

THE WILL OF DEAN SWIFT.

To the Editor of the London Times.

Sir,—Mr. Gladstone on Monday evening drew attention to a strange incident of literary history—the contemplation of and provision for the possibility of the disintegration of the Church Establishment in Ireland in the will of Dean Swift.

How far this anticipation was anything more than a moody fancy I will not now discuss, but at any rate it was a persistent notion, for I find the same condition repeated in the will of Stella, written clearly under his dictation, signed the 30th of December, 1737, about a month before her death.

Esther Johnson here desires £1,000 to be laid out in the purchase of lands in Leinster, Munster, or Ulster, or in any good living equal to such legacy and the interest thereof, after certain uses to be applied to the maintenance of a chaplain in 'Stevens's Hospital, St. James's street, Dublin' After an accurate specification of the duties and mode of life of this person, she concludes:—

'And if it shall happen (which God forbid) that at any time hereafter the present Established Episcopal Church of this kingdom shall come to be abolished, and be no longer the national Established Church of the said kingdom, I do, in that case, declare wholly null and void the bequest above made of the said £1,000, or the said land purchased, as far as it relates to the said hospital and chaplain, and do hereby absolutely divest the governor of the said hospital of the principal and interest of the said £1,000. And my will is that in the case aforesaid it devolves to my nearest relation then living.'

As Stella's papers, including Swift's letters, were disposed of by public auction many years ago this bequest may become the subject of some curious litigation, and it will be interesting to observe whether any testamentary dispositions of a similar nature will come to light.

The well-authenticated anecdote of Swift's proposal to the rector of Oriel respecting his dilapidated church best illustrates the great humorist's perception of the character of the Irish Establishment in its relation to the Roman Catholic inhabitants of that country:—'Here is a very cheap and easy way of repairing your church—give it to the Papists; they will restore it and put it in good order, and then you can take it from them afterwards.'

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H.

March 2.

Saunders's News Letter, a Protestant Conservative organ, in giving a brief glance at the details of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Disestablishment Bill, says: 'These were headed by the Prime Minister with delicate skill and a masterly comprehension of his subject. The opening and closing portions of this great oration were in Mr. Gladstone's best style. However we differ from this most distinguished politician, we can never refuse to acknowledge his brilliant powers. The drift of the speech was free from acrimony, with the exception of the sharp taunt which he uttered against Dublin University. Mr. Gladstone spoke in terms of elevated hope of the position of the Church as a consequence of his measure. Whatever be the result, we trust that the zeal and dignity of the clergy will not be compromised, and that the influence of true religion as well as of national contentment will not be impaired, but promoted, by the action of Parliament.'

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Right Rev. John Macdonald was consecrated at Aberdeen on the 24th ult., Bishop of Nicopolis, and Vicar apostolic of the Northern District. The consecrating Bishop was the Right Rev. Dr. Chadwick, Bishop of Hexham, assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Gray, Vicar apostolic of the Western District, and the Right Rev. Dr. Straith, Vicar apostolic of the Eastern District. There were present nearly fifty priests of the district and a very large congregation of the laity.

CONVERTS IN ENGLAND IN 1868.—Between 2,100 and 2,200; these numbers include two peers, nineteen clergymen of the Church of England, and seven or eight university graduates.

The heritors of the parish of Jedburgh have resolved, by a majority, to restore that Abbey Church, at a cost of £4,200.

The expense of conducting the Saurois case has been estimated at £2,000 per day, and even higher figures are given. Take the moderate figure, and the costs are not less than £42,000. The plaintiff, Miss Saurois, claimed £50,000—the jury gave her £500 including £400, her own dowry, to be returned to her. She would not have got this if the Lord Chief Justice had his own way.

The Queen has sent a donation of £150, towards the funds of the Emigration Fund now raising to assist unemployed workmen to remove to less crowded labour markets.

The Pall Mall Gazette referring to the 'Alabama' claims, says: 'Unless we are prepared to say that a war which Englishmen saw with their eyes, heard of with their ears, and felt in their pockets, had no existence in fact, the American people will not be satisfied.'

