

NATIONAL EDUCATION.—The last report, issued this week, for the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, for the year 1852, enumerates 4,870 schools in operation, and 544,604 pupils, showing an increase of 171 schools and 24,203 pupils over 1851. The building grants in 1852 amounted to £1,579. Number of schools in Ulster, 1,892; Munster, 1,167; Leinster, 1,176; Connaught, 640—total, 4,675. Patrons of each religious denomination;—Church of England—clerical 8, lay, 17; Presbyterian—clerical 16, lay 3; Catholic—clerical 141, lay 20. Total Protestants of all persuasions, clerical and lay, 44; total Catholic, clerical and lay, 161. Total amount of salaries, premiums, and gratuities paid in 1852 was £82,964, being an increase over that of the year 1851 of £6,853. Trained during the year, and supported at the public expense, 302 national teachers, of whom 213 were males, and 89 were females. Of the teachers 17 were of the Established Church, 43 Presbyterians, 240 Catholics, and two Dissenters.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN DUBLIN.—It is not sufficiently known that a society which was founded by a Saint, sanctioned by a Pontiff, and blessed by the admiring gratitude of the Church—the Society of the Christian Brothers—has, amongst many other places, chosen the most squalid, decayed, and neglected quarter of Dublin as one of the scenes of its invaluable and untiring labors. The Schools of the Christian Brothers in Francis-street contain seven hundred pupils, who are educated in the higher branches of mathematics, in mechanics, book-keeping, geometry, but, above all, in religion. The surrounding districts swarm with the juvenile poor, the most prosperous once, but now the most pauperised and the most populous district in the whole metropolis. It is not sufficiently known that the population, since the famine, has prodigiously augmented in these humbler districts of Dublin. It is in these quarters that you will see the fruits of landlord cruelty. That the homes of our peasantry have been dismantled with ruthless atrocity, and that gables are all that remain of once populous villages, is well known to every one in Ireland. The ravages of Attila and the *pelliti* reges of old seem to have been copied in miniature by those "village-tyrants" who desolated the country, not with the fury of an enemy, but with the murderous cruelty of a drove of wolves. That rage of extermination which crushes, overwhelms, and sweeps away thousands of Irish hamlets, turned the open country into a howling wilderness—(strewn with ashes and bones) only to swarm the meaner lanes and streets of Dublin with throngs of gaunt and half-naked outcasts, who, as if they escaped from a shipwreck, crowd into this metropolis to appal the eyes of our citizens with their spectral appearances. We are persuaded that extermination has its motive and origin, not alone its pecuniary considerations, but also in the ferocious bigotry of a landed proprietary who are nearly all Protestants, as well as in the unshaken steadfastness with which the martyr-peasants cling to their religion. No one can for a moment fancy that this exterminating tempest would level whole hamlets with the ruinous fury of a tornado if the tenantry were Protestants! There is, we believe, a close understanding between the Protestant proprietors and the Souping Parsons. The two worthies have apposite parts to play. The part of the landlord is, by the crowbar, to subject the people to the horrors of hunger, and when this is accomplished the parson comes to the pining peasant, as Satan came to Our Redeemer in the desert, and tempts him with food. But let the cause of eyjotism be what it may, the effects are patent. When famine and the landlords huddle the villagers into the metropolis and swell the civic population by emptying the rural districts, it is not sufficiently known who suffer for all this. It is not sufficiently considered that the Christian Brothers must abide the sad results that wave after wave comes swelling and clamoring about them, in particular—as, indeed, about all our charities—and that on them the martyr fugitives call, if not for assistance for themselves, yet, assuredly, for instruction for their children; and that the Brothers, if they want funds, must endure the pain of refusing education to hundreds of children whom it afflicts them to see hourly exposed to the seductions of ravening and prowling tempters furnished with the soup-pot. For it must always be understood that Protestantism is not content to expel our people from their hamlets by the agency of its favorite missionaries—the landlords—it follows their track with the ferocity of a bloodhound, deep into the squalid lanes and mouldering byways of our decaying "Liberties," and founds its shops of seduction, plants its fair where it naturally expects that want and penury will scourge the poor fugitives and outcasts into its ghastly clutches. The proselytisers founded—on a most extensive scale—two soupshops in these impoverished districts near Francis-street—one in Mill-street, the other in Weavers' Hall—from which Bible-readers, with money and mealbags, issued out in every direction to tempt the poor to forfeit

