

CRIME IN IRELAND.—For many years British moralists have been in the habit of pointing to Ireland as 'the black spot' in the mantle of virtue which encompassed the United Kingdom. Religionists of the Xaver Hall school ascribed this to the Catholicism of the people; Radicals of the Bright type set it down as owing to the natural intractability of the Irish race; others again, credited it to the great poverty of the masses. All agreed that Ireland was a very wicked, though a beautiful and populous little island. They allowed that in certain matters, such as infanticide and blasphemy, and all crimes against religion as religion, and in the fiercer arts of rascality, England exhibited a darker record. But as these were vices with which England had become familiar, she ceased to be surprised at them in occasional assemblies of her straightest moralists. She was eager to make all sorts of allowances for her own shortcomings; but for poor priest-ridden Ireland, none.

Now we have some statistics which prove the falsity of the 'odious comparison,' and which place Ireland in a proper light in this category. They are taken from the judicial journals of last year, and vouched for by the officials intrusted with their preparation. From these we learn that there are fewer known thieves in Ireland than in England—fifty-nine per cent. fewer, allowing even for difference of population. Of all classes of criminals Ireland had in the year named, thirty-four per cent. less known or suspected criminals in prison and at large than England and Wales.

'Of crimes reported in Ireland,' says the report, 'in 1864, and not disposed of summarily, there were 10,865, and of persons apprehended 6,779. In England, in 1863, there were 52,211 crimes reported and 30,410 convictions. Had the Irish offences been comparatively as light as the English, they would, instead of numbering 10,865, have amounted to 14,111.'

This settles the question as to the greater criminality of Ireland, and puts it beyond doubt, that the insulting boasts of the English moralists had no foundation outside of the motive which generated them.

Among other important facts which are disclosed by these statistics we discover this: there is one policeman in Ireland to every four hundred and twenty persons. Though the proportion of police to people is greater in Ireland than in England, the local taxation for police purposes is very much less in Ireland than in England. In the latter country seventy-six per cent. of the cost is borne by local taxation and twenty-four per cent. by the Treasury; whereas in Ireland only nine per cent. is obtained by local taxation, ninety-one per cent. coming from the Treasury. The whole police force of Ireland is at present about fourteen thousand militarily equipped, drilled and disciplined men—an important fact for or against the Fenians.

The criminal statistics to which we refer not only bear a most favorable contrast with similar tables relating to England, but also with the state of crime in this country. We mention the fact at once to the credit of 'Old Ireland,' and to the shame of all others whom the comparison may concern.—*N. Y. Freeman.*

The Dublin *Irishman* says:—Information is wanted of Eliza Taylor, or McGowan, who left Kilmogh, county Leitrim, for America, about thirteen years ago. Any information will be thankfully received by her brother, Miles McGowan, 124 Tronigate, Glasgow; or the Rev. Dr. Gray, St. Andrew's Chapel, Glasgow.

A Good Son.—An English philanthropist (says a writer in *Fraser's*) was taken some years ago to see one of the schools in Dublin devoted to the conversion of children to Protestantism. The master put the rather small class in attendance through a fair lesson in Biblical knowledge, and then proceeded to display some of the practical instructions received by his pupils. 'Now boys, you know Donnybrook Fair?—Yes, sir, we do.' (Every hand up.) 'Is it right to go to Donnybrook Fair?—No, sir, it is not.' 'What is it?' 'It is a sin, sir.' 'Very well, boys,' replied the master. Turning to his English visitor, 'You see we do not neglect to inculcate practical precepts as well as religious opinions.'—Quite true, said the visitor; 'but may I be allowed to put a question to the boys myself?' 'Oh, certainly, sir, whatever you please.' 'Well then, boys, tell me honestly, every boy who has been to Donnybrook this year, hold up his hand! Up went every hand in the class. Of course the boys, being Irish, knew the intensity of the joke, and laughed accordingly, and the master, being of the same nation was not more backward in spite of his defeat; and visitor, teacher and scholars joined in a good hearty roar, which had hardly calmed down when one little gamin of the class stepped forward and put up his hand. 'Please, sir, I went to Donnybrook to distribute tracts.' As the idea of any urchin going to Donnybrook to sell tracts, or coming alive out of it if he did, was utterly incredible, the laugh broke out again with renewed violence, till the visitor took his departure.

