

GALILEO.—Galileo, invited to Rome, was received with every attention in the palace of Nicolini, the grand Duke's ambassador, but was recommended to keep within doors.—And when taken to the most holy office for the purpose of examination, he was not consigned to a dungeon, but lodged in the apartments of one of its officers. The secrets of the examination have never transpired; though hints have been thrown out of, at least, the threat of torture having been used. The result, however, was achieved of extracting from the prisoner the admission of being the author of the Dialogues, and a free and unbiassed declaration of willingness to submit and recant.

After a time he was brought up to receive his sentence, and make his abjuration (June 21, 1633). The tribunal solemnly delivered its condemnation of his works and his opinions; extending to him, however, its merciful pardon, upon his abjuring his impious and heretical errors, and submitting himself, generally, to the authority of the church, and, in particular, to the salutary penance of imprisonment and certain penitential exercises.

Thus wholly in the power of the Inquisition, he of course uttered the compulsory abjuration, extorted from him with the same degree of free choice as the purse of the traveller by the pistol of the highwayman. He swore that the motion of the earth is heretical, and that he abjured all heresy.—Moreover, as he rose from his knees he is said to have whispered in the ear of a friend, "E pur si muove."

It has been asked by some writers, in discussing the narrative of this disgraceful and revolting transaction, what result the church could expect from an extorted oath, and a compulsory abjuration, which might not be felt binding; and from a confession under fear of torture, which could be worth nothing. This, however, is to mistake the nature and object of the tribunal and the offence. The Inquisition was not a court of justice to try heresy as a crime; but rather a sort of spiritual board of health, whose office was to apply a salutary remedy, possibly a painful one, to stop the contagion of error, and, if possible, to restore the heretic to the pale of salvation. The object was not conviction, but submission; not truth, but profession; this being once obtained, by whatever means, the sole end was accomplishment.

The inquisitors took unusual pains to publish Galileo's recantation all over Europe, thinking, no doubt, they were administering a complete antidote to the Copernican heresy. And a friar denounced his opinions from the pulpit, with a miserable pun upon the text, "Viri Galilei, quid statis in cœlum suspicientes."

A plea for Ireland: the Outline of a Proposition for holding the Court and Parliament at occasional Intervals in Dublin.
By Thomas Bish, Esq., M.P.

A great portion of the population of Ireland, and by far the most influential and respectable portion, had entertained an opinion that the Legislative Union with England would be the greatest calamity that could afflict their country; they have, now however lived long enough to know that there is a still greater which may possibly happen, and that is, the repeal of it. This change of opinion does not arise from any very important benefits conferred by the measure. An obliteration of dissension—an amalgamation of parties—an increasing sense of security—an amelioration of the condition of the lower, and an augmentation of the wealth of the upper classes,—these and similar promised improvements have not taken place, at least to the extent which the advocates of the measure had anticipated, and the change of opinion in their opponents is not founded on the conviction of the benefits it has conferred; but they now see that for themselves, and for the established order of things in Ireland, there is but one mean of security, and that is the present legislative connexion with England. The fearful state to which a faction has now reduced the population of that country,—the excitements that have been applied to their worst passions,—the awful state of demoralization to which they have been brought,—the bands of assassins that have been secretly organized,—and the worse than savage murders that have been openly perpetrated,—are appalling proofs that they are rendered unfit to be trusted with domestic legislation; that the great mass of the people in the southern provinces are mere machines in the hands of this faction, who have only to issue their mandates when to murder their opponents and when to forbear.

