

THE NEW WHEAT-CROP.—For the first time since the disastrous year 1846, Ireland has this season been favored with an abundant wheat crop, the "famine" having, in a great measure, suspended its cultivation in favor of other and less precarious sources of food supplies. A southern paper (the *Limerick Chronicle*) says:—"Corn merchants in Limerick, whose export trade in grain, has been of recent years almost a nominal occupation, are preparing their stores for considerable business, in the approaching season, and, as the wheat crop is greater than any year in the last eight or nine, a large surplus will be spared for shipment to the English market. Since 1846, the exports of grain have been confined to oats and barley."

CULTIVATION OF FLAX.—An official return has just been compiled, at the suggestion of the Lord-Lieutenant, of the acreable extent of flax in Ireland in 1854. From this return, which is published, in anticipation of the general tillage returns, it appears that the gross number of acres under flax this year amounts to 169,238, against 174,579 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 5,341 acres in 1854.

DECLINE IN THE PRICES OF CATTLE.—This appears to be a year of anomalies. In the face of the largest provision contract advertised since the general war ending in 1815, the Irish cattle fairs for September have so far shown a decidedly downward tendency. The fairs of Galway and Athlone were positive failures as regards black cattle, and considerable quantities of stock were left unsold, the owners preferring to wait for a reaction in the market rather than submit to the current low prices consequent upon a slack demand. The farmers are of course grumbling a little, but there is every reason to believe that their season of sorrow will be a brief one.

It has been resolved by the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, that the great cattle show shall be held at Carlow in August, 1855.

CHOLERA NEAR DUBLIN.—Ireland has hitherto been comparatively exempt from this awful calamity, its ravages being almost exclusively limited to the filthy portlands of Lisburn, Belfast, and a few other Northern towns; but even our own city is at last menaced with the terrible symptoms which foreshadow its coming. Twenty cases of Cholera have positively occurred in the village of Finglas since Monday last, and ten of them have already proved fatal. The old church of Finglas has already been turned into a temporary hospital, and every reasonable precaution seems to have been taken for averting the scourge.

THE CHOLERA IN ULSTER.—There has been a favorable turn in the tide of the disease in Belfast. For two days the accounts represent a steady decrease in the number of new cases. Since Thursday night at eleven o'clock there were 46 cases. Of these, the majority occurred on Sunday, but on the following day there was a marked decline in the numbers, and sanguine hopes are entertained that the pestilence has ceased with the approach of the cold season. From Lisburn the reports are not so satisfactory.

EPIDEMIC AMONG PIGS.—The following account of a fatal epidemic amongst pigs appears in the *Galway Vindicator*:—"A singular epidemic resembling cholera in its external symptoms, has broken out among the swinish multitude in this town and many rural districts. The animals are seized with cramps, foam at the mouth, and after writhing for a few hours in convulsive agony, die, and immediately turn quite black. In one farm near the town no less than 14 died in one week."

THE COST OF ATTEMPTED PROSELYTISM IN IRELAND.—A journal called the *Christian Times*, the special organ of the 'Evangelical' body in England, has lately published some documents which throw considerable light on the extent of the humbug practised on the dupes and fanatics who so liberally patronise Exeter Hall, and are quietly gulled into the delusion that they are engaged in a sanctified work while listening to the elaborate fabrications related to them as to the 'conversion' of Irish Romanists, and pouring forth in profuse abundance from their plethoric stores of wealth the means of keeping up such a system of swindling, blasphemy, falsehood, and arrant hypocrisy. Of the Irish Church Missions to Catholics—which, be it recollected, is only one of the denominations or branches for proselytising purposes—the income last year was £37,133, and the expenditure £33,778; and it is stated that the society employs 1,028 agents—namely, 59 'missionaries'; 326 lay agents and readers; 161 schoolmasters and schoolmistresses; 36 'agents' employed by local committees; and 446 'Irish and English teachers.' Such is the staff employed to assail the faith of the ignorant, the impoverished and the unprotected poor, the seat of their operations being always fixed in those localities where pauperism has made the greatest inroads on the population, and where the means of education and religious instruction are most circumscribed. To be sure, we in Ireland know that this system of attempted proselytism has taken no more hold of the minds of the people at large than the doctrines of Mahomedism; but while poor creatures are tempted in their poverty with food, lodging, clothes, and every temporary necessity they stand in need of, for giving even a colorable sanction to the proceedings of these social pests, or allowing their children to attend the schools, it is perhaps expecting too much of human nature, when reduced to that condition, that it should in every instance be proof against the temptations held out, and the influence brought to bear in order to prop up the monstrous delusion. The hypocrisy which is engendered by carrying on this shameful traffic in the profession of the outward forms of religion, apart from its sinfulness, is perhaps one of the greatest moral evils attending it. If those who are known as 'snappers,' 'jumpers,' or such phrases, are remonstrated with by their neighbors or friends for doing that which they know to be against their conscience and voluntary inclination, they make no secret that it is so; they avow that their new profession is only a mask, and in the hope that at no distant time they may have the opportunity of throwing it off, they plead their poverty as an excuse for it, and urge, like Romeo's Apothecary, that their necessity, not their will, compels them. We have had ample means of observing and inquiring into the operation and effect of some of these proselytising societies, and thoroughly satisfied ourselves, that even where they had been longest at work, and sustained by a lavish expenditure of money, they have produced but an unhealthy excrement without substantial solidity. Yet, to read some of the inflated reports published and circulated among the wealthy bigots in England who supply the funds and the speeches of the missionaries at the stated meetings in Exeter Hall, one would imagine that the whole face of the country was changed, and

