

REDUCTION OF THE COUNTY POLICE.—In obedience to a requisition presented to the Earl of Bandon, a numerous meeting of the magistracy of the county Cork was held at twelve o'clock on Thursday week, in the County Grand Jury Room, for the purpose of considering the expediency of reducing the police force. *Ibid.*

Crime in Cork has decreased one-third from 1854 to 1855.

RETURN OF IRISH EMIGRANTS FROM AMERICA.—The return of the emigrant Irish to the land of their birth is a circumstance even more extraordinary than the rage for emigration which, a few years ago, and, indeed, until within a few months, impelled them to cross the Atlantic, and seek in the wide field of America that market for their industry which bad laws denied them at home. We say bad laws; for though the last few years have seen a great reformation in the spirit in which Ireland has been governed and legislated for, the previous corrupt and insane government of that persecuted country had gathered head and burst in the famine of 1846-7. It was too late then to say to a population flying from the face of the gaunt enemy, "Wait a little longer." But now, after the exodus had drained the land of some of the most enterprising of her sons, and when we looked in vain for soldiers to a country which had been our army's nursery in former years, and there were found hardly men enough to reap a not over abundant harvest, we see our ships returning over the Atlantic freighted with the human muscle, and sinew, and pluck for which we have been in vain making a pilgrimage over Europe and America. How amazing are the vicissitudes of this life! Our Irish fellow subjects, panting for liberty and a fair field for their industry, turn with the surfeit of disappointed expectations from the land to which they fled, and hurry back to the old country, from which they had escaped as from a burning ship or a falling house. And, of course, this is a very proper time for the enemies of Ireland, or those, at least, who think she is to be abused whenever it can be done with safety, and conciliated only in the hour of danger, to utter a contradictory welcome to the returning emigrants, half insulting, half laudatory, and only to be explained by the supposition that the writer would have abused them and their countrymen soundly and unreservedly if he dared. We allude to an article which appeared a few days ago in the *Times*, in which the Irish were described as carrying in America the rage and the sloth which distinguished them in their own country, while at the same time they were described as returning to Ireland with capital gained by their industry in the States, and forwarding instructions which show that now they have at last a chance of making a stand against fortune and maintaining their position by prudence and industry, they are determined to use it. It was, indeed, even hinted that America would rue the day when she drove from her the men who had carried out her great public works, her canals, her public buildings, and her railroads, and that she would have to look in vain for the same surplus industry and capacity amongst her indigent population. How these two conflicting views of the Irish character can be reconciled we are at a loss to imagine. It appears to us as if the abuse were the offspring of a malignant prejudice, unreasoning as prejudices ever are; and the admission, a work of necessity, a submission to the force of facts, which the writer would willingly have ignored. We confess we do not see the wisdom of using this insulting tone towards our Irish fellow-subjects. It was supposed, and asserted, that as Ireland was said, at one time, to be the English statesman's difficulty, she would, whenever a crisis came, be found to be England's weakness. We ask our readers—those who are dispassionate, and whose minds are not enslaved to an illiberal prejudice—whether the proof has realised the fear? What part of the United Kingdom is more calm, more tranquil, more easily governed than the sister island? It may be that she has not sent us as many soldiers as we expected from her. But consider the course of depopulation she has been undergoing for some years now. Scotland is in the same condition. Neither Scotland nor Ireland have been legislated for with the same anxiety for their welfare as England has enjoyed, whose capital is the residence of the monarch, and the seat of the legislature. But the soldiers Ireland has sent us have been heroes to the last. No better blood has been shed at the Alma or before Sebastopol. But to wave this phase of the subject, we rejoice heartily that the Irish are returning to their native land. It is, perhaps, the highest reward of that affection to the soil which prompted them to carry out with them the root of the shamrock, or the pot of turf, that they are permitted to revisit the old country, and to behold Ireland no longer in the guise of mourning and suffering in which they left her, but smiling through her tears. We cannot resist the belief that a country which has suffered so much, and with such unflinching fidelity to a high principle, is destined yet to play a considerable part in the history of nations. We know that her sons have genius and determination enough to win this glory for her whenever the occasion is ripe; and with that feeling—and because we have always fought for the rights of the Irish, and maintained their claims to our respect as a brave, an intelligent, and industrious people—we welcome the return of the emigrants, and wish them, in the land of their birth, all that they hoped to gain in a foreign one. *Tablet.*

