

DUBLIN, Feb. 7.—The inaugural meeting of the Central Protestant Defence Association in the Rotundo is freely discussed in the journals, and its character presented in different aspects. In the Conservative press it is regarded as the most imposing demonstration which has been held in Dublin for a quarter of a century. The columns of names which are paraded in the reports are related to with satisfaction as incontrovertible evidence of its social weight and representative importance. In the Catholic papers it is the subject of disparaging criticism. The Freeman, while, in effect, admitting the numbers and respectability of the meeting, ridicules the distinguished personages who officiated for trumpeting their own virtues, impressing their social position, wealth, and intelligence into the service with questionable taste, and employing arguments which it designates 'profane cant, of which the country is sick.' The following extract expresses the spirit of the Freeman's commentary.—In numbers and respectability the friends of Ascendancy may consider to-day's effort a success, but in argument it was a sad failure.—They felt as if power was passing away from hands which held it so long and used it so ruthlessly. We do not speak of the present but of the past, for the temper of the party has been modified by events and men who, in other days, would have crushed Papists, as they would worms now talk of their 'Catholic fellow-countrymen,' and the pleasure they feel in sharing with them the rights and privileges of citizenship? No thank to them for rights they would abridge if they dared. Papists have grown strong, and notwithstanding the sufferings they have endured, they are still a formidable Power. They will no longer submit to be treated as an inferior race. They would deprive Protestants of nothing to which they are fairly entitled. They seek no superiority. They do seek equality in religion, and they must have it. What do these Rotundo gentlemen want? Do they imagine they are still to rule Ireland? Do they suppose their resolutions can control the public opinion of the Empire, and maintain monopolies which the common-sense and common conscience of mankind reject? Who cares about their meetings? What effect can they have in showing that the Church Establishment should not be abolished? What claims has it to a national establishment like the Church of England, to whose skirts it clings, and under which it seeks shelter? But the Church of England casts off the incubus, and every liberal statesman in England has expressed disapproval of it in principle, though they differed about the practical solution. England must choose between the declaration of the Rotundo and of Catholic and liberal Ireland. On one side a few thousand respectable gentlemen, who hold a great portion of the soil of Ireland, and whose relations and friends extract yearly from the sinews and sweat of Papists three-quarters of a million sterling. On the other side the population of these provinces and one half of the fourth demanding the disendowment of the Establishment and the equality of all religions before the law. We shall not mix up other topics with this Church question, which was uppermost in the minds of the speakers but we may observe in the past struggles between race and race Catholics have been the losers and Protestants the permanent victors and inheritors of the spoil. They knew that so long as the establishment stands their power would be unassailed, while if the monopoly be abated they must not only support their own Church, but also lose the patronage of bishops, deaneries, canonries, and vicarages. The Rotundo meeting was the embodiment of low selfishness. But they must give up the spoils of conquest, and be content to live on equal terms with Catholics and Dissenters. The Evening Post, having instituted an elaborate analysis of the list of requisitionists, in order to show that 'less than a fourth of the Protestant Peers, and less than a fifth of the Protestant magistracy of Ireland,' was represented upon it, professes to regard the meeting itself as more encouraging, observing that not more than a dozen of the peers who signed the requisition were present, and that several of the requisitionists who found it convenient to attend Lord Abercorn's levee did not find it convenient to attend Lord Brandon's. The Post, however, adds:—We do not affect to say that, after deducting these personages, there was not a residuum at the meeting of highly respectable and estimable gentlemen, whose influence would be undoubted if the gentlemen had not outlived their day. We should be sorry to witness an attack from any quarter upon the religious rights of our Anglican fellow-countrymen, and we should regret still more not to witness a rally of those fellow-countrymen in defence of their religious rights if threatened. But what was indicated by the absence of any popular element, was the soundness of judgment which teaches even the State Protestants that their religion is no way involved in the disestablishment and disendowment of their Church. The Post derives satisfaction from the fact that the meeting was chiefly composed of 'provincial notabilities' and that although it was 'pretty full at the commencement of the proceedings,' the attendance dwindled down to a small number before the close a fact which is not to be wondered at, considering that the meeting lasted for five hours, and that the oratory was not throughout so attractive a class as to make an unweary audience forget its fatigue.—Times Cor.