The Liverpool *Courier* of a late date tells, as follows, of how a blackleg and sharper of that city was 'sold' by a verdant son of the green isle.—Lawrence Coffey was a born son of a quack, and a century ago, in the county of Kildare, and arrived in Liverpool a couple of days ago, on his way to America. At the Clarence dock he was met and warmly greeted by a 'gentleman,' who invited him to partake of some refreshment, after the 'dangers of the seas.' Lawrence accepted, and the worthy pair entered a public-house in Waterloo-road, and a couple of glasses of ale had the effect of opening not only the heart, but the pocket of the generous stranger who, taking from the latter what seemed to be an excellent gold watch, with chain, &c., attached, said that it had just been taken from the pocket of a Captain who was drowned, and that the lot was quite a dead bargain at £100, but as he wanted cash badly he had let Lawrence have the whole 'dhollop' for ten guineas. Mr. Coffey told his friend quietly that all the money he had consisted of a fifty pound note, and he had no wish to change that. The mention of a 'fifty' acted like electricity. Bread, cheese, and more ale were called in and paid for, and after near an hour's bargaining the traveller agreed to give £2 for the watch, chain, and other appurtenances, but how was he to get change for the 'fifty'? The stranger not only undertook to change the note, but, in order to insure his return, left the watch and chain and two sovereigns—all the loose change he had about him—with his young and amiable friend until he came back, which he promised to do quickly. The piece of paper alluded to was truly a bank note, but it was a 'Bank of Elegance' issue, and signed by a tailor in Dublin, who promised to pay fifty pounds to any one who could purchase cheaper or better clothes than he could supply. The remainder is easily told. The stranger, who turned out to be one of the most notorious card sharps and 'duffers' about the docks, and well known to the police, did not return, conscious, no doubt, that he was 'done' by the young Irishman. Mr. Coffey after waiting a reasonable time for the change, informed the landlord of the public-house of the whole 'business transaction,' and then went on his way rejoicing.

Under the provisions of the new drainage act of 1863, it is proposed to drain and improve large tracts of land in the counties of Westmeath, Meath, Cavan, and Longford at present annually flooded by the waters of the River Liffey and its tributaries. The plans necessary for this most important work, we have ascertained, are likely soon to be completed. Mr. James Dillon, the engineer in chief for the Dublin and Meath Railway and other lines, in conjunction with Mr. James A. Dickinson, County Surveyor of Westmeath, to whom the preparatory work has been entrusted by the landed proprietors, having had for some months past a staff of assistants employed in taking the levels and making surveys, &c. Messrs. Brassington and Gale, the eminent valuers, have been also engaged in their particu-

lar department in valuing the land. As soon as the plans and estimates are completed in accordance with the requirements of the new drainage act, a meeting of the owners will be convened for the purpose of forwarding them to the Board of Works together with the required petition. The fact of there being upwards of seventy miles of river and tributaries to be improved, straitened, and deepened, more or less, will, we think, convey some idea of the importance of the work in giving employment, and rendering land, now useless, most valuable hereafter.—*Westmeath Guardian.*

The half yearly meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland was held yesterday, Mr. J. L. Naper presiding. Captain Thornhill, secretary, read the report of the council, which was adopted. The report stated,—

'That the society continues to occupy a prominent position in assisting to develop the agricultural resources of this country, and that the efforts made for improvement in the tillage and cultivation of land, the introduction of superior breeds of cattle and implements, and the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes have been ably seconded by the local societies by which the parent institution is at present supported.'

It further stated that the annual show held this year had been most successful; that, although the entries in—

'The horned class were, for obvious reasons, not so numerous as might have been expected, the shedding was almost fully occupied. The sheep sections were extremely well represented, as were also the swine and poultry classes. In the horses exhibited there was a marked improvement; and the display of implements, many sales of which were effected, was superior to any since the Limerick meeting.'

