

ings proportioned to their condition, the Holy Father has built and is building houses for the poorer classes, seconded in this by a rich Roman proprietor...

And, more, this august name deserves above all to be indelibly inscribed on the works of public beneficence directed to the relief of indigence. As one of the principal cares of authority is to protect the weak and succour the poor, this forms beyond all doubt one of the chief causes of solicitude to the Sovereign Pontiff...

For promoting a still less expensive mode of communication, viz., that of river and sea navigation, the Government has allowed no opportunity to pass which has been seized, new privileges were granted in 1855 in favour of the merchant service, steamboats were placed at the expense of the State to run vessels up the rivers...

When the fountains are replenished in which the comfort of the public has its rise it is but natural to behold the effect in the conveniences procured for the citizens, and the embellishment of the city. A vast field is here opened to us, over which, however, we must hurry with increased speed...

Sacred College receives from the public treasury, and which constitutes, what in other countries is termed the 'Civil List,' let him consider again the heavy debts which have to be paid from that amount, and which we shall speak of later; let him consider in fine the vast sums which are bounteously bestowed by the Holy Father to promote the splendour of the Divine worship and magnificent works of the fine arts...

The Papal States in their integrity counted 1219 communes and townships, and there is no commune or township which has not its communal school for boys and girls. Besides these communal schools there were in 1852 in the States of the Church 2,993 schools frequented by 70,000 daily scholars, and 170 colleges and seminaries frequented by 6,976 boarders. For girls there were 1823 different institutions in which 53,343 girls received instruction.

In an especial manner has the care of the Government been directed to improve to a still greater degree the by no means evil condition of the prisons. 30,000 scudi have been annually devoted to the expenses incurred during the gradual reform of the gaols; an eminent architect was sent to visit the most famous Houses of Correction in Europe, for the purpose of introducing amongst us their most useful improvements; an entirely new prison has been begun at Fossombrone, which is to serve as a model to the others.

All this should excite astonishment, but what we have still to mention will awaken yet greater wonder. Hitherto we have spoken of works of public beneficence which, with a few exceptions, have been carried out by regularly appointed committees; but not less famous, and certainly far more surprising, are the works which have been entirely at his private expense. We are fully impressed with the impracticability of giving even a general idea of all the works which have been relieved, all the miseries which have been lightened by his bountiful hand...

Hitherto, we have mentioned, as our memory dictated, the acts of the Papal Government, during late years, for the relief of the material wants of the people. But they have other necessities of far greater importance, they have moral wants, for which a good government ought especially to provide.

The Dublin correspondent of the Irish American writes—"I am in a position to state that several meetings of leading Nationalists have been held in Dublin during the past few days, the object being the establishment through the length and breadth of the land of an association thoroughly National in its character and its purposes.

DEBILS, JAN. 7.—At the monthly meeting of the Cork Agricultural Society, held on Saturday, there was a very able discussion on the cultivation of flax in the south of Ireland. There was a strong difference of opinion as to whether the crop would be remunerative or not.

Several members of parliament connected with Lancashire proposed to hold a conference before the opening of the session, with a view of considering what ought further to be done by the legislature to attest the cotton manufacturing districts in tiding over the present crisis. No meeting of Irish members is proposed to devise anything for the Irish working classes. Of barren and blank oratory and platy there is plenty—but of measures and subscriptions nothing yet, while destitution weighs upon the hearts and minds of the people.—Dublin paper.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

By the Roscommon Messenger we have learned with deep regret of the death of Denis O'Connor, Esq., Mount Druid, one of the best patrons of native Irish literature, for which he had a great taste. Deceased was a Deputy Lieutenant and magistrate, and was uncle to the O'Connor Don, M.P. The sad event took place on the 22nd Dec.

The Tralee Chronicle says:—"Lord Castlerosse has one hundred men in daily employment, at good wages, at the Park, which has removed the great pressure of distress from the town of Kilarney. As we have said before, he has given a carte blanche to Mr. Galway to give employment ad libitum while there is occasion for it. Sir Rowland Blennerhasset has opened works of drainage on his property under the direction of his agent, Mr. Alexander McCarty. From 60 to 70 men are daily employed, and the outlay during the next few months will be from £700 to £1,000.

