Arrival of the English Mail.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

(*From Willmer and Smith's European Times.*)

The papers this week contain an account of an attempted rising of the criminal inmates of the Gaol of Portland, the number of which is about 1500. It was arranged that on a certain day, at a given signal, the prisoners were to rush to a certain point, and after seizing the warders, the turnkeys, and other officers of the prison, whom in all probability they would have murdered in cold blood, intended to fire the prison and then make their escape. Fortunately the authorities were prepared for this movement, had soldiers in ambuscade near at hand, and when the signal was given and acted upon, the convicts were immediately seized and secured without difficulty. The plot appears to have been admirably arranged, and as admirably frustrated. But the most remarkable circumstance connected with this prison is, that although the discipline is most rigid, and the inmates prepared in every way by being made to learn a trade, and assisted with money at the expiration of their respective terms to start afresh in the world, and even to emigrate, if they desire it, they never reform, and almost always return to their own habits again. "Real gaol birds," says a gentleman, who appears to be well acquainted with the establishment, "villains who have taken the highest degrees in crime, rarely reform. Again and again they return to the various prisons—are born, live, and die felons. It is a melancholy truth, but from careful inquiry I feel convinced that, as a rule, this is strictly true, and I mention it to point a moral. Let us, as a nation, spend more money in drying up the sources of crime by educating, especially industrially, the children of the dangerous classes from which our criminals spring. It is easier and cheaper for us as a nation to pay £15 a-year to prevent crime by educating a vagabond boy than to pay £30 a-year to maintain the grown-up felon at Portland or Wakefield. That England does not adopt the cheaper course, although Scotland has, is a matter that seriously calls for public notice." There is much in this suggestion that merits attention. But it is clear that if all the "vagabond children" were educated in this way by the State there are numbers of parents, not vagabonds or bad characters, who would not hesitate to take advantage of the system in order to be relieved of the education of their offspring. Again, if the prisoners at Portland cost the State £30 a-year, the state of discipline is very imperfect, and requires reform. A criminal confined as at Portland for a certain number of years—the prison is now conducted as a substitute for transportation—ought to be made to support himself by producing as the result of some handicraft as much as he consumes; but still it is a melancholy confession that "gaol birds" seldom or never reform.

The royal commission on the army clothing system has been opened to the public this week, and some of the disclosures throw a good deal of light on the recent extraordinary proceedings at Weedon. Mr. Gilpin's evidence respecting the cloth which was accepted at the Tower, and then sent to Weedon, where it was rejected, and then sent back to the Tower, where it was sold to a Mr. Levy, who sold it to Mr. Gilpin, who made trousers of it, which were again sent to Weedon and accepted, reveals a state of things, the pursuance of which would speedily send any private merchant or manufacturer into the *Gazette*. Undoubtedly, the new system is in every way superior to the former one, if it is properly and conscientiously carried out; and from the exposure which the whole process is now undergoing we anticipate a more healthy surveillance. The Commissioners, it is evident, are not disposed to mince matters, and they appear resolved to throw light on every thing.

The defects of the Atlantic cable are now such as to be almost hopeless, and in addition to this misfortune the directors are engaged in defending themselves from attacks made by those lately in their service by whom they have been assailed. Mr. Brett states that what little Mr. Whitehouse knew of electricity he derived from kimself, and the letters and correspondence in the newspapers have been greatly calculated, he declares, to mislead the public mind. He expresses a hope that the directors will be encouraged to lay a cable next year of three electric conductors, and he gives some inkling of what may be done to prevent future failure. The question, like the Leviathan, is entirely one of money, and it remains to be seen how the pecuniary appeal will be responded to.

Mr. J. Bright, M. P., upon Emigration.—Mr. John Bright, M. P., who was invited to be present at a meeting held in Glasgow for the purpose of considering some scheme to enable the working classes to emigrate to the colonies, sent a letter giving his reasons why he could not support the main point in the resolutions to be proposed. He said he did not know that it was "the bounden duty" of the Government to adopt measures to enable a portion of the population to emigrate, for if such a duty were laid upon it he did not know where it must end. Every man who thought he could improve his position abroad might ask to be sent abroad; and all men having an equal claim upon the Government of the country, the difficulty might become, and soon would become, insurmountable. But if he did not see how the Government could be called upon to provide the means of emigration, they must not suppose that he thought emigration unwise. On the contrary, he felt assured that with the past and present policy of England labour would find its best reward in Canada, in the States, or in Australia; and he not only could not blame but must applaud the resolution of every man who was determined by his industry and his economy to provide the means of conveying himself and his family to another, and to him and them a more happy, country. Mr. Crawford, of Glasgow, has issued a long reply to Mr. Bright's letter. In conclusion, he says—"If Government advanced ten millions sterling to the unemployed Irish to cobble old roads, and so give them work and wages to keep them from starvation, why should Government not lend a helping hand to the unemployed Scotch reduced to suffering, not through a failure in the potato crop, but through failures in banks and trade generally, for which they are not reproachable, and over which they had no control?"