London, March 24.—The debate on the bill for the disestablishment of the Irish Church was resumed in the House of Commons to-night. Mr. Spencer H. Walpole, member for Cambridge University, opposed the bill and the O'Donoghue, member for Tralee, made a fervid speech in its favor. Mr. Gathorne Hardy followed. He said the strength of the Liberals came only from the majorities at the hustings, it rested on no firmer basis. Mr. Gladstone had pledged himself and his followers to the destruction of all that was deemed desirable. The destruction of the Church was urged by envy and jealousy. The speaker maintained that the Church had always fulfilled its mission. Mr. Gladstone then rose to resume the debate. He reviewed the course of the bill and the movement which had been for and against. He declared that the policy was necessary for Ireland, and this was the first step demanded by the majority. Mr. Gladstone resumed his seat amidst cheers, and the House divided on the motion that the bill be read a second time with the following result: For the motion, 363; against, 250; majority for the Government, 118. The announcement of the result was greatly cheered in the House. The cheers were taken up by the people in the lobby, and the news was thus conveyed to the immense crowd outside the House, who joined in the applause with the wildest enthusiasm. The House, at three in the morning, adjourned over the holidays to 1st April.

RITUALISM IN ENGLAND.—If we look beyond the immediate quarrel, and consider for a moment the deeper question which Ritualism involves, it is impossible to be blind to the fact that the English people are drifting at a rapid rate into very serious questions indeed, which will soon take a most practical form. If the Ritualists should be defeated, not merely upon the point of ceremonial, but upon the point of doctrine, there would undoubtedly be set up a Church of England under the auspices of Dr. Pusey, Mr. Liddon, and those who think with them, and in the present state of public opinion it is by no means improbable that this might result sooner or later in the disestablishment and disendowment of the whole Church. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the difficulties of such an undertaking. The union of Church and State in a civil and social point of view in England, is as intimate, as deeply rooted, and as closely connected with almost every relation of life, as the disunion between different schools of thought in the Church itself is profound and hopeless. The three parties which represent Sacramentalism, and Evangelicalism, and Rationalism in the Church of England, differ hopelessly and fundamentally in their whole conception of things human and Divine, and the more earnest and more vigorous particular members of each school may be, the more clearly will

the fact be brought to light. They have managed after a fashion to go on together for the past three hundred years like dogs in couples. It is conceivable that if the couples are judiciously arranged, and if the general public which represents the man who holds the ends of the leash, is very good tempered, and at the same time perfectly firm, they may continue to go on a good deal longer, but the jerks, the leaps, the plunges, and the growling and snapping, to say nothing of the occasional pitched battles which take place, incline us to doubt it. The real peculiarity of the case lies in the extraordinary manner in which the English ecclesiastical and lay institutions have been connected together. It will be no easy matter, as most people can see by this time, to disestablish the Church of England. It would be like remodelling a man's skeleton by surgical means. There is not a parish in England, there is hardly a street in a town that does not contain several more or less prominent persons, whose interests, pleasures, and habits of life would be deeply affected by any measure of this kind. This is the difficulty of the present situation. We cannot see how it can be removed, and we have no doubt but that it will exercise to the utmost the ingenuity and patience of more than one generation.—Fall Mall Gazette.

The following appreciation of the moral character of the chief agents in the English Reformation, are from a review by the London Times on a new work on the Church of England:—

