

SMITH O'BRIEN.—A thoroughly Conservative journal, the *Limerick Chronicle*, makes this timely allusion to the subject:—"We should be delighted to find the descendant of the hero of Inchora again at Cahirmoyle. England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity to do her good not evil; if our John Bright at this side of the channel would allow us all in England to think so.—Sir Lucius O'Brien, acting in concert with that most amiable and excellent neighbor of his, Sir H. B. Massy, in organising a Patriotic Fund in Clare, in a part of Clare where Smith O'Brien is loved and respected, looks very unlike rebellion; looks very unlike any mischief accruing to the state from an unconditional pardon of your former member. We say this the more really as we do not believe Sir Lucius acted with the spirit in the matter, one might have expected, and we have never found an honest man in England, who did not believe Smith O'Brien badly dealt with."

MAYNOOTH.—There seems to be some fatality attending the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the state and management of the Royal College of Maynooth. The report, it may be recollected, was promised to be laid before the House of Commons during the last session of Parliament; but, owing to various causes, its production was deferred until the commencement of the ensuing session of Parliament. The chief reason assigned for this delay was the inability from the pressure of judicial duties, of Chief Baron Pigott, one of the commissioners, to pay the requisite attention involving the interests of that Church of which the Right Hon. gentleman is a distinguished member. To remedy this defect, the commission was extended for an additional six months, which terminated in September last, leaving the report as far from being perfected as it was 10 months previously, inasmuch as the Chief Baron upon returning from his circuit, was in so delicate a state of health, as to necessitate his immediate departure for Malaga in order to recruit a delicate constitution. Under such circumstances, the "Ides of March" will probably pass over without the friends and foes of Maynooth being anything wiser as regards the deliberate opinion of Lord Harrowby and his brother commissioners.

BIGOTS AT THE DEATH-BED.—One bleak night last November, a poor Protestant servant named Maria Maher, lay on her death-bed in the Hardwicke Hospital of this city. As life ebbed away, she yearned to be reconciled to her Creator, and remembering that her deceased mother was a Catholic, she implored one of the nurses to assist her in obtaining admission to the same communion. Of course the attendant cheerfully responded to this request—but a serious difficulty stood in the way. The No-Popery *ukase*, recently issued by the Governor of the House of Industry, ordains that the religion of every patient shall be registered on admission—that the register is only to be changed "upon the patient's own application reported through the nurse to the Governor or such other officer as may be authorised to act in his absence, and his sanction obtained after due investigation, and that in the meantime the patient should be permitted no communication with a clergyman of a different creed." In order to comply with this rule, the nurse proceeded in search of the Governor of the hospital; he was not to be found. She then tried to communicate with the next officer, the Steward, but on applying at his residence she ascertained that he was "dining out." The next official authority was the Rev. Mr. Faulkner, the Catholic Chaplain of the Institution, and though it was a positive violation of the Governor's *ukase* to apply to a Catholic clergyman under the circumstances, the nurse had no alternative. She acquainted father Faulkner with the poor patient's dying request; and that gentleman, rightly considering it his duty to obey the laws of God rather than those of man, at once proceeded to the hospital, and received Maria Maher into the Church. She died the next day. When these circumstances became known to the Governor of the hospital, he considered the breach of discipline so enormous, that he made a formal complaint to the Poor Law Commissioners, and it has been the subject of a judicial investigation.

SCENE IN A THEATRE.—On Wednesday evening week, the play of the Hunchback was performed in the Belfast theatre, Mr. Pamier enacting the part of 'Master Walter.' During the performance, some annoyance was enacted by persons laughing and otherwise interrupting the progress of the actors; and Mr. Pamier, conceiving that a part of it emanated from the Hon. Arthur Annesley, of the 92d Regiment, Henry R. Wallace, 92d Regiment, and James Bannatyne, merchant, who was seated in one of the private boxes, went to the box, and spat in each of their faces, striking Mr. Annesley. Mr. Pamier was summoned on Saturday to the Police Court, for the assault; but failing to appear, a warrant was issued for his apprehension.

