

as they are throwing into the town. They fire about four large shells every minute for six hours in the twenty-four, and then reduce the fire to one or two shells a minute. The Russians have directed a tolerably strong fire on the mortars, but they have done no considerable damage of any kind. The French will assist us in putting the guns in our batteries, and it is probable they will throw up one or two new batteries in front and to the right of our right attack. The French will also take the Inkermann Battery and man our guns there.

FEB. 17.—The *Times* correspondent, writing on Feb. 17, says the utmost secrecy is observed respecting our future operations. Strict orders have been issued that artillery and engineer officers are not to give information respecting our works to any one.—Officers are not allowed to get any details concerning the works and armaments. The orders are so strict that no officer, unless he be known to the sentries, will be allowed to go through our lines above Balaklava, and the restriction applies even to naval officers and to all officers of regiments not actually stationed on the spot.

The *Morning Post* has received its despatches to February 17. The *Post* correspondent remarks:—"Vague rumors of our being about to be attacked, but no movements. Huttling progressing fast, but it will be a long time before the whole army get covered; ten huts at the outside put up per day, each for 25 men. About two miles of electric telegraph laid down. Scoury very bad; fresh meat only once a fortnight, and yet plenty of cattle on the shores of the Black Sea. Another mild day."

CONDITION OF THE TROOPS.—To rectify the various and daily misstatements that are put forth on the state of the army in the Crimea, would be an endless task. Now and then, however, some striking misrepresentation appears, to which it is impossible to permit, uncontradicted, a circulation. Such was the assertion that, on the 1st of January, Lord Raglan had barely 14,000 men capable of being brought into the field—even a less number was mentioned—but what was the fact? We are able to state, on authority to which we challenge contradiction, that, on the day specified, the total number of our army before Sebastopol was 38,732 men of all arms, from whom must be debited, for sick absent at present, 13,915, and 196 for prisoners in the hands of the enemy, and the number actually available for duty will be found to have been 24,621 men, or upwards of 10,000 more than was publicly, but most falsely, stated, and this exclusive of the naval brigade. During the month of January, there was, unfortunately, a large majority; but, notwithstanding this unfavorable circumstance, there still remained on the 6th of this present month of February, 21,000 men fit for active service. Again, exclusive of the naval brigade, another point that has been carefully kept out of view is the number of convalescent at Scutari.—These are in themselves an army to whom the advantages of repose are afforded until their presence shall become indispensable in the field. The conditions of our soldiers in camp is much better in every respect than it was a short time ago. Still the sickness continues almost unabated. A slight change for the better has taken place though even now we are invaliding to Scutari at the rate of 120 per day. This number is, of course, exclusive of those in hospital at Balaklava and at camp. The general opinion of all our army surgeons seems to be, that the comforts and warm clothing for the men have come too late to be of any real service to the great majority of our troops now out here. To men who must succeed our present army they will undoubtedly be of great benefit, but the constitutions of those who were exposed to the awful privations of November, December, and January, have sustained too severe a shock to be rallied by anything less than quiet, comfort, and nursing, which, of course, are all out of the question. Now, our men are dying from the effects of what they underwent two months ago. There is a good deal of sickness in the French camp, and one regiment is said to have suffered as much from scorbutic diseases as any of our own, and to have ceased to exist, like the 63rd Regiment. But the French have no large steamers which they can send to forage in all the ports of Asia Minor; and with all their deficient transport they have had far less sickness and less loss of life from disease cent. per cent. than our troops, while they have been better provided with food and soldier's luxuries. Their system of cooking is better; their system of hitting is better; instead of having twelve or fourteen miserable, gloomy fellows, sitting moodily together in one tent, where each man eats his meal, cooked or uncooked, as best he can, they have four men together in a tent, who are neither miserable nor gloomy as a general rule, because they have a good dish of soup and bouilli well made at the mess fire, and carried away "piping hot" in the camp kettle of the tent. The *Monteur* contradicts the report of insubordination among the French troops in the Crimea. The whole army had never for one moment ceased to give the most incontestable proofs of its energy, its perseverance, and its devotion.

