

Dublin, April 26.—Lord Dufferin has had the singular good fortune to deliver a speech on the vexed question of tenant right, which has won the applause of the advocates on both sides of the long-pending controversy. The Dublin Evening Mail hails him as 'one of the most rising of our ruling men,' and says it may be hoped that before long he will be called upon to fill one of those higher posts of Government for which he proved his fitness by the courage and ability shown during his difficult mission in the East. The Freeman's Journal, on the other hand, is proud to recognise in his Lordship the genius of the Sheridan family, and believes that the speech delivered last week to his tenants at Claneboye-house 'marks an era in the history of tenant compensation; that he has rendered most important service to the tenant cause; that he has disentangled the question from many theoretic difficulties, and showed by the application of a plain principle how great injustice might be redressed, and a practical remedy applied to an acknowledged grievance. The Freeman concludes by wishing that Lord Dufferin had charge of a Bill on the subject, which his position as a peer and his experience as a landlord would invest with weight and authority.'

The most valuable portion of the speech is the truthful sketch of the actual working of tenant-right in Ulster. Enormous sums are given for the 'tenant right' of a farm on which no improvements have been made by the outgoing tenant, and by whom all former improvements may be utterly exhausted. In order to effect the purchase, money is borrowed at a high rate of interest. The new tenant is unable from want of capital to stock or work the farm, and he struggles on for some years till he, too, is compelled to sell his tenant right, and another comes to go through the same process. Such a system could scarcely be tolerated by the landlords if one of the conditions on which the new tenant is accepted by the landlord were not the payment of all arrears out of the purchase-money. 'There are acres I could name,' says Lord Dufferin.

'Who have actually occupied farms under me, have lingered in possession a certain number of years and have finally been driven out, not by act of mine, but by the persecution of their creditors throughout the country, on account of debt contracted for the express purpose of paying for the tenant-right of the land which they were never able to cultivate, and for which they never paid the rent.'

Lord Dufferin, when he succeeded to the Claneboye estate, resolved to check this ruinous competition for land, and to prevent the incumbrance of his land by an embarrassed tenantry. This he did by requiring that no new tenant should be admitted to the exclusion of the representatives of those who held under his father and ancestors for many generations, and by invariably giving the preference to a tenant adjoining the vacated farm. In the second place, he pays the outgoing tenant the price of the 'tenant right,' giving him the 'fairest possible compensation for all bona fide unexhausted improvements.' In this way the existing tenants get additions to their farms on easy terms, and the landlord is satisfied with three-fourths of the rent he might obtain by availing himself of the competition for land. He wishes, however, to have the burden and responsibility of the valuation cast upon an experienced public officer of the Encumbered Estates court. —Times's Cor.

IRISH POPULATION STATISTICS.—The Quarterly Return of the Registrar-General issued to-day is more than usually interesting. It relates to the last three months of 1864 as far as the statistics affecting births and deaths is concerned; but in reference to emigration and the decline of the population, applies to the whole of last year. The Registrar-General considers that the total of the population on the 1st of January, 1864, was 5,723,516, and according to his principles of calculation, adding the emigration for 1864 to his deaths, and deducting the births therefrom, the population suffered another decline of 71,601 in 1864, and must have stood at the commencement of 1865 at 5,651,915. There was an emigration from Ireland in 1864 of 114,169. The births were 136,843, or some 50,000 less than the previous year. The Registrar-General, however, admits that the registration returns are still defective. The deaths in 1864 were 94,075, or over 34,000 less than in 1863. The births were 3-36 per cent. of the population; the deaths 1-62 per cent. calculated on the Census Returns of 1861. 1,776 marriages were registered in Leinster, during the quarter ending on the last day of September, being equal to an annual ratio of 1 marriage to 201 of the population; 1,285 in Munster, or 1 marriage to 297 of the population; 1,910 in Ulster, or 1 marriage to 253 of the population; and 443 in Connaught, or 1 marriage to 513 of the population. From which it appears that Connaught is a decidedly bad matrimonial market. The number of births registered during the year, in the province of Leinster, amounted to 33,673, or 1 in 43-2 of the population; in the province of Munster the number of births registered during the year amounted to 37,355, or 1 in every 40-3 of the population; in Ulster there were registered 44,929, or 1 in every 43; and in Connaught, 20,686, or 1 in 43-9 of the population. The number of deaths registered during the year in the province of Leinster amounted to 25,703, or 1 in 55-6 of the population; in the province of Munster, 24,507, or 1 in every 61-4; in Ulster, 31,876, or 1 in every 60-4; and in Connaught 11,489, or 1 in 79-1 of the population. —Evening Mail.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The following letter appeared in the Morning Advertiser of Tuesday:—