STATE OF IRELAND.—We know of no period in our history when an Irish heart had so much cause for sadness as at the present moment. It is not merely that our hopes are crushed, nor that traitors have deceived us, nor that our best and bravest have left us, but that a deadly blight would seem to have come over our Irish manhood, and destroyed the glorious ambition of the Celt. The same grievances which drove our forefathers to the field weigh upon us at the present time—an alien and hostile government holds a disastrous sway over the country; an alien church yet puts its hands into our pockets, and robs us of the honest fruits of a hard industry, while alien laws still sanction the spoliation of tenant property. *Wexford Guardian.*

REFORMS, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL.—Among the various phases under which the question of reform is likely to be brought forward during the next session of parliament, there is one now in contemplation in England by a society, called "The Liberation of Religion Society in London," to which we (*Glasgow Mercury*) would direct the early and earnest attention of our readers. At a meeting of the society above alluded to, at which Mr. Miall, M.P., is said to have addressed the assembly in reference to the policy

to be pursued in respect to Ireland, in the following words:—"It would not do to bring forward the question of the Irish Church Establishment as it was done by the Whig Radical party some twenty or twenty-five years ago. It would now be brought forward in a far better shape. They did not propose to attack the Established Church merely as an Established Church; they did not propose to attack the Catholic Endowment of Maynooth College merely as a Catholic endowment; they did not propose to attack the *Regium Donum* merely as an apportionment to two theological parties of the Presbyterian Church; they did not propose to attack even Ministers' money, upon the ground of its being given exclusively to Protestants; but they wished to put the matter in such a shape as to express, and give the House of Commons an opportunity of expressing its opinion that all these endowments are essentially vicious—(hear, hear)—that it is impossible so to distribute them among the different religious parties and denominations as not to commit great injustice, and that the only way in which religious equality demanded by the great majority of the Catholics in Ireland can be settled is not to attempt to give endowments to all, but to withdraw endowments from every party. (Hear, hear.)"

A PICTURE OF THE KILLARNEY DISTRICT.—The southwestern part of Kerry is now well known as the most beautiful tract in the British Isles. The mountains and glens, the capes stretching far into the Atlantic, the crags on which the eagles build, the rivulets brawling down rocky passes, the lakes overhung by groves in which the wild deer find covert, attract every summer crowds of wanderers sated with the business and the pleasures of great cities. The beauties of that country are, indeed, too often hidden in the mist and rain which the west wind brings up from a boundless ocean. But on the rare days when the sun shines out in all its glory, the landscape has a freshness and a warmth of colouring seldom found in our latitude. The myrtle loves the soil. The arbutus thrives better than even on the sunny shores of Calabria. The turf is of livelier hue than elsewhere; the hills glow with a richer purple; the varnish of the holly and ivy is more glossy; and berries of a brighter red peep through foliage of a brighter green. *Macaulay's History of England.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

CONVERSION.—The Hon. Mrs. Henniker, widow of the Hon. and Rev. W. C. Henniker, late Rector of Bealings, in Suffolk, has recently been received into the Catholic Church by baptism at the hands of Dr. Manning.

Lord Huntingtower, son of the Earl of Dysart, is amongst the converts to Catholicism.

Catholicity is progressing rapidly in Scotland; several new churches and schools were opened during the past year, and twelve priests added to the ministry.

THE CURRENCY.—The rumor that ministers are discussing the propriety of an issue of one pound notes has been current in numerous circles during the last fortnight. The object is the withdrawal of an equal amount of gold coin. By this plan it is suggested that the metallic reserve of the bank might be increased; and after making due provision for the convertibility of the new one pound notes, a portion of the gold thus obtained might be rendered available for the exigencies of the war. We must repeat, however, that no authoritative information of any description has been put forward.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN.—It is a pity that the Russian Emperor cannot take a few hours' ramble through the Tower of London at the present time. It would do him good to watch the constant activity of nearly a 1,000 men employed in receiving stores of every description from the contractors, and despatching them off to the Crimea immediately, either by rail or by water. There is not a nook from the ditch to the warehouses that is not filled up with bales or cases. In fact, a portion of the London dock warehouses has been rented by government to receive stores. *United Service Gazette.*

