

understand in Dublin this week; and although Lord Abercorn recently refused to see a deputation from Limerick composed of members of the town Council, the manner in which his determination was received throughout the country indicated how strongly the popular feeling was directed against an apparent baronet towards a victim of a wild patriotism. The sympathy should not be mistaken for a proof of Fenianism was either growing or widespread. It could not be forgotten that the conspirators were tried by juries principally composed of the middle-class—the very class now anxious to have them released from custody. These men are thoroughly loyal to the throne, and having property, were unwilling to protect it from the slightest risk of being confiscated by revolution. But they see plain enough that the snake is dead—or at least, if not dead, is deprived of its fangs and its venom. They see also, more clearly than we can from a distance, that the more merciful our Government shows itself the stronger will be its hold on Ireland. As long as Irish patriotism can be kept at the point of sentiment we have nothing to fear, and there is little doubt but that it would have remained at that point but for its combination with a foreign element, which has now been cast out, or has disappeared. We believe that at a certain period it would have been a dangerous freak of humanitarianism to have pardoned the Fenians. They richly deserved their punishment, and, with few exceptions, when in the dock acknowledged the justice of it. As a pure question of policy on which the sense of the Irish people might be taken, we cannot but think that the release of the Fenian prisoners would be a costly and most servicable action on our part. There is one thing which we should recommend to those in Ireland who are anxious to obtain clemency for the imprisoned patriots. We are sorry to note that the literature of addition in that country is becoming more violent and rampant every day. It is scarcely consistent to print libels and abuse the Government on one side of a broad sheet, and on the other to ask pardon for the men whom that sheet has contributed to send to Portland and to Millbank. Those papers are incurring serious responsibilities by their pernicious writing, and if the Fenians are, after all, fated to remain much longer in goal, they may owe in some measure their protracted punishment to the inflammatory invectives with which reckless men ponder to the passions and work on the credulity of a romantic people.—Daily News.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.—IRELAND AND ENGLAND.—Our Paris Correspondent has called attention to a strange statement made by some person unknown, in *Le Nord* of Brussels. This individual asserted that there were more thieves in Dublin than in any other city of Europe. Now, why did this individual make an assertion so gratuitous, so false? He claimed Ireland, and for what reason? He abused the confidence of the Editor of *Le Nord*, and wherefore? Had he a malicious design against the Editor of *Le Nord*, or did he merely wish to advance what he considered the interests of England, by a falsehood? We know not. We know this, however, that a glance at the criminal statistics, published officially by the English Government, would have taught him how easily his gross calumny could be refuted. Opening these statistics we find that there are far fewer thieves in Ireland than in England, in proportion to the population. Take an equal population in England and Ireland. We then find that in that equal English, equal Irish population there were 3,166 thieves more amongst the English than amongst the Irish. Of these 'known thieves and depredators,' there were 558 under sixteen years of age, and 2,588 above sixteen years of age. Of 'suspected persons'—that is, persons officially suspected of criminal occupations—there were in an equal population of both countries, 4,010 more amongst the English than amongst the Irish. Finally, with respect to prostitutes, in an equal population of Irish and English there were 4,139 more amongst the English than amongst the Irish. We take the year 1864 as an average year. There were no political 'suspects' to be confounded with criminals in that year. If we took later years, they could only be more favorable to our cause. Besides, it is admitted that when a political movement exists in Ireland, there is a higher general state of public virtue. The judges saw this last year, for they had scarcely a case to try, and they were obliged to go amuse themselves with the jury and the bar, at playing cricket in some place.—[Dublin Irishman.