EVICTIORS AND CULTIVATION IN IRELAND.—On few subjects have reckless speaking and writing contrived to spread more false impressions than in reference to alleged wholesale evictions in Ireland. It is constantly represented and believed by those who take their notions and dim recollections from a brief and exceptional crisis 20 years ago, when landlords, peasants, and Government alike were at their wits' end how to tide over or recover from a fearful and disorganizing calamity, that a sort of general clearing of estates is going on at a great rate; that deserving and rent-paying tenants are being constantly turned out of their holdings from no other motive than the desire of the proprietor to consolidate his farms, or to escape the burden of probably heavy poor rates. Now it is true that such cases do occur, and are always made the most of by newspaper correspondents and political or agrarian agitators; but all who know Ireland will, we believe, admit these instances are exceptional, and that they are to be met with four times out of five on these estates which have been sold to new proprietors, who refuse to recognize old landlord-tenant understandings and virtual agreements, and have no idea of anything but making the most of their purchase. In this way, and in such cases, there can be but little doubt that the operation of the Encumbered Estates Act, which as a whole has been such a blessing to Ireland, has produced occasional hardship, injustice, and distress to individuals. But, as a rule, evictions are very few, as we are able to show and are rarely resorted to, except to get rid of a hopelessly bad and defaulting tenant, who can or will neither pay his rent or farm his land decently. Good farmers—tolerably capable tenants even—are not so numerous in Ireland that landlords are willing or anxious to eject them. It is true that a considerable consolidation of farms is in process and that it is working more real good for Ireland than, perhaps, any other operation; but the surrender of holdings by intending emigrants enables landlords to carry on this process quite as fast as is necessary, without resorting to any harsh or hasty pressure.—Pall-mall Gazette.

A COMPANION.—The Catholic Telegraph makes the following remarks upon the Manchester travellers who make much ado about the beggars of Italy:—It is the style of 'travelled' popes and those who go with them to talk about the 'disgusting, leazy, idle, beggarly, ignorant, and degenerate condition of the Italian people who are 'impoverished by a swarm of priests, monks, etc.' Of course, they have no idea of what they are talking about. The pauperism of England is almost infinitely greater

than that of Italy, or even Naples, if you please. Such a showing as the following, made in a late number of the Cork Examiner, cannot be exhibited for Italy. A return issued by the Poor Law Board on Wednesday, exhibits a comparison between the rate of pauperism during the month of May in this and last year. We regret to find that in every county there has been an increase in the number of paupers in receipt of relief. In the metropolis it has been as great as 25 per cent., while it has reached as high as eight per cent., in some of the counties. In the first week of May last there were, in England and Wales receiving relief, 913,701 in door and out door poorhouses against 860,701 in 1866; in the second week 906,744 compared with 854,462 last year, third week, 903,733, against 849,362 in 1866; and in the fourth, week, 900,256, compared with 848,873 last year.

EXTENSION OF FLAX CULTIVATION.—Mr. Burges, the hon. secretary of the Belfast Flax Extension Association, at a meeting held at Ennis, on Saturday, aptly pointed out the blunder committed by the late Government in its efforts to promote the cultivation of flax in the South of Ireland. The thing was done by halves, and was consequently a failure. Instructors were sent down to teach the method of cultivation, but no attention was paid to the establishment of spinning mills. The result was, that where the flax was grown great inconvenience and loss resulted in many places from the want of mills, and by the time that these had been provided, the farmers had become so disheartened that the attempt to increase the cultivation of flax was so far abandoned as to leave the millowners, in their turn, without the means of profitably employing the machinery which they had erected.

The laborers employed under John Long, O. E. Limerick, to the number of 200, in excavating the ground for the new graving dock for this port, and for the construction of which the Treasury has sanctioned a grant of £20,000, have struck for an advance of wages from 9s to 12s per week.

