

If call destitution; from want of sufficient clothing— from nakedness.

A gain, the vast majority of the people of this parish have not sufficient fuel to cook their victuals properly, and as to have fires to warm themselves and their children in the wet and cold weather, this is out of the question. But as I believe the destitution from want of fuel is pretty generally admitted, I shall dwell no longer on this point.

Now, what I call destitution from want of food is when whole families have not one good meal of victuals in the 24 hours; for I do not reckon a handful of dilk or other seaweed plucked off the rocks—a sufficient meal, nor turnips, with a grain of salt as a relish, a proper dinner for a labouring man; yet I know many families who would never make their wants known if they had enough of even this wretched diet. The cause of this destitution from want of clothing and food is the failure of crops, both of potatoes and corn, and mortality among the pigs of the poor cottagers. For it is not among the mere labouring class (that is, those who support themselves solely by their earnings, from labour) that this destitution is the most severely felt, but among the cottagers who have independently supported themselves by the produce of their little plots of ground of from one to five acres. This class of persons have not known what want is for many years. The poor Law test gives no adequate criterion to judge of the case of these families. They are not, nor, nor ever have been, mendicants. The alternative with them is to be houseless wanderers for the rest of their lives as they cannot receive Poor Law relief while they retain their holdings, or to suffer all the privations they are enduring while they fondly cling to their homes and the homes of their forefathers. They have taken the latter course in the hope that God's blessing may rest on the crop they are now struggling hard to get into the ground, and thus that they may once again live as independent members of society.

But it is much to be feared that many must fall victims to disease and woe in this death-struggle, unless some employment be provided for them for the next five months.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,  
W. A. FRISER, Rector and Vicar of Kilmoe.  
Sir Robert Peel.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE BETWEEN DR. McNEILS AND ANOTHER PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN.—On Monday evening the Irish Church Mission Society to Roman Catholics, held their annual meeting. The Rev. Dr. McNeill presided, and with laboured energy endeavored to refute some statements which an Irish Protestant Clergyman, Dr. Biggs, has made regarding the failure of these missions in Ireland. Dr. McNeill's recent bigoted attack upon the Nuns has damaged him much in public estimation, and on this occasion he endeavored to redeem himself by using milder language towards Catholics. His power to awaken bigotry amongst the educated classes has passed away for more intimate relationship which has of late sprung up between Catholics and Protestants in this town has removed prejudice which was the fruit of mutual ignorance. The Rev. Mr. Hains, a Protestant clergyman, holding a respectable position at the North End of the town, made several ineffectual efforts to speak, but in vain, for though Dr. McNeill had promised him a hearing, still he refused him the privilege. A scene which baffles all description ensued. Dr. McNeill, in the most excited manner, and in tones that were heard in the street, cried out 'Sit down, sit down, Sir,' a command which, though echoed by innumerable voices from all sides, failed to move Mr. Hains in the least; upon which Dr. McNeill exclaimed, 'Is the chairman to be supported or not? (loud cries of 'Yes, yes,' followed by renewed requests to 'Turn him out,' 'Hound him out,' &c.)

