

The writs have arrived for the new elections. Mr. Chatterton will not be opposed in the Dublin University. It has been announced positively that George Morris, brother of the late Attorney-General, will stand for Galway. It is doubted whether there will be any opposition, but there is no doubt of his return.

A great Protestant demonstration has been arranged to take place in the Ulster Hall, on Thursday evening the 25th April, for the purpose of protesting against the injustice done to Ulster Protestants, and calling for the repeal of the Party Processions Act, which has been administered so oppressively as regards Protestants. A large attendance of the Protestants of Ulster is expected on the occasion.—News Letter.

THE WEATHER IN QUEENSTOWN.—An idea may be formed of the unusual severity of the storm of yesterday, from the fact that several feet of the railroad of the Queenstown direct line, a few hundreds yards below Tivoli, were washed away by the action of the surf. It occurred shortly after three o'clock yesterday, and almost immediately a staff of workmen were on the spot. The damage was repaired in about two hours, when the traffic was enabled to be resumed with its usual regularity. The railway steamers' traffic was also much impeded throughout the day by the gales and towards evening it had to be entirely suspended, the steamers being unable to come alongside the piers with safety. No casualty to shipping has been reported to have occurred in the harbour.—Cork Examiner.

Several cases of cholera have recently occurred in Kells and Oldcastle, county of Meath, Ireland.

AN UNFORTUNATE PORT.—The Nation, in reply to a question put by one of its supporters as to the whereabouts of an individual who has contributed a great deal of 'patriotic' verse to its columns, states that he is in Mountjoy Prison, whither he was sent by an order from the Castle. It is strongly recommended that good Irishmen to buy his 'beautiful little volume of poems.'

Nine or ten lives have been lost by the recent floods in the county of Wicklow. At a place called Askineag, a herd named Mulhall, with his wife and four children, were found overwhelmed with snow in their cabin, lying dead in their beds, as if they were asleep. In another place a woman was carried away several hundred yards by a torrent, while her infant was found floating in its cot on a distant stream.

TIPPERARY ELECTIONS.—The General Committee of Elections, consisting of Mr. Whitebread, chairman, Mr. Clay, Sir F. W. Heygate, the Hon. E. F. Leveson Gower, Mr. Solator-Booth and Sir W. Sitlington Maxwell, met yesterday afternoon for the purpose of nominating a Select Committee to try and determine the petitions of Mr. Lawrence Waldron, Mr. W. Pennefather, J. P., and John Dwyer O'Ryan, complaining of an undue election and return for the county of Tipperary. A further petition had been presented from Mr. Luke Welsh, but it was withdrawn a few days ago. Mr. Waldron states in his petition that he and the Hon. Charles White were candidates at the last election, which took place in October last, and that the returning officer declared the numbers to be—for the Hon. C. White 3,410, and for the petitioner 2,865, and that the Hon. C. White 3,410 and for the petitioner 2,865 and that the Hon. C. White was duly elected. He then proceeds to complain that the election was not a fair and true election but was the result of intimidation, violence, and undue influence on the part of the successful candidate, and of his agent and others, and that a large number of the electors did not record their votes at all in consequence of the riots, intimidation, violence, and abduction of voters which occurred. He complains also that several of the Catholic clergy exercised their spiritual influence to control the choice of the electors and compelled them to vote for Mr. White; that the passions of people were so excited by systematic and organized agitation that there was no possibility of securing freedom for the majority of the electors, and that many persons were deterred from voting on account of danger to their lives and property. The petitioner then states that Mr. White did by himself, his agents, &c. directly and indirectly, provided meat, drink, and entertainment for the purpose of corrupting and influencing the electors in giving their votes, and that he was guilty of bribery, treating, and undue influence. The petitioner therefore prays the House to declare that Mr. White was not duly elected, but that he (petitioner) was and ought to have been returned, and that the return may be amended accordingly, and the election declared null and void.