The council remark, in referring to the operations of the committee to whom was intrusted a Government grant of 3,000*l.* for the purpose of affording instruction as to the growth and manufacture of flax in Munster and Connaught, that—

'From the statistics of the Registrar-General there has been a diminution in the quantity grown in 1865, compared with that in 1864. Still, it will be found that the quantity grown in 1865 is greatly in excess of that grown in 1863 and the preceding years; while it is satisfactory to know that, owing to the instruction thus imparted, a vast improvement has taken place in the quality of the flax fibre produced. The market value of the growth of 1865 averages fully 2*s.* per stone greater than that of last year. The council think it very desirable that the joint committee should without delay seek to obtain from the Executive a renewal of the grant to be applied as heretofore for similar purposes of instruction.'

It appears from the reports to the Board of Trade of the inspection of Irish local light-houses, buoys, and beacons that on the east coast, from Kingston near Dublin, to Queenstown, near Cork, there is no sheltered harbour properly lighted as a refuge for storm-driven vessels; and the same thing is true of the coast northward from Dublin to Belfast. Yet this is a most dangerous coast, and often strewn with wrecks. On the 6th inst. the Barbadian struck on the Blackwater-bank and was broken up. In 1857 the Emperor was lost on the same bank, and the following night the Lady Ebrington was grounded in the same place, and was got off with great difficulty. The Rev. Professor Haughton, of Trinity College, Dublin, describes the Blackwater-bank as simply a 'ship trap,' which may be regarded as 'set' when a spring tide, half ebb and a dark night occur together.—*Times Dublin Cor.*

A paragraph lately appeared in some of our Irish exchanges stating that James Redmond, for whose apprehension a reward of £50 had been offered, had been arrested in Navan. It was clear, however, that it was a case of mistaken identity, as the man arrested turned out to be John Ryan of Navan. By the following paragraph, however, taken from the *Wexford Independent*, we see that Redmond was really arrested a few days afterwards.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 10th, James Redmond, charged with illegal drilling in Ennisecorthy, on the night of the 6th of September last, was brought before Mr. Greene, J.P., in this town, and remanded to the county prison until Wednesday, for further examination in the county court house at petty sessions. It may be recollected that he made his escape from the police immediately after he was found putting his men through their exercises at a place near the Quakers' meeting house, in the vicinity of Ennisecorthy; and although £50 was offered for his capture, it was not till about one o'clock on Sunday morning that he was taken, which was effected by the skill and vigilance of Head-Constable Henderson.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BACK-DOOR RELIGION.—If a man enjoys an opera, but is afraid of his neighbour seeing him there he quotes St. Paul to excuse his own cowardice in staying away. If a clergyman thinks a particular dogma doubtful or false he conceals his doubts or certainties, lest perchance he should be misinterpreted into doubting the truths of Christianity. If he thinks cricket perfectly lawful, he abstains from a healthy recreation, lest some bold woman should be 'offended,' i.e., in the parochial dialect, induced to play cricket against her conscience. Thousands listen to sermons lest 'weaker brethren' should be offended by their departure, scores of thousands debase their conscience by observance which they have ceased to believe, lest people sillier than themselves should interpret them while still believing in their necessity. The defect of honesty produces a defect of force, until the masses, who have a sort of animal instinct of truth, who know when a man is earnest, as a dog knows, from some thing other than words, come to the conclusion that, as the teacher obviously does not believe one part of the thing taught, he does not believe any, and as he does not believe the thing itself is a lie. A sense of unreality is introduced into religious teaching, and the gulf between layman and cleric, always deep, is daily widened. Upon this subject of Sunday the evil rises to a most serious height. Men who will, for example, read anything from Miss Eddon to the *Observer* without a scruple, will not read secular books in their sitting-rooms lest their servants should do likewise, and thereby be injured, the servants, if they consider the matter at all, being ten times as much injured by the hypocrisy. As a rule, the English clergy are at heart very mild upon this matter of Sunday, never thinking it, for example, an irreverent thing to share, but in thousands of parishes the incumbent shames himself up all day, or, like Dr. Macleod's Scotch friend, walks out by stealth, lest his own assertion of his own right should induce some laborer to think it lawful for him to visit the public-house. Occasionally the mischief goes deeper, and cases occur of men deliberately preaching dogmas in which they have ceased to believe, lest perchance some weaker mind should lose a necessary buttress,—perhaps the most injurious, though not the most evil of all conceivable forms of lying.—*Spectator.*

Sir Henry Storks is formally gazetted as Captain General and Governor of Jamaica, pending the prosecution of certain inquiries.

