

A correspondent of the *Ulsterman* gives a most shocking instance of the fanatical feeling which pervades among some of the landlords of the county Down. It is no less than the exclusion of Catholics from the possession of lands in several parts of that county. He mentions a case in point. In the vicinity of Dundrum there is part of an estate called the Seven Towns, from which, he says, a great many families were evicted in the famine years. Latterly a great many biddings have been made for farms on this piece of land, which is beautifully situated near a seaport town. But such is the bigotry that has taken hold of the landlord or agent, that not a Catholic would be rented a farm. The usual question on application was "are you a Catholic?" and to the answer in the affirmative, came a refusal of the farm. Recently a respectable farmer residing in the neighborhood, applied for a portion of the land. The piece he asked for runs like a wedge into the small farm he holds already, so that what he demanded would square off his farm in a very nice manner, which would, doubtless, become of increased value to him. For the piece of ground so asked for, he offered a pretty high rent, but being a Catholic he would not get it on any terms. The proprietor of the land is the Marquis of Downshire, and as he is absent in England with his regiment, we know not to whom to attribute this disgraceful and fanatical feeling either to him or his agent. But this wretched spirit of intolerance does not seem to belong solely to the Downshire estate, for he says similar cases have occurred on other properties in the neighborhood.—*Free Press*.

EMIGRATION.—A very few are leaving this part of the country at present for America, whilst we remark with pleasure that several persons are returning home, with the intention of investing the capital they amassed abroad in industrial pursuits in the old land. The number of the latter is, we admit, inconsiderable as compared with the former, and cannot be deemed a set off, in even a remote degree. But the return of the few; with the account they give of the toilsome life the emigrant has to endure, and of the moral evils to which he is exposed in the greater part of the United States, is producing a deep impression on the public mind. "Know Nothingism" has given the deathblow to the rage for emigration. We have been speaking to some of the returned emigrants, and the general answer was that we in Ireland could form no conception of the moral iniquities prevalent amongst the classes with whom the unfortunate Irish were compelled to consort. These and similar causes are creating a disinclination in the minds of the peasantry to quit their homes so long as they can cling to the roof-tree of their birth-place. If the hands of the evictors were restrained, and a security given by law that the improvements of the tenantry in and on the soil would be their own, the country would not only forget the famine, but would make rapid strides towards a state of comfort and independence never yet known. Of these ameliorations there seems very little prospect, and hence some not distant disturbing element, proceeding from the operation of unjust laws, may at any moment arise and leave the peasantry stranded in distress as before. Those who wish that we may never witness a second exodus should unite in seeking to secure such an alteration in the land system of the country as would create and foster a class of peasantry not to be shaken and uprooted by temporary shocks, which in every other country on the globe might produce temporary inconvenience and distress, but which in Ireland produce famine, destruction, and a wholesale emigration.—*Tuan Herald*.

THE MODERN MISSIONARIES.—A young boy named Thomas Geraghty was charged at the College street Police office, on Monday, by the Rev. Wm. Wallace, of Upper Rathmines, with irreverently tearing up a copy of the Holy Bible.

The Rev. gentleman stated that on the previous day, he saw the prisoner who is an itinerant vendor of sugarstick tearing the leaves out of a copy of the Holy Bible, and wrapping them round portions of sugarstick, which he was selling to various parties. As the prisoner was attracting a good deal of attention, the witness, in order to satisfy himself that the prisoner was tearing up a Bible, went up and purchased some sugarstick from the prisoner, who wrapped it up in a leaf of a Bible. Witness also saw him sell to a great number of persons and wrap the sugarstick in the leaves of the Bible which he carried about for that purpose. Witness had no feeling against the prisoner, but he wished to know whether the proceeding could be prevented.

Mr. Stronge—That depends upon the circumstances of the case. If this was done with the intention you ascribe to it—

Witness—I do not go into the intention. I merely wish to know whether such an outrage or public decency can be prevented.

The Prisoner—Your worship, I did not know whether or not it was a Holy Bible. I buy old books at 1d per pound in Cook street when I cannot get waste paper.

Witness, to prisoner—You did not say to me that you did not know the book was a Bible. You said you thought it was no harm.

Mr. Stronge—Did he admit that he knew it was a Bible?

Constable 45 E—The prisoner said to me that he did not know it was a Bible.

