

**DUBLIN, March 15.**—The Spring Assizes opened at Belfast yesterday with the usual formality, and much more than the usual interest and solemnity. At five minutes before 11 o'clock to-day the Right Hon. Baron Deasy, accompanied by the High Sheriff, Mr. John F. Ferguson, D.L., J.P., and the Sub-Sheriff, Mr. H. H. Bottomley, took his seat in the Crown Court. The commission was read by the Clerk of the Crown, after which the grand jury were sworn.

The Judge then addressed the grand jury at considerable length on the state of the calendar:—

“But for the riots the cases for trial would be few and unimportant. But the other division of the calendar presented darker features. It reminded him of an observation of the late Lord Macaulay about Ireland:—

“Incedis per ignes  
Suppositos cineri doloso.”

This observation was peculiarly applicable to the town in which they were sitting. Beneath the fair surface of external prosperity which it presented to the eye of the stranger, lurked fiery passions which might be roused into destructive activity upon the slightest occasion. On the calendar he found five cases of murder and six of firing at the person; but it appeared from the constabulary return that there were nine persons killed and 65 wounded. Even that return was defective, and he had been referred to a report by Mr. Murney, surgeon to the General Hospital, which was founded on the returns given to him by the professional gentlemen engaged in curing the wounded. He said:—“I give the experience of 78 medical practitioners, added to which is that derived from the practitioners of the Belfast General and Union Hospitals, and I think the public may be satisfied that the death-roll is complete, and the list of those injured exceeds approximately 100. And his return given presented this fearful result:—318 persons suffered more or less seriously; recovered, 219; died, 11; yet under treatment—for this was written on November the 6th—there were, by slight gun-shot injuries, 64 sufferers; severe, 34; total from gun-shot wounds, 98. That (said his Lordship) reads more like the *Gazette* after a very serious naval or military engagement than the return presented to a judge of assize at the assizes in this county; and often we have read of important military events, perhaps decisive of the success of a campaign—the occupation of a city, the surrender of a commanding position—being achieved with a less effusion of human blood and a smaller sacrifice of human life. And for what, I may now ask, when I trust the passions have been cooled and the excitement has subsided—for what object, with what result, has all this blood been shed. It is a melancholy thing to think that in the year of grace 1865, in the latter part of the 19th century, which boasts of its civilization, in the centre of this great manufacturing community, in a town which may be called, and justly, the manufacturing metropolis of Ireland, where material prosperity has so closely followed successful industry, where intelligence and education are so widely diffused,—it is a melancholy thing to find that here, at such a time and under such circumstances, the blood of Irishmen should be shed by their own hands in causeless, objectless, senseless strife. It is still more melancholy, gentlemen, to dwell on the results which must follow from those proceedings. The injury to the trade and commerce of the town, I am sure, has passed away. The elastic energies of this great community have struggled against the pressure, and not in vain. The wounded, I trust, have had their pains assuaged by time and medical skill; but, gentlemen, the dead return not. Eleven valuable lives have been sacrificed. Eleven families in the town in which I am now speaking must mourn for husband, for father, for brother, or for a son. And who can picture the utter desolation that must prevail in a humble household when the head of that household—its prop and support—is laid low in blood. Who can picture the grief of a parent when the son that had left his humble dwelling in a summer morning in the fulness of life and strength—the son to whom he had looked forward as the prop of his declining years—when that son was brought home to him before the summer sun had set a lifeless corpse. After an earnest exhortation to peace and harmony, his Lordship told the grand jury that they were not to inquire which party gave or received the greatest provocation, or what party committed the greatest excesses. They knew no party but the Crown and the prisoner. They inquired only into the guilt or innocence of the accused, which must be determined on evidence given in the court, irrespective of persons and regardless of consequences. He deprecated the introduction of irrelevant and irritating topics during the course of the trials, and said he would use his influence to prevent the disturbing influence of political and religious excitement. He concluded in the following words:—“For, gentlemen, nothing in my mind can so much conduce to the prevention of riots, and to the suppression of those party disturbances which have so long and so often disgraced the North of Ireland, and so far acted as a drawback to its material prosperity, as a firm, impartial administration of the law—that administration of the law which the country expects, and I trust will receive, from all engaged in it at the present assizes. I may be permitted to express one hope—that this will be the last occasion on which any judges sitting here will have occasion to address to the grand inquest of the great and enlightened county of Antrim observations such as I have now addressed to you. I trust that Belfast, which has so long been an example to the rest of Ireland for its manufactures and commercial industry, will in a short time be a model of peace and propriety. By so denouncing themselves its inhabitants will not only conduce to their own welfare and that of the community of which they are members, but they will thereby hasten the advent of that time which, I trust, is not far distant, when antagonism of race and religion will have ceased—when Irishmen, from whatever race they may have sprung, whatever religion they may profess, or whatever party they may belong to, will remember they are children of one common country, which has need of the exertions of all her sons; and while exercising to the fullest extent their legal rights and constitutional privileges—while the wide limits of the law to their religious and political opinions, they will respect each other's feelings and each other's opinions, however little they may sympathize with the one, or however widely differ with the other, and will be content to dwell and work together on this fair land. Gentlemen, you will now retire to your room and consider the bills.”

