

The annual meeting of the Munster Flax Improvement Society was held on Tuesday in the Corn-Exchange, Cork. The Earl of Bandon presided, and delivered a lengthy speech, containing much valuable information relating to the cultivation of flax. He quoted the following from an Ulster gentleman:—I have it on the best authority that the machine-makers of Belfast and Leeds have now orders on hand for 200,000 spindles of flax machinery, all for low numbers of yarn, which they are bound to finish by June next. If this additional machinery come into operation, it will require 15,000 to 20,000 tons of additional flax to keep it employed. Our total consumption would be nearly 170,000 tons per annum. I have no doubt that our price this year will average £70 a ton at least. At this price our crop is worth four and a half millions sterling. This ought surely to be an inducement for other parts of the empire to imitate Ulster and do likewise. It is a shame that the farmers of the poorest soil in the empire should do more good to our home trade than all their brethren. As for the exhaustion of the soil by it, all crops are exhausters of the soil if grown for the purpose of producing and ripening seed, and so would flax be if the production of seed was the object in view. But it is absolutely necessary, if fine fibre is to be produced, that flax must be pulled before the seed is ripe, and agricultural chemists and farmers of practical experience will both concur in this, that flax grown from the fine fibre does not exhaust the soil comparatively with the reputation which it has for doing so.—Dublin Times Cor., Dec. 22.

IRISH MANUFACTURES.—A capital lecture on Irish manufactures was delivered by the Lord Mayor of Dublin in the Industrial Exhibition on Monday evening. Though his Lordship had recently been the host of the Lord Lieutenant, he reversed in his instance the text which affirms that evil communications corrupt good manners. He demonstrated, with no ordinary facility of argument and phraseology, that if manufacturing enterprise is dead in Ireland, it was England who first crushed it. Commercial jealousy prompted the British manufacturers to obtain from Parliament enactments that virtually shut out Irish products from the markets of the world.—The same jealousy works and succeeds, as the failure of the Galway Company abundantly proves. We are nearer to America by long chalks than England, yet our trade with the Republic is miserably small in comparison with what it ought to be. Our neighbor absorbs it, and she well knows why. Nevertheless it cannot be denied that Ireland ought to do more than she does. We cheerfully admit that gold mining in Wicklow is a perilous experiment, as it is in Wales; that Irish coal is not suited for the highest manufacturing purposes; and a number of other reproaches against the resources of the island, of which we are too often and too offensively reminded. Still there is work to be done, and the means at hand with which to do it. Are we to be told that a line of steamers running from a western port to America cannot exist without the aid of a Government subsidy? Liverpool, independently of postal contracts, manages to bridge the ocean with her fleets, flush her docks with merchandise, and overflow her coffers. What is to prevent an Irish company from imitating her example and succeeding? By relying on the beggarly generosity of the Government we are wroting and ruining ourselves. Had Mr. Malcolmson waited until that would enrich him there would not be fifty masts in the port of Waterford.—In plain truth, we want men like this vigorous enterprising merchant, and this want supplied, we want a reform of the land laws. First give us the means of producing something to export, and then facilities for exportation. Mr. Smyth, of the Irishman, has been constantly urging on the country the benefits of direct communication with France. The advantages of such communication are as palpable as rock-limestone, yet no one seems to appreciate that, or appreciating abstains from realizing them. It is a sad story; but truth is never too palatable.

THE PENALTY.—CHARGE OF ADMINISTERING ILLEGAL OATHS.—Before Messrs J. Somerville, J. H. Beecher, E. Newman, W. O'Donovan, R. H. Beecher, J. Swanton, W. Robinson, E. Downing, C. O'Connell, R. M., and the Hon and Rev. Mr. Freke. Cornelius Kane, an attorney's clerk, lately employed in the office of Mr. Fuller, solicitor, Skibberene, was charged on Wednesday by sub-inspector Potter with having administered illegal oaths to several persons at Rath, on Sunday, the 6th of November, and on Sunday, November 20. Patrick Connolly, Timothy Sullivan, and Denis Donovan, men of the laboring class, were charged with having aided and abetted Kane in the administration of the illegal oaths on these occasions. The case excited intense interest in the town, as it was alleged that the defendant, Cornelius Kane, was a member of an association of persons called Fenians. The court house was densely thronged, principally by people of the working class.

