

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN'S PAMPHLET.—The publication of Mr. Smith O'Brien's pamphlet, in condemnation of the project for an invasion of Ireland by France, has given rise to a good deal of adverse criticism in the columns of the *Nation* and other journals of kindred principles. By way of general reply Mr. O'Brien writes a letter to the editor of the paper mentioned, which, with the exception of a few preliminary observations, I submit:—

"For myself, I have executed a very painful duty—not hastily, but after having considered the subject during more than 15 months.

"While I appreciate the noble qualities of many of the 'men of 1798' I have always considered that the proceedings which they adopted with a view to serve their country were most disastrous to its interests. Especially disastrous were the consequences of two courses of action upon which they relied—namely, the formation of secret societies, and an attempt to liberate this country by means of foreign aid. Had they supported the small party of patriots which was led by Grattan in the Irish Parliament with the same energy which they had misapplied in the formation of secret societies, and in looking for foreign succour, they would have eventually obtained all that this nation required, and the 'Union' would never have taken place.

"We are menaced with a repetition of these errors by the formation of the Phoenix Society—and by the tendency to look to France for deliverance, which has been manifested since the battle of Solferino. I have therefore felt myself compelled to warn my countrymen against the danger which is impending, and I am happy to find, from several private communications, which I have received, that some of the most enlightened and patriotic of my Catholic friends do not discover in my language that tone of disrespect of which the critics who have reviewed my pamphlet in the *Nation* complain.

"A Belgian friend, however, upon whose judgment and experience I place much reliance, tells me that Mr. Martin and I are like those doctors who formerly sought by long investigation, to account for the appearance of a golden tooth in the head of a human being. After the argument had lasted for a long time, it was at length discovered that the assumption on which the argument was based was unfounded; for that no such golden tooth had been discovered in the head of any human being. He assures me that Louis Napoleon never will invade England or Ireland, so that the hopes and fears founded upon such a contingency are equally illusory.

"There is a tradition in the county of Clare that a gentleman named Michael Comyn, who wrote some stories and poetry in Irish, which well deserve to be read by our students of the Gaelic language, was so firmly persuaded that a French or Spanish invasion that he spent great part of his life in meditating upon this contingency. The invasion never took place, but Mr. Comyn neglected his business and spent his fortune in preparation for it, so that he reduced himself from comfortable circumstances to pauperism.

"Let us not imitate either Michael Comyn or the learned doctors. Let us not neglect the essential interests of our country while we cherish illusory expectations.

"I differ with much that I see in the columns of the *Nation*, but I am happy to agree with its writers in thinking that our aspirations for national independence ought not to prevent us from using all the resources that are furnished by the institutions under which we actually live, for the purpose of obtaining improvements either by social efforts or by legislation. The policy of Parliamentary independence which the *Nation* has so long advocated, is quite compatible with a resolute determination to promote, by all the means in our power, the recovery of the legislative independence of this country.

"I would myself prefer that the Irish representatives should meet in Dublin rather than in London, if they were sufficiently numerous to form even the committee of a national Council; but, if the constituencies of Ireland neglect such opportunities as that which will be afforded in the county of Cork during the present week for the election of Peers as members of Parliament, those who desire to promote the social and legislative improvement of this country are not therefore bound to fold their arms and to abstain from endeavoring to serve their country through the agencies which they can at present command.

"For my own part, I will give such support as I can offer to any useful proposal, whether it emanate from an Orangeman, a Conservative, a Whig, an Old Ireland Repealer, a young Ireland Repealer, or a Franco-Irishman; and if we act towards each other in this spirit, perhaps we shall find that there are a great many questions of common interest in regard of which all Irishmen can agree.

"You may remember that our recent controversy originated in apparent difference of opinion respecting the formation of Volunteer corps in Ireland. I am now happy to find that this difference of opinion was rather imaginary than real, and I believe that there are very few Irishmen who would not prefer that the scenes of 1798 should be again witnessed in Ireland rather than those of 1798.

"Believe me, yours very sincerely,
"WILLIAM S. O'BRIEN."

