

PROSPECTS OF IRELAND.

With all the seeming prosperity of the gentry and the farmers, the condition of the *proletaires*, of the laboring people in city and country has not been bettered—has rather been *worsened*. Wages have not risen, nor employment increased in a ratio with the price of provisions. Unrestricted competition has only brought us back the dearest days of the Dear Lord. Why will not some sagacious statesman discover that protection might, under existing circumstances, be a means of obtaining cheap food; for we doubt the remedy suggested by a facetious friend of ours, who thinks Parliament ought to "repeat the Corn Laws again." Whatever support a Protectionist of the stamp we suggest might get in Manchester, there is not the faintest doubt that he would be bitterly opposed in Bucks.

The case is, however, that while the farmer grows jolly and abdominal again, ruminates less dolefully about his fields than of late, and thinks disparagingly of America; and while new liveries and harness inconspicuously attend the Squire's seedy barouche to Church—there is a murmur of pauperism breaking out in the cabins; a sporadic return of the old epidemic. The workhouses are full. The co-existence of this pauperism and this prosperity in the country cannot long continue. Soon the farmer and the crimp will be competing for the adult labor of the country. Soon wages will rise as well as prices, and rates, and rents, and Mark-lane money open the workhouse gate, and make its way into the meanest cabin in the land.

We calculate that there will be a far greater extent of agricultural operations throughout the country this year than there has been any season since the Famine—though to speak of agricultural operations and the Famine together is to talk of buildings on the side of Vesuvius. How agriculture survived the Famine and Free Trade in Ireland at all is a miracle. There was the Potato crop gone, as the world knows. But the world does not know how it fared with our other crops. Wheat, for instance. In three years, the cultivation of Wheat in Ireland fell off by fully one-half. It has been continually decreasing ever since, and not Wheat alone, but Oats, Barley, and all kinds of grain. The cereal has been giving place to the leguminous, and the pasture superseding the arable. This, we say, is likely to be completely changed in the present year. We should not be surprised, if there were twice as many acres laid down for wheat this year as there were last year; and that would exactly restore the crop to the condition of 1847.—*Nation*.

THE PURITY OF PARLIAMENT.

One whose facile pen sketched some of the most interesting scenes of the last session—"M.P.," of the *Liverpool Journal*—furnishes this description of the Lower House, during the debate upon Whig corruption a few nights ago:—

"It was a surprising scene: the house from first to last, was in a flutter of excitement. I saw Mr. Butt in the lobby at five; Mr. Butt was in that excited state of nerve in which Celtic Irishmen sometimes find themselves when it occurs to them that the eyes of Europe may be about to be fixed on them. Mr. Butt was asked the question—what time his motion would come on? Immediately, said Mr. Butt, looking a tornado compressing itself out of respect for Parliamentary routine. It is a question of privilege, he gasped; so it's taken out of order, and comes first. The reply was heard all over the place; there was a rush for the galleries. I arrived in my seat in time to see Mr. Speaker rising—private business and 'questions'—to call over the notices of motion. First boomed, as was expected, the name of Butt. Dead silence—a crowded house. But no Butt appeared; and 'Collier' was next called; and to every one's amazement, up jumped Collier—and deliberately did that intelligent member of the bar proceed, amid angry buzzes at first (which changed into an attentive hear-hearing as he got on,) to state his views on the law of partnership. What was the meaning of this? Butt had gone for refreshments to sustain his nerves it was concluded; and while encouraging, the British physique had missed his turn; or (he had been seen in close talk with Hayter) he had been promised a small judgeship by the government, and had sold the point? At any rate it was supposed the 'row' was not to come off. I left the gallery and descended to the lobby.