Prisoner—This gentleman asked me for a halpenny worth of sugarstick, and then he showed it to the constable, and gave me in charge without saying any more.

Mr. Stronge—There are two classes of crime: one class which is prohibited by law, but which, in their essence, are not criminal: and the other, also prohibited by law, the gist of which is the intention with which they are done. This case comes under the latter category, and there must be an intention to commit the offence, which offence is to convey insult to the word of God. I take it upon the whole of this case, the boy was acting inadvertently and without any such intention. There was no public calling of parties together, no words were used, and upon the whole I am glad to be able to come to the conclusion that there was no intention upon the part of the boy to do that which would be an indictable offence.

Rev. Mr. Wallace—If you examine the Bible you will see that it is not a Bible thrown aside because of its age. It is a new book.

Mr. Stronge—I cannot say that; it is soiled to some extent. The boy denies that he knew it was a Bible, and unless he did it intentionally, the offence was not committed. Therefore, I must discharge him. He and every one else knows that it has been decided by eminent judges that wilfully to destroy the word of

God is an indictable offence; but I discharge him now from the conviction on my mind that he had no intention to offend against the law, as laid down by the judges of the land.

Rev. Mr. Wallace—When after I had spoken to him—Mr. Stronge—Really I cannot go further; I have decided the case.

The boy was then discharged from custody.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The position of England at present is rather absurd—not to say disastrous. It appears that Louis Napoleon has determined to have Peace at any price, and in pursuit of it is sliding back into his old dream of an Austrian, perhaps, in good time, even a Russian Alliance—leaving England miserably in the lurch. They are altered times with her since her statesmen faced an alliance of the French Cæsar, the Austrian Kaiser, and the Russian Czar before; and although such a contingency seems to be at present the most remote, still there is enough in the attitude of "our august ally" to inspire her with intense apprehensions of another Continental conspiracy. England knows perfectly well that the moment Louis Napoleon presumes it to be his interest to make Peace, that instant he will ratify what he may consider to be good terms whether it be her interest and her convenience or not. Were peace made to-morrow, France comes out of the war with an exalted military prestige, and with all the honours of European Pacificator. England stands in the ridiculous position of being utterly unable either to recruit, supply, or general an army—having had to play a very subordinate second during the war, and being notoriously quite incapable of continuing it single handed for one month more—yet in a malignant humour for fighting, when the whole world is imploring Peace. Louis Napoleon would be very blind indeed, if he did not thoroughly see through this, and if he were not astute enough to carry his point withal. He has no particular object at present in continuing the war. He has gained out of an enterprise in which the real solid success of a magnificent defensive war are on the side of Russia, the triumphs of two or three feats of arms, whose fame will sound in the annals of the army with the victories of the empire. He is gratifying his pacific Parisians with the idea that in their own good city, their Augustus will close the gates of Janus. While, if perchance he remembers the waste and exhausted empire to maintain whose independence, Europe went to war, it is to reflect that an Austrian army is in the Principalities and likely to stay there—that a French army occupies Constantinople, and makes itself at home. In good time, might not this prove the basis of a satisfactory arrangement for the dismemberment of a used up ally?—*Nation*.

BONA FIDE STARVATION.—In the storm of the night of Tuesday the 18th ult., at about ten o'clock, the schooner *Ellen*, of Wisbeach was cast ashore at the entrance of the Tay. At the moment she struck a poor boy was washed away and perished, and after a time the master, the mate, and two hands succeeded in gaining the inhospitable shore, and made for the lights on the railway. Unfortunately, it was past eleven o'clock before they were able to claim admittance at the door of an inn, where they were refused shelter, and on application at other houses of so called entertainment these unprofitable customers were "not heard." In fact, in Carnoustie the law is so rigorously observed that it was three hours before these poor, half-drowned, perishing strangers received that shelter they thought they had a right to expect in a Christian land. At last, it appears, they fell into the hands of one who considered them to be both "bona fide travellers and bona fide fellow-creatures;" and regardless of the law, took them in and made them as comfortable as his circumstances would allow.—*North British Daily Mail*.