John Fagan, Patrick Mullin, Anne Mullin, John Keys, Michael Mooney, Michael M'Mullen, and John Fagan were then called and arraigned for riot and assault on the 15th of August last, in Brown street, Belfast. The first count charged the accused with unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembling together to the disturbance of the public peace, and with force and arms, &c., injuring and damaging the Brown street National Schools, it being then a building devoted and dedicated to public use. They pleaded “Not Guilty.” The panel was objected to on technical grounds by their counsel. The objection was overruled, and the following jury were sworn:—Messrs. James Graham, John M'Denry, Thomas M'Ildeu, jun., Samuel Corry, William John Cameron, Adam Ferguson, William Bigger, Samuel Blair, John Hamilton, William John Carlisle, James Moore, jun., and Nathaniel Morton. The prisoners were about to be given in charge, when Mr. M'Mahon stated that a most important witness for the defence was absent at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, and could not be present until to-morrow morning. The Attorney-General said that, under those circumstances, they were, on the part of the Crown, very unwilling to press on the case, and would consent to postpone it till next morning.

**COUNSEL FOR THE CROWN.**—The Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, Sir Thomas Staples, Q.C., LL.D.; Mr. Thomas K. Lowry, Q.C., LL.D.; and Mr. N. H. Shegog, instructed by Mr. Maxwell Hamilton, Crown solicitor. For the defence of the Roman Catholic prisoners—Mr. Butt, Q.C., Mr. Hamill, and Mr. M'Mahon, instructed by Mr. O'Rourke.

After nearly four hours' consultation, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners but one charged with the attack on the Brown street Protestant school. Sentence—M'Mullen two years imprisonment from the date of commitment; the others one year from the present time, except a boy, who got three months.

M'Mullen attacked the turnkeys. After a struggle the prisoners were removed.

Much dissatisfaction has been felt by the Catholics of Belfast with the conduct of the Crown in commencing the trials with these cases. The wrecking of the Brown street schools did not take place till the 15th of August, and outrages by the Orange party commenced on the 8th. Why were not those who committed the first offences first tried. Why were not the cases taken in the order of time in which they occurred. The question of time had an important bearing on the case, as it would show the provocation given. Yet here the government take the Catholic party and their proceedings first, precisely as if the unfortunate people had acted in cold blood. This course of conduct has created a very bad impression among the Belfast Catholics, and confirmed their want of confidence in the commission. On Thursday four Protestants were put on their trial for an attack on the house of Mr. Gordon O'Neill. They were found guilty, and were sentenced each of them to twelve months' imprisonment. Robert Davidson, a Catholic, was then put on his trial for the murder of John Murdoch by shooting at him. The trial was continued on Friday, and on that night the jury were locked up. They were discharged this morning, being unable to agree to a verdict. No further news of the proceedings has reached Dublin up to time of my writing. A large extra force of police and constabulary are at present in Belfast; a wise measure of precaution, as no one knows how small a thing may rouse into fury the excited feelings that are now heaving in the breasts of both the Orange and the Catholic party.