STRANGE DISCOVERY.—The other day Messrs Ewanson, Birley, and Co., manufacturers of Preston, received a quantity of cotton in bales from Manchester. On one of the bales being opened a small parcel was found concealed in it, and when the parcel was untied it contained, strange to say, 24 Minie rifle copper cartridges. The ball fixed at the end of each cartridge was in every case greased with tallow, with which a deadly poison had been mixed. If the cartridges had not been discovered, and if the cotton wrapped round them had gone into the machinery at the mill an explosion with consequences would have ensued. Why, when, or for what purposes the cartridges were inserted in the bales of cotton is a mystery.

DR. COLONSO AND HIS FLOCK.—The following is the text of the address to Dr. Colonso upon his arrival at Natal:—'My Lord,—It is with singular pleasure that we hail your return to Natal after an absence of three years, during which period your Lordship has been engaged in the arduous task of combating ancient prejudices and loosening the tenacious hold of medieval traditions. We heartily congratulate you on the successful result of your sojourn in England, and that you have added one more name to the illustrious catalogue of those who, without fear, and with singleness of heart and honesty of purpose, have maintained the inalienable right of all men to exercise their own mental powers and freely investigate all subjects, whether scientific or religious. Let us hope, my Lord, that your return may be threatened by the powers of darkness you have happily assisted to disperse in the mother country, it will be the harbinger of a new era in the land of our adoption, and that your example, both moral and intellectual, may impel us onward in the fulfilment of our mission. We have the honor to be your Lordship's obedient, humble servants.' (Here follow 130 signatures, and the number is daily increasing.) The Bishops of Cape Town, Graham's Town, and the Free State had publicly pronounced that to join the Communion of Dr. Colonso would be to separate from the Communion of the Church of England, and recommended that the clergy should elect another bishop, the choice to be approved by the faithful laity.

Further diplomatic correspondence between Mr. Adams and the British Foreign Secretary is published, respecting the Sea King or Shenandoah, under date of Nov. 21. Mr. Adams says he is instructed to state that the proposition of Her Majesty's Government for creating a joint commission is respectfully declined. On Dec. 3d, Earl Orendon writing to Mr. Adams says Her Majesty's Government consider that no advantage can result from prolonging the controversy which the topics are fully exhausted, but which might possibly, if continued, introduce a ceremony into the relations of England and the United States.

Earl Orendon persists however, in asserting that England has never deviated from her duties as a neutral power, and he declares how strongly Her Majesty's Government and the people of England desire to be in close friendship with the United States. Virtually this correspondence leaves the question of American claims on England suspended.

Bell's Life announces a real stand-up fight between two gentlemen formerly in the army, for a thousand a side. On this subject another sporting paper says:—'As the names of the parties are well known in the circles which alone are interested in the matter, there is no necessity for painting their relatives by giving publicity to them; for although the challenge was given and accepted, and a deposit of one hundred pounds put down, it was returned the following morning with a proper explanation. This the other gentleman declined to accept, and would persist in having the match go on; but for reasons which are perfectly familiar to our readers, we may say that there is not the slightest probability of the affair coming off, and that it will merely serve for a laugh and a joke in the smoking rooms of the West End clubs.'