A mixed jury was awarded in Gen. Nagle's case, but six Americans could not be found in town, and the Court refused to send the prisoner for trial to another place. The authorities were forced to take six Prussians, but the aliens ran away almost immediately.

LIMERICK, March 4.—An attempt was made last night, alleged by Fenians, to set fire to a large machine shop in this city, but it was defeated by the vigilance and activity of the police. The incendiaries made use of Greek fire in their attempt.

DUBLIN, March 5.—The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland the Marquis of Abercorn, has released from confinement Mr. W. Johnson, Grand Secretary of Orangemen, who was sentenced to fine and imprisonment in County Down for leading an illegal procession.

DUBLIN, March 1.—W. Johnson, a Grand Secretary of the Orangemen's organization, was tried last week on a charge of heading an illegal procession in County Down. He was sentenced to imprisonment and fine.

DUBLIN, March 2.—The Grand Jury in the County Down adopted a resolution denouncing in strong terms all party processions as dangerous to public peace and against law.

Mr. Marcus Costello, at one time an able Irish agitator, died in Dublin on Sunday last.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, March 4. The condition of Ireland and the question of Irish reform are to be considered in the House of Commons on Tuesday, the 19th inst. The consideration of these subjects was postponed from the 25th ult., in consequence of the resignation of Lord Derby and the suspension of Parliamentary business, pending the formation of a new ministry. Despatches from Annesley Bay say that letters from the Irish captives have been received at an advanced post of the expedition, having been brought in secretly by native messengers. The letters are dated Magdala, Feb. 9. They show that the prisoners were still confined in the fort of King Theodoros at Magdala, where they are carefully guarded by their jailors. Though in great fear of the vengeance of the King, they were still as well treated as their condition as prisoners would permit, and all were alive and in good health. The letters give the important intelligence that the King of Shoa, a powerful tributary chief had left Magdala in great rage against Theodoros. It was believed he would turn his army against the Abyssinian monarch as soon as the British soldiers appeared in sight. No knowledge as to what plan of operations or course of policy King Theodoros intends to adopt, has been obtained.

MR. BRIGHT AND THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.—The Morning Post warns Mr. Bright that his experiments in land can be safely carried out only in Canada, or the forests of America, or the great plains of the Brazils, where as generation after generation grows up upon the first appropriated land, each succeeding family finds on every side unoccupied territory to receive and nourish the overflow. Under such circumstances the patriarchal system might find profitable development and create a nation. In Ireland it could only demoralize the population and create a famine. Then the upshot is to be that the Irish people are to have Ireland to themselves. Who are the Irish people? Are the English proprietary part of the people? Are the mixed race a part of the people? Are the Protestants of Ulster, or the Scotch Presbyterians or the Quakers in Conemara part of the people? Are the settlers who were decimated over from Scotland and elsewhere by the prospect held out under the Encumbered Estates Court, and who possess their land under a special parliamentary title part of the people? For years it has been dipped into by reiteration that Ireland was to be saved by including English and Scotch capital to go there. Now we are told that salvation is to be attained by the withdrawal, or, if necessary, forcible expulsion, of those elements, and by the extinction of the industries which they have created and fostered.

The Times discusses Mr. Bright's proposal, that wherever a landowner can be found willing to part with a farm, and a tenant desirous of buying the farm by paying not only his rent, but also the price of the farm, by annual instalments, the State shall buy the farm from the landlord, and look to the tenant for the rent and the annual instalments. The proposal applies only to landlords willing to part with the political and social advantages of ownership; but the chief objection offered is that when the Treasury had paid off the former landowner, it would have to enforce payment not only of rent but of the annual instalments directly from the former tenant, and in case of his default, would have either to remit the debt or to evict the debtor, and in either case would be in an unenviable situation.