The birthright of their hopes in Heaven for a mess of pottage and the mammon of iniquity. A swarm of hungry outcasts gathered round them, and they at one time boasted of having so many as five hundred wanderers and ruffians on their books; but, thanks to the exertions of the Christian Brothers of Francis-street, these proselytising cribs have yielded to decay and dwindled almost to nothing. The establishments are now empty, and their schools nearly, if not entirely deserted, while those of Francis street—owing, no doubt, to this desertion—are crowded to such an excess that the Brothers cannot find room for more than half of the claimants for instruction. In short it is not too much to say that these Brothers are the instruments of God's goodness with reference to the salvation of the poorest and most neglected children, whom they teach to know, to love, and to serve their creator and their country. God wills that all men should arrive at a knowledge of Him and His holy law; but how are the children of the poor to acquire this knowledge if there are no Christian schools to instruct them gratuitously? These Brothers are the substitutes of parents in the Christian education of the children. The poor, occupied as they are in laboring for their subsistence and that of their children, have neither the time, means, nor knowledge, necessary for the discharge of this important duty. It is Divine Providence who has given the children of the poor these fathers and parents according to grace, who supply the place of their natural parents by instructing them in those truths of which they would otherwise remain ignorant.

We sincerely trust that the obscure but sanctified labors of these benefactors of Ireland will receive the support which they are so justly and eminently entitled to.—*Tablet*.

THE SOUPER'S HYMN.

Soup and salvation—"without money and without price"—cheap and nasty.

(From the Nation.)

I.
Before we left the English strand,
John Bull within our circle stood,
And said "that wretched Ireland
Needs many things—but chiefly food:
Now they are pinched by want intense
And thinned by death and emigration,
They've had one course of Pestilence,
Give them another of Salvation,
And take advice before you go,
I searching through my spirit find
Want is the cause of all our woes,
The weak in stomach—weak in mind,
He winked and gave the word, our troop,
Marched forward sleek and steady,
Our baggage waggons filled with soup,
And Bibles cheap and ready.

II.
Arrived upon the Irish shore,
We took the starving districts first,
It seems so clear the very poor
Were naturally the very curs'd.
On Kells some Brothers brought to bear
Their Bibles, beet and mutton bones,—
But 'twas no go, for all the air
Grew dark around with paving stones.
Thence, plastered o'er, we hurried South,
And sought the tracts beyond the Shannon,
Intent to argue with the mouth,
And work conviction with colicannon.
Bravely thus our kitchen troop
Marched onward sleek and steady,
With cauldrons full of sacred soup,
And heaps of Bibles ready.

III.
At length our culinary crew
Found one sweet spot—the poorest den,
As yet, where things looked wondrous blue,
A place not far from Skibbereen:
Here ranged we every pot and tub
And Bible of the latest version,
And standing amid heaps of grub
Proclaimed our mission of Conversion;
Come, white cravated Saints and stand
Beside us on this Irish sod,
Come surpliced Ladies, lend a hand
Large boned, strong minded women of God,
In mother Luther's household troop
We march sleek and steady,
Pour in the oatmeal, stir the soup,
And keep the Bibles ready!

IV.
Come shivering poor, enrich your minds,
The work will warm the cold like fuel,
Come erring children, weak and blind,
And be baptised in saving meal:
Whoever eats the mission'd meal,
His stomach's filled, his sins forgiven,
Whoever drinks our soup must feel
Already on the road to heaven:
Whoever takes our holy mess
Will shine with full conviction's light;
Thus, in the mouth of witnesses,
Our truth shall be established, quite:
Come to mother Luther's troop
And eat your victuals steady;
We've oatmeal, Bibles, tracts, and soup—
All, all for you are ready.

V.
'Tis, to be sure, a sight to cheer,
When our fat converts come to Church,
Yet oft we fear from what we hear,
Even they will leave us in the lurch.
"Moll Reilly, tell us without cant,
What changed your faith, my honey—eh?"
Says Moll, "Sure I'm a Protestant,
On sugar, snuff, and lots of tay."
One asks Tim Doolan keen and sly,
"What turned you from eternal wrath?"
He cucks a caubeen on his eye,
And winking, mutters "mutton broth."
A hope forlorn our kitchen troop,
Work sadly and unsteady,
Though backed with British beef and soup,
And Bibles new and ready.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL.—The work of completing the Cathedral of Armagh, which was undertaken by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Dixon, Catholic Primate of all Ireland, is now being energetically proceeded with.