THE NATIONAL PETITION.—Our columns this week bear witness that the National Petition movement is in active progress. From our countrymen in Leeds we have received a roll of signatures numbering nearly 8,000. Galway has forwarded 900, and Mullinahone 800, the names of the patriotic clergy in all cases heading the lists. We are happy to know that amongst the honest and hardy sons of the West the movement is now being energetically carried forward. Every exertion should now be made to complete the signing of the petition, as it is most likely it will be presented in the course of the ensuing month. The gallant Chieftain of the Glens, who is to present it, is actively and practically attending to its interests, and the high confidence reposed in him, by the most eminent persons in this country, has resulted in giving to the national protest a great increase of strength and authority. The Dublin Committee are next week to commence to count the signatures which have already been received. Persons in town or country who have completed lists in their possession, should forward them, without delay, to the Committee Rooms or to the office of this journal.—*Nation*.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—Mr. William Donnelly, the Registrar-General for Ireland, has sent in a report to the Lord-Lieutenant, showing the agricultural condition of Ireland in the middle of 1860. The results exhibit the effect of the great deficiency of the hay and other crops of 1859 on the number of live stock. The decrease in cattle and sheep is not so great as might be expected, when the extraordinary prices of hay and all feeding for farm stock are taken into account. The number of horses in Ireland in the year 1860 was 620,938; of cattle, 3,599,235; of sheep, 3,537,846; and of pigs, 1,268,598—a considerable decrease being thus shown in the first three cases from the corresponding number of the previous year, while in the last a slight increase is apparent. The value of these animals, assuming the horses to be worth £8 each, the cattle about £6 10s, the sheep 2s and the pigs 2s—the rates assumed for the Census Commissioners of 1841, was £4,967,504; for the sheep, £2,891,630; and for the pigs, £1,585,737, the total being £3,839,869. The total increase in land under crops is 105,365 acres, in spite of a decrease in that under cereal and green crops and flax, amounting in all to 52,010 acres. The great increase is in land used as meadow land, and for clover—167,375 more acres being cultivated in 1860 than were cultivated in 1859. The total number of emigrants from Ireland—according to this report from the 1st of May, 1859, to the 1st of September 1860, including males and females of every age, was 1,140,982.

The Rev. Michael Dwyer, P. P. Ballinacally, Co. Clare, than whom there is not a more zealous or excellent clergyman in the south of Ireland, is after building, within a very short period, two elegant churches in his extensive parish of Ballinacally, county Clare. On Sunday, the Right Rev. Dr. Flannery, Lord Bishop of Killaloe, dedicated one of the churches; the dedicated sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien, P. P., V. F., Kiltineane.

The attitude of the Irish Catholics at present fixes the attention of the Catholic party and press on the continent, who, struck by the courageous and independent tone taken by the Conservative leaders in both Houses last week, asks is there to be another session of vacillation and treachery on the part of those who represent the interests of the Holy See in the British Parliament. The *Ami de la Religion*, after a clear and eloquent review of the speeches of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, says:—"There they are, two and thirty gentlemen, having it in their power to attract with them many other votes, on the question of the Papacy, on that of the Tenants, on that of Education, on that of the monastic establishment of the State Church in Ireland; they could force the Ministry to terms on many of these grave questions; but they divide themselves instead into three separate parties. Alas! what ought the party distinctions of Whiggery or Toryism to be to you? Under one form or another, is there not in both the same spirit of hatred against your religion, your tendencies, and your views? When will there arise among you a man, only one man, capable of making you comprehend the benefits of union? He would be the true saviour of his country, far more than those who are so insistent as to invoke for Ireland a French invasion, of which they would in all probability be the first victims. It may be said to us, we know, 'You are too severe on Ireland! A thousand times, No. We love Ireland with a sincere love; we grieve over her past sufferings, of which she still bears the traces; we firmly believe in her future prosperity; but we must feel a bitter grief when we see her children thus quarrelling over the prostrate body of their mother, and then a cry of indignation escapes us. After all, is it unjust or severe in us to say: 'Be united?'"