Mr. Bryan Galloway, Sessional Crown Prosecutor, attended to conduct the prosecution. Mr. Wright, solicitor, Clonakilly, appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Galloway, in opening the case, stated that the prosecution was instituted by direction of the Government. The charge was brought under the 50th George III, cap 102, sec. 1, which enacted that no man as attempt to be made to seduce his Majesty's subjects in Ireland into treasonable and illegal societies, any person administering or causing to be administered, an illegal oath, or aiding or abetting the administration of an illegal oath, should be deemed guilty of felony, and be liable to be transported for life. By a subsequent statute the penalty was altered to penal servitude. He would at once proceed to examine witnesses in support of the charge, and if he proved it he would ask the bench to take informations, and to return the case to the assizes for trial, for the offences would be admitted to be a very serious one, and calculated to subvert the peace and good order of society.

The following were examined, and deposed: I saw Kane on that Sunday in my mother's house; about dark he began to talk to me about this affair; there was no person by; Kane asked me would I wish to be an Irishman and fight for my country; I said I would not, or something like that; he had a book and he asked me would I kiss that to be a comrade and I said we me the book and asked me to kiss it that I would not tell what passed between him and me; I took the book into my hand, and put it to my mouth in the form of an oath to him that I would not tell the secret that passed; he said something to me about when the time would be appointed; I did not want to join him; when he asked me to join, I said I would not, as I intended to leave the country; he said that was no matter of difference, that there were people joined with him in America; I don't recollect that anything more was said.

Mr. Galloway.—Did you see Patrick Connolly or Timothy Sullivan in the house? Mr. Wright objected to the form of the question. Mr. Galloway.—Did you see any men there? Witness.—I did.

Mr. Galloway.—Did you see Connolly there? Witness.—To the best of my knowledge I did.

Mr. Somerville.—You don't seem to be a very bright man; will you swear you saw these persons here? Witness.—To the best of my knowledge I did see them.

Mr. Galloway.—Did you hear their names? Witness.—I did afterwards.

Mr. Wright.—This is a nice style of examination by a Government official.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wright.—I went through the form of swearing; I kept the promise until I was called on; I was called on last Friday; I did not disclose the oath until I was sent for to Rev. Mr. Freke; I did not give the information to Rev. Mr. Freke; I did not tell any one until the constables came for me.

John Skinner deposed that he was at Mrs Salter's house; he saw the last witness there; he also saw Cornelius Kane there, whom he knew right well; he had a little conversation with Cornelius Kane; Kane told him that he wanted him outside; he asked him to join a society; witness said he would not.

Mr. O'Connell.—Did he mention what society? Rev. Mr. Freke.—Did he say 'his society,' or 'a society'? Witness.—He said 'his society,' in a fortnight afterwards Kane came again on a Sunday; I saw him on the road near Mrs Salter's house; he asked me to keep secret what he had told me before, and not to inform against him; I told him that I would not tell; he said it was no harm for me to swear that I would not tell; he took a small book out of his pocket and gave it to me; it seemed to be like the book produced; I took the book and put it towards my mouth, but did not kiss it; I gave the book back again to him; there were two others after Kane at the time; I don't know who they were—they were strangers; I don't recognize any one in court as having been there that night; I think by the appearance of that man (O'Connell) that he was at Mrs. Salter's on the first day.

Cornelius Collins deposed that to the best of his belief he met Kane in Mrs. Salter's public-house on Sunday, the 6th inst.; to the best of his belief he saw the three other defendants also.

Mr. O'Connell.—Will you swear they were there? Witness.—I don't know, sir; one of the men, Tim Sullivan, I know for a long time; I know Dennis Donovan, but not Connolly; Donovan was there that night; I had some conversation with Kane, who asked me if I would be an Irishman; Kane said there would be 'tractions,' he handed me a book; to the best of my belief it was the book produced; nothing was said about a society; he said nothing when he gave me the book; I did nothing; after Kane gave him the book he asked him to stand to his country; he could not think of anything else to be said; he gave the book back to Kane, who went into Salter's house.