The Morning Post makes this statement, which though intended probably to cover dilatoriness in government redress of grievances, might seem to some, encouraging to the Fenians. We trust our semi-official friends had no such intention—ah!—Although the folly of attempting to wrest Ireland from England by an insurrection has been demonstrated, the conspirators conceive that they can attain the same end by keeping up in Ireland a chronic state of uneasiness, which may induce England to part with a country the possession of which costs her so dear. And accordingly, without any apparent intention or hope of organizing a general rising of the Irish people for the purpose of casting off the British yoke, the agents and emissaries of the Fenian Brotherhood have continued to disseminate sedition, compelled the authorities to maintain in operation their restrictive measures, and, have, thus succeeded in creating against the Executive that unceasing odium which furnishes perhaps the greatest of all obstacles to the healthy and beneficent operation of even the best organized system of Government. In these diabolical

tactics it must be admitted the Fenian emissaries have been completely successful. Ireland is kept in a condition which might by man be supposed as one of riddance for revolt. Commercial enterprise is paralyzed; the inflow of capital is arrested; landed property is depreciated in value, and in fact rendered almost unuseable.

A Liverpool paper says:—In the returns made last month by the Government emigration officials, at Liverpool, there was one very significant feature stated viz., that the number of Irish emigrants to the United States had undergone a considerable decrease when compared with that of several previous months. The emigration officers were unable to account for it, although it was a known fact that in the English midland counties agents were at work, under the influence of the Rev. G. Montgomery, a Catholic priest, in getting together a number of emigrants but for what destination they know not. The simple fact is, that the Emperor of Brazil has long been anxious to establish in Southern Brazil an Irish Catholic colony, and that the Chevalier de Almeida, the commercial agent for Brazil, and his agents, have been very active in getting together suitable emigrants for the 'new Ireland.' On the 20th, the ship Florence O'Hipman, Captain Jones, sailed from the Mersey for Rio Janeiro, with about 300 emigrants for Brazil this being the first batch of the 6,000 or 8,000 souls which will embark for Southern Brazil during the present year.

OUR REAL AND SPURIOUS PATRIOTISM.—The London Universe, of Jan. 4, contains the following excellent remarks from the pen of a well-known talented Irish priest:—There is a real and a spurious patriotism, and many who sympathize with the Fenian movement, believing it to be for the welfare of Ireland are really patriots, real but mistaken—while the heads of it are what we may safely term spurious patriots. What is a patriot? A man who loves his country—his patria—and who is ready to lay down his life for the welfare or defence of that country. There are some who deny that patriotism is a virtue, but we know that our blessed Lord wept over Jerusalem when He thought of its destruction. What did He weep over? Not the rending of the veil of the temple—not the abolition of the old law and sacrifice—for He came on earth to complete the one, and, by His death, replace the other—He wept over the destruction of His city, the destruction of His nation, the desolation and dispersion of His people. Every man naturally loves his own country—but some love too well but not wisely. The one question is, 'What can we do to benefit Ireland?' If you are a true patriot you must desire to do that which is most advantageous to your country. Can you do this by becoming a member of a secret society. No! In the first place secret societies are forbidden by the Church, and no blessing has ever rested upon them. 'By their fruits you shall know them'—and by their fruits we judge them. Revolution and murder have been the results of secret societies, from the time of the French revolution to our own day. And this is what the Church condemns a secret society with a secret oath. All members of that society are banned by the Church; but it does not follow that all who sympathize with injured Ireland are equally banned. It is difficult to steer between Scylla and Charybdis; but it can be done. We have on the one side the prohibition of the Church. We may not, we cannot, as Catholics, join any secret society, or take any illegal oath. That much is certain, and no real Catholic can become a member of the Fenian Brotherhood. On the other hand, we have our country to consider; and every Irishman is bound to exert himself to the utmost to relieve that country from the burden that is pressing upon her. To make the attempt by secret societies is only to increase the burden and to rivet the chains more strongly; and those who make the mad attempt are only lengthening the duration of Ireland's captivity, and postponing the day of her liberation.

A young man named Patrick Mullady was charged at the Manchester police court with taking part in the attack on the prison van, and the murder of Sergeant Brett in September last. The prisoner, who has been identified by three witnesses, was remanded for three days.

