

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...

The agricultural and manufacturing products of a nation neither acquire value nor are the source of wealth unless there are open ports and easy means of communication. To supply these we may say that the Papal Government has devoted the greatest possible care during these last few years.

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 offered itself; rewards have been offered to ship-builders, 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, the Society in Rome for sea navigation has been approved, relief funds for sailors have been established, the free navigation of the Po has been granted, the Pontifical flag has been placed, as we have said, upon an equality of right with those of other and powerful nations, new light-houses have been erected in the ports according to the most recent discoveries of the art, many ports have been restored upon the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, and to take advantage of nautical meteorology for the advantage of navigation and to provide for the interests of merchant sailors in long voyages, Government setting the first example in Italy has adopted the vast plan proposed by the maritime conference of Brussels of uniting the system of meteorologic observations taken on land with those made at sea.

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. As regards the City of Rome, in the prison of S. Michele, the men have been separated from the boys, and the Society of the Brothers of S. Michele have been instituted for their direction; the prison at Dicoletian's Baths has been increased by the construction of vast working halls, and placed under the guidance of the Brothers of Mercy; in S. Balbina an asylum has been opened for lost children, and their education has also been entrusted to the last named Brothers. The three penitentiaries for women have been entirely reformed, namely, that at the New Prisons, that at the Baths, and that at the Pio Penitentiary in the Lungara, into which the different Sisters, who have been appointed for their direction, have introduced such discipline, such industry, and such order, that they rival the best regulated institutions for female education.

The same diligence has been exhibited in the improvement of all the prisons of the Papal States, everywhere cleanliness, healthiness, and industry have been promoted, and where the old buildings were unfit for the introduction of these improvements, new ones have been constructed. Witness the prisons of Perugia, of Spoleto, of Rocca, of Sinibaldi, Poggio Mirto, of Orvieto, of Narni, of Rieti, and of Borgagna, in which the greatest expenses have been incurred. 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, for it is with difficulty that a small portion of his works of mercy have escaped that secrecy with which he ever piously veils them. However, this small part which we have discovered by means of earnest inquiries from those who, in many cases, have been made use of as dispensers of charity, amounts to more than 300,000 scudi, given by His Holiness to benevolent institutions in the different cities of the States, and especially at Rome, Bologna, and Sinigaglia; 200,000 more have passed through the hands of four persons, who were charged with their distribution for the assistance of private persons; above 50,000 scudi have been recorded in the Roman journals as sent for the relief of those districts in the States which have been desolated by earthquakes, pestilence, conflagration, or inundations, but what vast sums are spent in these, or any of them, of several hundred scudi, which are given almost daily by the Holy Father, with his own hands, and of which the Divine Mercy alone keeps the register prepared for that day when it shall vouchsafe an eternal reward. Let any one consider the smallness of that yearly sum of 600,000 scudi which the

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; let him, we say, consider all this, and he must of necessity conclude that the Romans owe their many and splendid public works, works which have not been erected by hardening the people, which have not been paid for in the oppression of the lowly, but the price of which has been taken from the convenience of the best of Sovereigns,—owe them, we say, to their having for King a Pontiff who has no other family but his own people, no dearer children than the poor.

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. Now has the Papal Government been remiss in a task so onerous, and at the same time so delicate, near whose heart the material prosperity of the people stands by the side of their moral improvement, the promotion of physical by the side of the promotion of intellectual labours, the direction of its people in the paths of wealth by the side of its guidance of them in the right road of morality. We enter on this new arena with the intention of hurrying you quickly over it rather than entertaining you in it. It is the custom to brand the people of the Papal States with accusations of ignorance and want of enlightenment, whereas, there is no State in Europe where means of instruction are so plentiful, where schools are so numerous, and where universities are so many and so frequented. We cannot give the statistics of all the schools in the States, for our space prevents us so doing, and we are here compelled to confine ourselves to the general headings of these statistics.