To Mr. Wright.—Told the conversation I had with Kane to some boys and to the priest; I don't know it is a crime to be an Irishman or to stand to my country; he said nothing when I took the book, and I did nothing with it.

To Rev. Mr. Freke.—I pretended to kiss the book. John Davis deposed that he met Kane in Mrs. Salter's public house on Sunday four weeks; thinks Sullivan, Donovan, and Connolly were there also; Kane asked him if he would join his own society; could not make out if the other men asked him any question or spoke; Kane gave him a book, but did not tell him to do anything.

Constable Bingham deposed that he accompanied Sub-Inspector Potter to Kane's lodgings on the 2nd ult.; when Kane was arrested; found the book produced (that shown to the different witnesses) in the pocket of a coat in the lodgings; Kane's name was written in the book in different places; it was a small Testament; Kane is a clerk to Mr. Fuller. This closed the case for the Crown.

Mr. Wright then proceeded to address the bench on the part of the defendants. The only thing proved clearly against Kane was, that he had asked one of two of the witnesses would they be Irishmen, and would they stand by their country. That was no crime, for, thank God, these days it was no longer—Treason to love her and death to defend.

(At these words denouncing cheers burst from the occupants of the galleries and the body of the court, who stood up and waved their hats enthusiastically. The cheering lasted over a minute in defiance of the efforts of the police and magistrates to suppress it.)

Mr. Galloway.—I will call on the bench to clear the court if such a thing as this is repeated. It is most disgraceful.

Mr. Somerville.—We will decidedly clear the court if this is done again.

Mr. Wright.—I assure you, sir, I did not anticipate that any words of mine would produce such an effect. Nothing would be farther from my wish.

Mr. Somerville.—I am sure of that.

Mr. Galloway.—If any person interrupts the Court again let him be removed.

Mr. Somerville said they had decided unanimously on taking informations against Kane for administering an unlawful oath, but they had no evidence to enable them to take informations against O'Connell, Donovan, and Sullivan. These men were therefore discharged.—Cork Examiner.

An application to hush Murphy, who is charged with the murder of his sisters at Hollywood, was refused by Judges Keogh and Christian, and a remand to the next Commission of Oyer and Terminer in Dublin granted on the application of the Crown counsel, relying on an affidavit to the effect that the evidence of Surgeon Porter, by whom the bodies of the deceased were examined after exhumation, was important as to the description of wounds and the weapon used in the infliction; but the medical gentleman could not attend owing to illness still continuing, from cold caught by him during the operation. A rumor was circulated to the effect that the accused had confessed the crime, but it was dissipated altogether by his appearance in custody in court, as applicant for bail through his counsel, Mr. Sydney Mr. Curran, and Mr. Concanon.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the notice of the opening of Beaulieu Church, Invernesshire, we ought to have added that the architect of this beautiful church is C. A. Buckler, Esq., Oxford. We understand that it may possibly be a conventual church some day, and even that overtures have been made to more than one Order, including the original Order of Cistercians, to take the mission.

The adjoining remains of the old Cistercian Priory are very fine and deeply interesting. The late A. W. Pugin began some repairs on them, but Presbyterian bigotry and ignorance caused the works to be stopped. Of course the ruins have their legends, but one is rather curious, and remarked by most Catholics, at least—viz, that the holy water font has always water in it, no matter how dry the weather is. Some years ago a Priest, believe, tried the experiment of wiping it dry one evening, and though there was no rain, yet it was as usual full of water next day. The writer of this never saw it empty, and first heard of the fact, for such it seems, by remarking one day, when visiting the Priory in company with the Priest, that the holy waterfont was full. It would be interesting to know if this is still the case, as the above refers to several years ago.—Weekly Register.