A resident parliament now elected, they well know, would not be the representatives of the people but the nominees of an individual and that their first act would be the proscription of every Protestant institution, and the persecution of every Protestant man in the country. We are not Tories; our political opinions have been always liberal.—They are not often obtruded on the public, except when considerations of the highest moment call them forth. We do not speak lightly or unadvisedly, but we know that we are uttering the opinions of those in Ireland,

who have been the most forward advocates of freedom and toleration. We consider the present situation of Ireland most perilous.—A cunning, desperate and indefatigable demagogue has acquired a fearful ascendancy over the minds of some of his reckless countrymen; he has bound to him nearly one half of the representatives of the people, who are the creatures of his breath, and the mere tools of his designs; the Ministers of the Crown whom he has cajoled and laughed at, are hourly increasing this ascendancy by truckling to his will and making all their measures for Ireland subservient to his approbation and revision; and the question of repeal is becoming every day more popular, because it seems more probable, since the very Ministers submit themselves to the domination of a man who avows his determination to effect it. Before it be too late, we would warn them against this dangerous connexion. If they wish to still effectually the clamour for repeal, they must put down, and keep down with a strong hand as they did before, the man and his faction by whom it is kept up. Not only the tolerant and liberal of one persuasion, but the enlightened and independent of the other acknowledge this. Lord Oxnantown long the unshaking Protestant friend of civil and religious freedom has declared that the country is reduced to such a state that it is "safer to break the laws than to obey them;" and Mr Lambert the Roman Catholic representative of Wexford, that "in every parish there are two or even one desperate fellow who dictates to the rest, and calls himself the people."

In this state of things, Mr Bish comes forward with his proposal to hold Parliaments occasionally in Ireland, which certainly would have the many advantages he enumerates. It would by taking away the excuse and temptation of residing in England, create a motive for remaining at home, and remove the base of the country and that great handle and cause of disaffection, absenteeism,—an evil whose momentous consequences will be appreciated, if Mr Sadler's statement in the House of Commons be true that *nineteen-twentieths* of the landed property in Ireland belong at present to absentees. Among the evils of minor consequence which it would remedy is "the system of coarse invective and personal abuse which has recently sprung up, and which is practised with unsparring violence on all public occasions." The effects of this foul and brutal vulgarity which is an innovation lately introduced among an assembly of educated gentlemen was hitherto restrained by that respectability which every man owed to the wounded feelings of others; but its author repudiates all such responsibility, and is equally callous to the reputation of want of courage as of want of courtesy. If parliaments were to be held occasionally in Dublin, the justice as well as the coarseness of the charge made against English members could be fairly appreciated "They would be brought together in the same arena, and the people would see and judge between them. It would no longer be said that the English legislators passed laws in ignorance, or that the Irish representatives after being defeated in the British Parliament, returned home like martyrs to an injured people in whose cause they had fruitlessly struggled against superior power." This we think would be an important point gained. The present deceptive practice on the credulity of some of our sister's children is much facilitated by the distance and the representatives they send return home with all the advantages of practising on their ignorance, having all their falsehoods believed, and the very vulgarity of their invectives applauded, as proofs of a just and necessary indignation.

Mr Bish sums up the whole advantages of the measure in eight propositions—viz., recall the absentees—banish the middle men—stimulate trade and industry—induce investment of English capital—retrench the army and police establishments—establish among the Irish the calumniated character of English legislatures—check the emigration of the labouring poor into England—and lastly,—and though last not least, make the Irish obedient to laws, to the passing of which they themselves were parties and witnesses. In conclusion we may add, that though we do not exactly concur with the author in saying that, "if we do not adopt the measure, repeal may become unavoidable," yet we do concur with him in thinking "that if we do it must become unnecessary."—*New Monthly Magazine, October 1.*

TURKEY.—The British fleet is still at Vourla, in the Gulf of Smyrna, and the Russian armament at Sevastopol prepared to quit at a moment's notice.—The plague has again broke out in Constantinople and in Smyrna. A Turkish ambassador was about to start on a mission to the French Government the object of which was understood to be to obtain the restitution of Algiers to the authority of the Sultan.—We do not think the Turkish diplomatist will be very successful especially as the government of Algiers has become an object of ministerial ambition with the French Statesmen.