The stillness which seems to pervade the atmosphere of the Irish Church while the storm is ready to break upon it, is one of the most remarkable circumstances connected with its present state. An observer may be puzzled to know whether this arises from simple apathy and indifference as to coming events, or from some vague notion of security amid all the dangers which threaten it. It might be expected, that now that the verdict of the empire has been unmistakably pronounced, those who have clung to the belief that the Establishment would be maintained, at least for many a long year would be alarmed at the prospect of its destruction and aroused to a sense of the necessity of making preparation to meet an inevitable change. There is little evidence, however, of any such prudent and practical consideration in the minds of the majority of the Episcopalian laity. They appear to be as listless as if they thought the Church was riding safely at anchor and never likely to drift upon the rocks. It is true that a couple of committees are sitting and watching the course of events, but their proceedings are wrapped in mystery, and few persons even know their existence. The skeleton of the defence organization still continues, and meetings of its central body are noticed in the press from time to time. There is nothing, however, like an active, energetic movement, such as was begun 12 months ago, and from which great results were anticipated. Here and there the stillness is broken by a note of warning or advice from some ardent Churchman, who tries to persuade others to look at the difficulties resolutely in the face, and make provision for the future. Schemes and suggestions as to the best form of constitution for the Church in its altered relations to the State have been put forward chiefly by the clergy, but they are coldly received, and discussion is rather discouraged than promoted. Among the pamphlets which have been issued and have attracted attention is one just published, which is made the subject of commentary in the Liberal press. It is from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Sherlock, curate of Bray. He advocates such a system as will give efficient action to the laity, which he thinks can be secured by adopting the organization of the American Churches, modified by the experience derived from the working of our Colonial Churches. He describes the machinery of the United States Church, showing the powers used by the vestries and diocesan convocations. He anticipates that if the disestablished Church were properly organized there would be a power vested in the members to enforce discipline within their own body, and to obtain this efficient organization he contends that it ought to be thoroughly representative, that there should be diocesan Synods enabled to hold property for the whole body which they represent, as in Canada, and that whatever property the Irish Church may be allowed to retain should be handed over to these Synods. In the United States the patronage of the vacant livings belongs to the vestries, in Canada to the Synods or the Bishop; but he recommends the New Zealand plan, which gives it jointly to the bishops and deputies elected by the vestry and Synod. In the event of disendowment being carried, he urges the importance of having the life interests of the clergy commuted for a capital sum, as was done in Canada. This, with the addition of the weekly offerings and a reserve fund to be created, would, in his opinion, supply all wants. He advises the Church not to waste its energies in a fruitless contest, but to prepare an organization to meet the difficulties which may be imposed upon it in its new position.—[London Times.

The following paragraph, from a leader in Monday's *Freeman*—which people believe is more or less of a Government organ well acquainted with the proposed measures of our rulers—however, indicates pretty clearly that Gladstone will liberate the prisoners.—The *Saturday Review* is quite indignant that petitions should be preparing in Ireland beseeching the Crown to remit the remainder of the sentences on the Fenian convicts. It is objected that the prisoners have never exhibited any contrition for their crimes. They have never acknowledged their guilt and supplicated forgiveness. And do the persons who make such an objection to their release suppose that they would be better citizens if such conditions were attempted to be exacted as the price of their liberty? Extorted submission is generally insincere. Wise Governments avoid it, for while it humbles the pride of men it shrouds their hostility to the Government which would degrade them in the eyes of their fellow-men. No conditions are likely to be imposed. If they are, they are almost certain to be rejected. The best guarantee for future good behaviour is to appeal to their sense of honour. They will understand the moral obligations which the clemency of the Crown will impose, and fulfil them too. The Government may rest assured that no policy will be more fruitful of good results than a policy of mercy. Mr. Gladstone will not follow the advice of the *Saturday Review*. It would be impolitic, unstatesmanlike, and unpopular.

NARROW ESCAPE AND GALLANT CONDUCT.—An accident, which was near proving of fatal consequence, occurred on Sunday at the Catholic Chapel, Clontarf, and which only for the prompt courage displayed by Police Constables Daly and McCormack might have indeed sent many a mourning heart home from their temple of worship. Just as the congregation had dispersed after twelve o'clock mass a spirited animal, attached to an outside car, was seen coming at a furious rate along the road from Dal yonon. There was not a moment to lose, as the side-walks upon either side were crowded by young and old. The constables, with a courage beyond all praise stationed themselves in the centre of the road, and just as the infuriated animal was about to pass them, they simultaneously sprang to his head, and after a severe struggle they manfully brought him to grief opposite 'Victoria-terrace.' Such conduct, I think deserves the notice of the proper authorities. The constables, however, walked modestly away seemingly content with the many blessings that were showered upon them by parents and friends.

