

**INCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.**—That little court in Henrietta-street was an extraordinary political phenomenon for Ireland. Its stern, calm, decisive mode of business always exhilarated us. It would have done credit to the leaders of a Revolution, or the colonisers of a new State. It startled all of us who were accustomed to the innumerable intricacies, the absurd fictions, and the multitudinous delays of the English law. Many a bitter thought it must have cost to the insolent aristocracy, to look round on its simple seats and unadorned bench, all plain as a Methodist tabernacle, or an auctioneer's sale-room (which it was)—to see a quiet young English barrister, who would not even condescend to wear a wig on the occasion, take his place over them—and then, rent rolls crumbling, old feudal tenures splitting in lots like an Illinois prairie; and some stately ancestral castle, like Lough-cooter, being converted into a Catholic Convent, or the rich demesne of a Tipperary aristocrat broken up among half a dozen of industrious farmers and shopkeepers. Perhaps you felt a momentary pity of looking at the grim, sad, swarthy face of the Tipperary aristocrat himself—that sallow, incorrigible visage which bespeaks the true Cromwellian. But it only cost you a moment to fancy or remember that his original ancestors had got these identical acres under Petty's Survey, through a far crueler process than the present—and to think what his race had been in Ireland ever since—that his great grandfather had been a Priest-hunter in the Penal Days—his grandfather a Yeoman Captain in '98, and a Unionist afterwards—that his father had driven all the tenants who voted for Emancipation, and he himself swept half the balance into the workhouse, before succumbing to the inevitable, inexorable hammer—and then as it fell there was little flesh in your hearts for him. There is an old specimen of that decaying race in the South of Ireland, whose glorious patrimony has been chopped up until the castle of it stands like the bare bone in a joint of meat, with a few morsels of demesne sticking to it.—He lives on—hapless old gentleman!—under the delusion that the Incumbered Estates Court is an entirely unconstitutional tribunal; that some day or another, there will be a British Ministry of the true old Orange and Blue politics, that have vanished from every place but the rump of the old Irish landlords—and then that all the sales will be immediately reversed, and the estates restored to their original owners. In which harmless hallucination we hope the old gentleman may abide until he is gathered to his fathers.—*Nation*

**FRESH DISTURBANCES.**—The profound tranquility so long distinguishing the rural districts of Ireland has been suddenly disturbed by three mysterious outrages committed in Louth, Longford, and Armagh; and the enemies of the people are busily proclaiming that the terrors of Ribbonism are about to be renewed. There is something singularly suspicious in the character of each of these incidents, however. Mr. Ross, of Bladensburg, in the county Louth, for example, received "a threatening notice of an alarming character" a few days ago. The document came through the post-office. Mr. Ross was in Dublin, and it was forwarded with other letters, to his city residence. It is evident, at all events, that Mr. Ross's enemy is no very intimate neighbor when he betrays such remarkable ignorance of his victim's movements. This is outrage the first. The second affair took place in the county Waterford, where one Mr. Hearn, of Drummond Park, was shot at while driving up his own avenue. "No cause can be assigned for the occurrence" avers the report, "as Mr. Hearn is decidedly a favorite among the people." The third outrage took place in Armagh. The Rev. Mr. Graham, of Meigh, while sleeping before his kitchen fire, at two o'clock in the morning (a singular hour for a clergyman to be so employed)—was fired at by a party of men through the window. In this instance also the assassination can be attributed to no reasonable cause, and the perpetrators remain undiscovered.—*Nation*

The *Galway Vindicator* pretty plainly hints its suspicions as to the source from whence these fresh attacks proceed. We doubt not that its suspicions are well founded:—"It has always been the interest of certain parties that Ireland should be disturbed and it was disturbed accordingly. It was necessary that the character of the people should be maligned to the English Government, and it was maligned accordingly. Keeping hold of the ear of the Castle was a game played by Irish squireens, Orange magistrates, and over-zealous clerics of the Establishment. We all remember the story of the Protestant rector who fired into his own windows at midnight, and sent up to the Chief Secretary, next morning, an account of the "dreadful outrage," or "attempt at assassination," which he had so neatly managed, himself being the shooter, the shotee, and the penny-a-liner. It looks a little suspicious that, immediately after the Irish papers had published certain statistics which demonstrated the peaceable state of the country, two attempts at assassination should be the startling commentary on the fact. The accounts of both these events coincide with the words "no reason can be assigned." &c. Now, men do not commit murder for mere fun even in Ireland. In the good old times, Pat met somebody at a fair, and "for love knocked him down." Even that was a motive. But when we are told that an attempt was made on the life of a man, where there was neither love, nor hate, nor interest, nor plunder, mixed up with the matter, we will be candid enough to say that we don't believe a syllable of it. The story of the Rev. Richard Graham, curate of Meigh, being shot at, is told in the *Newry Telegraph*. This clergyman goes into his kitchen about two o'clock in the morning, sits himself by the fire, and goes on to take a quiet snooze, when his slumbers are broken by a "strong smell of gunpowder," and the sensation of "something passing through his hat." The sleeping inmates of the kitchen were around him, and the police barrack about half a mile distant. Now, why did the curate of Meigh, instead of betaking himself to his legitimate place of rest, make a snoring target of himself in his kitchen at two o'clock in the morning, exactly opposite the aperture in the window through which only a shot could be fired? "It is extremely difficult," says the reporter, "to assign any sensible reason for this assassin outrage, except" &c. It is indeed, difficult to assign a reason; but it would be a far greater difficulty to make any one swallow such a cock and a bull story.

