

urging their immediate assistance. The sums already promised reach £30,000 in donations, and £500 in annual subscriptions. Of course the Romanist priest does not omit a fling at the English Establishment:—

"The Church of England has her exclusive Universities, furnished with the most ample means to call forth and reward talent of every description. She has her establishment, the richest in the world, her prebendaries, her canons, to attract and remunerate her literary champions. The provinces are studded with her numerous and richly-endowed schools. She has her extensive Protestant literature, characterised, it is true, rather by a hatred of Catholicism than by any well-defined principle of religious belief. She has her history, of which one of the first writers of the present day has well remarked, 'that it is one vast conspiracy against truth.' She has, in a word, every advantage which resources, almost infinite, can command. Protestantism, thus armed, be it remembered, is far more formidable than when she put forth all her strength in penal enactments. Against an organization so perfect in all its parts, and sustained by the first of earthly powers, the Catholic Church in this country, unprovided as yet with even one Catholic University, and with only one endowed College, has to sustain the cause of true religion, and hand it down to posterity as we have received it from our ancestors."

The clergy of the diocese of Dr. McHale, assembled last week in full convocation at Tuam, have issued a series of resolutions, breathing a like spirit of intolerance, the first and most audacious of which is the following:—

"That the Established Church is such a monstrous nuisance in Ireland, amid a Catholic population, that no candidate offering himself for this county shall have any chance of the votes of the Catholic clergy and people who will not uniformly oppose every Ministry that will not consent to make the annihilation of this source of grievous oppression a Cabinet measure."

Much and general dissatisfaction is expressed by Roman Catholics of all classes at the bigoted speech of Col. Forester, at Wenlock, on Wednesday, which is much contrasted with a declaration just made by the Archbishop of Dublin, who, in a letter dictated to his Secretary, says:—

"The Archbishop is opposed to the proposal for withdrawing the grant to Maynooth, as he does not see by withdrawing it we should do anything towards reducing the number or influence, or improving the character of the Irish priesthood, but rather quite the reverse; while it would afford that party (what they much want at present) the pretence of a grievance, to prepare the way for an attack upon Trinity College, and to break up an establishment which, whatever else it may be, is certainly not ultramontane, but rather the stronghold of the national party in the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland."

ENGLAND.

DOMESTIC.

LITERARY FORGERIES.

The Shelley Letters, published by Mr. Moxon, and reviewed in our paper a fortnight since, are, it turns out, with but one or two exceptions, forgeries. It is proper to say at once that Mr. Moxon had been deceived, and that no gentleman from the moment of the discovery could have acted more straightforwardly and promptly than he has done in this transaction. As soon as he was convinced that he had been the means—the innocent means—of giving to the public a false article, he did his best to repair his mistake. He has suppressed the book, and has called in the copies delivered to the trade.

The discovery was made in quite an accidental manner. Mr. Moxon had sent a copy of the book to Mr. Tennyson. During a visit which Mr. Palgrave was paying to Mr. Tennyson he dipped into the Shelley volume, and lighted on a letter written from Florence to Godwin—the better half of which he at once recognized as part of an article on Florence written for the *Quarterly Review* so far back as 1840 by his father, Sir Francis Palgrave. It is good to find a son so well versed in the writing of his father as young Mr. Palgrave proved himself to be on this occasion. He lost no time, as we may suppose, in communicating his curious discovery to his father, and Sir Francis, after comparing the printed letter with the printed article, wrote at once to Mr. Moxon informing him that the letter—by whomsoever written—was a "crib" from an article which he had written for the *Quarterly Review*.

Startled at such intelligence, Mr. Moxon replied that he had bought the letter at a public sale among other letters also by Shelley, and that the passage, of which Sir Francis claimed the authorship, was contained in a letter written by Shelley, carrying upon it the post-mark of the period, and other written signs which apparently marked it to be genuine. The Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records was, it may be readily imagined, equally startled with Mr. Moxon at the announcement of such a fact. He wanted to see the letter. The letter was produced. "It looks genuine; is it not genuine?" "I am the author of that passage, but not the writer of that letter," was the reply of Sir Francis. "But may not Sir Francis," it was urged to Mr. Moxon, "have seen this letter in the noble collection of autographs belonging to his father-in-law, Mr. Dawson Turner?" a question which only added a fresh difficulty to the solution sought.