The *Universel* of the same date contrasts the conduct of the Polish Deputies in the Prussian Chambers with that of the Irish members in the House of Commons in the following terse passage:—"Prussia has barely escaped a ministerial crisis; in consequence of the amendment of M. de Vincke, M. de Schleinitz offered, it appears, his resignation to King William, but his Majesty found a sufficient reason for not accepting it in the fact that the 13 votes which formed the turning point of the majority, were those of the Polish deputies. And these deputies voted against the minister, not because of their sympathy with Victor Emmanuel, but in order to exhibit their opposition to a Government, of which they do not cease to complain. If the Irish Catholics would take an example from the attitude of the Poles, who have much less than they to complain of their Government, long since the Palmerston-Russell Ministry would have been overturned to the happiness of Europe, and the advantage of the general peace." What even a small number of Catholic members may sometimes have the opportunity of doing, is again illustrated by the division of this week on the Income Tax. The Government were beaten for the first time this Session by a majority of four. As it happened, exactly four Catholic members voted in and made the majority—Sir John Acton, Messrs. Blake, Hennessy and Maguire.

A well-deserved compliment has been paid to Sir Leopold O'Connell, the great Arctic voyager, by the presentation of a massive service of plate. Sir Leopold is a member of a family remarkable for their strong Protestantism, and he himself, I believe, partakes largely of their prejudices; but this did not hinder Catholics from taking part in a complimentary toast to him as a distinguished Irishman. The Catholics took a warm part in this matter. Upon every occasion upon which liberal and enlightened views are to be practically exhibited, Catholics are sure to stand forward in pleasing contrast to Protestants, who have ever professions of liberality on their lips.

The Goldsmith Statue at Dublin will be placed within the open space before front. In the statuette of Mr. Foley's design the poet is represented standing, his head slightly drooped, as in meditation, his left hand holding a book or tablet, and in his right hand, which is raised towards the face, holds a pencil. There is no cloak or drapery. The large and massive head, and heavy immobile features of the "inspired idiot," render him a difficult subject to the sculptor. Mr. Foley, nevertheless, has produced a beautiful statuette.

Six Armstrong guns have arrived at Ballinacally, Co. Clare, for the natives.

One hundred of the Tipperary Constabulary passed through Limerick to day en route to Mallow to attend in that town during the polling for the County Election, on Monday next.

FAILURE OF AN INFORMER TO CONVINCE A NUMBER OF INNOCENT MEN.—The offer of a large reward for the prosecution to conviction of some person or persons for the commission of crime, is a proceeding highly dangerous to the lives and liberties of people of the poorer classes, whose means of employing legal defence are very slender. There cannot be the slightest doubt that many innocent persons have been hanged and others transported, on the evidence of "informers" and their accomplices. A number of men in the North of Ireland have just had a narrow escape out of the hands of one of these worthless. After the murder of the Scotchman Murray, at Glenreagh, upwards of sixty persons were arrested and thrown into jail, and the greater part of the number were released or bailed out, from time to time, according as they established their innocence or found solvent securities for their future appearance when called on. Twelve of them remained in custody up to the present time, and these have now been set at liberty in consequence of the discovery that the story of the informer, on the faith of which they were arrested, is simply a concoction from first to last. He undertook to point out the spot where Murray was murdered and on proceeding to the mountain, the place to which he conducted the police was no less than two miles away from the scene of the murder. On the informations of this fellow a man named Troy was arrested in Glasgow, and brought to Ireland as one of those concerned in the firing at the Rev. Mr. Nixon, but after he had undergone several days' incarceration the police found the evidence against him was utterly untrustworthy, and he was set at liberty, to find employment again, if he could, after having a charge so serious preferred against him. This, and very much worse than this, comes of the encouragement given by the Government to every rascal who trump up a story of Ribbonism and assassination, and offers to swear to it stiffly—for a "consideration."—*Nation*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The Estimate of the probable expense of our land force during the ensuing year is £14,000,751. Of this the sum actually required for the effective services is £12,493,943, the remainder going in the shape of half-pay, pensions, superannuation allowance, &c. The total number of men to be voted is 146,044.

