

APPROHENSION OF AN ALLEGED FENIAN LEADER. BURKE.—At Bow-street, on Saturday, a gentlemanly-looking man, who gave the name of Bowry, and who described himself as a medical student just returned from Hamburg, but who is alleged to be Burke, a Fenian officer (supposed to have commanded at the raid at Ochester Oasle in the month of February last) and who, it appears, was charged before Sir T. Henry with treason felony within her Majesty's dominions, and another man, named Casey, was charged with assaulting the police and obstructing them in the prosecution of their duty.

Mr. Poland appeared for the prosecutor, instructed by the Solicitors to the Treasury. Mr. Poland said it was originally proposed to send the prisoner Burke to Ireland, but as most of the overt acts were alleged to have been committed in England, it was thought that it would be better to proceed here.

Mr. Thompson, Inspector of the Detective Force, Scotland-yard said—On the night of the 20th inst. shortly before eight o'clock, I was in Clarendon-st. St. Pancras, with a man named Devanny. We saw the prisoners; and followed them to Woburn-square. We had then got into a position to see their faces—Devanny especially. The latter made a communication to me about Burke. I had in the meantime got the assistance of a police constable, E 63, who had known me before. The constable and I followed the prisoner. I said to Burke, 'I am Inspector Thompson of the Detective Police, and hold a warrant for the apprehension of Richard Burke for a serious crime.' He said, 'What do you mean? I am not the person at all.' I said, 'Then who are you?' He replied, 'My name is George Bowry. I am a medical student, and just arrived from Hamburg.' I said 'Whether you are a Bowry or Burke you must come with me to the station-house.' He said, 'Let me see your warrant.' I said, 'You will see it at the proper time and place.' He replied, 'I refuse to go anywhere.' I then told the constable to take hold of him on one side, and I took hold of him by the shoulder on the other. Casey interposed. He was present all the time. He obstructed me in taking Burke, and struck me several blows. He struck me in the chest. The prisoner Burke then walked quietly. He protested very much against my apprehending him. When we got to the corner of the square, near Russell-square, Burke made a sudden effort, and said, 'I am not going to be held in this manner,' wrenching himself out of my grasp, and pushing me on one side and the constable on the other. He then became very violent, and struck at us, and pushed us about. After a little of this struggling, I drew a revolver, and said, 'Burke, if you attempt to escape I will shoot you.' He said, 'Don't do that.' I then called a cab and at last got the prisoner Burke into it. I then sent for John Devanny, who said when he looked at the prisoner, 'That is Richard Burke.' I was about to search him, when he said he had no documents. John Devanny, the informer, said that in October, 1865 he was in New York, and joined a conspiracy called the Fenian Brotherhood, with the object of overthrowing the British government in Ireland, and establishing a republic in its place. Meetings were held for the purposes of the organization and for raising money. I knew the prisoner Burke in New York. I first saw him in September. He then went by the name of Captain Richard Burke. He went to Ireland in 1863, and returned in July, and I saw him on his return. He said he had been in Ireland. He also said he had been in London and had gone by the name of Major Windsor an officer in the Confederate army, and that he was working the thing in London. He asked me if I thought there was any chance of success, as the men in Ireland were anxious to fight. He said he had seen men lying down and crying because they were not allowed to fight. I cannot say for certain when he left America. It was after I left. I next saw him about three months ago on Hungerford-bridge. On the night of the 20th I was with Thompson and the prisoners. I had not known Casey before. I had not seen him before to my knowledge. I spoke to Thompson about Burke. I left Thompson following the prisoners. I was afterwards sent for to the police station, where I saw the prisoner.

Being cross examined by the prisoner Burke, the witness said that when he joined the Fenian organization he took the Fenian oath. He left America to go to Ireland, where he was sent by the police to give evidence in the case of Meany. He did not then give a different version of the oath, but as clearly as he could remember the same as he had given now. He was cross-examined at great length by the prisoner on this point, and also as to his expectations of reward, in respect to which he said he only told the truth and did not care whether a conviction followed or not. He had received money for his support. From £50 to £100. He had never considered whether he would be paid if the parties were not convicted.

