

It is most refreshing to see that the good old religious practices of the nation, mis-called "superstitions," are still in the ascendant, amidst "unending signs of prosperity and intellectual development." It was charming to see the large Cross of Kilkenny (erected in the Cathedral yard in memory of the Redemptorist Mission), with its dense circle of kneeling worshippers, many of them children on their way home from school. It was delightful to see the vast receptacle of holy water, at the side of the gate, in the same precinct, in process of rapid exhaustion from the pious visits of the crowd returning from the weekly Mass. It was delightful, too, to traverse the streets of Waterford, in company with the good Bishop, and to see the demonstrations of popular respect everywhere shown him; the passers-by receiving him with heads uncovered, with genuflections, or even, in some cases, with prostrations. And as to the Priests, the best thing they could do, would be to follow the example of "the old Duke" and walk hat in hand; for really the acknowledgement of such constant salutations must be a perfect labor of gratitude. True, these outward signs of a religious spirit would not come to much if taken alone. But they are pleasant proofs of the fearlessness of Irish faith, as well as of its predominance. They indicate, too, what is so beautiful a trait of religious character, the truly Catholic loyalty to the Priesthood, as distinguished from the Person of the Priest. The religion of Ireland, though matter of instinct, is founded in the deepest principles of philosophy. Hence it is that it is carried with so much effect into private life. The instances of female immorality, which in England are the rule in country districts, are in Ireland the very rare exception, and visited by a pressure of powerful checks upon them. What shall I say of the patience of this noble people under the visitations of God?—what of their extraordinary fraternal charity, which leads them to deny themselves even the necessities of life that a neighbor may not want them? It so happened that I had personal experience, during my visit, of the extreme disinterested, most considerate, and delicate kindness of the Irish. I happened to be very much with a sick person from England, who was compelled by an unexpected accident to take up with the first lodging which offered itself. I have never seen in my life greater or more thoughtful attention shown to an intimate friend or a near relative than was manifested towards this perfect stranger. Every intimate of this chance lodging-house seemed to make it an especial study to anticipate every want and gratify every supposed fancy of the invalid. They would bring him the most delicate morsels, come and sit with him, and in a thousand inexpressible ways, try to relieve the loneliness of a sick person in a strange country. They would receive no remuneration for their services, and would rarely accept the very small payment which was necessary to compensate them for their outlay.—In English Priests' Impressions of Ireland.

PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHARITY.—A writer in the Kilkenny Journal says:—"When the (Protestant) bishop wanted to get up an organ some time ago, he was collecting for six months through the united diocese, and received only £150! When the collectors gave up the task as hopeless, and paid in what they had received, they were about leaving the palace, when his lordship called them to the window and pointed out the Catholic Cathedral. "There," said he, "is a people having faith: a people who built up that grand structure from their poverty, while I cannot procure an organ, with all the wealth of the three dioceses among us; a flock—a people with faith, charity, and good works, and there is a proof of it." And so saying, he dismissed the collectors."

POSSESSING ARMS IN A PROCLAIMED DISTRICT.—A short time ago, a too reckless gentleman was brought up before the magistrates in a midland county, for that he, in contravention of the laws made and provided in the case aforesaid, had dared to retain in his possession unregistered material of warfare. It behoved the Great and Glorious, and Free Constitution of England to provide for its safety against belligerent rebels. The gentleman was (and is) a veterinary surgeon, and the materials of war, which honorable witnesses tried to prove he had only used to race his bottles? So, we believe, he was liberated—the shot being confiscated to the Crown. A poor woman, a dealer in old ironmongery, was, about the same period, cited before the law, for having in her possession a worthless old gun-barrel, obtained in the way of trade. The following is the latest specimen; we clip it from our contemporary, the Kilkenny Journal:—"Possessing arms in a Proclaimed District.—Michael Hanlon, a simple-looking man, was charged with being possessed of an ancient fowling piece, and the stock of another (!!) The articles were seized at Ratimoye, on the 23rd of June, by Sub-Inspector Maguire. The prisoner admitted the possession of the arms, the court having allowed to stand out in his own recognizances. He was then bound over in £20, to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, the court intimating that if there were nothing against him then he would be visited with no punishment. The prisoner was then discharged. But his "arms" were not liberated! As surely the law was right—the old gunstock, without barrel, might be lawfully perused to the Great and Free (!) Constitution—the envy (we have heard) of surrounding nations.—The Irishman.