'It might have been supposed that the majesty of the law could have been sufficiently vindicated by the sacrifice of Wolsey. But the tender conscience of Henry was still troubled. He yearned for a still simpler satisfaction, and as was his wont he made satisfaction vicariously. He was a most devout believer in the sacrament of penance. He confessed his peccadilloes with the most edifying unctuousness, and forthwith imposed a heavy penance on one or more of his subjects. He contrived with singular ingenuity to enjoy sin in his own person while doing penance for it in the persons of his subjects. Other penitents have been led to satiety by some vision of 'the beauty of holiness' or the hideousness of sin.—Henry was invariably led to repentance by 'the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye.' It was in the adulterous embraces of Anne Boleyn that he awoke to the sinfulness of his marriage with Catherine, and his righteous soul began to grieve over the sensuality of the monks as soon as he saw a chance of ministering to his own by the appropriation of their treasures. With the same pliability of conscience he never rested till he obtained Legatine authority for Wolsey, and he sanctioned the exercise of that authority as long as he could turn it to his own use.—But the moment it ceased to be useful to him, and there appeared a prospect of his being able to derive benefit from the penal suppression of it, his conscience began to prick him for his violation of the law, and he determined to appease the voice of justice by the sacrifice of a victim. Wolsey must perish for the quieting of the Royal conscience and for the replenishing of the Royal treasury; and even then the King finds himself unable to avoid all scruples and doubtfulness. The Statute of Provisors imposed forfeiture and death not only on the principal offenders, but also on 'their notaries, procurators, maintainers, abettors, fautors, and counsellors.' It seemed therefore that the whole nation had incurred the penalties of premonition, and was liable to forfeiture of life and goods; and, in fact, the King declined for some days to grant the prayer of 'his faithful Commons,' who had craved for the Royal pardon more in the tones of Eastern slaves than that of free-born Englishmen. At length His Majesty was good enough to send his pardon, and his sorrowful and penitent Commons returned their humble thanks.—But the clergy were not to be let off so easily. It would have been absurd to attempt to enforce the penalties of the statute against the whole nation; but it might be safe to enforce them partially against the clergy; and the clergy of both Provinces were accordingly indicted in the King's Bench for their alleged violation of the Statute of Provisors. The clergy knew with whom they had to deal, and before the day of trial came the Convocations of Canterbury and York had agreed to a compromise. They consented to purchase the Royal pardon by the payment, on the part of Canterbury of £100,044 8s. 8d.; and of York, £18,840 9s. 10d.—a sum which Mr. Blunt calculates as equivalent to a million and a half of our money. The payment of this arbitrary fine for a fictitious offence the King graciously permitted to be extended, by yearly instalments, over a period of five years; but this apparent clemency was dictated by anything but a clement motive on the part of the King. The fact is, he hoped to achieve two great results by this dexterous move against the clergy. With that contradiction of character which we often see united with arbitrary power, Henry VIII. loved gold like a miser, and squandered it like a spendthrift. His income was immense, and, in addition, he inherited from his father more than a princely fortune. Mr. Blunt reckons it at twenty millions sterling in modern money. Yet Henry was always complaining of his poverty, and had the true miser's dread of dying poor. The people were ground down by an exorbitant taxation during the whole of his reign, and, according to Mr. Blunt he was not above the infamy of making large loans, and then repudiating his obligation by Act of Parliament. This inordinate greed was, no doubt, Henry's chief motive in his degradation of Wolsey. He had already realized a rich harvest from the confiscation of Wolsey's property and from the spoils of the monastic property which the Cardinal had settled on his colleges at Oxford and Ipswich, and he saw the promise of additional 'loot' in the quibble by which he ensnared the clergy in the meshes of premonition. That would be the first result of citing them before the King's Bench. Then, by allowing the payment of the ransom to run over a period of five years, what at first sight appeared to be a boon became in reality an instrument of tyranny in the hands of an unscrupulous and practically irresponsible ruler. For the Royal pardon was not issued till the uttermost farthing of the ransom was paid; so that the King could at any moment during the five years let loose on the clergy all the penalties of premonition. He had them, in fact, completely in his power, and he used his opportunity with characteristic ability and unscrupulousness. Partly from his innate Tudor love of power, and partly in order to facilitate his divorce from Catherine, Henry wished to extort from Parliament and Convocation a strong declaration in favor of the Royal supremacy. In matter of fact, he wished to transfer to himself the supremacy which he deeded to the Pope, and with a view to this he introduced a change into the King's title in the preamble of the Act of Convocation by which the ransom money was to be voted. This trick is said to have been suggested to the King by Cranmer, and it is certainly worthy of perhaps the most unprincipled ecclesiastical who ever rose to eminence in England.'

