilkenny.

DREADFUL DEATH.—A young man named John Mullan, lost his life in the Belfast Distillery, on Monday evening, under very melancholy circumstances. While employed near a portion of the machinery called the ‘grapes’ used to ‘mash’ the grain, he was caught by it and dragged round with it in its evolutions. The poor fellow was almost torn limb from limb, by the action of the machinery; and when his body was recovered it was mangled in a most dreadful manner. He resided in Hamill's Court, and was a young man of very sober, quiet habits.—Northern Whig.

THE MURDER OF MRS. KIRWAN.—Some traces of the murder of Mrs. Kirwan have turned up. Saunders's Newsletter says:—“A few days since, Constable Sherwood found a white silk pocket-handkerchief, much faded, thrust into a hole, and a lump of stone jamming it as if for concealment. This was convenient to where the body of the late Mrs. Kirwan was found. There was a knot on one end of the handkerchief, and the washerwoman of the Kirwans is stated to be fully able to identify it as their property. There are no letters or marks upon it, and none of their handkerchiefs bore any marks. It is a remarkable fact that the ‘Body Rock,’ on which the body of Mrs. Kirwan was found, has been totally carried away in small fragments by the tourists who visited Ireland's Eye, during the season.”

LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday last, at Raheenbeg, near Ballycanow, Wexford, Miss Buchanan having incautiously approached a wheel in her

father's mill, her dress got entangled, she was dragged under the works; and at once crushed to death. Her head was nearly severed from the body.—Id.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday last, as Mr. Gausson was passing over Tonne Bridge in a carriage, accompanied by his butler, the horse—a fine high-spirited animal—took fright at the sound of the engine used by the Board of Works, and as the metal railing was lately taken off the bridge, at one bound the horse jumped over the parapet. Fortunately the carriage caught on the wall, and Mr. Gausson and the butler were able to get out. Every endeavor was made to save the horse, but, on cutting some of the harness, it fell from the top of the bridge to the bottom of the Burn and was killed on the spot.—Coleraine Chronicle.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—As the troops in garrison were engaged on Tuesday in the usual field day exercises, in the Phoenix Park, one of the men belonging to the Royal Horse Artillery fell beneath the wheel of a gun carriage, which passed over his body, and inflicted such serious injuries as to cause death shortly after wards.—Dublin paper.

GREAT BRITAIN.

STOCKPORE.—On Sunday last the Church of SS. Philip and James at Edgely, so notorious as the scene of the ruffianism of the Stockport rioters, was re-opened for Divine Service. The whole building has been repaired and decorated, and is far more beautiful than it was even prior to the sacrifice.

Dr. Sumner has deprecated the revival of active or legislative convocation, deeming that it is neither calculated to promote the establishment of personal religion in the respective churches, nor the advancement of religion generally throughout the land.

The number and variety of the ‘strikes’ now in progress throughout England justify the character which has been ascribed to them, as an industrial revolution. There is hardly a class or employment which has not ‘struck,’ and which has not more or less obtained its demands. Cobblers, miners, smelters, shipwrights, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, painters, down at last to slop-makers and seamstresses, have caught the salt infection and struck for an advance of wages.—Times.

Lord Palmerston, as Secretary for Home Affairs, has lost no time in taking steps for checking the spread of Cholera. An Order in Council has been issued, putting in force for six months the provisions of Act 11 and 12 Victoria, for the removal of certain nuisances, and the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases. A similar resolution has been adopted by the Irish Government, and a proclamation has been issued, putting in force the above-mentioned Act throughout the whole of Ireland. Cholera still continues very fatal at Newcastle—a hundred deaths a day.

It would be a mere self-delusion, says the Leeds Mercury, if we were to shut our eyes to the fact, that a check has arrived to the high prosperity which the people of England have been enjoying for several years. We hope that that check will only be temporary, and that it will bear no comparison with the distress and difficulty into which the country has sometimes been suddenly plunged. At least, if peace should be maintained, such may be our reasonable hope. A European war would be a disaster to our trade and finances which it would not be easy to measure. But should that be averted, there is reason to believe that the present check will not be very severe or long continued.