NAVAL COURT-MARTIAL.—A naval Court-martial, under the presidency of Rear Admiral F. Warden, C.B., assembled on board Her Majesty's ship Victoria, at Portsmouth, on Tuesday and continued its sittings, by adjournments, over Wednesday and yesterday, for the trial of Lieut. C. Oxley, Senior Lieutenant on board Her Majesty's ship Wolverine, Captain Cochran. Lieutenant Oxley was charged (1st) with having allowed men belonging to the Wolverine to remain too long in a coal lighter alongside the ship at the time in danger of being swamped, by which negligence Henry Baines, leading seaman, Connor O'Keefe, ordinary seaman, and William Hadden, ordinary seaman, were drowned; 2d, with having neglected to make sufficient preparation to secure the safety of the men on the lighter, and with not making sufficient endeavors to save the men after it was swamped, where the three men were drowned. From the evidence taken for the prosecution it appeared that the Wolverine, lying off Quebec on the 4th of November last, under orders to sail for England, was taking coal on board from two lighters, one on each side, under the supervision and direction of the prisoner. The work was begun about 8 o'clock in the morning when the weather was quite calm, but soon afterwards a strong breeze sprang up, coming down the river, and by half past 9 it blew violently. During this gale the Wolverine swung across the river on the flood tide, and the lighter on the port side of the ship, in which 20 seamen were filling her coals in bags for hoisting into the ship, was placed on the ship's weather side and exposed to the full force of the wind. A hawser was passed to the lighter by the prisoner's order to keep her head to the sea, but she shipped such large quantities of water, and became altogether so unmanageable that the two men in charge of her refused to stay any longer on board, and went, with all their clothes and effects, on board the Wolverine. A short time afterwards the prisoner gave the order for the seaman to leave the lighter and return on board the Wolverine. While they were in the act of doing so the lighter rolled completely over, and lay keel uppermost alongside the ship. Ropes were thrown over the ship's sides to the men as they were struggling in the water, and by this means all but four were got safely on board the ship. One of those was afterwards picked up. After hearing the evidence and the prisoner's defence, which was read by Mr. Thomas Cousins, solicitor, as his friend, the Deputy Judge Advocate read the decision of the Court. It was as follows:—The Court considered the first charge proved in part, inasmuch as the prisoner did allow the men belonging to Her Majesty's ship Wolverine to remain in the coal lighter too long after she was in danger, but that his doing so arose from a grave error in judgment, and not from negligently performing his duty. The Court were further of opinion that the second charge has also been proved in part, inasmuch as the prisoner did not make sufficient preparations to secure the safety of the men on board the coal lighter, but that after the accident he made every endeavor in his power to save the lives of the men. Considering the unusually large number of very high testimonials received by the prisoner during the whole period of his service, for zeal, good conduct, and professional ability, the Court only sentenced him to be severely reprimanded and admonished to be more careful in the future.—The Court, before separating, desired to express its disapprobation of the manner in which Lieutenant Errington had given his evidence to the Court.—Lieutenant Oxley was then 'severely reprimanded' and 'admonished' for his share in the fatal accident. The court ceased upon Lieutenant Errington, who was officer of the watch at the time of the accident, is understood to refer to his refusal to give an opinion as to any danger the coal lighter might have been in after the hawser had been passed to her from the swinging boom, and just before she rolled over.

MISTAKES IN ABYSSINIA.—The Army and Navy Gazette says that Sir Robert Napier appears to have made a great mistake, if he be indeed responsible for the creation of the monster failure of the Bombay Transport Corps, and for the rejection of the organized force he might have had in the Military Train at home. It is true that he saw the Train at work in China, and that he may not have been satisfied; but the reports of the services rendered under great difficulty by the corps were spoken of very highly by officers without prejudice, and Gen. Cameron has borne the testimony of his own great experience to their admirable conduct in the campaign in New Zealand. It is certain if four or five battalions had been sent out to Abyssinia, it would not have cost a tithe of the Bombay Transport Corps, and, as for failure, what can be a more complete fiasco than that described in the letters of all the correspondents. Our accounts date from January 20, but the letters were despatched before the advance of the force from Senafe, one month further, which was reported by telegram from the Times' correspondent some days ago, and we also know that Sir Robert Napier was expected to be on his way towards Magdala. So far we have got about a fifth of our journey to Magdala. But are we going there at all? If Theodoros likes it is quite plain he can take the prisoners away where he pleases before we get there, and we fear he will do so. And then, what course will we adopt? The correspondent of the Times in Abyssinia gives a discouraging account of the progress of the expedition. He says that the real business of campaign will not commence before two years and a-half hence. A telegram from Egypt states that the troops were advancing towards Senafe, a distance of sixty miles from the landing place, and 240 miles from Magdala.