Mr. Poland, at this stage of the examination, asked for a remand, which was granted.

A correspondent of the Daily Express reports that for the last fortnight large bodies of men supposed to be Fenians, have been seen and heard marching in military order outside the town of Banisorth, that recently an assembly of them was seen by several persons in the direction of Vinegar-hill and that shots have been fired at night, which were thought to be signals. Another correspondent of the Express states that on Thursday night the establishment of Messrs. Richardson, of Patrick street, Cork, gunsmiths, was robbed of no less than 150 revolvers of the best kind, and eight new Snider rifles. It is feared that other arms have been taken which have not yet been missed. The whole value of the articles which were found to have been abstracted is 800l. There were no marks of violence about the place, and it is supposed that some one or several opened a passage for accomplices at the rear of the premises. Fenians are suspected, but no arrest has been made. The question 'What is a name?' received an able solution yesterday in a case which came before Mr. Justice Keogh in Chambers. An action has been brought by Mr. McKenna, the editor of the Ulster Observer, a Belfast Roman Catholic paper, against a priest for alleged slander. The words complained of among others are, 'He is a Garibaldi,' and the meaning of the proper name was thus developed in the innendo, '—meaning thereby that the plaintiff had been unfaithful to the trust reposed in him as a newspaper editor, and misconducted himself as such editor, by holding and expressing opinions at variance with the views for the expression and diffusion of which the said newspaper was established.' This interpretation of a name rivals in expressiveness Lord Broughier's famous shake of the head in the play of The Critic. Judge Keogh observed that it was interesting to have such a copious explanation of what 'Garibaldi' means, and hoped it would appear in the next dictionary. Defendant's counsel wanted to traverse that it meant all that, and his Lordship gave him liberty to do so.

Maria was formerly a prominent member of the Young Ireland party, was associated with John Mitchell in the publication of the United Irishman, and was exiled for participation in the rebellion in 1818. He has since been an advocate of the repeal of the union, and is chief of the Irish National League, an organization but indirectly, if at all, connected with the Fenian movement.

In the Annual Report of the Directors of Convict Prisons, printed in the early part of the present year, Dr. McDonnell, the medical officer to Mountjoy Prison, made some remarkable statements. Having observed that one of the untried prisoners had died in 1866, he added that all other cases of serious illness were reported to the Government, and were discharged from prison, upon its being understood that confinement was likely really to aggravate their disease. This statement has a certain bearing on the case of John Fottrell, whose death

was attributed to injury to health received while in prison. In this case the evidence, as we said is insufficient to sustain the charge; but the charge against a certain a priori credibility if had cases are discharged that they should become worse in prison. Dr. McDonnell further adds that, 'apart from diseases, the health of a good many of these prisoners has deteriorated from their prolonged confinement.' 'There are at present,' he continues, 'thirteen untried political prisoners who have been confined in this prison for eight months or upwards, and who are subjected to a cellular discipline more strict in some respects than that to which a convict is submitted.' There were many others of the same class, part of whose confinement had been spent in other prisons. On strictly medical grounds the physician strongly recommended that they should be allowed, if possible, some degree of association with their fellows. The necessity for treating the political prisoners in their cells where sick, he adds, instead of admitting them into the hospital wards for treatment, increased the severity of the discipline to which they were submitted. 'In consequence of the remonstrances of the medical officer, Lord Nase, replying to a question from Mr. Blake early in May, stated that he had ordered an enquiry to be made and give directions for a material relaxation of the rules. The amount of exercise was doubled, the prisoners were allowed to smoke while at exercise, and to walk in association, one prisoner with another, during that time. In the recess he had ordered a report to be made, and was informed there had been no cases of serious illness amongst the Fenian prisoners. They were permitted to obtain their food from outside; and, if they were unable to do this, the prison dietary was made more liberal in their behalf. Other relaxations had been allowed them; the object of the Government was to do nothing harsh, but only to adopt those measures that were absolutely necessary. This amelioration has, we believe, been fairly carried out in Mountjoy Prison, where the medical officer had frequently urged it. But it would be a great mistake to suppose that all the Irish prisoners have had their rules relaxed in like manner. In Kilmainham the untried prisoners are still subject to almost everything from which they have been relieved in Mountjoy; and with regard to other prisons the same rule holds good.—London Chronicle.