The Coming End.—We begin to see an end of the struggle. Oude and Shahabad alone remain in the possession of the rebels. The Central India insurgents are fleeing from district to district, and town to town, careful not so much to recruit their exhausted forces as to preserve their ill-gotten wealth. They are endeavouring to find the limits of British power, a country where they may settle in peace, and found a new dynasty. But the empire and the influence of the Indian Government are of no contracted limits. The offender cannot hope to escape beyond the confines of our rule. Sooner or later justice overtakes him; sooner or later he pays the penalty of his crimes, and only learns our power when he discovers that flight is impossible. North and south, east and west, there is nothing for the rebel but the sea, to him an object of superstitious dread, and tribes of whose hostility he is assured by the remembrance of bygone ages of conquest. Our confidence is not ill-founded. The steady rise in the value of government promissory notes, the absence of all extensive local disturbances, the increased vigour of commercial enterprise, and the removal of martial law over districts at one time the very centres of rebellion, all show that at no time since May, 1857, have we been more free from danger than at present.—*Friend of India.*

Serious Conflagrations in Russia.—A letter from St. Petersburg says—"The fire continues its ravages. Every day we receive the news of fresh disasters occasioned by the burning of the forests and the dry turf. Sparks carried by the wind have even in several places set fire to the wooden sleepers of the Moscow Railway and to the posts of the telegraph wires. The passengers that were in an express train, driven at a great rate, were half suffocated in passing through one of these places. Afterwards the communications were interrupted for 36 hours. On the 12th of September, at the moment when Strauss's band were playing a new waltz. 'Les adieux a Saint Petersburg,' at the Vauxhall of Parlhvak, the tocsin was all at once heard sounding in the town. The crowd hurried from the gardens, and perceived the glare of a fire which had broken out in the same quarter in which occurred the serious conflagrations only 15 days ago. Several houses have been destroyed, and the lives have been lost of a young Jewess and several children, whose parents had gone to see the illuminations at Vauxhall."

The marriage of Lord Walter Scott, third son of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, and Miss Hartopp, daughter of Sir William and Lady Hartopp, is to be solemnised the first or second week in the ensuing month, at Four Oaks, the family seat in Warwickshire. Lord Walter Scott has recently retired from the army.

On Monday morning, the 20th, a fire broke out in the Bank of Ireland, but it was quickly extinguished.

A MONTH'S NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.

In the first place, the revenues of the Colony of Victoria are in a very satisfactory state, the increase on the year ending the 8th of June last being no less than £500,000, out of a revenue amounting altogether to something less than £3,500,000—not a bad income, one would think for a colony which has only attained the twenty-first year of its existence. Let it be observed that this fine settlement not only does not now cost, but never has cost the mother country anything, the very troops which it requires for its defence being paid for, like those of the East India Company, out of colonial funds. The next point to which we call attention is the establishment of a new Bank for the colonists, who are not unreasonably anxious to get this branch of business into their own hands, instead of trusting it to the numerous English companies by which it has hitherto been almost entirely monopolized. The next melancholy indication of the declining state of those drooping settlements is the statement of gold exported from Victoria during the last six months, which amounts to 1,277,568 ounces, and what is still more melancholy, shows an almost progressive increase month by month. Then, again, there is the further fact that capital and the combination and division of labor are beginning to be applied in earnest to the production of gold, and that lands believed to have been exhausted by the researches of single diggers are being working at a profit by the quartz-crushing companies. Indeed, gold mining is now carried on with great success within nine miles of the city of Melbourne itself. But perhaps this colony so wealthy, so prosperous, so self-reliant, is growing weary of her connexion with perfidious Albion, and meditating a bold stroke for independence, such as that which separated from us our earlier settlements in America? The same letter which brings us news of this very considerable material progress informs us that politics are a blank. There is absolutely nothing to talk or write about, the only topic which seems to engross the attention of the public being the mission of the Mayor of Melbourne—a gentleman who has made a large property in the colony, and rejoices, moreover, in the truly national patronymic of Smith—on a message round the globe for the purpose of presenting an address to her Majesty, congratulating her on the marriage of the Princess Royal. This herald of approaching revolution carries along with him £4,200, as a further subscription from the Colony of Victoria to the Indian Relief fund, and £110 for the fund for the relief of soldiers' daughters. Such are our tidings from Victoria, and we think we shall be guilty of no overstrained inference if we assert that, in whatever we may have failed, we have at any rate succeeded in rising up a community wealthy, prosperous, enterprising, and self-supporting, contented with its own institutions, and cordially and even affectionately attached to the mother country from whom she received them.