At last, finding that though the meeting agreed he ought to be supported he yet failed to receive the support, Dr. McNeill left the chair, declared the meeting dissolved, and wishing them good night proceeded from the platform, the Rev. Dr. Taylor and the Rev. Mr. Rycroft being amongst the foremost to respond to the call for three cheers for Dr. McNeill. At this time some one in the body of the hall caught hold of Mr. Hains's coat, and effort was made to pull him off the platform, but he succeeded in releasing himself from the unfriendly grasp, though from that moment he seemed to have relinquished all thoughts of spending the night on the platform. Mr. Conroy again appealed to Mr. Hains, but the latter gentleman appeared to receive the appeal far from favorably, for he was heard to exclaim—'I wish you would please to address yourself to some one else. I consider your remarks as simply impertinent.' The hint was taken, for Mr. Conroy replied, 'Well, I'll address myself to Mr. Hunt, which he at once did.—'Whilst all this was going forward on and about the platform a warm debate was excited at the bottom end of the room, and a person wearing a white necktie was observed mounted on one of the seats addressing those about him in a most excited manner and being replied to as he spoke by at least a dozen others all speaking at the same time. Mr. Hains having left the platform and advanced towards the door, he was immediately by a number of persons, all anxious to discuss with him the propriety of the course he had adopted. The discussion soon waxed warm again, for Mr. Hains repeated his accusation that Dr. McNeill had given him a positive assurance that he should be allowed to speak, but he had broken faith with him; and a valiant champion of the doctor's wearing an orthodox white necktie, declared in the most excited manner that the Canon could not be guilty of a lie. One gentleman more than hinted that 'Hains was cracked,' whilst another declared that he was a Puseyite, and these were by no means the least friendly terms in which the Rev. Gentleman was spoken of. Finding that his chance of getting out of the building by the usual mode of egress was hopeless, Mr. Hains boat a retreat, abandoning altogether his resolution to 'stand upon his rights as an Englishman,' and scorning even the invitation which was now given to him by the mob to re-ascend the platform, he passed out through the schoolroom underneath the building; and so, without the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman, or even 'the benediction,' a meeting which opened with prayer closed amidst the greatest uproar.—*Corr. of Tablet.*

MINERAL WEALTH OF IRELAND.—A correspondent writes us that "Gold in large quantities is to be found in the Island of Inchmore, near Athlone. 30lbs of Irish lead will yield more than 1lb of silver. The richest silver mines exist in the county of Wicklow, running from north to south. Kilkenny contains a superior description of coals, well adapted for oceanic steamers, as they produce no smoke. Copper, lead, and iron are to be found in several parts of the county of Tipperary.—*Mining Journal* March 15, 1862.

PETITION AGAINST THE LONGFORD ELECTION.—By great effort, apparently, Colonel White, or rather Lord Palmerston's Government, succeeded in having at the last moment, a petition lodged against the return of Major Miles O'Reilly. We entertain little doubt that this proceeding will prove to be labor lost for Colonel White, but we are very certain that it has been got up in mere spite and bitterness, with the object of punishing the patriotic priests and people of Longford, for the great crime of having opposed and defeated a friend of Lord Palmerston's anti-Irish and anti-Catholic Government.—*Nation.*

It is stated that Lord Palmerston has given instructions to his agents to find out those of his tenants in Ireland desirous of emigrating to Canada, and afford them not only the means of going, but also to provide them with the necessary tools, &c., to enable them immediately on reaching their new home to commence work. Many have already availed themselves of this offer, and many more are arranging to follow.

On the 13th of March the first sod of the East-Kilkenny and Dundoran Railway was turned by H. M. D'Arcy Irvine, Esq., in the demesne of Necarue Castle, near Irvinestown.