The Navy estimates for the years 1861 and '62 were issued this morning. They show a net decrease of £806,625. The saving under the head of "Conveyance of Troops," is £231,000. The sum for "Building, Repairs, and outfit" of the fleet, steam machinery, and ships built by contract, £3,480,477, being an increase of £255,043. The total force in the fleet and coastguard service will be 73,200 against 85,500 last year.

The *Great Eastern* will probably sail next Monday for America.

AN IRISHMAN MAY SPEAK HIS MIND.—In a recent debate on the Chinese war, Lord J. Russell said, in answer to Mr. V. Scully:—"Full justice is always done in this House to the gallantry and good conduct of the Irish troops (hear, hear); and the hon. gentleman, although the representative of an Irish county, is fully entitled to make any representation which he thinks proper with regard to the conduct of the officers employed in China."

Lord Normanby (whose just and honorable conduct towards Catholics, both at home and abroad, we have more than once had reason to notice) has given notice of a resolution expressing regret at the acceptance of Mr. Turnbull's resignation, "as tending to cast an unwarranted imputation on a gentleman of acknowledged talent and integrity, and to induce an impression on the public mind that the profession of the Roman Catholic religion is a sufficient ground of exclusion from public offices from which Roman Catholics are not debarred by law, and for the faithful discharge of the duties of which their religious opinions do not in any way disqualify them."

Lord Edward Howard having called the attention of Government to the singular proceedings of the Sardinian troops in the South of Italy, Lord John Russell took the occasion to repeat the charges of the Sardinians as to outrages said to have been committed by the Royalists, and added, that they were committed by officers, formerly from Gaeta and now from Rome. He admitted that his authority for this statement was the Sardinian Minister. Unhappily, we believe that a civil war, unstained by outrages, on both sides, is almost without example in the history of the world, and our estimate of the national character of the Neapolitans is not so high as to lead us to expect to find any exception in their case. The subject will no doubt be farther discussed.—What is as yet clear is, that the dominance of Sardinia in the South of Italy, in spite of the force of "universal suffrage," is nothing more or less than the dominion of the sword.—*Weekly Register*.

The South of England has had its storm in its turn. Happily the loss of life seems to have been confined to two persons killed by the fall of a house at Northampton. The Crystal Palace has been seriously injured, and we regret to say the noble spire of Chichester Cathedral was blown down at one p.m. on Thursday, the 1st March.

An unfortunate event happened at Chichester, on Thursday, when the beautiful spire of the cathedral of which the inhabitants were justly proud, fell to the ground. The accident was occasioned by the unsoundness of one of the piers upon which the spire rested. Fortunately the workmen who had been engaged in strengthening the pier were absent at dinner the time the accident occurred, or a lamentable loss of life would inevitably have occurred.

In the House of Lords on the 1st, Lord Normanby and Malmesbury attacked the Sardinian Government and denounced the policy of England.

THE ROLL OF THE LORDS.—The roll of the Lords, spiritual and temporal, has just been published. There are 30 spiritual lords and 427 temporal, reckoning Lord Auckland among the former as Bishop of Bath and Wells. The spiritual lords are 26 English prelates and four Irish, the Irish prelates on the roll this Session being the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishops of Down Ossory and Cork. Of the temporal lords three are of the blood royal—the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cumberland (King of Hanover, and the Duke of Cambridge. There follow 20 dukes, 22 marquises, 131 earls, 28 viscounts, and 223 barons. This, however, is reckoning them technically, according to the titles by which they sit in the house. For instance, the Duke of Buccleuch is placed among the earls, because he sits, not by his Scotch title, but as Earl of Doncaster in the English peerage, and the Duke of Argyll is reckoned only among the barons (Baron Sundridge); the Earl of Roden is Lord Clanbrassil, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Somerville; Lord Panmure also remains among the barons; his newly-inherited Scotch title of the Earl of Dalhousie having no seat in the house annexed to it. Assigning all such peers to the rank and title by which they are commonly known, and speaking popularly, the temporal lords are—a prince, a king, 27 dukes, 35 marquises, 170 earls, 31 viscounts, and 162 barons. The whole number in the House, therefore, is 457; a generation ago it was not 400.