The *Times* cautions its readers against placing too much reliance on the peace rumors; and insists upon the necessity of keeping up our warlike preparations:—"We would, however, caution the public against the persuasion, that the telegraphic messages of our correspondents at Vienna and Berlin, and that posted by the French Government on the Paris Bourse, necessarily imply what their words certainly, taken in their literal sense, would fairly comprehend;—that all the propositions upon which the allies insist have been unconditionally accepted by Russia. The terms of the fifth proposition are general, and do not necessarily include the undertaking not to fortify the Aland Isles any more than any other demand the allies might think fit to make. We do not believe that this requisition has yet been specifically submitted to Russia, and whatever may be the probabilities of the case, we are certainly not justified in saying that she has unconditionally accepted it. Two other terms on which we must peremptorily insist—the disarming of the eastern coast of the Black Sea, and the allowing Consuls of the Western Powers to reside in the Russian ports on its waters—have been only slightly and ambiguously mentioned. Why this is so we do not know. That is the concern of Austria. We are not principals in the negotiation, but have employed the mediation of a third Power whose duty it is to see that Russia be brought to an unconditional acceptance of our terms, with all their stipulations, before we even enter into negotiation. We do not believe for a moment that these things are likely to offer permanent obstacles to the conclusion of peace, but we must remember that the announcement is that of an Austrian, not of an English diplomatist, and that he speaks from a point of view not always identical with our own. Again, what does Russia mean by an unconditional acceptance? We have held an acceptance of hers before, and have some experience how coolly she can dishonor it. Other despatches from Vienna speak of the terms being accepted as the basis of negotiation. Logically, there is no distinction between the two, for the foundations on which a negotiation rests must be accepted unconditionally, or they are no foundations at all. We must begin somewhere, and that with which we begin must be unconditional; but we have some experience how Russia understands these things when we remember that last year she undertook to do away with her preponderance in the Black Sea, and could be brought to assent to no means of carrying out this condition which did not tend directly to defeat it. We do not believe, as we have said, that any of these difficulties will really be allowed to interfere with that peace which the Court of St.

Petersburg seems to have determined to be necessary to its interest, but merely wish to cool the ardor of those over-zealous spirits who may infer that everything is already done, and that nothing remains for England and France but to ring their bells, light their bonfires, and pay the bill.

The counter-propositions of Russia well support the reputation for dexterous diplomacy which she has gained for herself by the almost uniformly successful result of so many arduous negotiations. She is constant to the same leading principle which actuated her conduct at the Conferences of Vienna last year. She seeks now, as then, to sow dissension among her adversaries, but she varies the manner of doing this with reference to the position which each member of the alliance occupies towards her. Last year the principal negotiators, were the Western Powers, and Austria seconded their demands feebly and unwillingly. Therefore everything that Austria asked was granted, while the main point demanded by the Western Powers was peremptorily refused. This year Austria appears as the principal in the negotiation, and the Western Powers are only drawn in through her intervention. The tactics are the same, but their object is reversed. The Western Powers now have all the demands in which they, more immediately representing European interests, may be supposed to be more immediately concerned, conceded to them, while that particular condition in which Austria is peculiarly and personally interested is refused. The Emperor of Russia will not hear of losing his hold on the Danube, or of engaging not to rebuild his ruined fortifications on the Aland Isles. With these two exceptions, he accepts in the main the terms offered to him. It is quite evident that Russia hopes that the Western Powers may feel indisposed to fight any longer for objects which are not primarily their own, and because they have met with so little support from Sweden or from Austria, are determined to mete out the same measure they have received to their timorous and fainthearted allies. *Times.*