MONSTRIOUS AND GOOD SEXES.—Down Cathedral and the 5th of November.—The Dean of Down, the Rev. Thomas Woodward was most properly prohibited the desecration of the Cathedral of Downpatrick by refusing to permit an Orange sermon to be preached to the Orange Lodges of Locale in that sacred edifice on the approaching 5th November.—This is an exceedingly proper proceeding, for which the Dean of Down is entitled to far credit. By his timely and prudent prohibition he has saved the temple of God from the pollution of the bitterest and most unchristian party spirit. The Orangemen must seek some other locality for their display, which might assume the form of stump-oratory, but for the wholesome provisions of a recent Act of Parliament. We hope, however, no respectable congregation will permit their house of worship to be degraded by any party display. There is seldom much harm in a party sermon if the suggestions of the reverend divine be not practically adopted; but after an Orange sermon may come an Orange gathering in the open air, and after that riot and murder.—We cannot have our Protestant cathedrals turned into "pro re nata" Orange lodges.—Northern Whig.

THE WAR IN PARVA.—Bodies of police are being drafted into Parva to assist in exterminating, and, necessary, dragging out the tenants of Lord Plunket. The first detachment arrived on Saturday last, to be followed by others. The Bishop and all his family have fled, and, it is said, will never return. The poor people are fearfully excited at the approaching crisis. The fact is, the case is without parallel, and a scandal to any civilized nation.—Morning News.

The Kilkenny Moderator has taken alarm at a gathering of young men from Callen and Kilkenny, at Dunnamaggin, as it is pleased to regard the participants as "disaffected." The Moderator thinks that instead of being for the purpose of playing an innocent game of cricket, the meeting had a political bearing, and it calls the attention of the Government to it accordingly. It says also that, on the night of the 6th ult., the streets and lanes of Carrick were placarded over with documents bearing drawings of swords and pikes, accompanied by expressions of "a most disloyal kind."

In the neighborhood of Kilkenny, some days since, a respectable old woman named Nicholson, while seated by the fire, in the act of preparing some food, was attacked with spasmodic affection of the heart, and, complaining to her daughter, who was near, exclaimed, "Lord have mercy on me." She immediately dropped down, and instantly expired.—Dundalk Democrat.

A public meeting has been held in Cork to promote the Cork monument to O'Connell.

MELANCHOLY FATALITY IN KILKEE.—On Tuesday a Spanish gentleman, named Don Soluco Gutierrez, came down by the steamer, on his way to Mr. William MacMahon's, of Kilmurry, Miltown Malbay. He came from Lima, South America, and seemed a person of highly cultivated manners. On his arrival at Kilkenny he called on Mr. P. O'Brien, at Cappa, and spent Tuesday night at his residence. On Wednesday when proceeding to Miltown, he ascertained that Mr. MacMahon was not at home, and he therefore did not go to Miltown, but resolved to follow that gentleman to Dublin, having obtained his address in that city. On Thursday he visited the Chapel and schools of the Sisters of Charity, and he then proceeded to Kilkenny, and asked Mr. O'Brien to allow his son and Mr. White to accompany him. After viewing the scenery at Kilkenny he went to dine at the hotel, and after dinner, Mr. —, with others, entered the room, Mr. — is stated to have introduced some conversation which the Spanish gentleman did not relish. He left the table, and sat on the sofa, when Mr. — followed him, as stated, and still continued his offensive conversation. This excited the Spanish gentleman to such a degree that he threw a glass at Mr. —, and a quarrel ensued. Mr. — gave the Spaniard a kick, after which the latter had a fit, fell on the ground, and died in a few minutes. Dr. Griffin was on the spot at once, and did all in his power to restore animation, but to no purpose. Father Corbett was also in attendance to administer the last rites of the Church. It is the opinion that the deceased died from the effects of a rush of blood to the head, caused by excitement; but had not the offensive language been uttered the Spanish gentleman might be still alive. He was a perfect gentleman, and a very amiable man.—Monster News.