WORK PRESENTS TO POPERY.

(To the Editor of the Morning Advertiser.)

Sir,—I beg leave to inform you of more perversity to Popery. On Saturday last the Priest (Dr. Fas) of the new Catholic Church of St. Peter, Easton-garden, received into this Church and baptised two highly respectable ladies of the Wesleyan Methodist persuasion.

I am, Sir, yours, &c., C. J. FRANKOIS.

CATHOLIC PROGRESS IN SCOTLAND.—We quote the following paragraphs from the Labourer for May:—

'We are glad to hear that an accession to the clerical staff of the Eastern Vicariate is likely to be made towards Pentecost. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Strain, having visited Ireland at the beginning of the month for that purpose, succeeded in obtaining the promise of assistance from the Rector of the Diocesan College of Waterford, a county whose supply of Priests is unfeeling.'

On Low Sunday his Lordship administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Arbroath, assisted by the Rev. Incumbent, Laurence J. Dunn. On Easter Tuesday following, he visited Dundee, where, at the Convent of Mercy, two of the Sisters had the happiness of receiving the black veil at his Lordship's hands, and of making their vows in presence of the community, several of the Clergy—including the Vicar General—and their relatives.

A Pastoral Letter from his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Strain, the first he has issued, proclaiming the Jubilee, decreed by His Holiness in his late Encyclical, was read in all the churches of the district on Sunday last (Low Sunday), appointing the month of May, ensuing, for the Jubilee.

The repairs on St. Mary's, Edinburgh, are slowly progressing. In its present condition, it was found quite impossible to carry out the services of the Church, according to the rubrics, in Holy Week, so that from Maundy Thursday till Easter Sunday, the doors of St. Mary's were shut. It has been decided to build the Theatre on the present site, and we hear the operations will be begun in May.

Three converts were admitted members of the Church during Holy Week in Edinburgh, one of

whom, a young lady, made a public profession of her faith at the altar.

The Rev. George Rigg left Edinburgh for London on the 23d April, in order to be present, as a representative of the Eastern District, at the annual meeting of the Poor School Committee, which was to take place during the week.

Ground has been secured in Killybeg, belonging to the Eastern District, by Bishop Strain, for the erection of a chapel; his Lordship having visited the parish for that purpose during the month.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Assassination of President Lincoln.—Viscount Sydney (Lord Chamberlain) brought up the answer of Her Majesty to the address agreed to by their lordships on Monday. It was as follows:—'I entirely participate in the sentiments which you have expressed in your address to me on the subject of the assassination of the President of the United States, and I have given directions to my minister at Washington to make known to the Government of that country the feelings which you entertain in common with myself and my whole people with regard to that deplorable event.' (Hear, hear.)

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Earl Russell gave notice that he intended on Monday next to move an address to the Crown expressing the feeling of regret and abhorrence with which it had heard of the assassination of President Lincoln. The Earl of Derby hoped that his noble friend would take pains to ascertain that the form of the address would be such as to secure the unanimous opinion of the House. As far as the substance was concerned, every man, woman and child in the country must agree with it. Sir G. Grey in the House of Commons, on the part of Lord Palmerston, who was absent through indisposition gave a similar notice.