IRISH ESTATES.—Among the notices of motion during the brief session of the House of Commons on Tuesday last was the following by Mr. O'Brien:—'To bring in a Bill to encourage and promote the purchase of small freehold estates in Ireland.' Mr. O'Brien has always manifested in a practical way his desire to remove the difficulties under which the purchase of such estates in Ireland labors, and deserves our thanks for his constant zeal to promote the welfare of his country. We hope that, by the aid of an administration pledged to do justice to Ireland, he may find a fairer field for his patriotic exertions especially in everything which concerns the relations between landlords and tenants. The Land question is that which most urgently calls for prompt settlement, and the member for Cashel does not need to be told that Ireland cannot be satisfied with any partial alleviation of the evils which English legislation has inflicted upon her. Among the objects to which this journal is especially devoted, and of which we shall never lose sight till it is fully attained, is the acquisition by Irishmen of every one of those legitimate rights upon their national soil which have been poached away from them by English misrule, including the free development of her agricultural, manufacturing, and other resources.—Tablet.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ANOTHER NEW CARDINAL.—We hear that among the cardinals in the list which is soon to be published at Rome it is expected the name will appear of the Right Rev. Dr. Clifford, Bishop of Clifton.—Western Daily Press.

THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.—The Most Rev. Charles Eyre, Archbishop Emerit, preceels this day to Rome, where he will be consecrated Archbishop of Anzara in *paribus infidelium*. His Grace is in his fifty-first year, and was educated at Ushaw and Rome. He has been twenty-five years on the mission in Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1843 he was associated with the Right Rev. Dr. Riddell in Pilgrimage street; and in 1844 the church of St. Mary's, the present cathedral, was opened, and his Grace has been the pastor ever since Dr. Riddell's consecration. He fell a victim to the terrible Irish fever, as it was called, which carried off so many priests in Liverpool about twenty years ago; and with the exception of the short absence required by his convalescence, he has had no lengthened rest from the discharge of his arduous mission duties. His Grace's predecessor in the western district of Scotland is the Right Rev. Dr. Gray, whose ill health has compelled his resignation; and his coadjutor the Right Rev. Dr. Lynch, well known for his high state of efficiency to which he is raised the Irish College in Paris, will enter upon another field of work. The number of Catholics in the district is upwards of 250,000, of whose service there are 105 priests and seven convents. We have also to announce that the Rev. John MacDonald has been pronounced Bishop of Nicopolis in *partibus*, and named coadjutor to the venerable Dr. Kyle, who is now in his eighty-first year.—London Tablet 2nd inst.

PRIVATE INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.—A curious and instructive example of the effects of private interpretation of Scripture occurred during the past year on the occasion of two members of the sect of 'Peculiar People' being committed for the manslaughter of their child, Louisa Wiggswaff by name, through their not procuring for her necessary medical assistance. At the coroner's inquest a witness, another member of the sect, said that the reason that they did not call in a doctor was because Scripture said, 'Cursed is men that trusteth in man,' and also, 'Trust not in an arm of flesh,'—a powerful argument indeed in the mouth of any advocate of private interpretation, though it was not held to have any force in law. On a juror inquiring whether the 'Peculiar People' would call in a doctor if a leg were broken, the witness readily replied:—'The Lord says, 'Not a bone of the righteous shall be broken,' which pretty accurately betokened the opinion they had of themselves.