THE ORTHODOX POULTR.—Mr. Brockhurst, the Protestant clergyman, whose assault on Mr. Dodd, a brother clergyman, at Cambridge, we reported last week, has addressed the following letter to the *Standard*:

"Sir—In answer to what you said of me a day or two ago in connection with the above occurrence, allow me to remind you that, apart from the horse-whipping, the facts are, after all, as follows:—

"A clergyman, holding a fellowship in the University as well as a vicarage in the town, omitted a short time since the name of our Lord in the grace which he pronounced in the hall of his college. On being asked by my informant (a clergyman of high character and standing) who was present, for his reason, he pointed to it in a Jew fellow commoner at table.

"Unable, impressed as I am with what is due to the Saviour's name, to allow it to be so dealt with for any reason whatever, and assuredly not for the one assigned, I resolved, right or wrong, at any cost, to have an apology for such an offence against our common Master. To this end, I applied, in the first instance, to the Vice-Chancellor, who counselled me to call on the offender: This I accordingly did. He, however, who had once forgotten his fealty to truth itself, was not ashamed to part with his own, if he had any, in a direct and reiterated denial of a charge which, of course, Christians of all communions will agree was of the gravest character.—No thus, in order to screen himself from its possible consequences, threw on an innocent friend the odium not only of a falsehood, but a calumny as injurious (considering the profession of both parties) as can well be conceived.

"Now, Sir, even apart from his affront to the Saviour, let us add the horse-whipping, and (if the point of honor, as it surely ought to be, be as dear to Ministers of the Gospel holding their Saviour's commission as, thank God, it has ever been to officers of either service holding the Sovereign's) what is the result?

"Surely, it is hardly less than that (according to imperishable statutes affirming truth to be the ornament and jewel of our sex, as purity is that of the other) the Rev. R. Dodd, in spite of the affectionate sympathy of his parishioners, deserved what he received, however, University statutes are against it, at the hand of."

"Sir, your obedient servant,
"J. SUMNER BROCKHURST.
"Steven's Hotel, Broad street, London,
Feb. 2."

A Cambridge M.A. also writes from York to express his indignation that the University and College authorities should have allowed the flagrant insult offered to Christianity by Mr. Dodd to pass unpunished. Both these letters assume that Mr. Dodd did omit the name of our Blessed Lord in the College Grace, and that his motive was, that there was at table a Jew fellow-commoner (a class of students who pay higher fees than others and mess with the college-fellows as so called at Cambridge.) It appears, however, that Mr. Dodd denied the fact. That gentleman, not to say the Cambridge authorities, will surely feel it necessary to refute the charge, else it will require much more than the unquestionable intemperance and violence of Mr. Brockhurst to shield them from merited condemnation by all Christian (not to say all honest men of every other class) throughout the world. Meanwhile the *Saturday Review* depreciates the restoration of the "argumetum baculum," and argues that nothing in the case proves Mr. Brockhurst to be insane, and that if sane his punishment ought to be more severe than four years' suspension from his academical degree.

In the House of Commons the Syrian question was debated. The conduct of the French troops was generally condemned. Lord John Russell admitted that the occupation had been useful, but thought it desirable to terminate it as soon as possible.

A correspondence between Mr. Turnbull and Lord Shaftesbury appears in the papers. The letters of the noble lord are pre-eminently characteristic. He first shuffles, and, when nailed to the point by Mr. Turnbull, just gives, to a grain, the bare amount of satisfaction which he is forced to concede. We are happy to see that a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, praying them not to accept Mr. Turnbull's resignation, is now in course of signature, and has already had the names of men of high standing of the most widely differing opinions appended to it, all disgusted with the intensely bigoted and unprovoked attack which has been made upon a scholar and a gentleman, solely on the score of his religious opinions.—*Guardian*.

The *Australasian* broke both flanges of her screw on the 20th February, in lat. 39, long. 24, and continued on her voyage westward till the 26th under canvas, when a heavy gale was experienced from the westward, and she lay before it, reaching Queensland on the 3rd. During one day the *Australasian* made 250 miles under canvas.