**THE EXPOS.**—Harvest operations being completed, the "rush from Ireland" has set in with renewed vigor. The *Limerick Reporter* of Nov. 22, says:—"The cry is still, they go. Nothing can arrest their progress. Fate drives them onward, and they are determined to obey its impulses, heedless of unheard-of catastrophes at sea—of sickness—of dangers such as are unparalleled in history—of love of country

which has well-nigh been extinguished—of every tie of affection which should keep people in the land of their birth. It was exceedingly painful to witness this morning, before 6 o'clock, crowds at the Limerick terminus; these crowds, composed of emigrants and their friends, parting, never perhaps to meet more—no less than 47 of the number bound for Melbourne, in Australia, the others for America; all of a comfortable class, which, under other circumstances, might do well at home, but which now flies from home as if it never possessed an attraction for them. A hale countryman joined the train at Boher station, and, being asked where he was going, replied, with the greatest possible indifference and nonchalance, "Only over to New York." This may afford some idea of the callousness with which the separation from Ireland is regarded by the great majority of emigrants. At the junction there was a great augmentation to the numbers, and as the train passed Dumdrum, Gould's Cross and Thurles, there were additional emigrants booked for Australia or America. Efforts are making in several districts to keep the people at home; but until landlords learn wisdom it is vain to expect they will not leave Ireland, no matter what the horrors they must face in doing so. Among those who went this morning was Mr. Fitzgibbon, late master of the Boherbuoy auxiliary workhouse."

A large vessel full of laborers for the works on the Panama Railways has just left Cork for the Isthmus. The applications from the Cork "navigators," it appears, were too numerous to be accommodated by the captain.

**NEW LANDLORDS OF IRELAND.**—Mr. Locke has published a pamphlet, containing the Records of the "Incumbered Estates Court," from which we glean the following statistics:—

"The number of estates sold, are 1,031, producing the sum of £10,429,593, 5s. 1d.; the number of purchasers being 4,213 of whom:—

1,759	were for £1,000 and under.
629	" 1,000 to £2,000.
868	" 2,000 to 5,000.
463	" 5,000 to 10,000.
134	" 20,000 and upwards.

The number of Scotch and English purchasers were 181, of whom:—

25	purchased in Leinster	43,484	acres.
15	" Ulster	51,865	"
71	" Munster	68,862	"
46	" Connaught	332,723	"

Total acreage 496,935, and the purchase money £1,779,608. Of this class:—

31	purchased at £1,000 and under
33	" 1,000 to £2,000.
45	" 2,000 to 5,000.
30	" 5,000 to 10,000.
17	" 10,000 to 20,000.
20	" 20,000 and upwards.

As to condition of life—79 were gentry, including 8 titled persons; 62 manufacturers and merchants, 7 insurance and land companies, and 33 farmers. The number of English and Scotch settlers and proprietors bears only a small proportion to the whole, being less than five per cent. in number, and 16 per cent. in value. The largest number of investment come from the London district, the purchasers being 73, and the purchase money being close upon a million sterling, or more than one-half of the entire English and Scotch investments.—*Scotch paper.*

