

THE POOR LAW REPORT.—It seems but as yesterday, that Pauperism marred the fair face of the land with Workhouses, terrible and deadly like vast plague bubbles. Only five years ago, there were two millions of Paupers in Ireland feeding on public aid. And now, where Twenty were, there is only One. That immense mass of stagnant humanity has, as it were, melted away. Many a thousand lies swathed in yet sweltering church-yards, covered with a light vesture of sod. Thousands upon thousands more have gone over the waves to America, or Australia. Wages have risen, and reapers are scarce—many more thankfully earn their bread. The old and the infirm the lame, the blind, the bed-ridden, are paupers still; and there is a whole young generation growing up in these dens of Despond who are the Orphans of the Famine. But that hideous helpless incubus of strong men and comely women, fed on alms, is no more to be seen, thank God; and the Commissioners of the Poor Laws therefore cheerfully congratulate the country; and in a blue book, which is a mere primer as compared with the blue books of former years, tell in figures the present condition of the Irish poor. How hard it is for the mind to keep pace with this extraordinary epoch of transition! More Irish property has passed into strange hands within the last few years than in the confiscations of Cromwell and William. A greater waste of population has come to pass than was wrought in all the wars from Beal an Atha, buidhe to the Boyne. Take the last four years of the Poor alone. Awful is the sum of history told in these cold concise inexorable figures. In 1849 there were 2,142,766 Paupers in Ireland; in 1854 there are only 105,620. Who shall account for that mass of human raw material run to waste? At the end of April last, there were One Hundred and Four Thousand paupers in all the Irish Workhouses. Very nearly a fourth of them were patients in the Hospitals. Forty per cent were children. In other countries these would be counted in Infirmarys and Foundling Hospitals. In the proper sense of the word, they are not paupers. The entire number which we may treat as such, thus falls under Fifty Thousand persons. Assuming this to be the case, and the present rate of decrease to continue, there would not be ten thousand real Paupers left in Ireland this day twelvemonth. For the actual decrease last year exceeded Forty Thousand. And the number on out-door relief throughout the island, is only Fifteen Hundred. Not one where a thousand used to be. Peace be with the dead of them, and plenty with the living.—*Nation*.

A paper, misnamed the *Christian Times*, threatens us with another invasion of a hundred missionary strollers of all sects this year.

PRINCE ALBERT'S FARMS.—The enormous sum of £5,290,000 has been reached in one year for expenditure under the head of "Civil Service." It is worthy of observation that the largest items in this huge mass of extravagance is made by the annual grants for the repair of royal palaces, from which the public derive not one farthing's worth of advantage. But this is not enough. Prince Albert took it into his royal pate to become a model farmer, and to raise pigs, poultry, and turnips upon his Flemish holding, for which, of course, he pays neither rent nor taxes. Any profits that may be derived from his Royal Highness's agricultural pursuits go into his Royal Highness's job; but the public are compelled to defray the expenses of repairing his farms—of making fences, cutting sewers, running drains, and hanging gates.—This is a most vexatious piece of imposition, and would not be tolerated in any other country. The question was brought before Parliament on last Thursday by Mr. Williams, who justly complained of this disgraceful mal-appropriation of the public funds.—Prince Albert has now established a new species of tenant-right, which contrasts strongly with England's much boasted idea of justice and fair play. Whilst Prince Albert's farms are kept in repair at the public expense, and thousands lavished on the tawdry decorations—on the buildings up and pullings down of royal palaces—Ireland cannot obtain the slightest aid from the British Exchequer. Her splendid bays are left as nature formed them, not a safety harbor, with a solitary exception, from Queenstown to Belfast; her docks are deserted, and her population flying away from her shores; and yet the tax collector cries for more and the royal leech is applied to suck the last drop of vitality from her heart.—*Galway Packet*.

We regret to perceive by the *Dundalk Democrat* that a large number of the Drogheda linen weavers are about to emigrate to Philadelphia.

A considerable quantity of the cargo of the unfortunate ship *Taylor*, sunk off Lambay Island, has been raised by means of divers who have been at work for some time past. A portion of the goods were disposed of by public sale by Messrs. Stokes, last week, and produced about £1,000. A second sale will be held next week, and it is supposed that the greater part of the more valuable portion of the cargo will be eventually got up.—*Freeman's Journal*.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN IRELAND.—As long as the foulest practical abuse that ever existed in any civilised country continues untouched, or touched only with a flatering hand—the Irish Church as lavishly endowed for a sixteenth part of the Irish people as if more than double its whole number could partake of its ministrations there assuredly never could be peace for that ill-fated land.—*Brougham*.