The Weekly Register says.—The following was put into our Editor's box. It is printed as a note for circulation:—

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

To H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, to Some Members of the House of Lords, to The Majority of The House of Commons, to The Honorable Mr. Adams and other American Resident in London, to The Lord Mayor and Courts of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of London, to Members of the Bar, the Press, and the Bench of Bishops, and To The English People Generally. Your Royal Highness, My Lords, Gentlemen and Fellow-Countrymen.

You have been struck almost dumb by this atrocious deed.

But, remember: On that very day twelvemonths, you were vying with each other how most to honor Garibaldi; himself a notorious out-throat, and the sworn friend of Mazzini, the Apostle of Assassination.

Be not surprised, then at an action in exact accordance with your own conduct, and reflect that this may be but the beginning of similar atrocities which may plunge Europe into war. Though Orsini is dead, Mazzini still flourishes.

I am, Your obedient Servant, COMMON SENSE.

And now that the blow has fallen, and the high hopes are destroyed which the extraordinary valor and heroism of the Southern troops, and the skill and genius of the leaders had gradually raised so high, against all calculations founded on inequality of numbers, wealth, and resources, it is for those who from the first have sided with the North to triumph if they please, and for those who, until lately, sided with the South, to renounce their recorded opinions, and to abjure their professed sympathies, that is if they be so minded. We are not so minded. We never were more thoroughly convinced than at this moment that the triumph of the North is a misfortune for religion, for civilization, and for humanity. It is a victory of physical force over law and justice. It is a triumph of arbitrary power over liberty and right. The Correspondent of the Times says, most truly, that those who see in it a triumph over slavery miss the meaning of the great event. It is a victory of the unity and the centralisation of Power over the Confederation of Republics established by Washington. The North has deliberately sacrificed liberty for the sake of Empire, union for the sake of unity, its dominion over itself for the sake of dominion over others.

As the Times says:— It was not so much because slavery was considered a crime or a mistake, for not ten men in a hundred throughout the North—New England excepted—were Abolitionists when the war began; but because the institution of slavery was local, and would not yield to Federal authority, that the people, anxious to be a nation for the first time in their history, waged hostilities against their slave holding brethren, with such vigor and pertinacity. The triumph of the North is in fact a triumph of the Revolutionists over the Conservatives. Washington's republic was not good enough for Mr. Charles Sumner, Mr. Wendell Phillips, Mr. Henry Ward Beecher, and the Puritan Churches.

In the same manner, but from a different, though concurrent reason, Washington's Republic was not good enough for the active, presumptuous, ambitious, and ill-informed ultra-Republican multitude, who caught their inspirations from the discontented Red Republicans and Socialists of Germany and France, as well as from the anti-Anglican Irish who swarmed into America at every tide, and continually leavened the mind of the North by their European notions.

Having no idea of the constitution on which the great fabric of American liberty rested, these immigrants gradually accustomed the Northern mind to receive with favor and encouragement the really un-American idea of a great and indivisible nationality to extend over the whole Continent. As there was a British nation, and a French nation, why should there not be an American nation, greater than either to overcome the world by its superior power, and gather to its bosom the halt, the lame, the blind, the starving of all other countries, and convert them into free citizens of a country where every man has a vote, where there are no kings and lords, and where the only true king is the working man, who can command what wages he pleases, or buy a farm for the mearest trifle if so disposed? To achieve this object—to centralise power so as to make the Union feared abroad—the North, using slavery as a convenient cry, fought the battle of revolution against the South, and won it. Pending the reconstruction of the Union, the two systems and the two schools of ideas must struggle for the ascendancy.

This is the truth. Beyond all doubt or question, the victory of the North over the South is a victory of Liberalism and the great Liberal party. In Great Britain and Ireland, in France and Belgium, in Italy and Russia, this is felt to be the truth, and true Liberals twitter with delight. Liberalism is everywhere the same. Whether in an absolute monarchy or in constitutional government, or in a democratic republic, when once the principle of Liberalism obtains the ascendancy, there is always one trait conspicuous—the determination, at all risks and at all costs, to make arbitrary will override the sacredness both of public law and of private right. Reason and logic, law and custom, justice and fair play, charity and consideration, must all give place. It is my will, says the Liberal, and I know no religion, no law, no justice, no charity, that shall prevent me from having my own way. The People are those who agree with me, and the will of the People is the only rightful ruler of the world. The only criterion of right is the possession of force, for as soon as superior force is on the side of me and my friends, any one who opposes us is, and must be wrong. And not only is he wrong, but his opposition to us is so wrong that, by persisting in opposing us, he ceases to have any rights at all. His house shall be burnt, his lands wasted, his social and political privileges forfeited; and, if necessary, he shall be put to death. Let all men know that there is only one virtue, that is, to agree with us; and only one crime, that is, to thwart our will. This is the principle upon which

