

ROBERT MERCHANT, an old man, died at Greece, Rochester, on Wednesday last. On his death bed he confessed that twenty years ago, while keeper of a tavern, he murdered a peddler, robbed him, and buried his body under the hotel.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' son, whose majority was recently celebrated, is suffering from a plethora of nomenclature. The papers call him by turns, Edward, Albert, Victor, and by a combination of these names. It is understood that he will be officially known as Edward. The Prince of Wales intends to drop the name Albert at his coronation, and will reign as Edward VII., and when his son ascends the throne, it will be as Edward VIII.

JUDGE MAGUIRE, of the Supreme Court, San Francisco, has decided in the case of Manie Tape, a Chinese girl, ten years of age, against Mrs. Jennie A. M. Hurley, principal of a public school in this city, that Chinese children born in this country are entitled to admission to the public schools. The decision is based on the fourteenth amendment, which secures equal privileges to all persons born within the United States subject to their jurisdiction, and the state law which provides that all children shall have equal facilities for education by means of public schools.

ACCORDING to the official record 695 persons were killed by earthquakes in Granada and 1,450 injured. Shocks of earthquake continue daily in Granada, and the demoralization of the people is increasing.

AN OTTAWA voyager in Egypt, named William Doyle, was thrown out of a boat on the Nile and drowned. There is a large number of Canadian voyagers in the hospitals and there is only one left to pilot about every eighth boat ascending the Nile.

THE CASTLE authorities at Dublin are alarmed over the activity of secret societies. Fenians have been swearing in large numbers of recruits. It is asserted the Invincible Society has been re-organized, with headquarters in London.

IT IS SAID ex-Governor Coburn, of Maine, a short time before his death, was swindled by Boston sharpers out of \$50,000 through the purchase of Topeka, Salina & Western Railway securities.

A CHINESE SQUADRON has been despatched to Formosa to attack the fleet of Admiral Courbet, recapture Kelung and raise the blockade.

A TERRIBLE MINING ACCIDENT occurred at Levin, France, on the 18th inst., by which about forty-eight lives have been lost. An explosion of fire-damp caused 800 metres of the galleries to fall.

A YOUNG GIRL named Marie Therien, aged 14, a pupil at a young ladies school in Paris, has been recently whipped by her teacher, with most distressing results. Marie appears to have been a nervous child, and the effect of the whipping, which was not unduly severe, brought on hysteria. The girl gave way to violent paroxysms, tore her clothes and attempted to injure herself, so that she had to be strapped down in bed. Her parents were at once sent for and the child was removed, and, under medical advice, was placed in a *maison de sante*, where it is hoped she will recover her reason. M. Therien intends bringing an action against the proprietress of the school for assaulting his daughter. This should prove a warning to teachers in their dealing with children, and especially children of nervous temperament, to whom treatment such as has been described, might prove of lasting injury.

CONSIDERABLE excitement prevails in the Gattineau district over the Quebec government's eviction feat. Scores of poor settlers in five townships around Montulhae are affected by it, and fear that their homesteads will be swept from them. The *Free Press* says the wholesale eviction and confiscation threatened is scarcely paralleled in the worst pages of the history of Irish landlordism. It is a glaring and iniquitous outrage under the name of a legal action.

THE RENT strike in the County of Limerick is gaining headway.

NOTWITHSTANDING the persistency with which the report is circulated that the Queen purposes visiting Cannes during the winter there is higher authority for saying that Her Majesty has no such intention. With the Princess Beatrice she will return to Windsor about the second week in February, and about the middle of March they will go to Germany and remain on the Continent for three weeks.

THE LORD-LIEUTENANT has forbidden the circulation of O'Donovan Rossa's paper in Ireland.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the Duke of Edinburgh will publish a collection of poems dedicated to the Duchess of Edinburgh, entitled "Love Songs of a Violinist."

A SEVERE STORM raged at Nice on Saturday last. The sea submerged the Quai Midi and Promenade Anglais and cellars of the hotels and villas were flooded. The damage was serious.