It is my deliberate opinion that of all the institutions now existing in the civilised world, the Established Church of Ireland is the most utterly absurd and indefensible. There is but one country in the world that presents to you the spectacle of a population of 8,000,000 of people with a Church established and richly endowed for only 800,000 of that population.—*Macaulay*.

I regard the Irish Church, in the actual condition of that country and upon the footing on which it is placed, to be opposed alike to justice, to policy, and to religious principle.—*Lord Grey*.

I believe the Protestant Church in Ireland to be one of the most mischievous institutions in existence. I believe it is so considered now, I believe it will be so considered by posterity; and it is only because your lordships are familiar with it that you are not shocked by the picture. Can there be any wonder that the Roman Catholics are discontented?—*Lord Campbell*.

The Irish Church was unjustifiable in its establishment, and is indefensible in its continuance.—*Sir George Grey*.

The appropriation of the whole of the revenues which the State allows and recognises as the revenues of the Established Church to the clergy of a small portion of the people is in itself an anomaly and a grievance.—*Lord Russell*.

DINGLE PROSELYTISM.

To the Editor of the Tablet.

Dingle, June 13, 1854.

Dear Sir—As a further proof of the rottenness of the Souper system, and its decline in Dingle and Ventry, may I request that you will, with your usual kindness, insert in the next number of the *Tablet* the subjoined declaration, with the names of the parties who have signed it, and also the names of other persons who made a similar declaration:—

"We, the undersigned, who, for the last eleven years, were Soupers, and came to Dingle from our native parish, Cahirciveen, to get the means of support by changing our religion, do now, in the most solemn manner declare, in the presence of God, that our sole motive in becoming Protestants was to better our temporal condition, and that for one moment we never doubted the truth of the Catholic religion."

"We now return back to the Catholic Church with heart felt delight, and we give Almighty God thanks for the grace of conversion, whereby we are enabled to rescue, not only ourselves, but also our children, whose names we subjoin, from the sinful state in which we have lived for so long a time."

"We also return our sincere thanks to the ladies of the Dingle Presentation Convent for the kind interest they have taken in our spiritual and temporal welfare."

[Here follows the list of signatures.]

"I hope this array of names, twenty-eight in number, will convince those individuals who help to support proselytism in Dingle that it is not only a manifest impiety, but the most ridiculous folly, to be endeavoring to uphold a system against which the hand of God is raised."

"Not only were hundreds, but thousands of pounds expended, and every artifice employed to stifle every Catholic feeling in the hearts of these poor people; but all these means have proved ineffectual. In their hearts they remained attached to the faith of their forefathers. Finally, remorse of conscience forced them to fling off the garb of hypocrisy which the pangs of hunger made them assume."

"The two first families who heard the above list had staid cottages in the colony. The moment they manifested an intention to return back to the faith they had deserted, they were ordered to quit without further delay, and were thus left without house or home. At present they are almost exclusively depending for their support upon what their daughters can earn at the Convent Industrial School."

"Neil's wife has respectable friends in Killarney, who will pay his passage to America, and a Catholic merchant in Tralee has kindly given a free passage to his vessel to McDonnell."

"Would to God Catholic merchants elsewhere did the same. If so, scarcely any vestige of Souperism would remain in Dingle, and many innocent poor children who, through the apostasy of their parents, are being reared up Protestants, would be brought back to the True Fold of Christ.—I remain, dear sir, sincerely yours, E. O'SULLIVAN, P.P., Dingle."

GREAT BRITAIN.