hundreds of thousands of Poles have been transported to Siberia; this is the principle on which the Southern States of the American Federation have been devastated; this is the principle to which the O'Donoghue calls upon the Catholics of Ireland to pay homage when he invites them to meet in Dublin, in order to congratulate the North upon the restoration of the Union; this is the principle upon which the Italian Revolutionists, rather than be baulked of their will—the unification of Italy—have robbed the Pope, have warred against the Church, and have murdered thousands upon thousands of Neapolitan peasants.—Tablet.

The elaboration of representative Government is the greatest achievement of the English nation, but it is not sufficiently recognized that its success has been dependent on the anomalies which are the great stumbling-blocks of theoretical reformers.—The strange parceling out of seats, in many cases the result of mere accident, has secured the representation of every class and of every interest, and the mixed character of our constituencies has been reflected in the character of the House of Commons. Other nations which have adopted representative institutions at a bound have failed to introduce the contrivances of compensation which we have the good fortune to possess, and their deliberative assemblies have been almost exclusively filled by the dominant majority of the nation.—Times.

A horror of crime is a good thing—so good, indeed, that when the reality of it is not to be had, a counterfeit, if tolerably well executed, is valuable. It would be better if people felt the horror of assassination which they express, but it is better that they should express horror without feeling it than that they should express approbation of it.

In 1865 our Parliament, our ministers, our municipalities, our public meetings, and our newspapers, declare themselves filled with horror for the crime of assassination. We hope that they tell the truth when they say so, and if they feel what they say, we hope that the feeling will be a lasting one. It is a young plant, which has shot up very quickly to its present height, for there was little trace of it a year ago when General Garibaldi 'with the heart of a lion and the head of an ass' was the idol of the hour. There was no deep or strong feeling against regicide and assassination in 1864, for General Garibaldi was a man who, by his own solemn, public, and official act, had identified himself with the crime of assassination, had treated it as a virtuous and heroic deed, deserving of reward and honor, and had bestowed a pension on the surviving members of the assassin's family. There was no deep or strong feeling against regicide or assassination in 1864, for it was with the utmost difficulty that even a partial condemnation of Mr. Stanfield's conduct was obtained, and that gentlemen not only gloried openly in their friendship for Giuseppe Mazzini, whom he lauded in the hearing of the House of Commons, but he had actually allowed his own house and his own wife to be made use of to enable the Italian Apostle of the Dagger to carry on his correspondence under a feigned name. And Giuseppe Mazzini is a man who thinks so highly of assassination that he holds that nobody but very good, very pure, very single-minded men should presume to commit it, and then only in special cases, and when they have reason to believe that it is their mission. These are the public and recorded sentiments of Giuseppe Mazzini, and yet nobody pretends that Giuseppe Mazzini is an object of horror to the English Press or to the English public. For ourselves, however, we have a right to express the horror which we really feel for the assassination of the late President Lincoln, and we rejoice that the governments and representatives of public opinion of the civilised world have joined in reprobating the deed. But our horror of the crime of assassination has not sprung into being within the last fortnight. We have always felt and avowed a horror of assassination, and even we carry the feeling to such lengths as not to see any great palliation of a murderer's guilt in the fact that his destined victim is a crowned and consecrated king, and not to consider it any great aggravation of the crime that the murdered man, although President of a Republic at the time of his death, had earned a livelihood by the labor of his hands in youth and had risen to greatness by the practice of the law.