Let us now turn to New South Wales—a colony which was once our Cayenne or Lambessa, only with this important difference, that our convicts were sent there to live instead of to die. New South Wales is not in so tranquil a political state as Victoria, for it is engaged at this moment in giving itself, under the name of a reform bill, what is virtually, in many respects, a new constitution. A warm struggle is going on; the conservative minority fight their ground inch by inch, but the measure makes progress, nevertheless, and will, for good or for evil, shortly become law. Another question has arisen, which, considering our long exclusion from all commerce with the Celestial Empire, has about it something of an air of comic retribution. The Chinese in New South Wales number at the present time no less than 25,000 souls. Like the Mormons, and for somewhat analogous reasons, they have been driven from other colonies of Australia, and have found a refuge at last in New South Wales. It requires no detailed exposition to show that the immigration of 25,000 Chinese—men without women—carries with it most serious objections to an English community, and these objections are much aggravated and enhanced by the jealousy of the working classes, who view in these Celestial immigrants formidable opponents, whose competition must tend in a considerable degree to lower the rate of wages, which just at this moment has fallen below the ordinary average. The result has been, not an absolute prohibition, but certainly a very heavy duty on this kind of imported labor, for every Chinese is for the future to be charged on landing, nominally for the purpose of defraying the expenses they occasion to the Government, but really with the view of keeping them, if possible, out of the country altogether. Were the Emperor of China in a condition to make demands on us as well as to agree to ours, he might probably be considered not unreasonable in demanding for his subjects as free a passage into our dominions as he undertakes to accord us. The colony is about to undertake three railway extensions—to the south, to the west, and to the north. It has also had its first considerable railway accident—a clear proof of advancing civilization. This colony also has raised £5,000, as its contribution to the Indian Relief Fund.—*London Times.*

French and Roman Conflicts.—Hostilities have broken out afresh between the French and Roman soldiery in Rome. The other day a Roman dragoon was set upon by four French soldiers who had been drinking immoderately. He was obliged to draw his sword upon them in defence, and a combat ensued, in which in spite of the odds against him, the dragoon with his long weapon might have had the best of the encounter, had he not got entangled with his own spurs whilst turning short round to defend himself from the assaults of one of his foes who had attacked him in the rear, and fallen to the ground a helpless prey to the sabres of his cowardly assailants. The dragoon's head was split open before he could be rescued, and he would probably have been hacked to pieces if a patrol of French soldiers who had not opportunely arrived. It is expected that one or two of the French soldiers who commenced the quarrel will be shot, in accordance with the severe measures ordered by General de Goyon on a similar occasion, shortly before his departure for France.

The Sultan's Revolt.—The *Times'* Paris letter contains an amusing sketch of the proceedings of one of the favorite sultanas, in open defiance of the economical regulations of her sublime lord and master. After incurring, in one day enormous liabilities, she sent an account of the outlay to Riza Pacha. The minister went in astonishment to the Sultan, and received for answer that he had better "leave that sultana quiet, for that otherwise she might play him some ugly trick." Another sultana has called in the services of a Greek doctor, to operate upon a whitlow, the Sultan himself made a present to the surgeon of about £400 sterling. After these facts the chronicler naively inquires,—who can believe as serious the Sultan's professions of reform? A person who has recently had insight into the bills of the persons who were in the habit of supplying the ladies of the Sultan's harem with goods states that for a pair of stockings, which in Paris would cost 10f. or 12f., a sum equivalent to 300f. was charged.

Thunderstorm in Ireland.—A violent thunder-storm, accompanied by heavy falls of rain, last week visited some parts of Ireland. Several horses were killed in the neighbourhood of Wexford. The town of Dumanway was completely deluged, stacks of corn and cocks of hay being carried away. A farmer, named M'Carthy, was sitting on his cart, returning from Bandon, and not suspecting any danger, when his vehicle was carried off by the water the horse remained sunk in the dyke, with the cart. He was carried down the road, or rather stream when he caught hold of a small tree, and held fast until relieved. The horse was found dead. Several bridges over the byeways were washed away, and whole potato fields submerged. The lightning struck several places in Belfast, and killed a horse belonging to Hill Hamilton, Esq.

