

POOR LAWS IN IRELAND.

The following are extracts from the "Fifth annual Report of the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland," which is dated 1st May, 1852:—

"The total number receiving out-door relief in Ireland, in the week ending 24th ultimo, was 3,498; the total number in the workhouses at the same date was 186,453; showing a decrease, in comparison with the corresponding period last year, of no less than 70,261 paupers, or twenty-seven per cent.

"With regard to the rate of mortality in the workhouses, the week tables published in the first, second, third, and fourth annual reports, show in each year an ascending series from the close of autumn in each year to the close of spring in the succeeding year, and from that time a continually descending series to the close of the following autumn. Thus, the maximum rate of mortality in 1847 occurred in April of that year, and amounted to twenty-five per 1,000 weekly, descending gradually from that time to five per 1,000 in Nov.: from that date it rose to 11.8 in January, 1848, and continued nearly at that point until April, when it declined again to 2.6 in September; from that period it rose to 12.4 in May, 1849, and again declined to 2.4 in November; it then rose gradually to 6.1 in March, 1850, and declined to 2.4 in December; whence it again rose to 6.4 in March, 1851.

"We are now at the period of the year 1852 when the experience of former years enables us to say that, if no unusual extent of epidemic disease should unexpectedly arise, the highest rate of mortality in the workhouses in 1852 has been attained; and that limit appears to have been reached on the 20th March last, and amounted to 3.9 per 1,000 weekly, or 2.2 per 1,000 less than the lowest maximum rate in any year since the famine.

"Emigration under the provisions of the Irish Poor Law Acts has been more extensive during the last than in any preceding year. In 1848-49, £16,564, was expended under this head, including the emigration of female orphans to Australia; in 1849-50, the amount was £16,260; and in 1850-51, it was £21,075.

"In the fourth annual report we pointed out the alarming spread of ophthalmic disease in the Irish workhouses, and the steps which we took to arrest its progress, especially in certain workhouses in which it had prevailed most severely. We regret to say, that notwithstanding the publicity given by us to the recommendations of the most eminent oculists in Ireland, the past year exhibits a considerable increase in the numbers attacked, in comparison with those of the previous year.

"The unions which have suffered most from ophthalmia during the year 1851 are those of Clonmel, Cashel, Cork, Limerick, Kilmallock, Kilmallock, Loughrea, Scariff, Millstreet, and Tipperary. The total number of cases in the workhouses in Ireland, during 1851, was 45,947; followed by loss of both eyes in 263 cases; of one eye in 656 cases; by partial injury to the sight in 754 cases; 40,684 having been discharged cured, and about 1,200 continuing under treatment."

GREAT BRITAIN.

LORD PALMERSTON AND THE WHIGS.—The declaration with which Lord Palmerston terminated the last speech delivered by him in the late House of Commons, with reference to his differences with the Austrian government, and to his desire to extend the independent kingdom of Upper Italy from Genoa to Venice, is of so important a character that we feel disposed to revert to it. The effect of that declaration has been very different on the continent of Europe and at home. Abroad it is received as a formal avowal of designs constantly imputed to Lord Palmerston by those who regarded him as their worst enemy, and as the authoritative disclosure of a clandestine policy which is so well known to every cabinet in Europe as scarcely to need this confirmation. At home, on the contrary, we are enabled to state that this posthumous version of the foreign policy of the Whig cabinet has been received with surprise and pain by the very statesmen who are, conjointly with Lord Palmerston, responsible for it.—*Times*.

DISTURBANCE AT HULME.—Ever since the Stockport tragedy a very great anxiety in reference to the safety of our churches was felt by the Irish people here, and this anxiety became quite feverish in consequence of unfounded rumors circulated during the week, as to the intention of the Orangemen to attack some of the churches. This led to a very serious disturbance in Hulme on Saturday evening last.—*Correspondent of Tablet*.