The new costume of the army will comprise a felt helmet, perfectly ventilated, light, pressing equally, possessing a handsome form, and entirely superseding the present chaos. The coatee, with all its lace and frill, gives way to the plain scarlet frock which does not reach to the knees, and will save the soldier time, trouble, and pipe-clay. In the form of the knapsack a material amendment has been sanctioned. The improvements diminish the width of the lower part of the pack, so as to leave greater space for the bayonet handle and pouch; the straps arranged, so as not to press upon the chest or impede the action of the arms; the disappearance of separate straps for the great coat; and the addition of a little sargue or bag to hold an extra shirt and pair of stockings, and lying horizontally in the inner part of the knapsack across the small of the back. These alterations will be introduced upon the next issue of clothing. The alterations in the full dress costume of the officers are not yet promulgated.

FIRE AT BALMORAL.—The cottages—five in number—occupied by the masons and other workmen presently engaged in the erection of the new Palace at Balmoral, were on Friday afternoon totally destroyed by fire. The flames were discovered a little after 12 o'clock, and as the cottages were situated only about 150 yards from Balmoral Castle, the Royal Family, and a large number of men, were in a very short time on the spot, and using every endeavor to conquer the fire. As, however, the houses were composed of wood, the most strenuous efforts were found unavailing, and by one o'clock the whole was burnt to the ground. We are assured by a spectator, that when a line of men was formed to convey water to the burning pile, from the river, Prince Albert at once took a position, and continued working steadily throughout, shoulder to shoulder, with a sturdy Highlandman.—The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were also actively engaged, while her Majesty stood by the whole time, and gave such directions as she thought would tend to assuage the fire, seemingly deeply interested by the efforts of the men to save their clothes chests, in which many had considerable sums of money.—The fire is supposed to have originated by a fire, which a woman was using in the operation of baking, kindling a large quantity of brushwood deposited in the corner of one of the cottages, as, on the woman's return to the house after a few minutes' absence, she found it on fire.—Aberdeen Herald.

A writer in the Times, a victim of the exorbitant charges of English hotel keepers—makes the following proposal for a compromise:—“As ‘waxlights’ appear to be as essential to the service of the hotels as they are to the altars of certain churches in this diocese, might not some compromise be come to, such as that ingeniously suggested by the Bishop of London to Mr. Bennett—namely, that ‘the candles might be brought in, but not lighted?’”

EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH AMERICA.—Since the first of this month, to Saturday, both days inclusive, thirty-one large emigrant ships have taken their departure from Liverpool for various ports in Canada and the United States, carrying an aggregate of 14,550 emigrants, composed almost entirely of Irish and Germans.

A correspondent sends us a scrap of political gossip, which is not altogether new to us—“I have just heard from a reliable source, that efforts are making by certain members of the Liberal party to persuade Lord John Russell that there is no necessity for introducing a Reform Bill next session. So far as I can learn, no impression has been made upon Lord John; who, I trust, has too much principle and too much sense to let himself be betrayed into the commission of so ruinous a blunder.”—Spectator.

PROTESTANTISM IN WALES.—The adherents to the doctrines of Mormonism increase rather than diminish in those districts of South Wales where they have established themselves, and of late they have received an accession of strength in several persons of middle class station. A well known Welsh lecturer, named Robert Parry, better known by his appellation of ‘Robyn Ddŵ,’ has recently joined the ranks of Mormonism, and is now holding forth to these deluded people. An extensive exodus has taken place during the summer, and numbers have found their way over to the waters of the Salt Lake. Large bodies of these misguided people have left Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, and the hill country of Monmouth for America, and numbers will leave their native land next spring for their fancied Elysium. Miracles are reported to have been performed by the elders of the sect, all of which are faithfully believed by their dupes.—Times.