The Newry Examiner says:—"On last Sunday a parish meeting was held in the schoolrooms adjoining the Catholic Church of Knockbridge, for the purpose of adopting such measures as might lead to the discovery of the parties who had attempted a most unprovoked outrage on their respected Parish Priest, the Rev. Mr. Kearney. The following are the circumstances detailed by the reverend gentleman himself.—On the night of Saturday, the 22nd ult., at about half-past ten, he (Mr. Kearney) had just left the church for his lodgings, and in about half an hour afterwards retired to bed; he had not been in bed more than a few minutes when a stone, between two and three pounds weight, was thrown through the room window, in the direction of his bed, and had not its progress been restrained by the curtain, the consequences might have been more serious.—The parties immediately decamped, and being either dissatisfied with the attempt or doubtful of its success, they immediately repaired to the reverend gentleman's new house, which is scarcely out of the large front windows, breaking six squares of glass, and disfiguring the sash in several places. The reverend gentleman publicly acquitted any person holding different religious opinions with himself.

STANDARD VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO IRELAND.—I am enabled, upon high authority, to make an announcement, which I am sure you will be as pleased to hear as I am gratified to communicate. It is, that it is the intention of her Majesty to visit Ireland in the ensuing Autumn and that the royal sojourn will be longer than upon any previous occasion. Her Majesty will, I believe visit the Northern and Southern portions of the Kingdom; and I am in a position to state that arrangements have already been made with reference to the personal of the Court that is to accompany Her Majesty.—Correspondent of the Belfast News Letter.

DEPRAVED ORANGISM IN MONAGHAN.—I am happy to inform you that the prosecution of the Rev. Thos. McNally, Catholic Curate of Clones, for an assault on William Pagan, a leader of the Clones Orange Lodge, has terminated, as was generally anticipated, in a complete route of the Orange confederation.—The prosecutor and his witnesses were so exposed on cross-examination by Mr. John Rea, who was brought specially from Belfast to conduct the defence, that the crown solicitor, with the approval of all the magistrates, abandoned the case without troubling Mr. Rea to address the jury or produce witnesses.—The joy of the people is beyond description, for the Rev. Mr. McNally is beloved and respected, and the prosecution was looked upon as a party persecution.—Cor. Irishman.

We have to record the death of the celebrated "Angler of the Laune," Paddy Deady. The deceased sportsman died at the age of 70, and future sportsmen, visiting the scene of the best angling in Kerry, will find a vacuum in "Old Deady" will throw a sprat upon his grave.—Tralee Chronicle.

AGED BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.—In the Dublin Gazette of the 3th of February, 1731, the following particulars are given:—"Yesterday morning the Rev. Mr. Taylor, curate of St. Peter's (Dublin), married in the church James Thompson, of Kevin's street, shoemaker, and Agnes Roberts, of the same street; both their ages added together make above a hundred, three-score and sixteen. The bridegroom averaged, and convinced by several good circumstances the minister, that he was ninety odd years old; they said they were both married before; and the bride appealed to the whole street for the truth of her age, it being well known to them all that she had been a great-grandmother some years. The discourse on the occasion was so great that the church and church-yard could not contain the people, some pews were broken down, and a great number of persons hurt; the new-married couple were obliged to be locked up in the vestry until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the mob dispersed."