RELIGION IN ENGLAND.—The *British Banner* (dissenting organ) thus discourses on the state of religion in Protestant England:—In several populous places which I have visited the spirit of hearing has so abated as to remind one of "valleys full of dry bones very dry;" I was at—, a few days ago, and walked on ground once consecrated by the steps and tears of—The attendance at the chapels wretched! No certain sound in the churches. Tractarianism the golden calf more than 20,000, perhaps, in the whole circle, 25,000, and all places of worship together not able to accommodate, as I was assured, more than 6,000 or 6,500. Terrible poverty, from past strikes, and power looms, and the war, and long winter and high prices; 7,000 kept, or at least relieved, every week by charity until now; and yet God's house forsaken! So general a depression, and one so deep, in former days would have been attended with crowded sanctuaries, and a mourning as in the valley of Hadadrimmon. People who cannot pay a farthing a quart for good soup manage to roll drunken in the streets. Baths and wash-houses are unappreciated.

CURIOUS CASE OF ATTEMPTED POISONING.—The *Leeds Intelligencer* narrates an occurrence which took place at a village near Halifax. A wife having become tired of her husband, went to a druggist's shop for arsenic, and refused to say for what she required it; the druggist, therefore, refused to let her have the poison, and having had his curiosity a little excited, sent for the woman's husband, and informed him of the fact. It was agreed that if she went a second time something harmless should be sold to her, and the man informed of the fact. This was done and a small portion of magnesia was exchanged for the six pence. When the husband went home to his dinner he pretended at first to have no appetite, and his wife was in the same condition. At last, however, he set to work, and made a hearty meal, and pretended to be thirsty and sick, and eventually to all appearance died, the woman during the time putting on the appearance of great alarm. The woman's tears and cares, now that he was dead, all left her, and she went up stairs to put a strong cord through a hole in the floor, going down again to adjust it nicely round the dead man's neck; after which she again went up the stairs and began to pull away at the rope. In the meantime the cord was put round the table leg, and that useful domestic article was suspended in place of the other one. John having now seen the "move" stole up quietly to see the rope rightly fastened. On the feelings of the perfidious woman, on seeing her husband so suddenly come to life again, we cannot enlarge. Suffice it to say, that in addition to her internal feelings of dismay, she very shortly had her external feelings also, for we are told that the tragic scene ended in the man giving her a "right good walloping."

ANOTHER CONVERSION.—We see it is stated in the *Sussex Express* that the Rev. W. A. Weguelin, of South Stoke has left, in consequence of the death of his father and his own ill-health. It is, however, now generally known here that the rev. gentleman has left to join the Church of Rome. He gives up his living, worth about £200 a year, with a nice house, and a few acres of glebe land. Mr. Weguelin is brother to T. M. Weguelin, Esq., a Director of the Bank of England.—*Brighton Guardian*.

The Crawford peerage is about to be claimed by a farmer in Montrose, who traces his descent from the head of the house of Lindsay.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.—In the report of Mr. Rud-dock, Inspector of Workhouse Schools, given in 1853, in reference to the counties of Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, and Hampshire, he states—"The new children thus admitted were grossly ignorant. I have been painfully struck with the uniformity of ignorance which is shown to prevail among the newly-admitted in all the returns sent to me. It is not only that children from twelve to fifteen years of age cannot read or write, but they are not acquainted with the Creed, or with the Lord's Prayer, and scarcely know that there is a God in Heaven. Personally I have made inquiries in most of the unions in my district whether such cases were of frequent occurrence, and the invariable answer has been that they are the rule, not the exception. The most complete and heathenish ignorance seems to prevail amongst the children of those whom a temporary pressure obliges to apply for parochial relief."

