

Whiles the Belfast journals were ridiculing the precautions of the authorities in Dublin, as calculated to produce unnecessary alarm, the manufacture of pikes, bullets, percussion caps, and cartridges was going on briskly in their own town, while quantities of powder were being carefully stored and kept in bottles in order that it might be perfectly dry. It was supposed at first that these large bottles, of which there were about a dozen, contained the mixture called "Greek fire." But the Northern Whig has since been informed by the authorities that their contents consisted of powder stored thus for the purpose of dryness. The various articles were concealed in the most cunning manner, and discovered by mere accident. In overhauling the beds, one of the detectives (Constable Buright) accidentally struck his hand against the paper on the wall, and, hearing a hollow sound, his suspicions were at once aroused. The paper was torn down and the plaster removed, when, to their surprise, they discovered the arms and ammunition.

The Pall Mall Gazette says it is the intention of the Irish Government to call up the militia for training.

BALE FOR LOYALTY.—At the banquet given to Lord Cole in Baniskillen, on the occasion of his attaining his majority, the Earl of Baniskillen stated, as evidence of the confidence of the people of the county of Fermanagh in the Government, that during the whole period of Fenian alarm they had £83,000 in their local savings-bank which there was no disposition manifested to remove.

GREAT BRITAIN.

SIR GEORGE BOWEN, M.P., ON THE ROMAN QUESTION.—The hon. member for Dundalk addressed a meeting of Catholics in the Exchange, Wolverhampton, on Monday night. He said that lately a great deal had been heard in the newspapers and elsewhere about the solution of the Roman question. He, however, denied that there was any Roman question at all. (Applause.) He could not better illustrate this Roman question than by the following question.—Supposing any of them going home that night should be met by two or three stout ruffians, who were to say, "Your money, or your life!" (Laughter and applause.)—that was the Roman question.—(Resounded laughter and applause.) It was simply a question of robbery. (Applause.) The Piedmontese, the Government of Victor Emmanuel, were acting in the most hypocritical manner possible.—They talked about the desire of the Pope to introduce reforms into his Government, but they did not want reform at all. What they wanted was to take Rome; and no reforms would satisfy them. Then they talked about the impossibility of a reconciliation between the Pope and the Government of Florence. He thought that he could illustrate that proposition in a manner which would rather resemble the illustration he had just given. It was just precisely as if a man, after robbing them of their watch and their money, were to say, "I will be reconciled to you, provided you will make over to me all the rest of your property." (Laughter and applause.) Their reconciliation was this:—They said, "Give us Rome; give us the whole of your dominions; give us everything you have got left; we have taken the greater part of it, give us all the rest, and we will be reconciled to you." (Laughter and applause.) Now, how very kind that was: was it not? (Laughter.) But he would not give much for such reconciliation. Then he said, "We will not take the whole of your power from you; we will have a garrison in Rome. That was very much like the wolf protecting the sheep. Such a protection could not be listened to; and it could not be offered without a great deal of bad faith and dishonesty. If the Pope allowed these people to have possession of Rome, he would be a prisoner, and he would be compelled to leave his capital and lose the independence absolutely necessary for the performance of his sacred duties. But there was another object; they did not only want territory and that magnificent city of Rome, but they wanted another thing. Rome was the centre of the whole civilized world. In that city were all the threads by which the affairs of Christendom were managed. Everything centred at Rome. They wanted to get hold of that centre of the Catholic Church. It was the object of the impious people who composed the Secret Society to effect the complete destruction of the religious orders. They foolishly thought that they could destroy the Church by getting hold of Rome and of the head of the Church. If they should do this they would subvert the Providence of God. (Applause.) But they did not want them to get hold of Rome, for if they did they would produce a great deal of mischief, and plunder the rest of the Church. In proof of this, let them bear in mind what had just happened in Venice.—The people who had been deprived of their livelihood because of the departure of the Austrian troops cried for "bread, bread!" at the doors of the Government offices. Upon that there came out one of Victor Emmanuel's officers, and said that the Government would do everything they could; and in order that they might have work, the Government had ordered the destruction of two religious houses. If these people were allowed to get hold of Rome, the devastation of the Church would follow, and a great and serious calamity to the Catholic Church would ensue. Sir George discontinued the habit of some in denouncing the Emperor of the French, who he said, had promised to send his soldiers back to the relief of the Pope if their aid should be required; and he concluded by urging the assembly to contribute Peter's pence, by which hitherto the Holy Father had been enabled to fulfil punctually and exactly all demands as they became due, while the spoiler and the robber, King Victor Emmanuel, remained upon the verge of bankruptcy. (Cheers.)