THE LETTER II.—Sir James Scarlett, when at the bar, had to cross-examine a witness whose evidence it was thought would be very damaging unless he could be bothered a little, and his only vulnerable point was said to be self-esteem. The witness presented himself in the box—a portly over-dressed person, and Scarlett took him in hand. 'Mr. John Tomkies, I believe?'—'Yes.' 'You are a stock-broker?'—'I am.' Scarlett regarded him attentively for a few moments, and then said, 'And a very fine, well-dressed man you are, sir.' The shout of laughter which followed completely disconcerted the witness, and the counsel's point was gained.—Sun.

The Weekly Register says that the Rev. Mr. Sibthorp has again entered the Catholic Church. It may be remembered that some twenty-one years ago the reverend gentleman became a convert to Roman Catholicism, and was in a short time thereafter ordained priest. He was not long, however, in the Catholic Church when he again left it and became a Protestant. Now it seems he has once more gone round to Roman Catholicism.—Star.

On Friday week the coiling of the new Atlantic cable was commenced from the company's premises, Greenwich, to the Amethyst, Admiralty vessel, for conveyance to the Great Eastern, at Sheerness.—The coiling is proceeding at the rate of two miles per hour.—Sun.

The Good Old Witness.—In 401 the Black Sea was entirely frozen over. In 763 not only the Black Sea, but the Straits of Dardanelles were frozen over; the snow in some places rose fifty feet high. In 822 the great rivers of Europe, the Danube, the Rhine, &c., were so hard frozen as to bear heavy waggon loads for a month. In 860 the Adriatic was frozen. In 991 everything was frozen, the crops totally failed, and famine and pestilence closed the year. In 1067 most of the travellers in Germany were frozen to death on the roads. In 1123 the Po was frozen from Cremona to the sea; the wine sacks were burst, and the trees split by the action of the frost with immense noise. In 1236 the Danube was frozen to the bottom, and remained long in that state. In 1316 the crops wholly failed in Germany; wheat, which some years before sold in England at 6s the quarter rose to £2. In 1308 the crops failed in Scotland, and such a famine ensued that the poor were reduced to feed on grass, and many perished miserably in the fields. The successive winters 1432-3-4 were uncommonly severe. In 1368 the wine distributed to the soldiers was cut with hatchets. In 1683 it was excessively cold. Most of the hollies were killed. Coaches drove along the Thames, the ice of which was eleven inches thick. In 1709 occurred the cold winter; the frost penetrated the earth three yards into the ground. In 1716 booths were erected on the Thames. In 1744 and 1745 the strongest ale in England, exposed to the air, was covered in less than fifteen minutes with ice an eighth of an inch thick. In 1809, and again in 1812, the winters were remarkably cold. In 1814 there was a fair on the frozen Thames.—London paper.

The growing importance of religious politics is beginning to show itself in the vacation addresses of members to their constituents. It was but the other day that Mr. Leveson Gowen felt himself compelled to defend his vote on the abolition of Oxford seats at great length before the electors of Reigate. The same characterizes the speech of Mr. G. Shaw Lefevre to the electors of Reading. As a matter of course he discusses the Danish war and the policy of this country towards America, but the real substance of what he had to say is concentrated in his sensible remarks on Mr. Disraeli's recent demonstration in the Sheldonian Theatre. This revival of popular interest in the relations of Church and State is a sign of the times. Political speculation is dormant, but theological speculation is active, and though its direct influence is still untraced by the masses, it serves to add new fuel to the fire of ancient controversies. Dissenters become more impatient of their alleged disabilities when such ample liberty of thought and action is claimed within the pale of the church, and persons who never thought of a University education for their sons are willing to make a hasty question of it when they find themselves outstripped in liberality by a section of advanced Churchmen. We must expect that for some years to come questions of this kind will fill a larger space than heretofore in home affairs, and, as both parties in the Church have openly appealed to the country, we must prepare ourselves for a public agitation of subjects which are much better reserved for the calmer atmosphere of the study.—Times.

At a coroner's inquest held lately in the north of England the following verdict was given:—'Found dead in a closet, having been born alive, but never breathed; and that it died immediately afterwards from want of proper assistance at the time of its birth.'—Post.