PAUPERISM.—The half-yearly return just issued by the Poor Law Board shows that in England and Wales (minus a few places making no return, but together not containing 2 per cent. of the population) the numbers of paupers in receipt of relief on the 31st of July, 1865, was 391,201. This is 2.3 per cent. less than on the 1st of July, 1864, and the return for that date showed a decrease 8.8 per cent. as compared with 1st of July, 1863. The number of adult able-bodied paupers on the 1st of July, 1865, was 139,027, being 5.7 per cent. fewer than on the 1st of July, 1864, and the number on the 1st of July, 1863, was 20.7 per cent. fewer than on the 1st of July, 1863. The able-bodied paupers on the 1st of July, 1865, comprised 35,311 men, 107,316 women, and 23,538 children under 16; the number of men was 35,514 on the 1st of July, 1864, and 51,533 on the 1st of July, 1863. In the north-western division of the kingdom, consisting of Lancashire and Cheshire, 68,840 able-bodied persons (men, women, and children) were in receipt of relief on the 1st of July, 1864, but only 52,002 on the 1st of July, 1865. The persons in receipt of relief on the 1st of July, 1865, comprised 184,554 men, 391,459 women, 314,345 children under 16, and 3,811 vagrants; 121,700 were indoor, and 76,591 outdoor paupers; the decrease in number, as compared with July, 1864, was entirely among the outdoor paupers. 38,506 of the paupers of 1865 were insane, an increase of nearly 1,300 over the number on the 1st of July, 1865. Of the adult male paupers on the 1st of July, 1865, 35,916 were in the workhouse, and 145,038 were receiving outdoor relief; there were 39,205 women in the house, and 352,254 having outdoor relief; 43,715 children indoors, and 270,650 without relief. Children are classed in these returns as able-bodied, or not, according to the classification of their parents; children relieved without their parents are classed as not able-bodied. The whole number of paupers in receipt of relief on the 1st of July last was 1 in 22, or 4.5 per cent. on the actual population.

The following character of Mr. Gordon, written by 'one who knew him for 21 years,' paints him rather as a restless, unscrupulous agitator, than the martyred patriot we are asked to believe him:—

'Mr. G. W. Gordon was a singular compound of opposites, a great pretender in religion, but one who altogether ignored the claims of truth and honesty. One who could expatiate eloquently on the sins of the people, and at the same time beat his own father and defraud all those who were so unfortunate as to place confidence in him. One who boasted that he was the owner of thousands of acres of land, while the records of our Court show that he was tons of thousands of pounds in debt. One who was a shareholder in the Jamaica Bank, and yet that bank would not honor his check for £5. One who professed to be a preacher of the Gospel of peace and love, and yet a plotter of rebellion and anarchy, and bloodshed; a pietist in pretension, and a traitor in heart. Such a mixture of strange contradictions leads to a suspicion that he could not have been a man of sound mind. This, at all events, is the most charitable conclusion, for if otherwise he must have been one of the most desperately wicked men, as well as the vilest hypocrite that ever disgraced the pages of history. Our readers will recollect when some years ago the leges of Port Royal street were started by finding his store closed, and a paper on the doors, of which the following is a copy:—

'In the name of the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, this store stands closed for three days, during which I shall humble myself in fasting and prayer for the sins of the country.—Oh, Lord, are not Thine eyes upon the truth? Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.'

'G. W. Gordon.'

All this might have been very well, although a somewhat eccentric course, had his other conduct comported with it; but all who had the misfortune to have dealings with him found to their sorrow that he was much more ready to pray than to pay, and seemed to consider a loud profession of religion a perfect substitute for morality and commercial integrity. Some time ago a curious illustration of this tendency occurred on one of his estates. On his visiting the property the laborers, who had been long working without receiving any payment, came to him hoping to obtain a settlement of their wages. He received them in the most cordial manner and promised to satisfy all their demands, but, said he, let us have a word of prayer first. To this, of

course, the poor people could not object; upon which Mr. Gordon commenced and continued praying, singing, and talking until the night was so far advanced that, on concluding, he remarked that it was too late to attend to business, and desiring them to return on the following morning at 9 o'clock; but at early dawn he mounted his gig and made his escape, so that when the expectant laborers came at the appointed hour it was to learn that the bird was flown without leaving a single shilling for them.'

Of his conduct as a legislator the writer says it was entirely negative.—

'Still he was great in that department, for there was no law proposed in which he could concur, no measure in which his microscopic eye could not detect some latent mischief or fatal flaw; while his strength of lung and glibness of tongue made him an object of admiration to the other members of the House, though there might be nothing else in him to admire. His four hours' speech running into the morning was not soon forgotten, and the resolutions of the House to limit the duration of speeches prove how severely he had taxed the patience of the Assembly and obstructed the course of legislation.'