The Limerick Reporter says, respecting the state of the country:—"If we were at any loss which, unfortunately, is not the case, for instances in proof of the great destitution which prevails at present even amongst farmers who hold several acres of land, we have only to look at the civil bills which have been entered at the present Quarter Sessions for the county of Limerick and elsewhere, and at the fact that in almost every instance these cases have been undefended. We hope some of those benevolent persons who have shown so noble a feeling for the English sufferers by the cotton famine, will kindly direct attention to the deplorable poverty which is this moment reducing to the greatest extremities families who once occupied most respectable positions."

COMPLIMENT TO THE IRISH BRIGADE.—The Southern correspondent of the London Times, in describing the battle of Fredericksburg, pays a glowing and graceful tribute to the gallantry and action of the Irish Brigade, under General Meagher, saying that the forefathers of the men never displayed "more undaunted courage at Fontenoy, Albuera or Waterloo," than they did, and that "the race which has gained glory on a thousand battle-fields never more richly deserved it than at the foot of Mary's Heights on the 13th of December, 1862."

PROSPERITY OF IRISH SETTLERS IN THE RIVER PLATE.—Accounts from the River Plate by the last mail inform us that measures to promote immigration from Europe were occupying much attention, the country being well calculated to attract the class of persons who have hitherto selected the United States. The official circular to the several provincial Governments on this subject develops a broad statesmanlike view of the advantages to be derived from the introduction of industrious European immigrants.

The Dublin correspondent of the Irish American writes—"I am in a position to state that several meetings of leading Nationalists have been held in Dublin during the past few days, the object being the establishment through the length and breadth of the land of an association thoroughly National in its character and its purposes. As an intimation of its nature it will be enough to say that its foremost men are The O'Donoghue and Mr. G. H. Moore. Of its plan of operations I can say nothing at present, save as a matter of course they will be within the law.

DEBILS, JAN. 7.—At the monthly meeting of the Cork Agricultural Society, held on Saturday, there was a very able discussion on the cultivation of flax in the south of Ireland. There was a strong difference of opinion as to whether the crop would be remunerative or not. Lord Bandon occupied the chair. A letter from Mr. O'Keefe White, Lord Fermoy's agent, was read, in which he expressed doubts of the propriety of encouraging the cultivation in poor soils, remote from market towns. Professor Murphy read a valuable report, and moved the appointment of a committee to inquire into the subject, which was seconded by Colonel Beamish. Mr. Charles Beamish argued strongly against the expediency of the cultivation. Flax is a precarious crop, and it exhausts the soil more than any crop. The people have not the means or the art of converting it into a merchantable commodity. About ten years ago Mr. Dargan got up a factory at Drinagh Mountain, and abandoned it after spending £10,000 upon the experiment. Lord Fermoy, in his turn, took up the mill, and adopted every means of stimulating the growth of flax, as Mr. Dargan had done, but they had heard nothing of his Lordship's success. Mr. Maguire, Mayor of Cork, replied very effectively to Mr. Beamish. He was obliged to come to the conclusion that the potato was a crop that could no longer be relied on. The oats had been inferior for some time, and wheat likewise. If there were three more seasons like the last three he would advise every man, woman, and child to leave the country. Something must be done, and that immediately. They had the authority of Sir Robert Kane that the crop was not exhausting, and that, in fact, it takes from the soil only what other crops do not want. This country produces only one-third of the flax consumed in Ulster, there would therefore be always a ready market in Belfast. He therefore concluded that the cultivation of flax should be encouraged by the landlords, and that the necessary mills should be provided. At all events, there should be inquiry to ascertain what was best to be done. He concluded by offering £25 as a premium for the best crop of flax. Lord Bandon, President of the Munster Flax Society, took the same view as Mr. Maguire, and gave some valuable information on the subject. The resolution proposed by Professor Murphy, appointing a committee, was passed unanimously.—Cor. Times.