"But Butt had explained; he had made an arrangement with the Speaker. His motion was to come last. Good; I went to dinner; I dined. I returned to the House at about eight—everything had been hurried through; Pakington, who is always good, or bad, for an hour, had made a short speech. Brady, who was to have been elaborate on medical registration, had taken, with a wry face, the advice of his friends, and had put his talk into ten minutes—the Butt business was in full living. I missed Butt, and fell into the midst of John O'Connell, who was seconding the Butt motion. What struck me with awe and astonishment at once was that this full house was listening—with deep, earnest, attention—to John O'Connell! Alas! what a change! Not in John O'Connell; that Celtic countenance, small voice, and clerical manner, were identical with my remembrance of the insupportable man—the most repulsive of unpleasant Irish members. A majority of the house remembered him, and detected him, too; what then should induce the house to hang upon those feeble lips as though a great illustration were propounding a great plan? Why, the house was in earnest, solemnly in earnest, about this charge of corruption; and resolved to go through with a horrid business; they were determined to hear anybody who could throw light on the alleged transactions. And now Mr. John O'Connell, astonished at his reception, swelled into erepusculous importance, as he proceeded! Talking like the leader of a party, 'he ventured to assert that the charges would turn out to be miserable slanders'—at which first all the rotten Irish members, and then, at Hayter's signal, all the abject ministerialists, cheered exultingly, as if John O'Connell had settled the business! Mr. John sat down in a ferment of applause—happier that moment (though with some fears that some of his relatives might be found out) than he had ever been before in his ludicrous life.—Lord John followed, the stern silence resumed, and depending; and crossing his arms, and indifferent to the nervousness of Hayter, Lord John, perfectly assured that Lord John was the pink of political civility; acceded to the committee, and demanded, amid tremendous fallacious cheers, for the most rigid investigation. The house was really persuading itself that it was moral! But then came Mr. Lucas; he had been referred to as *particeps accusatoris* both by Butt and O'Connell; and he was glad of that excuse for rising. He spoke for half-an-hour; and I don't re-

member a House of Commons speech so perfectly and tellingly apropos. The wit, satire, and declamatory scorn, excited the highest admiration, and produced the strongest impression. A big-chested, big-headed man, Mr. Lucas evidently regards it as his mission to talk out to the world what he regards as the whole truth; and his success on Tuesday was because the house, determined not to blink facts, wherever they might be, was just in a mood to hear the worst said. Well, who would think the time would ever come when the *Tablet* would become a Parliamentary personage? Yet Mr. Lucas already last session was successful, and after Tuesday became an admitted power who will always be respected; all because he has studied the house; knows what it will ensure, and has resolved to succeed by the adoption of the successful methods. It was a bit; the talk of the house and of the clubs for the week; and such a bit, on such an occasion, by such a man, is a significant circumstance always to be remembered when we are forming estimates of the House of Commons."

Indeed, Mr. Lucas's speech seems to have been the great feature of the debate. In the *Commonwealth*, a respectable Glasgow contemporary, we find it thus alluded to by a London correspondent:—

"A profound sensation was made by the speech of Mr. Lucas. He is a very quiet speaker; measured in language and subdued in voice; no exaggeration of any sort as far as manner is concerned; but that very fact added to the concentrated bitterness and determination of the words he uttered. It was expected that the stillness, only interrupted by occasional laughter which accompanied his whole speech, would have been followed by a burst of indignant recrimination from Irish members on the government side.—But there was only a silent pause."

THE WATERFORD ASSIZES.—The gentlemen of the long robe will have a splendid business at the approaching Waterford Assizes. The number of records to be tried is almost unprecedented, and nearly all of a heavy nature. We have heard that an attorney in this city has in hands, at present, no less than nine records. A case of slander, "the fondest fiend hell can boast, the greatest foe that man can deplore," in which a pious divine of the Established church will have to render an account, is talked of.—*Waterford News*.

REVIVAL OF MARRIAGES.—The *Galway Vindicator* contains the following curious statement on the subject of rural marriages:—"In many of the parishes of this county we are given to understand that rural marriages are again celebrated at this matrimonial season to a large extent. For the last seven years alliances among the peasantry had ceased, from many causes not necessary to advert to. In the neighborhood of Tuam there were as many as four elopements in one week, and the clergy are kept very busy tying conubial knots."

WANTON OUTRAGE.—We have learned with regret that a most wanton sacrilege was committed on Thursday night, in Portestown Chapel, in the parish of Blanchardstown, near the Strawberry Beds. It is supposed that the perpetrators obtained admission to the chapel through a broken window; and, from the nature of the outrage, profanation seems to have been their object not less than robbery. Together with carrying off the chalice altar cloths, and some other articles used in the Holy Sacrifice, they tore and trampled on the principal vestments, and left them lying about the floor. We trust the miscreants will not long be able to elude the vigilance of the police.—*Nation*.