The petition of Mr. Pennefather and Mr. O'Brien states that the return of Mr. White was procured by intimidation, violence, and undue influence; that a large number of the electors were prevented from recording their votes, and that if they had been able to record them they would have voted for Mr. Waldron. The petition goes on to state that Mr. White did before, during, and after the election make gifts, loans, agreements, promises, and offers of money to divers voters to record their votes or to refrain from voting, and prays the House to declare the election null and void. The petitioners further pray that the return may be amended by striking out the name of Mr. White and substituting that of Mr. Waldron, and that such other relief may be given as the nature of the case may require. The members selected to serve upon the Select Committee were Sir Philip Grey Egerton (chairman), Mr. John Floyer, Lieutenant-Colonel Hogg, Mr. Arthur Russell, and Mr. Walter Morrison.

GREAT BRITAIN.

SUNDAY DRINKING.—It is material to bear in mind that there is some danger in giving an exclusive importance to the Sunday, as compared with other days, which, in the eyes of a Catholic, are equally sacred with the weekly commemoration of Our Lord's Resurrection, and on which the temptations to the vice of drunkenness are as powerful as any which are offered on the Sunday. In Scotland, while the Sunday is the object of a superstitious and Pharisaical observance, the anniversary of Our Redeemer's Death, for instance, is passed over without any special regard to the awful solemnity of its associations. Even in England, where this day is observed in the National Church, it is utterly disregarded by some of those religious bodies, certain members of which recently presented a requisition to the Lord Mayor for a public meeting on the subject of closing taverns on Sunday. With Catholics, of course, it is far otherwise. To them none of our national scandals could be more painful than the annual conversion of Good Friday into a day of mere recreation, with all those accompaniments of intemperance and sensuality which the popular English idea of recreation implies. Now Good Friday brings with it precisely the same temptations to drinking which exist on Sunday, and yet not one syllable is said by the great body of English and Scotch religionists on the special sin of desecrating this most holy day. Again, why do we hear nothing of Christmas Day, and the Feast of the Proto-martyr, better known in England as Boxing-day? To the latter of these days especially applies the particular argument for closing public houses on Sunday, which is grounded on the facilities for indulgence furnished by a full pocket. Yet the notorious intoxication which prevails at the Christmas season would in no way be checked by the proposed legislation.—Weekly Register.

POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS MISGIVING IN ENGLAND.—Now, perhaps, for the first time, a misgiving is creeping over the English mind as to the stability and success of our political and religious institutions.

Hitherto we, have stood, as it were, upon a rock, and looked with a sort of self-complacency on the storm which raged around us, but never approached our sacred shores. Here was revolution sweeping away throne and dynasty and overthrowing the altar; there a hard and carping scepticism had destroyed religious belief or an eroded the laws of social morality; but English religion holding fast to its Bible as to a sacred deposit of faith, had escaped the lot of Continental Protestantism; whilst the English Constitution, like another Ark, had ridden triumphantly over the waves of democracy which elsewhere were engulfing the most stately and time honored institutions. This charge which is coming over the public mind is very serious as showing the nearness, or, at least, the approach of political and religious dangers. Men see squalls ahead. Like Achilles, our Constitution has a vulnerable point, but it need not be a goddess to betray it to our political Paris. In Mr. Bright's Reform project lurks a destructive or dissolving power which, in no long time, may put an end to our ancient Constitution; may succeed at last in transmitting our pure gold into a baser metal of American production. It is this misgiving which makes moderate Whigs and moderate Tories anxious for a compromise so as to stave off for a time the evil day. The transfer of power from the intellectual, and what hitherto been called the governing classes, to the half educated and impassioned masses seems, from our actual stand point, to be inevitable. We may dam up the current for a while, as we are in duty bound to attempt, but sooner or later the stream will sweep away all opposing barriers; no doubt as water finds its level so will the evil work out its own cure. But this apprehension of political evil, which can see no remedy prepared by our hands, is in strange contrast to that perfect confidence which we were wont to place in our political institutions. It largely affects the relations of political parties by modifying the zeal of the reforming Whig and by rendering more pliant the most unbending Toryism. The abhorrence in which Mr. Bright's ulterior aims are held by the mod'erate men on both sides of the House alone makes possible the passing of a Reform Bill. But a Reform Bill passed under such circumstances will only serve as a stopgap for a time. Renewed agitation, under the pressure of hard times or a new combination of parties, or one of those unforeseen surprises, such as are always occurring in politics, may open up again the floodgates of an ever-rising democracy. The experiment has never yet been tried in a country, such as England is, of a Government by democracy. In the older civilizations no parallel can be found to modern circumstances; for the people, properly speaking, did not exist; there were only serfs and masters. America, also, where democracy prevails, does not offer like conditions, since its immense extent of territory acts as a break-water to collisions between the various orders and classes of society, which would be sure to arise in a country like ours, pent up in narrow boundaries, and inhabited by a race clinging, more than any other in Europe, to historic associations and to hereditary traditions. Looking out, then, upon the untraced future, and shrinking naturally from experimentalizing upon so precious a body as the English Constitution, it is not to be wondered at that men feel a certain misgiving in forecasting the political future of England.