To play the Pharisee in individuals is detestable, and even in nations is decidedly 'damnable.' We do not care unnecessarily to exalt our own race, or people at the expense of others. But the necessity is daily forced upon us, and in a mere spirit of self-defence we are bound to dwell upon the virtues which so remarkably distinguishes the Irish people. We are linked tightly with a nation more powerful than ours. Between the two countries there are radical differences, which time may reconcile, but which are yet far from being smoothed over. Up to the present moment the connexion has been for us only untaxed misfortune, and it is but within a comparative few years it could be characterized as otherwise than intolerable oppression upon one side and intolerable misery on the other. The time for the more grievous wrong has passed away, but the spirit which inflicted it has not yet departed. It lives in the petty injustice of every day's legislation; it is palpable in the spirit of animosity to the country, and the faith identified with it, which is palpable in nearly every English utterance. Disguise it, smooth it over as you will, the name of Irishman is still in England regarded as little less than a reproach. Our poverty is naturally mocked at—there is nothing so contemptible in the eye of John Bull as to be poor. Further, we are a land of criminals in morals, of idolaters in religion. England is the home of domestic virtues, the pattern of all that makes the life of an individual respectable, of a nation great. Surely when such are the contrasts daily made to our disadvantage, it is not a mere spirit of malignity which leads to the question, who is our accuser? What is the real character of the nation which sets up to be the censor of our morals, which sends us missionaries to teach us true religion? For answer we shall just turn to the revelations of the Divorce Court. In the first place, we may remark that noble institution has no existence in this country at all. Its introduction here was unanimously rejected by the representatives of the Irish people. It was felt that there was no need for its operations, even if its functions were, under any circumstances, allowable. But so urgent was the demand in England for wives to get other husbands than those they had accepted before God for better for worse, of husbands to get rid of wives who had found the limitation of their pleasures by matrimony too trying—so general was the clamour to render nugatory the tie which is a pillar of morals and an essential element of civilization, that the legislature had no choice but to yield. The court commenced its work on the 11th of January, 1857. It was literally the cleansing of an Augean stable. No sooner were the arrears of fifth disposed of than new mounds of rottenness arose for the labourer. There were altogether from that date to the 30th of July 1861, 1,200 cases for the decision of the Judge. Of these there were 781 petitions for dissolution of marriage, 248 for judicial separation, 43 for restitution of conjugal rights, 16 for nullity of marriage, 100 applications by wives for the protection of their earnings from their husbands who had deserted them. There have been a few petitions under the Legitimacy Declaration Act. Such an appalling mass of vice as the record of the Court disclosed startled even the most firm believers in the myth of English moral supremacy, and that most unmeaning of canons, the holiness of the English fireside. Consolation, however, was administered after a little. It was said when the returns were moved for after the court had been twelve months engaged at its scavenging, that the rush of business was merely 'the accumulation of old sores; that when these had been wiped off, there would not be much to do in the court, and that the people of England were not so depraved as the first year's experience seemed to demonstrate.'—These are literally the excuses that were made when first were made known the scandalous figures. But how have these opinions been borne out? Here is a summary that we quote from a London paper:—"The act received the royal assent in August 28, 1857. If, however, the dates when the alleged acts of adultery were committed are examined, it will seem that, out of 781 petitions for dissolution of marriage, the cause of offence which gave rise to the petitions that took place antecedent to the passing of the act were 437, and since the passing of the act 344. This, however, is hardly a fair criterion, because the vast majority of petitions that were filed in 1858 arose out of misconduct committed in former years, or, at all events, before August, 1857. But if the petitions for dissolution of marriage for the year ending 30th July, 1861, are examined, a very different result is shown. Out of 177 petitions for dissolution of marriage, only 61 arose out of occurrences previous to the passing of the act, whilst 126 arose from misconduct since the passing of the act; in other words, the difference was 71.2 per cent, as against 28.2 per cent; thus showing pretty clearly that though the old sores and accumulations have nearly been cleared off, the number of petitions still kept up to what they have hitherto been." Thus it is shown that the incidents which call for the court are not abnormal, but are the every-day condition of English society. Adultery goes on so fast that to dispose of the legal cases arising from it a court must be exclusively devoted to its consideration, and that court kept the busiest of any in the country. Nay, arrangements have been made by giving additional powers to the judge ordinary to facilitate the business, otherwise it would be found quite inadequate. Now as the crimes with which this tribunal deals are not those which seek the light, what are we to think of the state of society in which they are thus painfully obtruded upon our view.—What are we to think of the health of the body upon which ulcers are so numerous and so palpable? We may at all events without much presumption think that morality has not attained such a degree of purity, as would entitle England to compare itself with us, much less to assume its constant tone of lofty superiority.—*Corr. Examiner.*

