

piou: efforts to throw light upon it. Mr. Cowie, Mains of Haulkerton, has addressed a letter on the doctor's operations to the public prints, of which we subjoin an extract. "I have been induced to send you this communication, on account of my having a few days ago, visited the northern counties, where I had an opportunity of seeing and examining into the *modus operandi* and results of Dr. Forster's experiments. I was accompanied on the occasion by two crack practical farmers. We drove our vehicle to the stables of Findrassie, where we intended to put up our horse for a short time. While I was engaged in searching for Dr. Forster, who, however, had left home, my friends got into conversation with a very communicative lad, a servant on the farm, respecting the experiments on electricity. The man seemed rather astonished that we had come to see what was thought nothing of in the neighbourhood. On being asked if the crops were better where the poles and wires were placed, than on the rest of the field, he answered—'Weel, the crop sud be better, considering the additional pickle dung it got beside the wires, but that he could not say there was really any difference observable.' After this *exposé*, our expectations were very moderate, but we determined to have ocular demonstration on the subject, notwithstanding the absence and want of permission of the lord of the manor, whose public announcements have, however, laid that portion of his grounds under experiment, in some measure, open to public exhibition. The poles and wires are placed in two very small fields, one of which is in pasture, and the other is a crop of barley. The first had not a living animal upon it, and humane and considerate it certainly was, for the total want of anything in the shape of grass, beyond the roots, would have starved any hill ewe, nibble she ever so eagerly. The devoted field, instead of being *electrified*, seems to be *paralysed*, and will, to all appearance, require some more 'pickles of additional dung' to revive its sensibilities after the *shock* it has sustained. Then, as to the barley, it seems neither to have suffered nor been ameliorated by the magic wires, for no perceptible difference can be seen over the field. The crop, what with electricity, the "pickle additional dung," and all, looks at less than four qrs. per acre. It is perhaps premature, so long before the ingathering of the crop, to condemn the experiments at Findrassie. As far as I have seen and learned on the subject, for similar experiments have been tried and failed in this quarter, I cannot, however, reserve myself until after harvest in denouncing the thing as a hoax. Dr. Forster may have himself been deceived, and we must give him credit for good intentions in wishing to enlighten his brethren; but he should either now acknowledge the failure of his experiments, or submit them to the inspection of those shrewd Morayshire farmers by whom he is surrounded."—*Scotch paper*.

## NEWS.

**TEMPERANCE IN PRUSSIA.**—The soldiers serving in the Prussian dominions have been allowed by the Government to receive, instead of their daily rations of brandy, the value of the same in money. This step is calculated to promote the principles of the temperance societies, which, through their officers, have formally returned thanks to the King for the privilege thus conferred.

Since the commencement of the present year, upwards of 400 houses have been built in Belfast and its suburbs. At the present moment, there is not, in the town, a machine maker, iron-founder, boiler-maker, stone-cutter, stone-mason, bricklayer, brick maker, or carpenter, unemployed, who is willing or able to work.

The several Irish ports are enlarging their steam establishments from Sligo round to Cork. Limerick is projecting steam intercourse with London, on the supplemental screw principle. The Dublin Company, in addition to the new vessels they are now building, have ordered two additional, of the largest class, for commercial purposes. Cork is not behind-hand, and is preparing to keep pace with the improved demand for intercourse with England.

At the fifteenth half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company held in Glasgow on Tuesday week, Sir Andrew Agnew brought forward his usual motion to discontinue the running of trains upon Sundays. The Rev. Mr Fairbairn of Salton seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. Mr McNaughton of Paisley. A show of

hands was then taken between the amendment of Sir A. Agnew on the approval of the report, when there appeared for the latter 13, and for the amendment 11. By this time the greater part of the meeting had left, on the understanding that the question would not be put to the vote, as the chairman held upwards of 2457 proxies against Sir Andrew's motion, and for general purposes. Sir Andrew Agnew afterwards moved that the company should petition Parliament against running trains on Sundays. After some animated conversation, it was agreed that the petition should be minuted.

In a letter to a fellow-countryman, the Bishop of Nankin, Monsiegnor de Beris, states that in his diocese, Kiang sou, one tenth of the whole population has embraced Catholicism. In one town alone, of 300,000 inhabitants, they reckon nearly 50,000 converts. Nankin, with a population of 1,200,000, contains more than 80,000.

The Jesuits in Paris and the neighbourhood are breaking up their establishments, in pursuance of the orders to that effect which have been sent to them from Rome. They have already left the celebrated establishment in the Rue des Pates in Paris. The Abbe de Ravignan has retired to Marley, and the other members of the community are breaking themselves up into small parties. According to the official note published some months ago by the Government, the houses were to be closed, the brotherhood were to disperse, and the novices were to be sent away; but it now appears that instead of carrying out these promises literally, the Society is preparing to carry on its operations in a more divided, but not less extensive scale than formerly. This is therefore not a *bona fide* carrying out of the promise made by the Pope, that the existing establishments of the Jesuits in France should be dissolved.

Mr. Ward has at length made up his mind to secede from the English Church. This, it appears, has been known amongst his personal friends for the last fortnight; but it was not until Monday that the public were aware that he had taken the step. Correspondence, which appears in the *Oxford Herald*, explains the reason of his doing so. It is expected that other defections from the Protestant communion will immediately follow by members of the University of Oxford who belong to the Tractarian School.

**FRANCE.**—The Paris journals of Friday and Saturday contain news from Algeria. It appears that the Arabs have lately been more than usually active on various points, and have kept the French army out of idleness by repeated attacks, which prove that Marshal Bugeaud's late grand expedition has been very far from tranquillising the country as he had pretended. Indeed, one of the Paris journals quotes from the *Moniteur Algerien*, which is the official journal of the Governor General, an article in which the writer seeks to account for all the failures, and disappointments of the French army, by stating that although the native population of Algeria is only 2,500,000, there are 400,000 fighting men, and the difficulties of occupation and conquest are only to be compared with those of the Russians in the Caucasus.

**THE RUSSIANS AND CIRCASSIANS.**—Letters from Taganrog, of August 10, announce that Prince Woronzoff, after his expedition on Dargo, had resolved to adopt a new kind of warfare—that of burning the forests which serve as shelter to the Circassians. Upwards of fifty waggons, laden with turpentine, resin, and other inflammable matters, had left Taganrog for Stavropol.

**TURKEY.**—The whole Pashalic of Bagdad is in alarm. Reschid Pasha, the governor of that province, a fanatic Turk, well known for having taken by storm the holy city of Kerbela, has expelled Achmed Pasha, the hereditary governor of Sulimania, from his post, after a desperate action, he having caused a messenger to have his head cut off, whom Reschid had sent to summon him to appear in person before the governor. Reschid, indeed, appointed a brother of Achmed in his room, but in vain. Arabia is likewise in a complete state of rebellion. The state of Albania and Bosnia is not much better. The orders of the Porte are scarcely attended to in these provinces, and the new system of recruiting cannot be carried into effect there.—*Silesian Gazette*.

**VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.**—(Extract from a letter dated Hobart Town, April 30, 1845.—) "Robbery, violence, and indolence stalk through the land; that portion of the free labourers who had the means to leave have already done so, those who cannot get away are obliged to compete with the convicts, and thus earn a miserable subsistence in this devoted and degraded colony. Insolvencies are now become so numerous that they pass unnoticed. Cargo after cargo arrives, and as the idea of credit has become absurd, they are sold for immediate cash at a ruinous sacrifice to the Lon-