RICH CHURCHES AND POOR PEOPLES.—The London correspondent of the *New York Times* writes that in one part of London—the district around Cheapside and Lombard street, little more than half a mile in length, and less in breadth, having an area under a quarter of a square mile—there are no less than fifty different churches huddled together. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that in these churches forty-nine souls are a large average congregation, and £2,490 (gold) is the average salary of a clergyman. St. Paul's which, though in the same neighborhood, is not included in the forty churches above mentioned, has fifty clerical officials! And all through the cellars, or packed in garrets, amidst sickness of poor wretches in silt, equatorial starvation and death; thick as wharf rats and about as human who in all their lives never eat a wholesome and sufficient meal, wear a new, decent garment, or bear one friendly or loving word from the outside world, on any subject, from the hour they come into being until the, to them, more blessed one when they are almost shrouded out of it! What to them are sound of church going bells; or fifty ordained and well paid priests to a single church; or forty others huddled with that one to less than half a mile each with a salary of two thousand four hundred dollars in gold and a congregation of nine and forty 'rowdy sinners, all told, in

silk and satin, those human wharf rats yonder aroal these pious shams and shows? Aye, what?

THE TUNNEL UNDER THE STRAITS OF DOVER.—The promoters of the two-railway tunnel scheme for uniting the European Continent with the island of Great Britain, via the Straits of Dover, having deemed it expedient to ascertain the geological character of the submarine ground required to be traversed, in order to determine its probable fitness for the object in view, have called in, by the advice of Professor Lamsey, Mr. Henry Beckett, F.G.S., Professor of Practical Geology, Consulting Mining Engineer, &c., of Wolverhampton, who has just made his report, and it will be laid before the French Commission, by whom the project will have to be considered. Professor Beckett, after expressing his belief that the impression which has long prevailed among scientific men, to the effect that France and Great Britain were once visibly connected, rests upon well-grounded bases, says:—'(On the whole, after carefully considering the subject in all its bearings, I do not hesitate to express my firm conviction of the feasibility of the projected tunnel design, which I heartily recommend to be promptly carried out by the two leading governments of the earth.'

THE AUSTRALIAN MEAT QUESTION.—In London an interesting meeting was held for the purpose of inducing to notice the steps which have been taken to give the English public the benefits to be derived from a supply of animal food from Australia. The chairman pointed out that the overcoming of the difficulties in the way of obtaining a constant supply of meat was important in two ways; in the first place, a supply of good meat would be given to this country at a considerably less cost than now; and, in the next place, the vast supplies of mutton and beef now sent down to Australia for fat would be utilized, to the profit of the mother country and the colonies. He went on to describe the difficulties which had existed to prevent supplies of the meat reaching this country from Australia, and he stated that the colonists were alive to the necessity of finding a market for their stock that the most energetic measures had been adopted to furnish supplies to Europe. The company were invited to partake of various dishes and to inspect the meat in its raw and manufactured state, the latter condition referring to sausages and potted meats. It was excellent, and some preserved beef and pie of preserved mutton were all that could be desired, but in one or two dishes of mutton the meat did not receive the attention it requires before cooking. The meats are packed in large iron cases hold not about 2½ tons. Sheep are packed whole, without bones, and when the iron case is filled with meat, boiling fat is run into the case which is then hermetically sealed. The manner of exporting the beef is the same, and it comes to this country in good condition. That exhibited was very fine indeed, and though it is without a bone it is sold at less price than meat in the London market, though the latter is weighed to the purchaser with the bones which carry the weight to the market. Mr. Morris stated that experiments were being made to bring frozen meat from Australia, and it was believed success would attend the effort. Mr. Tallent stated that stores had been opened for the retail sale of the meat in Norton Folgate; and, in order to clear away difficulties, receipts for preparing and cooking the food were given to the purchasers. He also mentioned that the importation of beef and mutton had risen very considerably in the course of the year, and such were the differences in price that potted meats could be supplied at one-eighth the cost charged in London.