But if such be the feeling in regard to our political state, how much greater, among the intellectual classes at least, is the misgiving as to the success of the English religion. In spite of every worldly advantage, of wealth, of learning, of decorous living on the part of the clergy, and of the old habit of religious reverence on the part of the English people, the English Church has failed, as we lately attempted to show, in satisfying two important sections of society—the intellectual and the working classes. Its future history will be one of decay. It will long remain like a ruin in the land, affording shelter to many and inspiring reverence in some, but without living power over the intellect of the country or over the heart of the masses. This decay of that which held the remnants of truth is not a matter of rejoicing, for we sadly fear that it will not make way for anything worse. Catholicism is not yet strong enough nor large enough in England to fill the public eye, to seize upon the public mind, to save the nation from the long seaward drift which seems coming upon us; it may gather up the remnants after the shipwreck of religion, but we greatly fear it is not in the power of the Catholic Church to avert the storm. To too many in England the failure of Protestantism is the failure of Christianity; the intellect of the country in our age has never fairly grappled with Catholicism. It does not know the strength and depth of that faith which was more than a match for the subtle intellect of the Greek and for the practical wisdom of the Roman. The knowledge of Catholicism has never been brought home to the hearts of our working classes. Content with what they call a class religion, pride, and self indulgence, and the dislike of being schooled keep the artisans in our large cities from the doors of the Established Church. Since the days of Whitfield and Wesley, the dissenting chapel has lost its hold over the hearts of the working men. The largest proportion of the middle classes will, long after the silent apostasy of the intellect and of the sinews of the country, crowd with a decorous observance round the pulpit of the preacher; and listen still with reverence to the words of Sacred Writ; but such a state of things, from its very nature, cannot last, especially in these days, when knowledge is spreading though it, is true, wisdom lingers. And after the collapse of Protestantism what next? There seems to be no prospect in the dark look out; one does not like to contemplate the possibility of blank unbelief taking up its abode in the English mind, yet the question of such possibility can no longer be blinked. Intellectual scepticism is already leaving its mark on the national mind, its harsh tones are grating on the ear, its daring speculations court publicity in a manner which contrasts strangely with the religious decorum which pervaded English literature twenty years ago. Indeed it is come now to this that we confess to a misgiving that we are, after all, no better than our neighbors, that neither the English Constitution nor the English religion is proof against the advance of French democracy, or of German infidelity.—Westminster Gazette.

It is a strange state of things to which we have come in Ireland. The emigration, which has been lauded as the sovereign remedy for all the ills of that unhappy country, turns out to be an evil both for Ireland and for England. It has created at the other side of the Atlantic an Irish people which is far more powerful as an enemy to Great Britain than it could be had those who formed it remained in their own land. They have become prosperous, familiar with discipline and warfare, and are animated by an animosity towards us which is played upon and fanned by American institutions and American demagogues. So now-a-days England has got her Gaudia close to her doors, though the Greece from which the patriots derive their hopes is not a few hundred, but full three thousand miles away. But what we desire to draw attention to is the lesson to be learned from the present outbreak for guidance in times of greater danger. No enemy has a single keel afloat against us, and yet we are obliged to keep a large number of our fleet engaged in watching and guarding Irish cities, ports, rivers, and harbors. Is it not a little premature to get rid of our good wooden ships, little and great, before we have established the fleet of the future? If we had to rely on our armour-clad ships for such duties, the result would be a complete failure. What would it be, if, in addition to guarding Ireland, it was incumbent on the Admiralty to provide for the defence of our commerce and colonies, and to furnish vessels to protect India, China, the Straits Settlements, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea route, the Oanadas, the Pacific Colonies, Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies? It is not to be supposed that our enemy could appear at all points in armour, and fast, powerfully armed ships are needed for special use in