THE SPIRIT OF WORLDLINESS.—One word now as to ourselves; and I make an end. The great evil that we Catholics have to dread in these days is worldliness. The spirit of worldliness is coming in on us like a flood I see it as plainly as I see the sun in the Heavens, and I am not going to say that I do not. All this would be impossible if God were in each soul, as He ought to be. But Satan is now striking at us through the world. There is worldliness in the brain and worldliness in the heart. And with it there is always a servile and unmanly spirit. We have the certain promise of our Lord, that no intellectual evil can ever touch the Dogmas of the Faith. We have also His certain promise that no moral evil can destroy His Church; but we have no such promise for particular Churches or particular souls. Nay, we read how God has threatened a Church for its shortcomings; that He would remove its candlestick out of its place. How terribly does the Beloved Disciple speak of Worldliness: 'Love not the world nor the things which are in the world. If any man love the world the charity of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the pride of life, this is not of the Father but is of the world. And he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. Little children it is the last hour; and as you have heard that anti-Christ is, whereby we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us but they were not of us. For if they had been of us they would not doubt have remained with us, but (they went out) that it may be made manifest that they are not all of us. And considering what God has done for us in restoring the Sanctuary after three hundred years of desolation, the least that we can do is to prefer Him to the world, if only out of the commonest feelings of gratitude. When the Reformation that terrible curse, fell on this land, God seemed to have hid His face from us; and now when He has restored our judges as they were before, and our councillors as of old; let us be faithful to Him. We ought to have His Name on our hearts, our hearts, our foreheads. It should be always in our mouths. I do know of one thing more contemptible than love of the world; and that is fear of the world. I know of nothing more contemptible than that.

Again, as in all times so in this time, the civil government of every land exercises a power of life and death, which can only come from God. For as He only gives life, so He only, by Himself or by His own authority, has the right to take that life away. But as the Church has always maintained the lawfulness of capital punishment for certain crimes, it follows of necessity that the power to inflict this punishment can only come from Him in whose hands are the issues of life and death.

Thus, to think of God is to adore Him, that is if we try to act up to our knowledge. To desire the good, as far as we know it, and to believe the truth, as far as we know it, is to adore God; for only God is absolutely good and true. When we know that God is, and that he rewards or punishes men, and so desire to please Him; and when also we know that He is also the Supreme Lord of life and death, and so submit ourselves unreservedly to His divine will—then we adore Him. There is a dead knowledge, a knowledge clear but unfruitful. I do not call that knowledge adoration.—From *Sermon on St. Peter's Day*, by the Rev. H. A. Bates, M. A. of Trinity College Cambridge.

DISSENTMENT OF THE STATE CHURCH IN IRELAND.—This question evidently excites a growing interest in England. Mr. Trevelyan, in a recent speech to the electors of Tynemouth, described the Irish State Church as 'that great scandal and great wrong.' The Manchester Examiner not long ago asked whether it was possible to offer the slightest apology for it, and added: 'When we strip the Irish Church of its disguises, and look at it in all the naked deformity of wrong, it is difficult to restrain one's indignation within temperate limits. We honestly avow our conviction that it is a wrong deep and huge enough to justify the Catholic population of Ireland in revolting against the authority which maintains it. The Union cannot be honestly defended so long as we prostrate our power to the maintenance of the Irish Church. It is easy to denounce such men as the O'Donoghues and his colleagues, but if they are dissatisfied towards the empire, who made them so? Who takes care to furnish them not merely with a pretence for disaffection, but, as we hold, with a full and absolute justification for this revolt. If Englishmen were in Ireland, and in the position of the Irish, they would take up arms and fight for their deliverance from the rankest injustice that one nation ever yet forced upon another. How then can we pretend to condemn the Irish for doing what we would assuredly do if we were in the same circumstances. The advantages of the Union none will dispute. The dismemberment of the empire would be a catastrophe of the first order, and we should doubtless resist it to the last extremity. But if we value the Union, let us pay the price of acting justly. Abolish the Irish Church; let the Protestants in Ireland provide for the cost of their own worship, and let the revenues which now go to endow an alien and idle priesthood be spent in educating the whole people. This would be no favor—it would be a measure of mere justice, the mere reversal of a wrong. At all events, till we do this, we cannot honestly pretend to exact loyalty from Irishmen.'