**ENCOURAGEMENT OF SMALL TENANCIES.**—The  *Belfast Mercury* has some remarks tending to show that the present favorable position of the agricultural interest completely falsifies all the gloomy prognostics which were so liberally indulged in and so sedulously paraded by those who thought so lightly of the qualities of Irishmen as to profess to believe they could not make way without the aid of sliding scales and differential duties. In order to fortify this view, the *Belfast paper* proceeds to say:—"Landowners are freely disposing of their lands to small capitalists, so satisfied have they become of the stability of small tenancies. In the interim which we have been considering, if many a tenacious holder has been heedlessly expelled from the position which he may for a time have encumbered, but which his ancestors may have held with benefit to the State, and with something of advantage to those attached to him by a closer relationship, the issue may have eventuated in more substantial success being conferred upon the emigrant out-cast in the more congenial fields of a new country, while those remaining are sure to participate in good from the vacuum created, and from the stimulus to their energy by the tidings of prosperity from the efforts of a quickened spirit of enterprise, directed to noble ends, in a new scene of labor. The result of this settled order of things could not fail of being productive of highly favorable results, although preceded by much hardship and inconvenience at the outset. Agricultural industry is rapidly finding out new sources of prosperity in which to exercise the more practised skill to which an inquiring spirit and a more firm courage have given greater precision and a surer aim. The products of the farm are annually becoming more varied."

**FREEDOM OF ELECTION IN THE NORTH.**—The Rev. Patrick Quinn, P.P., Ardrea and Desertlynn, having been in receipt of a small annuity from the Drapers Company of London, for acting with clergymen of other denominations, as one of the governors of the schools and dispensaries on their Irish estate, the stipend (10 guineas per annum) was withdrawn in March last, and to the reverend gentleman's appeals to ascertain the motives of its withdrawal, the Court refused to give any explanation. The Rev. Mr. Quinn in consequence, has addressed the Livery (that is, the constituency) of the Drapers' Company, in which he says:—"And it is now my duty to let you know that their (the Court's) proceedings in this matter are ascribed to political and electioneering motives. At the election of last year for the county of Londonderry I had the misfortune—if I may so term it—to differ in my estimate of the several candidates from your Irish agents, Rowley Miller, Esq., and his son, who are very well known in this country as determined political partisans. For, while I supported the Liberal and tenant right candidate, Mr. Greer, they backed the sitting members with extraordinary zeal."

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

The Diocesan Synod of Southwark took place on Thursday the 17th ult., at the Cathedral, under the Presidency of the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of the Diocese. The Synod of the Diocese of Beverley was to take place on the Feast of St. Lucy, December 13.

We have been informed, says the *Warwick Advertiser*, that the Hon. Miss Camoys, daughter of Lord Camoys, took the veil at the Benedictine Priory at Princethorpe on Tuesday last. The ceremony was presided over by the Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, who was assisted by a number of Priests.

The *Morning Chronicle* and *Herald* mention a report that his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop will probably not return to this country, which has no doubt excited the apprehensions of many of our readers. But we are happy to be able to assure them that it is entirely untrue, though we believe his Eminence is not expected to return before Christmas.—*Cath. Standard.*

The *Civil Service Gazette* has been given to understand that it is in contemplation to raise the Earl of Elgin, Governor General of Canada, another step in the Peerage, and to appoint him as the successor of Lord Dalhousie in the government of our Indian provinces.

**THE WAGES MOVEMENT.**—The colliers' strike at Wigan, seems to be at an end. On Wednesday last about 1000 persons returned to work on Lord Balcarras' pits, and upwards of 1500 persons have commenced operations in the Haigh colliery. Instead of an adjustment between the mill hands and their employers being near at hand, the number thrown out of work is considerably increased, and it is likely that a general closing of all the mills will take place before any settlement of disputes is arrived at. Fifteen firms at Bury have closed their mills, there having been a partial strike, and the workers having subscribed to support the idle men elsewhere. It is reported that the Manchester and Salford manufacturers have determined to reduce wages; leaving them, however, 5 per cent in weaving, and 10 per cent in spinning above the rates paid at the end of 1852.

**THE STRIKES IN THE NORTH.**—The leaders of the working classes in the north district are by no means discouraged, and now we are to have a labor parliament. Manchester, the capital of the manufacturing towns, is of course to be the seat of the new government. The leaders in starting it acknowledged the futility of all efforts by isolated bodies of working men to maintain what they consider a just standard of wages, and "the emancipation of labor from capital," and, therefore, they have set on foot, at Manchester, a movement to bring about a national organization of the working classes, to be guided by one directing body, whose object shall be to centralise and confederate their strength. It is to be composed of delegates elected at public meetings in the various towns. A committee of twelve working men, with power to add to their number, was appointed to carry out the resolutions.