such cases. All vessels of that kind should be retained in the navy, and if not in it, should be built as soon as possible. Although it is not likely that the Fenians have got any vessel on which to fly the flag of the Irish Republic, they could do immense mischief if one fast steamer were to run in on the coast and land an organised body of men, and we would look with some apprehension to the course which will be taken in America in the event of such a contingency, as we could not allow our disaffected ex-subjects to wage war against us from under cover of the Stars and Stripes.—Army and Navy Gazette.

It has for some time been well known to the authorities in the West of Scotland that three American Fenian deputies from New York (one of them said to be an ex-officer of the United States army), have been actively engaged in the vicinity of Glasgow, so that there is not a village in the mining districts wherein a large portion of the Irish population do not sympathize with the cause. One of these agents is understood to have been for the last two or three weeks exceedingly active in the Coatbridge district. There, as also in Parkhead, Garfin, Calder, Holytown and other places, secret meetings were held during the past week relative to future operations. Under such circumstances considerable uneasiness naturally prevails throughout the neighbourhood of Coatbridge among the respectable portion of the community.—The various volunteers have removed their rifles &c. from the armories, while the police keep a sharp look out. It is known that, for fully two years, drill has been vigorously proceeded with in various localities; but up to Sunday morning not an instance has been brought under the notice of the authorities. On that day a body of twenty five or thirty Fenians were surprised while drilling on the Glasgow and Edinburgh turnpike, between the villages of Holytown and Mossend.—They were first seen by a man named James Ballantyne, a volunteer belonging to the Motherwell Rifles. Ballantyne was returning home from Holytown to Mossend about one o'clock in the morning, when his attention was attracted by the sharp military command of a person with an Irish accent, and, drawing with caution along the road, which is very lonely, he observed a body of men drawn up on the footpath line, near Shankerton Gate, and going through their 'facings.' The commands 'mark time,' 'right turn,' and 'forward' were given in a clear voice, and the body of men marched off towards Mossend. In this order they proceeded without speaking a word, all being perfectly steady and sober until they arrived at Holytown farm, occupied by Mr. Pollock, when the word 'double' was given and they at once obeyed. Sergeant McNaughton of the county constabulary at Bellhill, accompanied by two other officers named Urquhart and Murray, were proceeding in the direction of Holytown, when they were somewhat astonished to hear sharp, regular military steps approaching. Stepping aside, the officers went into ambush, and waited the arrival of 'the Irish troops' as the sergeant at once suspected them. The leader cried 'halt; front,' upon which twenty yards from where the officers were concealed, and, congratulating his men upon their appearance, dismissed them. The police at once darted from their hiding places, and stationing themselves across the road, so as to intercept the advancing mob, the sergeant desiring them to 'stand.' The 'patriots' scattered like sheep, and fled towards Mossend. Notwithstanding the large odds in numbers, the officers followed. Arriving at Mossend Store, they ran down and made six of the 'brotherhood' prisoners. The captives gave their names as Hugh Morphy, Lawrence Finnigan, John Brogan, Thos O'Hare, Peter Gormgan and Francis Mc Cabe, all residing in Mossend, and, as their names sufficiently indicate are Irishmen. The commander, who is alleged to be a stranger effected his escape.—Glasgow Mail.

