

THE IRISH UNDER SECRETARYSHIP.—Rumor is once more at work as to who will be the Under Secretary for Ireland of the Aberdeen Administration; and the difficulties which appear to stand in the way of this office being filled up, may fairly be regarded as a type of the position of Government. The office has been placed at the disposal of several parties; and the public were assured that Mr. Villiers Stuart had actually accepted it. Nay, more, it was even announced by a local journal that that gentleman had left his residence in the country to enter upon the duties of the office. It now turns out that conditions were imposed upon him which were not to be borne. The situation is, therefore, again vacant. The *Freeman's Journal* of Saturday morning hints at Mr. Sadleir becoming the Irish Under Secretary, to make amends for his defeat at Carlow. Dire will be the disappointment of some of the place-hunters if this rumor turns out to be well founded. It is also said that Mr. Henry Meredith will be the new Under Secretary.—*Dublin Evening Packet*.

DISCOVERY OF IRON MINES.—A most important discovery of iron (says a local paper) has been made, within the last few days in the county of Waterford, between Currahmore and Carrickbeg; and already miners are at work, and hopes are entertained that the yield will prove productive. The preliminary operations have been undertaken under the immediate superintendence of an English Mining Company, at the head of which is said to be Baron Rothschild. In consequence of the success which has already attended the labors of the miners, it is expected a regular number of men will be set at work in the "diggings" without further loss of time. It appears the discovery was made some time ago by a person who had become acquainted with mining, geology, &c., at the Bonmahon mines; and that on his urgent and repeated representations to capitalists in England, a sum of money was advanced which will enable a few shafts to be sunk, and the business undertaken speedily. The district is said to contain a vast quantity of iron, and the result of the experiment just made is very satisfactory.

MR. WILLIAM DARGAN'S UNDERTAKINGS.—This gentleman, the founder of the Irish Crystal Palace, towards which he has contributed £26,000, has embarked largely in other public works for the current year. He is the chief promoter of three bills in the present session, which present the unusual feature of having only three persons to each of them, although incorporated joint stock companies. The bills are "Dublin and Wexford Railway," Capital £200,000, of which Mr. Dargan subscribes £65,000; "Kerry and Clare reclamations," the expense of which cannot be much less than £200,000, and Mr. Dargan is understood to take nearly the whole.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

The Galway Packet informs us of warlike preparations in its neighborhood.—A large war vessel is daily expected at this port, for the purpose of enrolling seamen for the navy. It is supposed that the badness of the times will coerce several of our stout Claddagh fishermen, who, with very little training, would become first-rate hands, on board a man-of-war, to join the service."

LANDLORDISM IN THE COUNTY DOWN.—It appears that the threats held out by Mr. Stewart, of Ards, towards the tenantry on his county Down property who had the "audacity" to vote conscientiously at the late election, were so far carried into effect as that a number of ejection processes were served for the Newry quarter sessions. We are gratified now to be able to state that Mr. Stewart has not consummated this measure of injustice. We have it on good authority that the ejection notices served on the Gilford tenantry, and which were on for hearing at Newry, have been all withdrawn. It may now be the proper time to state, to Mr. Stewart's credit, that even in the days of his error anything that he did was done with the greatest candor and openness, and in this respect his conduct offers an honorable contrast to the other landlords in the county Down who, we are informed, are silently carrying out the measures which he only threatened against their hapless tenantry.—*Northern Whig*.

THE LINEN TRADE.—The quantity of linen exported from Newry during the past week has exceeded that of any similar period for some time, having amounted to no less than three hundred and seventy-six packages.—*Newry Telegraph*.

PROSPECTS FOR SOLICITORS.—At the Skibbereen quarter sessions, which were held last week, there were just 59 civil bills entered, to be divided amongst ten professional gentlemen who attended. The criminal business was usually light, and only in two or three prosecutions were the legal gentlemen employed. At the quarter sessions held in May, 1845, there were 4,000 processes entered.—*Cork Examiner*.

A MOVING BOG.—A curious instance of this natural phenomenon took place on the 3d inst., on the lands of Enagh Monmore, in the west of the county Clare. A tract of bog, of about a mile in circumference, was perceived to be deeply fissured, and shortly afterwards the whole mass commenced to move in an easterly direction, and continued in motion for 24 hours. In that period it accomplished a movement of about 80 perches to the east of its former position, and the result has been the exposure of a quantity of bog timber, which was previously covered with peat to the depth of 15 feet. The cause of the landslip is supposed to have been the accumulation of water in a slough which occupied the centre of the bog. It now covers a piece of ground from which the turf had been cut away.