DIocese of WESTMINSTER.—On Tuesday, the 20th instant, the first Diocesan Synod of Westminster took place, as announced, at St. Mary's, Moorfields; an event of unusual interest, and one that excited the deepest feelings of gratitude for the great blessings that have been vouchsafed to our country. This was the first celebration of the kind in the metropolis since the change of religion; and it could not fail to remind us of the wonderful contrast, which the position of the Church in this country now presents, to our circumstances at the close of the last century.—In 1792, a venerable priest who assisted at the Synod of Tuesday last, joined the Abbé Coron at Somers Town, where he received Priest's orders, in a private room, a few years later. What changes has he not witnessed during this half-century! Not many years before (probably within his recollection), a Catholic Bishop was publicly prosecuted as a felon, for exercising the most purely spiritual of his functions! This was in the reign of George III. In that of his grand-daughter, Catholic Ordinations and Consecrations no longer take place in holes and corners; and though we have still to complain of injustice, as every morning paper testifies, yet the Divine claims of the Holy Church are at least no secret, but are proclaimed and exercised in open day; whilst our freedom of "Synodical action" presents a striking contrast to the religious Establishment of the State. In one of his first sermons at Southwark Cathedral after the establishment of the Hierarchy, the Cardinal Archbishop observed that no power on earth could destroy or nullify what the Holy See had done, in restoring to the Church in England its ordinary ecclesiastical Government; and the truth of the remark must now at least be admitted. Every power has been exercised against it in vain; for if Peter speaks through his successors, (as a saint has said), he also acts through them! and the Vicar of Christ derives his powers from no earthly source. What St. Gregory could do at the close of the sixth century, Pius IX could do in 1850; though sensible Englishmen cannot see the inconsistency which is involved in the recognition of the metropolitan jurisdiction which the former granted to Canterbury, and the denial of the power of his successor to transfer its Archiepiscopal Cross to the City of St. Edward. "A second temple rises upon the ruins of the old;" and though Canterbury and York are one, we may yet hope that Westminster and Southwark, and our other Sees, will one day renew our ancient glories.—*Catholic Standard*.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL.—On Sunday, the 18th ult., his Most Faithful Majesty, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Oporto, attended High Mass at the French Chapel, Portman-square, London. But we have been asked, and it has struck ourselves, to inquire why the King of Portugal, when visiting the Sovereign of this realm, should be under the "necessity" of going to any chapel or church—why he is not attended by his own chaplain—and why he should not be enabled to attend Divine service in the Palace? When the Queen visited France, she was accompanied by her Protestant chaplain, who performed "service" (we but follow courtly precedent) in the Chateau of Eu for the convenience of her Majesty and suite. Yet nobody heard of any reclamation against this "aggression" on their Faith by the Catholics of France. No; they were too generous, too polite, too liberal, and too charitable to make such an incident the subject of ribald, invectives and savage declamation. Good Lord, if the Chaplain of the King of Portugal were to say Mass in Buckingham Palace, what a tornado of virulence would sweep through the land from Exeter Hall! How the Staatesburys, and the Cullings

Eardleys, and the Spooners, and the rest of that detestable crew of Protestant bigots and persecutors would rave and storm! What pyramids of foolscap and rivers of ink would be set in motion against the "Popish" plotters against our glorious Constitution in Church and State! "We have often said, and we repeat it—the most intolerant people in Christendom are the Evangelical Protestants of Great Britain. Brutally ignorant, they are ferociously fanatical; and even those among them who hold the position of gentlemen, and have passed through the Universities, are so steeped in gloomy prejudice, that they are incapable of exhibiting in their conduct towards their Catholic fellow-subjects either the courtesy of a gentleman, or the benevolence of a Christian.—*Catholic Standard*."

CHAPLAINS TO THE EXPEDITION.—We have authority for stating that the difficulties which arose with respect to the Chaplains attached to the British force at Gallipoli have been removed. Lord Raglan has rectified the mistake committed by some of his inferior officers, who conceived that there would be no trouble in making arrangements for the soldiers to visit the Rev. Mr. Wheble by means of "passes." One looking into the matter, the Commander-in-Chief saw the incompatibility of this combrons and most inconvenient machinery, with the object for which Catholic Chaplains are attached to the Expedition, and the result was an order authorising Mr. Wheble to reside at the camp. While on this subject, we may avail ourselves of this opportunity of noticing the preposterously disproportionate arrangements that have been made for giving spiritual instruction and comfort to the Catholic troops which form so large a proportion of the British Expedition to Turkey. It is manifestly a physical impossibility for the Rev. Messrs. Stiehan, and Wheble to perform the arduous and most important duties that necessarily devolve upon them; and it is certainly not creditable to the British Government that their soldiers should have to depend, in a great measure, upon the zeal and piety of the Jesuit Fathers and other foreign Missioners in the East for an opportunity of performing their most solemn and essential religious duties. We have no doubt that this matter has been properly represented by our ecclesiastical superiors in the proper quarter; and we trust that the evil will at once be remedied.—*Catholic Standard*.