RIOTS IN SCHOLES.—During the greater part of Thursday afternoon (the 8th July,) crowds of idle stragglers continued to assemble in the neighborhood of Kerfoot's-row, and gave evident signs of another row between the Irish Catholics located there, and the Protestant Orangemen, who, to promote their pretended religious views, have several times held deadly strife with the inhabitants of this locality. Several street fights occurred during the afternoon, which were put a stop to by the police; but about eight o'clock the affray began to assume a serious appearance, and it was found necessary to increase the police force, and from this time up to eleven o'clock was one continued scene of disorder. The Irish having sallied out, armed with spades, pitchforks, pickaxes, reaping hooks, tied to long poles, hammers, &c., their opponents assailed them with sticks and stones, until the whole of the windows of the houses in Kerfoot's-row were smashed to pieces, and the furniture in several of the houses was broken. About eleven o'clock the mayor, accompanied by Joseph Acton, Esq., Reece Bevan, Esq., Thomas Cook, Esq., and Jonathan Lamb, Esq., borough magistrates, and a number of gentlemen arrived, and, with the assistance of the police and special constables, succeeded in clearing the streets a little after twelve o'clock. About a hundred persons have been taken into custody, and Watmouth and Echnaught, two of the police force, are severely injured. About twenty minutes past twelve o'clock, two companies of the 50th Regiment of Foot, under the command of Major Waddy, arrived per rail from Preston, and were stationed in the Moot and Town Halls to guard the prisoners. A portion of the troops marched through the Scholes, but all was quiet for the rest of the night.—*lb*.

PAISLEY ELECTION AND RIOTS.—On Friday, July 9, were nominated the two candidates for the burgh of Paisley, W. T. Haly, Esq., the friend of civil and religious liberty—highly recommended by Hume, Cobden, Bright, and Walmesley; and the other, Archibald Hastie, Esq., the old servile Whig, that was never known to vote against his master, Lord John Russell, and who had misrepresented Paisley for six-

teen years. The show of hands was almost all in favor of Mr. Haly, whom the sheriff declared elected, but a poll was demanded by Mr. Hastie. Monday, the 12th, was fixed as the polling day. The state of the poll was declared every hour. The first hour Mr. Haly took the lead by forty of a majority, but every subsequent hour Mr. Hastie lessened this, and finally headed the poll, which closed with thirty-two of a majority in his favor. The numbers were—Hastie, 406; Haly, 374. When the poll was declared against the people, they grew furious, attacked the bigot ex-Provost Murray, and would have seriously injured him had he not escaped in a cab. His windows were broken, as also those of the present Provost, of Hastie's committee-rooms, and the windows of others of Hastie's voters, who were forced to close their shops. Some were dragged out of cabs and maltreated, and their hats tossed in the air. The police were overpowered and chased before the mob. The soldiers were ordered out to protect the town. The Riot Act was read. The sheriff was struck by a stone while reading it. The soldiers had struck two or three individuals with their bayonets, and one man had his leg broken by the police. The soldiers did not leave the town till nearly four o'clock next morning. The Catholic voters were in great favor with the people. At different times the procession cheered, and stopped before the houses, and the bands serenaded them. The Paisley election and the conduct of the Paisley people showed that they had no sympathy with the no-Popery brawlers, and that the people of Paisley were for civil and religious liberty, and would have it even at the risk of their lives. The Catholics are determined to double their numbers at the next registration, which is the true place to fight their battles.

RIOT AT GREENOCK.—Intelligence has reached town of serious rioting in Greenock in this (Monday) forenoon. We understand one of the crown counsel was instantly despatched by the Lord Advocate to the scene of disturbance, and that military had been sent from Glasgow.—*Caledonian Mercury*.