Steam from Galway to New York.—The steamship Indian Empire, which has been repaired in the Southampton docks, has left that port for Galway, from whence she will proceed to New York on the 28th instant. A ship, named The Congress, has been purchased by the same company, and will leave Galway on the 12th proximo.

The *Madrid Gazette* publishes the terms of a contract which is about to be entered into for the supply of the "Holy Cross Office" of a large quantity of paper required for printing certificates of permission to eat meat on the days on which it is prohibited by the Roman Catholic Church. These certificates are sold at about 10d. each, and constitute a considerable source of revenue to the Holy See.

A correspondent in a London paper complains of an objectionable mode of raising money adopted by the Sister of Mercy, at Swinford, in the county of Mayo, who have got up a raffle at their convent for "a very handsome gold watch," and are inviting persons by circular to take tickets in the lottery.

Sikhs and Sepoys.—A guerilla warfare took place neat Dehreo, on the 18th ult. Captain Rattray picked eight men from his Sikh regiment, and dispatched them with instructions to bring in or kill Sungram Singh, an old blood-stained scoundrel, who had committed several murders and other crimes in the neighbourhood of Rotas. The Sikhs bettered their instructions, for in addition to fetching Sungram Singh alive into Captain Rattray's tent, they killed his brother, sons, nephews, and grandsons, in all nine persons. The Sikhs had disguised themselves as mutinous Sepoys, and thus got into the confidence of the whole gang. Another incident will illustrate the sort of service in which our troops are now engaged. Within a limited distance of Allahabad are a great number of mud forts, which afford shelter and trysting points for the rebels, and to demolish as many of them as possible is of course an important object. On or about the 10th last month—precision of dates is not always arrived at—a small party of our troops attacked one of these strongholds, near Sobraon, which was vigorously defended by a force of nearly 1000. The result was that 700 of the enemy were slain, and the commandant taken prisoner, with a considerable amount of booty.—*Bombay Gazette.*

Times Paris correspondent gives currency to a rumour in that capital that there exists a conspiracy to get rid of the present Sultan of Turkey, and to replace him by his brother Abdul Aziz.

We are informed by the *Kilkinny Journal* that Michael Cormack, Esq., who purchased Priestown, otherwise Langley-lodge, in the Irish Encumbered Court, has given his tenants leases for ninety-nine years at a very low rent. The land, some of which paid 38s., they have now for 26s. a acre.

The great Glengyle case, in which the chief of the Macgregors claimed £93,000 as compensation for 14 acres of a Highland bog, has been settled by the Dean of Faculty with £650.

AMERICAN AND COLONIAL ITEMS.

Three Hundred Mormon Women Renouncing the Faith.—By the arrival of a young man named Herbert Brandon, we have been furnished with the following information from Salt Lake:

"I" (says our informant) "left Camp Scott on the 13th June. The Mormon excitement had been entirely abated. Several Mormon trains had passed Camp Scott on their way to the States.

They stated while camped at the above place, that they would not have been permitted to leave, or they would have abandoned Salt Lake long ago.

On being questioned as to their determination to resist the entrance of the United States troops, they replied that the major part of the Mormons only awaited the entrance of the troops in order to escape from Brigham Young and Mormonism.

On their arrival at Camp Scott, they were minus the common necessaries of life. On being asked the cause of their destitute condition, they stated that before Brigham Young had relented from his determination to resist the troops, he had ordered them to deposit what provisions that had in the store house; but as soon as he made known his intention of going south, those of the Mormons who refused to go, were deprived of all, and could get nothing for their outfit. They all stated that but for the interference of Governor Cumming, the destroying angel would have forced him away, and that they did succeed, in some instances, in driving away several women. I came down with two Mormon trains from Camp Scott, numbering about three hundred persons, principally women, who were chiefly English, and some Scotch; and the principal topic of their conversation throughout was the absurdity of Mormonism and its principles. They were all unanimous in their denunciations of Brigham Young and his apostles, and talked of his assassination by the Mormons who remained at Camp Scott, as a sure event.

They have all (without exception) become disgusted with Mormonism and renounced it, and expressed their determination from henceforth to use all their efforts for the total annihilation of Mormonism. They express their desire to return at once to their native countries, and would, if they had the means in do so, in order that they might be instrumental in saving others from the baneful influence of Mormonism. On their arrival at Plattsmouth, on the Missouri River, they had calculated to cross over the Council Bluffs, but the bad condition of the roads in Iowa changed their resolve, and they are now dispersing themselves in Kansas and Nebraska Territories."

Mr. Brandon gave us many other interesting particulars, from which we conclude that a speedy dissolution awaits the community of Latter Day Saints.—*Jefferson City (Mo.) Examiner Sep. 4.*

TWENTY-TWO MORE PERSONS SAVED FROM THE STEAMSHIP AUSTRIA.

