

HARVEST PROSPECTS.—A week of almost continuous rain has already created a decided reaction in the agricultural world, and effectually calmed the apprehensions of the alarmists, who, not altogether without reason, predicted a late and deficient harvest as the consequence of the cold and wind weather which characterized the spring season from its opening to the close of the present month. Within a few days the whole face of the country has undergone a favorable transformation, and vegetation has progressed with a rapidity well-nigh marvellous, so that it may now be fairly anticipated that the poorer classes will shortly feel the benefit of the change in the reduction of the prices of the common necessities of life. The following satisfactory report appears in the *Mail* of Friday night:—"The late seasonable change in the weather is attended by the most hopeful improvement in the aspect and promise of the country. The early potatoes, which had suffered by tipping frost at the beginning of the month, have recovered their healthful appearance, and are making a rapid growth; though, from the lateness of the season at which the seed was committed to the ground, they, in common with every kind of produce, will probably be a fortnight later in coming to maturity than last year. The grain crops also, especially oats, about which considerable apprehension existed, have changed their sickly hue to a deep and honest green; but perhaps, the most welcome amendment of all—because of its extreme and immediate urgency—is that which has taken place in the pasture and meadow lands. Ten days ago nobody could have believed that the face of nature in these latitudes could have put on so fresh and vigorous a complexion in so brief a space of time. Provisions of all kinds are enormously dear; but the common people are everywhere employed at remunerative wages, and, along with their employers, look forward—in humble dependence upon the Giver of all Good—to an abundant year as the ample reward of their toil, and compensation for their present privations."

TENANT RIGHT.—We regret to learn that the Earl of Clare, who has come into possession of his extensive property little more than twelve months, has raised the rents of his land in some instances £25 and £30 per cent. Much pain is felt throughout the estates in consequence, as this is the first public act of the noble lord as a landlord.—*Tipperary Vindicator*.

DR. WHATELY AND HIS CLERGY.—The *Evening Mail* contains a curious statement about the distribution of Ecclesiastical patronage in the diocese of Dublin. The present Episcopal administration, it appears, has not given much satisfaction in this respect. Dr. Whately, in the latest instance, is accused of having promoted a mere youth, to the exclusion of a Divine of many years' service. To this charge, we collect, the Archbishop has replied by stating, among other reasons, that he could not allow his patronage to be usurped by a "Rector, or the appointment of a Clergyman" to be made a mere matter of popular election. But another reason of a peculiar kind has been assigned for the election. What would the reader think of a Clergyman being appointed to a parish because he was a mesmerist? "The Archbishop," says the *Mail* "had promised to provide for the youthful subject of his mesmeristic diversions." "For the Christian people of this kingdom," again it observes, "the question of permitting an aged man to be amused with homoeopathy, and mesmerism, and table-turning, and the like fooleries is unfortunately complicated with that of the very existence of the Church as an establishment." And a correspondent of our contemporary, who signs himself by the explicit title of "A Looker-on, thoroughly disgusted with the patronage in Dublin Diocese," says that Mr. Fletcher is an excellent mesmerist, an art which, he understands, a Clergyman should be perfect in. After this, marvels will never have an end.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The mortality in London continues at a high rate. The deaths registered last week, were 1,187. Sir Benjamin Hall has issued a circular to the Local Boards of Health, warning them that the season is approaching when cholera has usually made its appearance, and urging the immediate adoption of the precautionary measures prescribed by existing statutes.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—The British Foreign Legion is at length destined to become a reality. Recruiting on an extensive and successful scale has been carried on in Canada and the United States, whilst in Europe considerable activity has been displayed by the authorities to whom the formation of the legion has been entrusted. In Heligoland will be concentrated the numerous recruits from the northern countries who may be tempted by the advantages offered by the British government. Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and the provinces of Schleswig-Holstein, will contribute many hundreds of excellent and seasoned soldiers, to whom the hardships of the bivouac, and the vicissitudes of a campaign, will not be unknown. The Piedmontese cabinet has granted permission to the British government to form a recruiting establishment on its territory, with the view of attracting the warlike population of Southern Switzerland to the British standard. The Grand Duke of Baden has likewise allowed the formation of a similar establishment in the Grand Duchy, which will facilitate the operation of recruiting officers in the northern cantons of the Swiss republic. The legion is to be composed only of subjects of Sovereigns not engaged in hostilities with the Emperor of Russia. No French or Sardinian subjects will be admitted into the ranks of the legion, but recruits of the remaining European nation will be freely accepted. The soldiers are offered a certain engagement, which is to terminate one year after the conclusion of the war, but, at the same time, the British government reserves to itself the power of discontinuing at any time the services of the legion, or any part thereof. The latter clause is evidently framed in the event of any misconduct manifesting itself, and is merely a precautionary measure. The head-quarters of the legion will be established at Shorncliffe, and on the little island of Heligoland. On those points the recruits will be concentrated, as they may arrive from all parts of Europe, and they will there receive the proper military instruction. As the major portion of these recruits will consist of men who have already served their respective countries, the latter step will not be of long duration. Preparations are actively progressing in Heligoland for the reception of recruits. Quarters for two thousand men are ready for distribution, and the accommodation will be increased by two villages of wood-huts now in course of erection.—*Ministerial Paper*.