Sir Henry Brownrigg, Inspector-General of Constabulary, has just issued two papers from his office which will supply materials for the forthcoming debate on the constitution and utility of that body.—These papers show that all the time of the force is not spent in military drill. In addition to their special duties as peace-preservers and crime-detectors, they collect statistics for the Registrar-General and when the Registrar Bill passes they will have a large amount of additional work. The papers which have just appeared prove that they perform with diligence and care their duties in reporting and recording crime as well as in detecting and prosecuting criminals. The first document referred to is a "Return of Outrages reported to the Constabulary-office in Ireland during the year 1861, with summaries for preceding years." In this return the outrages are given for each county and province, and for each month in the year. The "agrarian" outrages are given in a separate table, and distinguished in the same manner. There is also a return of the agrarian outrages especially reported during each year from 1844 to 1861 inclusive; a similar return of all offences, in each kind, from 1837 to 1861; and another return of minor offences, of which no special report was made, brought before the magistrates in Petty Sessions in each month, from January, 1833, to December, 1861. They have also given the number of cases of intoxication, common assaults, and affrays for each year during the same period. In addition to all this, there is a return of the number of sheep and cattle stolen in each month from January, 1847, till Dec. 1861. It appears that the total number of all offences, specially reported, in Ireland during the year 1861, was 3,881. Of these 915 occurred in Ulster, 1,057 in Leinster, 1,119 in Munster, and 790 in Connaught.—The lowest number of offences was perpetrated in the month of September, the highest in December. The former was 287, the latter 402. The number of "agrarian outrages" last year was—in Leinster, 85; in Ulster, 60; in Munster, 49; in Connaught, 35. Half the agrarian outrages perpetrated in Ulster occurred in the county of Donegal, where Ribandism has so long baffled the powers of the Executive. In 1844 the number of agrarian outrages in Ireland was 1,800, and in the year before the famine 2,000. Since

that time they have gradually declined, with the exception of two years—1850 and 1857—till they came down last year to 239.—It is interesting to notice the steady and gradual decline of criminality in Ireland since the epoch of the famine. Beginning with 1849, the following are the diminishing numbers for each year respectively in the province of Ulster:—1,835, 1,783, 1,518, 1,125, 1,090, 1,033, 992, 941, 877, 837, 878, 915. There is a slight increase during the last two years, which may be accounted for by the deficiency of employment arising from the partial failure of the crops. In Leinster, also, there has been a gradual decrease. For example, in 1849 the number was 3,486; in 1850 it was only 967. Last year it rose to 1,057. In Munster the change is still greater. In 1849 the number of reported offences in that province was 7,011; in 1850 they had fallen to 940—less than one-seventh. The number last year was higher—1,119. In Connaught the number of reported offences fell gradually in the same period from 2,670 to 700. Taking the whole of the country, we find the number of outrages against person, property, and the public peace declining from 14,903, which was the number in 1849, to 3,492 in 1858; the number for last year having risen, from temporary causes, to 3,881. The stain of bloodguiltiness is long wiped off from the national character. In the three years following 1836 the number of homicides in Ireland for each year was 230, 247, 100. In the three years following 1845 the number for each was 170, 212, 171. For the last three years the numbers were only 83, 88, and 91. Against 264 cases of firing at the person in 1847, we had only 91 last year, which was much above several previous years. In crimes against property there has also been a steady diminution from the highest number, in 1847, to the present time. In that year the number of sheep stolen was 11,232, and of cattle 4,059. In 1861 the numbers were—sheep, 904; cattle, 399. In 1861 the numbers of cases at assizes and quarter-sessions were as follows:—Cases, 3,800; convictions, 2,448; acquittals, 652; bills ignored, 421; no trial, 483. Each case may include several persons. The total number of persons prosecuted by the constabulary in 1860 was 3,946, of whom 2,310 were convicted. The number for 1861 was 4,338, of whom 2,476 were convicted. Including cases in which the police were not prosecutors, the total of persons sent for trial at assizes and quarter-sessions in 1861 was 5,796, of whom 2,041 were convicted. There were only 872 cases at assizes and quarter-sessions in which the constabulary did not give evidence. They were also concerned more or less in 235,267 cases summarily disposed of by the magistrates at petty sessions, many of the parties in those minor cases having been made amenable by summons. The grand total for all sorts of offences for 1860 and 1861, and the way in which they were disposed of, are thus given:—1860—Cases, 238,714; convictions, 166,692; acquittals, 37,953; bills ignored, 243; no trial, 34,021. 1861—Cases, 199,667; convictions, 138,113; acquittals, 35,828; bills ignored, 421; no trial, 26,792.—*Dublin Cor. of the Times.*