At the Limerick quarter sessions, the barrister gave a decree against Mr. Daniel Hanrahan, at the suit of Mr. Robert Hunt, for a balance of rent remaining due to the last gale, amounting to four-pence! Mr. Hunt having levied two distresses in August and October for the last rent remaining due. The motive assigned by the defendant's counsel for this unusual proceeding was, that he voted for the Liberal candidates at the late city election.—*Limerick Reporter*.

DEATH FROM DESTITUTION.—On Thursday last two pauper boys, named John Sullivan and Denis McCarthy, from Tralee, were taken up for begging at Cork, and ordered to be sent home. They were accordingly conveyed to Macroom that evening, and were desired to "tramp it" for the rest of the way. On calling at the relieving officer's for a night's lodging they were refused, and had to lie out on the road. The following night they did the same, their request for lodging being again repulsed. On Saturday they called again, and, being refused a third time, McCarthy died of

cold and hunger. Sullivan, in consequence, returned again to Cork. It was directed that he should be again sent home.

HOMICIDE—COUNTY MAYO.—A young man named Golding, the son of a respectable widow resident in Castlebar, expired at the Mayo Infirmary on Wednesday last, from the effects of wounds received in a quarrel on Christmas night. John F. Burke, Esq., R. M., and a respectable jury were engaged for two days in investigating into the facts of the case, who, after a patient inquiry, came to the conclusion of finding a verdict of Manslaughter against a person named Plunket, who has been made amenable.

THE CONVICT KIRWAN.—The Boyer mystery has been solved. The man died a natural death, and was interred in the ordinary way, at Killshandra, in the county of Cavan. These facts have been discovered by Mr. J. Knight Boswell, a highly respectable solicitor of this city. He has obtained a certificate from the proper officer of the parish of Killshandra, to the effect that William Boyer Blake was interred there in the month of November, 1841. It can be proved that this man was the identical person of whose murder Kirwan is now accused. He took the name of "Blake," it is stated, for the purpose of concealing himself from his wife. The magistrates of the head office of police have refused to accept this certificate as evidence, in the present stage of the charge; but Major Brownrigg, one of the chiefs of police, gives it publicity.—It is said the police have discovered more human bones buried within the precincts of the residence formerly occupied by Kirwan, and, of course, rumor at once identified them as the remains of Boyer.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BURNING OF THE SAINT GEORGE.—By the arrival of the General Steam Navigation Company's steamer Sir Edward Banks, which brought over three of the survivors of the emigrant ship St. George, we give the details of the abandonment of that ill-fated vessel. What renders the catastrophe more shocking is, that the whole of the unhappy beings who perished were women and children. The vessel sailed from the Mersey on the 24th of Nov., taking out 141 emigrants for New York. With the exception of four, the whole of the emigrants came from Ireland. She was well provided for, carrying a fire force pump, besides a new life-boat she had four other boats sufficient to hold the entire ship's company and passengers. The vessel would be about 1,200 miles south and westward of Cape Clear, when smoke was first discovered. It seems that no fire was observed at all, the vessel being enshrouded in thick and stifling smoke. When the Orlando came in sight, the first two boats that left the ship contained Captain Bairnson and all the crew with the exception of five hands. They heard that the reason of Captain Bairnson and his officers leaving the ship was to facilitate the transit of the boats with the passengers to the Orlando. He never returned. At the time Captain Bairnson and his officers took to the boats the passengers were crowding the main rigging, expecting to be taken in them, but none were allowed to go. In about an hour and a half they saw the life-boat returning to the ship, but on approaching within half a mile of us, those in her beckoned to round the ship again to get closer to the Orlando, which they did, and bore on for about half an hour, when she hoove to. During the successive trips of the life-boat on the first day of the disaster, the people had, so terrific was the rolling of the St. George, to watch the boat's rising on the top of a wave in order to jump in. Two lost their lives in the attempt. After the fifth trip no one was left on board that could manage the vessel. Two other trips were made after this. The Orlando had two boats but it was not safe to launch them. She remained by, but had no communication during the night, and the storm raged more furiously. At daybreak, the following morning, Captain Bairnson asked who would volunteer to go off to the St. George to save the lives of the passengers. Off they went, and in the course of an hour and a half succeeded in getting alongside. Still there were no means of assisting the passengers, and the only chance for them to reach her was to jump, but fear and terror seemed to have seized them. Several missed the boat and were lost. No one was saved who fell overboard. The boat made several trips before night, and on each trip brought away some of the passengers. Captain Bairnson never left the Orlando. He urged those who went off in the trips to save the poor creatures, to tell them for God's sake to jump in, it was the last time that the boat would come, and there was no hope of saving them. Captain Bairnson would have gone off, but the crew objected to his going. The poor creatures who were left consisted entirely of women and children—on calling over the names of those on board, some fifty were ascertained to be missing. They never afterwards saw anything of the St. George. The next morning Captain Bairnson, who was in a dreadful state of mind, called the men together, and asked whether any of them would volunteer to risk another attempt with him to rescue the unhappy creatures, adding that it was a horrible thing to abandon the wreck while so many poor things were on it. None would volunteer to go, every one being convinced an attempt would prove fatal. Captain White and Captain Bairnson, with the officers of each vessel, held a consultation as to the best course to be pursued, when it was agreed that they could do no more towards rescuing those on board the wreck.—John Starr, one of the passengers complains bitterly of the conduct of Captain Bairnson. He says, "Had he remained to direct the terrified passengers in making their escape, the whole of them might have been saved. I don't think that the boat made altogether more than twenty trips. I am positive it was not sixty-four, as has been represented; it was impossible for it to have done so, in consequence of the distance of the two ships from each other. I do not know why the Orlando was kept so far off, excepting that it was feared that the St. George would blow