It is due to the regular Baptist Mission Churches, the writer continues to state, that he never was a member of or in any way connected with them. It is true that some years ago he requested the Rev. Mr. Phillipps, of Spanish Town, to baptize him.—

'But Mr. Gordon was not of a disposition to submit to the discipline and government of any regular church or to play second fiddle to any one. He aspired to be a leader and preacher, and this could only be done by identifying himself with the native Baptists and setting up his own tabernacle. Here he found full scope for his peculiar talents. He was hailed as an archbishop or high priest, and in an ignorant and superstitious people he found tools just suited to his purpose. All the miserable little chapels studding the parish of St. Thomas in the East became the hotbeds of sedition and rebellion.'

Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., proposes in the coming session of Parliament to move for an address to the Crown for a Royal Commission to inquire into the accuracy of the authorized version of the New Testament, with a view to getting it made more correct.

Russell Guernsey, M.P., and Recorder of London consented to serve as a member of the Commission. The *Times* says the appointment of Guernsey proves a desire, on the part of the Government, that the enquiry should be conducted in the most impartial manner.

UNITED STATES.

The Most Rev. Archbishop of Baltimore, during the recent visitation of his archdiocese, confirmed two thousand and twenty-eight persons—one hundred and seventy-seven of whom were converts.

CHINAMEN AND THEIR WAYS.—A California letter has the following:—'Queer shape these Chinamen are, and queer customs they have. In one corner of the room sits my Chinese boy, reading a book upside down, and after the manner of his country grinning like a chimpanzee over hieroglyphics that look like bunches of black radishes. He understands it all though, and probably finds that style of literature very funny. I attended the Chinese dinner which was given to Colfax, ate with chopsticks, swallowed a little of each of the hundred and eighty-nine courses that constituted the repast. We sat down at six, sharp, and got through at one prompt. Yes, I ate broiled bamboo, and stewed wholebone—which perhaps may be styled the Spring vegetables of the Chinese—sharks' fins, birds' nests, and other delicacies too repulsive to mention. By way of desert, they have pickled cucumber and melon seeds, and all manner of sweet things. Taken as a whole, however, I don't think I should like a steady course of Chinese diet, though the tea which they gave us was of a most wonderful flavor. It was served up with-out sugar or milk, and cost \$50 a pound, which is perhaps the reason why they do not ask us to take a second cup. You would have been amused could you have seen each guest making frantic attempts to get something into his mouth with the chopsticks. Try to eat with knitting-needles, and you will have some idea of the difficulty of the feat. If I were a boarding-house-keeper, I think I'd ring them in upon my boarders to use instead of knives and forks. A little bash would go a wonderful great way with them. I flunked the difficulty by taking hold of anything with them by sharpening mine off at the end and harpooning the meat and vegetables.'

There is a profound belief in the South that the North intends to humiliate the people to the lowest point. It was in the South that the pride of being descended from English stock, and of preserving the characteristics of gentlemen, was most generally felt. Assuredly, such tastes find little sympathy in the more mixed and vagrant populations of the North, and when the boundaries of Virginia are passed the breaking up of the Southern 'aristocracy' would cause regret to but very few. 'It is this end,' say Southern men, 'that England ought to have desired to prevent. All our sympathies and predilections turned toward England rather than toward the North, and whatever might have happened, England would always have found thousands in the South to love and honor her. The North regards her with jealousy and hatred; the South with feelings of kindred and friends. The world will eventually find that it was not good for it that the North should have conquered in this war, for it has become an arrogant and dangerous nation, and if the two sections ever reunite, no Power could stand before it.' Such are the opinions held in the South; their value can be more justly weighed and judged abroad than here amid the turbid passions of conflicting parties.—*Times Cor.*

New York, Jan. 9.—A report says a banking-house in this city has received a despatch from Ireland stating that a force of constabulary was ordered to a point near Killynure, County Kerry, to suppress Fenian drilling parties. The constabulary were repulsed, but being reinforced by two companies of military, rallied. The Fenians were, meanwhile, also reinforced, and again repulsed the assailants. There is possibly some truth in the story, its circumstantiality being in its favor.