MARRIAGE WITH A WIFE'S SISTER.—A most important decision has lately been pronounced by the Court of Session in Scotland, which has given an entirely new aspect to the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. It has been constantly asserted in parliament and elsewhere, by the supporters of the Bishop of London's clause in the act commonly called Lord Lyndhurst's act (5th and 6th Wm. IV., c. 54), that such marriages are totally repugnant to the ancient laws as well as to the modern feelings of Scotland. So much was that assumed to be the case that the Scotch claimed and got exemption from all operation of that act, because they repudiated the ratification of past marriages of affinity (which Lord Lyndhurst provided for England), and took for granted that they did not require the prohibition of future marriages of this kind, which the Bishop of London then, for the first time, imposed upon England. Accordingly, it is expressly enacted that nothing in that act shall be construed to extend to Scotland. Some years afterwards it began to be doubted whether marriages with a wife's sister or niece really are incestuous and invalid by the law of Scotland. The late Lord Rutherford declared his opinion that they are not, but he had no opportunity of declaring it judicially. It is stated in Mr. E. B. Denison's pamphlet on the "Validity of Marriage with a Wife's Sister Celebrated Abroad," that unless this marriage is a capital felony, as all "incest" is by the law of Scotland, there is no prohibition whatever of it in the Scotch law; that incest is expressly defined by the Scotch statutes to be a violation of the express prohibitions of the 18th chapter of Leviticus; and that all marriages not so prohibited are declared to be lawful. This view of the Scottish law has now been affirmed by the decision of the Court of Session in a case of "Livingstone v. Livingstone," which has been pending for several years. The Lord Ordinary declares that he would willingly defer to the authority of the Scotch Confession of Faith if he could; but sitting as a civil judge, he is obliged to decide that "marriage with a deceased wife's sister is not incestuous by the law of Scotland, and that the issue are legitimate." The consequences of this decision are most important. Marriages in Scotland are expressly declared to be free from the operation of Lord Lyndhurst's act. Whatever doubt may be raised as to its effect upon marriages celebrated in other countries, respecting which it is silent, there can be none as to its effect in Scotland; and as no Ecclesiastical ceremony is requisite for a marriage there—nothing beyond a declaration before witnesses—the Ecclesiastical law of that country is altogether immaterial. There is, therefore, now no reason to doubt that a marriage in Scotland between an Englishman and his wife's sister is just as valid in England as a marriage in Scotland between minors (the common Gretna Green marriage), though both are equally prohibited in England; and so there is practically an end of the prohibition, against which also it should be remembered that the House of Commons has already three times solemnly decided in three different parliaments.—*Times*.

A case was under investigation on Wednesday afternoon, at Manchester, in which two children in a burial club, and whose parents would be entitled to £6 on their death, are suspected to have been poisoned.—*Daily News*.

THE FREE V. THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—A young girl of Thurso, recently became detected in consequence of some disappointment in love, and drowned herself in the river Naver. On the discovery of the body, a question arose where to place it till a coffin could be got ready for the interment. The Free Church minister, though the suicide was one of his own congregation, ordered the body of the deceased to be deposited in the parish church; this proceeding the minister of the Established church opposed. The Free Church party then proceeded to violence; they broke open one of the windows of the parish church, and thrust in the body of the suicide; and, not content with this, they placed it, streaming with blood, on the communion table of the parish church, where it lay till the following day.—*Scotch paper*.

The cost of constructing a railway tunnel between England and France is estimated at £6,000,000, and the time it would occupy at seven years. The whole of these works are proposed to be carried out in connexion with Mr. Wm. Hutchinson's patent for converting into an indestructible building material river or sea sand, shingle, chalk, and other soft and comparatively worthless substances.

THE WAR—FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—The French have immensely gained by the present war. We say it in no spirit of envy, but as matter of honest congratulation. Before the war began, French influence had not much weight in the Levant, nor in the eyes of Eastern nations, did France take the rank which was really her due. Orientals judge only by events which have passed in their latitudes, and in this respect our friends and allies had been at some disadvantage. But this is no longer the case. France has sent 100,000 men through the Bosphorus. Their