DESERTIONS FROM THE ALLIES.—One of the worst features in Crimean expedition is the frequency of desertion to the Russian camp. This strange and treacherous freak is practised much by the sergeants and corporals in the engineers, sappers and miners, and artillery of the French army. General Neil has brought word that for some weeks prior to his arrival a mine had been in process of formation for the Flagstaff Battery and Quarantine Fort. A few days before the explosion had been settled to come off, and the Russians were to have been converted into intrepid aeronauts, a *marechal de logis* of French artillery deserted to the enemy, and sold for a high price to Prince Menschikoff the news of the fate which awaited him. A countermine was immediately prepared by the Russians for the benevolent object of boistering

the French engineers with their own petard.—*London Paper.*

DEATH OF ANOTHER CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN.—The Rev. Mr. Cantey, Catholic Chaplain to the 2nd division, died of fever on Sunday the 4th February. He was much liked and respected by the whole division. Only two Catholic Chaplains now remain with the troops (two having died, and four being invalided) and they complain that the incessant hospital and camp duty which has thus devolved upon them has become almost insupportable.

Here is what the *Times* correspondent saw at Scutari up to the 15th of February:—

THE CHAPLAINS IN THE CRIMEA.—We learn with regret that the Rev. James Doyle is on his return home from the camp, on account of his health. "The great increase of fever in the hospitals here is now the chief point of remark. For weeks it has been gaining strength, and now rages with a destructive vigor which is in the highest degree alarming.—Some of the medical men give it one name and some another, but all are agreed as to its malignant character, and in a greater or less degree as to its origin and progress. On the former point no more decisive evidence can be given than the fact, that in less than a month it has swept away no less than seven surgeons, while eight more are at this moment prostrate under its influence—three of the nurses have been attacked, and fears are entertained for the recovery of one of them. It will be remembered that the orderlies, who sleep and take their meals with their patients, supplied the first victims to the malady of those previously in sound health. On board the transport ships and in the hospitals the mortality amongst them was very great, while the nurses and surgeons were still comparatively exempt. As, however, the number of sick have increased, the infectious and malignant character of the fever has become more marked and decided. The Barrack Hospital and Kululee have both been overcrowded, and there, as might be expected, it commits the greatest ravages. The General Hospital has been more fortunate or better managed in this respect, and in consequence has suffered less. Some people call it bilious remittent fever, others fever of a typhoid character; but, there is no doubt, that whatever its peculiar type it is the natural and inevitable product of animal emanations, accumulated in an excess of foulness dangerous to human life. It is what may reasonably and fairly be expected from wards and ship-holds, fetid with the exhalations of dysenteric disease and the stench of hands and feet rotting off from frost-bite. In the Barrack Hospital one can only wonder that the results upon the health of the medical men have not been even more disastrous than their sick list indicates, for there the four great corridors which run round the building, and were intended to ventilate it, have been occupied, not by single, but by double rows of sick, and all the noxious effluvia from these miles of suffering are drained into the apartments adjoining. Instead, therefore, of drawing fresh air in copious and refreshing quantities from the corridors, the rooms appropriated to wards and to the quarters of the medical officers, become a sort of atmospheric cesspools, into which everything outside that can contribute to propagate fever quietly but irresistibly flows. What will the consequence be when the little fresh air which still finds its way through the corridors is effectually shut out by the huge mass of shedding with which the open square of the hospital is now being filled up?"

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.—The screw line-of-battle ships at this time before Sebastopol, and which may be expected to take part in the forthcoming assault, are—the Royal Albert, 121; Agamemnon, 91; Algiers, 91; Caesar, 91; Hannibal, 91; Princess Royal, 91; and St. Jean d'Acre, 101. The Royal Albert is armed with ten 8-inch guns for firing shell or hollow shot, and 24 long 32-pounders on her lower deck; on the middle deck six 8-inch guns, and 28 long 32-pounders; on the main deck 34 long 32-pounders; on the quarter deck 18 long 32's, and on the fore-castle a long 68-pounder shell gun, weighing five tons, calculated to throw a shot three miles.—The broadside weight of metal which may be thrown by this magnificent ship is 2,276 lb. The St. Jean d'Acre's broadside is still heavier, as she carries more shell guns. The 91-gun ships carry similar armaments, and, upon the whole, it may be said that, in conjunction with the French screw fleet, the allied force will be the most powerful ever yet brought to bear upon the batteries of an enemy.