Mr. Curtis writes from Paris in the *London American*, to press the immediate necessity of the Atlantic Telegraph. The former line failed, he says, first, because it was made with iron wire, the weight of which caused a strain; next, because gutta serena is not elastic, and therefore, once strained lets in the water, and is so easily affected by heat that in the hold of a ship the wire sinks to the side of the isolating material and makes a flaw. He proposes to avoid this last danger by using India Rubber or caoutchouc for the isolator of a thick copper seven-strand conductor. This is to be inserted in a hemp rope, which is so light as to be "paid out" without difficulty, and lasts far better than iron in sea water. As to the wire, he suggests that the strange magnetic disturbances near the North Pole are a fatal objection to the Iceland line, and the importance of having intermediate stations is so great that the best line will be "from Falmouth to Ushant, thence to the Azores, then to Newfoundland, from which a line to America now exists and works beautifully." There seems a good deal of force in these suggestions, especially as regards the use of hemp instead of iron for protecting the conductor. Our Government, however, would, of course, refuse to take the line through France, and thus put our communications with America wholly at the mercy of a foreign government. It may easily be taken direct from Cornwall to the Azores, if that line is on the whole preferred.

New banking frauds both in London and Paris. The ledger clerk of the Commercial Bank in Henrietta-street is accused of abstracting nearly 70,000l. from his employers during 12 years' service. While in Paris, the arrest of the "great financier," M. Mires, and the death by apoplexy or suicide of another financier, M. de Richemont, supposed to be implicated in the same frauds, have for the moment superseeded all other topics. M. de Mires threatens the most astounding disclosures.

CHILDHOOD IN SUNDERLAND.—Out of every 1,500 infants born in Sunderland 500 die before they grow up out of infancy! Could this wholesale annual massacre of innocents only be made palpable to the eye-sight, as a bloody business carried out by means of swords and spears, like the infernal work accomplished 1,800 years since by the soldiers of Herod, how the world would reverberate with the utterances of horror to which it would give rise. Yet what is the difference? The process is much the same, only more quietly and secretly carried out; that is the only chief difference. Death is not less cruelly and wantonly at work in the modern instance than in the ancient. At Newcastle the infant mortality is not much less—440 per 1,000—while in Halifax, Bradford, Derby, and Birkenhead it falls to 170 per 1,000.—*Builder* (English paper.)

The poet Young calls "suicide our island's shame." The petty causes which lead to suicide, or attempts at it, must often strike the public with astonishment. At Clerkenwell Police Court two cases of attempted suicide came before the magistrate on Thursday. One idiot had heard that "Opium was good follow spirits," and he tried suicide as a remedy; and the other idiot (a servant girl) tried suicide because her master "had spoken badly of her." Happily for themselves both idiots recovered.