The death statistics of the war, presented by Earl Grey to the House of Lords on Friday, are indeed appalling. In the course of less than two years at least 500,000 human beings have perished on the field of battle, in hospitals, or in the nooks and corners where homeless peasantry crawl to die when war is raging around them. The variety and intensity of the pangs summed up in this brief statement of human suffering, are such as defy the most vivid imagination to body forth.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.—THE GOVERNMENT GRANTS.—We find from the detailed list of these grants that the whole sum last year bestowed on separate Catholic schools amounted to about £2680; which raises the total for Scotland to £45,134.—*Edinburgh Courant*.

We learn from the *Glasgow Free Press*, that the fanatical street-preacher, James Orr, who has made himself so conspicuous in America and Scotland, by his efforts to excite riots against the Catholics, brought an action before the High Court of Justiciary, Glasgow, last week, to set aside the sentence of the Greenock police bench, which had sentenced him to 60 days' imprisonment for his turbulent proceedings in Greenock on Sunday, April 1. After a lengthened discussion of the case, the court granted Orr a fuller investigation into the facts of his conviction and sentence, liberating him in the meantime under the nominal bail of £5 to return to custody when required.

The *British Banner* complains that a bust of the Cardinal has been placed in the Crystal Palace near that of the Royal family. It seems that Protestantism of the country was roused and remonstrances addressed to the directors; and the bust has actually been moved.

PROTESTANT LIBERALISM.—We read in the *Edinburgh Courant* a Scotch Protestant, but truly liberal paper that—"The Free Church Synod of Angus and Mearns have demanded of the House of Commons that such of our gallant soldiers now in the East as happen to be of the Roman Catholic persuasion shall be deprived of the consolations of their religion! "Your petitioners"—say the members of this numerous and important provincial council of the Free Church—"your petitioners cannot but regard with dissatisfaction any countenance or encouragement given by the Government of this country to the Roman Catholic religion. They have observed with regret that Roman Catholic chaplains to the army in the Crimea are in the pay of her Majesty's Government—a thing which your petitioners believe is altogether new. May it therefore please your honourable House to interpose your authority to prevent the continuance of this practice." The Free Church lately asked and obtained the appointment of a chaplain to the troops in the Crimea, and we are not aware that any one grudged the concession however inconsistent the demand must have appeared with the pretext upon which the Lord Advocate's Bill is founded—that there is really no difference in point of faith between the various denominations of Scotch Presbyterians. Her own demand for a military chaplain in the Crimea being yielded, one might surely have supposed that the Free Church would be satisfied. But no—the Free Church Synod of Angus now tell us that to fill up the cup of her content, she must be assured that the boon which is bestowed upon her own sons is to be withheld from the members of another persuasion. That the Sutherland Highlander should be soled and sustained in his last hours by the counsels of a Free Church minister avails her nothing, so long as the dying pillow of the Connaught Ranger is smoothed by the ghostly offices of a Roman Catholic priest!