DEATH OF A REBEL.—A donkey, the property of a farmer, died lately in this county. An accident, which he met early in life, spoiled his beauty, but added very much to his fame in the neighborhood. He was caught carrying provisions to the rebels in '98, and had his ears cut off by the English soldiers. This aged servant of his country was greatly esteemed by his owner.—*Cork Examiner*.

An Irish Sailor invites us to observe how completely the North West Passage is an Irish exploit. McClure, who made the discovery, is an Irishman—not the only Irishman, however, concerned. Captain Kellett, who next after McClure had made farthest way towards the Pole, is also an Irishman; and Commander Maguire, whose interesting despatches in another section of the same service have just been published, carries a name that tells his nativity. It is curious; this arduous and useless enterprise seems to have always had a fascination for Irish sailors. The number of places marked with Irish names in the chart of the Arctic sea, is singular.—*Nation*.

The Committee of the Dublin Protestant Association, in a memorial to Lord Palmerston on the subject of Roman Catholic jail chaplains, gravely represents that Mr. Lucas, M. P. for Meath, and Editor of the *Tablet*, Roman Catholic Journal, "has lately, in his newspaper, introduced to his readers, as a devoted Romanist, one Charles Edward Stuart, Comte d'Albanie, who has been represented as having a claim to the throne of England, superior to her Majesty; and that this pretender has been lauded by other Romanist newspapers in Ireland as a pious man and a good Catholic, and advised to bring his claims to the throne of England before the Emperor of France, through his Empress, as one of Scottish descent likely to sympathise in his pretensions."

John Mitchell is a man we ever regarded with distrust and suspicion. His *Irishman*, or *United Irishman* published under the nose of Lord Clarendon, breathing fresh invective against every system of Government, and recommending immediate civil war when active rebellion must have been extinguished in the blood of an exhausted people, by the overwhelming power of British bayonets, savored too much of the Paddy McKew to merit admiration even for its Dan-ton daring. We could not possibly imagine how in the freest State the Government could sanction the publication, with a stamp, and give circulation through the Post-office, to the Alcohol and vitriol doctrines propounded by the apostle of physical force, who went too far even for Mr. Duffy, who had not stomach for more than blowing up a bridge, the cutting off a detachment in detail, or the destruction of a railroad.—*Limerick Reporter*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BRITISH MINISTER OF WAR.—We have reason to believe that the Government have it in contemplation to appoint a new functionary, under the designation of Minister of War, with extensive powers connected with the military departments, and even with the Horse Guards.—*Mercantile Advertiser*.

Among the rumors which foreshadow the incidents of the coming session, it is affirmed that the Tory party hitherto believed to be in a hopeless stage of decay, is about to be revived on a basis which will make it a really formidable opposition. At least 260 members of the Lower House, it is stated, have communicated with Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, promising effective co-operation upon general questions, but especially upon the adoption of a more energetic policy than that hitherto carried on in the East. Such a body, it may be reasonably presumed, with perhaps not less than 20 contingent auxiliaries, and Lord Palmerston intriguing for the Premiership, would restore that balance of parties which seldom failed to bring some benefit to Ireland. While the Tories are forecasting in this fashion, it is again rumored that the patch-work Cabinet is in a state of "virtual dissolution;" and that its *coup de grace* is only deferred till the re-opening of Parliament. It is memorable to perceive that, even for a tottering and distrustful Government, the reputation of Mr. John Sadleir had become too tainted at last; and thus the statesmanship of that ingenious gentleman, beginning with a violated pledge, has terminated in a disgraceful retreat.—*Nation*.

THE EARL OF DERBY.—The *Standard* of Thursday says—"We learn from a source which we have hitherto found well informed and cautious, but which we would by no means represent as infallible, that the Earl of Derby has been hastily summoned to town, as our informant believes, by the Court or the Cabinet, with a view to his Lordship's rendering assistance to the Aberdeen Government, or perhaps, undertaking the task of forming a new Government pursuing the same line of foreign policy as that which now exists. That Lord Derby will not be found compliant with either course suggested, none who appreciate his character can doubt. If he ever returns to office, it must be upon the summons of the people as represented in Parliament—not through the agency of a Court intrigue.