Archdeacon WILBERFORCE held a visitation at Beverly on Wednesday. A protest against the doctrine contained in his book *On the Holy Eucharist*, signed by the great majority of the clergy of Hull, was presented to him. He delivered a charge, chiefly on the subject of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, defending the doctrine of the real presence of Christ in the elements. He said it would be useless for any one to institute a suit to try the question of the doctrine of the church of England upon the matter in the ecclesiastical court, because that Court, having held baptismal regeneration to be an open question, could not possibly prevent a clergyman from affirming the doctrine of the real presence.—*Times*.

ANGLICAN INTOLERANCE.—There has lately been a hubbub among the bigots of the Anglican Church at Harrogate, and the local papers which support them, arising from the circumstance that a few priests recited some prayers before the corpse of a deceased Catholic as it was conveyed from the House to the gates of the churchyard, along the high road; and that one of them, when the Protestant service was over, recited a *de Profundis* in English, till stopped by the officiating parson, and then sprinkled some holy water and spread blessed earth over the grave. The papers, it appears, go so far as to hint that this dreadful act of interference might subject the offender to a state prosecution!

OLD SCENE IN A CHURCH.—On a recent Sunday a gentleman who had been worshipping to a rather late hour at the shrine of Bacchus, entered a church in the Highlands of Aberdeenshire. He sat very quiet for a time, and until the preacher was about to commence the first psalm, with which our hero, not being pleased, he roared out, in a stentorian voice, "Gie's Maggy Launder, Peter!" The result, we need scarcely say, was the immediate expulsion of the far-famed "Maggy."—*Banff Journal*.

"The general tone and temper of the London daily press is such as might well fill us with alarm (says the *Record*). For the most part it is in the hands of men who scarcely understand what Christianity is."

OUR COAST DEFENCES.—Nothing can be more certain than the fact, that if any of those chances of war should arise, either through disaster to our fleets, or through the accession of new antagonists, the British coasts are open to any descent that may be made upon them. This is especially the case on the north-eastern and north-western shores, which are the most likely to be assailed; and two of our correspondents—Mr. Philip Howard and Major Parkinson—have very clearly pointed out their weakness and accessibility. The public voice now demands that there should be no delay, and we cannot believe that the necessary measures will be any longer postponed.—Among these, the formation of a powerful home squadron, and a steam flotilla are the most urgent; and the establishment of a naval station near the mouth of the Clyde, which is now open to any invader, is indispensable. The whole of this naked coast is in want of batteries, which should be erected, without loss of time, at all the commanding points, when the country would be placed in a defensible posture. The moment seems to be approaching, when an attempt upon Cuba will call our fleets to other seas than those in the North and East, and where will our blockades be then?—*United Service Magazine*.

It is positively asserted that every 32lb. shell used in the present war costs, when fired, £1 12s. An eighteen hours' bombardment must, therefore, lead us into an enormous expense; and would really require to "tell," in order to be remunerative.

The other day, a fellow, in want of a night's lodging, gave himself out as a deserter from the 45th Regiment. At the police-office, next morning, he said it was not true; he had never been a soldier. But the magistrate, to his great dismay, informed him that by the Mutiny Act all persons who gave themselves out to be deserters are *ipso facto* deemed enlisted! So he was handed over to the Horse Guards.

LOSS OF SHIPS IN THE ICE.—The news received confirms the apprehension that upwards of one hundred vessels have been embedded in the ice in the Atlantic, and that many of them have been crushed and lost; and an opinion gains ground that the missing steamer, the *City of Glasgow*, was amongst the latter number.

THE SUICIDE MANIA.—No less than four persons were brought up on Thursday, at the Southwark Police Court, charged with attempting to commit suicide—two in the River Thames, a third by hanging, and the other by throat cutting.

THREATENING TO SHOOT SIR GEORGE GRAY AND MR. ROEBUCK.—At the Westminster Police Court, Luke Clarke, an Irishman, fifty-three years of age, described as a laborer, was charged with threatening to shoot Sir G. Gray, and Mr. Roebuck, M.P. The prisoner was apprehended on a warrant. A bullet was found in his possession, and a number of letters, addressed to the nobility and gentry, the purport of which did not transpire. Mr. Frederick Lucas M.P., stated that, on Thursday, the accused called on him in Belgrave Street, with reference to a petition which he had previously left, and which he wished him to present to the House of Commons, complaining of some alleged grievance he had experienced at Bradford from the police there. The accused said that if he did not obtain an investigation before 1855 he would buy a four shilling pistol and shoot Mr. Roebuck and Sir George Gray. Mr. Roebuck having deposed that he was apprehensive of personal violence, the accused entered into a long statement of a complaint he had against the police of Bradford for ill-treating him, and for perjury in his case. He was committed, in default of sureties, to keep the peace.