The Norwegian ship *Catarina* 43 days from Fowey, at Quebec 3rd inst., reports, Sept. 14, lat 41 39, long 44 40, at 2 A. M., fell in with the unfortunate steamship Austria, and took from the wreck 22 persons, in all—16 passengers and 6 of the crew. In the number is a girl about 14 years of age. They were all cared for on their arrival at Quebec. The following particulars were given by these people:—The pump in connection with the fire engine was not in working order. Attempts to render it available were frustrated by the flames. Eighteen persons got out on the bowsprit gear, and a sailor directed them to dip portions of their clothing in the sea and pass them to him, by which he put out the fire near them. They thus remained until picked up by the boats of Catarina. A Swede states that he saw the Captain rush on deck, when the fire broke out, and attempt to jump overboard. To a passenger who restrained him, he (the Captain) said he did not know what he was doing.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION IN NEW YORK.

Large Loss of Valuable Property.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE CONSUMED.

A Telegraphic despatch received at the Merchants' Exchange Rooms yesterday, dated New York, Sept. 5th, states that the Crystal Palace in that City was totally destroyed by fire on the night previous, supposed to have been the act of an incendiary. The loss is estimated at more than One Million of Dollars. The Fair of the American Institute was being held in the building. Many valuable works of art have been consumed. One man has been taken out of the ruins dead. Others are supposed to have been killed.

The Hon. Wm. Young lately astonished the Vermonters by his eloquence and legal ability. We have understood that Mr. Collins, Mr. Young and other gentlemen in Nova Scotia have a large amount of capital invested in the Vermont Central and Canada Railways,—which capital, it appeared, had yielded no return, though the road had yielded well. An action was brought by them in the Chancery Court at Burlington, and Mr. Young having been allowed to address the Court, most successfully impressed the mind of the Chancellor, and those present, of the justness of his case. The decree will be in favor of the complainants. Many thousands of pounds are at stake.—*Sun.*

☞ The American fishing schooner *Bloomer*, arrived at this port on Sunday last, reports when off Cape Sable on Friday night, and foremast split and a man killed by lightning. The deceased was named Angus Morrison, of Mabou, Cape Breton, and was smoking a pipe in the forecastle at the time of his death.—*Chronicle, 5th inst.*

(*From the Islander.*)

Manse, Belfast, September 27, 1858.

To His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, Knight, Lieut. Governor, &c., &c.

Sir,

Your acknowledgment of my former communication I duly received: since then the reply to the same by George Coles, the leader of your Government, appeared in the *Examiner*, and *addressed to the Editor of said paper*. My absence from the Island for weeks, in the discharge of the special duties of my calling, prevented me from pursuing this correspondence. I feel sure, however, that your Excellency will readily pardon the delay—more especially as I gladly profess ignorance of the political etiquette and policy of your Government, and a ready willingness to remain wisely ignorant of the same.

This letter, as appears in the *Examiner* of the 23d ult., and signed "George Coles," I take not only to be the reply of that individual, but of every member of your Government, until they disclaim connection with both. And were it not that said person assumes to be the first Minister of a Colonial Government, under the British Crown, I beg to assure your Excellency that I could not feel at liberty to direct your attention to such a production, nor should I deign to notice it. As regards a specimen of English composition, this letter deserves to be sent to the British Minister for the Colonies, in proof of the high attainments of members of your Government, whose counsel your Excellency was so fearful of losing, as expressed in your notable Despatch of 10th December, 1855, as such an event you say, "must have led to their places being filled by persons *far less qualified in every respect* for that position." And as regards a piece of falsehood and slander, it would require some research to find anything of the same extent, to surpass this letter, excepting in the *People's Journal* and *Examiner* newspapers,—the only two periodicals, it is believed, in any Colony, that says one syllable in support or in defence of your Excellency's Government, as conducted in this Island. The Editor of the latter doubtless thinks that he is amply paid by his masters for such effusions; and the assumed Editor of the former having neither character, property, nor religion to lose, is amply screened by his own insignificance; but his name being designedly withheld, public opinion must regard your Government, whose cause it advocates, responsible for what appears in that scurrilous Journal.

Allow me to "exhume" some of these falsehoods from this famous epistle, signed "George Coles," for your Excellency's special attention, and indicate some of the evidences of those baseless assertions—although the *onus probandi* falls on him. Falsehood 1. He says that I "thought proper to falsify and misrepresent his language at the recent elections." Manifestly untrue. I never mentioned what he did or did not say at the elections.