The correspondent of the *Times*, in describing the strike of the Preston weavers, declares that the ignorance of the mass of the people in that manufacturing district is incredible. A man who could write was a "nine days' wonder; even overseers in charge of seventy looms were found who could not write their names. One anecdote is interesting as illustrative of the working of Sabbatarian piety. The correspondent found several who could read but not write. They had been taught reading in the Sunday School, but not writing, as that would be a violation of the Sabbath.

The wheat trade has since our last maintained a decidedly firmer tone, but buyers have continued to act with more than ordinary caution, hence it has not been easy to establish any advance upon previous prices. The reports in regard to the yield of wheat from the straw become more and more unfavorable in proportion as thrashing is proceeded with, and an opinion is fast gaining ground that the deficiency will prove even more serious than estimated at harvest time. Prices of wheat are now nearly as high as they were previous to the decline which took place in the early part of the month, and present appearances indicate a further rise.—*Spectator*, Nov. 24.

**ANOTHER ARCTIC SEARCH.**—It was agreed, at the meeting of the members of the Geographical Society on Monday night, that the Chairman, Sir Roderick Murchison, should solicit the Admiralty to send out another expedition to the Arctic regions in the summer of 1854. The new Arctic expedition is intended to proceed in quite a contrary direction to any of those previously sent out from this country in search of Sir John Franklin and the officers and crews of the *Erebus* and *Terror* discovery ships, now upwards of eight years absent from England.—*Id.*

**THE OLD AND NEW CRYSTAL PALACE.**—The late Great Exhibition building contained an area of nearly 800,000 square feet; the New Crystal palace will contain about one-fourth more, or nearly 1,000,000 square feet.

An interview took place last week between Lord Clarendon and certain eminent English merchants engaged in the Russian trade, whose object was to gain from his lordship the expression of some decided opinion as to the danger of this trade being interrupted by possible political changes. It was represented to his lordship that English merchants are in the habit, at this period of the year, of making heavy contracts in St. Petersburg for Russian produce, such as hemp, tallow, &c., deliverable next season, upon which goods very heavy advances, amounting some times to the entire contract, are made to the Russian dealers. The reply of Lord Clarendon was to the effect that, whilst her Majesty's government are using their utmost exertions to avert war, caution in relation to these transactions is nevertheless advisable; and a hint was given that it would be as well for the Russian merchants to avoid risking their money under present circumstances.

**THE MARCH OF MATRIMONY.**—Ten young couples are on the books of Gateshead Union for marriage, their respective ages being 23 and 20, 20 and 22, 20 and 19, 25 and 27, 30 and 25, 30 and 21, and 21 and 19, 22 and 20, and 19, and 24 and 25. So great, indeed, is the demand in Gateshead for wives, that a young widow who lost her husband by the epidemic in September, was nominated on Sunday in our parochial church, as the bride elect of a young bachelor! There is a line in Hamlet which will rise to the reader's mind; but before he quotes it, let him listen to the recital of another domestic romance, the remembrance of which has been revived by the occurrence of Sunday. There was once a coalmine explosion on the Tyne, and many lives were sacrificed. The bodies of the dead could not be recovered until some weeks had passed away; and the corpse of one married man, when it was carried home, found the widow lying by the side of another husband! She had wedded her new spouse before burying his predecessor. Shakspeare "exhausted worlds, and then imagined none;" but he never dreamt of "the marriage baked meats coldly furnish forth the burial tables!" Real life is more than a match for fiction.—*Gateshead Observer.*

**"SCOTCH GRIEVANCES."**—The *Commonwealth* a Scotch paper, sums up the demands of the Scotch national party.—Scotland wants a local legislation, and so does Ireland. We want our local wants attended to; and who are so likely to understand them, and to legislate wisely on all local subjects, as men belonging to the country, living in it, and whose entire interests are bound up in its prosperity? What interest, what knowledge, have the members for Bucks, or Herts, or Beds, concerning these measures which so intimately affects our local welfare? And why swell the already enormous population of "The Wen," as Cobbet used to call London, by sending thither all our legislative business, down to the measures for the making of roads, canals, and gas works? Surely we can at least do that kind of business for ourselves!

Thursday, the 15th of December, has been fixed for the proposed demonstration in Glasgow in favor of the National Association for the vindication of Scottish Rights. The City Hall been engaged for the occasion, and the Earl of Eglinton, the president of the association, is expected to take the chair.

Although Glasgow has been free from cholera and typhus fever during the present year, the mortality in that city has hitherto been higher than it was in 1848-9, when the cholera was most fatal. As the working classes are well employed and earning good wages, it is difficult to account for the high rate of mortality. Had the rise of a 1d "on the gill of whisky," recently announced, taken place a year ago, there might have been a more satisfactory return as to the mortality of Glasgow.—*Spectator.*

Two dogs have been attacked with cholera at Habburn, Northumberland; both died.