MEETING OF RITUALISTS.—On Wednesday a very large meeting of clergy and laity who sympathize with the Ritualistic movement in the Church of England was held at the Freeasons Tavern, for the purpose of considering what measures should be adopted in consequence of the recent judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of 'Martin v. Mackonochie.' There is said to have been much difference of opinion among those who took part in the proceedings, and strange rumors are afloat. Nothing authoritative, however, has transpired, as the meeting was held to be 'private,' and representatives of the press were excluded.

THE REFORMERS.—A writer in the October number of the *Quarterly Review* labours hard, but with indifferent success, to free the leading English reformers from the charges of venality and corruption, brought against them by Anglicans of the school of Dr. Littledale. The difficulty of the undertaking may be judged from the following passages containing the reviewer's estimate of the character of Thomas Crumwell (or Crumwell), with incidental notices of Foxe's martyrologist, and Latimer the martyr. Crumwell's religion, we are told, 'was from first to last dictated by the exigencies of political prudence, or the claims of his own selfish interest. It threw in his lot with the reformers, and has been lauded as a saint and 'man of God' by the inaccurate and inveterate Foxe; but neither his character nor his conduct exhibit any marks of piety save that of standing by his faction, and providing for himself. He was greedy of gain, and so rapacious in seizing on and amassing it, that, though utterly profane and prodigal in spending money he did possess of immense wealth. No one trusted him, unless, which is far from certain, the rugged, humorous, quaint Hugh Latimer did so. If Latimer really had any faith in him, it may have been owing to the same defects of his own character which made him offensively facetious and flippant in his letter to Crumwell when appointed to preach at the burning of poor Forest, and 'unhappily merry' at the condemnation of Sir Thomas More. . . . He was a zealous supporter of the reformers when advancing their cause enabled him to suppress the religious houses and enrich himself and his dependents out of their spoils. Crumwell, however, whose reputation is generally admitted to be hopelessly compromised, fares better at the hands of the *Quarterly Reviewer*.—'From first to last his character appears to us transparently clear. He was thoroughly honest; devoid of any gifts of genius; patient laborious, and religious; true to his convictions, but liable to have those convictions varied by the force of circumstances or the arguments of others; he was true to his friends and forgiving to his enemies, &c. &c. It would take a good deal of whitewash to touse down the dark spots in the life of Archbishop Crumwell; but our reviewer seems to consider himself equal to the emergency, and the result is a similar and striking contrast to Macaulay's description of the Archbishop as 'saintly in his professions, unscrupulous in his dealings, zealous for nothing, bold in speculation, a coward and a timeserver in action, a placable enemy and a luke-warm friend, he was in every way qualified to arrange the terms of the coalition between the religious and the worldly enemies of Popery; that is to say, Crumwell was altogether so utterly devoid of principle that, in Macaulay's opinion, he was just the man to do the work of the enemies of the Catholic Church.'

BUSINESS LIKE CATALOGUE.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* under an occasional note has the following:—'Dr. Donker held 12 inquests yesterday, most of the deaths being the result of holiday excesses. He had already held inquests on six children who were found in the streets on Boxing Day. The other coroners are busily engaged in similar cases. At Shadwell two men quarrelled on Christmas Eve, and in the scuffle one of them fell, and was killed on the spot. At Salford on Boxing Day a drunken man stabbed another, who died instantly. At Northampton there was another murder. Here are a dozen deaths from "excesses," half a dozen children found dead, one case of manslaughter, and two of murder—21 unnatural and violent deaths, besides several "similar cases" to engage the time of "other coroners."