It is perfectly notorious that the things called Irish Missions to the Roman Catholics have been a dead failure. No sane man doubts it. The *Daily Post* had every right to take and use this as an admitted fact. Nay, more, we will challenge not Dr. McNeill only, but any one who dares, to produce conversions to any extent from the Church to protestantism as a creed in any part of the world. We will produce him here in Protestant England alone somewhere about 400 or 500 persons who are deeply studying the questions at issue, have become converted to the Church under circumstances which offer quite incontestible proof of their sincerity. And these have been, for learning, talent, and virtue, the elite of the protestant ministers. We can show him a long list of laity in every class of life, from the very highest down to the humblest, who have, at much self-sacrifice, rejected protestant persuasions for the Church and Her Faith. That list is increasing daily. But there is nothing like a similar movement on the other side. A sincere convert from the Church to protestantism as a religion is a thing seldom known or heard of. Dr. McNeill did not make a statement in his speech on Monday night which afforded any proof that such a movement has ever taken place in Ireland. He might, indeed, perhaps show a group of victims huddled into a lip conformity, either as a means of saving themselves from temporal ruin, or of gaining some very tangible temporal advantage. The press has teemed with the subsequent recantations of this kind of folk. These agents of corruption are sure to meet with a cruel success. Multitudes apostatized for similar motives even during the early fervor of the Church's infancy, when, during the persecutions, the amphitheatre, or the cross was on one side, honor and wealth on the other. Take away every individual with whom there is a possibility of such motives having had a certain force, and we will venture to say that, in return for this hateful waste of nearly £30,000, whilst our industrial population are starving in the streets, this mischievous society will not have one single conversion to show—not one! The statement about the increase in the number of protestant churches and chapels in certain districts proves nothing whatsoever to the contrary. An English or a Scotch population may very well, under the actual condition of Ireland, have increased in certain localities; and a few bribed or threatened lip-converts may even here and there swell the ranks of those unholy religionists. But Dr. Biggs was strictly correct when, on the strength of a personal inspection, he pronounced the work a failure. The trickery by which the agents of this society, in their despicable proselytizing crusade, impose upon their willing dupes at head-quarters has been often and often exposed by the recantations which have been published from time to time by the very perpetrators themselves of the imposition. In short, the utter and helpless failure of the work, nay, its impossibility of success, are so notorious that, we repeat, it is most difficult to believe in the sincerity of those who still labor to extort money from the credulous bigotry of sectarian old women of both sexes for so hopeless an undertaking. The truth is, the cause is a rotten one. The Irish are a quick-witted, well instructed, and refined people. When you are bringing your new-fangled religion to their doors, and asking them to exchange the old faith for it, you will have first to explain to them why they should run such a hazard when such multitudes of the established ministers have, after deep and protracted study of the matter, exchanged this very persuasion you would win them to for the one you are so suspiciously working to induce them to give up. We ourselves, who write these lines, have precisely the same ministry as Dr. McNeill; if he is a priest, so are we; whatever ecclesiastical mission or jurisdiction a state can give we share in common with that gentleman. We should recommend him and his fellow conspirators against the faith of the Irish poor to try their hand on such as we are. Let them recover us to the fold where they find a pleasure in the fat things they enjoy, and no restriction as to the queer things they may believe. If they should succeed in this, they will have something more to show for their improvident expenditure than a few bribed or menaced wretches whose faith has not lasted to the point of heroism.—*Northampton Press.*

AN AWFUL DEATH.—On Thursday last, in Glenarm, county Antrim, a very extraordinary inquest was held by John Jellet, Esq., coroner, on the body of Owen Doherty, a boy about twelve years of age, who died on Tuesday last from starvation and exposure. The circumstances, as detailed at the inquest, were of a very revolting character. The boy was the child of a poor woman named Mary Doherty, who appears to have had two or three children, all of whom were mendicants. Shortly before the death of the boy, she had been summoned for drunkenness, and fined 5s. by the magistrates; but the alternative was offered to her that, if she went to the workhouse with her children the fine would be remitted. She refused, however, and, having in