REPRESENTATION OF SCOTLAND.—The roll of the Parliament of Scotland of 1873 shows that Parliament then consisted of 119 members—viz., 28 nobility, 38 commissioners from the barons of the 23 shires and 53 commissioners for the 43 burghs. In the course of the treaty for the Union the commissioners for England proposed that there should be 38 reprentatives for Scotland in the House of Commons of Great Britain, but the commissioners for Scotland insisted upon a greater number, and it was agreed that there should be 45, the number for England being 513. Of the net annual revenue from taxation on the average of the first three years after the Union, England contributed 97 6 per cent., and Scotland 2 4 per cent; in the three financial years ending with March 1, 66, the average annual proportions were 83 7 per cent. for England, 14 3 for Scotland, the increase in the 156 years being 834 per cent. in England, and 6,509 per cent. in Scotland. It is impossible accurately to ascertain the amount of Customs' duties falling upon each country, but a Treasury return appertains as follows: the revenue derived from taxation of the average of three years, 1844-66—viz., England, 78 2 per cent.; Scotland, 1 9 per cent.; Ireland, 9 3 per cent. The Reform Act of 1832 took eight members from the representation of England and gave them to Scotland, and five also to Ireland, making the representation 500 for England, 53 for Scotland, 105 for Ireland. Had the apportionment been according to the contribution to the revenue at the time of the Reform Act, the numbers would have been 547 for England, 53 for Scotland, 53 for Ireland. An apportionment according to the amount of taxation on the average of the three years 1864-66 would give 519 members to England, 78 to Scotland, 61 to Ireland.

The London Times, writing on Canada and the Inter-colonial Railroad, says:—If by enabling Canada to make this railway the Mother Country is to be held to have now fulfilled all its duties and to be henceforth entirely at liberty to consult its own interests, we cordially approve its decision. The first and most important of our duties will then be the speedy withdrawal of all British troops from the North American Continent. To keep a force of 12,000 or 14,000 men scattered along such a line of frontier, and to affect by their presence to defend it against a people of thirty-five millions, is an absurdity which must be obvious to every one, whether soldier or civilian. As long as these troops are shut up during half the year in an almost inaccessible Province, and exposed at all times to an invasion, which their very presence tempts, the American Government has so many hostages, as it were, for British good behaviour. Let it be understood that the guarantee of the Canada Railway Loan carries with it the responsibility of self defence to be undertaken by the Confederation, and that it is the intention of the Queen's Government to withdraw at no distant time all British troops from the American Continent; if that be so, the guarantee may be cheerfully paid if ever it should be called for; and it the two measures of the present Session enable us to escape the burdens which the Canadian ga rrisons inflict on this country, there will be no reason to regret them, even though they comprise the encouragement of an unemunerative enterprise by means of a principle condemned by sound finance.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.—If the people of Great Britain would really qualify themselves to form a just opinion on the subject, they have only to read a document which they will find in the 'Irish Ecclesiastical Record' for February, 1867, published by Mr. Fowler, Dublin. From that they will learn what are the principles and the aims of Freemasonry. We have been in the habit in England of distinguishing between English Freemasons and Continental Freemasons. The character of many English members of the Masonic body rendered it hard to believe that men were made better or worse by belonging to it. The common notion entertained of it has been that it was a harmless society, kept up chiefly for benevolent rather than political purposes, and there can be no doubt that many did attach themselves to it without thought of anything beyond the display of social festivity in which, at stated times, it is wont to indulge. How far these notions of its character may have been correct hitherto, one thing is

certain, that they are not the notions which any one entertains of it now. The document referred to shows that the English Freemasons receive and reciprocate the sentiments of the Lodge of Liege, which I now quote for the information of your non-Catholic readers, leaving them to judge between the Pope and his accusers:—

- 1. 'All our united strength is not too much to combat the errors which still rule the world and to enable us to reach the good we propose to attain, namely:—
- 2. 'To withdraw humanity from the yoke of priests.
- 3. 'To substitute science instead of faith.
- 4. 'To substitute, instead of the pompous hopes of heavenly rewards for good done, the austere joys of a satisfied conscience.
- 5. 'To banish from the mind the vain idea of a future life, and the fetishism of a providence which is ready to succor every misdeed.
- 6. 'To put down brute force.
- 7. 'To humble the pride of riches and privilege.'