FASHIONABLE DINNER PARTY IN ABYSSINIA.—A great degree of skepticism has been entertained in regard to the mode of supplying brinde or raw meat to the guests to the fashionable parties at Gondar, the capital of Abyssinia. When the company have taken their seats at table, a cow or bull is brought to the door, and his feet strongly tied; after which the cooks proceed to select the most delicate morsel. Before killing the animal all the fish on the butchers is cut off in solid square pieces, without bones or much effusion of blood. Two or three servants are then employed, who, as fast as they can procure brinde, lay it upon cakes of tuff placed like dishes down the table, without cloth or anything else placed beneath them. By this time all the guests have knives in their hands and the meat, after the large crooked ones, which in the time of war they put to all sorts of uses. The company are arranged that one gentleman sits between two ladies; and the former, with his long knife, begins by cutting a thin piece which would be thought a good steak in England while the motion of the fibres is yet perfectly visible. In Abyssinia no man of any fashion feeds himself, or touches his own meat. The women take the flesh and cut it lengthwise like straws about the thickness of one's little finger, then crosswise into square pieces somewhat smaller than dice. This they lay upon a portion of the tuff bread, strongly powdered with black pepper, or cayenne and fossil salt, and then wrap it up like a cartridge. In the meantime the gentleman, having up his knife, with each hand resting upon his neighbor's knee, his body stooping, his head low and forward, and mouth open very like an idiot, turns to the one whose cartridge is first ready, who snuff; the whole of it between his jaws at the imminent risk of choking him. This is a mark of gratitude. The greater the man would seem to be the larger is the piece which he takes into his mouth, the more noise he makes in chewing it, the more polite does he prove himself. None but beggars and thieves, say they eat small pieces and in silence. Having despatched this morsel, which he does very expeditiously, his neighbour on the other hand holds forth a second pellet, which he devours in the same way, and so on till he is satisfied. He never drinks till he has finished eating; and before he begins, in gratitude to the fair ones who have fed him, he makes up two small rolls of the same kind and form, each of the ladies open her mouth at once, while with his own hand he supplies a portion to both at the same moment. Then commence the notations which we are assured, are not regulated with much regard to sobriety or decorum. All this time the unfortunate victim at the door is bleeding, but bleeding little; for skilful are the butchers, that while they strip the bones of the flesh, they avoid the parts which are traversed by the great arteries. At last they fall upon the thighs likewise; and soon after, the animal perishing from loss of blood, becomes so tough that the unfeeling wretches who feed on the remainder can scarcely separate the muscles with their teeth. In the description now given, we have purposely omitted some features which it is not improbable, have been a little too highly colored, if not even somewhat inaccurately drawn. But there is no reason to doubt the general correctness of the delineation, not excepting the grossest and most repulsive particulars.—London paper.