THE ‘TIMES’ ON MONOTHEISM.—It will be seen that the Thunderer is very severe on his brother Protestants:—“This scandal of the nineteenth century faces itself, not among Pagans or Papists, but in the most rational of human races—the boasted Anglo-Saxon. It is supplied, not from the outskirts of civilization, but from the cities of England, the very cradle of the race. Meanwhile, to suppose it, to conceive it, or to shame it, there is rising up also on the other side of the world a similar imposture, equally compounded of truths and lies, equally sensual, anti-familial, and cruel, and equally perplexing to those who will have to deal with it, equally apt to invite controversy, and forbid compromise. The days of wonder are not past when two such portents can appear in one generation, and when we may ourselves live to see the Arabian impostor surpassed in impudence by Joe Smith, and in the number of his converts by a disciple of Confucius.”

Mr. W. Chambers is about to proceed to North America, for the purpose of writing a descriptive tour through the United States and Canada, and collecting accurate information respecting the condition and prospects of emigrants in those countries.

GOLD IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—We have frequently, and long since, expressed an opinion, that whenever the metamorphic rocks about the granite there is gold, and have pointed to the granite districts of Scotland and the Snowdon range in Wales as probable localities for its discovery, whether in greater or less quantities. Mr. Calvert, the Australian geologist, has confirmed the correctness of this opinion.—After finding gold in Westmoreland and Cumberland, Mr. Calvert proceeded to Lancashire and Druntingshire, in both of which districts he has found gold; at one place he found a piece weighing four pennyweights. The gold was diffused on the red soil resting on the clay shales running north and south, and was intersected by quartz veins running in the same direction. Mr. Calvert also found gold in about fourteen rivulets, for the most part tributaries of the Elvin Water and Glogomman. Some of the quartz seen was auriferous, having a very fine gold disseminated in it. We trust Mr. Calvert will visit Wicklow, amongst the mountains of which a few Australian miners would soon discover an abundance of nuggets, that being the character of the Wicklow gold. It is still found there by the peasantry; and we may mention, on the authority of an Irish scientific gentleman, that the Earl of Wicklow is in the habit of giving to them for it weight for weight in sovereigns. This district, on the first discovery of gold there, was said to have been explored by scientific men by order of the Government. They found no gold, and the workings were discontinued. A dozen Australian miners, like Mr. Harcourt, would soon put their science to the blush. Where nuggets of seven pounds weight have been found, there are plenty more, the prognostications of scientific men notwithstanding.—Australasian and New Zealand Gazette.

SOBERISM.—The Oxford Herald of Sept. 17th, commenting on the proselytising measures of Bishops Gobat, at Jerusalem, on the principles of food and clothes and material conveniences, proposes the proselytisers at home in the following manner:—“It is all very well to make converts to our own Church, where we eat; but we must do it on some right principle—and we must not, in the doing of it, set at naught our obligations as Christians. The reproach is not, however, confined to Jerusalem. It applies to all such irregular, such inconsistent attempts to proselytise, among those who may with just as much reason think that they might convert us, as we them. It is not, assuredly, the right way to go to work. Whether in Syria or in Ireland, we must do nothing to increase and widen those divisions which have brought the most grievous calamities on the Church of Christ. Mere Protestant proselytising, too, is the most dangerous of all, because it has so often nothing definite to which to attach the convert. To the Church of England, wherever her arms extend, and she has a legitimate position, let us do all we can, as her members, to augment her communion, and to increase her numbers. But in doing so, let us violate no obligation, and let us act in the spirit of charity, not of enmity, towards others.”

STRANGE FORTHOUGHT.—It is a saying in the navy, that the ‘French build fine ships that the English may take them,’ and there is a curious instance of a settled conviction on the point. When the great north dock, at Devonport, was under construction, George III. and Queen Charlotte visited Devonport. The king paid particular attention to the works, and comparing the engineers' work with the working plan observed that the dimensions of the former had been exceeded, and desired to know the reason. His majesty was told that the dock had been planned to receive the largest first rate in the British navy (at that time the Queen Charlotte and Royal George of 100 guns and 2280 tons each) but that the French were then building, at Toulon, a ship of such unprecedented size that if the original plan had not been exceeded, there would be no dock in England to receive her. The King was so much amused at the impudence of constructing a dock at Devonport for a ship building at Toulon, that he called the Queen to enjoy the joke. To complete the story, this very ship was the first that entered the new dock.—Plymouth Mail.