In this emergency Mr. Moxon had recourse to the assistance of a gentleman known to be conversant with autographs. The letters were placed in his hands, with a request that he would spare no pains to ascertain the truth about them—and with this information to guide him—that they had been shown to some Post-office clerks at the General Post-office, who "to the best of their belief," pronounced them to be genuine.

The first step taken after this was to compare the post-marks with Byron's letters to Mr. Murray, posted from the same cities in the same month and year, and to the same city—London. Here they failed—and in this way. Where "Ravenna" on a genuine letter was in small sharp type—in the Shelley letter it was in a large uncertain type; and in the letters from Venice the post-mark of the City of Palaces was stamped in an Italic, and not, as in the Shelley specimens, in a Roman letter! These were strong facts, but then the dates agreed with Shelley's sojourn at the several places—the seals were correct. The hand-writing was marvellously Shelley-like—no hesitation about it was a free accustomed hand. "Are they not genuine?"

From whom did Mr. Moxon buy these letters? They were bought at Setheby and Wilkinson's, at large prices. From whom did Messrs. Setheby and Wilkinson receive them for sale? "We had them from Mr. White the bookseller in Pall-mall, over against the Reform Club." Off runs the gentleman detective. "From whom did you, Mr. White, obtain these letters?" "I bought them of two women—I believed them to be genuine,

and I paid large prices for them in that belief." Such are the words supposed to have been spoken by Mr. White. The two women would appear to have been like the man in a Clergyman's bank, but a lawyer's gown, who brought Pope's letter to Curll.

It would be impolitic at this stage of an important inquiry to publish the whole of the particulars placed at our service in elucidation of the forgery of these letters. It is proper, however, to say thus early that there has been of late years, as we are assured, a most systematic and wholesale forgery of these letters purporting to be written by Byron, Shelley, and Keats—that these forgeries carry upon them such marks of genuineness as have deceived the entire body of London collectors—that they are executed with a skill to which the forgeries of Chatterton and Ireland can lay no claim—that they have sold at public auctions, and by the hands of booksellers, to collectors of experience and rank, and that the imposition has extended to a large collection of books bearing not only the signature of Lord Byron, but notes by him in many of their pages, the matter of the letters being selected with a thorough knowledge of Byron's life and feelings, and the whole of the books chosen with the minutest knowledge of his tastes and peculiarities.

But the "marvel" of the forgery is not yet told. At the same sale at which Mr. Moxon bought the Shelley letters, were catalogued for sale a series of (unpublished) letters from Shelley to his wife, revealing the innermost secrets of his heart, and containing facts, not only dishonourable facts to a father's memory, but such as a son would wish to conceal. These letters were bought in by the son of Shelley, the present Sir Percy Shelley—and are now proved, we are told, to be forgeries. To impose on the credulity of a collector is a minor offence, compared with that of forging evidence of crime against the dead, and still minor as in one instance against the fidelity of a woman.

The forgery of Chatterton injured no one but an imaginary Priest—the forgery of Ireland made a great poet seem to write worse than Settle could have written—but this forgery blackens the character of a great man, and, worse still, traduces female virtue.

Mr. Moxon is not the only publisher taken in. Mr. Murray has been a heavy sufferer, though not to the same extent. Mr. Moxon has printed his Shelley purchases; Mr. Murray—wise through Mr. Moxon's example—will not publish his Byron acquisitions.—*Athenæum*.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have received official intimation of the acceptance on the part of the Lords of the Admiralty of their proposals for establishing additional and greatly accelerated steam communication between this country, the Mediterranean, Egypt, India, and China, embracing likewise a constitution of the mail service from Singapore to various ports in Australia. The service is arranged in five distinct lines.

A contract has lately been concluded for eight years with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, for the maintenance of an extensive scheme of postal and passenger communication with the Mediterranean, with India, with China, and with Australia via Singapore.

Southampton is fixed upon as the port of arrival and departure for the East India and China Mails.

The duration of the contract is to be eight years from the expiration of the old one, which terminates in 1853. The contractors have the right of employing iron steamers upon any of the routes in the contract.

A fire broke out in St. Margaret's Church, adjoining Westminster Abbey, which might have been attended with the most fearful results had it been known at the time, the church being full, and the sermon by the Rev. Mr. Preston just commenced. The first alarm was given by a man coming from the Houses of Parliament, who observed a flame issuing from the roof of the building on the abbey side, close to the cornice. With great forethought he quietly informed Mr. Crow of what he had witnessed, and that officer engaged ten or twelve men, who got out the fire-ladders which are kept in the church, and ordered the parish engines to be got in readiness. He by this means got on the roof, and it became necessary to remove about 20 feet of the coping-stone before the place whence the flame issued from an old flue could be got at. Some fifty pails of water, however, put it out without disturbing the congregation.