The Judges now on circuit in Ireland are every where congratulating the Grand Jurors upon the peaceable state of their counties, as shown by the calendars, except in parts of Ulster, the hubbub of Orangism, especially Down and Antrim. At the Down Assizes Chief Justice Monahan pronounced a strong censure upon the magistracy for their gross and flagrant partisanship, as evidenced by the cases sent for trial and by those that were not put in a train of judicial investigation. In one case that came before his Lordship for trial the prisoners were all Catholics, although it was a case of party riot between Orangemen and Catholics. One of the witnesses, who said that his son had been severely beaten in the riot, upon being asked why he did not tell the magistrates so at the time, replied:—“I did, but the magistrates don't want to hear any but one side of a case.” On which the Chief Justice remarked:—“Upon my word it is very like it.” The prisoners were acquitted, after a charge, in which the Judge made the following remarks:—

“They had now heard the whole case, and he must say that he was very much disgusted with the way in which justice was administered in the county of Down. Both parties should have been arrested, and there should have been an investigation. Certainly those who used guns should have been found out and put on their trial. The charge against the men in the dock was that they were guilty of illegal assembly and were present as rioters. He was only sorry that he had not enough of both parties before him—the ringleaders, and if the jury would only do their duty and find a whole lot of both sides guilty he would then know how to deal with them.”

The Chief Justice after the verdict acquired of the Stipendiary Magistrate how it happened that both parties had not been put upon their trial, and said he should feel it his duty to represent the matter to the Government with a view to an enquiry into the conduct of those who, to use his own words, “were guilty of so gross a perversion of duty as to send the traversers for trial, though their innocence was declared by the jury, while the criminals ‘who used guns’ were screened from prosecution. The Orangemen used guns and otherwise broke the peace and the law, but they were not arrested; but Catholics, whom a Down pet jury acquitted, were arrested and sent to jail. There are, we are sure, very few in England who will not concur with the Chief Justice in the opinion that this is a state of things that demands a strict investigation, and express their coincidence in his Lordship's belief that the Magistrates (of that Orange quarter) don't want to hear any but one side of a case—which side there can be no difficulty in comprehending.—*Weekly Register*.”

**CLARKE vs. KNOX.**—We shridge the Freeman's own account of the case as follows. The Freeman says:—

“The important tenant case, which has occupied the attention of Chief Baron Pigot and a special jury of the King's County for three days, has terminated in a verdict for the evicted tenant. When Lord Palmerston enunciated his aphorism that tenant right was landlord wrong, he rather said a smart thing than proved a truth. His aphorism receives a remarkable illustration from a case just tried in Tullamore, in which a jury of landlords gave very substantial damages in the shape of £300 and costs. The facts of this most important case are these:—Mr. George Knox, a gentleman well known in the sporting world, was essee of the lands of Rathcore, in the County of Westmeath, of which the lease would expire in 1883. These lands were occupied by thirteen tenants, some occupying large quantities—the plaintiff Clarke holding over 80 acres, for which he paid 37s. 6d. per acre. All the tenants were unexceptionable. They never allowed one to go to overtake another, and the plaintiff Clarke generally paid his gale three months after it fell due. Clarke was always doing something, and so judicious were his improvements that Mr. Purdon, one of the gentry of the district, and farming hundreds of acres on his own account, swore that Clarke's improvements raised the value of his holding from 30s. to about 50s. an acre. Mr. Knox's agent was Mr. Rynd, brother of the late eminent surgeon, and an extensive land agent and farmer himself. In March, 1861, Mr. Knox, who had never up to that time seen any of his tenants, appeared in Rathcore. We may observe that about that time Mr. Rynd proposed to Clarke to take out a lease of 21 years, at the existing rent, paying a fine of £150, to which Clarke consented on the condition that the contract of the agent would be executed by his principal. Mr. Knox came to Rathcore, however, on a very different errand. He brought his billiard or gardener from Kildare, who served his tenants all round with notices to quit on the following September. It was only a good-natured contrivance to put himself in a position to compel them to take leases. They should have leases containing the covenants by which he was bound in his lease. From whatever cause the notices were not acted on and the 29th of September came, leaving the tenants in a somewhat more settled state of mind than they had enjoyed for six months. The next date of importance is March, 1863. A second batch of notices were then served. Clarke, who had been planning some improvements, asked Mr. Rynd what he was to do. Would he go. ‘Of course,’ was the encouraging reply. ‘Act just as if you had a lease!’ So Clarke set about building new offices, and the mason was actually at work when the ejectment was served! Even after service of the ejectment Rynd told Clarke to proceed as he was certain Mr. Knox would give the promised lease. No defence was taken to the ejectments, upon the distinct assurance that the proceedings were merely intended to compel the tenants to take out leases. It appears a mortgage of Mr. Knox filed a petition in the Landed Estates Court for the sale of his interest in Rathcore, immediately before the