GREAT BRITAIN. The English testimonial to General de Lamoriciere is now in a fair way to become an accomplished fact. We say the "English" testimonial, because, in consequence of the impediments thrown in the way of a subscription for a similar purpose in France it has been thought advisable to undertake the work on our own account, instead of merely taking part in the movement abroad; and there is every reason to hope that the Catholics of Great Britain will find it easy to testify, in a distinct and independent manner, their sentiments of admiration and respect for the Great Briton. Inaugurated in our own columns by a noble-minded lady of ancient Catholic lineage (the demerit already counts amongst its patrons and supporters representatives of every class and almost every country which contributes to form the Catholic body in England. The highest ranks of the hierarchy, influential clergymen, military men and civilians, Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, and Welshmen, have all heartily combined, and there are not wanting natives of other countries, more especially that which has had the honor to give the hero birth. English, therefore, in its origin, our testimonial may claim to be Catholic, in every sense, in its spirit. It has been decided that the form which the offering to General de Lamoriciere shall assume is that of a Sword of Honor. Objections have been made, in quarters entitled to respect, to this particular mode of testifying our sentiments, partly because of the expense, and partly through the apprehension that we might be supposed to be servilely imitating a recent example in Ireland. We must say that this latter scruple seems to us unreasonable. Hundreds of English officers have received the compliment of a Sword of Honor, which, after all, seems to be the most appropriate recognition of a soldier's worth; the same thing has occurred in every other country over and over again; and we do not see why the rule should be departed from. The question of expense remains yet to be solved, but from the manner in which the subscription has been commenced, we have no fears upon this point. One of the most active promoters of the movement (we may mention to our readers in confidence) is Mr. Billingsgate, of the Times. Mr. Billingsgate (we thank him for it publicly) is doing the Catholic cause in these islands

the undoubted and valuable service. It was a happy day most for us when the proprietors of the Times, jealous, perhaps, of another journal's powers in the pot-houses, enrolled him among its contributors. On Catholic and Irish questions he is without a rival. He writes in the spirit of a drunken Orangeman on Boyne-Water Day, and in the style of one who has taken the highest honours in that school for scurrility where we may suppose him to have graduated. His ideas on several subjects are peculiar. According to him it is "cowardice" to defend an old fort with a handful of men against an overwhelming body of besiegers, and only to yield when the last cartridge was spent. His notion of "courage" is, sitting down to concoct a mean and mendacious libel to which he would not venture to put his name. But it is, happily, untrue that "all Europe" fits within the four walls of his den; and there is no generous mind in Europe that does not abhor his vile abuse of the Pope's "African footman," and "Irish hangmen and headmen." The Catholics of Great Britain—not men without a name, but men with names (speaking for many amongst them), as honorable as any in the history of England—are about to show to the world what they think of this "African" and of the "hangmen," his followers. In deference to suggestions from some of the most distinguished persons who have consented to promote the movement in favour of a testimonial to General de Lamoriciere, occasion will be taken, as a secondary object of the subscription, to mark the public sense of the services of those brave men, natives of Ireland and of England, who have fought under his standard. This recognition is due to them, not only for their own merits, but as a reply to the cowardly slanders which a portion of the English press has heaped upon them. What shape the demonstration will take with regard to them it is still premature to say; but a decision will be come to on that point as soon as the subscription has reached a certain amount. If we were in any danger of forgetting them, Mr. Billingsgate would be sure to jog our recollection in season and out of season.—Weekly Register.

A preliminary meeting of the congregation of St. Mary and St. Michael's Commercial-road East, London, was held in one of the schoolrooms, on Monday evening, October 22nd, 1859, to devise the best means of paying a tribute of respect to the Irish Brigade, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Pope's army. A committee was appointed to collect subscriptions for this purpose.

THE ENGLISH FILIBUSTERS.—"I am happy to announce," says the Neapolitan correspondent of the Debats, "that the correspondent of the Daily News, Count Antracube, whose disappearance had caused considerable sensation, is amongst the seven or eight hundred Garibaldians taken prisoners by the Neapolitans. He has written, and speaks honorably of the manner in which he is treated. If Antracube, who bears one of the best names in Italy, has done well in seizing a sabre, at a critical moment, to die as a brave man by the side of Garibaldi, I cannot speak with the same consideration of certain young Englishmen. They too bear noble names, which they conceal under borrowed ones. In the morning they leave their comfortable hotel at Naples, and go to the camp with beautiful *armes des pretensions*; in the evening they return to supper, and calculate the hits they have made. I am sure they expose themselves with English intrepidity; but that is not enough, it seems to me, to justify such conduct. Let it be well understood that I do not wish to speak of those who are enrolled and serve regularly. The right to dispose of one's own life and that of others is allowed when a man is bound by the duties of a soldier, or when he fights to defend his country, his family, his religion—things which the human soul holds to be sacred. But one's conscience revolts at the idea of converting the tragic fatality of war into a shooting-match."

