

cause of civil and religious liberty. The meeting was called by the Mayor, John Power, Esq., in compliance with a very numerous signed requisition. The meeting was truly great in many of its incidents—especially in the throng of all classes by which it was attended, and in the fervor of enthusiasm by which all were actuated. An address to the Queen, and petitions to parliament, were agreed upon. A series of resolutions were adopted, and several spirited speeches were spoken.—*Kilkenny Journal*.

CASTLECOMER.—A strong petition against the meditated aggression on the Catholic Church, was signed by more than two thousand of the inhabitants of the parish of Castlecomer on last Sunday. The people pressed to offer their signatures with the determination of men who are resolved to maintain their religious liberties.—*ib.*

One of the largest and most influential meetings that has been convened in Galway for many years, was held in the Court-house on last Monday by the Catholics of that town for the purpose of protesting against the new penal bill, and of expressing their indignation at the Russell cabinet in bringing forward such a measure.

OPINION OF COUNSEL ON THE PAPAL AGGRESSION BILL.—Mr. O'Hagan, Q. C., to whom the Papal Aggression Bill had been forwarded on behalf of the Roman Catholic archbishops and bishops, with a request that he would "consider the provisions and advise," has given his opinion to the effect that the provisions of the bill would be "incompatible, if effectually enforced, with the maintenance of the Irish Catholic Hierarchy in its old integrity and freedom," and "interfering injuriously, not only with Catholic trusts and charities hereafter to be created, but also with those which already have existed."

The *Nation* says that the last *levée* at Dublin Castle furnished a doleful picture of the fallen condition of the Whigs, "Nobody attended but placemen. Even the place hunters hung back. Captain Fetch-and-Carry, Aide-de-Camp; Mr. Fiddlefaddle, the Gentleman in Waiting; the Right Hon. Catholicic Sole, Commissioner of Everything; and Sir Adolphus Place-and-pay—a venerable official grown grey in the public service, formed the bulk of the company."

LORD CLARENDON.—We stated on Friday that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, together with the Countess of Clarendon and family, had made arrangements for taking their departure from Ireland to-morrow. Since the failure of Lord Stanley to form an administration became known, his Excellency has countermanded the orders for packing up. All remains at present in *statu quo* at the Castle. There is no truth in the rumor of his Excellency having been ordered to London, to assist in forming a Cabinet.—*Evening Mail*.

The grand jury of the county Wicklow have adopted a petition to parliament against the contemplated abolition of the Irish Viceroyalty.

THE ANTI-CENTRALIZATION MOVEMENT.—The petition adopted at the Rotundo meeting has already received upwards of 8,000 signatures, numbering amongst them the names of the Provost and Fellows of the University, and of almost all the leading merchants and citizens. The tradesmen and artisans of Dublin have also got up a petition, in which the story of Irish desolation is told in strong and simple language. This petition is signed by upwards of 3,000 of those sons of toil and industry.

BOROUGH OF DUNGARVAN.—We (*Waterford News*) have heard, from good authority, that the Hon. Mr. Carew has no notion of contesting Dungarvan. With both Whigs and Tories things are low enough, if they allow, without an effort, John Francis Maguire a "walk over."

THE PACKET STATION.—The grand jury of the county Roscommon have adopted resolutions, highly approving of Galway as a Transatlantic packet station, and calling the attention of the Irish members to the importance of securing the advantage of its establishment for this country.

AFFAIR OF HONOR.—A hostile meeting took place at Merville, near Sligo, on the 27th ult., between the Mayor of Sligo, E. H. Verdon, Esq., and Charles A. Sedley, Esq., solicitor, cousin to Colonel Sedley, 2nd W. I. Regiment, in which the former was attended by a professional gentleman, and the latter by his brother. After an exchange of shots, the parties were, with much difficulty, taken off the ground. The duel originated in an article inserted in the *Champion* newspaper, of which the Mayor is proprietor.

FARMING OPERATIONS.—A practical farmer, after an extended tour through the counties of Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and Tipperary, states in a communication addressed to the *Bullfinch Star*, that generally tillage is in a more advanced state, especially in Cork, than has been witnessed at this period in any year since 1846, notwithstanding the enormous extent of the emigration, continued up to the present moment. It is only in some favored localities that wheat has been planted, oats being the favorite cereal crop in all directions; there will be a much larger breadth of barley than usual, and flax will be cultivated rather extensively. In regard to the potato, the writer says, "The farmers are determined to try the potato this year on an extensive scale. Go where you will, the ground allotted for the treacherous root meets your eye; in fact, there seems to be a total forgetfulness of its ever having failed; and this notwithstanding the overwhelming train of misfortunes which its failure brought upon the country."