THE NEW COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE.—Strange Treats of Protestantism.—Some three years ago it was announced that a new commentary upon the Bible would be issued, written by some of the leading theologians and scholars in the English Church. That promise has not yet been fulfilled, but it is likely very shortly to be so. A large part of the commentary has been completed for some time. The delay in publishing it has arisen chiefly in connection with the historical books of the Pentateuch, which of course have to appear first, but are the last to be ready. They have been entrusted to Dr. Harold Browne, Bishop of Ely. Professor Rawlinson has had charge of some of the later historical books, Professor Plumptre of Proverbs, Mr. Kingsbury of the Song of Solomon. From what has been seen and heard of the commentary, it is not at all likely to be of the narrow school of criticism which was predicted by some of the Broad Church party. It will embody the results of the most recent criticism in Germany, as well as in our country. By the way, it may not be known that the 'Speaker's Commentary,' as it is called, had its origin under the following circumstances. Soon after 'Essays and Reviews' began to get talked about, the Speaker of the House of Commons was one day walking with the Rev. Mr. Cook, now Canon of Exeter, and asked him whether there was anything like an authoritative exposition of Scripture to which laymen might refer for an answer to the objections raised by the Essayists. Mr. Cook replied that there was not. Thereupon Mr. Denison suggested that the omission should be supplied, and this suggestion led to a meeting of the distinguished theologians and critics who have ever since been engaged in the work, whereof there is reason to hope that the first instalment will appear during the present winter.

ENGLISH MORALITY.—The deaths of 17 infants, all of whom had been accidentally suffocated in bed, were registered in London last week.

A number of cases entered for hearing in the Divorce Court is 120, of which 84 are to be tried without juries.

THE CONSPIRACY.—For the benefit of those who are wearied of wading through the detail of the electioneering corruption it is worth while to note a few of the most surprising revelations made before the commission now re-opening proceedings at Lancaster. It certainly is astonishing to find how high up in the social scale the purchasables are to be found. John Ball, farming 50 or 60 acres of land, received £10 for his vote for the Liberals. Robert Easton, paying £180 a year rent for his farm, voted for the Tories for the honorarium of £10. John Bond a publican, was paid £10 by the Tory side. Three other farmers, named Cottam, paying good rents, voted for the 'farmer's friend,' but took care to get £10 apiece for the patriotic act; and so did Joseph Crossell, who pays £250 a year for the land he rents. It is to be remarked, too, that these easy folks were not 'high' in their demands, for it appears that the votes of the farm laborers were secured at the same cost as those of their employers. A master blacksmith voted for the Tory and received only the usual market price, £10, which was scarcely fair inasmuch as he took £13 from the Liberals, and gave them no vote in return. One personage, an innkeeper, satisfied the demands of conscience and pocket with much ingenuity, voting for one Liberal 'for love,' and for the Tory 'for money.' It is but just to this worthy publican to add that he sold his vote for half-price. The sharpest practitioners of all was a farm laborer, who was paid by the Liberals to work on their side, and then went and voted for the Tory for £12. A lawyer who had 20 guineas as his 'retainer' says that he gave it all away in charity. We should be glad to know whether he did this before the commission was appointed or afterwards.—Pall Mall Gazette.