up.

SCOTCH MARRIAGES.—In a recent case at the Westminster Police-court, involving the validity of a Scotch marriage, a Mr. James Law said he was acquainted with the Scotch practice, and gave it as his opinion that the marriage was legal: that a man in Scotland was often married without knowing it; that a sweep or apple woman might perform the ceremony, and it would still be a legal marriage, if the two persons declared themselves man and wife; and that it would be equally legal if the bride and groom were drunk, provided they could say "Yes" and "No."

During the year which has just ended 291 clergymen died, and thereby caused the transference of ecclesiastical revenues to the amount of £101,449!

THE QUESTION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

(From the Times.)

We must say that the state is very unsuccessful in the attempt to inspire the wholesome apprehension of blood for blood. Murders of the most open and atrocious character are almost daily perpetrated on the deliberate calculation of escape. What with technicalities and what with palliations, a loophole, it is thought, will most likely be found. The murderer, after hearing his awful sentence, returns to his cell with scarcely less expectation of life than when he left it for his trial, and does not give up hope as long as the breath is in his body. The examples we shall give are the most recent. Horler murdered his wife in the most cruel, treacherous, and open way. The usual plea of insanity preferred by his counsel had not a shadow of proof, and there was no alternative but to find him guilty, to sentence him to death, and carry that sentence into execution. Yet we read in our own columns:—

"Notwithstanding the desperate and aggravated character of the crime, it would seem that the miserable man, almost to the very last hour of his existence, was actuated by an opinion that his life would not be taken, and he frequently expressed an opinion that he should either be imprisoned for life or transported; and in the latter case he evidently anticipated that he should be very much better off, as he said he had no doubt that he should soon obtain a ticket of leave, and that he should eventually be completely restored to liberty in a country where he might have a good chance of bettering his condition."

In fact, it appears that Horler, who could butcher his young wife in a horrid manner, had himself the greatest possible horror of death. That was the sole motive at all sufficient to restrain him from crime. A short servitude in Australia, winding up with a trip to the "diggings," was the vision of happiness that illumined the gloom of his cell, and made him spare no effort to get his sentence commuted. He sent all the prison authorities, sheriffs, deputies, Chaplain, and all, with a long petition, drawn up by himself, to Lord Palmerston, who very properly let the law take its course. But life was all that this destroyer of life seemed to care for, except that, like other craven wretches, he had no less dread of pain than of death.

"From the very first the wretched man appeared to entertain the utmost fear of death, and this feeling not only related to the dread of the loss of existence, but to the bodily pain he expected he should have to undergo, and those who were about him say that, in their long experience, they do not recollect any case where a prisoner entertained such a dread and horror of capital punishment, and it was evident that no punishment, however dreadful, could have been suggested that the wretched man would not have willingly submitted to, so that his life was spared."