ejectments were served—and now Mr. Dyas, the purchaser and present occupant of Rathcore, enters on the scene. He agreed to purchase Mr. Knox's interest for £3,500. On the 20th of January, 1864, the thirteen tenants were started by the appearance of the sub-Sheriff and a strong force of police. Possession was demanded and given. They went forth with their families from homes they had inhabited for years, and lands their laborious industry had improved. Clarke's improvements, on the evidence of Mr. Purdon, having added nearly one pound an acre to the value of the land. Such is the law that it was only by the most skillful and subtle pleading that a case to submit to a jury was made out at all. The ability of Clarke's counsel and solicitors, and the public fond provided by his sympathizing friends in Meath, enabled him to appeal to a jury of honorable gentlemen, and he succeeded. The defendant changed the venue and appealed to a special jury of the King's County. That jury found for the plaintiff £300 damages, which would probably have been higher if certain equitable rights raised by Mr. Butt in plaintiff's favor had not been considered untenable by the Chief Baron. What will Lord Palmerston say to this last illustration of his anti-Drummond aphorism? And it is only one of many which are in progress every year and never come to light, because the tenant is weak and his adversary is strong.

At the Armagh Assizes, before Mr. Baron Deasy, three persons, named Lamb, M'Arde, and M'Keever, were found guilty of the abduction of a young woman named Rose Morgan, who had a small property, with a view of forcing her to marry Lamb; but the police and her friends came in time to the rescue. The principal offender was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, and the other two to 12 months'.

At the Mayo assizes, Dr. Barrett, a graduate of the Dublin University and an M.D., registrar of births and deaths to the Castlebar Poor Law Union, pleaded guilty to a charge of extraordinary fraud. He had drawn up his immigration for his records, and, in order to increase his fees, entered in the register a number of births and deaths that had never taken place. The Crown did not press for punishment; but allowed Dr. Barrett to go out on his own recognizance, for the following reasons:—“It was the first offence of the kind in Ireland; he had not made a false entry of any actual birth or death, he was a married man with several children depending on him for support, he had lost all his situations, and had been in prison for six months. Judge O'Sullivan without assuming the responsibility of this lenient course, gave it his sanction.”

A desperate and fatal affray occurred lately in the vicinity of Bonis, county Clare. It appears that two men, one an Englishman, named William Ragg, and the other a man named Patrick Kerin, both of whom had been employed on the Fergus Slabb Reclamation Works, had come to town, where they had drunk rather freely, after which they were proceeding home to the neighborhood of the works, but when about five miles distant, an argument arose relative to the purchase of a horse, and the altercation having become violent, they stripped off their coats to fight. Kerin, it is alleged, instead of fighting fairly with his fist, made a kick at Ragg, who at once fell, seeing the foul disposition of his assailant. Kerin pursued, and having succeeded in knocking Ragg down beat and kicked him in a most brutal manner, from the effects of which he died while being conveyed to the hospital. Kerin fled after committing this horrible outrage, but was shortly arrested and lodged in jail, to await the result of the coroner's inquest.