THE LATE PRESENTATION OF CRIMEAN MEDALS.—There were some pleasant incidents in the course of the day. One young soldier having received his medal, hastened up to an exceedingly pretty girl near me (evidently his fiancée) and confided to her ready, but not over-steady hands, the duty of fastening the badge upon his bosom. The pretty flurry in which this was performed, and the proud look of the young soldier, decorated by his Queen, and having the decoration fixed by his mistress, was well worth seeing. Another incident was the Queen's conferring the medal upon a young officer who came on crutches to receive it—he was almost too weak for the exertion, and he leaned a little helplessly while her Majesty was speaking to him, which she did with much interest. As he was retiring the Queen bent forward, and put out her hand as if to steady him on his way, and the natural womanly act produced a sensation. An Irish soldier is the third person of whom I will make mention—he came from his Sovereign's presence in a state of boiling heat of delight, and meeting a friend of mine who had known him, caught the latter by both hands, begged a hundred pardons, then caught hold of him again, and burst out, with an introductory oath, "Sir if the people at—(some unspellable Irish name) could only just have seen the Queen giving me, Mick H—, this here medal with her own hand, I'd lay down and die next minute, or go back to the Crimea and fight them Russians to the day of my death." Nor was this enthusiasm partial, or confined to the *decorés* themselves. I am informed that the tremendous success of the metropolitan recruiting officers that might and subsequently, has astonished them. Lastly, let me say, that the Queen went through her work nobly, and as one whose heart was in it, and the very last marine of all that long array, who came up to be decorated, received as marked and cordial attention from Queen Victoria as the officers of the highest rank.—*London Correspondent of the Inverness Courier*.

UNITED STATES.

CURIOUS RUMOR ABOUT MR. BANCROFT.—The *New York Times* has the following:—"There is a rumor circulating about town, in literary circles, that our distinguished fellow-citizen, Hon. Geo. Bancroft, the Historian, has gone over to Rome, or is about to become a member of the 'Romish Church.' We do not know what truth there may be in the story; but it probably has grown out of Brownson's commendations of Mr. Bancroft's lecture before the New York Historical Society."

THE CHARACTER OF THE INFAMOUS MASSACHUSETTS KNOW-NOTHING LEGISLATURE.—His, the individual lately expelled from the Massachusetts Legislature, asserts that he can prove that one hundred and eight members of that Legislature have during the present session visited houses of prostitution! One of these visitors, he says, is a reverend gentleman, high in office, who was closeted for half an hour with a lady of easy virtue, who was formerly a member of his congregation. A pretty set of men, truly, to rule over the land of the Puritans!—*N. Y. Citizen*.

The *Independent*, a Protestant Journal of New York asks, "Why do the working classes of the cities absent themselves from places of worship?" He adds:—"It may as well now be fairly looked in the face by our religious bodies, that in cities they are directly reaching but a small quota of the whole population. The churches, and many of the clergymen, speak, as if they really worked upon the masses, and religious worship were a great influence falling upon the whole people. There are those in our pulpits who move about in their little circle of influence, who do their appointed service among their congregation or their sect, who contend ardently for a scholastic dogma, or who battle over a form, or a posture, or a surplice, as though the whole world were equally interested in this 'church millinery;' and never seem to think of the great, unhappy, irreligious, indifferent multitude which is sweeping, under its own impulses, past all forms or expressions, whatever of religion. The Church, in a wide view, has come to act on one stratum, and the immense class of working poor to live in another. Christianity has left the classes among which it had birth, and belongs now in the large towns to the rich and the comfortable. Yet it is very difficult to persuade people of this. Each one is so absorbed in his own pursuit or circle, that he cannot be brought to look at what is out of it and uncongenial to it. This is especially so in New-York. Until recently one might have thought that piety was one of the most comfortable and fashionable of things, enjoying its friendly and cultivated associations, its Sabbath feast of taste and music, its sweet moods of pensive thought, while the ten thousands without were hurrying on their errands of passion or were sunk in a remediless misery and degradation. How, in the pleasant, trivial round of parlor-pieces, had that severe and majestic form passed away from memory, with its weary and stern life of continued self-forgetfulness; its speech telling of struggle, and self-denial, and poverty, and toil, as the natural expressions of love to Him, and the death which should be, till the end of time, the emblem of an all-forgetting and all-suffering love! Such pictures, placed by our modern Christianity, might seem mockery. And those early churches, how unlike to ours! Those brotherhoods, where the workman, the redeemed prostitute, the hard and weather-beaten slave, the rich merchant the peasant, the scholar, and the nobleman, all bowed together before the same infinite, unseen Friend and Saviour; the only condition of admission that they should have a broken contrite spirit, and should believe in the Crucified. How is it in New York? The test there—that the worshipper should be able to pay from \$50 to \$250 per annum; the brotherhood, an ill-cemented audience of people, either rich or at least well-to-do in the world. Cannot the churches see that such arrangements as are now made in almost every church, must shut out the poor and even the respectable working classes? Do Christian men know how vast is the number of people in New-York who never enter a church, and really could not find a place if they wished to? Take the Fourth Ward alone. Its population is about 40,000; we know of but three churches in it, though there may be a fourth. Perhaps 3000 people out of 40,000 attending Sunday religious services! Take the quarter below the Park, with its immense population; here again only three or four churches, and those thinly attended. The societies are continually moving their houses of worship up town, and there the old difficulty is continued. The seats are for the rich; worship is conditioned on a good pew-rent, and the message of the Gospel depends on the number of dollars the disciple can first pay for his place. If we had not become used to all this as a most convenient financial arrangement, we such consider it unspeakably revolting, and inconsistent with Christianity. To preach only to a certain scale of incomes; to make the glad tidings of the Gospel depend on the amount of bonds, and mortgages, and bank stock the hearer may have; to say in effect to the poor, sorrowful, soul-thirsty worshipper, "You cannot come here; you cannot worship with us; you have not the cash;" this, if heard for the first time, would sicken us of such religion; and yet how universal is this arrangement! The effects are most palpable on the better class of mechanics and day-laborers. They will not come to a church to be set into the pauper's seat; they cannot always accept hospitality, and as the seats are generally dearest in the churches where are the best preachers, they stay away entirely. Of all places on earth where money should not show its proud and brazen face, it is in the house of worship, to the infinite Spirit. There, at least, even, if nowhere else except in the grave, should men be equal, and the soul be good for what it is worth to its Maker. Even the Pagans can teach us in this; and the Roman Catholics in their European churches, are in this nearer the apostolic example than we.