THE PENITENT PRISONERS.—Yesterday a meeting of the English Amnest Committee, which has been established for the purpose of endeavoring to secure by all constitutional means the liberation of the convicts known as the Fenian prisoners, was held at the Adelphi Club, Adelphi-terrace, and was followed by a conference in which the representatives of the Irish Amnest Committee and a considerable number of members of Parliament consulted together regarding the most efficacious agencies for promoting the object for which the associations to which we have referred have been organized. At the meeting held at 1 o'clock, Mr. J. J. Merriman, chairman of the English Committee, presided. In opening the proceedings he said that after due consideration the association of which he was chairman had resolved on leaving their memorial praying for pardon to the Fenian prisoners open up to Easter Monday, inasmuch as they considered that a large addition would be made to the number of signatures on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, and that the largest possible

array of names should be secured. At the present 70,000, or perhaps 80,000, had signed the memorial, and it only required the moral force of public opinion to secure the granting of the prayer it contained. All their requests should be made in moderate and temperate language. Mr. John F. Maguire, M.P., in a brief and fervent speech, said he admired the prudence of the advice given by the chairman that all their proceedings should be conducted in a temperate spirit. Thanks to the generous sentiment of the English people, and thanks also, he would say, to the sacrifices which the men for whom they were pleading had made, he felt sanguine regarding the future of Ireland. The opinion of that country was that the present Government would do something practical to promote its welfare, and he would be a traitor to all the principles of his political life if he did not support an Administration which professed a policy having such an object. He had been asked by the chairman to give some information concerning the present position of the subject. All he could say was that when the O'Connor Don had asked a question in the House of Commons regarding it, the Secretary for Ireland had replied that the Government would pardon 49 of the prisoners, 32 others being left in goal. In the course of his reply, Mr. Forster had implied a question as to what promises the prisoners would give if liberated that they would not offend politically again. He had given notice that he would ask Mr. Forster to state his ideas more precisely, but certain representations having been made to him from Ireland he had thought it better to withdraw the question. If the public opinion of England were expressed liberally in favor of the measures they were seeking to promote, they would be certain to achieve their object. He would never sail under false colors, and he wished to express his opinions unequivocally regarding the object of the meeting. He wished for peace, and he deplored the desperate and unavailing attempts which had been made during the late disturbances by a distracted and totally disunited people to resist the mighty military strength of one of the greatest powers of Europe.—The only result which issued from such movements was that sacrifices had to be undergone by men who took part in them, and by their families; more than that, the community was to a certain extent demoralized, for during these agitations every policeman was a despot and exercised a power with which he never dreamt he had been intrusted before. He would recommend that the Fenian prisoners be liberated on their parole of honor. In conclusion, he spoke with great warmth of the degradation of his country, which had resulted from recent struggles, and urged that Ireland ought to be allowed to enjoy peace if only for the purpose of trying the experiment whether the present Government would do anything practical which would conduce to its prosperity. Mr. Alderman Carter, M.P. Mr. McCarthy Downings, M.P., and Mr. Edmond Beales, President of the Reform League, also addressed the meeting, and endorsed substantially the opinions adduced by Mr. Maguire. Mr. Beales said that whilst the Reform League had not hesitated to express its deprecation of Fenianism, the disturbances to which he referred were now over, and it behooved them all to promote amity and harmony between Great Britain and Ireland. Those present, who numbered about 50 persons, then proceeded to Charing-cross Hotel, where the conference in which allusion has been made was held. The Lord Mayor of Dublin presided, and among those present, in addition to the gentlemen mentioned above, were the Mayor of Cork, Sir John Gray, M.P., Mr. E. Baines, M.P., Mr. H. Mathews, M.P., Mr. J. A. Blake, M.P., Mr. Sergeant Simon, M.P., the O'Donoghue, M.P., Dr. Brady, M.P., Mr. Jonathan Pim, M.P., Mr. P. O'Callan, M.P., Mr. G. Moore, M.P., Mr. M. E. Moran, and Mr. J. Pollard representing the Irish Amnest Committee; and Mr. J. P. McDonnell, secretary of the English Committee. After a long discussion, which assumed the character rather of conversation than debate, the following resolutions were adopted:—Proposed by Mr. J. F. Maguire, M.P., and seconded by Mr. Sergeant Simon, M.P.,—'That we hope Her Majesty may be advised to graciously consider the Irish amnesty petition presented by Sir William Carroll, Lord Mayor of Dublin, praying for the release of the political prisoners.' (The petition, it may be added, which has been signed by 200,000 persons, will be presented at the Levee to be held to-day.) Proposed by Mr. H. Mathews, M.P., seconded by Mr. O. Moore, M.P.,—'That the perfect tranquillity of Ireland justifies the Government in granting a full amnesty to the political prisoners which would be universally approved by the people of the whole empire.' Proposed by the O'Donoghue, M.P., and seconded by Mr. C. Hoey,—'That we shall continue to use every measure which the Constitution enables us to exercise in our efforts to obtain the release of the political prisoners.' Proposed by Mr. Callan, M.P., and seconded by Mr. Merriman,—'That while, under existing circumstances, we approve the presentation of petitions in favour of the political prisoners by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the members of Parliament at the Levee to-morrow (to-day), yet as intimation has not reached all the Irish members favourable to an amnesty in sufficient time to procure their attendance we consider it advisable that a deputation of members of Parliament, Mayors, and municipal representatives should be organized to present English and other petitions to the Prime Minister on the 10th of April. Other resolutions, supported by Mr. O. P. O'Connor, and Mr. J. F. McDonnell, in which thanks to the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Mayor of Cork were expressed, were also passed, after which the conference terminated. It may be mentioned that among those present in the body of the hall were one of the Fenians who had been recently liberated and the sister of one of the most prominent of the political prisoners now suffering penal servitude.—[Times March, 4th.]