CONVICI NOTABILITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—At Fremantle the visitor is sure to fall in with Redpath—now on his ticket of leave—a tall man of good address, living on the proceeds of sundry small shipments of fancy goods consigned to him by English friends. Redpath has always maintained a position above the ordinary class of ticket-holders. Even in prison he never made his own bed nor cleaned out his cell. These menial offices were performed by some obsequious convict anxious for the reward of the great man's smile—a reward not unfrequently, but judiciously, bestowed. Now that he is at large, ticket-holders touch their hats to their late distinguished brother, who promenades the street, writes clever letters under a *nom de guerre* to the local press, is the founder and honorary secretary of the Working Men's Association, and is specially shunned by the free classes, who profess to regard him as a social agitator. At Fremantle, also, there resides a remarkable individual, who found it necessary in England to dissolve his marriage contract by the simple but effective operation of cutting off his wife's head. He now fills a highly respectable situation. Not deterred by his matrimonial mishap he has taken to himself a second wife, to console him during his long sojourn in the land, and he is now bringing up a numerous family. Robson who is also at large, does not receive at all a good character. He lost one or two situations at Perth through his own misconduct. After this he went into business as a photographer, and now he keeps an academy, while the colonial Mrs. Robson assists him with a preparatory school. Next to dissipation Robson's principal recreation seems to be poetical effusions, which duly obtain publicity through the medium of the Perth newspapers. In these productions he lays Byron and Gray under heavy contributions—in fact, is guilty of an unblushing appropriation of their verses. As Byron and Gray do not appear, however, to be familiar as household words in Western Australia, Robson enjoys a great reputation as an utterer of 'thoughts that breathe and words that burn.'—McLaurie Argus.

Nineteen working men lately were convicted at Stafford of conspiracy, riot, and other offences connected with the late strike among the coal miners. They were all convicted, but recommended to mercy. The Earl of Lichfield, Lord Lieutenant of the county enforced the recommendation, arguing that order has now been restored, and the men have generally returned to their work. In consequence of this recommendation Mr. Justice Byles sentenced nine of the most guilty to one month's imprisonment with hard labor, discharging the others on their giving recognizances to keep the peace.

The judicial committee of the Privy Council have this week heard arguments on Bishop Coleson's petition to the Queen to interfere for his protection against the judgment of his Metropolitan, the Bishop of Capetown. An extravagant assertion of the powers of the Crown as Head of the Church is very naturally the grand characteristic of Doctor Coleson's case. The Bishop of Capetown, on the other hand, not merely questions whether the Queen ought to, but whether she legally can, interfere with his authority at all; and a whole crop of questions, touching the limits and functions of the Royal Supremacy, is already budding from the argument. The Lord Chancellor, the real pillar of orthodoxy, does not seem as yet disposed to take the same large views of these questions as he did of the doctrines of 'Essays and Reviews.' But a decision is nevertheless expected shaking the authority of the Pentateuch, and establishing the infallibility of the Crown.—Tablet.