LUDICROUS BLUNDERS.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* recently called attention to some very ludicrous blunders made at a Cambridge middle-class examination in the answers to a set of questions on English history. Equally absurd errors might be adduced from the replies of University under-graduates in their various college examinations. Most people have an idea of Italy being represented by cartographers in the form of a boot; yet I remember a university-man who mapped it out as a square. Another being required to draw a map of Judee, put a big dot for Jerusalem, and a smaller one marked, 'Here the man fell among thieves,' and was satisfied with that exposition. 'An island in the Azean Sea,' is a block answer to any question as to the situation of a place not known. Of course, in constructing Latin, greater 'shots' are made; and I remember an unfortunate man asserting that 'clivm' was an adjective, accurate case, feminine; and that 'etiam' was a verb, preter-perfect tense from 'etio.' Two instances are given by Mr. Bristol in his 'Five Years in an English University,' where 'Caesar captivus sub corona vendit' was translated 'Caesar sold the captives for less than five shillings; and where 'Est enim finitimus oratoris notis; numeris adstrictior natum verborum antem licentia liberior,' was translated, 'For a poet lived next door to the orator, too licentious in his language, but more circumspect than numbers.' The man who translated 'gen kai udor' as 'gin and water,' probably did so designedly; like Porson, with his 'neither toddy nor tallow,' and his 'a liquid in reply to the question what would he drink. The jocosely clever answers are, however, somewhat hazardous, as the Cambridge man found when he was asked by Mr. Payne, his examiner to define happiness, and replied, 'An exemption from Payne.' And I knew another man who came to trouble by answering the question 'What did St. Paul do at Troas and Bithyium?' 'He left his clock at Troas and fetched a compass to Rhegium.' The answers to questions in Divinity papers would cover a wide field of absurdity; but so many of them (unconsciously) border on the profane, that they can only be briefly referred to here. All that one may say of David was, that he was a person very fond of music; while another could tell nothing more of the most remarkable circumstance in the office of the High Priest, than that 'he only washed his face once a year.' Another man thought that St. Paul was 'a teacher, brought up at the foot of Gamaliel, a great mountain in Cilicia,' while another gave as the substance of his sermon at Athens, that 'he cried out for the space of two hours "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." There are many recorded answers to the question as to the connection between the Old and New Testaments: one was, 'Prideaux's connection'; another was, 'When Peter cut off Malchus's ear.' The following is probably an ingenious composition. Question, What animal in Scripture is recorded to have spoken? Answer, The whale. Q. To whom did the whale speak? A. To Moses in the bulrushes. Q. What did the whale say? A. Thou art the man. Q. What did Moses reply? A. Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. Q. What was the effect on the whale? A. He rushed violently down a steep place into the sea and perished in the waters.—[Once a Week.

UNITED STATES.

The report of the United States Secretary of the Interior reveals a fearful amount of corruption in that department. Articles were charged at an advance of 400 per cent on cost, and there is enough hard paper on hand to last for twenty years to come.

Under the new ruling of the court at Topeka, Kansas, a lawyer is required to stand up while questioning a witness, and if too drunk to stand, he cannot practise.

The *Herald's* special says of the Alabama claims treaty—'The Protocol as submitted to the Senate is considered to be a very considerable triumph for the United States. It is regarded as a concession of the great point contended for by Mr. Seward, that the primary question of the liability of the British Government for the escape and consequent depredations of the Alabama, should be referred to the same commission that is appointed to consider the points in dispute in detail, instead of to the King of Prussia or any other monarch. The naturalization treaty and the San Juan boundary treaty, according to the text submitted to the Senate, concede all that has been claimed by the United States.'

Washington, Jan. 17.—The President transmitted to the Senate, on Friday, three treaties and protocols concluded between the United States and Great Britain, which were indicated in his annual message, namely:—

1st. A protocol fully recognizing the naturalization laws of the United States, and abolishing the legal principle heretofore maintained in Great Britain of the indefeasibility of native allegiance;

2nd. Treaty referring the boundary dispute about the Island of San Juan, on the Pacific coast, to the Republic of Switzerland; and,

3d. Treaty for adjustment of all claims, including the Alabama claims, by Commission, to sit at Washington, with the stipulation to refer when necessary individual claims to the head of a friendly nation.

'American Neutrality' is being remarkably exemplified in connection with the present Cuban 'rebellion.' A recent Havana letter says that a late American rebel, Col. Bleasby, about Christmas landed at Punta Luceria with 150 men, 500 Peabody guns, 500 Spencer carbines and a quantity of hand grenades with the needful moulds whereof to make more, in aid of the insurgents. It is added that it was these men, and not the patriots who destroyed the lighthouse.