"There has been a great deal of crimination and recrimination here amongst the English gentlemen volunteers, and many of whom, having a higher opinion of their own merits than has been conceded to them by the military authorities, have run riot; the consequence is the General has been compelled to interfere, and many things have been brought to light which do no credit to those immediately concerned, and the parties implicated have been requested to doff their uniform and leave the city. Two duels were imminent at the beginning of the affair, but the summary arrest of one of the intended combatants, by Colonel Peard, put an end to further mischief. The latter step, together with the extradition alluded to, has materially contributed to clear the atmosphere."—Naples Cor. of Scotsman.

A ruffian band of Roughs, Radicals, Blacklegs, and Liberals, 670 strong, called the British Legion, have arrived at Naples to serve under Garibaldi. They sailed as excursionists on board the Emperor, and carried with them a good deal of their neighbours' property, besides leaving behind them debts considerably exceeding all that they are likely ever to earn except by robbery and pillage. On board the Emperor they mutinied, and were informed by "Major Styles" that they had committed an act of "piracy." "A very painful incident" happened as soon as they landed at Naples, for Styles was immediately arrested and "remains so." The Times correspondent "wishes to allude to it with the greatest possible reserve," and regrets that the inquiry was not conducted more privately. What can Styles have done?—Tablet.

THE BOTTOM OF LORDS NAPOLEON'S HEART.—At a meeting of the Liverpool Social Science Association on Friday, Baron Gudden, the celebrated French marine painter, who was present, delivered a speech in English, deprecating any war between France and England, and arguing that the Emperor was most anxious to keep up the *entente cordiale*. He also mentioned that he (Baron Gudden) had invented an apparatus in connection with gas and water, which would, he hoped, be a great benefit to the public. "The Emperor," he said, "is my friend, and I know the very bottom of his heart." At these words, Lord Brougham, who was in the chair, smiled and shook his head, and at the conclusion of the Baron's remarks, eulogised his talents as an artist, and added, "But with reference to his great discovery—I don't mean that of the bottom of the Emperor's heart, but of the gas and water apparatus—I hope we shall soon hear more." These words, delivered in the noble Lord's driest manner, excited roars of laughter, which seemed to puzzle Baron Gudden immensely.

The Emperor Napoleon is an object of great suspicion with the crowned heads of Europe, and the recent visit to Windsor Castle of the Grand Duke Michael and the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia is said to have apologetic significance—the more especially as Lords Palmerston and John Russell were present at the time. We fear that the estrangement between our Court and that of France is more marked now than it has been during the last eight or nine years—greater in fact than at any time since Napoleon assumed the purple. The Queen it is well known has been largely influenced in her recent estimate of this remarkable man by the views of her German relatives, and the group of continental Sovereigns connected with what are called the "Great Powers" hold him in constant dread. The tone of the French Ministerial press has undergone a marked change respecting England and is much less favourable to us than formerly, but the press of this country regards his general policy with a less jaundiced eye than before.

THE RECENT FRENCH GAZES.—Some approximate idea may be formed of losses sustained by the Tynes clubs through the gales. We are informed, upon pretty competent authority, that they will not be less than £50,000, probably nearer £100,000.

Admiral Sir Charles Napier had been seized with a sudden and severe illness. Parliament was further prorogued from 6th Nov. to 3rd January.

A certain very active party, in that portion of the Irish population who live under the refreshing shadow of that golden fruit-tree, the Church Establishment; have a theory which they put most religiously into practice. This theory may be expressed in the following formula:—"That religious toleration is possible only to Protestants, and that acts which, in Catholics are the foulest bigotry, become, when committed by Protestants, the purest liberality. This doctrine would be amusing, if confined to theory. But, unfortunately, in Ireland, its high Priests put it constantly into practice, and the results are lamentably destructive of social peace and harmony. It is a tradition of the Protestant fanatics in Ireland that "Popish" Priests, like raging lions, go about devouring human souls—or should we not rather say, "like wolves." For the laws are not quite a century established—and some jurists doubt whether they have been repealed at all—which put the same price (exactly five pounds) on the head of an Irish wolf and the head of an Irish Priest.