A NEW ZEALAND SAWYER'S PHILOSOPHY.—We give the results of a conversation with one of these men, omitting the leading questions we addressed to him:—'I have now been knocking about in these colonies for 11 years. I consider myself better off here than at home. In the old country your master will turn you off for a sour look, and when you have once got a bad name it will go hard with you to find another place. Here I am as good as my master, and he knows it. I can turn him off when I choose, and find as good a place to-morrow. I can make as much in a day here as I could do in a week in England. I have saved no money; what's the use? I once made 250l. at the diggings in Australia, went down to Melbourne and spent it all like a gentleman. Ah! it is a pleasant thing being a gentleman; I should like to have nothing else to do. I wore as good a coat as any of your officer fellows, and spent my money quite as freely. I lasted five months and it is a comfort to me that I never met a poor par without standing treat. I met an old drum bound for New Zealand, and came down here with him for a lark. When I have made a little money, I go down to Auckland and spend it like a gentleman. It is not worth while going there with less than 500l.; that lasts me about a fortnight. Being a top-sawyer at the top of my profession, you know I can make that sum in six weeks. I thus work like a man for nine months of the year, and live the other three like a gentleman. If I meet my master in town, I look him fairly in the face; why shouldn't I? Aint I as good as he? I owe him nothing, and he owes me nothing; I have done my work, and he has paid me for it, so there's an end of the matter. What should I do if I were sick? Why go to the hospital, to be sure. But I never have been sick, and don't mean to be; it is not in our line. It wouldn't pay me on account. Oh, yes, I suppose I shall do some day, but then I won't make a long job of it. There will be no occasion to call the doctor or send for the nurse: I'll be crushed by a tree, or drowned in the river, the same as other sawyers. Neither my father nor my grandfather died in their beds, and I don't expect to either. When I die my comrades will dig a hole and bury me beneath some tall kauri tree, and the world will jog on as before. I don't bother my head about the rest; I suppose I shall fare as well as others. I have lots of poor relations in England, but they have no claim on me. They never did anything for me, and why should I do anything for them? If they want money, let them work for it, as I do; the world is wide enough for all. If they choose to stay at home and starve that is their lookout, not mine. I am not such a fool as to be earning money for them. Besides I have always been a friend of peace, and don't wish to have them quarrelling about my money when I am dead.'—Fraser's Magazine for November.

UNITED STATES.

The St. Joseph Herald says there is in that city a victim of Indian cruelty who has just arrived from the Plains. The person is a boy, about seven years of age, the son of a frontiersman. The Indians shot five arrows into his body, one of which struck one of his lungs. He was then scalped and left for dead, but was found in time to save his life. His head is entirely destitute of nature's covering, and is as bare as a piece of raw flesh.

A man in New Orleans wore out four pairs of boots in two months in trying to get the price of them!

The negro is but an accident in our troubles. Were there not a negro on this continent, we would not be nearer peace. Were all the white peoples of these States united in regard to slavery being the proper condition of the negro, it would not change matters. The conclusion that has swallowed up so many lives has deeper causes. It is the agony, or, if you will, the curable distress of a people that have inherited the form of a free government, but have renounced its power.—N. Y. Freeman.

RATHER CONFUSED.—A notice of a recent steamboat explosion in an American paper ends as follows:—'The captain swam ashore. So did the chambermaid; she was insured for 15,000 dollars and loaded with iron.'

The Secretary of the Treasury makes the remarkable confession that, if the people had only foreseen the vast expenditure of this war, they would never have engaged in it. He says, in speaking of the war in its commencement:—'Had it then been foreseen that what was believed to be a contest for months was to be continued for years, and that hundreds of millions of public debt would be swollen into thousands of millions before the close of that contest, it may well be doubted whether, ignorant as they were of their own immense resources, the people might not have shrunk appalled from an undertaking which contemplated a sacrifice so far exceeding all former experience.'

If we are asked whether or not colonial vassalage be preferable to subjugation by the Yankees, we say yes—indefinitely preferable. Better for us and our not only that we should all die where we stand, than be reduced to the ignominious condition of vassals to the Yankee nation. But it happens that neither the question nor the answer is anything to our present purpose; and if we are asked whether we would or would not purchase the material aid of England and France in our present struggle by abandoning slavery instantly, and on the spot; we say again, yes, without one moment's hesitation or consideration. That is to say, in other words, 'we would sacrifice the negro race to insure our own independence.' But it happens here again that the alternative is not presented to us. We are not asked to choose between the two except by some essayists.—Richmond Examiner, Jan. 2.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has disgraced itself by an expression of gratitude to the commander of the Wachusets, for his outrageous violation of neutral rights in the capture of the Florida, within a harbor of Brazil. But we suppose Federal organs will praise or excuse this, while bitterly condemning the less guilty (though guilty) man who assailed St. Albans from Canada last July. While our merchants hasten to condemn one breach of neutrality, theirs do not scruple to laud another.—Mont. Gazette.