To a review of the current month, whose writers neither start from the same point nor tend to the same end, give their readers a description of the Anglican Bishops which may have been written, in spite of their irreconcilable diversities of religious opinion, by the same hand. It is curious, however, and worthy of observation, that 'Fraser's Magazine' is less contemptuous and abusive than the 'Union Review.' 'A Bishop,' says the former, 'must not only be commonplace, but be entirely above suspicion of any disposition to deviate into originality. To say the truth, this is a necessary consequence of the present condition of the Church; the edifice is so unstable that its foundations must be made by the steadiest materials. . . . The Church must be handled as tenderly as though we loved it.' . . . A spoilt child might do terrible damage amidst so much fragile furniture.' This is not a reverential account of the Anglican Prelate, but it sounds like an eulogy compared with the following announcement in the 'Union Review.' 'Church men in the north of England have, naturally enough, begun to look on Bishops as the implacable enemies of religion, instead of valuable agents for propagating it.' How long will the 'fragile furniture' bear such handling as this?—[Tablet.]

ATTEMPT TO POISON A FAMILY.—At the intermediate Sessions held at Sheffield on Monday a young man named Barker was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for attempting to poison his mother and sister. Some few weeks ago Barker went to a chymist and obtained from him a packet of Battie's Vermin Killer, under the plea that there was a large number of mice in his house, and he wanted to destroy them. On the following day, which was on a Sunday, he went to his father's house, and when he made his appearance there his mother and sister were engaged in cooking the Sunday's dinner. Taking advantage of their temporary absence from the kitchen he put the vermin killer into a saucepan in which a rabbit and leg of mutton were being cooked. The mother's attention was subsequently attracted to the strange appearance of the water in the saucepan, and both she and her daughter tasted it to see what was the matter with it. The latter almost immedi-

ly became sick, and, not knowing what had happened, but feeling convinced that something was wrong, they wisely refused to allow the meat to be sent up for dinner. The water was afterwards analyzed by an analytical chymist, and was found to contain a considerable quantity of strychnine of which Battie's Vermin Killer is largely composed. The prisoner pleaded 'Guilty' to the charge.