In full fidelity to which tradition, the fanatics believe that Catholic Priests—these men to whom the mission of Christ to St. Peter has so miraculously descended—are to be watched and circumscribed on every possible occasion. Of this belief, it is a necessary corollary that Catholic pauper children are to be persecuted in the workhouses; and then, if any question of the means adopted to corrupt them be started by inquisitive Catholic guardians, they are to be smuggled from the workhouse, and carried off to some "missionary" region, such as Achill (for example), where they serve to swell the numbers of "local" converts.—These zealous labourers who do such work, and boast of it, charge Catholic Priests with doing likewise; but, oddly enough, whilst they describe their own proceedings as "saving the lambs from the wolf," and so on, according to their peculiar vocabulary, yet, when they charge the Priests with like conduct, they call it "Jesuitism," bigotry, intolerance, and various other terrific names. Instances illustrative of this are unfortunately too numerous. The Equity Courts furnish many cases; the workhouse reports supply more. In Belfast Workhouse, last year, the Protestant fanatics made two or three hits (as well as we remember) in smuggling away poor Catholic orphan children. But the Catholic Bishop succeeded in saving two young creaturs, born of Catholic parents and baptized Catholics themselves, from their grasp; and he was forthwith assailed in the local Protestant newspapers with the most abusive epithets, and savagely denounced as a traitor bigot. His only crime was that he was only instrumental in removing two or three Catholic children to a Catholic institution where they were sure of a good education and a provision for after-life.—Weekly Register.

SHAVING A SERIOUS THING.—The attention of Sabbatharians is earnestly called to the subjoined copy of an advertisement:—"Shaving: A Branch of the Sabbath and a Hindrance to the Spread of the Gospel." By M. A. Cantab. London, Saunders & O'Leary. Messrs. Saunders & O'Leary publish many novels, but the serious world need hardly fear that the work above announced is a novel. There is, indeed, novelty in the idea that shaving is a breach of the Sabbath; because every morning is not Saturday, and many people shave every morning. Neither is every morning Sunday, if that is the day which we are to suppose to be meant by the word Sabbath. True it is, however, that some old clothesmen never shave at all, for some reason or other which may possibly be the belief that shaving, under any circumstances, is a breach of the Jewish Sabbath. And certainly there can be no doubt that shaving on a Sunday morning, or during any portion of Sunday, is a desecration of the Sabbath just as flagrant as that of travelling by an excursion train; and this is probably the truth which the author of the work under consideration, but which, like many other reviewers, we have never read, most probably wishes to impress on the serious public.—Punch.

There has been a revival movement in Edinburgh and daily reports of the proceedings have been published in the papers. These reports (such at least as we have seen) are by no means glowing, and are more likely to damp than to inflame the enthusiasm of the reader. According to the unexcited narrative of the Scotsman, the weather was boisterous, and unfavourable to open air preaching. But on Wednesday and Thursday of last week a succession of open air services in the Queen's park, with floating audiences of from 600 to 800 persons. During the day the addresses must have been heard by several thousands. "The assemblage was composed of respectable, serious-looking, and in every sense well-to-do constitutions, among whom the silk-gowned and parasol element predominated." "The platform was occupied by Colonel Walker, who presided; Major Davidson, and many clergymen and others interested in the present Evangelical movement. On the first day Colonel Walker commenced the proceedings by giving out a psalm; on the second, Major Davidson commenced by engaging in devotional exercises." After these military chiefs came the Clergy, who delivered a great number of short addresses from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. What can be the reason why the public religious demonstrations of Evangelical or "Serious" Protestants are so frequently presided over by a Colonel or an Admiral, or at the very least by a Major? We don't remember any instance of a Queen's Counsel or a Sergeant-at-Law, or an eminent Physician presiding over the pastoral exercises of the Clergy of any religious denomination. Sir John Dean Paul, indeed, the "serious" Banker used to preside over religious assemblies; but since that gentleman's transportation, military men have monopolized the presidency on those occasions. There is, of course, a reason for it, and it must be discoverable; but it is a curious subject for investigation. The pious Colonel, the Protestant Admiral and the serious Major are a distinct type in British society, with prerogative rights recognized in Evangelical circles. The only people who ever competed with them were the religious Bankers; but since Sir J. D. Paul was transported the religious Banker has been rather at a discount.—Tablet.

