

a reduction of the tobacco duties, 47 petitions, signed by 5,975 persons; and for an alteration of the poor law amendment act, 33 petitions, signed by 1,101 persons.

**DECLINE OF SOCIALISM.**—The Rotunda, in Blackfriars-road, which was for some years occupied by the "Rev." Robert Taylor, Carlisle, and their infidel clique, and more recently by the Socialists, has at last been deserted, and is now shut up. A very hard struggle to retain it was made, balls, concerts, blasphemous lectures, refreshment room, theatricals, &c., being provided. All failed, and the Socialists, having packed up their traps, moved off just in time to avoid quarter day, which is close at hand.

**IRELAND AND REPEAL.**—At a meeting of the Dublin Repeal Association, a letter from Mr. O'Connell was read, from which the following passages are cited as worthy of especial notice:

"I meet many Englishmen who are in what I may call the precursor state, declaring positively that they will assist in 'the repeal,' if the present Government persevere in its present impolicy with regard to Ireland; and as such perseverance is certain, I reckon on having much English assistance, even before the session is over, in advocating repeal."

Alluding to reports that the repeal agitation is to be abandoned, he adds—

"English sympathy induces us to be more moderate in tone and conciliatory in language, but it leaves untouched and undiminished the inevitable necessity of the restoration of the Irish Parliament for any redress of Irish grievances."

Ireland was tranquil, though in some sections of Connaught the humbler classes were suffering extreme distress for want of food. The London Times says that the repeal agitation continues in activity, with little abatement of the professions or pretensions which were exhibited before the warfare in the Queen's Bench, but with an evident consciousness of much diminished power to do mischief.

**O'CONNELL.**—There is a very general report that the Government will not imprison Mr. O'Connell and the parties connected with him, even in the event of the reserved points being decided against him. This impression accords with a very common desire amongst all parties, unless perhaps very extreme politicians, and their number is exceedingly few. The purposes of the Government are mainly obtained by the verdict, and there is good reason to believe that there will be no repetition of the violent language used during the excitement of the last summer.—*Banner of Ulster.*

**ORANGISM.**—A meeting was held at Coleraine on Monday the 12th, which was attended by upwards of ten thousand Orangemen, from the counties of Antrim and Derry, for the purpose of reviving Orange clubs in Ireland, and resolutions to that effect were unanimously adopted.

**ARREST OF RIBBONMEN.**—The "Northern Standard" contains the following:—"Charles M'Kelvey, Esq., sub-inspector of the Glaslough Police Station, having received information that several Ribbonmen still held meetings in different parts of the country, arrested, on Monday night last, eight of them, and lodged them in Monaghan gaol. Papers connected with the system were found on two of them."

**TAXATION IN IRELAND, ENGLAND, AND SCOTLAND.**—In Ireland the imperial taxes are not ten shillings a head per annum; and the local taxes, (namely, £1,200,000 county cess, £500,000 tithes, £300,000 poor rates, and other taxes) amount altogether to about five shillings a head yearly. In England, the imperial taxation alone is fifty shillings a head per annum; and the local taxes at least twenty-five shillings a head per annum. In Scotland the imperial taxation is nearly forty shillings a head per annum; the local taxation about ten shillings a head per annum. Ireland, with a population of more than one half that of England and Wales, does not contribute one-twelfth of the taxes of the empire; and Scotland, with a population only one third less than Ireland, contributes a greater quota to the support of the Government. The whole of the revenue raised in Ireland is spent in Ireland; but Scotland contributes annually more than three-and-a-half millions sterling in revenue alone of the British exchequer!—*Martin's "Ireland before and after the Union."*

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS RESPECTING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCHES OF THE THREE KINGDOMS—THE CATHOLICS—AND THE DISSIDENTS.**—Mr. Milnes—to move a resolution, to the effect that it is just and expedient that a provision should be made by law towards the maintenance of the secular Roman Catholic clergy exercising religious functions in Ireland. Mr. Ward—to move, as an amendment upon Mr. Milnes' motion, that no provision for the maintenance of the secular Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland can be just or expedient, or will tend to the re-establishment of tranquility in that country, unless based upon such a revision of the whole ecclesiastical system as will place the clergy of all religious denominations upon a footing of perfect equality. Mr. Hume—address to her Majesty, that she will be pleased to institute an inquiry, whether the number of her Majesty's subjects dissenting from the doctrines and discipline of the Established Churches of England, Ireland, and Scotland, are now more in number than those who belong to and attend the Established Churches; and if so, whether the time is not arrived when all the public property granted by Parliament for the support of these Established Churches should be withdrawn from them, respect being had to the existing interests of the clergy and other persons actually employed in the service of the Established Churches; and whether it will not be more just and useful to the people of this kingdom to apply the revenue of the church for the purpose of educating the people, or for such other national purposes as Parliament may think fit.

**THE LATE VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.**—The late Henry Addington Viscount Sidmouth, whose death took place at Richmond Park, on the 15th instant, was eighty-six years of age.

He was Speaker of the House of Commons from May, 1789, to March, 1801; First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, from March 1801, to May, 1804; Lord President of the Council, 1805; Lord Privy Seal, 1806; and Secretary of State for the Home Department, from 1812 to 1822.