THE NEW ORANGE HERO.—Whatever doubts may have hitherto existed as to the role of Mr. Disraeli with the Irish Orangemen, it is now unmistakable enough. The *Dublin Sentinel*, the organ of the Grand Lodge, has ostentatiously welcomed him as its "guide, philosopher, and friend," and Dr. Gregg proclaims him one of the most genuine supporters of the Constitution in Church and State. "All our eyes are now turned towards Mr. Disraeli," says this organ. "It is anxiously expected that he will express, in his place in parliament, the feelings of the Protestant of the United Kingdom. Let him stand true to the Protestant cause, and fear no disaster." Tolerably plain. As yet the English journals of all sections, scarcely exhibit any feeling towards the new alliance, except indifference and disgust. The *Morning Chronicle* treats Mr. Gregg and his followers with positive contempt—and that amiable divine retorts with his habitual modesty and meekness. "Than the Protestant citizens of Dublin and gentlemen of Ireland," he writes, "for chivalry of sentiment!!! for soundness of judgment, for honesty of purpose! and for courage to assert it, not Great Britain nor the world can supply their superiors!!! Mr. Disraeli has at present the gentlemen and the Protestants of Ireland on his side, because they esteem him as a man of genius, honor, power, and resolve—and let me tell the *Chronicle* this; that if Disraeli were a prince, of such support he might be justly proud; and further add, that having such support, if he prove worthy of it, the which I may not doubt, to the highest apex of power he may pretend and will succeed." The *John Bull*, a thoroughly Protestant Journal, is entitled to speak with some authority in this case—and here is its timely comment:—"It is not the least among the many proofs which Mr. Disraeli has given of the absence of true statesmanship amidst all his cleverness, that he should choose the present moment for taking the

lead in kicking up a Protestant row. The only excuse we can make for him is the singular congeniality of mind between the right honorable gentleman and his new allies. For choice specimens of personal violence and measureless invective, commend us to Benjamin Disraeli and Tresham Gregg."

A very inquisitive correspondent of ours, an old Staff Officer, asks us to tell him exactly how many able-bodied Irishmen, between the ages of sixteen and forty, died of famine, fever, and dysentery owing to English misgovernment in Ireland, between the years 1846 and 1854. We are not aware of any Parliamentary Paper on the subject unless it be in the next world and we feel like the Jesuit lay brother who was asked by the Pope how many stars there were in the sky, and could only reply that they were as many as the sands on the sea shore. Let us answer our friends in the same style? They were one hundred times as many as have fallen by Russian bayonets, and bullets since the war began. Querulously, he asks us again, how many able-bodied men between the ages of sixteen and forty fled away from Ireland to the roof-tree of another nation, within the same period? We answer—as many men of the first military qualities in the world as march in all the armies of the Czar. How many, then, quoth he, of them now bear arms in Irish Regiments of the United States? Ten times as many, quoth we, as all the Irish recruits for the war and the new Militia added together. Our friend is right in declaring that statistics like these are quite as interesting as those in the *Times*, touching the waste and supply of men to the Crimea? But which, saith he, is the more cruel death, famine or the sword. 'Tis hard to die, but it were far less cruel to bayonet ten wounded and helpless men, than to see one of them perish by the slow agony of hunger.—Thank God, the day is in Ireland when an able-bodied man need die in neither way!—*Nation*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE BALTIC FLEET.—A squadron of the smaller class of steamers, about six in number, will not return to England with the fleet. They are to be stationed off Memel, to cruise whenever the season will permit, so as to prevent any vessels laden with supplies for the enemy getting into any of the neutral ports. In case of stress of weather, the steamers comprising the squadron of observation during the present winter will be enabled easily to take refuge at the port of Elsinore, in the vicinity of Copenhagen.

It is considered likely that Yarmouth roadstead will be made a winter station for a portion of the fleet under Sir Charles Napier, on their return from the Baltic.—*Morning Chronicle*.

STATE OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—The *Morning Chronicle* says there is not the slightest ground for supposing that the shipwrecks of the 14th Dec. have in any degree crippled the operations of the English army, or subjected our troops to intolerable privations. Lord Raglan had in store at that time upwards of three and a half millions of cartridges, and independent of the articles of winter clothing that were unhappily lost of board the Prince, there were on board other ships, which must arrive shortly after the storm, 54,000 pairs woollen socks, 30,000 woollen frocks, 34,000 flannel drawers, 35,000 watch coats, 50,000 blankets, 23,000 rugs, and nearly 7,000 pairs of worsted gloves.

RESOURCES OF BRITAIN IN MEN.—Two thirds of our army are men between twenty and thirty years of age. Here are the numbers of such men in Great Britain at three periods in the present century:—1821, 1,130,266; 1841, 1,635,869; 1851, 1,830,588. The number of men in Great Britain in 1851 of the age 20-40 was 3,193,496; of the age 15-40, 4,245,126; of the age 15-45, 4,801,900. A tenth of the smallest number would form a force of above 300,000 men in the strength and prime of life, and this is without counting Irishmen, who have hitherto contributed to the army at least one man to every two soldiers that were natives of Great Britain. If there were to be a levy from the United Kingdom of one soldier to every 100 people, it would supply an army of 277,000.—*Times*.