ALARMING INCREASE OF CRIME.—We have repeatedly admonished our municipal authorities and the community that unless vigorous measures were adopted to stay the progress of crime in this city it would, sooner or later, swell into a torrent that neither statute law, local ordinance, nor police regulations could permanently restrain. In this view we have been sustained by the report of the Board of Metropolitan Police, just submitted to the Governor of the State. In this report the startling statement is made that 'probably in no city in the civilized world, not the theatre of actual war, is human life so lightly prized and subjected to as great hazards from violence as in New York and Brooklyn,' and that in no other such cities does the machinery of criminal justice so signally fail to restrain or punish serious and capital offences.' It appears that the arrests for crimes of violence of a serious character the past year numbered 742, being an increase of upwards of 200 over the number for a corresponding period the previous year, and it also appears that during the year ending Nov. 30 last five members of the police force have been killed and thirteen seriously injured by collision with desperate ruffians—a fact which goes far to prove that the prevalence of violence is not to be attributed to want of energy on the police. Much of this crime and violence is to be attributed to the too common practice of carrying concealed weapons. But attribute it to what cause we may, there is abundant evidence showing that the security of life and property in this city has become of an alarming uncertain tenure. The legislature is now in session, and if legislation be necessary to strengthen the police authorities, to purify the criminal tribunals, to restrict the indiscriminate and unpoliced sale of poisonous compounds, to the shape of liquor, to suppress incendiary and inflammatory publications, to severely punish those who carry concealed weapons, and to extinguish the spirit of rebellion against the laws openly encouraged by rebel sympathizers in and out of newspaper offices, let the work be promptly commenced and energetically pursued until the object be accomplished.—N. Y. Herald.

The New York Times, after alluding to the fact that 137 out of 635 recruits for the Fifth New Hampshire regiment deserted on the passage, 32 afterward deserted to the enemy, and 36 deserted 'to the rear,' adds:—'The testimony of officers in the army of the Potomac and of the James, is all but unanimous in affirming that a somewhat similar story may be told of the "quotas" sent forward from a vast number of places in the Eastern States. A very large proportion of the substitutes are wretched vagabonds, depraved in morals or decrepit in body, without courage or self-respect or conscience, and so far from adding to the strength of the army they weaken it, and greatly increase the labor and anxiety of the officers. They desert when put on picket duty, they skulk in action, and are dirty, disorderly, thievish, and incapable in camp, and pass most of their time their time on barrels, tied up to trees, or else bucked and gagged. It is high time to speak of this matter in the terms which it deserves, and to tell the towns and cities, which care so little how they fill their quota, so long as they supply the requisite number of recruits, that so far from aiding the national cause, this material they send to the front not only helps to prolong the war, but to exhaust our resources and dishearten the army. It is impossible to expect the old troops, to fight with their accustomed energy when they find that their friends at home take so little interest in them and in their task, that the reinforcements they send forward are the very scum of the population, not soldiers, or even simulacra of soldiers, or material of which soldiers can ever be made. And the expense of recruiting, equipping and transporting this rubbish is, of course, even greater than that which would have to be incurred on behalf of the best troops, thus adding to the local as well as to the national burdens without helping in the least to forward the object for which all these burdens are incurred. If these practices are persisted in; if individuals, as well as officials, do not bring some conscience, some sense of duty to bear on this business of filling quotas, we have no difficulty in predicting what the consequence will be. The Government will be forced into abolishing the whole system of substitutes, and, as a last resort, dictated by an imperative regard for the national safety forcing every drafted man to take his place in the ranks. It is desirable on every account this should be avoided as long as possible. We are not of the number of those who think we ought to imitate the action of the South and convert our whole territory into a camp. We are satisfied that we owe a large portion of the case with which the Northern States have so far supported the burdens of the war, to the pains which have been taken to protect our social system and our business relations from all avoidable disturbances; and we think it highly probable that we should persist in these precautions as long as possible; and avoid as long as we can all desirable desperate courses.'—N. Y. Herald.

The blockade-runner 'Ohamelon,' late the 'Tallahassee,' is under arrest at Bermuda.