LIPRANDI'S CANNON.—When Liprandi first took up his position, after the battle of Balaklava, he gave the allied generals credit for an amount of energy and skill which they certainly did not possess, for he expected to be attacked each day, and all our officers are agreed that the failure of the allies in this respect was one of the greatest oversights of the campaign. When he retired in the beginning of December, it was a subject of marvel to all how he had contrived to remove his heavy guns at a time when the whole country was under water. No attempt was then made by the allies to ascertain the facts connected with this last matter, which are of more importance than would appear at first sight. One or two reconnaissances were made by French and English; Liprandi's camp cursorily inspected, and the skill and beautiful finish of his field fortifications highly admired, but this was all. The Russians have now returned, and without a trace of using horses, indeed, without even displaying more than their ordinary picquets, we suddenly discover heavy guns, such as could never have been moved across the soft plains without extraordinary efforts; back in their old position as if by magic. The true state of the case is now patent to all. Liprandi never removed the guns. They were simply buried in the redoubts, and a few men have been sufficient to dig them up and remount them. Had our generals been up to the dodges of war, such a stale-trick could never have been played

upon them. A slight search, conducted by proper officers, would soon have discovered the guns, and if we were unable to remove we might at least have destroyed them. As it is, they are now about to be used against ourselves for the second time. It is evident from the position of the guns that they are to be used in the intended attack on Balaklava, and for no other purpose.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Marquis of Waterford, with his usual liberality has freely given an acre of ground, rent-free for ever to his Catholic tenantry, for a grave-yard, in connection with their church in Drumsurn. The noble marquis also invariably practically carried out the principle of Tenant Right on his estate, by giving compensation to the out-going tenant, or giving him permission to sell to the highest bidder.—*Usterman.*

LIBERALITY OF MRS. BRYAN.—Mrs. Bryan of Jenkinstown, has generously subscribed the large sum of £25 to the destitution relief fund of this city.—*Kilkenny Journal.*

On Sunday, 18th ult., the parish chapel of Cushendall, was the scene of a very exciting and imposing ceremony. The news of the conversion of a bible reader, belonging to the Church Missionary Society, named Michael Quin, had got wind, and an immense congregation had assembled to witness the public acknowledgement of his error—the satisfaction he had to make for the scandal he had given the religion, and his profession of faith before he could again be received as a member of the Church of Christ. The missionary's wife was admitted at the same time.—*Tipperary Free Press.*

JURY PACKING.—The attention of Parliament ought to be at once called to a case which occurred in the Courts here last week, and which has strangely escaped public notice. We mean the case of the Rev. Cecil Smyly, Protestant Minister of Dunlear, against the Rev. James Hughes, Catholic Curate there—a case of assault on the public road, which Mr. Smyly swears was utterly unprovoked by him, which Mr. Hughes swears was incited by the most disgusting insults. The swearing was as flatly contradictory as it could well be, and any man who has read the evidence, must come to the conclusion, and can come to no other, that either rev. gentleman swore what was not true. It was for the Jury to determine which, and the Jury determined to give the Minister £100 damages.