A citizen of Washington, whom we will call Mr. P., once rang at the door of the British Minister, and telling the servant that he had important business with the Minister, was shown into an ante-room, where he was soon joined by that official, when the following dialogue took place: 'May I ask, sir, what business it is that you want with me?' 'Certainly, sir; it is this: In passing your house I learned that you have a whist party here to-night, and as I am remarkably fond of the game, I thought I would just step in and see what was trumps.' The sublime impudence of the thing so amused the Minister that he invited the intruder into the room where the guests were assembled, and introduced him as 'the most impudent man in America.'

A white man named Upton and three negroes, who confessed to having murdered a man named Martin, and his two sisters, near Columbia, South Carolina, two weeks since were taken by the populace from the jail in which they were confined, and hung.

A tinball boiler in a turning shop in Elizabeth, New Jersey, exploded on the 15th instant, and was driven through the air for a distance of 200 feet into a birdware store, falling upon the heads of two men who were almost instantly killed. Three others were seriously and perhaps fatally injured, while several received severe contusions.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—During Saturday night, 100 armed men from Plum Creek, Fremont, Ia., broke into goal at Sydney, and took out two men, Jackson and Norton, who murdered Holloway at a dance at his hotel on Thursday night, and hung them to a tree a mile from town.

The unusual warmth of the past fall and early winter, in Montana, has brought myriads of young grasshoppers into premature existence. The cold weather will destroy them, of course, and the farmers expect to be free from their depredations next season.

A clock invented by a man in Burlington, Vermont is run by electricity. It never needs winding. The most important feature in the invention is that a single battery may be connected with any number of dials in the same building, or even along the entire line of a railway.

Fifty thousand people in New York wear wigs and 'scratches' are sold every year. Five hundred merchants in human hair have all they can do with the city and country trade, which amounts to nearly \$2,000,000 for New York, and \$500,000 for the country.

Libel suits are about to be brought against the *New York World* for the publication of its spirited reports, alleging that some of the retail dealers of that city, whose names are given, are in the habit of selling adulterated goods and using false weights. Its exposures appear to have added greatly to its popularity.

The perpetrators of the Bank of Montreal robbery at St. Catharines are supposed to be two notorious thieves from Chicago. The *Journal* says one was a middle aged man say 40 or 45 years of age, and the other young, about 23 years. The elder was known as 'Dr.' and the younger was said to be his son, answering to the fix of 'Colonel.' It is supposed the thieves went from St. Catharines to Thorold, where a carriage was hired on Tuesday morning at two o'clock, to carry them to the Falls, paying therefor \$5, in a Provincial note, stipulating that the journey was to be accomplished in an hour. They had with them two carpet bags, and one was drunk, or acted in a manner to lead to that belief. These men were landed at the new bridge. It is said that early in the morning a cab was hired on the other side of the river, the man paying therefor \$30 in gold to take them to Tonawanda, which place they reached early in the morning. No further trace of them, we believe, has been obtained. The carpet-bags of these strangers very likely contained the plunder.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW YORK. The condition to which jobbery has brought the municipal government of New York city is well known, but has never been more graphically described than by a writer in the *Chicago Tribune*. After describing two of the leaders of the ring, he says:—'There does not seem to be any chance whatever for New York to remain a habitual city under these two beings. Neither will it be possible, after a while, for any stranger to visit New York and be safe in life, liberty and property. The only solution to the reign of Tweed and Sweeney in New York is a vigilance committee, which the *New York Tribune*, the *New York Evening Post* and other Journals have hinted at. This is no dream or wild paragraph. The elements of a vigilance committee are combined to make war. Nothing in the near future is so apparent as a great gallows before the City Hall, and the reamery of New England and New York guarding the ceremony. I expect to live to see this and describe it.'