IRISH WORKHOUSES.—A correspondent of the *Freeman* writes as follows:—"My own observation enables me to state that the provision for the poor contemplated by the Poor-Law does not exist as that law is administered generally throughout the country. That, in the great majority of the Connaught poorhouses, the dietary and the crowding of the wards cause vast numbers of people to perish, particularly of the young, who, in all probability, would live and thrive if that dietary was fit for human beings, and the atmosphere was not contaminated as it is in the ill-ventilated dormitories of the unsuitable auxiliary-houses—those lofts, sheds, and store-rooms of dilapidated buildings that were formerly manufactories—those places especially set apart for children, to whom pure air is as essential an element for the lungs as wholesome and nutritious food, with a due proportion of vegetable diet, is needful for the digestive organs. In plain language, they are killed; I do not say intentionally, but as effectually by this slow process of deprivation of what is due to nature, as by any other sort of mischief that could be inflicted on the vital powers. The age, country, or condition of a human being thus deprived of life, makes no difference in the character of the act, whatever it may be, that proves fatal to human life."

VALUATION OF RENTS.—The Killarney correspondent of the *Cork Examiner* states that the tenants of Lady Headley, in Abbeydale and Castle Island, met on Wednesday, and received the decision of Mr. Talbot, appointed, with the consent of Lady Headley, to re-value the holdings. Though "those tenants were even previously in much better circumstances than others of their class, the reduction of the valuation amounted to from one-third to one-half the rent."

A considerable number of Scottish farmers who were about to emigrate to Ireland, attracted by the agricultural capabilities of that country, have been deterred for the present by the agitation arising from the Papal Aggression.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Between eight and nine, p.m., 26th ultimo, as a private of the 12th Lancers and one of the 43rd Foot were parrying with their canes, in a public-house on Ellis's-quay, the point of the infantry man's cane entered the other's nose, and three inches of it broke and remained in his forehead until the morning of the 3rd ult., when he died from the injury sustained.—*Dublin Freeman*.

SHIP DESERTED.—The *Cork Reporter* mentions that a ship has come home to Cork, nearly two thousand miles, without any man on board. The *Clytha* left St. John's, New-Brunswick, on the 4th of November; she was abandoned by the crew on the banks of Newfoundland; another ship fell in with her, and appears to have set her on fire, but the *Clytha* was not destroyed. On the 14th ultimo the pilot-cutter *Petrel* fell in with her off Cape Clear, and she was safely towed into port.

INCENDIARISM.—On Thursday a splendid rick of hay, the property of Mr. Bianconi, containing about sixty tons, was discovered on fire at Silverspring, in the vicinity of this town. As soon as the alarm was given, every exertion was made to extinguish the flames, but without success, and all was entirely consumed. It being suspected that the fire was not accidental, an inquiry was set on foot, and information having been given to one of the night watch, he arrested two young girls, who acknowledged their having set the hay on fire, in order to get transported.—They have been committed for trial.—*Tipperary Free Press*.

ASSIZES INTELLIGENCE.—COUNTY OF LEITRIM.—March 1.—Willful Murder.—Peter McGovern was given in charge for the willful murder of Thomas Gilheeny, on the 11th of December, 1850, by giving him a mortal wound with a knife on the right side of the chest and right lung, of which he instantly died. It appeared from the evidence that a number of men attacked the deceased with heavy sticks, and beat him unmercifully about the head; he also received a stab from some sharp instrument in the side, from the effects of which he died.—The foreman, on the part of the jury, recommended the prisoner to mercy, on the ground that there was no evidence to show the prisoner gave the wound to deceased. Judge Moore stated it would be his duty to forward their recommendation to the proper quarter; but he did not think it would be acting fair towards the jury or the prisoner if he did not state his opinion that he considered the government would not entertain the grounds mentioned as sufficient. The prisoner was then brought up for judgment, and sentenced to be executed on the 16th of April. He protested his innocence, and asked the Judge to allow his friends to take home his remains after execution. There were two other men, named Thomas Darcy and Jas. McCaffery, charged in the same case; their trial was postponed until the next assizes, and they were ordered to remain in custody.—March 3.—Willful Murder.—Michael McPadden was indicted for the willful murder of Mary Reynolds, on the 22nd of May last, at Corry, by strangling her. The evidence in the case was circumstantial as to the identity of the body, and was not at all satisfactory on that point. The body of the deceased was not found until the month of August following, and it was then in such a decomposed state as to baffle identity. The prisoner was acquitted.