The Dublin correspondent of the Irish American writes:—"I have excellent reason to know that in the schools of the Christian Brothers and the Catholic University, a crowd of young men are growing up, who are likely to be a service and an honor to their country. They feel that they are pupils of the government. They know that such hostility is owing to the fact that the government system of education is designed to effect the extinction of patriotism and of Catholicity in Ireland; and they are conscious that their duty is to love their country and their religion all the more, because they are so bitterly attacked, so cunningly assailed by the English government. These young students will, in a little time, be the manhood of Ireland; and there is now one hope left to us in the midst of a period of discouragement. Besides, there are the chances that time may bring to us. Who knows what may occur in the year of Our Lord 1863?"

Ballydoonan House, in county Galway, has been nearly destroyed by fire. It was the seat in ancient times of the O'Donell's, who in the fourteenth century lived there in all the style of princes.

During the past year 64,314 emigrants left the port of Liverpool, an increase of rather more than 9,000 on the exodus of the previous year.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The speech of the Emperor on opening the French Chambers was expected this year with even more than usual curiosity. It was known that he could not help referring to the American war, and, from the proposals made to England and Russia a few weeks since, there was reason to believe that he would not lose the opportunity of again counselling justice and moderation. This expectation has been fulfilled. The Emperor in his speech on Monday adhered fully to the policy of M. Drouya de L'Huy's despatch, and more than intimated that he should renew his attempt at mediation. Speaking of the distress which the war has brought on French industry, he says:—"I have made an attempt to send beyond the Atlantic advice inspired by a sincere sympathy; but the great maritime powers not having thought it advisable as yet to act in concert with me, I have been obliged to postpone to a more suitable opportunity the offer of mediation, the object of which was to stop the effusion of blood, and to prevent the exhaus-

tion of a country the future of which cannot be looked upon with indifference." That the Emperor would retain his opinion on the subject of the war was to be expected, but it was not at all certain that he would explain so decisively to his Legislature and the world that his plan of mediation had not been abandoned. The speech of the Emperor is another step in the direction indicated by the despatch of his Foreign Minister. Again the Americans are told in effect that the war which the North is waging against the South will be without result, that the country is being exhausted in a contest the evils of which are felt more widely than those of any other of the present age, and that Europe cannot remain indifferent to the barbarity which shows itself every day more and more. There can now be hardly a doubt that the French Emperor will take every occasion to urge on the Federalists the necessity of bringing this war to a close. It is probable that the United States Minister, Mr. Dayton, has already heard all that he can say against the enterprise in which the Federal Government is engaged. The deliberate judgment of Europe has been given by the mouth of the French Emperor, and though no formal offer of mediation has yet reached Washington, yet morally a most earnest interference has taken place. The speech of Monday is but the solemn ratification of those opinions which the Emperor has never concealed from either belligerent. It is a declaration that the progress of the war during the last two months has but confirmed him in the wisdom of his former policy, and that the time is approaching when a European Sovereign may fitly interpose to stop the slaughter. As a politician and a soldier, Napoleon may be satisfied with the accuracy of his judgment when he declared that the South would not submit and could not be subjugated. Since M. Drouya de L'Huy's words his despatch the fortune of war has more than ever inclined to the side of the Confederates. In a great battle they have defeated the main army of their enemies, and demonstrated that Virginia and Richmond will be held indefinitely against all the hosts that President Lincoln can send against them. Such being the condition of the war the French Emperor may justly ask whether Europe is to sit still and make no effort to save a civilized and Christian society from the miseries that are coming on it. The exhaustion of the country and the brutalizing of the people are the only results which may be clearly foreseen if the war lasts, and the Emperor will do a good work if by any wise and temperate advances he can persuade the Federalists to desist from their hopeless enterprise.—London Times.