PREPARING FOR A SWIM.—At the trial in the Court of Exchequer, Dublin, in the case of Kirwan v. the City of Dublin Steam Co., arising out of the loss of the steamer Victoria on Howth Head, twelve months ago, a soldier named Pat O'Brien was called for the plaintiff. He said in effect that, had the steamer been left on the rocks instead of being backed and taken out to sea, she would have been preserved; he found that the steamer was filling with water, and he asked the captain to change his course, but he told him to go below; he did so, and he said that if he had a pistol he would shoot the man at the helm and the man at the watch; a Highland shepherd would not have done as had been done on this occasion; found that his only chance to save his life would be to swim, so he buttoned his coat, put his hat on his head, and took his stick in his hand. Mr. Whiteside.—And with your stick in your hand and your hat on your head, you walked coolly into the sea? (Laughter.) Witness.—Just so; I swam ashore, and knocked at the door of the lighthouse to give the alarm. Witness pointed out on the map the situation of the ship, and said he could calculate the distance pretty well, just as well as he hoped to do when pointing a cannon against some Russian fort. The idea of taking his stick in hand preparatory to a swim for life, could only have occurred to one born on the sod.

AN ITALIAN SWADDLER.—CAUTION.—The public are informed that a person styling himself Dr. Pietro Pilgrim—an Italian refugee—was brought before his Worship the Mayor, and Harvey Nicholson, Esq., J. P., on last Thursday, and charged by the Superintendent of Police with having been drunk and disorderly on the preceding night. The Superintendent of Police said that the fellow's conduct and language, after being taken to the lock-up, was so disgusting and obscene that he could not refer to it in court. The Bench decided on fining the prisoner in the sum of £1, or, in default thereof, to seven days' imprisonment. The so-called Pietro had a number of certificates from ministers of the Scotch Free Church, testifying to his moral character, and calling upon 'friends of Italy' to sympathise with his misfortunes. The documents state that he is a native of Bologna, and was seeking the means of emigrating to America. There was also a list of all the Presbyterian ministers in Derry found on his person; and we suppose the doctor had them especially selected as victims of his imposture. We trust the public will be on their guard against the hypocritical professions of these strolling impostors, who have in most cases turned out the shame of their patrons.—*Londonderry Journal*.

Mr. Lover tells a good anecdote of an Irishman—(of course, the hero of an absurd story is always an Irishman)—giving the pass-word at the battle of Pontenoy, at the same time the great Saxe was marshalled. The pass-word is Saxe; now don't forget it Pat, said the colonel. Saxe; faith and I won't. Wasn't me father a miller? Who goes there? cries the sentinel, after he had arrived at the pass. Pat looked as confidential as possible, and whispered in a sort of howl, Bags, yer honor.

The rage for emigration still continues amongst the peasantry in many parts of Galway.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is again currently reported that His Eminence, the Cardinal Primate of England, is not going to return to England. The *Morning Chronicle* says:—"It has, we believe, been for some time determined at Rome that the Cardinal will not return to England—or that, if he does, it will be only for a short time, to settle some of the temporal and spiritual affairs of his community. At all events, it is known that he has taken a palace adjoining the parish church in Rome of which he is rector, as one of the College of Cardinals, and that his carriage and horses have been sent for from England. It is generally supposed that the Cardinal will still retain the title of an English Archbishop; and that either the Right Reverend Dr. Grant, of Southwark, will administer the spiritual affairs of the metropolitan districts, or else that Dr. Ullathorne, of Birmingham, will be translated."

THE VERY REV. DR. NEWMAN.—It is with infinite pleasure we are enabled to announce that the Holy See has elevated the Very Rev. Dr. Newman, President of the University, to the exalted dignity of Bishop of the Church of God.—*Catholic Standard*.

THE REV. H. E. MANNING.—The Holy Father has been pleased to confer on Mr. Manning, the distinguished convert from Anglicanism, the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In answer to an inquiry by Mr. Mather, of South Shields, Sir James Graham stated that the government have not the remotest intention of resorting to imprisonment, or compulsory measures of any kind, for manning the navy.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—The *Times* is able to announce that another force of 12,000 men, in addition to that already ordered, will at once be organized and despatched with the least possible delay. The regiments which are to make up this force have not yet been named, but it may be considered as quite arranged that we are to have from 24,000 to 25,000 of our best soldiers engaged in repelling the aggressions of Russia upon Turkey.

The Horse Artillery are to be embarked in nine ships taken up for their conveyance. They will be received on board at her Majesty's Victualling Yard, Deptford, one of the transports is already there, and being fitted for their reception.

