M. Fallières, le premier ministre français, est âgé de quarante-un ans. C'est un avocat du Lot-et-Garonne. Il est député depuis neuf ans seulement. C'est un orateur distingué. Il appartient au groupe de la gauche républicaine, et est traité de réactionnaire par les radicaux.

Judge Connor, of Cincinnati, has decided that public school-houses cannot be used as places of worship, and he issued a perpetual injunction against the school trustees of Symmes Township, Ohio, restraining them from allowing the school-house to be used for a Sabbath school or for religious services.

Delaware, after mature deliberation, has resolved not to abolish her whipping-post, which some regard as a relic of barbarism. Opinion on the subject of corporal punishment fluctuates considerably, and there are to be found advocates for the use of the rod or lash for every offence, from the disobedience of a school girl to robbery with violence. The Recorder of Dublin recently testified to the deterrent effect of the "cat" for the class of crimes regarded as specially cowardly and brutal. And a grand jury in the city of Dublin have just expressed their opinion that in cases of that description, "the judicious use of the lash is very necessary."

The Albany *Times* says: "The monstrous doctrine of cumulative sentences held by Judge Noah Davis in the Tweed case has been reduced to an absurdity in the Vermont case reported in our telegraphic despatches yesterday from Rutland, where a poor woman, charged with selling liquor without license, has been convicted on several hundred complaints, and by accumulating the terms of imprisonment under each complaint, has been sentenced by the police court, to the house of correction, for fifty years! If the Appellate Court of Vermont ever has this case brought before it, we can not doubt that it will decide as did our Court of Appeals. Such cumulative sentences are shocking to justice, and repugnant to common sense."

A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.—Judgment was yesterday given by the Queen's Bench Division on the constitutional question raised last Michaelmas term as to the validity of the Local Courts Act, R.S.O., cap. 42, which was passed by the Local Legislature to group certain counties together for judicial purposes. Under sections 16 and 17 of that Act, the County Judge of Lambton held sessions of the Division Court in the county of Middlesex, which he was clearly entitled to do under that Act, but it was contended that the sections named were *ultra vires* because in effect they allowed one county judge to act in a county outside of his powers under his commission from the Dominion Government. Chief Justice Hagarty and Mr. Justice Cameron held that as the whole constitution of the Division Courts is within the power of the Local Legislature, and as no provision for the appointment of Division Court judges is anywhere to be found, the Act is not *ultra vires*. Mr. Justice Armour dissented from this view, and held that the sections were *ultra vires*, as in effect they appointed the County Judge of Lambton the County Judge of Middlesex, and delegated to county judges the power of appointing a county judge. The case in which the point was raised was one of *re Wilson & Maguire.—Mail, Feb.* 6.

Respecting private inquiries under the Crimes Act, a correspondent writes: "For a month or two past a private inquiry has daily taken place at Dublin Castle, and prisoners and witnesses have there been subjected to severe and close examination, but the outcome does not appear to have been of material assistance to the authorities. The mode in which the investigation is conducted is certainly of an extraordinary character. A police magistrate specially selected presides, and the Court sits with closed doors. A prisoner is brought in, placed on oath, and then examined, touching the guilt of himself and others. Any question which the judge thinks fit may be put. The man is compelled to answer, but whether his replies denote innocence or guilt he is detained a prisoner during the pleasure of this inquisitional secret tribunal. Should it appear that he answers the interrogatories falsely, he is then indicted and tried for perjury. All he says is carefully noted down by the officers of the Court, and these sworn statements are made the basis for further enquiries and subsequent accusations of other persons. No counsel or solicitor is allowed to appear on behalf of the prisoner-witness. On several occasions the Lord-Lieutenant himself has been present at the investigations, and the prisoners under examination have, in some instances, been questioned by His Excellency personally."

"IT is the part of a good judge to extend his jurisdiction." The history of the Court of Chancery shows that this ancient maxim, notwithstanding the criticisms of Lord Mansfield and Sir R. Atkyns, was in practice thoroughly received in that Court; and a decision of the Court of Appeal, (*Vidler* v. *Collyer*, 47 L. T. Rep. N. S. 283) shows that the changes made in our legal system have not at all impaired the vigor with which the Courts exercise and gradually amplify their jurisdiction. This was the case of an infant who was made a ward of the Court merely for the purpose of invoking its jurisdiction. His father was emigrating to Manitoba, and desired to take his son with him. The son, a lad between seventeen and eighteen years of age, desired to accompany him. Others of the relations, however, thought that the boy's prospects in England were far better than any his father could offer, as he was apprenticed and in the engineering department in the Admiralty, and an uncle offered to maintain him while in the Government employ, until he was able to provide for himself. It is very probable that the Court was perfectly right in supposing that the boy would be more likely to be successful in England than in Manitoba; but we nevertheless think that it is a strong instance of the increase of State jurisdiction, and decline of domestic authority, when we find the Court preventing a father taking his son abroad when the son wishes to accompany him, and is of sufficient age to give an unbiased opinion. We should add that no misconduct on the part of the father had been shown; but he was an undischarged bankrupt. He had entered into a bond on the apprenticeship, and proposed to apply to the Admiralty for a cancellation of the bond. Vice-Chancellor Bacon forbade the father proceeding with any such application, and his decision was upheld, though not without a little doubt, by the Court of Appeal.—*London Law Times.*