The Crystal Palace is now open to the public who choose to pay 6d. for the admission by purchasing a catalogue of a sale now going on within its iron boundary, of the counters, stall, and other fittings up, the property of the contractors, Messrs. Fox and Henderson. From 200 last week, the numbers reached 1,500 on Monday, and 3,000 yesterday, and will, no doubt, speedily increase, as the fact that *entrées* may be now obtained becomes generally known. As to the fate of the building, with all deference to the *Times*, we should say it is doomed, when our contemporary tells us that the committee appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, consisting of Sir W. Cubitt, Dr. Linsley, and Lord Seymour, have examined witnesses, and reported in substance as follows:—

"That the Crystal Palace, if retained, would cost £200,000 to make it permanent, and adapt it for a winter garden or repository of the arts and manufactures and other objects contemplated. 2. That if a portion of it were removed to Kew it would entail an outlay of £80,000. 3. That a transportation to Battersea was not worthy of serious consideration; and, lastly, that a structure better adapted for the purposes to which it was contemplated that the Crystal Palace should be applied might be constructed at a smaller charge than the estimate of £230,000 specified.

Another batch (the 21st) of fifty female emigrants took their departure by the ship *Fortitude*, at Gravesend on Saturday, for Port Philip. The Hon. Mrs. Sidney Herbert and the Hon. Mrs. Stuart Wortley saw them off. Before leaving the girls were called up *seriatim* to receive their application papers, which will serve them as testimonials to character in their new home:—

"They were also each handed a letter of instruction for the regulation of their conduct during the voyage and after its termination, and they next received from Mrs. Herbert an envelope directed to herself, accompanied by a request on the part of that honourable lady that they would remember to write to her after their arrival, informing her how they got through the passage, what kind of situations they had obtained, and generally as to their prospects and position in the land of their adoption. Those of them who could write faithfully promised to comply with this injunction, and those who could not averred that they would learn on their voyage in order to do so."

The remains of the late Thomas Moore, the poet, were last week interred in a vault in Bromham Church-yard, where two of his children have been buried—a

strange circumstance considering that he professed to be a Romanist, and wrote against the Church of England. There was only one mourning-coach, in which were Mr. Longman, the publisher; two medical men, and one or two other persons.

Previous to the Levee on Wednesday the Earl of Derby had an audience of her Majesty, of the unusual length of two hours, which is reported by the *Daily News* to have been on the subject of the re-formation of the Anti-Corn Law League, declared at Manchester the previous day. The Levee, the second of the season, was itself chiefly noticeable as being the first attendance of the new Ministers of State and Officers of the Household. The Archbishop of York appeared in the general circle and among the presentations was that of the Rev. Henry Mildred Birch, on being appointed one of her Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary, by the Lord Chamberlain. The Earl of Powis presented an address to her Majesty, from the Bath Church of England Lay Association, against any increased grant to Maynooth.

"The pecuniary sacrifice consequent upon the strike, up to the present time, appears to have been enormous. Upon the part of the men, it is computed that, on an average, including skilled workmen and labourers, not fewer than 20,000 men at 25s. per week, the amount lost in wages by them up to the present time, amounts to no less a sum than £175,000; to this must be added about £2,000 weekly, which it has cost different trade societies to maintain the strike, including the day's pay per week contributed by the skilled engineers remaining at work—but independent of public subscriptions—amounting to a further sum of £14,000; thus making a total of £186,000, which the strike hands have received during the seven weeks of their inactivity. In addition, some considerable loss must have resulted to employers from the inactivity of their machinery, &c.; and, altogether, it is thought that, up to the end of the present week, from 200,000, to 210,000, would be a fair estimate of the loss entailed upon different parties by the engineers' strike."

The Great Grimsby Docks, at the mouth of the Humber, had been opened with festivities and under the finest auspices. The work began in 1845, the first stone was laid by Prince Albert on the 18th April, 1849. The entrance tidal-basin, has an area of 15 acres; its depth at low spring tides is 9 feet; low neaps, 12½; high springs, 27½; high neap, 24½; at landing-slip within the tidal basin, the largest steamers can lay to safely at any time of tide. The dock is entered from its tidal basin by two locks of massive masonry, with double gates for ebb and flood tides. The larger lock, to admit the largest war-steamers, is, between gates, 200 feet in length.