THE CONDITION OF THE ENGLISH LABOURER NOT IMPROVING.—In the time of the Tudors the weekly wages of ordinary laborers would enable them to purchase twice as much wheat and meat as would the wages of a similar class of laborers at the present time. It therefore appears that improvement in the material condition of a large section of the community has not accompanied the great progress in the nation's wealth. For England's commercial progress is unparalleled; she accumulates capital for a great portion of the civilized world; by her aid railways are carried into the Far West; her commerce has been developed by the greatest triumphs of mechanical genius; her exports have advanced in a few years from £50,000,000 to £130,000,000; and yet no corresponding effect seems to have been produced in the material condition of her poorer classes. Philanthropic institutions continue to unfold the same tales of dire distress. Needlewomen exhaust their strength and ruin their health for the most beggarly pittance; and laborers frequently cannot be provided with such food as the necessities of nature demand; for by many meat can now never be tasted more than once a week. It appears, therefore, quite evident that increased production does not insure a happier distribution of a nation's wealth.

Cases of insubordination in the English army have lately occurred in Shoreham, Dover, Portsmouth, Aldershot and other places.

CROPS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The Montreal Gazette publishes the following extract from a private letter of a well-informed correspondent received by the Persia:—"The harvest in the United Kingdom is not yet completed, a good deal of grain being still in the fields in all late localities, and in some high districts the out crop has been frosty; so that I believe never was there a year known in this country which produced such variety of produce, as regards yield, weight and condition. During the last three months the arrivals of wheat and flour have been immense, no less an average than 800,000 per month, and I think that that quantity will be required for the next six or eight months to come. Great as our wants are, it would appear that they will be supplied from many different quarters: you seem to have had a most abundant crop in America, and the United States and Canada will furnish very largely to supply our wants. The potato crop in most districts of England and Ireland is lost; the disease is not, however, so general as it was in 1846. This crop in Scotland is very good, and large quantities are being sent to London, and other southern markets by Rail. The potatoes are taken direct from the fields to the Railroad Stations. The freight to London being everywhere 26s. per ton. The English purchasers commenced buying at £20 a £25, and the price has advanced to £40 a £45 per Scotch acre. The weather continues so wet that few potatoes have yet been put into pits."

A rifled cannon, said to be the largest in the world, was recently tried at Shoeburyness, England. It weighs 6 tons, and fires 174 lb. shot. It is made of puddled steel, and is the greatest mass of this material ever put together. It appears that Mr. Thomas steel rifle gun, with which experiments have recently been made at Shoeburyness, in England, has, with a charge of 28 lbs of powder, and a shot weighing 100 lbs, obtained a range of 5 1/2 miles. This weapon is to be submitted to still further tests, under the direction of the Woolwich select Committee.

In "Traits of Character," a book abounding in gossip of every kind, but of very slender literary merit, we find the following extraordinary anecdote in the paper on Mr. Spurgeon:—"He was in the pulpit when the intelligence was communicated to him that he was the father of twin sons. He offered a prayer of praise and thanksgiving on the occasion, and gave out the appropriate hymn:—

Though best I never shall I deserve,  
Yet God has given me more."

BANK NOTES IN A BAG.—I have heard that a dispute is likely to arise relative to a Bible given by a merchant to the celebrated actress, Miss Maria. The library of this lady was sold the other day, and bought by Brunet, who, upon opening the sacred volume, discovered notes for £500, which was claimed by purchaser and late proprietor. Had the actress been a little more studious of the Bible in her life-time, she might have been rewarded substantially, as well as spiritually.—Cor of Leeds Mercury.