The Waterford News of the 29th ult. says:—On Saturday evening last an affray took place at Fenora, near Tramore, which has since terminated fatally for one of the parties engaged, the primary cause being the debating indulgence in intoxicating drink. On the evening named, two parties of men were drinking in a public house, and after some time, one of the two parties left for home—On the way, Thomas Flynn, a youth bearing a peaceable character, thought he missed one of his comrades and returned to the public house to find him. Outside the door he met the members of the party, and from them he inquired for his absent companion. One of the party cried out to a comrade, on Flynn repeating the inquiry, 'why do you answer him—strike him.' The other, it appears without any hesitation, raised a heavy blackthorn stick, struck poor Flynn a fearful blow on the head and felled him to the ground, fractured his skull. Flynn lingered until Tuesday evening, when he died. A man named John Walsh has been committed to jail on charge of the homicide.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY LONGFORD.—Athlone, Nov. 23.—Information has just come in here of a barbarous and cold-blooded murder committed last night at a place called Toome, near Ballymahon, in the county Longford. The victim was a respectable Protestant farmer, named Andrew Waters, holding over 100 acres of land under the Hon. King Harman, of Newcastleside. Mr. Waters had been in the town of Ballymahon up to 6 o'clock, attending the market. Shortly after that hour he was last seen alive on his way home, and this morning his body was discovered about a mile from his house on the public road with two wounds—one in the back, the other in the chest from a knife or dagger. Death must have been instantaneous, as the heart and lungs were penetrated by the thrust. There is great excitement here as well as in Ballymahon, at this occurrence.—There are parties who attribute it to Fenianism, as Mr. Waters was heard on that evening very freely to give his opinion on the conviction of the Manchester rioters.

ARRESTS AT FERRIS, CO. WEXFORD.—Two arrests were made on Friday by Head constable Blackwill and men under his charge, at Ferris, county Wexford. One of those arrested gave his name as John Byrne and stated that he was a pensioner, belonging to the Royal Artillery. It is said that his appearance answers to the description of the person who fired at the Crown witness, George Reilly at Blackrock, some time ago, as given in the Hue and Cry, while the name of the person so described is given as James Byrne, a pensioner of the Royal Artillery. The other man who has been arrested gives his name as William Smith, a blacksmith. He is said to be such a person as the Hue and Cry describes as the smith, Kearney, who was suspected of the shooting of Constable O'Neill, some months ago, in Dublin. On Saturday the prisoners were brought before T. G. Cranfield, Esq., J.P., who remanded them for a week.—Express.

THE CASE OF JOHN FRANCIS NUGENT.—Drogheda, Monday.—Captain O'Keefe R.M., attended at our county prison here and received the information of Robert Gardiner, Esq., sub-Inspector, Constable Colman, and sub-Constable Cannon, charging the prisoner, Nugent, at present confined, with having on the 16th of May, 1867, while in custody under a warrant of the Lord Lieutenant, effected his escape from deponents by jumping from a back window of his father's house into a yard beneath. Nugent was lost sight of subsequently until the Mauchess affair. The prisoner now stands fully committed to take his trial at the ensuing Drogheda assizes on the charge named.—Freeman.

Sympathy with Fenianism means hatred of England. Therefore, when in a single city of Ireland tens of thousands of its inhabitants come forth in the face of day to walk in a procession, the object of which is to express sympathy with Fenianism, the fact is plain that tens of thousands in that one city hate England. By no sophtistry or ingenuity can any other conclusion be arrived at. The thing is an axiom; in fact needing no demonstration.—Cork Herald.