In this, however, we may be wrong, for we see that the Times prints of J. Wilkes Booth, who is suspected and accused of the murder of the President, but who has not yet been tried or convicted, and who may yet be acquitted by an American jury on the ground of insanity, that he is 'the vilest assassin known to history, and one to meet the enormity of whose crime no punishment that man can inflict is adequate.'

The *Unita Cattolica* gives a Synopsis of the regicides and attempts at regicide which have been committed since 1850. After reminding us of the seven attempts against the life of the King of the French, Louis Philippe, and the four attempts against the life of Queen Victoria, he begins with the attempt to assassinate the late King of Prussia, in May, 1850.—In February, 1852, the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria was stabbed by an assassin in Vienna. In March, 1854, Ferdinand Charles III. Duke of Parma, was assassinated in the streets. In February, 1852, Queen Isabella of Spain was stabbed as she came out of church. And again in May, 1855, an assassin was arrested in the act of discharging a pistol at Her Majesty.

In December 1856 Milano attempted to assassinate King Ferdinand II. of Naples. Six attempts have been made to assassinate Napoleon III. Emperor of the French. The first in October, 1852; the second on July 5, 1853; the third on April 28, 1855; the fourth in 1857, by the plot of Tibaldi, Bartolotti, and Grilli, who were convicted.

The fifth on January 14, 1853, by Orsini, Gomez, Pieri, and Rudie; the sixth, when on December 24, Greco, Trabucco, Imperatori, and Scaglioni were arrested at Paris, and soon afterwards tried and convicted. The present King of Prussia was shot at twice on July 14, 1861. An assassin tried to stab the Queen of Greece on September 18, 1862; and Count Cavour told the Chamber of Deputies at Turin that an attempt had been made to assassinate King Victor Emmanuel, in 1859, as may be seen in the official acts of the Chamber, No. 158, page 597.

The Liberal party had got pretty well familiarised with attempts to assassinate kings, but it has been thrown into a fearful state of excitement by the assassination of President Lincoln. We are glad that this crime has given such a shock to the public sentiment. Perhaps the practice of assassination may become less frequent for a time. During the Reign of Terror as long as the death tumblers were filled with dukes, and marquises, and generals, and magistrates, and fair ladies, all Liberalism looked on as at an interesting spectacle, but when the carts began to carry to the guillotine, bakers, and grocers, and barbers' apprentices, there was an instantaneous reaction.—Tablet.

We read in the *Scotsman*:—South Queensferry was on Sunday afternoon last the scene of a disgraceful disturbance, occasioned by the district missionary, and two lay preachers from Edinburgh, having taken up a position at a part of the town which is principally inhabited by Irishmen of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and there begun to expound their doctrines, and denounce the creed of the Church of Rome. The Catholics taking offence at this, turned out in large numbers on the street, and commenced hooting and yelling in a furious manner. Matters assuming a rather serious aspect, the police were obliged to interfere. They requested the preachers to desist, which request was however met with a flat refusal; and setting the authorities at defiance, the preachers continued to harangue the mob for a considerable time, and much tumult and uproar. At length, fearing that the Catholics would proceed to

inflict summary vengeance on them, the preacher made their exit, amid the shouts and derisive cheers of the mob. It will be remembered that the late Queensferry riot owed its origin to a similar cause, and it might be well for the public peace if the authorities would take measures to prevent a recurrence of such unseemly outbreaks as these. We cannot blame 'Irishtmen' for summarily ejecting the persons in question. Paid emissaries come into quarters inhabited by Catholics, and there vociferate their foul-mouthed blasphemies against God, the Blessed Virgin, the Saints, the Sacraments, the Church, and whatever else is holiest and dearest to believers. Being for the most part apostates themselves, these wretched tools of heresy know but too well how to lacerate the tenderest cords in the Catholic heart. It is their vocation, and they have sold themselves to Satan, and they earn their pay. It is hard to bear. To endure the nuisance and the insult of a hired vagabond calling himself a 'district missionary,' or a 'lay preacher,' abusing your religion in loud and vulgar tones at your very door, is almost too much for human nature. The breach of the peace (if any) committed in abating such nuisance is excusable, for the law ought to protect the lieges against such outrages, and if it do not, they are perfectly justified in taking the law into their own hands. The misfortune is, that in doing so, they can hardly avoid, in a country like this, exciting public sympathy to some extent on the side of the aggressors. This is the trap laid for Catholic by those who pay and send out 'district missionaries' and 'lay preachers.' The desired effect of such ministrations is not conversion, which does not take place, and is not expected; but a riot, which does take place. The riot of course canonises the swindlers, and (what is of still greater importance) keeps up the odium against Catholics. This last we believe to be the one great end of all such proceedings. To sustain the unpopularity of Catholicism and thereby to prevent conversions is now the one great object of the 'No-Popery' zealots. How to defeat it? Let the swaddlers be 'severely let alone.'