THREE HUMAN SKELETONS FOUND IN BLAIR CASTLE.—Considerable curiosity was excited in the neighbourhood of Blair Athole during the last week on its becoming known that three human skeletons had been found in one of the vaults of Blair Castle, the residence of the Duke of Athole. It appears that several workmen came upon the skeletons while engaged digging in one of the vaults in the southern part of the castle for the purpose of forming a new cellar. The skeletons were buried about 18 inches under the surface, and were the remains of full-grown men. The teeth of the skeleton first discovered are described as being white as ivory. It bore no marks of violence, but the skeleton found next, which was the largest of the three, bore marks resembling sword-cuts behind both ears. The third skeleton had no appearance of violent injury having been inflicted upon it. The Duke of Athole, who is at present residing at Blair Castle, took possession of the ghastly remains, and sent for Dr. Irvine to make an examination of them, with the view, if possible, of ascertaining how long they may have lain in the position in which they were found. We have not heard the result of Dr. Irvine's investigation, but the unusual circumstance has caused a good deal of speculation in the district.—[Dundee Advertiser.]

MORTALITY IN ENGLISH TOWNS.—The mortality of fifty-seven large towns of England and Wales for the year 1868 stands thus:—

Table with 2 columns: Town Name and Death rate per thousand. Includes Cheltenham (17.35), Devonport (17.35), Gosport (17.89), Merthyr-Tydvil (18.03), Ipswich (18.59), Cardiff (19.05), Chester (19.40), Swansea (20.05), Brighton (20.10), Dudley (20.20), Chatham (20.23), Coventry (20.38), Plymouth (21.68), York (21.17), Birkenhead (21.30), Portsmouth (21.40), Worcester (21.46), Southampton (21.71), Exeter (21.73), Bath (22.16), Oldham (22.58), Bristol (22.83), Bury (22.94), Huddersfield (22.99), Northampton (23.54), London (23.57), East Birmingham (23.81), Birmingham (23.94), Blackburn (24.20), Norwich (24.23), Hull (24.38), Walsall (24.55), Rochdale (24.58), Yarmouth (25.34), Wolverhampton (25.46), Tynesouth (25.50), Newcastle-upon-Tyne (25.54), Nottingham (25.76), Ashton-under-Lyne (25.85), Sunderland (26.11), Stoke-upon-Trent (26.34), Bradford (26.46), Bolton (26.50), Sheffield (26.63), Macclesfield (27.05), Halifax (27.21), South Shields (27.54), Gateshead (27.74), Leeds (27.91), Derby (28.03), Leicester (29.00), Wigan (29.08), Liverpool (29.22), Preston (29.25), Salford (30.72), Manchester (31.43), Stockport (32.01).

On this the Times says:—'What will strike every one in going through the list will be the extent of the range of the death-rate. It seems that in Manchester and in Stockport people must have died nearly twice as fast as in Devonport or Cheltenham.'

UNITED STATES.

St. Joseph's Church, Albany, N. Y., was on Sunday, March 7, the scene of a solemn and interesting spectacle. The Right Rev. Bishop Conroy, assisted by the Rev. P. Ludden, and Rev. Messrs Burke, Lowrey, and Quain, received into the fold of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, Prof. William Boehm and his estimable wife.—New York Tablet.

The number of Catholic families in Rutland township is about one-third of the non-Catholic; but, last year, the number of births in Catholic families exceeded three to one the births among non-Catholics.—N.Y. Freeman.

The following notice has recently been removed from a bridge in Athens, Georgia:—'Notice.—Twenty-five dollars fine for driving over this bridge faster than a walk. If a negro, twenty-five lashes on the bare back. N. B.—Half the above reward will be given to the informant.'

A negro prisoner in the Helena, Arkansas, jail, was suspected of complicity in the assassination of General Hindman some months ago; and upon being charged with the crime, he confessed to having been one of nine negroes who formed a conspiracy to burn the town of Helena to avenge the hanging of a negro last September for rape. Three of the party had gone to Hindman's house for the purpose of burning it, he having prosecuted the negro who was hung. One of the number seeing Hindman sitting at a window, levelled a musket at him and fired, killing him. The others, becoming frightened, fled and abandoned the plot to burn the town. Five of the nine have been arrested, and are now in jail.