ARREST IN BELFAST.—On Sunday morning the police arrested, in a boarding house in Gamble-street, a young man named Charles Ferguson on suspicion of being implicated in the Fenian conspiracy. The prisoner, after being arrested, was taken to the police office, when he stated that he had only arrived in Belfast from Glasgow the previous morning. The prisoner was remanded for a week.—Belfast News-Letter.

THREATENING LETTER.—Mr. Price, the Governor of Kilmainham prison, whom Halpin, the Dublin Fenian convict, lately attacked so violently, has since received a number of threatening letters, but it is stated there is a likelihood that the authorship of some of these, which evidently spring from the same source, may be traced.—Pall Mall Gazette.

ARREST IN GRANARD.—An arrest was made in this town on Thursday evening, which it is said will prove to be of great importance. It is reported that the prisoner is one of the principal organizers of the Fenian conspiracy in this country. The prisoner has been conveyed under a strong escort to Longford Gaol.

The Government have agreed to pardon John Francis Nugent, one of the prisoners who was acquitted at Manchester, but re-arrested and brought to this country on a charge of Fenianism. The condition of his liberation is that he is to leave the United Kingdom.—Times Dublin Cor.

FENIAN ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE.—The authorities are reliably advised of the formation of Fenian bands of assassins to take the lives of eminent men.

We have promise of an unhappy winter in this part of Ireland. The Fenian desperadoes have, within the last few days, become more outspoken and daring than heretofore, and I am sorry to have to record, as meeting with encouragement from men holding her Majesty's commission of the peace. Parties are going openly abroad levying subscriptions for Fenian objects, and this day the names of deputies-Justices and Justices of the peace were unreservedly mentioned as throwing in their mites to the Fenian treasury. Besides this, preparations on the most extensive scale are making for the defiance of the law. The sale of crapes for hand-bands and female bonnet trimmings has been unprecedented. One establishment in this city—and I have the statement from the department salesman—sold yesterday nearly four thousand crapes hand-bands. The quantities disposed of by the other drapery establishments in this city are equally astounding. This alone will show the gigantic nature of the rebel display proclaimed for to-morrow. The question but by every loyalist is, 'Have we a Government at all?' Every hour during the day it was expected that a proclamation would appear from the Castle of Dublin directing the suppression of such a defiance of the law, but up to the moment I write no relief is afforded to the loyal. It is known that rebels congregate more than ever, that they are better provided with the munitions of warfare, and that they are more daring than heretofore. The country swarms with American rowdies, and life and property are jeopardised.—Saunders.