PORTSMOUTH.—The preparations for war here are upon a stupendous scale. Were the Russians coming to Portsmouth, instead of the fleet going from Portsmouth towards Russia, greater stir and excitement could scarcely prevail afloat and ashore.

SHELLS FOR RUSSIA.—It is said that four railway truck-loads of shells were sent off one day last week from the Carron iron-works, by the Caledonian Railway, for the Czar.—*N. British Daily Mail*.

The losses on the British coasts during January were greater than in any month since 1816. Upwards of 300 wrecks were recorded at Lloyd's, and 700 persons perished.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons, Lord John Russell announced that the Spanish Government had granted a Protestant burial ground, to be enclosed in any way the British Government might think proper, and in which Protestants might carry on their funeral ceremonies as they liked. This is a sufficient refutation of the mendacities of the Protestant press, upon the subject of the "intolerance of Popish governments."

Mr. Thomas Chambers has given notice in the House of Commons, that, on the 2nd of July, he will move for an enquiry into "conventual establishments."

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.—A considerable number of the members of the House of Commons met Mr. Disraeli on Saturday, to consult upon the course which should be pursued by them in the present condition of affairs. It is understood that the result of the conference was most satisfactory. The Conservative party will not offer any factious opposition to the government, but will anxiously watch the conduct of the administration, following the course demonstrated by Lord Derby in the House of Peers on Friday night.—*Morning Herald*.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.—Lord John proposes to abolish all the forty-shilling freehold qualifications, but to reduce the franchise in counties to £10. In boroughs the franchise is to be conferred on all householders paying a rent of above £6, 10s., which is just the same provision as was introduced in his abortive Bill of 1852,—with this important difference, however, (and it is one which reduces the proposal almost to a sham), that such householders must be able to prove two and a-half years' occupancy before they can be placed on the roll; and, moreover, that they must have been for two years and ten months on the register before they can vote. It is likewise proposed to confer the franchise on all persons in receipt of £100 yearly salary, if payable quarterly or at longer periods,—on all who are in possession of £10 a-year from the Funds or other stock, on all who pay the amount of £2 of Income or Assessed taxes,—on all who have had a deposit of £50 in a Savings Bank for three years,—and, lastly, on all the graduates of any University of Great Britain. There is also a clause to the effect that Members of Parliament shall not have to vacate their seats and undergo a new election on being appointed to places in the Government.

The Oaths Bill, brought in by Lord J. Russell, has been printed. It provides that the following oath shall be taken hereafter, instead of the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, where these are now by law required to be taken:—"I, A B, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and will defend her to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever which shall be made against her person, crown, or dignity; and I will do my utmost endeavor to disclose and make known to her Majesty, her heirs, and successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which may be formed against her or them; and I do faithfully promise to maintain, support, and defend, to the utmost of my power, the succession of the Crown, which succession, by an Act entitled, 'An Act for the farther Limitation of the Crown and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject,' is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants, hereby utterly renouncing and abjuring any obedience or allegiance unto any other persons claiming or pretending a right to the crown of this realm; and I do declare that no foreign prince, prelate, person, state, or potentate, hath or ought to have any temporal or civil jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, directly or indirectly, within this realm—so help me God."

According to the metropolitan gossip of the *Liverpool Albion*, "Lord John Russell seems to grow more and more diminutive daily. He has aged immensely this last six months, though he always looked old enough to have been full grown when old Parr, the pill man, was a baby."

BEAUTIES OF THE "STATUTE BOOK."—In calling the attention of the House of Lords to the necessity of a revision of the Statutes, Lord Lyndhurst alluded to the mass of absurdities in the Statute Book, principally directed against Irishmen and Catholics. By the law, as it now stands, it appears that no person is allowed to have more than 3,000 sheep, and Irish Bishops coming to England, are prohibited from bringing with them an Irish servant, under very heavy penalties. "These are but samples," said Lord Lyndhurst—"of the rubbish and nonsense which disgrace our Statute Book."

THE SOLDIER'S FOOD.—A remission in the charge for rations has been ordered throughout the home British army, as much suffering had been caused amongst the men, by the high prices of provisions.

Garibaldi has arrived in London, in command of a merchant ship, from the United States.