A SOLON.—The Rev. Canon Stowell attended the annual meeting of the Salford Operative Protestant Association, on Tuesday evening. The report read on the occasion expressed a hope that the wonderful events now occurring in Italy might result in the uprooting of all error and superstition. Mr. Stowell delivered a sermon on the subject of the "Evangelical point of view." He alluded to the present turbulent condition of Italy, and said that, with a false notion. As the Pope of Rome, the Pope, but Popery made him, as it is the case with the Pope, millions would still be in the system. The downfall of the temporal power of the papacy might shake, but it would not at all destroy, the system urged them therefore to go on with their work.—Spectator.

DISCOVERY OF A GREAT CAVE IN FLORIDA.—STRANGE INSCRIPTION FOUND. John Harford, writing from Waldo, a town in the county, Florida, furnishes the following description of a subterranean cavern recently discovered in that region, which is said to surpass in extent the celebrated Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. Mr. Harford says:—"Florida is not only 'the land of flowers,' but also the land of wonders. A few days ago Mr. Henry Wooten, of New York city, and myself started on a hunting expedition, with the intention of camping out several days. On Saturday, the 26th day of September, we passed a deer in a human track, and in attempting to ride through a Mr. Wooten's horse stumbled into a small sink. While Mr. Wooten was endeavoring to extricate his horse, I descended, and was engaged in examining a curious pile of stones which had attracted my attention. One of them I found an inscription, as if engraved with a steel instrument, but nearly obliterated by the ravages of time. Mr. Wooten by this time had led his horse safely out of the sink, and, in following me, he had discovered a cave."

"After vainly endeavoring to decipher the strange inscription which I had found, we each collected an armful of pine wood to serve for torches. On ascending at the entrance, we saw by the dim light of our torches that the bottom of the cavern was several feet below us. Landing my torch in my hand, I prepared to descend, which I accomplished with ease, the rocks serving as steps.

"Wooten then handed me down an armful of light wood and a torch, and prepared to descend further. We now found ourselves in a subterranean passage, about ten feet high and fifteen wide.

"We pursued this passage for nearly half a mile, it growing larger at every step, and appearing to descend into the earth by an easy inclination, when we unexpectedly found ourselves in a cave of immense extent.

"We explored it in every direction, sometimes entering small caverns, which led to the main cave. We finally entered a sort of square doorway, and found ourselves in a cavern of most beautiful appearance, the reflection of our lights against the sides producing a magnificent effect.

"For the first time in my life I felt the full force of that beautiful description, which Goldsmith has given of the Caves of Arden: 'The most wonderful thing that met our view was a Latin inscription, graven in the solid rock.' The inscription stated that a party of Danes had visited this cave in the year 1050, and that a priest who accompanied them had left this memorial of their visit. 'The name of this priest was Marcus Poles.'

"It was also stated that these old navigators had embarked on a voyage of exploration, and had been driven far south; also, that they had visited many large islands, and finally had landed in a thickly populated country, where the people had received them kindly, thinking them superior beings; that some of their number, together with some Greek artists and two priests, had been left there as a colony.

"This is the substance of the inscription, as far as it could be deciphered. Now, does not this suggest an important inquiry to the antiquarian?

"Is it not probable that the islands mentioned were the West Indies? and may the country where they landed be Mexico? We all know that the ancient Mexicans had a tradition that, about four hundred years before the landing of Cortes in that country, 'Children of the Sun,' with white faces, came to them, and taught them the arts of civilisation.

"Is it not probable that this colony of Danes and Greeks, with their two Latin priests, were the persons referred to by the tradition?

"Perhaps many buried secrets concerning the early history of America may be revealed by that strange device.

"This wonderful cave is easy of access, and situated a few miles from the Florida Railroad, and about ten miles from Waldo.

Last week our Supreme Court decided ten couples in one day. Had the Zurich rule prevailed here those ten couples might have been happy couples to-day.—Boston Pilot.