These are a portion of the avowed principles of the Lodge of the Philadelphian of the Orient London, of which a peer of the British realm, Earl Zealand, is the head. They are a specimen of the general principles of the society of Freemasons.—Cor. of Weekly Register.

The Independent understands that the Protestant Bishops have given up all idea of a bill to repress or mitigate Ritualism, and the Primate, with probably the larger half of his brethren, will oppose Lord Shaftesbury's attempt to get a Parliamentary, instead of a judicial, interpretation of the rubric which relates to clerical vestments. According to the Record the bill which the Bishops proposed to introduce, and which was drawn up by Bishop Elliott, would have legalised the vestments and the pastoral staff. It has now been abandoned, and the Primate has demanded a royal commission on the whole subject.—This decision, the Independent supposes, will be satisfactory to the Ritual party, inasmuch as it will eventually hang up the subject for two or three years, and in the mean time further strides will be made which will render it impossible to stop the party.

UNITED STATES.

Buffalo, April 16.—The Right Rev. John Timon, Bishop of Buffalo, died of erysipelas, at the Episcopal Residence, at 8 40 o'clock, this evening; he will be laid in state at the residence until after Holy Week, removed to Cathedral on Monday, and buried on Tuesday. No man in the community was more beloved by people of all creeds.

Religion, like everything else in Washington, is shamelessly prostituted to the necessities and convenience of partisan politics. Chaplains are elected just as doorkeepers and tide-waiters are appointed, on account of their political opinions, and they are expected to pray and preach in the service and for the party that elects them. Party zeal is often quite as apparent in the opening prayer of the Congressional Chaplain as in the ward barrangue of the treasury clerks. The Chaplain is expected to pray for his friends and of his party fees. Usually his petition is a summary of the proceedings of the preceding day, and a statement of what ought to be done on the day at hand. For every bill passed and voted given in accordance with the party purposes and pious, devout thanks (if anything of that kind can be called devout) are returned to the Almighty, who is earnestly exhorted to open the eyes and charge the votes of every body who stands on the other side. The irreverence of some of these so-called prayers, often borders on blasphemy. They are seldom anything more than stump speeches made with closed eyes and addressed ostensibly to the Father of all: while in sentiment, language and general style they would shock any intelligent and cultivated audience. Still worse one of these offerings began, 'O Lord, Thou hast ruled this Word for six thousand years, and as we believe, Thou hast ruled it well! People may fancy this as either thanksgiving or prayer; it is really little better than blasphemy and not a whit less offensive. It was a condescending indorsement, on behalf of Congress, of the Almighty's 'divine' conduct; it was a little surprising not to see it followed by a resolution of continued confidence and a vote of thanks.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE TARIFF ON FENIANISM.—The Tribune substantially gives up armed Fenianism, and considers that it is better to get what they conceive to be wrong, redressed in the British Parliament.

The Washington National Intelligencer thus comments on the passage of the Military Government bill by the United States Federal House of Representatives:—

The blackest record ever made by an assembly of the representatives of a free people, stained yesterday the proceedings of the House of Representatives. Never, in the most tyrannous hour of the Long Parliament misrule; never, amid the utmost subservience to the Royal mandate of an English King; never, in the most bloodthirsty epoch of a French Convention, did the representatives of the people stamp themselves with greater ignominy.—The bill, which passed by a vote of 109 to 55, hands one-third of the people of this country over to military government. For the rule of law, it substitutes the will of an officer. For the tribunal of a judge, it furnishes a drum-head court-martial or a military commission. For the process of a court and the peaceful visit of a Sheriff, it proffers the order of a petty satrap and the presence of a squad of bayonets. It ignores the Chief Magistrate of the United States. It invests a general with absolute power over one-third of his countrymen. It erects subordinate dictators, armed with unbridled power from Potomac to the Rio Grande. Throughout this broad domain, comprising the fairest and most fertile section of the republic no man is to have a secure title to his property, no man's house is free from search, no man's chattels exempt from seizure, no man's liberty unexposed to assault, no man's life safe from peril. An army officer—a soldier—exalted above the law, may ruthlessly invade a citizen's home and drag him from the bosom of his family. Such a bill makes a mockery of free institutions. It dispises all the great safeguards of popular liberty. It tramples on the freedom of the press. It annihilates the right of free assemblage.—It silences the lips of free speech. It infringes the right of the people to bear arms. It wipes out the guaranty of a grand jury presentment. It abolishes the exemption of freedom from seizure and from search. It abrogates the right of trial by a jury of one's peers in the vicinage of the commission of the alleged offence. It tramples upon the prerogative of the President, it makes war upon the constitution, it rebels against the authority of the Supreme Court.—It invades the sacred constitutional rights of the citizen. It is treason enveloped in the forms of law. It is rebellion wearing the garb of legitimate power. It is usurpation assuming the sanctity of constitutional enactment.