WHIMSIES OR OILDROPS.—'Men get to personifying wells that behave well. A 'dry hole' is a miserable 'it,' but a 500-barrel fellow—a great oleaginous revolver—is a 'she.' The happy owner watches her with eyes of affection; he 'sits up' with her; he would marry her if he could, 'till death doth them part'; but alas, wells, like empires, are mortal. The average life of a well is a year; some run a brief and brilliant career that can only be measured by moons. If a well conducts itself dutifully it is lovingly christened. When Napoleon was in gentle mood, Josephine was his 'dear little devil.' We have the 'Proscipine' and the 'Rattlesnake.' There are the 'Quick Step' and the 'Humble Bee'—you can see a well in Cherry Run whose engine-house is emblazoned with b's enough to make money—the 'Bumble Bee,' 'Rhino-ceros,' 'Wild Cat,' and 'Turtle,' 'Empire,' 'Key-stone,' 'United States,' and 'Mary Ann.' Even the boats and buildings grow talkative in Venango. You are amazed at the impudence of a rat y barge, a sort of boarding-house afloat that with its shore nose thrust up on the shore of Oil Creek, like a crocodile, tells you in a breath, 'Bully Boy,' and 'Come right aboard.' There are a brinksme and pertness about everything in these regions quite at variance with the easy going decorum of almost everywhere else. Thus, a shanty, ragged and saucy, orders you to 'Halt! a log cabin comes at you in rheumatic letters, 'Take a drink.' Here a building speaks up, 'Stop and feed'; and there a wag of a dwelling insinuates 'Dew-drop in!'—*Oil News.*

THE TRUE POLICY OF THE SOUTH.—The Fayetteville (N. C.) *Daily News*, a paper which is edited with ability, and with a spirit of becoming dignity and manhood, seriously propounds the question as to what the South has to gain by making humiliating surrenders to the party in power at Washington, and is in honest doubts whether it is not better for her to accept, for whatever time she must, the condition of a military colony, than to make any further sacrifices to renew her relation with the Federal Union. At the same time it declares its willingness to keep on making these sacrifices, if it is really the best thing to be done for the South. We do not wonder that a Southern man of ability and foresight should entertain these questions. In the first place there is now really no Union for the South to return to; so far as the present is concerned, the government that was formed by our fathers is dead. The bloated and fanatical despotism that rules from Washington, bears no likeness to the former Union of these States. That Union is dead—not by secession (for that had not the power and did not seek to overthrow the vital principle of self government on which the Union was based) but by the seditious and revolutionary acts of the party in power. There is a powerful, though disorganised and demoralised, party in the North, which will work to restore the Union; and until that party is in some degree successful, there is nothing worthy of the name of Union to tempt the respect or the desires of any people who have a proper appreciation of liberty and self government.—

Nor are we among those that believe the South can contribute to the real restoration of the Union by voluntarily sacrificing the proud rights which belong to all peoples, and which none can lose or cease to deserve. There is no reason why the Southern people should feel like criminals—far otherwise—and if they are to be treated as such, in our opinion, good policy, as well as manhood, dictates that the odious responsibility of that treatment should be thrown wholly where it belongs, upon the guilty heads of the tyrants at Washington. If the Southern people think to soften, or mitigate the madness of the party now in power by any sacrifices they can make, they deceive themselves. Neither generosity nor justice must be expected from these fanatics. They will be governed only by what they think policy, or by their fears. Whatever they dare do without the fear of provoking a fatal reaction, they will do, no matter what sacrifices the South may make. The more they surrender, the more they will be called upon to surrender. They have given every token of wishing to return to the Union in good faith. The civilized world believe them sincere. Here can they afford to rest and throw all further responsibility upon the party that refuses to restore the Union, by barring the door against their return. We cannot resist the impression that the South would have served their own interests and the cause of their country best, by planting themselves squarely upon the constitution, and making no voluntarily surrender of any one of its principles. They should not, in our opinion, lend themselves to the business of subverting that grand charter of freedom and self-government. Their crowning honor is that they believe and have a ways loved the principles of the Constitution. The shame of their Abolition foes is that they hate these principles. All the sedition against the Constitution is confined to the Abolitionists. Its infamous and impudible head is in the present Congress. If this Constitution survives the present trial it will be through the manhood and fidelity of the Southern people in refusing to be a party to the subversion of its immortal doctrines. And by taking their course, we believe they will shorten the time of their suffering. There is a manifest revival of respect for the new Constitution starting here in the North, which will at length sweep down the secessionists, and extend to the Southern States the hand of welcome and fraternity. We believe there is a better way for them to do than to pry their way into this present Congress by unmanly surrenders or truculent coaxings, which is to throw upon the Abolitionists the responsibility of keeping them out, and quietly waiting, without another effort to 'restore the Union' on their part. The South and the whole country will get better terms by allowing this Congress to run its mere negro machine in its own way. A final smash is inevitable.—*Nashville Despatch.*