LAST AND NEXT NOVEMBER STAR SHOWERS.—A comparison of the whole number of meteors observed with the numerical results of previous showers shows that this shower was far less significant than some of its predecessors. Whether other parts of the world witnessed a grander phase in the display than we in England did we cannot say, for there is at present no authentic information on the point. M. Couvier Gravier, who ought to be an authority, at a recent sitting of the French Academy of Sciences, suggested that the maximum display of the epoch might be expected in November, 1867; because, he said, the really great showers are 84 years apart instead of 33, and the last of these was that of 1833. Moreover, he called attention to the fact that every very grand shower is preceded by one not so grand in the year before it. This was the case in 1832-33; whether it will be so this time we must wait till next November to learn.

AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—A series of returns have just been issued by the Board of Trade showing the acreage of land under crops, and in other agricultural districts, in the United Kingdom during the present year. In England and Wales, out of a total 371 millions of acres, 244 millions are under crops of all kinds, of which 1,920,000 under cereals, 2,800,000 under green crop, and the rest grass or bare fallow land and permanent meadow. In Scotland, out of a total acreage of 19,630,000 there were 4,159,360 under crops; of which 1,360,540 under corn, 663,000 under green crop, and the rest bare fallow, under grasses, or in permanent pasture. Another return gives the comparative statistics of the acreage and employment of land in Scotland and Ireland in 1857 and 1866—showing that in both countries the acreage under corn decreased during that period, but in Ireland in much larger proportion; while in Scotland there was an increase under the head of green crops, against a decrease in Ireland.

OUR MILITARY ORGANIZATION.—The German war has had the effect of calling the attention of several of the great Powers of Europe to the organization of their armies, and special Commissions have been appointed in Austria, France, and our own country to consider the subject. We have imperfect accounts as yet as to what has been done in Austria; the French Commission has recommended most extensive changes; and our own Commission, which was confined to the important subject of recruiting, has also made its report. There are other questions relating to our army which require careful examination and reform quite as much as the recruiting system; and when this latter has been dealt with we hope Parliament will force upon the Executive a less cumbersome system in the higher departments, and a less divided responsibility, residing either in the Horse Guards or the War Department. Another question of vital importance is the condition and amount of our Indian army, which has grown so enormously of late years, and constitutes a drain on the country which the increasing demand for labour and the rise in wages will render it each year less able to bear. Our army in India has increased from about 45,000 men, which was its strength at the time of the mutinies, to upwards of 70,000 at the present time; and it is an important question whether or not, by the increase of railways, by judiciously placed fortresses, by a higher class of soldiers, who might train levies under them in time of need, and by encouraging old pensioners to settle in India, this large amount may not be reduced to something like the number which was sufficient to gain our Indian Empire, and keep it, until Lord Dalhousie's unfortunate and short sighted policy was adopted.—Fortnightly Review.

LEPROSY.—A report on leprosy by the Royal College of Physicians has been prepared for her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is a very bulky, very elaborate, and very valuable contribution to our knowledge of this intricate subject. The college have performed this great labour at the request of the Government. The suggestion arose out of a letter from the Governor of Barbadoes to the Duke of Newcastle, stating that this fearful malady is on the increase in that colony, and suggesting that, hopeless as the case of the unhappy leper may be, the collection of reports from all the colonies on the character and progress of the disease, the treatment and dietary observed, and the general regulation of leper-houses, might be attended with some possible advantages, and tend to ameliorate the condition of these unhappy sufferers. The college assured the Duke of Newcastle of their willingness to co-operate in this humane work. On the nomination of the President, Dr. Budd, senior censor, Dr. Owen Rees, Dr. A. Farr, Dr. Gill, Dr. Milroy, and Dr. Greenhow were appointed a committee to frame interrogatories and report on the disease. These were despatched to all the colonies and a considerable mass of evidence has thus been obtained, and is here elaborately digested and collated. One most important conclusion at which they have arrived discredits entirely the belief that leprosy is contagious or communicable by proximity or contact with the diseased. The evidence derived from the experience of the attendants in leper asylums is especially conclusive on this point. Thus there is not in this great mass of reports from all parts of the world 'anything which justifies measures for the compulsory segregation of lepers.' In India no such segregation is attempted, but in many countries, including some British colonies, the slightest ascertained taint of the malady carries with it a sentence tantamount to banishment from the rest of the community, or even to perpetual detention in a lazaret. Enactments for the arrest and imprisonment of lepers have been proposed or passed over within the last few years in some of our Indian colonies. In the villages of Syria lepers are required to go to Damascus, or some other town where there may be a public asylum; and if they will not conform to this rule 'they are made to live in a cave or hut outside the village, where they remain in perpetual quarantine.' All such enactments or regulations should be abolished.—British Medical Journal.