Admiral Dundas is immediately to return home in his flag-ship the *Britannia*, and will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Lyons.

The whole militia of England is immediately to be embodied. This measure is intended, not so much for the protection of our own shores (although the *Times* significantly remarks, it would be as rash to leave the country wholly without a soldier as it was to leave the right flank of our position before Sebastopol unprotected by earthworks) as to be a nursery for the army.

Government have prohibited the exportation of lead to the north of Europe while the war rages.

WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?—It is not, as Mr. Bright has dared to represent, "to uphold a filthy despotism." It is not to maintain a decrepit Government, which may or may not be rapidly improving, which may or may not be able to recover its vitality and renew its strength, but with which we can have *per se* no very close or vivid sympathies. It is not to retain in the East of Europe that political and diplomatic influence which we began to fear might be overshadowed by the growing power of our rival. It is not, in a word, for any of those trifling or hollow purposes for which too many of our former wars were undertaken. We are fighting not for Turkey, but for Europe. We are fighting not for a Mahomedan despotism, but for European freedom and civilization.—We are fighting, not for Turkey, but against Russia. We are doing what the very difficulties we encounter show us ought to have been done long ago. We are doing that for which so favorable an opportunity may never occur again. We are doing that which, if not done now, will in all human likelihood be done never. We are engaged in the task of controlling and beating back a Power which already overshadows half of Asia, and three-fourths of Europe, which a few more years of supine inaction on our part and of tolerated encroachment on hers may make absolutely irresistible, and whom we know to be the resolute, instinctive, and conscientious foe of all that we hold dearest and most sacred—of human rights, of civil liberty, of enlightened progress. A little more sleep, and a little more folding of the Lands to rest—a little more pausing in apathy as we have been doing year after year, step after step, conquest after conquest—and Russia would have been supreme at the Sound and on the Dardanelles, and the chance of saving civilization and assuring freedom have been lost for ever. This is no exaggerated language, though to those who have not watched the past or read the alarming indications of the present, it may appear so. Look at

the map of Russia; look at the secret hopes and terrors of nearly every Court in Europe and in Asia.—At the accession of Peter the Great, Russia was confined to her original inhospitable deserts and dreary steppes. She had access to no sea-board except the Arctic Ocean. She had no commerce, no influence, no name. She was scarcely more known or more powerful than Borneo or Cochinchina. See what she is now. Read how she has thus changed her position and her destiny. Every province of her vast dominions which is of any value has been gained by conquest, within a century and a half. The Livonian Provinces, Finland, Poland, the Ukraine, Bessarabia, the Delta of the Danube, the shores of the Black Sea—are all the spoils of recent robberies, and one means to further ones which are projected and not concealed. She keeps on foot an enormous army.—She numbers 55,000,000 of people; and the Czar boasts that 800,000 men annually reach the military age, and that he can spend them all without encroaching on the capital of his population. And the will which wields this mighty force is hampered by no constitutional limits or Parliamentary impediments, and enfeebled and endangered by no repressed aspirations after self-government on the part of his subjects.—*London Economist*.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER—THE MINISTRY.—It is confidently stated that they are particularly anxious that he should not be in the House of Commons during the coming session, because they are apprehensive that, were he in parliament, he would make some awkward disclosures respecting the unfortunate Baltic expedition. Any one who wished to get at the real state of affairs would only have to make certain indirect charges against himself, or to put certain questions to him, to extort from him, in the excitement of the moment, matters which ministers meant to be for ever kept a profound secret.—*Morning Advertiser*.

STEAM V. GUNPOWDER.—Mr. Perkins, the son of a gentleman who some years ago invented and exhibited in the metropolis a steam gun, has, through a contemporary, made the following offer. He says:—"I am prepared to undertake to supply the Government with a steam gun capable of throwing a ball of a ton weight a distance of five miles. If such a gun were fixed in Brunel's large ship of 10,000 tons, I venture to say that Sebastopol would be destroyed without losing a man."