On the 7th ult., at the Headford Dispensary, the Poor Law investigation into the death of the poor woman named Ellen Walsh, was held by Dr. Brodie, P.L.W. Father Conway, P.P., Headford, was present, and, intent on showing up the entire case, had summoned a number of witnesses whose evidence went to show that deceased had died of sheer neglect, while the Dispensary doctor was out shooting. After such evidence Dr. Brodie refused to allow Father Conway to examine any more witnesses, against which ruling Father Conway protested, ordering the witnesses (his own), not to answer Dr. Brodie. Thereupon Dr. B. adjourned the proceedings, and withdrew amid the threats and all but imprecations of the people present, who were enraged at the official insolence. But that Father Conway accompanied the Doctor from the Dispensary and along the street for some way, he might have come to grief during the excitement.

Among Mr. Gladstone's friends there is an impression that he will bring forward in parliament this year a scheme for the reform of the Irish church. Information has lately reached Dublin of the discovery by a coast-guard man of the Wexford district, of a box of specie, amounting to the large sum of £5,000. It proved to have belonged to the South African mail steamer *Armenia*, lost some time since off Arklow, and now believed to be breaking up. It was found as stated, on the Ballyvaldon Strand, on Sir John Power's property, near Wexford. The discovery was at once reported to the coast-guard officer of the district by the finder.

**REPORT OF THE BELFAST COMMISSION.**—The report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the riots at Belfast in the autumn of last year was laid upon the table of the House of Commons on Monday night, by Sir Robert Peel. The commissioners (Mr. Dowse, Q.C., and Mr. Charles Barry, Q.C.) recommended that Belfast should be converted into a county town; that the police force should be raised to 400 men by the addition of 140, the cost to be borne one-half by the county and the other by the Consolidated Fund; that the force should be under a chief constable with magisterial functions, although without a seat at petty sessions; and lastly, the appointment of two stipendiary magistrates, the one to be a Protestant and the other a Roman Catholic. The commissioners express their apprehension that the recurrence of riots similar to those which have so often disgraced the town is not improbable, and they state that, as Irishmen, they make their report with shame and sorrow.—*Post*.

A grotesque mixture of the pathetic and the ludicrous occurred at the Queen's County Assizes. A group of prisoners, named Hinds, who had assaulted a bailiff, is thus sketched by the correspondent of the *Daily Express*:—

The old man, Daniel, was about 65 years of age, with scant hair, greatly projecting forehead, long shaggy eyebrows, a snub nose, an in mouth, with large teeth and large prominent square chin, dark complexion, and deep furrowed cheeks. John, the son, had a remarkable likeness to the father, though the outlines of the features were not so deeply marked. The two women were of pearl, the same age and similar appearance. The assault was not of a serious nature; the only violence committed was Daniel and Margaret pulled the bailiff about. While he was proceeding with his evidence the old man burst into a flood of tears, which rendered his countenance the most ridiculous that could be imagined. Margaret then supplied him with a white handkerchief, with which he endeavored to hide his grief, and the whole four then burst into tears, the women rocking on their seats and wringing their hands amid roars of laughter. The jury found Daniel and Margaret Hinds guilty, and acquitted the other prisoners. His Lordship, with the consent of the Crown, allowed them to stand out on their own recognizances. The prisoners then shed tears even worse than before, and left the court with tumultuous expressions of gratitude, and amid roars of laughter.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

The report that the Telford case is wholly at an end proves to be premature. The *Scotsman* says:—“We understand that it is the intention of the pursuer immediately to appeal to the House of Lords against the decision of the Court refusing the reference to oath.”

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—Friday, March 17.—POLAND. Mr. P. Hennessy moved to resolve, that whereas the Russian Government shows its determination to set at naught the engagements it contracted in 1815 respecting Poland; and whereas the respect of those engagements was the condition on which the powers of Europe consented to recognise as lawful the possession by the Russian Czar of the greatest part of ancient Poland, this House cannot any longer abstain from proclaiming that the violation of those engagements implies the forfeiture by the Czar of all right to such dominion, and also of all right to any further payment by this country of the annual sum conceded to Russia under the name of the Russo-Dutch loan, that payment having been, in 1815, undertaken to be made during the space of one hundred years in consideration of Russia faithfully co-operating in the maintenance of the stipulations of the same Treaty of 1815.