Falsehood 2. He denies exciting the worst passions of a certain faith against Ministers of the Gospel. Many of the most respectable, credible men of the city heard him do so, not only in the city, but country, and are prepared to prove the same, so that none but one lost to all shame could deny what had been said in the presence of so many witnesses. And besides, another person, high in the favour and praise of your Government, publicly in the city, anticipated the time when there would not be a "white-choker"—to use his own polished language—from Charlottetown to the utmost limits of the Island. In answer to this query—"what political parsons did I mean?" I reply, that when Geo. Coles was engaged declaiming against Ministers of the Gospel, James Duncan, Esq., challenged him to mention names, yet he had not the manliness to do so.

Falsehood 3. He charges me with "unchristian conduct towards Mr. Davies." On the contrary, Mr. Davies declared at a public meeting towards the close of his electioneering course, that I had acted a "gentlemanly" part towards him. And need I observe that I fairly and openly told him at the outset that "we" could give no countenance to any one allied to your government. There was nothing unchristian in this. And why should one charge me with unchristian conduct—what he knows nothing of in practice, and therefore cannot apprehend in theory.

Falsehoods 4, 5 & 6. He ascribes to me "firebrand speeches at public meetings, which he attended in company with the opposition candidate, and by mounting the hustings the first on the day of polling, to deter his congregation from voting for Mr. Davies." As hundreds can testify, I did not make speeches, far less firebrand speeches—leaving this hot work for himself—at public meetings in company with the opposition Candidate. The opposition Candidate was quite competent to do his own work, and this G. Coles knows and fears. I did not "mount the hustings the first," nor did I go near the place of polling till about mid-day, after almost every individual who designed so, voted for Mr. Davies. I did not ascend the hustings at all.

Falsehood 7. He says that I "tried," with the assistance of the *Protector*, to raise the worst passions of "the Catholic community."

I dare not follow this libeller into his perversions of God's word; and as to his insinuations, such as he may or may not have "heard," from the baser sort of the "vulgus."

Can it then be possible, as this politician assumes, that the existing government of this Island, under such a leader, still has the majority? If so, we might readily conceive of the poet of ancient Rome—without adopting any higher standard of morals—present his ghostly shade, and exclaim in perfect astonishment—

"Pro Curia inversique mores,"*

and the enlightened portion of the community cannot be too active in petitioning for its removal, and annexation to another Colony, ere it become utterly extinct under the weight of its own corruption.

But, Sir, the public have a right to inquire very minutely into the position and conduct of this George Coles, who, with untold arrogance, speaks of the "censure he and others felt bound to pass on these political parsons." Who and what gave rise to this new, and (to him) reprehensive order of things? And what was the occasion of the parsons' alliance, and of the *Protector*? whose influence he feels so keenly, because the lash of truth is felt most sorely by such as seek to live on deceit and falsehood. Here lies the secret of the origin of the whole matter. The Bishop of Rustico calls attention to the character of our public Schools, and declares that nothing short of a "Godless" system will suit him. Immediately this first Minister of a British Colony, hastens into the presence of this prelate, who receives his titles and credentials from a foreign Potentate, and a few days thereafter, as the result of this interview, this Bishop declares himself "*perfectly satisfied*," with the explanations this minister gives. And we may readily conclude, from the future policy of this crouching politician, that these very satisfactory explanations had reference rather to the future than to the past. With the unwonted commotion which the allocation, by the same hierarchy, of the territorial subdivisions of England occasioned, before his eyes, this first minister of a British Colony, takes his lessons from this prelate, and acts on them, with reference to our dearest privileges; while the merest tyro in civil and ecclesiastical history knows well that nothing short of the most abject submission in all things appertaining to Church and State, ever satisfies demands from that quarter. But George Coles "*perfectly satisfies*" the Bishop, and no doubt the Bishop perfectly satisfies this minister of a British Colony—for the latter most sedulously pursues a course of policy which secures for him the united support of the Bishop's Clergy. And encouraged by the tutelary guardianship of this minister, about twelve months thereafter, the Bishop, together with his three brother prelates, not contented with the satisfaction given them with regard to their own interests, hurls forth and proclaims to the world their anathemas against that blessed Book, which is the charter of all that is dear to us. And now that other twelve months are about to transpire, who can divine what is now to befall us, while this famous minister would have us to remain mute as mummies, should all the potentates in the world combine to wrest from us every vestige of our most sacred liberties. From this personal interview with the Bishop, onwards, this first minister of a British Colony, takes every favourable occasion in Parliament, in speeches, and in his servile Journals, to satisfy this prelate, by endeavouring to cast a stigma on Protestant Clergymen. Even the worthy Pastor and Rector of St. Paul's Church—whom he assumes to call "the pastor of *my own* Church, (Examiner, June 14th)—he thinks proper to censure, because he dares to think and speak differently from one who takes counsel, and does the work of a prelate responsible to a foreign power. We cannot even present petitions to the House of Assembly, couched in the most courteous language, interceding for our most sacred rights, without our motives being misrepresented, and our conduct falsified by this most arrogant individual; so much so that the Hon. J. Wightman, who cannot be regarded over rigid in his strictures on your Government, felt himself bound to reprehend this minister for his slanderous imputations (debate, Assembly 19th March, 1858.) And in the face of repeated disavowal on the part of Protestants, of having any intention to force the Scriptures on those of an opposite faith, the same charge is as oft urged with the same tenacity as ever. In what light, moreover, can the appointment of the High Sheriff for this County be viewed, but as an insult to the Protestant feelings? We have a right to ask what one qualification did he possess for such a responsible trust, and what could have singled him out for the office, unless as a reward for giving his casting vote against the introduction of the Bible into our higher Schools? His utter unfitness was clearly demonstrated at the late public meeting, in the opinion of all sensible men.