Allow them to waste their sweetness on the desert air. Heed them not: pass them by as if they did not exist; or as if you yourselves were deaf, dumb, and blind. Thus they will be like a swimmer upon dry land, or like a bird attempting to fly under the exhausted receiver of the air-pump. Without your co-operation as audiences or as combatants, they must become not only ineffective, but ridiculous.—Refuse to listen to them, and you take away their occupation and their salary. Mr. John Hope, writer to the *Signal*, and paymaster to the swaddlers of Edinburgh, will soon weary of drawing cheques for 'district missionaries' if the said missionaries fail to get together a congregation of Irish Roman Catholics, and cannot even, by their choicest blasphemies, prevail on the Roman Catholics to hoot or pelt them.

THE SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTS IN A GRAVE.—Our Irish correspondent, writing on Tuesday, says:—'A paper has to-day been exhibited purporting to be a copy of the report by the Sheriff-Substitute of his procedure at the opening of the grave and coffin of the late Mr. Leslie, of Dunluing, which goes entirely to negative the reports current on the subject. In the paper now exhibited the Sheriff-Substitute is made to say that he found no packet, deed or deeds, writing, or paper of any kind, or portions of such, but that he did find something in the coffin; though what that something is does not appear, further than that the report goes on to say that the Sheriff-Substitute, being doubtful whether it fell within the remit to him, thought it proper to report upon it separately. Considerable speculation is, of course, afforded as to what the something found can be, but it was said by a gentleman who was exhibiting the paper that this never can and never will be known to the public, and from the confident manner in which he spoke it seems clear that the something found in the coffin is not, as was supposed a missing deed, and this is perhaps all that any one is entitled to know. In short, it appears that the very unusual step taken in opening the grave has, so far as concerns the case in court, led to no practical result, further than to show that it cannot now be said that all the repositories of the deceased have not been thoroughly examined.—Edinburgh Evening Courant.

EFFECT OF THE AMERICAN NEWS IN LIVERPOOL.—The breakdown of the South had been so thoroughly discounted in Liverpool, that the news of Lee's surrender was received with extraordinary calmness by both Northern and Southern sympathisers, and caused less discussion than many previous arrivals from the States—the general feeling being one of relief and thankfulness that the war was at last fairly over. Of course Northern stocks of all descriptions went 'up' and the Confederate Loan went 'down,' though in the course of the day the latter rallied somewhat. Sugar and all descriptions of produce were better and 'livelier,' and pig-iron advanced 1s. 6d. Contrary to all anticipations, there was a brisk business at improving rates in the cotton market. This result, so contrary to all expectations, is owing to the fact that the stock of cotton is small, while spinners have good orders on hand and they do not like to trust to the problematical arrivals of the raw material which may or may not be found in the Southern States.

LIVERPOOL, May 3.—A telegram received here announces that Wilkes Booth landed from the Edinburgh at Queenstown, and was immediately arrested. 'Queenstown, May 3.—The man who was arrested here upon landing from the Edinburgh was not Wilkes Booth, but a passenger named O'Neill, who bears a striking likeness to the assassin of Mr. Lincoln, and who had previously been arrested in Boston. He has been liberated.'