THE PRINCE CONSORT.—Never in our memory has public feeling undergone so great a change in regard to any public individual of distinction, in any walk of life, as has been produced by the alleged intermeddling of the Prince Consort in the political affairs of this country. At Sheffield, language of an unusually strong character—when Princes are concerned—was applied to his Royal Highness' alleged activity in favor of the Emperor of Russia; and at the Merchant Tailors' dinner, a few evenings ago—though that is the most Tory Company in the City—the party refused to drink Prince Albert's health. It is reported, and we believe with some truth, that on the meeting of Parliament, Mr. Roebuck is determined to bring the subject of the Prince's conduct with reference to the foreign policy of this country, before the House of Commons.

THE QUARTERS' REVENUE.—The Revenue Account for the year and quarter ended the 5th instant has been published, and is, on the whole, very satisfactory. On the year there is an increase of £702,808 on the ordinary revenue, which increase is swelled to £1,315,925 by the addition of the repayments of advances and the imprest monies. On the quarter, however, there is a falling off to the amount of £299,297.

THE NAVY OF ENGLAND.—We understand that it is the intention of government to raise the number of seamen and marines for the current year to 53,500 men, which is an increase of about 8,000 on the number voted for last year, and a further addition to the 5,000 men raised under the orders of Lord Derby's administration. The total increase in the navy since 1852 may therefore be stated at about 13,000. Of the force now to be raised for the service of the fleet 33,000 will be seamen and boys, and 15,500 marines. Setting aside the whole sailing fleet of England, we have at present about 11 steam line-of-battle ships, soon to be increased to 20; 5 guard-ships, with auxiliary steam power; and 7 frigates, fitted with screw-propellers, which may be considered, with one or two exceptions, the finest vessels ever launched of their class.—*Times*.

The difficulty of procuring hands for the navy is becoming a matter of serious alarm. During the last year (observes the *Times*) we have found some difficulty in enlisting five thousand seamen; for the present requirements of the country 8,000 more are wanted. We trust that not a moment will be wasted in raising this necessary force, by whatever means may be required for the purpose. If the present rate of wages be not found sufficient, by all means let a bounty be given to induce enlistment. We ought, by all means to guard against a conjuncture of circumstances which may force us either to have recourse to the dangerous and desperate expedient of impressment, or to engaging the enemy with ships unmanned, and crews not sufficiently exercised.

THE LONDON TIMES ON THE ANGLICAN "DIGNIFIED CLERGY."—"Let us hear no more of 'dignified clergymen,' when the term 'dignity' is employed as a blind to conceal the real nature of transactions which might be expected from a Jeremy Diddler or a Robert Macaire, not from a minister of religion, whose character, as well as his office, should give him a claim to our reverence and respect."

From the Ecclesiastical census published in the *London Times*, we learn that of all the Protestant sects, that of the lately spawned Mormons is the most rapidly increasing in England. We make the following extracts:—"Although, in origin, the Mormon movement is not English, but American, yet, as the new creed, by the missionary zeal of its disciples, has extended into England, and is making some not inconsiderable progress with the poorer classes of our countrymen, it seems desirable to give, as far as in the inadequate materials permit, some brief description of a sect, the history of whose opinions, sufferings, and achievements shows, perhaps, the most remarkable religious movement that has happened since the days of Mahomet. In England and Wales there were, in 1851, reported by the census officers as many as 222 places of worship belonging to this body—most of them, however, being merely rooms. The number of sittings in these places (making an allowance for 53, the accommodation in which was not returned) was 30,783. The attendance on the Census-Sunday (making an estimated addition for nine chapels from which no intelligence on this point was received) was—morning 7,517; afternoon, 11,481; evening, 16,

628. The preachers, it appears, are far from unsuccessful in their efforts to obtain disciples; the surprising confidence and zeal with which they promulgate their creed—the prominence they give to the exciting topics of the speedy coming of the Saviour and his personal millennial reign—and the attractiveness to many minds of the idea of an infallible church, relying for its evidences and its guidance upon revelations made perpetually to its rulers,—these, with other influences, have combined to give the Mormon movement a position and importance with the working classes which, perhaps, should draw to it much more than it has yet received of the attention of our public teachers.

LORD GUILDFORD AND HIS PLURALITIES.—This Rev. Earl resigned his rich livings of Arlesford, &c., worth about £4,000 a year, under the impression that his involuntary self-denial would procure him a reprieve from the attacks made upon him as Master of Saint Cross Hospital, but it appears from a letter addressed by Mr. Holloway, one of the churchwardens of St. Cross, to the *Times*—that the Rev. Peer's hope told a flattering tale, that peace would soon return. The suit against him for illegal appropriation, &c., of the Hospital funds is to be carried to its legal termination, unless he disgorge about £90,000! and this crumb of comfort is thrown in, that if his Lordship presume to set up the plea of quittance on account of his relinquishment of his rich benefices as a parson, he will be proceeded against for Simony. The benefices which he resigned are in the diocese of Winchester, and as his father, when Anglican Bishop of that see, conferred upon him, so the present Anglican incumbent of Winchester, Dr. Charles Bird Sumner, has it appears, bestowed the wealthy godsend upon his own son. The living is worth £4,000 a year.