Ninety-two petitions for divorce are now pending before the Supreme Court at Providence, Rhode Island, of which all but twenty come from the wives. Of the reasons assigned, thirty-one are based on conjugal neglect, twenty-one on desertion, and seventeen each on adultery and extreme cruelty. Rhode Island is in territory about as large as a fair-sized county in this state, and in population about equal to the county of Erie.—N. Y. Catholic.

New York, April 15.—A new disease termed Meningitis has prevailed for some time at Middle Island, Port Jefferson, and Smithtown, Long Island, which proves fatal in 48 hours. The membranes of the brain and spinal chord are inflamed, and the whole muscular system is subjected to strong contraction, drawing up the body into painful and unsightly attitude. Reaction and stupor follow, into which the patient sinks and dies. In every case, so far as heard from, except one, death has supervened.

The committee from the Fenian Centres of Ireland, England and Scotland have made a report concerning their unsuccessful efforts to bring about a union of the Roberts and Stephens wings of the organization in this country. They lay the blame on the Stephens faction, and at the end of the address they call upon their countrymen to rally around them and give them through President Roberts their support. We recommend Irishmen not to rally around anybody, but to go on quietly attending to their own pursuits. They have seen what all the Fenian bother amounts to.—Boston Advertiser.

DOGGING THE LAW.—One of the devices for 'getting drinks' at a place recently closed out by the State Constables in Lynn, is thus explained by the Reporter:—

When a man wants a drink there, he goes to a side door and raps. If he is 'round on the goose' the door swings open, he goes in, and it closes after him and fastens itself. He takes the liquor he wants, sees nobody, pays no money; but when he has satisfied the inner man he goes out again in the same quiet way. Though he has seen nobody, somebody has seen him. Sitting in a small side room, near the door, an 'agent' is kept on watch through a small hole. If he likes the looks of his customer, he pulls a string, which rises a latch, and a spring throws the door open and closes it again. The same agent watches the drinker and scores the amount due for his 'refreshment.' When he wants to go out, the string is pulled again, and the door opens for and closes upon him.

A dry goods 'prince,' who deals in camels hair shawls, in New York, sells each year twenty-five \$3,000, and twelve \$5,000 shawls to American Republicans, who should be clothed with Democratic simplicity; besides thousands of shawls costing \$200 to \$500.

One singular fact in connection with the death of Mr. Lincoln is that no coroner's inquest was ever held on his body; no legal evidence taken as to the manner of his death, nor was a single person accused of connection with it ever brought into a court of law, nor is there to this day any legal testimony whatever as to the manner of his death, the cause of it, or who killed him.

In towns in Massachusetts where there has been no open sales of liquor for three years past intertemperance has increased continuously.

To get round the Prohibitory Law in Massachusetts, they sell their mince- pies with lots of brandy in them—about one drink to each mince- pie.

The New York Times has actually discovered, a use for Gov. Seward's Esquimaux bargains it says:—

'We fancy that our Fourth of July orators would almost be willing to pay out of their own pockets the seven millions that Russian America costs, for the new and splendid opportunity it gives them for rhetorical embellishment. With what new energy they can dilate upon the vastness of the country! How they can start 'u' bird of freedom' from the Gulf of Mexico, and send it flying and screaming clear up to the North Pole! How they can decant upon the tropical groves of Florida, and the ice-fields of the Arctic, and show that the universal Yankee lords it over all!' The glory of such a prospect cannot be exaggerated, and in a view of it we must say that Sikka is cheap!