Taking into account, then, on the one hand, the respect and prominence given to the sentiments and wishes of this spiritual prelate of a foreign potentate, by this first minister of a British Colony; and on the other, the contempt and abuse which he deals out to ministers of the Gospel, and we leave it to those who are capable of judging, whether such barefaced audacity has been practised within the British dominions for over two hundred years. Let any sane man think of his conduct, and then hear him speak of "the censure he and others felt bound to pass on these political parsons." Were this notable minister to accompany your Excellency to Chapel, he might secure some respect from those whom he so zealously upholds, and Protestants might give him some credit for honesty. Nor can we discover, since he considers his "fair ones" can obtain the most refined polish at the Nunnery, why their father cannot obtain the training most suited to his taste, under the guardians of the same instruction, unless he hangs between the two for Jesuitical purposes, that he may the more successfully bait the more callous Protestants. However, in the telligent public, as well as Gospel Ministers, are fast reading his real character, and esteem his reviling more to be courted than his praise, and Romanists know they can trust him no longer than he proves their humble and obedient servant.

Let not, then, the thought be entertained, though he may have sold himself for political purposes to a foreign potentate, even should he continue to have the sanction and protection of your Excellency, that zealous Protestants shall be driven from the assertion and maintenance of their rights, by such low ribaldry and dishonourable means. Never were the entire body of the true hearted Episcopalians and Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists—ever of one mind in reference to the sacredness of the infallible rule of faith and practice—more determined to prove themselves the worthy descendants of our noble ancestors, who did not count their lives too dear to secure imperishable privileges to their posterity. Let not then your first minister think that he can drive sensible and intelligent men from the great interests at stake by shouting "political parsons" and "tories," and such like, which sums up the amount of his logic. They cannot but know that those who do not respect God's word, or are allied with such as do not, are not to be trusted in matters of less moment.

The most inconsiderate cannot continue longer blind, unless willfully, to the policy pursued by your Government. What can be meant by disbanding her Majesty's soldiers from this Colony, and immediately thereafter seeking, by false representations to the home Government, to raise a body of armed men, to be the menials of your Government, and that, too, at the expense of the Colony? What was the object of your Excellency in calling on a trusty person in this city, because adverse to your Government, to surrender the arms entrusted to him by Her Majesty for his Militia-men? And what can be the cause of your Excellency declining, at the request of the Mayor, to refuse to make suitable provisions for the maintenance of the peace, at the late public meeting, though the Editor of the Government sought to collect an excited mob, and succeeded in doing so, to that extent that those for whom the meeting was especially called, had, for the sake of peace, to retire from the platform to which they were entitled? And why should the peaceable inhabitants of Belfast be abused by your Government journals for attending this meeting, in which they were interested and sought to have convened? No other reason can be assigned but that they felt that the presence of the brave Belfasters prevented the basest deeds being carried out by the Government menials. The people of this district owed a debt of gratitude to those in the city who exerted their influence, some years ago, to send out the military to defend them from those gangs that assembled from all parts of the country, less they should a second time occasion carnage and death in our midst. And now that the ordinary means of protection has been sent from the country, it was but right that they should appear in the city as a constabulary of peace, in a case of imminent emergency, since this was refused between your Excellency, George Coles, and the Sheriff. This they effected in such a way as every lover of peace must have felt proud of their orderly and peaceful conduct. Still the conduct of your Government officials is such as may excite surmises and alarm in the mind of every one who desires the peace and prosperity of this Colony. And yet it must be apparent that it is utterly useless for Mayor, or Minister of the Gospel, or any except your special favourites, to apply to your Excellency for redress or protection in any emergency. When this is sought, the most inexplicable shuffling and screening ensues, from your Excellency to your first Minister, and from the first Minister to your Excellency. In future it is plain that we must change our points And yet while I or others need not seek redress from your Excellency, I would ask, very respectfully, for the information of others, at whose instance did your Excellency release Dick Naddy—that character that had been convicted by the law of the land for one of the most culpable of deeds? Whether was it at the pleasure of a priest, or George Coles, or both? I am very credibly informed that it was at the request of the former, with perhaps the assistance of the latter. The public have a right to expect a more satisfactory explanation than the mere assertion of your chief Minister.