THE FUTURE OF RITUALISM.—Great and many are the contradictions among Ritualist Anglicans. It is impossible not to hope that a great work for good is fast gaining ground among them. We do not speak so much of the clergy as of the laity, the latter being in all Catholic truths far in advance of the former. Day by day we observe among the earnest men of this school more and more struggles toward the centre of truth—toward a union with the Holy See, which alone, of all the religious powers the world has ever seen, has withstood the tempest from without. If the more advanced of this influential party could only open their eyes to the light which shines like the sun for those who will seek it—if they could only read history as it is written their union with the Catholic Church would be but a question of days. What looks really religious, earnest minds among the Ritualists apart from us is simply the strong Protestant seed which, owing to the teaching they receive in their youth has taken root in their hearts and is so difficult to eradicate. The word 'Rome' frightens them. To a certain length they will cast off the errors that sprung up with the Reformation, but no further. They cling to the so-called Church of England, and shut their eyes to the fact that the opinions they profess are, after all only held by a small portion of the clergy, and by no more than two or three of their bishops. They forget that, if they remain in the Establishment, the mere accident of a change of residence may—and in thousands of instances does—oblige them either to hear heresy preached and sacraments received or to remain away altogether from public worship. And what do they get in exchange for this? The privilege of belonging to the most thoroughly secular state ruled communion in the world, in which confusion of different doctrines is almost as great as different tongues spoken at Babylon, and to which anything like unity in matters of what they and we term the essentials of faith, never can be restored. But we believe there is a brighter future opening for the Catholic minded men of the Anglican Church. Why God is delaying the movement, he best knows; but that a movement—a vast exodus from the Established Church—will ere long take place there can hardly be a doubt among those who watch the signs of the times. That it is even now going on by individual conversions, we all know. It is calculated that, within the limits of the Diocese of Westminster, more than 2,000 persons were formally received into the Church during the year just passed. Of these about half belonged to the upper and middle classes.—Curiously enough, the tide of returning to the old faith has at last begun to flow in sundry parts of Ireland. Let the Ritualist party but go on in their present path, and sooner or later they must find that they will have to go back to Protestantism or forward to Rome, for to stand still will be impossible. Which road they will prefer we need hardly say for already many hundreds among them are yearly selecting the only safe one.—Weekly Register.

EARLY-RAINING.—Horrible disclosures are being made public about this newly discovered evidence of

British morality and civilization. That great organ of the Liberal party, the Daily Telegraph, does its best to further this frightful traffic; by publishing the advertisements of the baby farmers. The Star says:—The British Medical Journal has commenced a steady attack upon the baby-farmers, all the more likely to be successful from its being conducted quite dispassionately, and by men of science. A physician of repute, acting, we suppose, for the Review, has called on several of the advertising farmers, and, pretending to be a know-nothing, has found out a good deal about their way of doing business. Its sketches of some of the farmers promise to be interesting. Here is one of them:—'I'm a jocular person, I am; and I say funny things, and cheer 'em (the ladies) up. She needn't mind and musn't fret, and I'll see her all right. I'm the old original, I am, and have had hundreds.' It is a common remark, that when ladies do project themselves into crime they display a coolness, an amount of nerve seldom found in the sterner sex; and the remark is justified by the pleasantness of this excellent female. If she and Mrs. Winsor, and Lady Macbeth, and poor old Martha Brownrigg could meet at tea, what a pleasant party they would make; but that is impossible, as the two last named ladies are dead and gone—impossible just at present, that is to say, for they are too evidently made for one another's society to be kept apart for ever.