The life and character of Lord Sidmouth belong to history; and his most anxious and attached friends need not dread their judgment in his case. It is not the province of periodical literature to anticipate that judgment; but even now so long an interval has elapsed since Lord Sidmouth ceased to be the Prime Minister of England, or, indeed, since he took any prominent part in public life, that, almost before his death, he may be said to have been judged by posterity—so far at least as the earlier and more active portion of his career is concerned. We might, therefore, now review his administration, almost as we might review that of Walpole, without personal partiality on the one side, or personal hostility on the other. It is enough, however, to say, what no living enemy ever denied, that he possessed great singleness of purpose, high moral courage, uncompromising principle and the happiest combination of suavity and firmness in public life. In private life, he never had an enemy, and in the wide circle of his friends, and in the more sacred recesses of his family, his warm and unselfish character, his frank and generous appreciation of merit in others, his affectionate and grateful sense of the attentions of his connections and dependents, will long be remembered; and the recollection will be a bond of union to the survivors. While, in the simplicity of his mind, he never obtruded his own religious convictions upon others—he never shrunk, on the other hand, from their avowal, when it might be useful; and in the latter years of his life, he employed the leisure which a merciful Providence had extended to him, with the unimpaired vigour of his mind, to the habitual preparation for the world into which he has now entered, his single trust being in the Lord Jesus Christ, through whose merits and mercy he hoped, as he stated a few days before his death to his family, to be reunited to them again and for ever.—*Standard.*

#### WHITE SLAVES SET FREE.

In the course of last month, a Russian man-of-war, the *Jitsch*, bound from St. Petersburg to Kamschatka, in consequence of meeting with a dreadful gale in the Channel, was compelled to put into Portsmouth to refit. On board of her were ten Poles from the interior of Poland, who having been enrolled in the Russian army, had

been turned over to the maine, and made into sailors. They formed part of the crew of the vessel, but had reason to believe they were destined to be disembarked in Kamschatka, and to be kept for the remainder of their lives in the dreary regions of Siberia. These men having been forced against their will into the service of the oppressor of their country, were, to all intents and purposes, slaves. But it is the boast of England that the chains of the slave drop from him when he treats her shores, and these gallant fellows, finding themselves in a British harbour, resolved to free themselves from the yoke of their tyrant. Accordingly, having one day been sent ashore for some purpose, they took the opportunity of quietly discharging themselves from the service of Russia. Dire was the anger of the captain and officers when the boat returned without them, and grievous the knocking inflicted on the rest of the boat's crew for letting them go, as if they could have helped it. The captain proceeded immediately to London in pursuit of the men, and probably learnt with surprise that the laws of England would not allow him to interfere with them, that his Imperial Master could not be permitted to infringe the law in this country, and that in this respect the Czar of Russia was but on a level with the meanest refugee. Such, however, he found to be the case, and he has been obliged to proceed on his voyage with his crew thus diminished. The Poles remain here in safety, but their position in a strange country, with whose manners and habits they are totally unacquainted, cannot be enviable. They are all stout, intelligent men, and declare they would encounter any hardship, and submit to any privation, sooner than continue to serve a master they detest, with the knout at hand, and Siberia in perspective.—*Times.*

#### PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN LITHUANIA.

**WARSAW, Jan. 22.**—You will with difficulty credit the extent to which the persecution of the Jews of this country by order of the government of his Majesty the Emperor Nicholas is extending. I shall, however, be brief in my reference to it.

An Imperial ukase has been received in Lithuania, directing the authorities of towns and other localities inhabited by Jews, to transport those unhappy persons, amounting to 36,000 families, to a distance of twelve leagues from their several actual places of residence. This cruel ukase was further to receive its execution before the 18th instant, so that, at a moderate estimate, 150,000 persons of both sexes, and of all ages and conditions, are at this moment, in the midst of all the rigours of a Lithuanian winter, expelled their houses and forced to seek a resting place in strange countries, not merely among strangers, but among people predisposed to view them as outcasts, and objects for extortion, persecution, violence.

Sacrificing a great principle in order to protect a suffering race, Europe interfered between the Greeks and their butchers. Here is a case for intervention not less urgent. Will the Christian Powers of Europe remain silent and inactive in the presence of such horrors?

**IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.**—The last news from Washington is interesting and important. We learn from the *Athens Daily Advertiser* of the 25th inst, that the Senate has rejected the resolutions, moved by Mr. Atchison, proposing to declare the treaty of 1818 for the joint occupation of the Oregon territory, at an end. The vote was 18 for the resolutions, and 28 against them. The *Advertiser* adds:—This puts an end to the subject for the session, and is good news.

**CAPTAIN STROCKTON**, of the Steamer *Princeton*, has made a present of \$10,000 to the widow of the late Mr. Secretary Gilmer. He has also given \$200 to the widow of the colored cook, who was killed at the explosion, on board the *Princeton*, and has taken charge of Commodore Kenyon's two boys.—*Statesman.*

The large cannon which recently exploded on board the *Princeton*, was fifteen feet long, had a bore or muzzle twelve inches in diameter, and carried a ball of two hundred and thirty pounds weight—the gun itself weighing ten tons.

The war in China has been very disastrous to that nation. Late advices say it has cost them 20,000 lives and one hundred millions of dollars.