I do not desire to trouble your Excellency's Secretary with an acknowledgment of this letter; but as it will appear in the public journals of the day, the public may reasonably look for an explanation of your Excellency's policy.

I have the honor, Sir, to subscribe myself,

ALEXANDER McKAY,

Graduate of a Scottish University, and Ordained Minister from the Church of Scotland over the Presbyterian Scotch Congregation of Belfast, P. E. Island.

* "Ahlas, the Senate of our country, and the degraded principles of the day."

The Protector & Christian Witness

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13, 1858.

MEMOIR

OF THE LATE REV. JOHN KIER, D. D.

The subject of this memoria was the son of John and Christiana Kier. He was born at Bucklyvie, a place a few miles from Glasgow, Scotland, on the 2d February, 1780; and was the eldest of three children, two of whom were sons, and one a daughter, which constituted the whole of his father's family. The daughter died young. The father of the subject of this memoir, for some time, occupied a farm at Bucklyvie; but the lease expiring, and the rent being raised to a high rate, he removed to Glasgow, having abandoned the pursuit of agriculture. At this city he resided until his death. He and his wife were members of the congregation of the Rev. Mr. Ramsay, of Glasgow, the predecessor of the Rev. Dr. Muter, which congregation belonged to the General Associate Synod. They were distinguished for their piety. They were regular attendants at church, although previous to their removal to Glasgow, they were at a distance of seven or eight miles from the place of worship, which distance they walked every Sabbath. Having received his elementary learning at the parish school of his native place, the subject of this memoir afterwards attended a Grammar School in Glasgow. At the University there, he went through the usual literary studies preparatory to a theological course. His education for the ministry was received under the superintendence of the Rev. Archibald Bruce, Professor of Theology to the General Associate Synod. During the time of studying for it, he for some time taught school in the city of Glasgow. He was licensed to preach the gospel some time about the end of the year 1807, by the Presbytery of Glasgow. The Rev. Peter Gordon, formerly of St. Peter's, in this Island, and he were intimate companions in youth, having resided together in the same apartments when attending college. Although many affecting accounts of the spiritual destitution of these provinces had reached the church at home,—although many urgent appeals for preachers had been made,—few young men were willing to encounter the sacrifices consequent upon coming to this country. The hearts of the Rev. Peter Gordon and of the subject of this memoir were touched, and they agreed between themselves that when licensed, they would apply to the Synod to be allowed to come to this country. Thus, he who has the hearts of all men in his hands, was in his adorable providence raising up instruments for accomplishing his purposes of mercy in these lands. Mr. Gordon having completed his course sooner than Dr. Keir, came to this country about two years before him When the subject of this memoir applied to Synod for permission to come to this country, the matter was determined according to his request, only by a majority of one vote. Preachers were then scarce at home; many congregations were vacant; there was a great call for laborers in the Lord's vineyard. For nine months after he was licensed, he preached in the congregations of the body to which he belonged. On the last Sabbath previous to his departure, he proclaimed the gospel of salvation in Greenock: and on the one previous, in Paisley,—where a liberal contribution was handed to him to help to defray the expenses of his mission. He then left his native land for this country, having three weeks previously to his departure married Mary, only daughter of James and Amelia Burnet, persons distinguished for their early and deep piety.

Dr. Keir came to America in answer to a petition from the Presbyterians connected with our body in Halifax. Having arrived at Pictou in autumn, as our people in this Island had met with frequent disappointments in obtaining preachers, he was urged to come here. To this he was the more inclined, as his friend and early associate, Mr. Gordon, was in this part. To this Island he accordingly proceeded; and during the winter of 1809 preached the gospel to the people of Princetown Royalty and the adjacent settlements, as well as to those who had been under the charge of Mr. Gordon, now deceased, in the spring of the same year. The people of Halifax were displeased because the subject of this memoir was not sent to them as they had anticipated, and threatened to send for a minister from some other Presbyterian body. He, indeed, afterwards preached to