UNITED STATES.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.—The Legislature of New York has taken up the question of 'Immoral Advertisements.' A petition has been presented with a view of prohibiting newspapers from publishing any notices or advertisements that may have a tendency to entice sin. The blow is aimed particularly at those infamous practitioners who make fornication the business of their life. We need not tell our readers that the evil is immense, and that it is high time it should be remedied. These outrageous advertisements swarm in the press; whole columns are filled with them; disgusting particulars are given; pamphlets and circulars are sent broadcast through the country, initiating the young in all the refinements of vice. We know of one instance where a large parcel of these was mailed to young boys at one of our colleges, and to young girls of one of our chief convents. Married ladies are constantly receiving them through the post office. One of our exchanges counted as many as seventeen of these advertisements in one number of a leading New York daily. One frightful list stands out prominently from these data. It is that fornicative and infanticide on the increase; for if the men who thus advertise had not the patronage, they could never pay the immense sums required by their advertisement. Extensive advertising generally bespeaks an extensive trade. It further follows, that where these enormous sums exist, there is a fearful background of immorality leading to them. The spread of the social evil is indeed, large to any who follow the current of life in our large cities. Statistics, recently published for New York, Cincinnati, Chicago and other places, demonstrate that immorality is making terrible havoc in almost every rank of society. And what is still more painful the evil is extending to the hitherto comparatively innocent country towns. The great facilities of travel, the spread of immoral literature, the plant laws of divorce, are the causes that villeges and hamlets have their low vice on their fashionable vice as well as larger cities. It is very hard to point out how far or in what way public authority should interfere to arrest the progress of immorality; but it is certain that some methods of repression should be resorted to. If the sin itself can not be stopped by legislation, the social certainly can. We are aware that the police can not reclaim the prostitute, the abortionist, the infanticide or the pimp, but he can prevent them from showing themselves openly and shamelessly in the street and in the press; it can prevent them from enticing the young and ignorant into their snares; it can drive them back into their dens, and keep them there to do their deeds of darkness. Break up the propagandism of vice, remove the occasions of sin from the public eye and ear, do not allow immorality to wear abroad the garb of fashion and beauty, and you do away with an immense amount of moral and social evil. The public authorities are compelled to do this. The New York Legislature makes a good beginning, which we hope will be imitated. In this connection, we can not too frequently or too earnestly insist on the care which parents should take of their children. This can never be too minute or too constant. For who so studies life, it is evident that vice commences early its havoc in the heart. It is comparatively seldom that we find a young man or woman beginning a career of sin after his or her maturity. If they have maintained their souls pure through the critical age of their teens, they will have strength to battle with vice and remain unscathed. If, however, the youthful imagination and the youthful affections are tainted, the chances are that passion will triumph over both as soon as occasion offers. We Americans throw out children upon the world too early an age. The world is too free and easy for them, and they often learn all its secrets before they have learned a profession or a trade.—St. Louis Guardian.

The N. Y. Herald sees ultimate reprobation in the revolutionary proceedings of Congress, if persisted in. It says:—'We are thrown back from the fixed point we had reached and float in the uncertain sea of revolutionary troubles so tossed hither and thither that none can say where we may be beached. We are again in the category of nations whose great wars ended in great intestine contests for political power, and people must reason of our future from such examples as that of France, in which the series of changes ran through a score of years and upset all law and order. Who shall say now that the national hands will ultimately be of more value than were those of France? or that the United States greenback will not figure in the same chapter of monetary history that recites the story of the French assignats? Our tendency is downward in the same direction.'

THE COURAGEOUS TROOPS FINGER NOBLY.—This book, which has passed into a proverb with many, especially Radical nigger worshippers, might as well be set right first as last. The records of the War Department show that fourteen 'coloured troops' deserted where one was killed! That about thirty died of disease, where one was killed! That nearly twenty were mustered out of the service for vagrancy, where one was killed! Look at the Official Record, and you will see just how 'nobly' niggers fight: Mustered out for vagrancy..... 20,236 Died..... 31,858 Deserted..... 18,737 Missing..... 1,344 Killed in battle..... 1,514

A NEW FIELD FOR THE FAIR SEX.—A bill has passed the Iowa Senate which will gladden the hearts of the fair sex. It reads:—'Any person twenty-one years of age, who is actually an inhabitant of the State that said person possesses the requisite learning and is of good moral character, shall be admitted to practice as an attorney in the different courts of the State. A correspondent says the wisdom of Blackstone and Onke hereafter will be nowhere, and that beautiful lawyeresses 'with a bewitching smile and a sparkling eye' will turn jurymen's heads topsyturvy. The only remedy will be to give women a representation on the jury also. It takes a woman to read a woman. It is stated, on sufficient authority, that a man left his wife in New York and went to Chicago, and that as soon as he reached the city, and before he was fairly out of the railway depot, he was attacked by a score of small boys, who pressed upon him the goods of various lawyers, and assaulted him with shouts of 'waut a divorce, miter?' 'Here you are, divorce you in 15 minutes!' and such like astonishing cries.