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.—Wexford, Friday, Feb. 28.—Sergeant O'Brien opened the commission this morning at ten o'clock, when the grand jury were re-sworn. His lordship briefly addressed them, and said he was happy to be able to observe that the calendar was light, most of the cases appearing on it being of a trifling nature, at least comparatively so; but there were others of a more serious nature, which offences, however, had generally been committed before the last assizes, and stood over until the present assizes. It was gratifying to find that the county of Wexford maintained the high character which it had long acquired for the good order and peaceful conduct of the people.

COUNTY OF CLARE.—The trials of Wm. B. Smith, Esq., J. P., of Castlefergus, James Hare, and James McNamara, charged with conspiracy to murder Juliana Blood Smith, the mother of the first-named prisoner, were postponed on motion by the crown to next assizes. Mr. Smith was allowed to stand out on his former recognisances, which he entered into by order of the Court of Queen's Bench—viz., himself in £2,000, and two sureties in £1,000 each.

ENGLAND.

ADDRESS OF THE LAITY OF WESTMINSTER AND SOUTHWARK TO HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS THE NINTH.

"Most Holy Father—We, the laity of the Archdiocese of Westminster and Diocese of Southwark, prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, humbly beseech your Holiness to accept the expression of our profound veneration and dutiful attachment and fidelity to the Apostolic See, and of our most humble and grateful thanks for the new proof of the paternal solicitude of your Holiness for the salvation of souls and the advancement of our Holy Faith, afforded by the Apostolic letters, whereby your Holiness has benevolently restored to us an Ecclesiastical Hierarchy.

"Notwithstanding the adverse excitement to which this benign act of your Holiness has given rise amongst our Protestant fellow-countrymen, we have not ceased to hail it as prompted by that profound wisdom and fatherly care which by God's providence, always dictate the decisions of the Holy See.

"We have read with gratitude those benevolent words of your Holiness, in which your Holiness has expressed your reliance on our increased exertions to furnish our Bishops with the 'temporal means necessary for the expenses of the decent splendour of the Churches, and of Divine service, and of the support of the Clergy, and relief of the poor,' and we fervently hope that by the intercession of the Holy and Immaculate Mother of God, the Divine blessing will accompany our offerings, and the number and devotion

of your Holiness's faithful children in Christ be continually increased.

"Wherefore, humbly and earnestly imploring your Holiness to bestow upon us your Apostolic benediction, we beg to subscribe ourselves, your Holiness's obedient and devoted servants and children."

(Here follow the signatures.)

MEETING OF CATHOLICS AT BARTON.—On Tuesday evening was held at Barton-upon-Irwell, in the Catholic school-room, a meeting of Catholics of Barton, Eccles, and Patricroft, to protest against the penal law.

On Friday, the 28th February, a meeting of Catholic parliamentary electors was held in St. Wilfred's Hall, York, on the invitation of John Thomas Delman, Esq., M.D., "to consider and determine the course to be pursued by them at the forthcoming city election."

The *Morning Advertiser* says that a meeting of thirty-six Roman Catholic members of Parliament was lately held at Dr. Wiseman's house, at which it was unanimously resolved that the Roman Catholic members of the House of Commons will oppose, in the most strenuous manner and by every constitutional means, any ministry, no matter what may be its political principles or policy, which proposes in any way to interfere with the recent Papal Aggression.

CARDINAL WISEMAN ON THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL.—The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has issued his Lenten Pastoral letter, which was read on Sunday last from the pulpits of the various churches in and around the metropolis. On the great question of the day, his Eminence observes:—"Your attention is now most naturally drawn to our present as well as to our most recent crisis. You know, dearly beloved, the violent commotion which has been raised against us. We wish not to revive the memory of what, through Divine mercy, has well nigh passed away, but you know that popular excitement has given way to a more cunningly-devised and deeply-meditated measure of legislative persecution, the avowed object of which is to cramp or paralyse the essential Ecclesiastical organization of our Church, while its secret aim is to despoil our institutions of the poor crumbs of charity which, since their former plundering, they have slowly gathered up. Where is our protection? Where is our hope? Before man we are weak, but before God we are strong. While you calmly resist by all lawful means the infliction of a cold-blooded act of insult and injustice, your trust will be far greater in the protection of that righteous Judge and Merciful Father, who will stretch forth His arm to shield the unjustly-stricken, and parry for them the threatened blow."