Lord Palmerston strongly opposed the motion; and after some debate the motion was withdrawn.

**PROTESTANT PROSELYTISM.**

To the Editor of the *Weekly Register*.

Sir—I send you for publication the following statement of Mary Cassidy's case at the Margate Infirmary, in March 1860, which will show the Protestant calculations of the Rev. F. Bowden, in the M'Dermott matter how good Catholic mother, and her friends, can try for retrocution of a daughter, without slandering the Protestant system, teachers, or institutions.

Mary Cassidy still remains in the Margate Infirmary. Yours, &c., F. CHAMBERS, M.D.

Feb. 3, 1865, Vicarage Crescent, Margate.

**EXTRA. MARY CASSIDY'S CASE.**

A respectable though poor, widow, in May, 1859, sent her daughter to the Margate Infirmary, assisted by a gentleman in London by the payment of the charges as an indoor patient. Up to this time the girl had been attentive to her religion, and in London had been carefully attended to by the Catholic Clergy while suffering in the Hospital. Time went on, the patient improving in health and the mother laboring hard in servitude to provide her with clothing; but recently to her dismay she received letters from her daughter, now about 16 or 17, that made it imperative that she should remove her immediately on religious grounds; as the Protestant agents had been tampering with her. In March 1860, the mother with considerable difficulty, being in servitude, reached Margate, and went to the Infirmary for her daughter, who then expressed her willingness to leave, upon which she was immediately closeted with an officer in authority, the mother being shut out after which she returned to her mother altered by now saying I am advised that I am not obliged to go with you, therefore I decline to leave here. Several unsuccessful applications were made afterwards. The mother then makes the following declaration:—

I, Mary Cassidy, this day, Monday, March 12, 1860, went to the Margate Infirmary to request to be permitted to see my daughter, which the official refused. I then made my way about the Infirmary to find her; they, seeing I was determined, they forced me into a certain room, and then brought my daughter to me. I laid hold of her to bring her away, when instantly I was surrounded by the servants, men and women, my child torn from me with great violence, and myself by force carried by the men out of the Infirmary, and away from my daughter, and thrown down on the public road, by which my month was cut and bled to some extent, my thumb sprained, the skin broken, and my arm injured, and I was sent away in this manner without my daughter.

(Signed), MARY CASSIDY.

March 12, 1860. P.S.—The men were summoned, and the Magistrate, some being of the Infirmary Committee, Protestant-like, justified this manner of getting rid of a Papist mother from the Infirmary. Thus the case finished.

One of our great staple trades is threatened with ruin by combination. We alluded some weeks ago to the unfortunate dispute that had arisen between the iron masters in Staffordshire and the men in their employment. As the men could not have their own way, they struck, the usual move of the Trades Unions to enforce their demands upon employers. The masters resolved upon a policy of retaliation as the only one that could enable them to meet their opponents upon equal terms. Both parties set to work in good earnest. The Trades Union furnished notices to the men on strike to meet their domestic wants. The masters all over the North held council and resolved to stick to each other. Notices were then given to all the men who continued to work that if they contributed one farthing to the Trades Unions or to the men on strike after a certain day, and if the strike did not terminate by another specified day, the masters would all lock out on the day following, and extinguish their fires all over England. The threat failed to produce the desired effect, and the masters have rigidly kept their word. So that at this moment the iron trade all over England and Wales is completely suspended. This is a very deplorable calamity. Who will suffer most cannot be a matter of a moment's doubt. In the end the capitalist will overcome the laborer, after the latter has gone through privations to which the former will remain a stranger. But in the interval the foreigner will step in and enrich himself at the cost of the British masters and the British workmen—and when a vast deal of irreparable mischief shall have been done, the strikers will succumb—the locks will be taken off the ill-used works—business will be resumed and the victorious masters, having lost an enormous amount of capital and profits, and business, will curtail their expenses by a heavy diminution of wages. Such is always the result of these unwise proceedings.—*Weekly Register*.