The small screw steamer, destined for the Arctic search by Captain Beaton is ready. The proposed field of search is east of the meridian of Behring's Straits, toward Keller's discoveries in 1849, Herald Island, and New-Siberia. Captain Beaton takes out autograph letters from the Emperor of Russia, recommending expedition to the commanders of the Russian outposts at Siberia and other Muscovite settlements, and desiring them to promote the object in view to the uttermost of their power.

A letter has been communicated to the *Times*, dated Constantinople, Feb. 28, by the Captain of a Norwegian bark, in which he says that he saw the burning Amazon, but that she was a mass of flame when he came near, and that he sailed around her without finding any traces of the victims.

POLITICAL.

BRITISH PREMIERS.—The following is a list of British Premiers during the last hundred years:—

Appointed.	Time in office.
Year.	Years. Days.
1754, April	5 Duke of Newcastle... 8 53
1762, May	29 Earl of Bute... 0 322
1763, April	16 G. Grenville... 2 87
1765, July	12 Marquis of Rockingham 1 21
1766, August	2 Duke of Grafton... 3 179
1770, January	28 Lord North... 12 34
1782, March	3 Marquis of Rockingham 0 132
1782, July	13 Earl of Shelburne... 0 266
1783, April	5 Duke of Portland... 0 260
1783, Dec.	27 William Pitt... 17 80
1801, March	17 Lord Sidmouth... 3 56
1804, May	12 William Pitt... 1 246
1806, January	8 Lord Grenville... 1 64
1807, March	13 Duke of Portland... 3 102
1810, June	28 Spencer Perceval... 1 350
1812, June	8 Earl of Liverpool... 14 307
1827, April	11 George Canning... 0 121
1827, August	10 Lord Goderich... 0 163
1828, January	25 Duke of Wellington... 2 301
1830, Nov.	22 Earl Grey... 3 231
1834, July	11 Lord Melbourne... 0 128
1834, Nov.	16 Duke of Wellington... 0 22
1834, Dec.	8 Sir Robert Peel... 0 131
1835, April	18 Lord Melbourne... 6 138
1841, Sept.	3 Sir Robert Peel... 4 97
1845, Dec.	10 Lord John Russell... 0 10
1845, Dec.	20 Sir Robert Peel... 0 188
1846, June	26 Lord John Russell... 5 239
1852, Feb.	22 Earl of Derby... —

THE NATIONAL CHURCH.

THE EARL OF DERBY, in explaining the policy which, as the head of the new Government, he should deem it his duty to pursue, remarked: For the promotion of religious knowledge among the people, I rely with confidence on the enlightened and disinterested exertions of the parochial Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland. To uphold that Church as the depository of religious truth, and as an instrument of incalculable value in diffusing good, both here and hereafter, to uphold her influence and maintain her power, is not only the interest but also the moral duty of Government: to uphold and maintain her in her integrity,—not by penal enactments directed against those who may differ from her communion,—not by virulent invective or by abusive language against her religious faith of those whose errors we may deplore, but to whose conscience we have no right to dictate,—but by steadfastly resisting all attempts at aggression upon the rights, the privileges, the possessions of that Church, come from what quarter and backed by what weight of authority they may, and by lending every power of the Government to support and extend the influence of that Church, in her high and holy calling of diffusing throughout the length and breadth of the United Empire—for I speak not of this country alone—that knowledge which is only derived from the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures. His Lordship further observed in the conclusion of his address: When I look to the various circumstances which must combine to give us a chance of successfully encountering the obstacles which beset our path,—I confess I am myself appalled by the magnitude of the difficulties which we have to meet. But I believe, and I know, that the destinies of nations are in the hands

of an overruling Providence; I know that it often is the pleasure of that Great Being to work His own objects by weak and unworthy means. In His presence I can solemnly aver that no motive of personal ambition has led me to aspire to the dangerous eminence on which the favour of my Sovereign has placed me. In the course of the discharge of its duties, no consideration shall sway me except that which led me to accept it—the paramount consideration of public duty. With that feeling on my mind, with the deep conviction of the sincerity of my own motives, and trusting to the guidance and the blessings of a Higher Power than my own, I venture to undertake a task from which I might well have shrunk, appalled by its magnitude; and, be the period of my administration longer or shorter, not only shall I have attained the highest object of personal ambition, but I shall have fulfilled one of the highest ends of human being, if, in the course of it, I can in the slightest degree advance the great objects of "peace on earth, good will among men,"—the social, the moral, the religious improvement of my country,—and if I can contribute to "the safety, the honour, and the welfare of our Sovereign, and her dominions."