some way managed to raise the money, paid the fine rather than go to the workhouse with her children. Not being able to procure lodgings in any house, it appeared that, with her three children, she took up her abode in an empty pigsty, the dimensions of which were four feet six inches in length and breadth. Here the wretched family eked out a sort of existence. To enable a fire of some sort to be lighted, a slate was taken off the roof, and a broken crock put on to answer the purpose of a chimney. At night, as there was not space to lie down, they could only sleep in a sitting posture, and they were totally without covering. In this state of misery the woman kept herself and her unhappy children rather than go to the workhouse, and the effect was, that on Tuesday morning the boy Owen died. He had been ill for some days before his death, but did not complain of any particular disease; and no application was made for medical relief. From the evidence of Doctor Moore, the surgeon of the dispensary, who had examined the body, and also the verdict that Owen Doherty had died from cold and exposure, together with scanty and improper food.—The coroner urged upon the jury that they should add to their verdict something that would warrant him in committing the mother to jail for manslaughter. He said she had perfect authority over her children, and could have insisted on their going to the workhouse, but she refused to do so. The consequence of her living in the shocking way that had been described to them that was the boy lost his life. The jury, however, declined to make this addition, and the coroner said it would be his duty to inform some of the magistrates of the facts; and he hoped something would be done as a warning to others, that they could not permit their children to perish in such a way without danger of punishment. The woman Doherty is a most miserable object, and has cancer in the mouth.—*Belfast News.*

We perceive, with pleasure, that there is hardly any commercial criminal business to be transacted at the Kilkenny Assizes this term. In the county jail there are only four prisoners for trial, and but one in the cell.

A child in Omagh, county Tyrone, which was lately supposed to have died, after being waked two days, suddenly astonished its friends by refusing to be buried, and is now doing well.

The people of Limerick have subscribed £2,000 to found Limerick scholarships in the Catholic University. The sum in itself is most liberal; but when it is to be repeated for the next ten years, as we learn from the declaration preceding the subscription list, we may say that Limerick has nobly done its duty for the Catholic University.

Antiquarians tell us that no fewer than a dozen or twenty castles fortified the ramparts of Waterford of the olden time. The ruins of some of them are about to be made useful in a manner that entered not into the dreams of the builders.

GREAT BRITAIN.  
PROSECUTION OF "ESSAYS AND REVIEWS."—We (*Evening Star*) are enabled to state that a third prosecution has been commenced against the writers of "Essays and Reviews," and that the articles will be filed immediately after the commencement of Easter term. Dr. Lushington will thus have three cases on his hands; two having been argued and being now ready for judgment. No judgment, however, will be given until the Judicial Committee of Privy Council have disposed of the case of "Burdorff's Health," which in many of its main characteristics is analogous to those of "Essays and Reviews." In this case the Bishop of Winchester, through Mr. Burdorff, his secretary, proceeded against Mr. Dunbar Heath, rector of Brading, Isle of Wight, for having published unsound doctrine in a volume of nineteen sermons. Dr. Lushington, after hearing the case, deprecated Mr. Heath of living, worth £300 a-year. Against that decision Mr. Heath appeals to the Judicial Committee of Privy Council.