JOHN H. SCRATT.—Don Piat, Washington correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial*, writing under date of January 4th, says:—'I learn that the Prosecuting Attorney here is noising about in search of evidence on which to found another indictment against John H., of infamous memory. This will be unpleasant news to the country at large. The legal force called the trial of said Scratt, wore out its interest long before its termination, and we fondly hoped we were done with it. A very awkward affair it was. In a burst of virtuous wrath we had hanged his mother, and sundry other miserable wretches, by verdict of public opinion, passed through a court ported up to convict, and when sober second thought came, were rather ashamed of what we had done. The next best thing was to close our eyes and shut our mouths and try to forget. Unfortunately this poor devil is hunted down, from the furthest ends of the earth, and brought to trial, before a sort of a court where some regard is paid to rules of evidence, and we find that he cannot be convicted. And the question comes back, unpleasantly knocking at the public conscience, asking us if we can not convict the son, who, it was claimed, was one of the master spirits of the conspiracy, how was it that we hanged the mother.'

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.—A letter in the *Evening Post* states that but little over 60 per cent. of the marriages solemnized by clergymen of this City are reported by them to the proper Bureau for registration, although this is positively required by a law of the State. The writer of the letter states, as the result of personal examination in this matter, that the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church are not derelict in the matter but that they are careful to comply with the law, and, in that every other way, to protect the marriage ceremony from the abuses which have so injurious an effect upon society at large and the domestic happiness of its individual members. We have taken occasion more than once to censure the conduct of very many of the clergy in this matter, and to say what we believe to be perfectly true, that they are largely responsible for the great increase in the number of divorces, against which they raise so dreadful an outcry, as well as for the much greater wrongs and miseries of our social life. In practice and in fact, they attach no sort of importance to the performance of the marriage ceremony. They regard it either as a mere form, with the meaning and merits of which they may safely and innocently indulge. We have cited cases in which clergymen have married persons in a mere joke—the parties themselves supposing the ceremony to be nothing more, and being led to that belief by the clergyman who performed it. And as a general rule clergymen, as a class, marry any parties who apply to them for that purpose, without requiring any evidence to show that they are free to enter into such relations and that there is no good and valid reason against their doing so.—N.Y. Times.

This proposition of the Catholics in regard to the Public Schools, though not even yet boldly stated or openly demanded, has met with the fiercest opposition from that class of the followers of a American Protestantism who are insensible to the 'liberalizing tendencies of the day' wherever the Catholic Church is concerned, and who still cling to the foolishness of ancient prejudice. Because, in a momentary feeling of justice and at the solicitation of their constituents, the legislators of our State attempted to make a few tardy and partial returns to the Catholics, a shout of indignation was raised, and, as the representative of meanness and perfection, the Protestant press teemed with force denunciations of American 'Romanism.' The rallying cry of hatred to the Catholic Church was raised, and those who had been engaged in attacking each other united in making war upon the common enemy. How strange it is that Protestant friends can only unite their scattered forces upon one line of battle. They have been for years trying to bring about a union of sects, to reconcile and consolidate the numberless different opinions held among them, but have always failed. Upon a basis of serving God, even of recognizing His powers, they can never unite; but, to display revengeful and jealous hostility toward the Catholic religion, they become a unit in magic suddenness. Associations which had before received State donations now refused, with virtuous (?) indignation to be deprived of an argument against their Catholic fellow-citizens, by accepting them. Organizations, composed of wealthy and prominent citizens of this great metropolis, presuming to respect devotion to national interests and national union so far forgot their pretended mission of enlightenment as to exert their influence in denying the Catholics a part of only their just due. Fierce, earnest, even bigoted opposition were preferable to such unmanly hypocrisy as these cases present. From such unfavorable and illiberal sources, a perfect storm seemed in prospect, and already alarmed at the threatening clouds they had called forth, our brave legislators made a precipitate, if not complete retreat. So ended this attempt to secure for the Catholics their rights as citizens of a free State.—N.Y. La Salle Journal.