In the Probate Court, Dublin, Judge Keating presiding, a suit was recently brought by Right Rev. Gillooly, Bishop of Elphin, to establish the will of the late Mr. George O'Shaughnessy, of Ooolock, county of Galway. The Bishop was named executor in the will to carry out certain religious trusts. The niece of the testator was the defendant, the will being disputed on her behalf by her mother, Messrs. P. Kennedy and Jas. Hurley proved the execution of the will by deceased. Judge Keating said he would give a decree establishing the will. Defendant's counsel applied for costs. Judge Keating said there was no ground for disputing the will, and he refused the application.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP CLERKENWELL PRISON.—December. 13.—To-day, at the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon, three men accompanied by a woman were observed by persons passing at the moment to roll a barrel against the wall of the Clerkenwell Green prison, where Col. Burke, who was arrested a short time since—charged with an active complicity in the Fenian riots in Manchester—and other Fenian prisoners are confined; some under remand from a magisterial examination in the Police Court, and others awaiting transmission to different towns for trial. The barrel was placed at the wall bounding the side of the prison yard in which persons confined in Clerkenwell are permitted to take exercise at the hour of four o'clock p.m. Soon after it was fixed in what may be called its position, an awful explosion followed by most disastrous consequences, took place. The prison wall was blown down to a great extent, a gap almost one hundred feet wide having been made in a ruin. The dwelling houses situated on the line of street opposite to the prison were shattered many of them being almost completely leveled to the earth. Two men, with a woman, who, it is supposed, are the parties who fired the barrel, were immediately arrested, but the third man, who was seen to light the fuse which was applied to it made his escape. None of the prisoners confined in the jail got out, as the term of their time of outdoor exercise had terminated and they had been marched from the yard and locked up in their cells just before the explosion took place. The street opposite which runs parallel with the prison, at the spot is narrow and built with houses three stories high. They are for the most part rented out in apartments of one or two rooms each. The inhabitants of the extensive suburban parish district of Clerkenwell are very poor. Twenty houses were almost utterly demolished and rendered untenable by the crash. The city firemen were immediately summoned to the spot, and are now employed in digging in and under the ruins for dead bodies. Forty persons, men, women and children, have been found to be wounded.—A house which stood in the street just directly opposite to where the breach has been blown in the prison wall, has been suspected for some time as a Fenian headquarters, or place of rendezvous for Fenians. The police authorities had ordered that a strict search should be made on the premises to-morrow. The remainder of the injured persons have been removed to the nearest hospitals. The scene presented in the neighborhood during the darkening evening and since nightfall is exceedingly romantic and picturesque, thousands of people being gathered in the vicinity, each one discussing the event, its origin and consequences, with his or her neighbor. The ruins of the dwelling and the prison wall are guarded by a strong force of police. The street highway has been ripped up to a considerable distance by the explosion and the walls of the jail have fallen to some extent, into the breach, revealing the interior of the prison yard. No damage has been done to the prison buildings.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—An attempt was made to-day to blow up one of the walls of Millbank Jail, in which a number of Fenians are confined. The preparations were all completed, and the fuse had been lighted by the conspirators without attracting attention, but owing to some defect in the arrangement of the materials the powder did not explode, and the plot was discovered before the attempt to carry it out could be renewed. No arrests have been made, and no clue has been obtained to the guilty parties.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FENIANS.—The Warwickshire county constabulary have been armed when on night duty with Olin's six-chambered revolvers and cutlasses, which have been lent by Government at the request of the Court of Quarter Sessions. The Militia stores at Warwick and Leamington have also been rendered more secure. The depot at Warwick is at the rear of the County-buildings and could only be attacked from Dracock street. The high wall abutting on that thoroughfare has been perforated with loopholes for musketry so as to command the whole of the street. The entrance gates have also been strengthened and provided with additional bars, and the store room door where the rifles and ammunition are deposited has been coated on the inside with sheet iron. At Leamington a square tower has been erected over the entrance to the quadrangle and the walls are perforated by loopholes so as to command the approaches to the stores. The whole of the rifles, both at Warwick and Leamington, with the exception of those used by the permanent Staff, have been temporarily rendered useless by the removal of the locks and ramrods. On two occasions rumours have been circulated that attacks on the stores were contemplated, but both seem to have been without foundation.

A FALSE ALARM.—On Sunday morning just before the church bells at Edinburgh began to ring for Divine service, a startling noise was heard, resembling the discharge of firearms in the open air. Ten or twelve shots were heard in rapid succession, and in the quiet of the morning, the reports coming from the south-west part of the town, were heard even in the eastern and northern districts. A vague apprehension of a Fenian outrage spread through the town, and in the locality whence the noise proceeded there was great excitement and many ran to find out the spot, and, if possible, discover the supposed conspirators against the public peace. It was found that the discharge proceeded from a railway bridge over the Caledonian Railway, which, having to be removed in connexion with the improvements of the access to Edinburgh station, had, for the sake of expedition, been blown up with gunpowder, it being necessary to use the only oppor-

tunity afforded for the purpose by the cessation of traffic on the Sunday morning.

We protest that there has not been as yet in the public mind of England any impulse of 'revenge.' What feeling may be roused among a certain class of our population if these threats are persisted in, or acted on, we dare not say; but hitherto the universal feeling of Englishmen is one of intense regret that fellow-subjects—members of a nation whom we admire and have reason to be proud of—should, under the most baseless of delusions, be dash themselves and their fellow-countrymen to pieces against our laws.