We copy the following from the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*:—The struggle that has been going on for years in the iron trade has at length reached a crisis in one of the boldest measures that has ever been, or that could under any circumstances be adopted by the employers of labor in any branch of industry. On Saturday night the South Staffordshire ironworks were closed on the understanding that they should not be again opened till the North Staff rishmen had been returned to work. There are 3,000 furnaces in South Staffordshire. They were at work on Saturday but they are cold this morning. Six thousand puddlers were employed at them and for every puddler there was an assistant, and for every puddler and every assistant there was a laborer. There were coal wheelers, coal loaders and unloaders, horse drivers and labourers employed in many other capacities in connection with the ironworks. There were also 3,500 millmen. Very soon after the stopping of the ironworks a great number of colliers must be thrown out of work. On the whole 34,000 or 35,000 persons will be thrown out of employment in South Staffordshire alone this week, and £40,000 a week, that used to be distributed in wages, will no longer circulate amongst the families of the poor. If the lock out be persevered in all over the country, in accordance with the compact which the iron masters have entered into with each other 70,000 men will be thrown out of employment and above 200,000 persons will be deprived of the means of subsistence. Nearly £100,000 a week that used to be paid in wages, will be diverted from the laboring classes of the iron districts of this country, and will circulate in some other channel. As to the probable duration of the lock out it rests with the North Staffordshire puddlers to put an end to it as soon as they like. But if they be firm the men in other parts of the country are powerless. It is their practically a matter to be decided by the North Staffordshire puddlers and the masters—others of course having what influence belongs to advice and persuasion but no more. The masters will not yield until

they have had a very severe trial of their strength first. As to the means the puddlers have of resisting the North Staffordshire men, will find themselves in a very difficult position if the unions refused to support them. As to the puddlers who have just been thrown out of work, the week's wages they received on Saturday night might be made to support them for a considerable time under the pressure of an exigency like the present. Then they have the money accumulated by the association, which it is stated, amounts to £6,000 or £7,000; they hope to receive assistance, as has been said before, from trades unions, and they have some credit with the grocer, and the baker, and the publican. Men having even these small resources, and being willing to suffer a good deal from hunger and thirst; if necessary, might, if they felt so disposed, sustain an idleness for a considerable time.

The decision given by the Privy Council, in Bishop Colenso's case pronouncing his removal from the Bishopric, by the Bishop of Capetown, to be null and void; the power resting with the Queen.

A very serious misfortune has befallen the midland counties by the sudden failure of the old bank of Atwoods, Spooner, and Co., at Birmingham. The liabilities amount to upwards of a million, and the assets will, it is estimated, pay ten shillings in the pound. Mr. Marshall, the sole remaining partner (Mr. Spooner having died a few months ago, and the Atwoods having retired from the Bank years ago) attributes the failure to the withdrawal of their capital by the Atwood family ten years ago; and it would appear that the concern has been insolvent for several years. Yet they continued to receive deposits up to the ordinary hour of closing on the last day on which they opened, as if there had been a heavy balance on the right side of the account. The depositors were very numerous, on account of the unlimited confidence reposed in the Bank, but by the liberality of the other Banks in the town a great deal of the inconvenience which must otherwise have been occasioned to men of business has been obviated.—*Weekly Register*.

A swift ironclad, impregnable to any shot, and yet a good sea going vessel, has never been constructed yet. Not only has experience never proved the practicability of such a fabric, but it has tended to make the problem more and more doubtful. At present the calculations are against any such result. The latest opinion of one of our best officers is that we are coming every day to reduce the area of armour plating—that is to give up the idea of armour altogether. This, too, is exactly the opinion of a distinguished American Admiral, but in proportion as it prevails the idea of making a man-of-war unsinkable teaches us that the most seaworthy vessel is but too likely to be the most sinkable, and that the unsinkable ship will be found unworthy too.—*Times*.