BEAUTIES OF THE DIVORCE LAW.—A case was tried in the Superior Court of Cincinnati last week, the disgusting revelations of which are an expressive commentary on our Christian divorce laws. It appeared that the plaintiff, then twenty-nine years of age, in 1861 married a woman fifty years of age; that he was the fourth man who had gone through the farcical legal ceremony of being married to her; and that one of her previous husbands had nine wives. It is thus that Protestantism observes the Divine command: 'What God joins together let no man put asunder.—[Catholic Telegraph.]

The New York Times of Friday, says: 'The English journals which fancy that the American people are determined to force a war upon England, are entirely mistaken. The interests of this country are opposed to a war with England; the predominant sentiment is opposed to war upon any such issues as now exist. The "Alabama" claims are capable of settlement by negotiation, and all that is required of the English government is to concede the just demands which we have against them. We assure our London contemporaries that the American people have not the slightest inclination to force a war upon England.'

Mr. Francis Clare Ford, Secretary of the British Legation at Washington, has transmitted to the Foreign Office a report on the financial condition of the United States. He lays it down at the outset that the resources of the country are so ample, and

the character of the people so energetic and industrious, that a suspension of their wonted prosperity can only be regarded as temporary. Nevertheless, so it is, that the nation is now crippled by a colossal debt and burdened by a harassing load of taxation. The exports of the country are diminished, and the foreign indebtedness is annually augmenting; the credit of the Government is impaired by the phantom of repudiation raised in certain States of the Union, and severe losses have been inflicted upon the Treasury through frauds for which the defective organization of the civil public service has given opportunity. Retrenchment and economy in the Administration are required for improving the financial condition of the country, and paving the way to a settlement of the debt, and such an achievement must render obligatory a continuance for many years to come of almost war prices, and constitute the country what it is at present, one of the dearest places of residence in the world.

An amusing fact, illustrative of the little weight that should be accorded to petitions in favor of anybody or anything, happened in Albany several years ago. Two members of the Legislature were disputing on this subject, when one of them laid a wager of \$100 that within three days he could produce a memorial with 100 variable names attached, asking the Legislature to pass a law to hang the Rev. Dr. Sprague, one of the most distinguished clergymen in the State capital. The bet was taken, the money put up, and within the time the memorial was produced. Of course the memorialists neither knew nor cared what they had signed. It will be quite safe for the incoming Administration to assume that ninetenths of the office-seeking petitions presented to it will be worth just about as much as that got up for the hanging of Dr. Sprague.

We clip the following from a 22nd of February address delivered at Keayon College, a Protestant institution in this State, by Albert J. Hayden, of Columbus:—'We are the degenerate sons of noble sires. We have come to regard political morality as a mere myth, a flimsy figment of a dreamer's brain. Fraud and speculation are as ripe among our legislators and rulers, that honesty is a pitiful exception among those in high places. Voters are bought and sold as the fruits of the earth and beasts of burden are bargained for in the market. "Wanted because they may be bought"—bought because they may be wanted.' Christian nations are wont to inscribe on their silver and gold the legend of their faith: a miserable copper coin is the only evidence of the United States of America, to the future antiquary, that their inhabitants believed in God. During our civil war there were two Generals, and only two, who, in the hour of danger, were not ashamed to pray for Heaven's help, and on the field of triumph to sing a thanksgiving psalm to the Giver of Victory. Of these, one we call a Komish bigot; the other a Puritan fanatic. The horrible spectres of immorality and infidelity, band in hand, are stalking over the land. The youngest of the nations, we are as corrupt as the eldest. Mormon polygamy, which we sanction in the far West, finds a counterpart in the fearful disregard of the marriage tie that prevails in the New England States. Good things are taking flight—principles, hopes, purpose, old religious traditional decencies, the transmitted moral of another age. Our wise and good—and those who wish us well into other lands—stand appalled at the fearful spectacle.'