ADMIRAL DUNDAS AND THE BALTIC COMMAND.—Admiral Dundas, it seems, has for some time back virtually anticipated his own deprivation of command, for he said he would not actively resume it. He considered the operations proposed by the Admiralty for the next Baltic expedition to be perfectly futile; regarded Constant as quite impregnable, and that it would be the sheerest waste of time, men, and material to attack it—Helsingfors as in precisely the same category; and, moreover, it is said that he disapproves of the war in principle and policy, and deems all operations in the Baltic to be alike unwarranted, needless, and preposterous. Not only this, but it is now added that he acted against his better judgment when he assailed Sweaborg; that he knew and said the assault would prove the partial, resultless, and abortive thing it has turned out; that the fortresses, the real strength of the place, would be easily made stronger than ever, as they have been; and, lastly, he is reputed to have made as little secret of his opinions on all these points as did his predecessor, Sir Charles Napier, on certain other points the year before. We believe there is small doubt now that when the true story of the attack on Sweaborg comes to be told, it will differ as much from the gazetted narrative as the amended version current in January, 1855, of the Balaklava charge differed from that told by Lord Cardigan at the Lord Mayor's banquet the preceding winter. Of course, with Admiral Dundas's opinions, it was not to be thought that he should proceed to the Baltic again. *Liverpool Advertiser.*

PROTESTANT ENGLAND.—In the midst of this age of civilization, and in a community which boasts of what it has attained, and which is proud, and justly proud, of what the labor and the skill, and the ingenuity, and the science of man has done—we find, in the midst of that community, in London, close by the dwellings of the noblest and the highest of the land—in the cities where our great manufactures flourish, and in the towns supplied with every convenience of life—that there are persons in the lowest class of society knowing nothing with regard to the commonest of these arts; in a country which trades with all the countries of the world, knowing nothing of geography; in a country boasting of its history and its constitution, knowing nothing of that history or that constitution; but, more than all, in a country where the light of the Gospel is spread around, knowing nothing of the truths of religion, and to whom the name of God and of Christ is almost entirely unknown. *Speech of Lord John Russell.*

THE MOUNTBANK GAVAZZI.—The *Morning Chronicle* has published a report of an address delivered by Gavazzi in St. Martin's Hall, London, last week, on "the Events of the Year, with special reference to the progress of Papacy in this country and upon the Continent." The closing part of this lecture was a denunciation of the Cross, in the following terms:—"Wherever he went in England he found crosses on the gables—crosses on the roof—crosses inside and crosses out—Norman crosses—medieval crosses. How could any one distinguish between a Protestant and a Popish Church now-a-days? Ah! beware of the first step—beware of the Tractarians, and the easy steps which lead to destruction and mental slavery. If he were to speak to his beloved Italian brethren, he would say—Down with the cross everywhere as the symbol of slavery. To the ladies of England, he would say that the crosses which were becoming so fashionable were a very bad fashion. Speaking of them as works of fine art, nothing could be more contemptible. It was a difficult matter to model or execute an elephant, a lion, a dog, or a horse; but give any one two pieces of stick—one short, another long—and you had merely to put them together, and you had a 'cross.' He advised the ladies not to be led by the nose by Romish and Parisian jewellers, and fashionable tradesmen, with this cheap and easy-fabricated trash; but instead of the badge of slavery, to which he referred, wear in real gold, the British Lion—whose power, energy, and courage were, after all, the only guarantee of the freedom, the progress, and the intellectual elevation of mankind." Here is a broad and unmistakable denunciation, not only of the sign of redemption, but of the Redeemer himself. Many things were said by Gavazzi in his Dublin lectures even more offensive than the foregoing to Catholics, and other denominations of Christians who respect the Cross. It is no wonder that Gavazzi derived so little advantage from one so learned in the Scripture as his pious patron, Judge Crampton, as not to remember the 14th verse, 6th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians—"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world."

THE CONVENTION.

PREPARATIONS AT BUFFALO.

The following note has been received from William Carland, Esq., of Buffalo:

DEAR SIR:—I have this day hired, for the Convention, Dudley Hall, one of the largest halls in this city, for February 12th, 13th and 14th. Respectfully yours, W. CARLAND.

GRAND MASS FOR THE CONVENTION.

We have received a very gratifying note from the Rev. Daniel Moore, Chancellor of the Diocese of Buffalo, stating that, by permission of the Right Rev. Bishop, "High Mass will be sung in the Cathedral with great pleasure," for the intention of the members of the Convention, on the morning of Wednesday 13th.