NEWPORT, JULY 13.—Last evening an alarming accident occurred in the town, which occasioned the most frightful apprehension as to the safety of nearly four hundred men, women, and children. The Latter-day Saints, who form a very large proportion of the population in Wales, have been holding their "conference" here within the past few days. To this gathering have assembled many of the "elders" of the fraternity, some of whom have held rank as "prophets," on the banks of the Salt River. Great preparations were made to celebrate this conference on an extensive scale; and among other means, it is said that promises had been held out, and believed in by the too credulous Welsh people, that "miracles would be performed." Yesterday afternoon, a large building named the Sunderland-hall, in which the body had held their services for a long period past, was filled to overflowing by the members of the sect and their families, who resided in Newport, together with considerable numbers of the people from the hills, the colliery, ironworks, &c. It is supposed that about four hundred persons were here assembled, about to join in partaking of tea after one of the services of the day. Several Mormon elders had given out the blessing, and some hints were thrown out that even that day might witness some of the great miraculous powers of the saints. Scarcely had tea been commenced, when, without a moment's warning, exactly one-half of the lofty and heavy ceiling of the building fell with a sudden crash. For a moment all was blinding and suffocating dust and confusion, then succeeded the most appalling shrieks, and the most terrifying clamor; and amidst the din and horrible confusion that ensued, people rushed from all the surrounding houses, apprehending that some great calamity had occurred. Fearful screams were again heard bursting forth, presently the windows of the hall were dashed out, and the affrighted creatures within flung themselves through the broken sashes to the ground below; some were observed clinging with extreme tenacity to the window-frames and sills, apprehending death within, and fearful of mutilated limbs if they fell. The doors were burst open from without, as well as the piles of people heaped upon one another inside, permitted, an ingress being at length obtained, the sight that presented itself was enough to appal the stoutest heart—beams and rafters, whole patches of ceiling, amidst clouds of dust, lying upon scores of people; while the tea-tables, affording protection to many, were crowded below with numbers crying aloud for mercy, for protection, and for a miracle to save them. The upper end of the hall, where the elders had been seated, was unhurt—the ceiling above their heads was unbroken. Immediate exertions were made, and in the course of an hour the wretched creatures were all extricated from the ruins; and on a minute search being instituted, not one was found missing; and what is still more remarkable, although the beams and rafters were heavy, and some, with huge pieces of entire ceiling, fell directly upon the tables, and others in a direction that appeared to insure inevitable death, not one single Mormon was injured, though it was intimated that two or three unbelievers, who had gone thither to revile and sneer at the true followers of Joe Smith, received slight injuries, which may serve their conscience as remembrancers. When the parties were all extricated, another hall was obtained, and there the remainder of the evening was devoted to an ovation to the elders and the prophets who had wrought the anticipated miracle of causing a ceiling to fall upon the heads of the saints without injury. The occurrence has occasioned a remarkable sensation in the town.

CRIMINAL OFFENDERS.—The annual tables showing the number of criminal offenders in the year 1851 have been printed. 27,960 persons were committed for trial or bailed in England and Wales, of which 21,579 were convicted, and 6,359 acquitted. 70 were capitally convicted, of whom 10 only were executed, 52 having had their sentence commuted into transportation for life, and the rest into minor punishments, with the exception of one free pardon. 124 were transported for life, and 2,702 for minor periods. Of the offenders 22,391 were male, and 5,569 females. The total number of criminals in 1850 was 26,813; in 1849, 27,816; and in the five years ending 1851, 141,771. In the five years ending 1846, 136,852. In Scotland, 4,001 persons were committed for trial or bailed, 2,892 male, and 1,109 females; of these only one was capitally convicted, 15 transported for life, and 487 for shorter periods. 3,070 cases resulted in convictions, 907 in acquittals.

As showing the wretched morbid taste of too many persons, it is worthy of notice that, on the Sunday after the trial, the room where Achilli had been in the habit of preaching, until Dr. Newman's attack induced

him to desist, was besieged by a crowd in the vain hope that the sermons would be resumed. Acting on this hint, Achilli announced his appearance at another room for last Sunday, and was no doubt honored with a full audience." We read in other papers that Achilli made no reference to the late affair except that he spoke much of the forgiveness of injuries! The text was, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" We are not aware whether he commented on Our Lord's answer to that question: "Thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not bear false witness."—*Oxford Herald*.

UNITED STATES.

BURNING OF THE STEAMER "HENRY CLAY." TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

Another dreadful catastrophe has occurred. The steamer Henry Clay, Capt. Tallman, which left Albany at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, with about 300 passengers, has been burned, and a large number of persons are supposed to have either perished in the flames, or to have been drowned in attempting to reach the shore.

The Henry Clay started from Albany in company with the steamer Armenia, and the two boats engaged in a race, which was kept up with great recklessness, and in defiance of the urgent entreaties of the passengers, until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Henry Clay, having run ahead of her competitor about four miles, it appears, the struggle for priority was abandoned. Near Forrest Point, a short distance below Yonkers, it was discovered that the woodwork of the Henry Clay around her boilers and flues had taken fire. The flames made rapid progress the timbers having been so heated by the great fires kept up during the race, that they kindled readily.

Captain Tallman was in his state room at the time, suffering it is said, from a recent illness, but as soon as the alarm was given, he sprang from his bed, and ordered the pilot to steer the boat ashore. Her head was accordingly turned towards the Westchester Co. shore, and in a few minutes she struck with great violence, her bow being forced up twenty or thirty feet on the land, and lodging near the embankment of the Hudson River Railroad. The shock brought down the chimneys, and seemed to increase the fury of the flames.