THE IRISH REPUBLIC.—What to do with the Fenian Funds.—The Second Fenian Congress assembled in this city yesterday, and we took advantage of this gathering of the members of the Brotherhood from all parts of the country, to tell them a few plain truths and give them a little serious advice. An Irish republic in this country, with its capital at Union square, and its money devoted to the support of a set of officials who cannot govern anything, not even themselves, is manifestly an absurdity. No matter how many resolutions may be passed in favour of O'Mahony, they cannot change the resolution of all sensible people to have nothing more to do with this person. No matter how strongly Roberts may be supported he can never revive the delusive dream of Fenian independence which have cost so many people tens and hundreds of dollars. The force of an Irish Republic in America is quite played out, and it is time for the curtain to be dropped and the actors dispersed. The Brotherhood has become a thing for jokes and laughter, and it were well not to force the public to regard it otherwise than good naturedly. If the Congress now in session will declare the Brotherhood disbanded, make a judicious disposition of the funds now on hand, and then adjourn *in die*, it will earn a world-wide reputation for wisdom, prudence, and discretion, and relieve the public from an association which is fast becoming a nuisance.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The alarming spread of the cattle plague in England, where it has destroyed something like forty thousand head of cattle, representing in money value of over \$2,000,000, within a few months, has led to preventive measures being taken by the U. States government. A special dispatch of our Toronto correspondent states that orders have been issued prohibiting any further importation of cattle into the States from Canada. It is estimated by American buyers in the Province that \$40,000 worth of cattle will thus be thrown upon their hands.—*N. Y. Herald.*

New York, Jan. 10.—The Commercial's Washington telegram says an early withdrawal of the French troops, from Mexico is looked upon as certain by all who have perused the correspondence sent in by the President yesterday.

SMUGGLING.—A convention of Collectors and Treasury agents is at present in Session at Washington. The result of its deliberations will be laid before Congress in a day or two, in the form of a memorial, accompanied by bills for enactment into laws intended to effectually close smuggling on the Canadian frontier.

A SYMPATHIZING PARTY.—At a meeting of the George Washington circle of Fenians on Wednesday, in New York, resolutions were passed sympathizing with General Sweeney, at the uncalled for (?) barracks of the Secretary of War in dismissing him from the Federal army. It is said he has been dismissed at the instance of Sir Frederick Bruce on account of his Fenian propensities.

DIVORCES IN CHICAGO.—Chicago is becoming metropolitan. There were two hundred seventy-five divorces granted in that city by the several courts during the year 1865. The Chicago Journal says:—'Of these one hundred and seventy-seven were applied for by wives, whose grounds of grievance against their husbands were: drunkenness in fifty of the cases; desertion and cruelty, forty-four; adultery, eight; drunkenness, desertion, cruelty and adultery combined, two; bigamy, two; other causes, twenty. Of the entire number of divorces granted, ninety-eight were applied for by husbands, whose grounds of grievances against their wives were: adultery in fifty-eight of the cases; desertion, twenty; drunkenness, eighteen; bigamy, one.'