Nay, the ruling passion proved strong even in death, for when the bolt was drawn,

"It would seem that even at this moment the culprit was actuated by a desire to struggle for his life, as, at the moment the drop was let fall, he made a spring as well as he could to the side, and had nearly succeeded in placing his foot upon the edge of the flooring, besides an ineffectual attempt to raise his hands and seize hold of the rope."

James Barbour, who took a friend out walking, and killed him for his money, exhibited just the same indifference to every other consideration but the hope of life. Inspired by this feeling, he systematically denied his crime to the last; wrote letters to his relations and friends protesting his innocence; remarked flippantly that the condemned sermon "was a very impressive discourse, and very good for those to whom it might apply;" declared that "he knew himself best, and had made his peace with God;" asked for prayers and hymns, still keeping up the farce of innocence; and only at the very last, when the Chaplain in answer to his question, told him there was really no hope for him, confessed, "Well, Sir, I am guilty; and afterwards added, "I am the only guilty person." Had this man been relieved we should never have had a confession, and many would have believed him innocent. The certainty of death made him confess, as it would undoubtedly have prevented the crime. There have been so many instances lately of men brazening it out, and getting off by pushing their own assertions against the whole world, that the success of such criminals cannot but have a bad effect. It appears to be forgotten that when a man has an ignominious death hanging over his head, the love of life takes almost exclusive possession of his mind. There is nothing he will not do or say for it. If he could murder, rob, and lie before for the sake of money or revenge, how much more will he lie in any extent, and with all the art in his power, to save his own life? Till within two hours of his death Barbour was utterly impenitent. Both Horler and Barbour illustrate the desperate efforts that men will make to avert from themselves the catastrophe they have been ready to inflict upon others. This wholesome terror has been much abated of late, and we do not wonder at it, for the convict has only to retain a clever attorney and get a few silly philanthropists to take up his case, to deny his guilt stoutly to the last, and to write letters, meditations, and verses declaring his innocence, and respite, reprieve, commutation, and perhaps pardon, are sure to follow in regular series.

THE 8TH (ROYAL IRISH) HUSSARS.—A fracas occurred in Nottingham between a number of mechanics and a party of the 8th Hussars on Sunday evening last, which, it is feared, will terminate in serious consequences. A vast amount of contradictory evidence exists as to the origin of the disturbance, but the following, we think, may be relied upon:—It appears that on Sunday evening last a party of the 8th, amounting to about thirty, met at their house of call, the Milton's Head, Derby-road, and were quietly spending the evening, as usual. A soldier, much intoxicated, came out of the street into the public-house. The Landlord, perceiving his state, very properly advised the man to return to barracks. The soldier, however, persisted in entering, and, instead of joining his comrades upstairs, walked into a room filled with other company. In a very short time high words arose, and some of the men who were present state that the soldier challenged any one of them to fight. Upon this a general row commenced; the soldiers occupying the upper room came down to assist their comrade, and in a short time the house was cleared. It was then found that the intoxicated soldier had received some dangerous wounds. The crown of his head had been laid open by a fender, which had been used in the affray. In the course of a couple of hours a cab and an escort were sent for him, and he was conveyed to the barrack hospital. This savage attack so enraged the men of the 8th that on Monday evening upwards

of twenty, armed with short bludgeons, came into the town in search of their opponents. In this they failed, none of the belligerents making their appearance.—The matter, however, did not rest here, for on Wednesday evening, about half-past six, one of the 8th was walking towards the barracks, in company with a fishmonger of the town of the name of Thompson, when they were suddenly attacked by a number of their antagonists, and the soldier received a blow under the right eye from some sharp instrument. Thompson and the soldier immediately took refuge in the Milton's Head, and thus escaped further injury. This latter attack has more than ever incensed the men of the 8th, and it is to be feared that serious results will follow. Colonel Shewell, we have heard, is doing all he can to prevent a disturbance, and we hope his endeavors will not be ineffectual.—*Times*. [It appears from a latter report that the ill-feeling between the mob and the soldiers has subsided.]