A nice case of extradition was decided in the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday week. A clerk in a bank at New York was arrested in this country on the charge of forgery, because it was alleged he made false entries in the books of the bank with a view to defraud. The law of the state of New York makes this offence forgery, and on this he was arrested under the Extradition Treaty. But the Court unanimously held that the offence under our own law was not forgery, that is, of attempting to pass off his writing as the writing of another person, and the prisoner was discharged.—Standard.

SUICIDE OF ADMIRAL ROBERT FITZROY.—We have to record the death, by his own hand, of Vice-Admiral Fitzroy, the chief of the meteorological department of the Government. The fatal act took place at his residence, Lyndhurst-house, Norwood, on Sunday morning, April 30. Admiral Fitzroy's name was well known in connection with the system of storm signals which is now in such general use at all our ports. The Admiral, who was a cousin of the late Duke of Londonderry, was about sixty years of age. He sat as M.P. for Durham in the Conservative interest from 1841 to 1843, when he was appointed Governor of New Zealand. He had held his appointment at the Board of Trade since the first establishment of that department over which he presided. He was twice married, and leaves a son and two daughters by his first marriage. The *Standard* says:—The Admiral has, it seems, for a long time been suffering greatly from mental excitement, brought on chiefly by excessive study. His medical adviser, Dr. Hestley, warned him of the consequences if he did not relax his studies entirely, which he promised to do, and took up his residence at Lyndhurst Lodge, about a month ago. He, however, persisted in his studies at the Board of Trade, and the change of residence had little effect on him. It seems that he has several particular friends in the Confederate States, and on the news of the fall of Richmond, and the surrender of General Lee, 'rejoicing England,' he became greatly excited and more so when he learned the fate of President Lincoln. On Saturday he was in the company of Lieutenant Manry, and on his return to Norwood in the afternoon he was noticed to be greatly depressed, in mind, and spoke rather strangely. No suspicion, however, was entertained that he premeditated self-destruction.

VICARATUS OF ZION CHAPEL.—The chapel long known to the religious world as Zion chapel, was originally used as the place of worship for Lady Irving's connection. It was in this chapel that Irving poured forth his fervid and confused utterances—and it was here that Fugin, as a youth, was tortured, as he himself feebly describes, not so much by the ravings of Irving as by the sight of the hideous building he was so often doomed to pass his Sunday mornings in; and now, this very Zion Chapel, once the head-quarters of Dissent, is devoted to the purposes of Roman Catholic worship, and its grotesque architecture which so afflicted the elder Fugin is being completely refashioned by his son, Mr. E. Welby Fugin.—The Builder.

The competition between the Whitworth and Armstrong guns, which has been going on for the last six months at Shoeburyness, was brought to a close on Wednesday. Two targets were set up, alike in every respect, one of which was fired at by the Armstrong, the other by the Whitworth gun. In two rounds the Whitworth gun penetrated the target to the depth of only three inches, bulging the plate a little on the inside; while the Armstrong shots went right thro' and caused extensive injury in the interior. A third round was fired, changing the position of the guns, so that each fired at the other's target, but the result was equally in favour of the Armstrong gun.—Standard.

UNITED STATES.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Express gives the following account of the negro race:—I have seen various intelligent persons recently from the South, and from the details they give me of the present condition and prospects of the poor negro there, I learn we have a dreadful problem yet to solve as regards them. They are already perishing in every quarter by hundreds and thousands like dogs. This sudden emancipation, without any previous arrangements, of 4,000,000 of helpless, ignorant creatures, will prove to be the most horrible and gigantic act of cruelty on record.

Judges sometimes differ. A Western Judge recently decided that the act abolishing slavery was unconstitutional and illegal; and another has just held that it was the reverse, and has ordered a slaveholder to give up four minor black children to their father.

MORALITY BY LAW.—For a dozen years, Massachusetts has had a law abolishing the sale of liquor except for medicinal or medical purposes. There have been several penalties, and sharp-eyed officers, and much unctuous talk among the people. But liquor has been sold and drunk, and the law has grown to be almost a dead letter.