MR. BONNETT, jun., offered to make a New Year's present of his yacht, the 'Henrietta,' to the second son of the Queen. The offer was declined in a most courteous letter.

THE BISHOP OF CHESTER ON RITUALISM.—The Protestant Bishop of Chester has returned the following answer to a memorial signed by 128 clergymen of Liverpool and the district:—

Hazarded Castle, Chester, Dec. 26, 1866. My dear Sir—I have been requested to send to you my answer to an address signed by 128 clergymen of Liverpool and the neighborhood. In connexion with one of the heads of complaint contained therein—viz., 'practices,' which the memorialists consider 'unwarranted,' which are afterwards explained to mean 'gestures, ceremonies, and vestments,' they with good reason regret that 'the law is ambiguous.' That ambiguity has recently been aggravated by the conflicting opinions given by very eminent lawyers. And no good result could be expected from any exertions of authority which cannot be sustained by law.

In the exercise of 'free thought,' with which the memorialists 'deprecate any undue interference,' they will, doubtless, be prepared to allow that our public service, according to local circumstances, admits of various degrees of embellishment, when such embellishment is not employed to symbolize doctrines repudiated by our church, but is kept within its due limits, as offering additional legitimate attraction, as ministering to the ascertained edification of the congregation, and, therefore, adopted with their concurrence. The particular ceremony specified in the address, 'the elevation for worship of the consecrated elements,' appears to me to be contrary to the concluding paragraph of the 25th Article, to the declaration subjoined to the rubric at the end of the Communion Office, and to the obligation under which our clergy place themselves, to 'give their faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments' as this church and realm hath received the same.

The second head of complaint is 'the use of services not contained in the Book of Common Prayer.' As no case of this kind has been reported to me from either archdeaconry, it may, I hope, be concluded that no presentation of such practices has been made by any of the churchwardens, to all of whom this question is put year by year. 'Does your officiating minister, properly habited, perform the service of the church as prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer?' The use of such services is in my judgment irconcilable with the declaration solemnly made by our clergy, that they will 'use the forms in the said book prescribed and none other.'

I have no sympathy with ceremonial innovations or revivals. But, while I offer my thanks to the memorialists for the respect which they express for my office, I will beg their permission to remind them that if the law is invoked for the suppression of errors on the side of excess, it must be expected that strict conformity to the Rubric will be insisted upon whenever variations or omissions in any of the offices of the church have come to have the sanction of custom.—I remain, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours, WILLIAM CHESTER.

THE HORSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF.—The following protest, signed by some hundreds of clergymen of the Established Church, appeared in the London Times of last Tuesday, the signatures, in small type, taking up nearly two columns of the paper:—

'We, the undersigned, being clergymen of the diocese of London, desire to make our public and emphatic protest against the introduction under cover of an elaborate Ritualism, of some of the fundamental and most pernicious errors of the Church of Rome into the Protestant and Reformed Church of this realm.

'We are not insensible to the objections which may be urged against such voluntary declarations on the part of clergymen who have already made the subscriptions legally imposed on them.

'But we are convinced in our consciences that the time is fully come, when, for the satisfaction of the great majority of the lay members of the Church of England, and for the vindication of our church in the eyes of others, some authoritative check should be put to practices which are confessedly introduced and maintained as symbolical of doctrines against which our Reformers protested, and in protesting against which many of the 'coble army of martyrs' loved not their lives unto the death.'