The *Constitutionnel* has the following:—

"The caresses at St Petersburg, and at the Russian Embassy in Paris, have of late redoubled. Count Pozzi di Borgo has renewed his visits to the Tuilleries, and Marshall Maison is now admitted to all the family parties of the winter and summer residences of the Czar. This two-fold occurrence took place about six months ago; but since the treaty of the Quadruple Alliance, a slight coolness has been observed; at the present moment however the principle of August 7 is once more the object of caresses, notwithstanding the violent attacks inflicted upon it by the German papers. The cause should be inquired is no other than a wish of preventing a joint expedition of France and England to the Dardanelles; it is simply because much apprehension is entertained at this intimate union of the two great flags coming into contact with the rude fleet of Russia, which by a foolish vanity of Peter the Great was led to try its strength against the most glorious navies in the universe.—Persons who are well informed on this subject have no longer any doubt but that a great contest is about to take place in the Black Sea between the combined fleets. The Russian squadron has troops on board, to be disembarked as occasion may require; we repeat that the English squadron has also taken on board its full complement of marines, and also land forces at Malta and the Ionian Islands. The Pacha of Egypt will soon declare himself. The Russians under pretext of protection will occupy the Dardanelles. It is high time for the combined fleets to act vigorously."

COMET.—The Haley Comet is now visible in the East, near the constellation Taurus.—At this time its distance from the earth is forty millions of miles. On 13th September it will be only twenty-two millions of miles distant; and from this will become brilliant.

In the latter part of September it will enter the Twins, and on the 1st of October will reach within six millions of miles of us, the fore feet of the Great Bear where it no more sets. At this its brilliancy and apparent magnitude will have arrived at the highest degree. On the 6th October it will stand nearest the earth—only three and a half millions of miles distant.

In the beginning of the year 1836 it will emerge from the sunbeams, and again become visible, at the distance of forty millions of miles from us.

It will for the second time approach the earth and on the 1st of March 1836 will stand twenty five millions of miles distant. Thence it will recede from the earth and seem to wander seventy-six years; and in the year 1912 will again visit our regions.

A Church in Wall Street, New-York known as the first Presbyterian Church, was accidentally destroyed by fire on the evening of the 13th Sept. it was valued at 47,000, dollars, and insured for 20,000.

INTELLIGENCE FROM CAPTAIN BACK.—The *Montreal Gazette* states that Mr Duncan Finlayson partner of the Hudson Bay company arrived at Lachine on the 6th Sept in a bark canoe, navigated by ten voyagers of that concern. He left Port Vancouver on Columbia River North West coast of America on the 20th of March last passed over land to York factory, the company's principal depot in Hudson Bay which depot he departed from on the 25th July. Two other canoes manned by sixteen additional voyagers are daily expected at Lachine and the remaining voyagers and passengers from the interior this season will be down in the course of next month, (October) Apart from the company's usual despatches and letters from their servants in the interior together with those from red river colony, Mr Finlayson has brought a packet from Captain Back addressed to the Colonial Office, London. We are happy to state that letters have been received from that gentleman dated Fort Reliance, east end of Great Slave Lake, up to the 4th May last, when he was preparing to be off to prosecute the ulterior objects of the expedition. The packet from London intimating Captain Ross and his party's safe return, which was forwarded from Montreal last November, reached Captain Back on the 25th April.

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENA.—Yesterday evening Mr. John Parker, Mr. John Rogers, Mr. Archibald Scott, and several other persons, being at the Three Mile House, observed something in the air, which they at first took to be mist or fog; but as the evening was very clear, they were induced to take the more notice of it, and by holding the hands above the eyes, so as to exclude the rays of the Sun, they could distinctly see bodies of insects, apparently of a red or crimson colour. They were in sheets with long trains after them, resembling that of a comet: each sheet of these insects appeared by itself, and they were moving in a direction from West to East, about 25 or 30 feet from the earth, and at least 20 yards in width, following each other in flocks like pigeons; they observed the passage of those insects for more than twenty minutes, the Sun at the time being more than one hour high.—*Novascotian, Sept. 4.*

From the Bermuda Royal Gazette, Oct. 7.