But there is, we think one argument which ought to have weight with the disseminators of this seditious rant. We are denounced by every epithet in the language for having enforced the penalty of death. Now, would we have it considered whether we have done anything more than accept a challenge which has been persistently forced on us. The journals from which we quote declare war against us and our institutions in the plainest language. Do they expect to wage war upon us, and that we should abstain from fighting our own battle and waging war with them? What do the Fenians mean, what have they ever meant, by storing rifles, revolvers, and pistols, but that they may inflict death on those who resist them? Are they to have the privilege of putting their enemies to death, while their opponents are to be precluded from meeting them with their own weapons? It has often been argued that an armed insurrection may, under certain circumstances, be justified, but it has never yet been maintained that an armed resistance to the peril of their lives, and if a different rule is to be established, rebellion will become, not only the gravest, but the most respectable of crimes. The Nation appeals to 'that mighty people who, at the termination of the great revolution that ever shook the earth, never sullied their laurels with a drop of blood not shed in battle.' The exception is instructive. The Americans shed sufficient blood in battle to render it perfectly unnecessary to shed a drop of blood after the battle. But if the South appealed to arms, they did not expect the North to reject the appeal. We were not the first to shed blood in this unhappy business. Allen and his associates were executed, because they were concerned in the murder of a policeman. Until an unmistakable murder was committed, we abstained, as not a few thought, with misplaced leniency, from inflicting the capital penalty upon men who had justly rendered themselves liable to it by overt rebellion. Even if the Fenians abstained from what they call unnecessary outrages in the Spring, they undoubtedly levied war against us, they did their best to shoot the Irish constabulary who defended their stations, and it is palpable that they would have done more if they could. Blood was shed on that occasion, but English justice did not retaliate by bloodshed. In a word, if the language upon which we are commenting has any meaning, it means that we are to fight with our hands tied. Is such a proposal worthy of a cause 'which can count among its martyrs the noblest spirits that ever the love of liberty inspired?' To us it appears unworthy of men who have counted the cost and made their resolve. If they persist in their insane struggle, they must expect us to defend ourselves by all the means in our power. We should certainly hold our own, whatever the cost; but to generous and manly enemies we should entertain, as we entertain now, not the least animosity. It is a different matter if we are confronted by men who refuse to risk their own lives while they claim the right to take our own. It may be quite true that except upon some such understanding the Fenian scheme is perfectly impracticable. That proves the absurdity of the conspiracy, but it does not acquit the conspirators of something too closely allied to a quality which is equally repugnant to English and Irish nature.—Times.

THE PROCESSIONS IN IRELAND.—BOSS OF LORDS.—Lord Dufferin moved for the police reports of the processions which had recently taken place in Ireland in order to show sympathy with the Fenians who had been executed at Manchester. He would not express, or ask the Government to express, his opinion as to whether the parties had kept within the letter of the law. He deprecated the tone assumed by the respectable portion of the press which represented Allen and his companions as martyrs, and earnestly impressed on the Government the absolute necessity of impartially administering the Party Processions Act throughout Ireland, without reference either to religious or political opinions. It was contended that green was not a party colour, but an Irishman who was put in prison for wearing a blue ribbon would not easily recognize the difference, for the national colour was now certainly degraded into a party emblem. He hoped that the Government would continue to administer the law with the same manliness and impartiality which they had shown, especially in the case of the Orangemen of the North, who were the most staunch political supporters of the Government. The Earl of Derby whilst doing full justice to the general, he hoped not the exclusive loyalty in Ireland of the Orange society, had never hesitated to carry out the law with the utmost impartiality, and he knew that his regret was shared by the leaders of that society. He deeply regretted that a portion of the press should have represented the executions at Manchester as dictated by political reasons. The offence was not a political one, but a simple murder, and the Government, without vindictiveness and without political feeling, felt it was necessary after the leniency shown last year in not carrying out the extreme sentence of the law, that they should not be deterred by any consideration of the consequences to themselves from carrying out what they felt to be a most painful but imperative duty. He could assure the noble lord that the Government would continue to carry out the law with firmness and impartiality. The Party Processions Act, however, did not meet the case of these funeral processions, the parties engaged in them having, by not displaying banners or other emblems, kept within the law, as far as his information went. The motion for the reports was then withdrawn.