THE FRIENDS OF THE MADIAT.—We (*Tablet*) quote the following passages from an article under this heading which appears in the *Guardian* of Jan. 12th. It is the only instance we have yet met with in the discussion in which a Protestant paper has had the courage to point out the disgusting inconsistency of the fanatics of the Roden and Cullen Smith crew:—

"Though we can accept for ourselves in its full extent the argument for religious liberty, and can urge it on Italian or Austrian magistrates with a clear conscience, whenever the right occasion presents itself, we are at a loss to understand how many who make use of it can reconcile it with other parts of their own conduct. We do not comprehend the logic of those who can draw a distinction between rival forms of religion for the purpose of enforcing a system of non-interference on the one side, which on the other they habitually scorn. If a man has a right to his own belief as against Roman Catholic governments, he must have an equal right to religious liberty against Protestant parliaments; it he ought not to be interfered with on account of his faith by Tuscan policemen, so neither ought he to be intimidated by an English mob. Yet it is no other than Lord Shaftesbury himself who has publicly expressed his regret that the laws of England are not heavy enough to crush his theological opponents, and, in default of that legislative support, has appealed to popular indignation against the fellow Christians whom it is his habit to denounce. On more than one occasion, when these meetings have produced the natural result, and an auditor inflamed by the eloquence of the platform orator have proceeded to inflict actual insult or injury on his opponents, his party have accepted with undissembled satisfaction the consequences of their appeal to the populace. No member of the Exeter-hall school has ever expressed regret for the outrage in Pimlico, or for the insult to an English Bishop, which their own harangues seemed to have invited. Yet, surely, if they were sincere in their desire to protect religious liberty, they would have earnestly protested against all such infringements upon its enjoyment. They could not have been really aggrieved at the prohibition of Scripture-reading, as a breach of freedom, when they encouraged a forcible interference with public worship. It is easy to imagine a rejoinder from the government of Tuscany to these zealous gentlemen, couched in some such terms as these:—

"Your lecture on toleration, when interpreted by your own practice, presents some difficulties to our Italian apprehensions. We are told that there is a religious school in your country to which you are opposed, and which you endeavor by all means in your power to exterminate. We are informed that you make inflammatory speeches at great public meetings, that you have formed hostile associations, that you fill your country with agitating circulars, of which the whole purport is to stir up a feeling of hatred and enmity against these religionists. We understand that your law forbids you to imprison heretics; but that you use every engine within your reach to lower the character and restrain the liberty of your opponents. If you think this to be your duty, why may not we, on equally conscientious principles, prevent our subjects from depraving the minds of their Christian neighbors by false doctrine? If your system of toleration requires you to annoy and denounce those who differ from you, why may not we, who make no such profession, obey our own conscience, and keep the faith of our subjects unpolluted? Or, if it is right in your case to stir up multitudes, and appeal to popular prejudices against what you think corrupt doctrine, how is it wrong for us to employ the machinery of our Christian laws against heretical propagandists? The truth seems to be that the friends of religious liberty in Tuscany are not always its advocates at home. The benevolent travellers, who would sooth the sufferings of the Madiat by their sympathy, have shown no backwardness to procure for the objects of their own dislike an equally intolerant treatment at the hands of bigotry and faction on English ground."—*Guardian*.

A colored man named Alfred Thomas Wood has been preying upon the religious public in England for some time past, under the character of the Minister of the Providence Church in Monrovia, and soliciting subscriptions for the spread of the gospel in Liberia.—The Liverpool Clergy, of course, recommended him to their Christian friends, but some one less zealous for the faith, or less credulous had him apprehended at Hull on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. His trial came off last week, the charge was proved, and the reverend gentleman committed to the House of Correction for eighteen months.

PROTESTANTISM v. CATHOLICITY.—Yesterday one of the unfortunate victims to Protestant "Porridge and Soup" returned once more to his former faith. This poor creature with whom we are ourselves acquainted, was seduced in the hour of starvation by the offer of a bribe of £8 per month to abandon his faith and his God; but, stung by an evil conscience, he returned yesterday to the embraces of his fond and affectionate parent. Another, a quondam member of the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, and whose act of renouncing Popery appears in the *Buwarck* of this month, has also seen his fatal error, and is now waiting to be reconciled to Holy Church, by the Vicar Apostolic of this district. On the whole, we believe that upwards of 100 converts have been received into Holy Church in this city during the year of grace 1852.—*Deo Gratias* is all we can say.—*Glasgow Correspondent of Tuam Herald*.

An extraordinary case of poisoning has occurred at Godley, near Manchester, in which a man named Thornley has delivered himself up to justice on a charge of having aided a woman, named Brookes, in poisoning her husband about six years ago with arsenic. Both prisoners have been committed.