EXTENSIVE EMIGRATION OF THE MORMONS FROM WALES.—The emigration of Mormons from the Southern districts of Wales has during the past few weeks been most extensive. Large bodies of these deluded men have sold all they possessed and thrown the money into a common fund. Their numbers embrace all classes,—one gentleman, an inhabitant of Merthyr, in Glamorganshire, having contributed £2,000, and joined the brethren. Many wealthy members of the sect in the neighborhood are selling all their property previous to their departure. Upwards of 400 of the religionists, one an old woman of 80 years, have just left for the Great Salt Lake City, having spent their last night in this country in preaching, praying, singing, &c. Ninety-nine families, consisting of the coal miners in the neighborhood of Llanelly, have just left the principality.

A clergyman, in a letter to the *Daily News*, urges upon his brethren the propriety of their wearing their beards like "the early reformers."

Gavazzi is in London, and is again lecturing in Exeter-hall, on the "The Present State of Popery in America and England." These lectures attract only the lowest class of families, as all respectable Protestants are ashamed of their renegade mountebank.

"PROTESTANT FALSEHOODS."—Such a circumstance as the conversion of the Duchess of Hamilton to the Catholic Faith, could not fail to excite the lying propensities of the evangelical press; especially when it became known that Her Grace had endowed the Catholic chapel at Hamilton with several valuable pieces of plate. It was immediately affirmed that these gifts were "her looms" in the Hamilton family, of which the Duchess had dishonestly obtained possession; and that the Duke had been compelled to institute proceedings at law against the Chapel proprietors, in order to compel them to give up their dishonestly acquired booty. These lies have been formally contradicted by His Grace in the following letter; notwithstanding which the Scotch Protestant journals continue to circulate their infamous slanders, with as much energy as ever. Verily, a Protestant lie is immortal:—

"To the Editor of the North British Daily Mail.

"Hamilton Palace, Feb. 10, 1854.
"Sir—A paragraph having appeared in several newspapers, stating that I had been obliged to take legal steps for the recovery of certain pieces of plate presented by the Duchess of Hamilton to the Roman Catholic chapel at Hamilton, I beg to inform you that the paragraph in question is entirely false. The Duchess, it is true, presented certain pieces of plate to the Roman Catholic Chapel here; but they were her own property, had never been her looms, and she had full right to dispose of them as she pleased. I may be permitted to express a hope that the newspapers which have given currency to reports so untrue, will give equal publicity to my denial.—I remain, sir, your obedient humble servant,
"HAMILTON & BRANDON."

At the Liverpool Coroner's Court on Tuesday, it was stated that drunkenness, especially among females, was terribly on the increase. An inquest was held on two old women, in respectable social positions, who both perished while in a state of inebriation. Some years ago, said the coroner, it was found that about one in forty of the cases which came before him arose from strong drink; now one case in seven was caused immediately by liquor! A great many more, too, might be attributed, directly or indirectly, to drink.

The *Caledonian Mercury* has received from a correspondent statistics of English and Scottish drinking in the year 1850. "The total amount in value of intoxicating liquors consumed in England comes to £44,969,336 9s. 6d. sterling, a sum approaching to the annual revenue of the Kingdom, which to each individual inhabitant of England, gives £2 10s. 8d. or thereby, of actual money paid for drink per annum. The total value of the like potent liquids consumed in Scotland amounts to £4,033,813 15s. 4d. sterling, which shows that each inhabitant of Scotland spends annually £1 8s. 4d., or thereby."

DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN SCOTLAND.—The report of the discovery of gold on the 'braes of Balquidder' has been confirmed. It appears that some time since, on a farm called the Letters, in Balquidder, possessed by Mr. Cameron, Kingshouse, and belonging to the Marquis of Breadalbane, a lead mine which was known long ago to have existed, has been opened by his lordship's orders. The miners have been very successful in getting lead ore, richly impregnated with silver, and lately gold. The first nugget found was about the size of an ordinary breast-pin's head. It was sent to his lordship at Taymouth Castle, and, on being tested, pronounced to be first-rate gold; the second nugget found weighed about six ounces, the third about five, and the fourth about four ounces. His Lordship was at the 'diggings' last week, for the purpose of making arrangements regarding the working of the 'diggings,' and also for fixing on a proper site on which to build suitable houses for the gold diggers of Balquidder. It is curious that there has been a local tradition here for generations that there was gold in the district.

NAVAL PENSIONERS.—All Greenwich pensioners under 60 years of age, no matter how employed or engaged, are directed to attend on Tuesday, the 14th ult., for inspection, by officers from the Admiralty to ascertain their fitness for service. If this notice is not attended to, they will be subject to loss of pension.