A very good effect will, we think, be produced, both in this country and the Colonies, by the discussions which have recently taken place respecting colonial military expenditure. It is not likely that any sudden revolution of our system will follow, that secretaries and governors and military engineers will confess themselves in the wrong, or that the colonists will all at once shake off the habits of apathy and dependence which have been induced by the superfluous care of the Mother Country. But notions like that of last night awake an interest in the subject which is not likely to slumber until many changes are produced. Mr. Baxter wisely took as his theme one particular kind of extravagance,—the erection of fortifications in the Colonies at the expense of the British Treasury, to be defended in time of war by British troops. This is a part of the subject which is especially suited for discussion in the House, since the Colonies are little interested in it, and the fault, wherever there is a fault rests entirely on our military theorists and schemers. On many occasions the people of the Colonies may have shown themselves undeniably selfish and exacting. At the Cape they plunged into Caffre wars, well knowing that not only would a British force fight their battles for them, but that they themselves would make a good profit out of our military expenditure. In New Zealand the settlers quarrel with the natives a great deal more than they would if they did not reckon on the despatch of half-a-dozen regiments to their aid. For years we have from time to time remonstrated against the nursing system, which is only just now giving way to a more healthy treatment of our various dependencies, and we have, not unsuccessfully, called upon the colonists to bear their share in the defence of the empire. But in the matter of these fortifications the colonists must be acquitted of all blame. They are just as innocent as we the people of England; they know as little about the works, and give even less attention to them, inasmuch as they have not to pay for them. The fortifications, whether necessary or useless, are originated entirely by the War Department or through the fancies of active-minded Governors or of Generals commanding the local garrison. The zeal of subordinates acting upon the ignorance of chiefs produces the extravagance which Mr. Baxter brought before the House. With respect to the motion of last night, of course Mr. Baxter did well to withdraw it when it had produced the wished-for discussion. Sir George Lewis was, no doubt, right in saying that no general rule can be laid down, and that the Government must engage in some works and refrain from others, according to its own judgment and the approbation of the House of Commons. But, though this is obviously the case, yet we think that some general principle might receive the sanction of Parliament and the country. That some important harbours, such as Halifax and Bermuda, should, like Malta and Gibraltar, be well defended by the Imperial Government will be generally allowed. The establishments at these places are kept up for the benefit of our navy and mercantile marine, and since the introduction of steam it is all the more necessary that we should have in each region of the globe a strong place where our vessels may coal and refit after any such accidents as commonly befall steam machinery. But here the efforts and the expenses of the Home Government should cease. It is not our duty to waste our substance in building fortifications throughout the Colonies. The attacks that can be made on these by any hostile Power must be very slight. A frigate or two may stand in and throw a few shells, or land men to plunder some attractive spot. Against such dangers the colonists are well able, and we believe they are generally willing, to defend themselves. With the exception of Canada there is no British possession which can be seriously threatened by an enemy, and the Canadians have shown that in case of an attack they are ready to spend not only their blood, but money, in maintain-

ing their independence. When difficulties like this are firmly met and examined they soon vanish. We must treat the people of the colonies in a firm and dignified but fair manner, and we have not the smallest doubt that they will be found perfectly reasonable. No one who has watched the conduct of the Home Government until within the last year or two can doubt that the fault of the present anomalous system rests mainly with it. For instance, as late as the time of the Russian War the city of Sydney, in Australia, offered to undertake its own defence against some Russian frigates which were supposed to be hovering about. It wished to purchase some of the old line-of-battle ships which onumber Portsmouth and the Medway, with the intention of turning them into floating batteries. But the Admiralty refused to listen to this unprecedented demand, or to give a dependency a naval force of its own. In every direction the public spirit of the colonial populations has been kept down by the traditions of the Colonial-office and the military and naval services. A great change is at hand, and in a few years we hope that the last vestiges of the old system will have passed away.—*London Times.*

A circumstance arose lately in one of the battalions of the Guards ordered to Canada which was near originating a very serious question, in which the privileges of the House of Commons and the maintenance of military discipline might have been brought into antagonism. It appears that Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Hugh Annesley, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, and M.P. for Cavan, demanded, and, as a matter of right, obtained leave from his battalion while it was on its way up to Montreal from St. John's, New Brunswick. The battalion was on service, and very arduous and trying service, and leaving it at the moment with a political trace between the two sides of the House of Commons was not, perhaps, strictly in harmony with the usage of the army. However, standing on his constitutional right as a member of Parliament, Lieutenant-Colonel Annesley took his leave of absence about the time of the meeting of Parliament, for the purpose of attending to his duties as a knight of the shire. But, instead of repairing to Westminster, he seems to have yielded to the attraction which the locality holds forth to a sportsman, and to have devoted himself to moose shooting. This was rather too much for the officer in command of the Guards, who, though obliged to allow an officer away for Parliamentary duty, did not conceive that it was dealing fairly by the other officers to make them do his duty while he was amusing himself in the primeval forests of Canada. Accordingly, Lieutenant-Colonel Annesley was pulled up, and a long investigation would no doubt have taken place had not the errant Fusilier accepted the option given him of retiring from the service. This was, on the whole, perhaps, the best way of terminating an affair that might have brought about much complication and unpleasantness.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—Nothing positively decisive with regard to the opening ceremony has yet been arranged beyond that the Prince of Wales will not be present. His absence, though much to be regretted on this great occasion, appears now to be unavoidable, and it will rest with the three Royal Commissioners who are to be nominated to act for Her Majesty on the 1st of May to make up for this loss by invitations to illustrious personages from abroad. There is no doubt but that all the most distinguished Presidents of foreign Commissions will be invited, and that very many will come, including Prince Napoleon and the Crown Prince of Prussia.—*London Times.*