All the passengers who happened to be on the forward deck now readily escaped, but the stern of the boat was still in deep water, and the fire raging in the middle, the passengers aft were compelled to choose between perishing in the flames or leaping overboard; the latter alternative seeming no less fatal than the former to those unable to swim. The steamer was two hundred and six feet in length, and as she ran head foremost on the shore, and not obliquely, it is apparent how perilous was the position of the passengers aft.

Those who first reached the shore tore down a board fence, and threw the boards into the water. Upon these many managed to float to the land. A few boats were also despatched to their aid from sailing craft in the river. No list of the passengers was kept, and the whole number of lives lost is therefore as yet uncertain.

As to the number of dead, all rests upon estimate. From the observations of those on the shore, and the statements of survivors, it is not probable that less than three hundred passengers were on board. Not more than two-thirds of this number, it is believed, were saved; and gentlemen on the ground this morning, who had the best opportunities for forming a correct opinion, thought that not less than one hundred lives have been lost by this direful calamity.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* has the following remarks on the conduct of the reckless scoundrels, who are wholly and solely responsible for this terrible event:—

We have heard it said, on authority that seems entitled to full belief, that some time before the fire broke out the chief engineer apprised Capt. Tallman, or the pilot, that his boilers were so heated that he was in momentary apprehension of the wood-work taking fire. The only response he received was a coarse oath, with an order to continue his furnaces at the same heat, and it would be time enough to put out the fire when it had caught. Such inhumanity puts him who gave utterance to it out of the pale of civilization, and ought to stamp him with Cain's brand as long as he lives—if the law permits such a murderer to live.

MILITARY OVATION TO MR. MEAGHER.—The 9th and the 69th regiments of state militia, with the Emmet Guard, the Shields Guard, the Irish American Guard, and the Mitchel Light Guard, composed chiefly of Irish citizens, were reviewed on the Battery yesterday, by Mr. Thomas F. Meagher. After the parade, the soldiers entered Castle Garden, where a large number of ladies and civilians were assembled to hear the interchange of speeches between Mr. Meagher and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Doherty. Mr. Doherty read a glowing address, which we learn from the *Times* "was received with repeated cheers, mingled with hisses at such portions as referred to the treatment of the exiles by Great Britain." Mr. Meagher responded in a fervent strain, eloquently enumerating the many fields in which Irish valor has been distinguished. Much enthusiasm was manifested, and the affair seems to have been very gratifying to the participants.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

During the recent warm weather, the supply of water from the Croton river was found inadequate to meet the wants of the city of New York. The consumption for twenty-four hours amounted to 35,000,000 of gallons, or seventy gallons to every inhabitant, showing an immense amount of waste.

THE LIQUOR LAW.—If the accounts which reach us (*Boston Journal*), from all quarters are correct, there never was so large a quantity of liquor stored away in the private residences of the citizens of our Commonwealth as at present. The following paragraph from the *Yarmouth Register* is a sample of many which have come under our observation:—"From statistics that we have taken the pains to gather, it appears that not far from five hundred demijohns, jugs, &c., and one hundred barrels of the different kinds of liquor have been sent in our packets this spring, since the passage of the law. We will venture the assertion that so large a quantity of liquors has not been in town during the whole of the last ten years, as is here at the present time. Families that have not consumed a quart a year of any kind of spirits, have 'laid in' an ample stock of the different varieties."

The destruction of liquor was commenced in Providence, last week, in good earnest.

Gov. Boutwell was hung in effigy, at Barre, on the night of the 22d ult. At the foot of the gallows tree were found an empty rum cask, the representation of a thirsty toper, and other appendages of a drunkard.

In the House of Representatives, at Washington, a few days since, Mr. Johnson, of Tenn., asked leave to offer a resolution that the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, if not deemed incompatible with the public good, report the number of officers of the Navy remaining in and about Washington, and the duty performed by them connected with the public interest. Mr. Walsh objected, intimating to Mr. J. that the information could be obtained of the tavern-keepers. Decidedly personal!—*Boston Pilot*.

Capt. Nickerson, at New York from St. Domingo, reports that the Government was increasing its forces by conscription of all between the ages of sixteen and sixty years, and that the most active warlike preparations were being made for an attack upon the Dominicans some time in August.