We respectfully suggest a tax on buncombe oratory expressly to pay for Gov Seward's whists. Everything else is already pretty well lauded; but 'fulfilling apostrophes to the 'glorious bird' have thus far escaped the tax-gatherers. If 'Sikka is cheap' to anybody, it must be to the spouter 'whose home is in the bright setting sun,' and who resist every exhortation to 'dry up.' They alone will be able to make anything out of our Arctic acquisition; let them pay for it! But don't attempt to humbug us by talking of the seven millions that Russian America costs. Whether that or nine millions is the first cost, it is but the beginning. There are to be endless millions more for harbours, lighthouses, fortresses, garrisons, civil officers, &c. The tax on rhetorical dunnery should not only be heavy, but perpetual.—N. Y. Tribune.

A SOCIETY OF PECULIATING CLERKS BROKEN UP.—A society for carrying on systematically the business of stealing and secreting and selling stolen goods, has just been unearthed and broken up at Norwalk, Ct. It was regularly organized with president, secretary and treasurer, and was composed mainly of clerks in all branches of trade. A strict account was kept of the stealings of each member, and the value accredited to him on the society book. Profit enough had already been secured to enable two families connected with it to visit the Paris Exposition.

The widow of a son of the late Rev. John Pierpont was recently buried at Newton Corner, Conn., after a funeral service conducted according to the peculiar doctrines of spiritualism. Miss Cora Houghton, the trance medium, delivered an address of considerable length, in which she described the condition of the departed, and transmitted to the audience her promise to remain with her friends for their guidance and assistance through life. The spirit of Rev. John Pierpont also appeared and thanked all those who had performed offices of kindness and sympathy to his daughter in her last days.

The editor of a Connecticut paper is 'east-lick.' He offers for sale 'A well bound volume, containing the Constitution of Virginia, now Military; District A No 1, also the Virginia bill of rights, and the Kentucky resolutions of 1776. Any one desiring to preserve these relics of the barbarous age extending from 1776 to 1861 will do well to call. Also a copy of the Bible will be exchanged for the life and writings of John Brown, deceased.'

The Portland Argosy says it is estimated that there has been 50,000,000 feet of logs cut on the Kennebec river this winter—30,000,000 spruce and 20,000,000 pine.

The largest vessel ever built at Detroit, Mich., was launched on the 10th instant, and, a local paper says met her native element under most auspicious circumstances. She is named the 'Zachariah Chandler,' and will carry 45,000 bushels of corn.

The inventor of a life saving raft proposes making a voyage upon it from New York to Southampton and Harre. It is composed of cloth and gutta percha, and its buoyancy is secured by means of air cylinders.

An interesting hebens corpus case occurred at Baltimore lately. The complainant was Mrs. Celina Kellogg (formerly Miss Logan, of dramatic reputation), who petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus to compel her husband, Mr. Miner K. Kellogg (a celebrated painter), to produce in court an infant daughter, Virginia, aged between 6 and 7 years. On the child being produced in court the mother attempted to cross it, not having seen it for sixteen months.—The child, however, seemed not to know her mother, and cried, causing considerable confusion, during which the mother vigorously pulled the attorney's hair, and afterwards fainted. The court decided that the mother should have the child's company on Sunday, and that it should then be returned to its father.

BURLESQUE BRUSHING. While the Clerk of the House, on a recent occasion, was reading a passage of Stevens' confiscation speech, when he came to these lines: 'He commanded the men and the women to borrow from their confiding neighbors jewels of silver and jewels of gold,' and that they did so, and spoiled the Egyptians and went forth full-handed, every eye was turned upon Butler, whose ordinarily chafky face exchanged by turns all the colors of the rainbow.—Exchange.

We don't believe it. We mean the blushing part of it—the other is quite probable. Shame never causes a blush to mantle the face of an old hummer like Butler. It isn't his style to blush.