We do think that such a verdict, accompanied as the jury knew it would be, by the heavy costs of two trials in this city, with the first Bar that could be got upon either side, was an exceedingly severe verdict to inflict upon a poor Catholic curate. There is no evidence of any very heavy injury done to Mr. Smyly. Whatever view the Jury took of the evidence, they could hardly have supposed that Mr. Smyly had given absolutely no provocation. They hardly imagined that Mr. Hughes had rushed out of ambush like a footpad, and incontinently proceeded to belabor the minister. Otherwise where was the use of giving a verdict, that, in all human probability, means a long imprisonment to the unfortunate Priest. The secret of it is simply this. The Jury were Protestants to a man. On the former trial, there were both Catholics and Protestants, and they disagreed. Accordingly there was no verdict. But on this occasion, it happened otherwise. In this city, where the Catholic population is an overwhelming majority, it nevertheless so happened, as it has too often happened before, that a jury of twelve men selected by chance from the Special Jury List, and called in the ordinary random order of their names by the officer of the Court, all proved to be Protestants, man after man. And of course they believed the Minister's oath. And of course they did not believe the Priest's. And of course they thought such a barbarous outrage deserved a swingeing penalty—it may teach your Popish Priests law and order. And so there is a verdict that will crush Father Hughes. Perhaps if there had been a Catholic jury, the verdict would have been all the other way. We do not insinuate that the gentlemen of the Jury did not find according to their oath, and their view of the evidence. But we must say the whole proceeding has an abominably-partizan air, and if the verdict had been a verdict of twelve Catholics against a Protestant Minister on the charge of a Priest, and upon such evidence the land would have rung with it.—*Nation.*

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND CHECKED.—The *Ballinasloe Star* says:—During the last week numerous letters have been received in this neighborhood from New York and other American cities, bringing intelligence which will undoubtedly tend to check the tide of emigration to that quarter. Destitution prevails to an alarming extent. There is no employment in N. York, and thousands of the poor Irish are undergoing an ordeal worse than that occasioned in their own country by the famine and pestilence of 1846. We have been permitted to inspect some of the letters received in this town and its vicinity, within the last few days, and really the details they give are of a most fearful description. The soup-kitchens have been established, and a large proportion of the redundant population are kept alive at the public expense. The advice in every letter is, "do not by any means come out here, if even a miserable subsistence can be got at home." We have been in expectation of such a result for some time. The enormous flow of emigrants into the cities and towns along the Atlantic for the last few years could not but have a disastrous effect upon local circumstances. In connection with this, we are to observe that the American Congress have under consideration a law which will very much restrict emigration to that country in future. Something like the passport system is to be instituted; at least settlers will be obliged to take with them certificates respecting their characters and past lives. At all events, we need not anticipate during the coming season such a drain from our shores as has depopulated, in a great measure, many of the best districts of the west of Ireland. The fact is, that many individuals who fortunately were enabled to do so, have returned, and we understand that many others will follow their example.

It is a fact—and no joke, as some of our readers may have supposed—that a subscription, tribute, or testimonial is being at present begged for the purpose of buying Captain John O'Connell's regimentals.—The *last Telegraph* acknowledges a letter of credit from Father John Ryan, of Cashel, for £5 7s 6d, beginning with a Mr. Leonard Keating's donation of a pound, and ending with the Widow Ryan's mite of a shilling.—*Nation.*

MR. SERGEANT SHEE'S BILL.—Mr. Sergeant Shee has reintroduced into parliament the government measure of 1853, and proposes to add to it in committee amendments calculated to render it more liberal. But the learned gentleman mentions that he does not intend to press those amendments, to the extent of defeating the original Bill, should he find the house indisposed to accept them. Now it strikes us that the enactment of the present bill (were it possible under existing circumstances), while it would admit the principle of compensation for improvements, would be utterly valueless in practice. For what tenant, upon quitting a farm, could derive a profit from pulling down his house or stables in order to remove the materials? Or how could he carry off a drain or a fence? At the same time it must be borne in mind that the passing of such a bill would be received by the landlord party in Ireland and by parliament as a definite settlement of the question, and for years to come it would be impossible to moot any really practical and effective measure with the faintest prospect of success. As Sergeant Shee has not yet defined the amendments he means to propose in committee, we are, of course, unable to pronounce how far they would be calculated to meet the reasonable expectations of the Irish people; but we do not hesitate to say that without the addition of clauses which, if added, would greatly metamorphose its character and effect, the government bill would be anything but a boon to the farming class in this country.—*Kilkenny Journal.*

ASSIZES—COUNTY WICKLOW.—The Commission was opened on Tuesday by the Right Hon. Baron Greene; and the Grand Jury having been re-sworn, his Lordship proceeded to address them. It gave him sincere pleasure to remark that the calendar which had been laid before him did not call for any particular observation, for the offences were not numerous, and, with one or two exceptions, were not of a serious or aggravated nature. The report of the inspector also showed that the number of prisoners in custody was materially diminished, and that this diminution had been steadily continuing for the last three or four years; and it was his (Baron Greene's) hope and expectation that future judges of assize would have equal cause to congratulate the Grand Jury upon the very creditable and peaceable state of their county.