crowded legions have shown themselves in rapid succession in the port or on the hills of Constantinople itself. To them has mainly fallen the glory of the successful storming of Sebastopol. There is no longer the fear that in any negotiations affecting national interests in Syria, Egypt, or elsewhere, the Turks can ever hereafter be indifferent to the power and the friendship of the French. We say all this without grudging to that great people any one of the advantages which they have nobly earned, and to which they are fully entitled. But in admitting that they have gained all they sought or could desire in the Crimea, let us not affect to conceal what we English have lost. A predominant interest with us in this war was not merely to strengthen the Ottoman empire on the side of Europe, but on that of Asia. Russia, by her encroachments and conquests south of the Caucasus, has not only mastered Persia, but inflicted danger and material loss upon Turkey. What have we done to counteract this ascendancy, or even to demonstrate to the Asiatic powers and tribes that we are able to make a stand against it? We have allowed the conquest of Kars; we have tolerated the intrigues and manoeuvres of Persia in favor of the Czar; we have quietly seen Herat taken, and the British envoy obliged to retire from Teheran; and all the time we have utterly failed in making any use whatever of the boasted sympathies, good dispositions, and power of the Circassians. We destroyed the forts and raised the blockade of their country, yet have managed matters so ingeniously that in return they have not fired a shot or wielded a scimitar for us. We are told that at any time Schamyl, by menacing Tiflis, might recall the chief forces of Russia from the extremity of Georgia; yet General Mouravieff persevered for months in besieging Kars, and not only were we unable in any way to effect a diversion, but we utterly lost one of the noblest opportunities for a triumph of the last importance which lay ready to our hand, and which the skill and valour of our own countrymen had prepared for us. We are not now entering into any consideration of the causes of all this. We are simply explaining the manifest reasons why Englishmen do not welcome peace with that exuberant content which overflows very naturally from the bosoms of the French. On the one side, the French have gained enormously in political weight through this war. On the other, our salutary power and influence—we say salutary, for we would exert it on behalf of peace, and not for conquest or aggression—have diminished precisely in those regions where it most wanted increase and confirmation. It may be that Russia, by the negotiations on which she has now entered, sincerely as well as formally abdicates her design of augmenting her territories in Europe. But she may also do this with the secret resolve of indemnifying herself in Asia, and of directing south of the Caucasus the aggression which has been repelled from the Danube and the Euxine. We have played her game if this be so, for it is now more practicable and easy than it was at the opening of the struggle.—*Examiner*.

"A NIGHT IN LONDON."—Under this heading Mr. Dickens describes, in "Household Words," what he witnessed one night outside the Whitechapel workhouse:—"On the 5th of last November, I, the conductor of this journal, accompanied by a friend well known to the public, accidentally strayed into Whitechapel. It was a miserable evening; very dark, very muddy, and raining hard. There are many woful sights in that part of London, and it has been well known to me in most of its aspects, for many years. We had forgotten the mud and rain in slowly walking along and looking about us, when we found ourselves, at eight o'clock, before the workhouse. Crouched against the wall of the workhouse, in the dark street, on the muddy pavement stones, with the rain raining upon them, were five bundles of rags. They were motionless, and had no resemblance to the human form. Five great beehives covered with rags—five dead bodies taken out of graves, tied neck and heels, and covered with rags—would have looked like those five bundles upon which the rain rained down in the public street. 'What is this?' 'What is this?' said my companion. 'What is this?' 'Some miserable creatures shut out out of the Casual Ward, I think,' said I. (Mr. Dickens then described his inquiries in the workhouse; he found that the women were shut out simply because the house was full.) 'We went to the ragged bundle nearest to the workhouse door, and I touched it. No movement replying, I gently shook it. The rags began to be slowly stirred within, and by little and little a face was unshrouded. The head of a young woman of three or four and twenty, as I should judge; gaunt and wan, and foul with dirt; but not naturally ugly. 'Tell us,' said I, stooping down, 'why are you lying here?'—'Because I can't get into the workhouse.' She spoke in a faint dull way, and had no curiosity or interest left. She looked drearily at the black sky and the falling rain, but never looked at me or my companion. 'Were you here last night?' 'Yes. All last night. And the night after too.' 'Do you know any of these others?' 'I know her next but one. She was here last night, and she told me she came out of Essex. I don't know no more of her.' 'You were here all last night, but you have not been here all day?' 'No; not all day.' 'Where have you been all day?' 'About the streets.' 'And what have you had to eat?' 'Nothing.' 'Come said I, think a little.' 'You are tired and have been asleep, and don't quite consider what you are saying to us. You have had something to eat to-day. Come. Think of it?' 'No, I haven't. Nothing but such bits as I could pick up about the market. Why, look at me!' She bared her neck, and I covered it up again. 'If you had a shilling to get some supper and a lodging, should you know where to get it?' 'Yes, I could do that.' 'For God's sake get it then!' I put the money into her hand and she feebly rose and went away. She never thanked me, never looked at me, but melted away into the miserable night in the strangest manner I ever saw. I have seen many strange things, but not one that has left a deeper impression than the dull impassive way in which the worn-out heap of misery took that piece of money and was lost. One by one I spoke to all the five. In every one interest and curiosity were as extinct as in the first. They were all dull and languid. No one made any sort of profession or complaint; no one cared to look at me; no one thanked me. When I came to the third, I suppose she saw that my companion and I glanced, with a new horror upon us, at the two last, who had dropped against each other in their sleep, and were lying like broken images. She said she believed they were young sisters. These were the only words that originated among the five."