The declaration of Lord Aberdeen in the House of Lords on Monday night, evidently points to him as the person whom the Catholic party should support. He said, "If it was—as he maintained it was—the lawful right of the Catholic Church in this country to constitute regularly, and in an orderly manner, their Episcopal government, any impediment to that action was persecution, because it denied them the right inherent in every Church that was acknowledged. For times were now changed. If the Catholic Church was not tolerated, the whole case would be changed; but, having admitted them to an equality of civil rights—having fully tolerated their Church—they had a right to constitute that Church in a legal and regular way. For reasons that might satisfy themselves, they might think fit for a time to have Vicars-Apostolic only; but there was nothing whatever, in justice or common sense, after full toleration was given, to prevent them carrying on their government in a regular manner." With these views, it is wonderful how the noble lord could ever consent even to a parliamentary declaration or proclamation against the Hierarchy.

The Pope and the Cardinals will not give way—that you may rest assured; and let Lord John Russell and the British Parliament make any enactments they please, the church has pronounced its fiat, and the new dignity is to it "Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster," and so he will be named to the end of the chapter. You may expel the Pope, create another civil war, or send him a refugee to Naples or Avignon, still will Catholics call him the Sacred Pontiff, visible head of their faith, and recognise by no other titles the great officers of the church than those which he has created. The interests of the English Government—the protection that protestants demand, and even Catholics desire, against all encroachments on the privileges of Her Majesty and the independence of the constitution—are one thing, and the established custom, and resolute determination of the Sacred College, another. The Pope cares not for your acts of Parliament; and, though you may legislate to exclude the substance, he will still preserve the name. I repeat these facts, because it is right that we in England should not deceive ourselves as to the intentions of the See of Rome, because the late conversions are, in its mind, a sufficient answer to all you allege, and that the hierarchy will be established in silence, however the open execution of its authority may be denied.—*Correspondent of the Times*.

PAPAL AGGRESSION BILL.—The *Morning Advertiser* states that the course to be adopted in the House of Commons by the Protestant party is to allow the second reading to pass, and then to endeavor, in committee, to restore the second and third clauses, and thus make the bill substantially what it originally was. They are confident they will succeed in the attempt; but, should they be mistaken, they will endeavor, and with every prospect of success, because they will be aided by the Roman Catholics, to reject the bill altogether as a mere mockery.

POPEY IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—On Wednesday evening there was a public meeting of the members of the Church of England, resident in the parish and neighborhood of St. Luke, Chelsea, to receive the reply of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London to the addresses of the laity of the parish against the Popish doctrine and practices in the Established Church. The replies, it appeared, were merely verbal, and were given to the deputations which waited on the prelates. The chairman, Mr. Ryder, alluded to the statement which had been published in the papers, that the Archbishop had used the term "bishops." He had received a communication from his Grace, who supposed that he (the chairman) had furnished the report to the papers, stating, "that his memory must have failed him, for he had not said that he regretted encouragement should have proceeded from the 'bishops and clergy,' but from the 'clergy.'" He replied that the Archbishop did say that in effect. He had evidence from a note taken at the time, and Mr. T. Yonge recollected it, so that he was in a position to contradict the report. The address expressed strongly that the conduct of some of his Grace's suffragans was to the scandal of the Church, but the

contradiction took out the whole pith of the thing. He regretted to say that the manner in which they had been received by the Bishop of London, was an insult to the parish. "Unlike his right hon. and most rev. superior, he did not shake hands with them—(laughter)—nor did he invite them even to be seated—(more laughter). But they did sit down—(cheers and laughter)—though no thanks to him for it"—(much amusement). The Bishop's reply to them was a subterfuge. Mr. T. A. Yonge had attended both interviews. He was satisfied with that with the Archbishop, but not with that with the Bishop of London. His lordship quibbled—he could give it no other term—and fenced with the question. A resolution was carried to the effect, that the meeting was satisfied with the answer given to the deputation by the Archbishop, but regretted that it could not express its entire satisfaction with the answer given by the Bishop of London. An address to her Majesty was agreed to, praying that she would command her Ministers to introduce a Bill to enable the bishops to remove all Puseyite clergymen out of their dioceses, and all other officials professing the same principles.

THE MANCHESTER CHARTISTS AND THE NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.—The Manchester Chartist Association, the most numerous and the oldest organization of Chartists in the kingdom, have adopted a series of resolutions in which they express their great satisfaction at the late address issued by the National Reform, Parliamentary and Financial, Association, and their resolve "to assist and give the right hand of fellowship to all men who are essaying to gain any measure of reform that shall elevate the down-trodden masses of our fellow-countrymen." They insist upon the necessity of union, condemn the use of "violent and inflammatory language and wholesale abuse" "so much indulged in by certain of our professed leaders," and recommend the Chartists "to oppose any attempt that may be made, no matter by what party, to reimpose the Corn Laws in any shape whatsoever, as we are fully satisfied that their re-imposition would be injurious not only to the trade and commerce of the kingdom, but to the interests of the working classes."