The *Catholic Indicator* (now so ably edited by Dr. Wm. Hasselt) says of the Convention:—

"At four o'clock P. M., on Tuesday, the 12th day of February, 1856, will congregate in the city of Buffalo an assembly of trusty, intelligent, sincere, and earnest men, attached by many fond ties and endearing memories to that old Celtic family which Ireland has nursed upon her bosom, in whose behalf, and for whose dear sakes they will throng from the forests and the valleys of Canada, from the prairies of the Far West, from the banks of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi from the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, to interchange fraternal greeting and in kindly and cordial spirit take counsel together, offer advice and receive it, communicate their hard earned experience, respect honest opinions, of whose value they may not concur in the estimate, and adopt generally such a course of harmonious action as must ensure the success of the great and cherished object so dear to their heart."

"And those Delegates thus convened from the States of this Union and the Provinces, which England still holds in her daily loosening grasp, will be required to deliberate, thoughtfully, gravely, anxiously, upon measures as important to the interests, temporal and spiritual, to the social happiness and physical amelioration of their race, as ever were submitted to their fathers in the olden time at Tara of Councils, of Cashel of Kings, or Lismore of Saints."

INFORMATION WANTED.

We again respectfully beg leave to submit to delegates to the Buffalo Convention the actual necessity of being able to answer, each for his own vicinity the following important questions:—

- I. The number of Irish residents in your district, city, county, and States?
- II. What proportion of them own real property?
- III. How do the remainder live?
- IV. Have they generally money in Bank. To what amount? What rate of interest do they get?
- V. If you reside at a sea port—what are the annual arrivals from Ireland?
- VI. If in the interior—what is the present price of public land?
- VII. The soil, climate, and produce of such districts?
- VIII. Their Church and School advantages or wants?—*American Celt.*

WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE DON'T DESIRE.

(From the *American Celt.*)

We don't desire to see the man well settled at the east, selling out at a sacrifice to try his fortune at the west.

We don't desire to disturb the settled population of the middle States; on the contrary, we hold that the acquisition of independence in an old State by men of small means, is a nobler social conquest than its acquisition in any new country.

We don't desire any man to stake his fortune on our recommendation, but to examine carefully for himself the grounds of confidence before risking anything.

We don't desire to see the *American Celt* get credit for a design it has not originated—which was tried by the Rev. Prince Gallitzin, by Bishop Macdonald, by the elder Emmett and Dr. McNevin, before we were born, and which owes infinitely more to the present day to Bishop Loras of Dubuque, to Father Hoare of Iowa, Father Causse of Wisconsin, Father Chiniquy of Illinois, and Dean Kirwan of London, than to all its lay advocates.

We don't desire to favor one State or Territory to the prejudice of another, and if any such preference has apparently been shown in these pages, it was only because we had fuller information from one region than from another, and we cannot speak strongly without facts.

We don't desire (and never expect) to see even 25 per cent. of our present urban population converted into a rural proprietary; we shall be right well repaid, if but 10 per cent. of the whole, undergo that salutary change.

What we do desire, is this:—

We do desire to see those who were bred to agriculture at home, directed to their old wholesome and profitable pursuit here.

We do desire to see those whose small deposits make in the aggregate the capital of one-third our eastern Banks of deposit, taught how to invest their three, five, and seven hundred dollars, on their own account, in a bank that never breaks—the soil of the earth.

We do desire to see some of the hundreds of thousands of Irish boys and girls, prematurely worn out in the mills of the east, saved to society, to the Church, and to themselves, on the free farms, their own parents may easily own and bequeath to them.

We do desire to see in every new State, some few Catholic townships, where, as from a focus, Catholic life and influence may radiate around; where the second generation may find suitable companions for life; where Catholic public spirit may accumulate; from which may be drafted postulants for the various sacred orders and offices of the Church—a class we look for in vain among the children of great cities.

We do desire a similar addition of strength to the neighboring Province of Canada—the only semi-Catholic country in the North—a country whose future destiny must be yearly more and more intermingled with our own.

These are the main motives we have had in urging on every effort to promote the actual settlement of our people, in groups, throughout the wide interior of this continent. With these motives we go to Buffalo, on Tuesday week, and shall there await the judgment of the old, the venerable, the able and unselfish men, who at this season are coming, from east and west, from north and south, to consult together how this can best be done.