**A DOCKYARD DISCOVERY.**—Not very long ago a person, well known for his large and accurate knowledge of the sources of English history, found himself by accident in one of our great dockyards. In one part of the yard he noticed some preparations for a bonfire, and, with the instinct of an antiquary when old papers are in peril, he ran off to the scene. "What are these bundles?" he inquired of the ready minister of destruction. "Nothing but rubbish," said the man.—The very tie of the parcels told the antiquary that they were letters, and of old date. "Where do they come from?" he asks. "Oh, they have been lying here no one knows how long; we want the room, and we are going to burn them out of our way." The antiquary took up a bundle of the doomed papers, opened the first letter, and found that it was the original despatch announcing to the Government, with all its details, one of the most important events in the reign of Charles II. Commanding the dockyard men not to set fire to the pile until superior orders should arrive, the antiquary posted to London, repaired to the Admiralty, stated the fact, and saved the papers.—When carefully examined, they proved to be as interesting a series of State documents as any in our national archives.—*Athenaeum.*

**ECCLESIASTICAL DEFAULTERS.**—An information has been filed by the Attorney-General against the Archbishop of York, in his character as visitor to a charity at Hemsforth, in Yorkshire. On Wednesday, the Solicitor-General appeared before the Master of the Rolls to support the information. It appears that in 1548, Archbishop Holgate, founded a free grammar school at Hemsforth, and endowed it with lands and an advowson. For a long period the objects of the founder were overlooked, and the funds of the charity were so grossly misapplied, that the office of master was a sinecure. Some improvement took place in 1801; but the charity has never been fully carried out. The Solicitor-General asked the court to direct a scheme and an inquiry to be made as to the present state of the funds; and prayed that the advowson might be sold and the proceeds invested for the benefit of the charity. Hitherto the master, the Rev. Mr. Graham, has not resided at Hemsforth, but at Fearn, two miles off; and it was prayed that Mr. Graham should not continue to be schoolmaster unless he resided at Hemsforth. The master of the Rolls decided that there should be an inquiry, and a new scheme for the regulation of the charity.

Anglican respect for Episcopal superiors is strikingly exemplified in the *Chronicle* of last Thursday, in which their "Archbishops who put forth the recent document on the Galat case are described as "these four men!" The *Chronicle* disapproves of the "sentence of deprivation" on Dr. Ives, and inquires if his Priesthood is still recognised, as he is only deposed from the office of Bishop, not a very important inquiry, since Dr. Ives himself disclaims both the one and the other, and begs to be regarded as a mere layman.

**RELIGION IN THE MARKET PLACE.**—The Established Church is a beautiful illustration of the commercial genius of John Bull. Read the following advertisement, taken at random from several such which we find in the last number of the *Times*:—"Advowson with next presentation.—Mr. Robins is instructed to treat for the sale by private contract of an advowson with next presentation to a most desirable living on the south-west coast of England, with charming residence, pleasure-grounds, and gardens, extending to eighteen acres, yielding a clear income of £600 a year, after deducting a liberal sum for the duty and all other charges. The age of present Incumbent forty-six. Full particulars may be obtained by a personal interview with Mr. Robins, at his office, in Covent Garden." There is food for reflection—the ministry of religion, the cure of immortal souls, put up to auction, like a grazing farm, or a herd of fat cattle.—*Ulsterman.*

A candidate for Portsmouth Town Council, solicited the vote of the burghers; it was refused because the candidate was "going in opposition to the Almighty!"—"God is about to visit us with judgment; he is going to visit us with the cholera; and you set yourself up to prevent God from executing that judgment, by endeavoring to introduce the Health of Towns Act."

**THE RETORT CURTAINS.**—There is a little story current here that may amuse our Dublin readers. On Saturday last, as Mr. Patrick C—t—e, one of our city celebrities, stopped in D'Olier Street to purchase the *Nation* from a news-vender, Mr. O'F— stepped forth from his income tax office, and exclaimed, "Why, Pat, I am astonished to see you buy that inflammatory paper." "Well, now, Ned, that's strange enough. If I buy the *Nation*, didn't you sell the nation?" A palpable hit this, and Patrick Ned felt it, for he beat a rapid retreat back to his office, there, in all probability, to overhaul Patrick's schedule.—*Correspondent of the Morning Herald.*