THE LATE REV. MR. WHEBLE.—We have much pleasure in acknowledging the following testimony from the *Times* to the merits of the late Rev. J. J. Wheble:—"We deeply regret to announce the death of the Rev. John Wheble, one of the Roman Catholic chaplains to the army, which took place from dysentery in the Crimea. Mr. Wheble was endeared to all who knew him by his thoroughly good and amiable disposition, and we doubt whether those of his own faith who loved him for his devotion to it were not equally by his friends of other persuasions, who admired him for his genial, frank, and tolerant mind. With the army he was principally attached to the second Division, and we are told that, from Sir De Lacy Evans to the youngest drummer, every man mourns him as a friend. Mr. Wheble was a young man, well off as regards the goods of this world, and when, last spring, he volunteered to leave his quiet curacy at Chelsea to encounter the hardships and dangers of the war, he made, perhaps, as great a sacrifice to duty as any one of the gentlemen of England who have left fortune, home, and friends to fight for their country in the East." The country is roused to meet the war in the spirit which becomes it.

SHERIDAN KNOWLES.—At the moment of going to press a handbill has reached us, from a correspondent at Nottingham, showing the indecent earnestness of a certain party in attempting to give a No-Popery character to the Patriotic Fund. It begins with the words 'Patriotic Fund,' in the largest letters, and then goes on to announce a course of three lectures on Popery (in large letters), for the benefit of the fund, by Mr. Sheridan Knowles. We appeal to the good feeling of the Protestants of Nottingham to discourage and put down this monstrous and indecent attempt. The programme of the lectures is given in the placard; it is full of the foulest terms of abuse. We extract a few:—"Blasphemous premises," "fatuous ignorance," "Popish dogmas," "impious shift," "point blank falsehood," "rank falsehood," "Roman heresy," "Mariolatry," "the Pope a fool." Can it be tolerated that at the moment when Catholic soldiers are shedding their blood like water upon the heights of Sebastopol, and when Catholic Sisters of Charity are leaving their country and exposing their lives to attend to our sick and wounded, this wanton insult to the faith of Catholics should be perpetrated in pretended connection with a fund for relieving the widows and orphans of the soldiers of whom the Catholics constitute (we are told by the Protestant chaplain) one third? After all, it is the affair of the Protestants of Nottingham, rather than ours. It is their character that is at stake; let them speak out, and declare that they will not tolerate this disgrace to their town, and insist that the design shall be abandoned. The foolish people who have attempted to get up the miserable exhibition, will, no doubt, quail before their indignation.—*Catholic Standard*.

HIGHLAND CLEARANCES.—In a letter to Sir James Matheson, M.P., the editor of the *Northern Ensign* says:—"If you traverse Sutherland, a county having a population of considerably more than 20,000, I defy you to raise fifty volunteers from one end of it to the other. And this is the county that rendered itself so famous for its hundreds of six feet warriors, who defied and drove back the vaunted cohorts of 'the disturber of the peace of Europe,' and struck royalty itself with surprise. It is, however, the same county, whence, soon after the brilliant victories in which the Sutherland Highlanders bore so conspicuous a part, they, their fathers, their brothers, their sons, their mothers, and their sisters, were ruthlessly driven, many of them to fell down the forests of Canada, and where, ever since, the whole aim seems to have been to peel down, and oppress, and drive off the people."

Mr. Edward Oliver's ships were offered for sale at Liverpool on the 7th December. 74 were put up but only 22 sold, realizing £103,050. 3 were bought for cash, the remainder were taken by bill holders. The others will be sold by private contract.

The *Oxford Chronicle* of Saturday publishes the following extraordinary advertisement:—"A Patriotic Offer—Now, Soldiers' Wives, Look-out—A widower, of good character, with five children, offers to marry the widow of any soldier slain at Alma. For particulars apply to Mr. Higgs, draper and tailor, South Stoke, Oxen. The above offer is to be considered the contribution to the Patriotic Fund of the widower."

ANGLICANISM.—A manifesto, says the *John Bull*, has been put forth by four churchwardens and an "ex-churchwarden" of the three metropolitan parishes of St. Anne, Soho; St. Pancras, and St. Marylebone, "with the concurrence," it is said, "of sixty churchwardens of the principal parishes and other gentlemen," recommending the establishment of a "reforming convocation," which is henceforth to lay down the law and the doctrine of our Church. The objects intended to be obtained by means of this movement are thus stated:—"The first object of this reforming convocation should be to uphold the Gospel in its Scriptural simplicity; as the bond of union in the National Church, and thus to restore the Christian communion with the Protestant Church of England all the sound Protestants of the United Kingdom and of all Christendom, as it was in our best reforming times in the reign of King Edward. The next object should be to resume our still unfinished work of Protestant Reformation, and promote a careful Scriptural revision of our Ecclesiastical system, bringing the Sacramental services into harmony with the Articles, and the whole into unison with the written Word of God. Another object would be to embody the Scriptural conclusions of the convocation in a well-digested and business-like plan of Church reformation, to be laid before the Queen and parliament by petition, thereby strengthening the hands of the government in carrying into effect the important measures of reform regarding the Church courts, &c., already introduced, and leading forward the legislature to the satisfactory completion of our Protestant Reformation." On the plea that "the Clergy are much fettered by the Tractarian Bishops, and much divided in sentiment amongst themselves," it is suggested that "the movement can be commenced effectually only by the laity."