THE WHEELMEN from Boston, Chicago, New York and Buffalo met the other day, and arranged for a tour next summer, lasting two weeks, through Canada to the Thousand Islands, to Niagara, Albany, down the Hudson to New York, leaving Buffalo on July 6th.

ANOTHER severe shock of earthquake was experienced at Granada on Friday last, causing great alarm among the inhabitants. Snow storms and frost continue. In Malaga the sugar cane crop has been destroyed, and the orange and olive groves damaged. The situation is most critical. The earth is again trembling. Wind and snow have destroyed the huts of those who fled from the cities and towns for safety. At Frigiliana the people are desperate by cold and hunger, and attack the houses of land-owners. Another severe shock has been experienced at Camillas.

THE KING OF SPAIN, who has made a tour through the districts desolated by the recent earthquakes, has witnessed scenes of great suffering. Sickness is everywhere increasing in consequence of the severity of the weather, and the absence of clothing, provisions and shelter.

NORWICH, CONN., appears to have a mania for stock-gambling. Two million dollars of Norwich money has been squandered in Wall street the last two years. Every business man who had a dollar set it whirling on margin of a railway or mining stock. Men sold their estates and even personal property to keep up the margins. New York brokers said Norwich was the most hopelessly crazy one on stock speculation of any town of its size in the country.

PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE has a novel idea. He proposes to have a collection of the different uncivilized races in Paris. We constantly, he argues, bring together the various products of the globe; why not bring together the producers?

THE ATLANTIC MILLS at Lawrence, Mass., employing 2,500 operators, announce a general reduction in wages, to take effect February 9th.

THE TOWN COUNCIL of Vienna has ordered an enquiry into the reason why the bakers buy wheat cheap and sell bread dear.

Jews own and work more than 1,250,000 acres of land in Russia and rent from the Crown nearly 1,500,000 acres more.

THE SOUTH INFIRMARY of the Illinois Eastern Hospital for the Insane was burned on Sunday morning last. The fire originated in the furnace room, and had obtained strong headway before it was discovered. The floors and stairways being of Southern pine burned rapidly. The building was occupied by forty-five patients, six attendants, and one night watchman. Seventeen patients in all are missing. Twelve bodies have been recovered, burned beyond recognition. All of the patients were infirm and incurable. The bed ridden ones were rescued first, and those who were able to help themselves did not realize their danger in time. The building, which was new, cost \$16,000. The fire spread so rapidly that all efforts to save the building in the absence of a fire alarm, and for want of facilities to quench the flames, were found to be in vain. At the instant the entire remains of ten victims were spread on a table two feet square—a little heap of charred ashes.

LORD AYLESFORD, who in England achieved such unenviable notoriety, has just died at Brig Springs, Texas, where he had taken to cattle ranching.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT occurred on Thursday night last in the Irish sea, involving the loss of life of sixteen persons. The Dublin and Holyhead packet "Admiral Morson" collided with the American ship "Santa Clara," from Liverpool to New York, and was sunk. Every effort was made to save the lives of those aboard the sinking ship, but a heavy sea was on at the time, and twelve of the crew and four passengers were drowned. This latest disaster has brought to light other serious accidents which have lately occurred in the Irish sea, and which have been kept quiet or only scantily noticed. Two steamers of the same company that owned the "Admiral Morson" came into collision a few days ago and caused the death of two seamen. A month ago another steamer of the same line foundered; all of the officers and crew were drowned, but there were no passengers on board. This series of disasters has caused much nervousness and anxiety among passengers on the Dublin and Holyhead line, and also on the packet line between Cork and Liverpool.

MR. ROSS WINANS, an American millionaire, has got himself into bad odor in the old country. He has a very extensive deer-park in Scotland and he has been making himself extremely obnoxious to some cottars who are on part of his leased estate, and who have for years been in the habit of allowing their sheep to graze on the outskirts of his park. This annoyed him and he determined to clear out the cottars. He accordingly brought an action against one of them named McRae for trespass, for allowing a pet lamb to graze on his estate. The case was tried on Monday last and the action was dismissed, Mr. Winans being condemned to pay heavy costs.