**MATTHEWS AND THE REWARDS.**—The question of the rewards offered for the apprehension of Franz Muller has at last been brought to an issue. The subject as to its disposal has for a long time been under consideration. On the one hand it was argued that Matthews alone was entitled to the money, and on the other it was stated that Mr. Death and Mr. Resch would share in it. It is now decided that the whole amount, namely, £300, will go to Matthews, or rather to the assignees in bankruptcy for the benefit of his creditors. On Monday a government cheque for £100 in favor of Matthews was received by Mr. Beard and in all probability Messrs. Roberts and the North London Railway Company will follow suit, and forward their respective rewards without delay. Matthews is no longer in prison, and his creditors, it is said, are disposed to deal very leniently towards him.

**THE LATE ROBERTS.**—The extraordinary disclosures that have been lately made public connected with the city and Strand robberies, wonderful as they are, are not without precedent, as may be gleaned from the following narrative, founded on fact. Some few years ago the directors of the Bank of England received a written communication saying that the writer, who did not give his name, would meet them any evening, and at any hour they named, in the bullion room of the bank, and which was considered as impregnable as the Rock of Gibraltar or Citadel of Quebec. No notice was at first paid to the anonymous scribe, but as the letters were continued a few of the directors agreed to answer and accept the invitation to meet the mysterious writer in the stronghold of the bank. At the hour and night appointed they entered the sinisterous sancum, and, to their great surprise and consternation, to find that they were not alone, as a man in the garb of a laborer, with lantern in hand, stood before them. The enigma was soon solved by the stranger pointing to the floor, in which there was an aperture large enough to admit of any man ascending. ‘The gentlemen,’ said he, ‘communicates with a drain, and having once been called upon to repair it, I discovered how easy it would be to make an entrance into this otherwise strongly-protected room.’ The directors congratulated themselves on the discovery, took every precaution against a recurrence of the circumstance, and rewarded the man with £500. Fortunately the man was honest; had he been otherwise, he might have obtained thousands by communicating the secret to those who live by plunder.

**THE UNKNOWN CUT OR ALL.**—Mr. John H. Addison, who dates from the Stock Exchange, gives the pretensions of the Davenport Brothers their coup de grace. Mr. Addison says he has been successful in accomplishing all that the Brothers have done that he has been claimed by the spiritualists as a first rate medium, and has been designated as such in the columns of the *Spiritual Times* and *Spiritual Magazine*. Being fully persuaded, however, that he possesses no supernatural powers, he thinks it his duty to explain to the public how he has fathomed the mysteries of rope-tying, and their kindred artifice.

‘I went,’ he says, ‘in company with a professional rope-tyer equally anxious with myself to solve the apparent mystery of the instruments flying about, while the Davenport Brothers remained, as they assert, tightly bound to their chairs, to one of their Sessions at the Hanover-square Rooms. We seated ourselves in the front row of the circle, and awaited the candle being put out. This done we stretched our legs out as far as possible [my companion's legs were good long ones], and soon had the satisfaction to feel some one falling over them. To make sure we also touched an arm which immediately dropped a guinea. The next and most interesting thing for us to discover who was the person carrying the guinea; this we were fortunately prepared to do.—On the candle again being put out we filled our mouths with flour, and on the approach of the instruments blew it out in different directions. The result was satisfactory in the highest degree, for on the gas being lighted, Mr. Fay's back was covered with particles of the flour.’

**UNITED STATES.**

A soldier of General Sherman's army in describing the march through Georgia, relates the following anecdote illustrating the resolution of the South and their devotion to their cause:—‘I was struck, said he, to find, in our march through Georgia, the villages and cities more than half depopulated, the farms abandoned, everywhere an overflowing population of blacks, in the midst of which a few Caucasians were to be seen, too old or too young for the rude service of the camp, and here and there a few women crying over their departed husbands, or requesting me to carry to those who are still alive in the ranks a few lines written with a trembling hand and half defaced by their tears.’ Inquiring of one of these women if she wanted me to say anything to her husband in case I should meet him on the battlefield, or in the hospital, or in prison, ‘Nothing,’ replied she, ‘except to follow his flag.’