SIGNS OF LIFE.—The Right Rev. Dr. Blomfield, in his sermon at Islington, a few days ago, denounced the Catholic Church as an "idolatrous" system, towards which it was our duty to act offensively as well as defensively, and not less strongly those who betrayed a leaning to Rome "within their own camp." His Lordship added, that the emissaries of Rome were endeavoring to make Islington a "model mission," and it was their especial duty therefore to oppose them in that locality, &c. The Right Rev. Dr. Lee (of Manchester) has publicly declared (in evident allusion to the late charge of Dr. Wilberforce) that those who hold any notion whatever of an ablation in the Lord's Supper, are on the "second or third round of the ladder which leads to Rome." Lord Campbell has declined to interfere with Archbishop Sumner in favor of Archdeacon Denison on this subject, and the case will therefore proceed. The *Church and State Gazette* complains that Bishop Wilberforce, has encouraged the use of Mr. R. Wilberforce's recent works at the Cuddelesden Institution. Her Majesty has appointed an Evangelical "Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of Austria;" and another Low Church prelate has just been appointed for the colonies. The Rev. J. Keble writes to the *Guardian*, pointing out the gravity of the Denison case, and adding, that if the doctrine of a "Real Objective Presence" is declared untenable in the Anglican Church, there will indeed be reason to doubt the reality of our communion with the universal Church.

SUNDAY IN GLASGOW.—Yesterday Glasgow was placed in what may be termed an "extraordinary fix" by the entire stoppage of the cab and omnibus traffic throughout the city and suburbs. It appears that certain city missionaries have been laboring for some time past among the cab and omnibus men in Glasgow and suburbs, of whom there are about 550, and they have at length succeeded in convincing them that so long as they continued to drive people to church or anywhere else on Sundays they were themselves driving to perdition. A declaration was accordingly issued a few weeks since, to the effect that the consciences of the cabmen would not permit them to follow this unholy traffic any longer, and that on Sundays for all time coming, beginning with yesterday, the 19th, they would rest from their labors. Although this intimation was publicly given, the inhabitants paid little attention to it, as they could not believe that the men, were in earnest in their intention of stopping all carriage intercourse on Sunday in a city with 400,000 inhabitants, especially as the principal use of the cabs and busses was to convey people from distant parts of the city or from the suburbs to the various churches. The result showed, however, that the men were perfectly in earnest, for yesterday, with the exception of a few private carriages, the streets of Glasgow were as free from the rattle of wheels as those of Pompeii or Ephesus. The inconvenience and annoyance resulting from this extreme measure of Sabbath observance are indescribable. Lame and infirm people could not reach the church according to their usual wont. Surgeons and physicians (unless they kept private carriages) could not visit their patients; and friends and relatives living far apart could not visit each other upon their only day of leisure. A lady was taken ill in one of the churches, but not a cabman could be found to convey the patient home until her husband produced a doctor's certificate. Hundreds of respectable families have of late years built themselves handsome little country houses in the pretty suburban villages of Partick, Pollokshields, &c., on the Frith, that they might have a regular communication with "kirk and market" by means of the omnibuses, but yesterday these inhabitants were placed beyond the pale of Glasgow society altogether, and those of them who were unable to walk long distances along dirty roads on a winter's day were compelled to forego attendance at church. This "strike," by which carriage locomotion is utterly prohibited on Sunday in a great city, and in the name of religion, is regarded with reprobation by the great mass of the intelligent inhabitants. The enlightened clergymen are quite averse to these extravagant proceedings, but they dare not denounce them, otherwise they themselves would be denounced as lukewarm, godless, and time-serving by the extreme section of Sabbatarians who, known as the "unco guid," though a small minority, subject the community in this matter to a species of moral terrorism. It is only fair to state that the bulk of the cabmen, though going upon "strike," in the name of religion, admit that their real grievance is that they are compelled to do seven days' work for six days' pay. Their masters can remedy this, and if they fail to do so measures will be taken to find a remedy in another way. It is inconceivable that a city like Glasgow is to be thrown back a couple of centuries in its social amenities, and that it should become at the same time the scorn and laughing-stock of strangers by a Sunday dead-lock to locomotion such as that which now exists.