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.—The Church of England is in danger this time for nothing more than a book—a quarterly publication, written by Protestant clergymen, or collegiate officials, and which emanates from Oxford printing presses. The names of those writers are good, their titles authoritative: they are the Rev. P. Temple, Master of Rugby, Chaplain in ordinary to the Queen; Rev. Rowland Williams, D.D., Vice-President, Lampeter College; Rev. John Powell, M.A., F.R.S., Rev. H. B. Wilson, C.W. Goodwin, Rev. Mark Pattison, B.D., Rev. Benjamin Jowett, Greek Professor, Oxford. These gentlemen thought very naturally that they had as perfect a right as Luther, or Arndt, or Melancthon to go on their doctrine of private interpretation of the Bible. So in a serial volume, which bears the title of "Essays and Reviews," they have very gravely taken the Bible to task, and as they do not seem to understand the sacred writings, they conceive with justice that there are a great many to whom the publication of the ignorance of the Essayists and Reviewers might be interesting. Not seeing by Faith, they go by Reason, and—natural consequence—the reason ends in scepticism. They had out a great many things which pass for learned novelties, and in reality use old fallacies, or good sound Reformation doctrine, which is much the same. They have a theory about Moses which is not creditable to his truth. They flout at miracles. They do not believe that there could have been a wall of waters, even though vouches by Holy Writ. They cannot agree to the details of the Deluge; and they branch those ideas in most learned forms, and with a considerable amount of quiet unction. On this account, and for such writing impeaching the truths of Inspiration, the benighted shining lights of the London clergy have holden a solemn convocation some time since, in dread alarm, at the "public profession of infidelity by ministers of the Church of England." Unfortunately, the meeting was not unanimous. One of the benighted Seers having read a resolution, applying the term "infidel" to the writers of these Essays, found that a number of his apostolic brethren grew indignant at such a term being applied to a number of clergymen of the Church of England, under any circumstances, no matter what they preached or wrote. Those very tolerant persons, finding that they had no influence in this British Sanhedrin, having given their protest, withdrew from the scene.—The real business of the emergency then went on with all the regularity of a parish meeting. Resolutions were come to about the danger threatening the Church, properly moved and vigorously seconded, and the shepherds of the fold decided they had done everything necessary to secure its safety when they decided upon an address to the Bishop of London on the necessity of doing something in the untoward business. What that prelate is to do, or how he is to stem the torrent of destruction, was not clearly indicated; but it seemed to be very generally considered that he was to do it—whatever it might be—that should be done. It was, indeed, supposed that in conjunction with his efforts, those of some other very mysterious body, entitled by the Reverend prelates the "Rulers of the Church," would be interposed. Understanding those to be the authorities of doctrine in the institution, we confess a great curiosity to know who they are? We believe that they are not members of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council; and inferring from the German case and that of Mr. Heath, they are not the Bishops

most certainly. Who are the rulers of the Church? Where are they? What have they been doing about the measure of English faith, the Thirty-nine Articles, came to be recognized as a suspicious sham? Are they some secret body known only to the initiates of mysteries hidden as those of Eleusis?—Here the matter stands on the part of the Church, or a portion of the Church, at all events. The Bishop of Oxford has been in the field even before the benefited clergymen to whose meeting we refer, and the Bishop fulminated with very flaming thunderbolts at these writers. Since that time one of the Essayists has been elected to the dignity of Rector of Lincoln College, one of the Oxford halls, by the Reverend Fellows of the College. Those dignitaries must consider that the Essayists are orthodox Protestants, and therefore regard the flashes of the Prelate of Oxford as nothing more than mimic lightning. The controversy may grow interesting upon the question from this view, and probably very puzzling also. The difficulty in the end may be that the benefited clergymen who met in London are the outsiders, and that the Essayists and Reviewers may come to be the true interpreters of the Mammoth Law Church. They stand at all events upon historical ground. They are within the circle from which Luther thundered his defiance. They speak as Balaam spoke. They write as Labadie wrote. In all the German and Continental quasi Reformed Churches they can find their fellows. In the English Church, hitherto, their doctrines have not a mark of reprobation. From Sherlock to Parr there have been dignitaries—men holding the highest offices—who have just reasoned as those later Essayists. Strange enough, Chillingworth, the great advocate of the Bible, the whole Bible, held many of those opinions, and yet his name is in many a benefited Assize's mouth very constantly and as a great teacher and a guide. We do not despair that "Essays and Reviews" may be one day regarded in the British Church as a text book for interpretation. It has the mark of established orthodoxy in its freedom of private interpretation, and is logically a consequence of its development. The Church may be in danger from having any prejudices in favor of Christianity clinging to its teachers, if they spread or agreed with such doctrines. But the establishment would be leaving its own ground, and infringing upon the position of Catholicity, to attempt to interfere with private judgment. Here is private judgment, indeed, and private judgment with a vengeance. We do not understand, then, what necessity there is for the Bishop of London, or the benefited clergymen, or the rulers of the Church—who are our stumbling blocks—to interfere with this great religious Protestant right. Private judgment is the primary tenet of the Establishment, and if those Divines have exercised it to its fullest extent, they have only done their guaranteed duty. They have on your side what have learned at their father's knee. They have only done what has availed the echoes of every conventicle, and even the sympathies of every Protestant congregation. In the meantime they seem to have touched the hearts of a great number of the elect of the Establishment. Their book has an enormous sale, and we gain more, from all the noise about it. Editions of it are rapidly exhausted, and it enjoys a flourishing circulation. It is going on much longer its work will have been done, and we candidly admit we do not see what authority there is to prevent its progress.—*Dublin Morning News*.