'Having waited anxiously for the effective application of any such check, by lawful authority, we now make public this our solemn protest against all doctrine and ritual, the tendency of which is to assimilate the teaching and worship of the United Church of England and Ireland to the teaching and worship of a Church which we have declared to be 'idolatrous,' and whose 'sacrifices of masses' have been called on to renounce as 'blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits.'

'And we declare our conviction that the claim of our church to be the Established Church of the realm rests mainly upon her fidelity to the principles of the Reformation.—Nov. 30, 1866.

As a set off to the above, two Ritualistic clergymen are announced as having subscribed £1,000 each, to form the commencement of a fund out of which the expenses of prosecuting those clergymen who don't observe the rubrics are to be paid. A pleasant state of things, truly, to exist amongst a body of men calling themselves a Church. Comment on these things would be useless; but do our Protestant friends not remember an apt text about a house which is divided against itself?—Weekly Register.

CHICKENS.—The number of chickens exported from France to England during the past year was 11,954, in addition to which there was exported a sufficient quantity of hair for 7,000 chickens, to be made up in England. The total value of the exports of hair and chickens from France, during 1865, amounted to 1,295,605 francs, or upwards of £45,000 sterling. England took the largest quantity, and the United States figure next on the list.

ON WEDNESDAY, the Evicted Tenants' Association waited upon Lord Derby to represent their case, which is this. Fifty thousand poor persons have been evicted in London within four years, and the overcrowding is killing alike morality and civilization.

It has been discovered at the General Post Office that many persons in America are in the habit of sending over to this country sums of money wrapped in newspapers. Notes for various amounts of dollars are the practice American papers are now examined at St. Martin's-le-Grand. It is impossible to examine every paper; but selections are made at London, and frequent seizures are the result.

Though England, as every one knows, does not grow corn enough for the consumption of her population, she probably grows twice as much as Scotland and Ireland together. The number of acres under corn crops in England is stated at 7,400,000; in Scotland at 1,368,000; in Ireland at 2,173,000; so that, assuming production to correspond with acreage, the English production more than doubles that of the two sister countries.

THE ROMANCE OF STATISTICS.—In 1843, says a London journal, a traffic equal to one-seventh of the whole metropolitan population entered the city during nine of the busiest hours of the day; in 1860 a traffic equal to nearly one-fifth of the metropolitan population entered the city during the twelve of the busiest hours of the day, and a traffic equal to one-fourth of the whole metropolitan population during the twenty-four hours. Had the persons so enumerated marched into the city in a body, in open marching order, and at the quick march step, allowing five hours to be occupied from the time that the head of the column entered until the arrival of the rear, that column would have been 40 files in width occupying a roadway of 70 feet and extending for 16½ miles in a dense unbroken phalanx. If the little human beings

whose welcome arrival causes so much anxiety and bustle in more than three hundred London homes within every twenty-four hours, were borne to the City by their nurses, as the neonati in Italy are borne through every inclemency of weather to the churches within a few hours of birth, it would require a train conveying fifty nurses each carrying a baby, to arrive daily at six of the main railway stations. From the four other principal stations, with equal punctuality would daily despatched the grim convoy of fifty coffins. How little does the habitual residents of London see of the 200 daily funerals! To accommodate the permanent daily increase in the metropolitan population of 120 souls, we require the daily erection, from foundation to roof, of seventeen houses at least, two of which must be furnished with stables. Were these houses erected in a single line, that line would run a mile into the country in the course of a fortnight, and an observer at the distance of the moon might detect the monthly increase of the orbit of the city as if it were the result of some giant process of crystallization.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE POLES.—We have much pleasure in recording an act redounding to the honor of the Prince of Wales's private character.—While in St. Petersburg, during his late visit, he solicited the Emperor of Russia, as a personal favor, the liberation of Count Stanislaus Zamoycki (son of Count Andrew Zamoycki) confined in Siberia, which request was readily and gratefully acceded to. The Count has since returned to Warsaw, to the great joy of his family, who, so less than the whole Polish nation, feel most grateful to His Royal Highness for his noble conduct.