COMPOSITES OF ADVERTISING.—The Daily News, in an article on the local press of London, says:—'It has been said that you have attained a very considerable degree of knowledge of a person's condition and character when you have ascertained his wants and his superfluities; and the same may be said of society. It is noticeable of these papers that the advertisers owning the articles 'to be sold' seem to be possessed of almost every commodity that nobody could possibly want; whilst those on the other hand desiring 'to purchase,' appear to be anxious to buy principally such things as no one in his senses would ever dream of possessing. For instance, among the articles advertised in the column headed 'To be sold,' we have a 'bookcase bedstead,' a 'portable pulpit,' a child's caul ('fifteen years in the possession of the present family'), a set of stewed-egg cans, an invalid's chair (the proprietor having no further use for it), a life policy for £100, a sausage machine, and fire engine with 40 feet of hose, '6 softbedded almond tumblers,' five hundred portraits of Tenyson, a handsome billiard, two undertakers' black horses ('the owner no longer having sufficient employment for them'); 11 frying pans, and thirteen horse brushes; a musical box, playing the 'Marsellaise' with drum accompaniment; a packet of duplicates principally for a lady's jewellery (may be exchanged for provisions); and, lastly, a coffee stall (light), with all proper fittings. Then, among the things enumerated under the head of 'Wanted to purchase,' there is a sheep's head and cat's meat business, a donkey brougham, any quantity of old crabs and dripping, the 'Pickwick papers' (second hand and clean), a model of a railway carriage, a lot of signboards, and three iron lamp posts, with or without lamps.' Nor are the announcements in the column of 'businesses to be disposed of' a whit less curious. Here we find one for which a purchaser is wanted described as 'Fish (fried, dried, and wet), with good stewed-egg business, and baked potatoes a la mode; the potatoes a la mode being evidently a touch of the approved 'flowery sort.' Further, there is 'the prettiest little grocer's shop in London for nothing' and 'a coffee shop in an undeniable position to be sold a bargain, through family differences,' suggesting a vivid picture of no end of broken crockery; besides a 'public house, which has been much neglected,' and a 'tobacconist's shop, opposite a music-hall, affording a splendid opportunity for selling penny glasses of wine.' Moreover, a purchaser is wanted for 'a dairy (small), to which many things might be added, and one which is said to consist simply of 'milk, butter, and eggs,' all over the counter'; while another announcement runs, 'to fishmongers (fried and others), but what a fishmonger may be like we cannot imagine. The same rich vein of unintentional comedy runs through the advertisements respecting 'Apartments, whether 'to be let' or 'wanted.' One lady ironically announces that she has 'three rooms unfurnished, with Venetians, and no other lodgers'; as if her only tenants were natives of Venice; and a commercial traveller advertises for a bed-room and sitting room for his daughter, with partial board for the young lady during his absence.—plain wholesome fare only required, and 'no pastry.' Then another lodging house proprietor makes known that she has a large airy bed-room with use of sitting-room for 5s. a week, suitable to a highly respectable professional gentleman who is out the greater part of his time, 'without boots or other extras,' which strikes us as being hardly the figure which would be likely to suit any 'highly respectable' individual. Still, there are the 'situations and employments, which read equally strange to the uninitiated; for here we find such announcements as the following:—'To Printers.—An apprentice wishes to be turned over in consequence of the death of his master—though it is hard for the untechnical mind to understand why any lad should want to be treated in so violent a manner for such a reason. Then there are strange advertisements for lads 'who can use a file well,' and for youths who are 'accustomed to work' (let us add for the sake of morality) 'in the work.' And, lastly, there is the pathetic side of these same London district broadsheets; as witness the following:—'A young married couple would be willing to sell their home for £5.' A gentleman in reduced circumstances has a few duplicates for sale, principally of clothing. 'Elderly and young females can be paid for having their hair trimmed an inch shorter.' 'Adoption.—The advertiser begs some lady to take her darling baby entirely for life. Verily, the local press of London opens a new world of journalism to the old one.'