The Town Council of the Borough of Salford, yesterday, after a long and animated discussion, affirmed the following proposition:—Proposed by Alderman Higgins, and seconded by Councillor Langworthy—"That inasmuch as there are two schemes now before the public, and about to be discussed in Parliament, having for their object the better education of the children of the working classes, and both based on a public rate, this Council admits that there is great need of increased education amongst the working classes, and that it is desirable to supply the means of a public rate, to be limited in amount, and to be under local management."

The votes were seventeen for the motion (including that of the Mayor) and fourteen against it. Only one member of the Council was absent, and all present voted. The assessment of the seventeen gentlemen who carried the motion is £9,243, and of fourteen who formed the minority, £1,826.

IRELAND.

POLITICAL.

Mr Napier, the Irish Attorney-General, in his address to the electors of Dublin University, on the occasion of his re-election, after declaring it as his opinion that all public education should be based upon the Scriptures, stated that "it is the intention of Lord Derby to institute an inquiry into the working of the national system of education in Ireland, with the view of making it what it purported to be—a truly national system."

IRELAND.—A very alarming statement respecting the progress of the Ribbon conspiracy appears in the *Belfast Newsletter*. If it is really an unexaggerated description of the condition of the disturbed districts of Ulster, there seems to be no remedy left but the highly objectionable one of a call upon the Legislature for such a measure of coercion as will at once crush this formidable spirit of turbulence.

The first effective blow to the administration of the Earl of Derby in Ireland has been given by the electors of Kildare, who have so rallied round Mr. Cogan, the Liberal candidate, as not to leave the slightest prospect of success for the Irish Chief Secretary. In this state of things Lord Naas has withdrawn from the contest.

The Limerick people are still stirring in the matter of the transatlantic packet station. The Committee resolved, at their last meeting, to communicate who the Earl of Derby, and make his Lordship aware of the great capabilities of the Shannon.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FRANCE.

The *Patrie* denies that M. Walewski has been recalled from his post of Ambassador in London, and that any but private business has brought him to Paris.

The *Debats*, in an article much noticed, respecting the intervention proposed to France by Austria in Switzerland, deprecates strongly any such measure, of which, it observes, although the apparent object might be the expulsion of the political refugees, the real aim would be to enforce an unwarrantable modification in the constitution of a free people. The latest intelligence, however, from Switzerland announces the receipt by the Diet of more amicable despatches from the French Government.

The President has appeared more in public of late, and has visited several public works on foot, as well as appearing *en voiture* on the Boulevards. At present he is suffering under an attack of acute rheumatism, but was able to entertain the *consul d'etat* at a grand dinner on Saturday last.

By a decree in the *Moniteur*, of yesterday, the Senate and Legislative body are convoked for the 29th inst., on which day it is said the President will open the session in person.

The Estimates for 1852 are published:—The State expenditure is calculated at 1,430,363,244 francs; the receipts at 1,449,413,604. The imported duties on fermented liquors are reduced by half, and those on liquors sold by retail raised by half. The war estimates are augmented by 7,000,000 francs, those of the Navy by 12,000,000 francs. The extraordinary works are augmented by 14,000,000 francs.

The salaries of the high functionaries of State, such as ministers, bishops (*sic*) ambassadors, magistrates, and prefects, are to be raised to what they were before the reductions made by the Provincial Government. Ministers are to have 100,000*f.* a year. The Minister of War and the Minister of Foreign Affairs will be allowed 130,000*f.* a year. Chief judges and procureurs généraux, from 20,000*f.* to 15,000*f.* The President of the Court de Cassation and Procureur-General, 30,000*f.*

The *Journal des Debats* publishes the letter of adhesion of the Duke d'Aumale and the Duke de Montpensier to the protest of the executors of the will of Louis Philippe.

The Duchess of Dalmatia, widow of Marshal Soult, died at Sultzberg on the 12th inst., aged 81.

According to the *Siecle*, the long-talked-of review will certainly take place in the Champ-de-Mars, on April 15. Sixty regiments of all arms, forming a total of 100,000, are expected to be in the field. This will be the largest review in France since that at Boulogne in 1804.

M. Ferdinand Favre has been elected Deputy for Nantes.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree for the reorganization of the order of the Legion of Honor.