THE ANNUAL CONTROVERSY.—One of the periodical controversies as to the effect of the Forbes Mackenzie Act with which the Scotch newspapers oven themselves has just broken out. There seems to be an idea among some good people in Dublin that a measure of this kind is very much wanted there, and so they have written to Edinburgh for information. Mr. McLaren, M. P., expresses a strong opinion in favor of the Act, and he declares that it has reduced the cases of drunkenness in the Scottish capital by 4,000 a year, and has especially lessened drinking on Sunday. To this the Scotsman replies that the Act, if it has not diminished drunkenness, has rendered it less easy of detection, since it now takes place not in public but in private houses and illicit dramshops; that before the Act came into existence its regulations as to closing public houses at eleven o'clock were enforced in Edinburgh, and that it has therefore introduced on change in that respect; and that the real reason why people now drink less whiskey is because within the period referred to the price of a commodity adds our contemporary, 'is doubted, it is certainly needless to look any further for the cause of any decrease in its consumption. Moreover, that there is no cause is painfully obvious from the fact that we sober people of Scotland now spend every year about a million and a half of pounds sterling more for drink than we spent before our reformation.' The Glasgow papers also afford some curious information as to the working of the Forbes Mackenzie Act in that city. The druggists of Glasgow, it seems, supply the general craving for drink during the hours when the public-houses are shut up. Whiskey scented with camphor and tinted with burnt sugar has long been a popular dose; and lately we are told, 'a liquor known as 'finish,' a compound of methylated spirits and french-polish extensively used by furniture polishers, has, from its superior cheapness and strength, come into vogue, and its effect upon its victims is so dangerously maddening that the police have taken the matter in hand with the view of suppressing the traffic.' It has also been observed that there is a large and regular demand for 'cholera mixtures' in which spirits form a strong element, on Sundays.—Pall Mall Gazette.

UNITED STATES.

TORY LIBERALITY AND JUSTICE.—Archbishop Connolly, of Halifax, has obtained from the Tory Government of England, after fourteen days of unremitting effort, what the bishops of the lower provinces of Canada have labored in vain, for forty years, to accomplish, namely, the right of Catholic Bishops to select and dismiss school teachers, choose school books, and disburse all monies belonging to the educational fund, for Catholic schools, and to have those, their acknowledged rights, engrained on the Constitution of the new confederation of the British North American Provinces. This information came to us direct from the Most Rev. Archbishop Connolly. Would to God our own good and wise Legislature of Ohio would do for us nearly as well Catholic Telegraph.

NEW ENGLAND SYMPATHY WITH GREECE.—Wendell Phillips, having satisfactorily demonstrated that Truth is one of the 'Lost Aris,' naturally takes up with much eagerness the cause of the Cretans, whom St. Paul long ago denounced, on the authority of one of themselves, as 'always liars.' The good man's fervor in their behalf, however, does not seem to originate solely on his sympathetic admiration of their genius for romance. He calls upon New England to hold out her hand to Greece because the Turks are such horrid wretches. This is a negative sort of support, to be sure, to give to the heirs of Midlades and Plato, as well as of Dionysius and Theristes. But is precisely the support which New England always delights to give to any cause. The effect of the Lord take no real pleasure in anything save the damnation of the unbaptized. It is not because Wendell Phillips loves the Greeks that he turns on the Domesticates stop upon the big Boston organ, but because it is impossible for him to resist the temptation of blackguarding the heathen. These abominable creatures with urbane, he exclaims, have the impudence to pose upon our good old Puritan major. They actually refuse to believe that anybody can be in the right but themselves, whereas it is notorious that we of New England are not always in the right, but that Heaven has bestowed upon us the inalienable privilege of being always in the right, even when we contradict ourselves.