IMPORTANT FROM CUBA.—The *New York Courier and Inquirer* has advices from Havana, which go to show that the fate of the Lopez expedition has not entirely suppressed any tendencies to revolution which the Cuban people may have entertained. The *Courier and Inquirer* says:—

"For some time back we have had it intimated to us that a deep laid and well organized conspiracy existed in the heart of the island, in which not only nearly the whole Creole population, but many of the Creole officials were implicated. We discredited the rumor as an emanation from the *Junta*, which has been accused of forging the inflammatory pronouncements of last summer. But we now have it repeated to us in a new and extraordinary form. A Cuban merchant, a gentleman with whom we are well acquainted, and in whom we have the fullest confidence, and who is not ostensibly implicated in the conspiracy, arrived here on Thursday in the Cherokee from Havana, and has given us a copy of a journal published in Havana by a secret *Junta* at the risk of their lives, for the purpose of informing the conspirators of the progress of the plot. It is printed on one side of the paper only, and has the appearance of having passed through a great number of hands. We are informed that it is the only copy that ever reached the United States.

Our informant says that the paper will be published as regularly as the circumstances will permit. The second number was in press when he left Havana. It is circulated from hand to hand, secretly among all classes of people, and so important did the Government consider the movement, that a reward of \$20,000 has been offered for the discovery of the printing office, and an additional reward for the seizure of the impressions. Thirty thousand copies of the first number were struck off."

Several translations from this organ of the liberators are given. The present situation of the island is described as follows, which it is presumed is rather highly colored coming as it does from the *Junta* of agitators:—

"The Island of Cuba is in a complete state of agitation and excitement. The Cubans are conspiring constantly against the Metropolitan Government, from which they have not received for many years aught but humiliation and insults, injustice and illegal oppressions. These have revived in them their ancient resentments, with the firm desire to avenge the blood of their brethren, shed on the fields of battle. There are millions of Cubans banished now, and fugitives in strange countries, for no other cause than the ideas, those of liberty, they have implanted in their hearts as true patriots. Rich and poor, large and small, men, women and children, old men, all entertain the same principles. Many of the Cubans have fled to the United States, and are armed and will prepare expeditions to invade the Island and to struggle in this country to reach independence of the unjust Metropolitan. All the authorities are opposed openly to the views of the Cubans—but these, notwithstanding the innumerable daily sacrifices, and notwithstanding the rigor of arbitrary laws that they have, they have conspired, and will as long as they have a Spanish Government in Cuba.

The cry of liberty is sounded, and the voice resounds from Point San Antonio to the Point Maisi. The blood of our brethren has stained the soil of our country, and this blood shall be the standard of vengeance. Nothing can prevent the revolution of Cuba. Destiny is inflexible. Neither the scaffolds, nor the prisons, banishments, confiscations of property, nor concessions, nor rewards, nor crosses, nothing—absolutely nothing, can control it. We must either fight or submit. The triumph is ours."

Hired Girls—AN AFFECTING SCENE.—The *Pittsburg Chronicle* relates the following scene in this city:—"We were witness, one day last week, to an episode in the life of one of a large class of our population who are classed under the general term of 'Hired Girls,' whom, *parlor-ladies*, by a sudden turn in their parents' fortunes, taken from the unpleasant drudgery of domestic avocations performed in a close, dark alley, to a fashionably furnished parlor of a more pleasant dwelling, do not hesitate to designate by more repulsive and offensive names. We had stepped into the office of James Blakeley, Esq., Agent for Tapsco's Emigrant Line, when we observed, seated therein, an old woman, newly arrived from Ireland, bearing evidence in her person and dress, of a life of hardships and poverty. We had been standing in the office but a few moments, when a young, comely looking girl, neatly but plainly dressed, stepped inside the door. The old woman, as the young girl stepped into the office, gave a quick gasp, stretched out her arms and called—'Mary! Mary, darlint! In a moment the young girl's arms were around the woman's neck, and she was sobbing out—'Mother! mother! dear mother!' while the big tears rolled down the mother's travel-stained cheek, as kissing the girl again and again, she kept repeating—'Yes, Mary, dear, mother is here to bless the affectionate child.' We asked of Mr. Blakeley some details of the emigration of this city, and the amount annually sent to Ireland by the 'kitchen girls' of this vicinity. After an examination of Mr. Blakeley's books, to which we were kindly allowed access, we were much astonished to find that \$35,000 have been sent within the last 12 months by the 'kitchen girls' of this vicinity to bring their relatives to this country; and a large sum, independent of passage money, to help to sustain those they are toiling for, until they can scrape together enough to pay the passage of other members of their families to assist them in their labor of love. When we compare the large amount sent, with the little pittance which they receive, we can estimate the devotion with which they labor, and the self-denial they practice, to gather round them their dearest friends."