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. The professors and masters of science were 850, the other masters and professors of literature and the fine arts, 5,500. This regards the States in general, but let us give a special glance at the City of Rome. According to the official statistics of 1853, of which we avail ourselves for these particulars, it possesses a population of 175,000 inhabitants, of whom 93,000 are men, and 82,000 women, and from the age of 5 to 20 there are 21,477 males, and 19,750 females. Now there are 235 seminaries, colleges, private schools, district schools and night schools, frequented by 16,177 scholars, without taking into account the universities and technical and professional schools, where the greater part of the youths who frequent them generally pass their 20th year. This being the case, and taking into account the many children who begin to go to school after having completed their sixth or seventh year, the many who are prevented from going on account of sickness, the many who leave school before their 20th year to apply themselves to some trade; the many who pass to the universities between their 17th and 20th years (who are comprised in the above mentioned statistics but are not considered in our calculation), taking into account we say all these exceptions we must necessarily conclude that there is not a boy in Rome who does not receive education at a school. The same may be said of the girls, since the 436 schools which are open in Rome for their accommodation are frequented by 11,000 girls of different classes, and it is well known that the girls, and especially of the poorer order, generally leave school after their 13th year, and do not go there before the end of their sixth or seventh year. Now, what other capital in Europe can, with equal truth, present an equal number of schools and scholars? It is true that all this is no novelty lately introduced; but it is also true that in addition to having neglected nothing for the preservation and improvement of such a state of public instruction, many new schools, especially for poor children, have been opened, and many old ones enlarged and made more commodious. A public and generous distribution of prizes has been established at 53 district schools for boys, and at 14 night schools for young artisans; chapels and gardens have been given by the Holy Father to these night schools for them to pass the festivals in. More convenient and comfortable buildings have been erected for the use of these schools. The Hospital for Orphans, called 'Tata Giovanni,' has been gifted with ground and revenues; a new house has been built at the expense of the Holy Father, in the Piazza Pia for the poor boys, and another near it for the poor girls of the Quarter of the Borgo. The schools of S. Maria in Carinis have also been erected from funds given by the Holy Father. Moreover, he has founded or maintained schools for poor girls in the Pia Cara del Catacumeo on the Esquiline, at the Monti in S. Maria del Popolo and at the Ginnari, not to speak of similar institutions founded or endowed in the other cities of the States, and which are valuable for the diffusion of useful knowledge.

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. Dr. Rawson has set a noble example by giving 20,000 acres of his own property in the Argentine province of San Juan for this purpose. The authorities are ready to lend every assistance to the projects of Mr. John Fair and Father Foley for colonising Bahia Blanca with Irish or Welsh labourers on the fulfilment of certain conditions. The Provincial Bank and the National Bank of Ireland have recently established agencies in Buenos Ayres to facilitate the remittances to Ireland of small sums from the Irish settlers, who are, for the most part, very prosperous. The Buenos Ayres Standard observes, on the establishment of the agency of the National Bank, that there is room for the operations of both, most of the Irish settlers being in good circumstances; and it predicts that the remittances to Ireland will form an important item in the exchange drawn for each packet. The same journal observes that British capitalists could nowhere find a finer field for profitable investment, 12 per cent. being obtainable for money, while the profits of sheep and cattle farming are incalculable. An extension of cotton cultivation is taking place, and would be more rapid but for the high profits to be obtained at present from the production of wool. Along the rivers the greatest activity was springing up; immigrants purchasing land and sheep, merchants commencing meat-curing operations on the largest scale, and steamboats crowded with passengers and laden with cargo.

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. Should this renewed attempt to give a compact National party to Ireland be foiled by the bickerings of cliques or the animosities of individuals, great will be the responsibility of those who mar the good work, and, by so doing, throw the country back again into the 'slough of Despond.'"

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

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 pity there is plenty,—but of measures and subscriptions nothing yet, while destitution weighs upon the hearts and minds of the people.—Dublin paper.

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 Times Chronicle says:—"Lord Castlereagh 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 Killybegny. As we have said before, he has given a carte blanche to Mr. Galwey to give employment ad libitum while there is occasion for it. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett 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.

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 Federals 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 Mr. Drouyn de L'Huys wrote 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 by war lasts, and the Emperor will do a good work if by any wise and temperate advances he can persuade the Federals 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 trundle, to 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 among 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.

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 an institution which is, in its own way, as war with 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'Donlauns, 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. Drouyn de L'Huys' 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-