A Committee of the Legislature has been investigating the subject with a view to taking some sort of action. They make the following statement:—

Intoxicating drinks are freely sold in every city and large town in the State, in most of them without any attempt at concealment, and in some with considerable ostentation. In some smaller towns, and in one or two clusters of small towns, none is known to be sold. But in those cases such inhabitants as choose to drink can be freely supplied from the shops in some large town within easy distance. In the greater number of towns, the statement is no doubt true that it is easier for a stranger to get a glass of spirits than a glass of milk. In most farming towns, however, the traffic is respectable and private.

The Committee report only two towns, and these in Worcester County, where the sale of intoxicating drinks is more restrained than before the passage of the Act in 1852. The Committee furnish testimony upon the point at issue, by which they show that while there are difficulties in the enforcement of the law, both from juries and witnesses, the greatest difficulty is from a lack of co-operation by the people.

So much for an effort to control public sentiment and public practice by law.

The *Courier* says:—We have before us Washington correspondence tending to exonerate President Johnson from the personal responsibility for the proclamation which offered \$100,000 for the arrest of Mr. Jefferson Davis, in taxing the ex-President of the Southern Confederacy with complicity in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. This responsibility is certainly grave, for public opinion will be severe if the accusation should not be justified. This is the way in which the correspondence in question seeks to relieve Mr. Johnson.

We should understand that the recent proclamation offering a reward for the apprehension of Jefferson Davis, as implicated in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, was not put forth by President Johnson as an individual act, or merely because of his own opinion as to the culpability of Mr. Davis. It was promulgated agreeably to the decision of the legally competent authority. It was first determined in the Cabinet council that all persons having any connection whatever with the conspiracy should be tried by a military tribunal and not by the ordinary courts: All the testimony concerning the affair had then been officially put into the hands of the Judge-Advocate-General, the Hon. Joseph Holt, who has examined it with much care and made his report to the Secretary of War, in which report he expressed the opinion that there is evidence to prove that Mr. Davis took part in the organization and execution of the plot. It is upon this official report that the proclamation is founded. It is not to be supposed that any direct or personal intervention is to be attributed to Mr. Davis, but it will be proved that the conspiracy was contrived and carried out with his knowledge and consent.

This is all very well, and all that is necessary, if it is proved. But the public will suspend its judgment a despatch of day before yesterday expresses some doubt as to our having a public examination. Closed doors, says the despatch, will prove a great mistake on the part of the authorities, and it adds:—'When Pichegru and Moreau were put on trial in 1801, although Fouché wished for a secret hearing, the First Consul, Napoleon, insisted that it should be public, remarking that otherwise the people might think that the evidence had been invented to make the condemnation sure. The criminals were accused of the gravest crimes, and the proceedings should be spread out in the sight of all the world. Chambers ardentes were no longer in accord with the spirit of the age and of the people.'

AMOUNT OF COTTON IN THE SOUTH.—We have been repeatedly asked to give some information in relation to the amount of cotton on hand at the South. The difficulty in forming an approximate estimate has arisen mainly from the impossibility of ascertaining to what extent the actual yield, since the war began, has been shipped in evasion of the blockade. The Texas cotton, and nearly all produced west of the Mississippi, has been passing, as fast as it could be hauled on waggon, to the seaboard by Mexican ports. A considerable portion of Louisiana and Tennessee has been cleaned. Notwithstanding, the high prices here and abroad, there has been very little inducement to Southern planters to cultivate this crop. It has been absolutely impossible for them to find rope and bagging to prepare the cotton for market after it was picked and the local authorities have used every means in their power to compel the land-owners to raise cereals in place of the great staple. Since the fall of Mobile we have been able to extend our researches at the South; and we have now obtained what we consider reliable data for a fair estimate of the quantity of cotton still on hand within the so-called Southern lines. We place the whole amount as equal to 1,600,000 ordinary bales. Some of it is in the seed and a large quantity is still unpacked for want of proper material and facilities. A Mobile correspondent figures the total at 1,800,000 bales; but some of his assumptions are in excess of known results; and we are confident that our estimate is very close to the actual stock.—Journal of Commerce.