PROTESTANT OUTRAGES—FOURTH ATTEMPT TO BURN A CONVENT.—There are in Bristol and its immediate vicinity four Catholic convents, one of which is situated in Dighton-street, not far from the centre of the city, which has been the scene of four very mysterious acts of incendiarism, two of which have already been reported in our columns. Two more of these incendiary attempts have occurred during the present week, and are as much involved in mystery as the preceding ones. Upon the first being discovered by the sisterhood, the alarm was given and the police authorities sent for; the inmates, however, succeeded in getting the flames under previous to their arrival; but having made a minute search, and instituted diligent inquiries, and finding that there had been no fire in the grate of the rooms, the constables were compelled once more to arrive at the conclusion that either an inmate of the convent, or some person who had surreptitiously entered from without, had wilfully set fire to the place. Connected with the convent there is a sort of servants' home, which is usually inhabited by persons in the inferior walks of life, and it having been deemed advisable to make a rigid inquiry into the circumstances the Catholic Bishop of Clifton assisted the lady superior in making the requisite investigation but no satisfactory result could be arrived at. Two days since two rooms were again set on fire. A woman who had been in the habit of assisting in the domestic work of the house was passing by the convent, when her attention was attracted by a strong light in two of the upstairs apartments; knowing that the hour was one at which the sisterhood would be engaged in prayer she at once suspected that there was something wrong, and she gave the alarm. It was then discovered that the bed furniture in two of the dormitories was in flames. The services of the police were again called in, but they could discover nothing to throw a light on the mystery.—*M. Chronicle*.

The body of a boy was found the other day in a ditch; and from its appearance it was evident that the lad had been brutally used, and foully murdered. The *Times* says—"It is expected that ere long some very startling disclosures will take place regarding the circumstances attending the murder of the lad at Acton, as it appears that several young persons of both sexes have been missed from the neighborhood, under rather similar circumstances, and it is believed that there exists in or near the metropolis a gang of ruffians banded together for the purpose of decoying young persons from their homes for some vile purpose, and afterwards making away with their victims. A few evenings ago a gentleman, residing at Hammer-smith, sent his female servant on a message, and she had not gone far when she was attacked by a fellow, who tried to drag her towards a cart which stood in the road. As she made a determined resistance the ruffian gagged her, by placing his fist in her mouth, at the same time calling to another man in the cart to assist him, which he was about to do, when fortunately some foot steps were heard that alarmed the miscreants, and they immediately jumped into the cart and drove off. The police have reason to believe that the men concerned in this affair belong to the gang by whom the Acton murder was committed. A reward of £100 has been offered by the government for the discovery of the parties concerned in that transaction.

It is now quite evident that the spirited and persevering struggle of the English artisans has produced its natural effect upon the peasantry; and that the two great sections of the people will probably unite in the Industrial Revolution at no distant day. Driven to desperation by the high price of provisions and the low rate of wages, the laborers of Devonshire have been in actual insurrection for several days. Topsham, Exeter, Crediton, and other towns have been stormed by organized mobs, who paraded the streets, and pillaged the provision shops despite the municipal authorities. A temporary truce has been secured thro' the co-operation of the military, but the occurrence of more serious disasters may be momentarily expected. The Preston operatives, hitherto content with merely passive agitation, only await, it is believed, the next meeting of their employers to adopt a more energetic policy. In Wigan a considerable number of the weavers have returned to work, on a tacit understanding that their demands will be conceded in a few weeks; but more than 1,000 operatives prefer remaining on strike till the employers specifically promise the ten per cent. advance. Meantime, the leaders of the movement in England and Scotland are adopting practical steps towards extending its operations to Ireland. A deputation from the cotton-spinners of Glasgow, has been enthusiastically received at a meeting of the trades of Belfast; and a committee has been appointed in that town, to collect funds for the sustenance of the agitation. "I hope," said one of the speakers at the Belfast demonstration, "that the workmen will not be forced by the tyranny of their employers to practice the useful accomplishment of rifle-shooting."—*Nation*.