CAREER OF A REVIVALIST.—On Friday last, a man named Peter Forbes was tried before Sheriff Russell and a jury at Wick, on eight charges of theft from different persons, and one charge of sheep-stealing, on all of which he was found guilty, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Perth Penitentiary. This person was one of the most prominent of the Revivalists here during the late excitement, and his conduct was always considered most exemplary until Christmas Eve last, when one of the county police caught him in the act of robbing the Keiss carrier's cart in the High-street of Wick, and upon searching his house the produce of upwards of ten different robberies was found stored therein, exclusive of the carcass of a sheep which had been stolen from a field near Wick.—*Scotsman.*

CRIME IN ENGLAND.—It will scarcely be believed in the present day that a certain town in England is, and has long been, characterised by the prevalence of a peculiar system of murder, and the incredibility of the story will be increased when we add that the town in question is busy, populous, and enlightened, and at any rate in its own estimation, beyond most other towns. Such, however, is the simple truth. The trade of Sheffield is known all over the world for the excellence of its productions, but it is also distinguished by crimes which, we are happy to say, are unexampled elsewhere. These crimes are conventionally known as "Trade Outrages," under which designation, and with the invariable date of Sheffield, they are periodically reported for the information of the country. A "Trade Outrage" partakes always of a certain uniform character, and originates in circumstances which seldom show any variation from a particular pattern. Somebody or other offends against those laws by which trade regulators affect to regulate trade, and for this crime the offender's house is blown up by gunpowder. Infernal machines are constructed so as to explode with a fuse, and in the dead of the night a terrible report informs the neighborhood that another "Trade Outrage" has been perpetrated. The deaths and mutilations are duly chronicled next morning, but the discovery of the assassins is a rare occurrence. The trials at York which we report in our columns this evening, and a statement which we also publish, will give the reader some idea of the atrocities in question. It happens that lately these crimes have attracted more than usual notice, and efforts have been made to purge the community of this infamous stain upon its character. It will be easily understood that any struggle against such a system as this must necessarily be carried on in the dark. If its promoters could be identified, there would be an end of the whole danger; but, although the case is enveloped in a certain mystery, one conclusion, we think, is sufficiently plain. These murders are not the deeds of individuals acting on impulses of their own. They are not dictated by private malice. They are perpetrated, if not in obedience to the order of a tribunal, at any rate in conformity with a recognized system of terrorism. They express the resentment not of any particular man, but of a class. The offence in all cases is seen to have been an offence against certain rules of trade, and the victims are invariably men by whom these rules have been in some way infringed. The conclusion, in fact, can be substantiated by a variety of proofs. If the murders were not organized upon a system, they would not be so uniform in character, or have been continued for so many years.—More than one generation has now been familiarized with Sheffield bombs. Again, if it were not that the outrages were assumed to be perpetrated on some public grounds, it is unlikely that the perpetrators would so generally escape detection.—*London Times.*

CHARGE OF CHILD MURDER AT MONTROSE.—On Friday evening, a young servant girl, named Margaret Stewart, was apprehended by Mr. Brownlee, superintendent of the Montrose police, on a charge of killing her infant child, to which she had given birth on the 4th inst., in her father's house, situated in the North Links. After her apprehension, she informed the police that the body of the child was concealed between the ceiling of the attic and the slates of the roof. The police accordingly found the body there, and brought it to the police office, where a post mortem examination was made on Saturday forenoon, by Drs. Johnston and Lawrence, but the result has not been ascertained. The prisoner was afterwards conveyed to Forfar, there to be examined before the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Scotsman.*