Now, it is not quite true that the Turks are aggressive in their intolerance. If Mr. Phillips had given less time to the platform and more to the library, he would know that the Turks in Europe have never poached on the Puritan major. The Puritans drove Robert Williams and his Baptists into Rhode Island, hunted the Episcopalians up to Springfield, destroyed Morron's colony at Merry Mount, hanged Ananapists, whipped Quakers, and generally put a stop to all worship of God in their borders not conducted after their own will and pleasure. The Turks have done nothing of the sort. They have been despots in a political sense; but they have never seriously and officially interfered with the religious belief of their subject races in Europe. The immense preponderance at this hour of the Greek communion throughout the European dominions of Turkey is the obvious and irrefutable evidence of this. But it is not the less amusing and instructive to see the champions of the New England domination flaring up in this hot and impressive fashion at the notion that a knot of fanatics in Constantinople should dare to be as insolent and intolerant as themselves. The idea has thrown them into such a rage as to make them quite overlook the trivial circumstance that they are giving aid and comfort to most obstinate and irreclaimable rebels. When the talk is of Southern reconstruction, rebellion seems to these worthy children of Cotton Mather the blackest of crimes. When it is a question of Turkish dissolution, rebellion is altogether blessed and lovely, and of good report. There is something almost touching in this purblind inconsistency, this grave and unaffected straining at Carolina gnat and deglutition of Cretan camels.

The contributions poured into the Boston Orelan Fund must be exquisite characteristic. General Butler, for example, blubbering of the accounts of the cruel behavior of a Pacha in Candia, runs up to

the platform from which Mr. Phillips is setting forth the sufferings of the Greeks, and flings down a dozen albatross spoons taken by him as being pure silver from an obstinately rebellious old lady's cupboard in New Orleans. General Banks, scandalized at the confiscation of several drums of figs by a Turkish Admiral, offers two bushels of damaged Red River cotton and a bottle of Portland elixir. Ex-Collector Goodrich, of Boston and Berkshire, sends a package of counterfeit currency put off upon him in liquidation of fines from a corrupt importer who has subsequently emigrated to Australia. An eminent Unitarian clergyman, who gave his son to his country a simple second lieutenant, and got him back again a full major general, hands over to the valiant defenders of Arkadi a set of coral children's bells and a damaged piano obtained in the nursery of a malignant Carolinian aristocrat. We hope that the good work may go bravely on. And when all that can be collected has been collected, we devoutly trust that Mr. Wendell Phillips, General Butler, General Banks, and Charles Sumner may be appointed a committee to take the New England contributions out to Candia, with instructions to remain in the East until they shall have reconstructed not Crete alone, but all Hellas and Asia Minor, together with Mesopotamia and Syria, into the exact likeness of the ancient and fish like Commonwealth of Massachusetts.—N. Y. World.

THE MYSTERIOUS EXPEDITION.—The frequent allusions to a secret expedition to the West India Islands, or some point in that neighborhood, are the occasion of much conjecture. Admiral Porter is believed to be in command, and the steamers Gettysburg and McCulloch constitute a part of the squadron. Mr. Frederick Seward is among those who accompany Admiral Porter. These facts, in connection with a rumor that the squadron takes out one million dollars, embrace all that is positively known. It is, however, understood that the officers expected to return to the United States within two or three months. Has the expedition some diplomatic purpose to execute, with the object of securing a naval station at St. Thomas in the far-famed Bay of Samana, on the north-east coast of San Domingo?—These are among the questions naturally suggested. Something has been said about the acquisition of the Island of St. Thomas from the government of Denmark, but the Bay of Samana probably would be a more desirable possession. It will be remembered that in 1844, during the administration of President Pierce, a secret diplomatic agent (Gen. Canzano) entered into negotiation with Santamania, then President of the Dominican republic, and a treaty was formed, but never executed, which provided for the cession of this Bay to our government. The Bay lies on the south side of the peninsula of the same name, and is forty-three miles long by eight in width, forming one of the finest harbors in the world, valuable alike for its commercial and military position. The town of Barbara on the north shore, affords rare natural facilities for repairing vessels, and choice timber is found in abundance within a few miles. There are reasons why the United States should covet these possessions, but of events yet future, it is hard to predict. A telegram from Washington, referring to the revenue-cutter McCulloch, merely says, 'she is understood to form one of the expedition to the port of Samana.'—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher held forth the other day at the Southern Relief meeting in New York to the following effect:—

'I often wonder at the great waste that takes place in the operations of nature. Why can't God have just as many blossoms on an apple tree as he intends to have apples? Why should half the human race die in infancy? Why should there have been any occasion for that complaint of the man who lost his child?'