CO. MEATH.—At Trim, on Tuesday, the Lord Chief Justice observed in his opening address to the Grand Jury:—"The calendar I have before me reflects the highest credit upon the peace and good order of your county. It is a rare thing to find a calendar for the intermediate period between the summer and spring assizes—the largest period of the year—with only sixteen prisoners for trial; and amongst these, I am happy to say that, with the exception of one or two, they are not at all of an aggravated character. And even these—though on first sight calculated to alarm—I find upon enquiry that though death ensued by stabbing, there are circumstances in the case to mitigate the offence to manslaughter. There is one case on the calendar that I was apprehensive might be regarded as a revival of those whiteboy offences which we have had so much to deplore. It is a case of stealing of arms. I find upon inquiry, however, that it resolves itself into a case of simple larceny, and upon the whole your criminal calendar is one that I feel called upon to congratulate you upon."

CO. CLARE.—It is a remarkable fact that the grand jury at the present assizes, consisting of 23 gentlemen, include no less than ten military men—viz., one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one Major, and seven captains, and the High Sheriff is also a captain.

Judge Perrin commenced the Spring Assizes at Ennis, on Tuesday, observing, in his address to the Grand Jury, that there were but 20 names on the calendar, and the cases were all exceedingly light, with the exception of one or two serious charges, including an indictment for murder, which, however, he apprehended they would have no difficulty in dealing with.

At the Maryborough petty sessions, Mr. William Fitzpatrick was fined £5 for refusing to receive recruits of the Royal Queen's County Rifles, billeted on him.

MR. JOHN CARDEN, OF BARNANE.—The *Clonmel Chronicle* of Saturday states that the Surgeon-General (Sir Philip Crampton) arrived there on Friday evening, and that on the following morning he paid a professional visit to Mr. John Carden, whose health, it is alleged by his friends, is rapidly giving way from his continued confinement in gaol. This is, of course, the preliminary step towards memorialising the Lord Lieutenant for a commutation of the sentence passed upon the unlucky culprit.

BELFAST LINEN TRADE.—From the Board of Trade returns just published, the *Belfast Mercantile Journal* shows that, while there was a diminution, last year, in the exports of linen yarn from the United Kingdom to the extent of 23 per cent, the decrease in exports from Belfast was only two per cent.

The number of gallons of spirits manufactured in Ireland for the ten years ending 1st January, 1854, was 74,149,162, the duty on which was £9,974,371.

WRECK OF A STEAMER.—The screw steamer *Morna*, from Belfast to London, with troops on board, was totally wrecked on Monday or Tuesday, near Haverfordwest. The master, mate, and 28 seamen and soldiers had got on shore, but 65 seamen and soldiers were missing. They left the wreck in two boats, and hopes were entertained that they have succeeded in landing somewhere in the Channel.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The *Univers* of Thursday has the following paragraph, signed Jules Gordon:—"We receive from London a piece of news which possesses a religious interest in more than one respect with regard to England; it is that the Holy See is about to give a Coadjutor to His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. The members of the Chapter, who represent the clergy of the Diocese, have united in nominating three candidates, who are now subjected to the selection of the Supreme Pontiff. The Coadjutor will be nominated *cum jure successionis*, and it is on that account that the clergy have been summoned to present candidates."

DEATH OF JOSEPH HUME, ESQ., M.P.—The living political reformers of Great Britain have lost their oldest leader.—Joseph Hume is numbered with the dead. Mr. Hume had been visibly declining in health for a year past. During the last few weeks disease of the heart gradually reduced his strength, and gave warning that his end was drawing near. He expired at six o'clock on Tuesday night at his seat, Burnley Hall, Norfolk, England.—*Tablet.*