A HINT TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MONTREAL GAZETTE."—DISCUSSING MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS.—A society has been formed in London and Manchester, called "the Union for Discouragement of Vicious Advertisements," which by the circulation of tracts upon the public to set their faces against papers admitting such advertisements as "Monday," "The Silent Friend," "Nervous Debility," &c. We heartily wish the society may succeed in excluding advertisements of the kind in question, and in putting down all papers that insert them. We should feel surprised that the proprietors of any newspapers could be found sufficiently vile to publish such offensive indecent announcements, but that we know that no work is too dirty or disreputable for some people to do, and that life is clung to so tenaciously that a continued existence in a fetid atmosphere of moral corruption is preferred by some degraded specimens of humanity to death and burial.—*Nottingham Journal*.

THE "LONDON TIMES" ON COLONIAL POLICY.—It is true we are letting the colonies feel their way to self-government. We are attempting to solve the problem of a common allegiance and independent administration; we are reducing the functions of the Colonial office, so far as regards our principal colonies, to the mere routine of watching over the acts of the colonial legislatures. The task, however, cannot be without its difficulties, when Lord Ellenborough gets up to ask why we don't send Canada about its business at once, as, with self-government, it can only get us into trouble, but can do us no good. We have not only to adjust the terms of self-government, but also to create a feeling which shall stand in the stead of exact constitutional relations. The utmost delicacy is required in dealing with those who are emerging from dependence; and delicacy requires both tact and firmness. Now, it is but a few years since the duty of a Colonial Secretary was supposed to consist in administering the most efficacious and disagreeable "snubs." He was never so proud of himself as when he had "set down" in succession every man of any popularity or position in the colony, or when he had stifled some forward scheme. This might work well enough when we still reserved in our hands the means of punishing colonial impertinence and rewarding colonial obsequiousness, and when the colonists might indeed hate us, but, nevertheless, must fear and respect us. But in the new order of things it is evident that "snubs" will be entirely misplaced, and that when both Chambers of the Canadian Legislature shall be elective, and its acts require only a tacit acquiescence, it will be madness to attempt even an intellectual triumph over the colonial authorities. We shall have to make friends of them, as friendships are usually made, by every possible display of respect and affection. That is the work to be done with all the colonies, more or less, as they are advanced to the stage of self-government.

A local paper says that a marriage at Wortley church, near Wells, on Saturday se'night, the bride was, through the ignorance or stupidity of the parties, married to the person who officiated as father.—The mistake might have involved great difficulty had it not been that the father had already a wife and family of his own. As it was, the bride was married to the right person on the following Monday.

BLOOD AND BOOTY—A SCENE AFTER BATTLE.—I saw a woman, one of the British nation, too, with a large stone in her hand levelling a flashing blow at a poor fellow of the 9th or 45th Regiment, I do not recollect to which he belonged. This wretch was at the man's back, as he sat on ground, having had one of his legs broken on the preceding day by a musket shot, and was, therefore, quite helpless. My sudden appearance for a moment suspended the course of this infernal creature, and she remained with her hand raised, grasping a stone as big as both fists, pausing, no doubt, to consider how far my presence ought to check her murderous views; and during this momentary hesitation, from the opposite side, out of the thicket, a man stepped forth, whom I immediately perceived to be a private soldier in the 5th battalion of the 60th Regiment. His occupation was not doubtful; plunder had induced him to struggle from his corps and remain in the rear, and I sincerely hope his cupidity was confined to the property of the dead. This man was a German, and he, also, as well as myself, had seen the diabolical intent of the woman before us. My hand was strongly grasping the hilt of my sword, which I had half drawn, with a determination of stopping by force the further progress of the fiend; but the German lost no time in considering, he ran up, his rifle half up to his shoulder, and without any parley or ceremony, merely muttering as he sprang upon her, "You be no fouman; py Got! you be de life!" he put his rifle close to her ear, and before I had time to form any clear conjecture as to his views, the upper half of her head vanished, and was dispersed into atoms amongst the bushes, and her body in falling almost extended over the wounded soldier. Having carefully untied the woman's apron, which was richly filled with watches, rings, and valuables of all kinds, the German started from the spot, and disappeared amongst the bushes, casting at me a ferocious glance. Recollections of my *Military Life*, by Colonel Landmann.