At the present time there is but one object of conversation in Paris. It is not the Pope or the United States, or the theatrical success, or the last domestic scandal. The interest attaching to the downfall of M. Mires swallows up all others. Yet great jobbers have failed and been exiled and sent to prison before now. In this country M. Mires would be a nine days' wonder, and no more. In Paris his fall is looked upon as a great political event, which an Emperor and his Ministers cannot see without concern. It is, no doubt, a serious thing that, in a country so strictly ruled as France, a notorious speculator should have been permitted to carry out his plans with more than the ordinary license of his brethren, and should be, according to a common report, so closely connected with men in high station as to compromise the reputation of the Government. M. Mires was arrested on Monday evening last, and sent to Mazas. He had been some time under the eye of the police. His house was stopped payment, and the "Caisse Generale des Chemins de Fer" is to be provisionally administered by the Compteur de Garminy, Governor of the Bank of France. The immediate cause of M. Mires' downfall was, of course, the failure of his Turkish loan. But transactions of very various natures will have to be exposed and unravelled by those charged with winding up his affairs. There is hardly anything which M. Mires has not touched, and nothing that he touched which he did not complicate. The death of M. de Richemont, collector of taxes in Paris, and a member of the Committee of Superintendence of the "Caisse des Chemins de Fer," has naturally raised the excitement of the Parisians to the highest point. This gentleman is officially stated to have died of apoplexy, but of course the popular voice declares that he hastened his end in order to avoid arrest.—For the truth respecting these matters we must wait yet awhile. But we are less concerned with the fall of this unfortunate banker than with the commotion which it has caused in the popular mind. The old proverb, that there is no smoke without fire, though it is rather a dangerous one to apply to the concerns of life, yet unavoidably recurs to us when we hear of the French people daily expecting the suicide, or flight, or arrest of men of importance in the State. It is vain to conceal the fact that suspicious of the public point to a certain set of politicians who have been for many years the main supporters of the present dynasty. Bonapartism has suffered in the opinion of France and of the world by its association with men who have raised themselves from poverty to enormous wealth by means of speculation. A speculator, powerful at the Bourse, has had the opportunity not only of making correct predictions, but of causing the fulfillment of them. If stocks rise and fall according to the chances of peace, on other hands those chances are played with so as to make the financial barometer fluctuate conveniently. So this man and that man, and this woman and that woman, have been able to blaze forth among the magnates of the most expensive capital in Europe. So "appartements" at a fabulous rent, and English horses and carriages, and furniture elaborated in the very wantonness of display, and diamonds which might tempt the Sultan to add to his debts, are the property of men who but a few years ago sipped their coffee and pocketed the sugar at second rate restaurants. The *liberal indignity* of the public is of course not wanting when these fortunate operators appear to display their quickly gotten wealth.—*London Times*, Feb. 22.

EXTRAORDINARY REPERCUSSION.—The *Observer* of Sunday states as a fact, what we should have found it impossible to believe if we had not received it from such an unimpeachable authority:—"The pitch of helplessness," it says, "to which the Austrian power in Hungary and Croatia is reduced may be estimated by the fact, that the men who were hung and shot without mercy in 1848-9 are now openly elected as representatives of their fellow-countrymen, though still in exile." We are in some doubt how to understand this passage. Are the men who were hung or shot in 1848-9 alive and in exile? If so, when were they restored to life? If they were restored to life shortly after they were hung or shot, how is it that we never heard of the miracle before? If not, how is it, that being dead, they have passed this long period in exile? Or perhaps it is intended to say that the constituencies in Hungary and Croatia have preferred to elect dead men to represent them. But then, how about the exile? The matter is involved in the greatest obscurity. We entreat our contemporary to ask Bishop Villiers, whose admirable lucidity in letter-writing has been remarked upon by the *Examiner*, to explain it.—*Star*.