ARREST OF AN AMERICAN PACKET.—Accounts from Holyhead state that the New York packet-ship *Yorkshire* has been placed under arrest by authority of a warrant issued by the High Court of Admiralty, at the instance of the City of Dublin Steam Packet and the Chester and Holyhead Railway Companies; the former claiming £10,000 for services rendered by the *Prince of Wales* in towing the said vessel into the harbor, and the latter claiming £3,000 for similar services rendered by the *Anglia*.—*Liverpool Albion*.

The gossip of the day, current for some time in the vicinity of the Exhibition, has been embodied by the *United Service Gazette* in an announcement, that reports are already in circulation as to the naval display during the Great Exhibition, and various ships' names have been quoted as likely to assemble at Spithead. We have reason to believe that one of the finest and best equipped fleets, not only that foreigners ever saw, but that Great Britain ever exhibited, will be formed at one of the home ports, most probably at the *Nor* or *Spithead*; and it is said the whole fleet will be under the command-in-chief of Rear-Admiral Berkeley, C. B., M. P., one of the Lords of the Admiralty, with Commodore Martin as second in command; making a total of nine sail-of-the-line and four first-class frigates, three screw line-of-battle ships, and three screw frigates, and one paddle-wheel frigate, in all, twenty ships, from 1,000 tons to 2,500 tons measurement.—*Weekly News*.

EXTRAORDINARY BALLOON VOYAGE.—Departure of the *Duke of Brunswick for Germany*.—Yesterday the Duke of Brunswick, accompanied by Mr. Charles Green, the well known aeronaut, departed from the Vauxhall Gardens in the *Nassau* balloon, on a perilous voyage to Germany. The ascent took place at 12 o'clock, previously to which Soyer's cooking apparatus, and a large quantity of provisions necessary for the voyage, were deposited in the machine, and 13 carrier pigeons were placed in the car for the purpose of communicating with those interested in the feat. The balloon ascended majestically amidst the cheers of those present, the wind blowing from NW by W. The ballast carried was 13 cwt. with air vessels, water drags, gutta serena lines. The balloon, on arriving at a sufficient altitude, took a south-easterly direction, passing over the counties of Surrey and Kent, in the direction of the Continent—and from the favorable nature of the ascent it is fully believed the attempt will be successful—and up to a late hour last night nothing unfavorable had been heard.—*Herald*.

THE DUKE OF BRUNSWICK'S TRIP.—We have just received information that the balloon, with its voyagers, descended safely at Gravesend about two hours after leaving Vauxhall Gardens—the royal duke having found the wind suddenly become adverse to the particular course which, in his aerial journey, he intended to take. He is, however, determined to carry out his intention, and will ascend again as soon as the wind becomes favorable.—*Sun*.

INFIDELITY IN ENGLAND.—We (*Catholic Herald*) copy the following statement from a Protestant paper. It shows how infidelity is nourished and propagated in England. Its growth cannot but be fearfully rapid, where that principal lever, the press, is employed in its behalf, on so gigantic a scale:—"At a recent meeting of the London Tract Society, it was stated that there are no fewer than ten stamped newspapers of an infidel tendency, the circulation of which, throughout the country is not less than 11,700. There are six unstamped newspapers, of which the circulation is 6,240,000. Of miscellaneous publications of evil tendency, there is a circulation of not less than 10,400,000. Of the worst class of all, the circulation amounts to 5,250,000."

A PULPIT STOLEN.—In addition to a very miscellaneous list of articles found by the police in the possession of a suspected party, who is supposed to have stolen them or obtained them by false pretences, are four casks of tallow and a pulpit. The pulpit is a large one of carved oak.—*Manchester Examiner*.

THE CLAWING POISONINGS.—On Thursday, the woman named Chesham, who has obtained a terrible celebrity in Essex, was found guilty of administering poison to her husband, and was sentenced to be hanged. She was tried in 1847 upon a charge of poisoning two of her children; but although the evidence left very little doubt of her guilt, she obtained a verdict of acquittal. She has since then been implicated in another charge of poisoning, when she again escaped; and in 1849, a woman named May, who was convicted of poisoning her husband, and was executed for that offence, admitted, after her conviction, that she had been instigated by the prisoner to the commission of the murder.