Lord Stanley had laid before Parliament a despatch to Mr. Ford, at Washington, of date so recent as the 16th ult., which shows clearly the state of the question pending between this country and the United States with regard to the Alabama claims. The difficulty raised so gratuitously by Mr. Seward on Lord Stanley's accession to office still obstructs a settlement. Mr. Seward had so framed his acceptance of Lord Stanley's offer to refer the American claims to arbitration as to convey the impression that it is the desire of the United States Government that any tribunal to be agreed upon in dealing with the Alabama claims may enter into the question whether the act of policy of her Majesty's government in recognizing the Confederate States as a belligerent Power was or was not suitable to the circumstances of the times when the recognition was made. Lord Stanley says distinctly that the Queen's government cannot consent to a reference of the question. In any reference of the Alabama claims to an arbitration it must be assumed that an actual state of war existed between the government of the United States and the Confederate States, that point being conceded, it would be for the arbiter to determine whether there had been such failure on the part of the British government in its duties as a neutral as could be deemed to involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British government to make good losses of American citizens caused by the Alabama and other vessels of the same class. This is the purport of Lord Stanley's despatch, which we print in another column. The public we believe, is by this time heartily weary of a discussion which seems unprofitable, and we are not going to multiply words upon it. There is one thing, however, most necessary to be remembered—Mr. Seward is undoubtedly the most aggravating of correspondents, but he may have for his successor some one who would

write less and behave worse. A great transfer of political power in the United States is fore-shadowed by the late elections, and it is all in favour of the democratic party—the old and bitter enemy of England, the party, moreover, to which the American Irish belong and to which they are indispensable. If it should come into office while these claims are unsettled, and while Fenianism was rife, the consequences might be such as the friends of peace and civilization on both sides of the Atlantic deplore.—London Times.

A VERBATIM SWINDLER.—The *Carlisle Journal* recognises a John Hall, who pleaded 'guilty' to a charge of forgery and false pretences at Middlesex Sessions last Monday, the man who, in conjunction with the Irish 'poet' Young, was nominated by Lord Derby for a grant of 50l. from the Royal Bounty Fund. The applications made a good deal of noise at the time, and after the check had actually been signed it was discovered that Hall, who had represented himself as a literary man in distress, was 'not a deserving person.' Hall resided in Carlisle three or four years, and tried various modes of swindling. One of these was to write to gentlemen whose death had just been announced, making fictitious claims upon them either for goods supplied or for money owing, in hopes of obtaining money from executors. A few days after the death of the late Sir Gilbert East was announced in *The Times* Hall sent in a claim for 57l. 18s. under the name of Henderson, from some alleged transaction between them. A similar fictitious claim was made upon the late Lady Alvanley. Another mode of operation was to write under another name directing attention to the condition of 'poor Hall,' as a person to whom the recipient of the letter should send money in order to make him some reparation for an injustice or injury done him in years gone by. He left Carlisle not long after the attempted fraud upon Lord Derby was discovered and exposed, and thence he appears to have come to London, where, by forging the names of Lord Vivian, Lord Elcho, and others, he attempted to obtain goods under false pretences. Having pleaded 'guilty' on Monday, sentence was deferred till inquiries could be made concerning his previous history.

STATISTICS.—The London *Athenaeum* directs attention to the Registrar-General's curious return of the number of suicides in England during the eight years from 1858 to 1865. They average 1,300 annually, and to every million of the population run thus in each successive year; 66, 64, 70, 63, 65, 63, 64, and 67. Hanging has always been the death generally adopted by suicides, 28 out of the ratio of 67 per million suicides falling under this head. After hanging follow cutting, stabbing or drowning, poisoning and by firearms. The ratio of suicides per million of the respective populations in 1864 was 110 in France, 64 in England, 45 in Belgium, 30 in Italy, and fifteen in Spain.

UNITED STATES.