ERISOPACY AND ROMANISM.—In 1850 we had 1,459 churches, and in 1855, the number is 1,595—an increase in five years of 136—or 27 a year. The Roman Catholics build nearly five churches to our one.—*Protestant Churchman*.

MISS BUNKLEY CAST IN THE SHADE.—It seems that another "escaped nun" has turned up in the interior of New York. The following gives some account of her:—"The *Lost Sheep that was Found*."—Under this head the American announces editorially a lecture this evening, at Minerva Hall, by Miss Sabina Carlton, who has been confined in nunneries in Michigan and Indiana, from which she fortunately made her escape," &c. Only yesterday she wanted us to announce a lecture in favor of nunneries, to engage a band of music, secure the Corinthian Hall for her, and so on. She gave a sort of reference to a respectable family; in this city, and she had just been at service; and said if we would not comply with her request she would go to another office—for lecture she would! We see her threat is fulfilled. We hope the American has the band ready; and that it will give us a full report of the expected disclosures.—*Rochester Union*.

ABOLITION BLASPHEMY.—It makes the blood curdle in the veins to read the horrible blasphemies of some of the Abolition Leaders of the Know-Nothing Order. Here is one that is really appalling, and we would not permit it to appear in our columns, were it not to show the public the true character of these abominable infidels. Henry Ward Beecher calls Garrison "my dear brother Garrison," and Garrison publishes a communication in his *Liberator*, which says, "If God has the power to abolish slavery, and does not, he is a very great scoundrel." Such are the blasphemous sentiments uttered by the abolition organ, and yet thousands of ministers of the gospel are associated with this man in the Know-Nothing movement, and endorse his actions by their votes. This is consistency.—*Pennsylvanian*.

BARNUM'S BABY SHOW.—Of all the humbugs and indecencies this Prince of humbugs has ever perpetrated upon his poor deluded country men, this annual baby show is the most extensive and most indecent. What will their descendants, a hundred years hence, think when they read that intelligent and educated American woman, in this the nineteenth century, were so lost to all feelings of delicacy and shame, as to exhibit themselves and their offspring to the vulgar gaze of the passing crowd, and actually contest with each other, as to who should carry off the prize for producing the greatest monstrosity in the shape of fat and flesh? Only fancy our well-bred delicate ladies going to visit all the extremes of monstrosity; Barnum has on view—from the most adipose lump of greasy babyhood, to the most tiny homopathic extract of the spirituelle. One 4 years old weighs 75lbs.—another 2 years old weighs 50lbs. One girl is exhibited on account of "a bosom prematurely developed;"—and she is, of course, "an object of interest" to Shanghai young men. Twins and triplets are in abundance; and in order that the poorest may be exhibited, if only in other respects they come up to the mark, Barnum furnishes clothes for anxious mothers who are unable to procure this prime necessity for their offspring. But we sicken at the details. Surely, Mayor Wood is not doing his duty, when he does not put a stop to this abomination. Surely exhibitions such as that we speak of, which must, to all who take part in them, put to flight every pure and holy and feminine feeling, should, for the sake of public morality, be at once suppressed.