CONVICT LIVING AT PORTLAND.—At Portland the ordinary diet consists for four days a week of 12 oz. of bread for breakfast, with a pint of tea; dinner, 6 oz. of cooked meat free from bone, 1 lb. of cooked potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread; supper, one pint of gruel and 6 oz. of bread. On the three remaining days of the week the rations are better still, the breakfast being a pint of cocoa, with milk and sugar, and 12 oz. of bread; dinner, one pint of soup, 5 oz. of cooked meat free from bone, 1 lb. of cooked potatoes, and 12 oz. of bread; supper, one pint of gruel and 6 oz. of bread. This ordinary diet, which is daily food, would be a very extraordinary one to most of our hard-working laborers throughout the kingdom—all the convicts used formerly to live all a few years ago, when one of the dilettante prison philanthropists, of whom there are now so many, discovered that convicts, if worked hard on such diet, might lose muscle, and it was accordingly mixed to an "improved scale." In addition to this, all the prisoners of every grade or scale of diet have each 5 oz. of tinned, or eat with their bread, served out to them every week—viz., 14 oz. on Sunday, and 14 oz. on Wednesday. For such as are employed out of doors, but who are not at hard labor who have, in fact, only their appetites sharpened by the fresh sea breeze—there is what is called a "light labor diet for public works." This consists of a pint of tea or cocoa, with 6 oz. of bread for breakfast; 6 oz. of bread, 6 oz. of cooked meat, free from bone, half-a-pint of gruel, and half-a-pound of potatoes for dinner; and 6 oz. of bread, with a pint of gruel or tea, if preferred, for supper. What the light labor is is hard to discover, especially as the "light" seems to be about the minimum of what will keep the men's hands going at all. Stonebreaking close under the prison walls is one of the works that come under this category, and though this work, as we generally see it done, is certainly not light labor, yet the way in which it is performed at Portland amply justifies the prison authorities in classing it under this head.—Those who have seen the pile of stones which the wretched starving troop has to break in the stone-yard of a workhouse, in payment for his night's shelter in the casual ward, should come to Portland to see what the convict does for his day's work. The work in the quarry is a mockery of "light labor," and the "light labor" as the convicts do it, is positively not labor at all. Even a convict's "light-labor diet" as the standard, no mere hard-working day-laborer in this part of England can command it.—None certainly are as well and warmly lodged of as carefully looked after in health or sickness.—Times.

ALARMING OUTBREAK AMONG FEMALE CONVICTS AT PERTH.—Sunday forenoon, during the time of public worship, an alarm was raised throughout the city of Perth to the effect that the convicts in the General Prison at Friarton had overpowered the warders, and that many of them had made their escape. The truth of the alarm was apparently confirmed by the circumstances of a detachment of the 25th Regt. marching quickly with fixed bayonets through the South Inch, in the direction of the general prison, and a body of city police being conveyed thither in cabs. The excitement in town was intense, but it was much allayed when the actual state of matters, though sufficiently serious, was ascertained. The circumstances under which the outbreak commenced are as follows:—The female convicts, about 300 in number, assembled in the chapel of the prison on Sunday forenoon, as usual, to engage in public worship, but the chaplain had not proceeded far with the service when the convicts, in a most excited state, commenced shouting, making discordant noises, and defying the female warders. One of the latter was knocked down, much abused, and eventually carried off in a state of insensibility. The scene of disorder which the chapel presented was one which baffles description. On the male officials being apprised of the outbreak among the female convicts, they hastened to the chapel, from which all egress was strictly prohibited. As the female warders had lost all control over the female convicts, who with increased rage and energy, uttered most dreadful yells, it was resolved by the head male officials present to fire several shots from revolvers over the heads of the women. This being continued for some time, had the desired effect of quieting them in a great degree, until at last they were completely subdued. At the same time, great fears were entertained of an outbreak among the male convicts, many of whom, it had been learned on Saturday, were in possession of keys, whereby to open their cells; and accordingly it was resolved to call in the assistance of the Perth city police and the military in Perth barracks. On being apprised of the outbreak, Mr. Welsh, superintendent of the City police, repaired with a large body of constables to the General Prison, armed with swords, batons, and cutlasses. The city police were conveyed to the General Prison in cabs, and, under the superintendent, rendered most efficient service. A detachment of the 25th Regiment was also promptly on the spot. With the assistance of the military and police the female convicts were conveyed one by one from the chapel to their cells, and by two o'clock in the afternoon things within the walls of the General Prison had assumed their ordinary quietness. There was no movement amongst or attempt at outbreak by the male convicts; but it was considered necessary to keep the military and police on duty within the prison the whole of Sunday night. There is every reason to believe that the insubordination of the women in the chapel was part of a preconcerted scheme to enable the male convicts to overthrow their keepers, and set them all free.