GREAT EXCITEMENT prevails in Albany over the poisoning of the Misses Annie, Blanche, and Jennie Burns, three highly respected young ladies. They prepared breakfast on Saturday last, using water from a barrel. Shortly after eating they became violently sick. Upon examination the water in the barrel was found to contain arsenic. How it got there is a mystery. The victims up to latest accounts, were in a serious condition.

THE DUBLIN CASTLE authorities are alarmed. In addition to the reports of general Fenian activity there is specific information that the Invincibles have been re-organized with head quarters in London, and that one of their avowed objects is to assassinate ("remove" is the more euphemistic term of the society) Earl Spencer before the end of his term. In consequence of this more care than ever is taken of his Excellency, and the judges and counsel who were in any way engaged in prosecuting the Phoenix park murderers, are also under protection of the detectives.

CAPT. BEDFORD PIM, of the British navy, who has recently been exploring the route of the proposed Panama canal, in a letter to Secretary Frelinghuysen on the subject, says over sixty million dollars had been expended on the work thus far, and less than three miles of the contemplated 41 miles of water-way have been opened; that owing to the nature of the soil it would be impossible for a force of 10,000 laborers to complete the total excavation of the canal in less than 15 years, and that to protect the work from overflow will require five years of great industry and immense outlay.

MANY of the church-yards in London, (England), are far above the level of the adjacent streets, raised by repeated burials, inch by inch, year by year, till in many cases the surface has been raised six or seven feet—the cities of the dead are very populous. In addition to being eyesores, these urban graveyards are unwholesome, and the tendency has been of late to close them, and in many cases the old yardshave been levelled laid out in flower beds, and make charming playgrounds for the young in crowded localities. The committee of the Privy Council on the recommendation of Sir William Harcourt, the Home Secretary, has just ordered the closing of eight city church-yards on sanitary grounds.

THE GERMAN officers who have entered the Chinese service meet with many difficulties. The Chinese appear apathetic, and look with apprehension upon the proposed improvements in military appliances.

ANECDOTE OF PROFESSOR FAWCETT. That a man need not despair of his being able to do good and lasting services for humanity because he is deprived of one of the means which Nature has given us of communion with the outer world has been evidenced by the career of the late Professor Fawcett, the old Postmaster-General. The following instance of the thoroughness with which Mr. Fawcett carried out his conviction of duty is related by a friend of his, Mr. Henry Willett, who had the anecdote from Mr. Fawcett himself: The Post Office is the largest employer of labor in the country, having over 80,000 employees. Amongst these numbers all are not honest, nor trustworthy, and as every dismissal has to be signed by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Fawcett considered it a duty to engage himself into particulars before taking a step so serious to the person accused. Not long ago defalcations having occurred in a local post office, a watch was set. Strong suspicion fell on a clerk who had been caught in using telegrams for racing and betting. As an experiment the clerk was removed to another office for a month, and the irregularities instantly ceased; he was then sent back and immediately they recommenced. What could be a closer case? He must be dismissed. But so; Mr. Fawcett said, "I'll give him one more chance; for he has been to the Rector, who has written that he confesses his gambling and general misconduct, but solemnly protests he is not the thief. The Rector believes him, and as he has admitted his gambling he may be innocent. If he had denied it, I should be convinced that he was guilty." Certain delicate and microscopic tests, which are made use of in difficult cases by the Post Office, were then applied, and the result proved conclusively that the clerk was a guard of the railway train, who had been statute enough to stop his thefts during the temporary absence of the suspected clerk, but who resumed them on his return. "There! you see, Mr. Willett," said the blind Professor, "by a little extra care I saved a fool: a young man from the absurd ruin of character which his dismissal from the Post Office under such suspicion would have involved."