The House of Representatives of the Illinois Legislature recently resolved that a fine of 500 dollars be hereafter imposed on any lady who shall lecture in public in any part of the state, without first putting on gentleman's apparel; whereupon a contemporary resolved that, "when the legislators make old women of themselves, as they do when engaged in such legislation, they should, by the same rule, put on petticoats."

A PIOUS FRAUD.—Every one who has lived in this City for the last five or six years, will recollect the Edmondson sisters and the great meeting held at the Tabernacle in 1849, or thereabouts, when the sum of \$2,500 was raised on the spot for the purpose of redeeming them from Slavery. Since that time, one of them has been called away by death. The youngest, Emily, after having taught for some time in a school in Washington, undertook to pilgrimage through the Northern States for the purpose of raising funds to buy the freedom of one of her brothers, who was unmarried, but had been sold together with another brother who had a family, into the Red River country. The latter one, his master refused to sell at any price. The sister's labor was successful in raising \$800, which was deposited in a Bank in Washington, till the time for its use should come. Before that time Miss Edmondson and her mother were visited by a man, who represented himself to be a son of Dr. Bond, of the City, the Editor of the *Christian Advocate*. He told them that he was an agent of a Society at the North for the purpose of getting slaves to the North, and for the sum of \$350 he agreed to get away not only the one for whose freedom the \$800 had been raised, but also the married brother and his family. He "talked so pious," as that they said, they were cajoled into trusting him, paid him the \$350 and took in return a mere scrawl of writing, and waited until the time which he had set for his arrival with the two brothers, the 10th of May, had past, when as they heard nothing of them, Miss Edmondson came on to see Dr. Bond to make inquiries about his son. Of course, the swindle was apparent at once, but too late. The \$350 was gone, and with it the present hopes of even the one brother.—*N. Y. Times*.

NEW YORK MILK.—Mr. Wise, of Virginia, in a late speech, is reported to have said, respecting that State;—"She has an iron chain of mountains running through her centre, which God has placed there to milk the clouds and be the source of her silver rivers." The *Rochester American* remarks—"The figure is borrowed from the New York milkmen; who milk the clouds as much as they do their cows, and draw from the former the most palatable and healthful portion of the compound fluid."

AN EDITOR'S OWN DRINK.—According to the *Princeton Kentuckian*, the following is a recipe for the exclusive drink of McGowdin, the magnificently funny editor of the *Paducah American*:—"Take one pint of good whisky, stir in well, one spoonful of whisky; then add another pint of whisky; beat carefully with a spoon, and keep pouring in whisky. Fill a large bowl with water, and make the servant set it out of your reach. Take a small tumbler, pour in two spoonful of water; pour out the water and fill up with whisky and add to the above. Flavor with whisky to your taste."

TRANSIENT YOUNG MEN.—Girls beware of transient young men; never suffer the addresses of a stranger; recollect that one good steady farmer-boy or mechanic is worth all the floating trash in the world. The allurements of a dandy jack with a gold chain about his neck, a walking stick in his paw, some honest tailor's coat on his back, and a brainless skull, can never make up the loss of a kind father's house, a good mother's counsel, and the society of brothers and sisters; their affections last, while that of such a young man is lost in the wane of the honeymoon. 'Tis true.

THE EXPECTED GREAT COMET.—The eminent astronomer, M. Babinet, member of the Academy of Sciences, gives some very interesting details relative to the return of that great comet whose periodical course is computed by the most celebrated observer at three hundred years. Our cyclical records show that it was observed in the year 104, 392, 682, 975, again in 1264, and the next time in 1556, always described as shining with the most extraordinary brilliancy. Most of the European astronomers had agreed in announcing the return of this comet in 1848; but it has hitherto failed to appear. We are informed that a celebrated and accurate computer—M. Bomme, of Middleburgh—with a patience and devotedness truly German, has gone over all previous calculations, and made a new estimate of the separate and combined action of all the planets upon this comet of three hundred years; and he has discovered that it is not lost to us, but only delayed in its motion. The result of this severe labor, gives the arrival of this rare and renowned visitor in August, 1858, with an uncertainty of two years, more or less; so that between 1856 and 1860 those who are then living may hope to see the great luminary which in 1556 caused Charles V. to abdicate.