'If you was so soon to be done for I wonder what you was begun for? (Great laughter.) The mechanics, the goldsmiths, the physicians—all economize in material. How is it that God has such an enormous waste?'

The Reverend Mr. Spurgeon, of London, and the Reverend Mr. Beecher, of Plymouth Church, in respect to their grossly outrageous decency and propriety, are very much alike, especially Beecher.—Blasphemy may be very taking with some people, and it certainly pays well in New York. Mr. Beecher, no doubt, does his best to accommodate himself to the tastes of his auditory, and the 'great laughter' with which his vulgar doggerel was received, only too plainly indicates his success.

POLITICAL PRISONERS TORTURED BY THE YANKEE GOVERNMENT.—St. Leger Grenfell, a prisoner at the Dry Tortugas, is an Englishman of an honorable family, who, in the early part of the late war, made his way to Richmond, and took a commission in the service of the Confederacy—recognized as a 'ballenger' by England. After some years, Mr. Grenfell resigned that commission, for whatever cause, and, passing the lines, made a journey into Illinois.—After sojourning there some months, he was seized by the military of the United States, and thrown into prison. He was afterwards, 'tried' before one of those bogus 'Military Commissions' that the Supreme Court has declared to be lawless bodies and their sentences null and void. We saw and spoke with him, while he was there. He is a young man of delicate frame, and good education. In consequence of the sentence of that 'lawless body' he has been, for twenty months, subjected to a cruel and ignominious slavery at the Dry Tortugas. We have heard, from authority perfectly reliable but which we have had too much discretion to divulge—since our informant is, also, subjected to the same 'slavery'—that Mr. Grenfell's treatment has been atrocious, and horrible, though he has given no occasion for such severity.

This Englishman, more than a year ago, laid the particulars of his case before the British Minister at Washington. We happen to know that Sir Robert Bruce received that statement, and read it, and wrote that he would do what he could for Mr. Grenfell.—Time has passed on. A alleged letter of Mr. Grenfell, detailing the horrors that are committed by the officers at the Dry Tortugas on both prisoner and United States soldiers, was impudently published by the New York World. On accusation of writing this, Mr. Grenfell has been most cruelly tortured, and exposed to the most ignominious treatment.—All this has come under the notice of Sir Robert Bruce. The Supreme Court of the United States has declared that the very military Commission that condemned Mr. Grenfell was a lawless body. It was the same Commission that tried Colonel Miligan and Bowles. Sir Robert Bruce has this information before him. Treaty stipulations between the United States and England secure to Englishmen in this country the protection of the laws. Mr. Grenfell continues, subjected to cruel and unusual punishments, in a United States fortress, without any warrant of law, but in violation thereof. 'Sir Robert Bruce has had knowledge of all this, and yet he sits dinners with William H. Seward, drinks wine with him, and plays lunkey, generally!'

The English Government used to swagger more than any other, about how it protected British subjects all over the world. If it had been the Napoleon Government, under its late Bourbon king, that had in prison an Englishman, how stout would have been the demand for his release, and for compensating damages to him! If it had been Portugal, that had been one of the South American States;—but the roaring lion is now a many dog, cowering while lashed by the United States, and licking the boot that was used in the kicking of Gibraltar's baseless ones! Let all the world learn to insult and degrade this expelled bully, England. If Grenfell lives, let get out of the Dry Tortugas, let him down the craven country that did not see the law executed in his regard.—N. Y. Tribune.

A forty-two mile sleigh race for \$3,000 was run in Providence. Three hours and twenty-five minutes was the winning time.