His Majesty's Ship *Tweed*, Lieutenant-Commander Austen, proceeded on her voyage to Halifax, on Wednesday last.—By a letter from one of her officers, we learn that in addition to the Captain, and Surgeon, Bethwell, of that ship, whose death we before announced, Assistant-Surgeon Holmes, R. N., and Lieutenant French, R. A. the latter officer taking passage to Jamaica, have also fallen victims to that worst of tropical diseases. Fifteen men and two officers were left in the hospitals at Jamaica; we regret to learn, also, that the fleet at Jamaica was very unhealthy, and the mortality amongst the troops extensive.

Our papers from that Island, by the Cruiser, are two days later than last acknowledged. By them it seems that the Apprentice Labourers are becoming hourly more disobedient and refractory. The *Chronicle* of the 6th, on this subject observes:—"The difficulty of discharging the duties deputed to the Special Magistrates, is becoming every day more apparent, and the most respectable of the gentlemen who have accepted these appointments are literally appalled at the overwhelming fatigue they are expected to endure. Our correspondent informs us "that the mass of duty imposed on the late Lieutenant Everard was a positive cruelty, as it would have required twenty men instead of one individual, to discharge it fully, without hazarding the public safety. We have now no power to check the rising and hourly increasing insolence and insubordination of the apprentices. Under this abominable system, a feather would turn the whole negro population to revolt, and none are becoming infected, although I gave them the half of Friday if they chose, or to take their time in any way more agreeable to themselves."—This report from an authentic source, is a proof that some of the negroes labour under false impressions, and are not satisfied with the best treatment or most liberal interpretation of the law. The Executive should take prompt measures to quell at once this dawning spirit of ingratitude and insubordination, or the force of bad example may prevail, and spread anarchy and desolation throughout the Island! Assistant Magistrates ought speedily to be appointed, and the laws enforced at the point of the bayonet; for if peace and good order be not maintained at the present moment, the British Government will be held responsible for the ruin of the best and richest colony in the British West Indies, and the philanthropists will have to bewail the miseries instead of vaunting the blessings they have entailed on their fellow subjects! In short, if kindness prove ineffectual, coercion must be promptly exerted, to quicken industry, and repress at once a spirit which will arrest all possibility of improvement, and darken for ever the prospects of this fine and fertile Island!

The Lieutenant Everard alluded to in the foregoing, was of the Royal Navy, and one of the Stipendiary Magistrates. He, it is stated fell a sacrifice to over-exertion in the discharge of his arduous and excessive duties; and became so disheartened and disgusted with the office—not being properly supported in his authority, and meeting with much contumely from the refractory negroes—that he resigned his commission the day previous to his death, and at the same time avowed that no gentleman, much less an officer of the British Navy, could submit to the unparalleled insolence of these people.—Lieutenant Everard was evidently beloved by the Magistrates and the other gentlemen of the district in which he officiated, for every mark of respect was shewn to the remains of this "gallant and much lamented officer."

The Marquis of Sligo has issued a Proclamation calling the House of Assembly to meet and proceed to business on the 7th October.

A Mr. Brackenridge, book-keeper on an estate near Kingston, has been taken up for the murder of a negro boy, whom he shot, and at the same time, and with the same discharge, wounded two women.—Little doubt appears to be entertained, but that he will suffer death for this act.

Those who have perused the Jamaica Papers for the early part of the month of August, will no doubt be pleased to learn that much of the scandalous proceeding attributed to the noble Earl, late Governor of that Island, is without foundation; and that no cause has occurred to interrupt the continuance of that confidence which renders the matrimonial state a blessing and a happiness.

The little village of Guelph, in Upper Canada, to which we before alluded, as having been nearly depopulated, has lost three fifths of its inhabitants, and application was made to the Governor to have it destroyed by fire.—*Quebec Paper.*

We are much pleased to perceive that it has at length been determined, to do away with the 10 gun brigs used as Packets.—Tenders for building under a roof in the river Thames, six vessels of 358 tons each, to be ready in three months, to replace as many of the gun-brigs in that service, were to be received on the 14th August.