SMUGGLING AS A FINE ART.—How it is practiced in New York—Some interesting incidents.—The New York Tribune publishes an extended report of frauds on the customs at that port, and specifies some instances which have occurred within a few weeks. When a foreign steamer arrives and the baggage of the passengers is all on the wharf, the following scenes usually take place:—The inspectors detailed for the vessel while in port take charge, and seal the trunks. The passengers descend to the pier, and the inspection begins. Each passenger, before the examination, fills out a blank form, in which he enumerates the contents of his trunk, if there is nothing but his own wearing apparel he certifies that there are no saw or dutiable articles within. Then commences the ludicrous scenes. They are requested to unlock their trunks. The ready, easy manner with which many open them, without being called upon, produce a good effect, convincing the officer that they have travelled, and therefore understand the form. He gently passes his hand down the inside and under a few articles of clothing, shuts the lid, and exclaims 'O.K.' But you must not fancy yourself safe. Keen grey eyes are watching you from a distance, and if there is any expression of exultation, if one is nervous or irritable, he goes through another ordeal. He is suspected. His trunk is measured inside and out, the sides and the top sounded, and a general manipulation takes place. If anything dutiable or new is found, it is immediately confiscated, and becomes the property of Uncle Samuel. In the meantime the Deputy Surveyor and his aids are taking a general survey of the scene of operations. One of the aids has his eye on a large, heavy looking man, who is wrapped up in a great coat. He walks like an invalid, and is attended by a friend who has met him on the pier. The aid thinks his garments fit him too 'munchly'; he takes the Inspector aside and informs him that after he (the officer) has examined his baggage he will stumble over his valise or bag. Of course the large man with so much clothing on will stop to pick up his baggage, which has been so suddenly and clumsily displaced, at which time the Inspector must watch his back. The ruse succeeds; the back of his coat appears as if it covered a pan full of biscuits. Trembling with fear the passenger is taken inside the small office and from under his coat is drawn a well padded vest containing fifty gold watches. He is now subjected to a thorough examination; his boot legs and heels do not escape their scrutiny. The heel of one boot is found to be hollow—out of it green and inside is found a single encoined in cotton two brilliant worth \$200.—When entirely stripped of his superfluous garments he appears like a second 'Calvin Klien'. Another victim has been selected, and is called aside and subjected to corporal examination. He is partly and tries to be jolly. He laughs boisterously, and informs the officer that he supposes he must do his duty. Underneath his shirt are hundreds of yards of costly lace deftly wound around his waist. After the officers have denuded him of his smuggled under garments he looks more like a plucked fowl than a human being. Another man has passed the inspection, and his trunks are strapped to the rack of the carriage. He seems very much elated and is in a great hurry. On his arm he carries a lap rug, of which he seems to be very careful. As he is about to step into the carriage, the aid taps him on the shoulder and accosts him familiarly. He asks him if he enjoyed his trip, and gives him a friendly poke in the ribs, by which he detects a rather spongy something about the waist. Of course an examination follows and he turns out to be another 'lace reel'. The lap rug is ripped open and found to contain more of the same precious material, point applique and Valenciennes lace, appraised at \$12,000. These three men are professional smugglers, who in all probability have made several successful trips. After being detected and stripped of their valubles, they are set at liberty.

The negroes in all the Southern Conventions vote for the highest compensation, and in the Virginia Convention those distinguished and intellectual patriots have fixed their pay at \$8 per day—a larger sum than they ever received for barbering, whitewashing, or blacking boots. They regard \$8 per day as a 'luxury of freedom,' and they are disposed to enjoy their rights. When John Brown was hung, the national debt did not exceed \$60,000,000. Eight years afterward, the national debt amounted to \$3,000,000,000. It is thus seen in what direction John Brown's soul has been working on.

One of the most original juvenile inventions was that of 'Little Fanny,' who, instead of saying her prayers at night, spread out her alphabet upon the bed and raising her eyes to heaven, said, 'O, Lord I here are the letters; fix them to suit yourself.'

Severe distress prevails among the white and negroes of the South, and worse times are coming.—Starvation actually menaces many.