that terrible abomination, Popery, about to be thoroughly uprooted from the Irish soil. There is, however, one secret in the pretended success of the Irish Church Missions which should not be altogether lost sight of. Whether the wretched converts are bettered spiritually or temporarily, the annual distribution of something like £40,000 between one thousand and twenty-eight paid agents, is one of those happy windfalls which it would be sinful to reject. The greater number of the class among whom the spoil is divided are persons who, from their circumstances and antecedents, would not be very likely to abandon the employment, even though it should produce no fruits, so long as the pay was duly forthcoming. When we find such enormous sums squandered on one of these societies, supplied by English funds alone, we may form some estimate of the efforts made to produce sham conversions, and to propagate error and false doctrine among those classes of our fellow countrymen most exposed to the temptations set before them; and we should also regard these facts as of a nature calculated to stimulate those who would preserve the faith of the people to increased exertions and co-operation with the Catholic prelates and clergy in those localities where the 'agents' of such societies are most actively at work.—*Galway Packet*.

THE 46TH.—Half a century ago, the 46th Regt. were quartered in Limerick, and during their sojourn there was a perpetual court martial sitting, arising from schism among the officers. Some years since, a young unassuming gentleman was obliged to leave, from the persecution of his superiors; and the conduct of the latter was commented on at a hotel in Dublin, where the head-quarters were then stationed.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Speaking of the 'Church as by Law Established,' the *Morning Advertiser* remarks:—"The Establishment (the Anglican Church) is an enormously endowed institution very difficult to manage, but as clearly a creature of the State as the Poor Law Board or the General Board of Health. To claim for such an institution an apostolical origin is the very acme of absurdity."

POSEYITE PRETENSIONS.—A writer in the *Dublin Tablet* makes the following statement:—"I have occasionally heard of instances of poor Catholics being so far deceived by the imitations of Poseyism as to be induced to enter Anglican churches for private devotion; and in one case a poor Irish girl, I am told, even accepted the ministrations of a Western parson on the faith of his representation that he was a 'priest.' She, in fact, went to confession to him; though I need scarcely add that she soon discovered her mistake."

Lord Gough has again been consulted by the government as to the war in Turkey, and it is stated that it is highly probable the noble and gallant general will be offered the chief command in the East, Lord Raglan being in such a state of health as to render active service on his part not advisable.

An able seaman belonging to the *Sybil*, in a letter dated Batavia, July 8, and received at Plymouth last week, says, "The *Winchester* has taken a Russian frigate and two corvettes in the north of China."

THE LATE COURTS-MARTIAL.—The friends of Lieutenant Perry are about to petition her Majesty the Queen, praying that she may be most graciously pleased to order the entire proceedings of the late courts-martial to be submitted to the consideration of the judges of the land, and that her Majesty will then give her final and impartial decision on their view of the merits of the case. In the mean time, the subscription towards the 'Defence and Testimonial Fund' proceeds most satisfactorily, and emphatically pronounces the verdict of the people to be diametrically opposed to that of the Horse Guards.

EMIGRATION FROM THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—The last of the autumn fleet for Canada has just sailed from Aberdeen. The total number of passengers from the north of Scotland this year has exceeded 2,000; the numbers that have gone from the county of Aberdeen alone, during the past six years, are as follows: 1849, 182; 1850, 293; 1851, 546; 1852, 599; 1853, 695; 1854, 1,550—total, 3,865. The emigrants are mostly all farm laborers and small tenant-farmers.—The want of agricultural laborers at home now begins to be felt.

PROGRESS OF SECRET DRINKING IN SCOTLAND.—The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says:—"In Paisley it has been found that the drinking of spirituous liquors does not cease when the licensed houses are closed, but is carried on in places of the humblest character, which are well known in almost every street and lane, and are frequented by numbers of both sexes who there carry on their orgies apart from the supervision of the police." This is precisely the effect we predicted as a natural and inevitable consequence. The illegal sale of spirits, and secret indulgence in its most demoralising forms, have followed close upon the restrictive enactment at Paisley and Glasgow, and will soon be apparent elsewhere. The *Kelso Mail* confirms this by stating:—"In our own town there are houses where any amount of drink can be got on the Sunday," adding significantly "and such scenes are taking place every Sunday throughout the country."

PROTESTANT MARRIAGES.—There are three priests at Gretna. They stand behind the railway station, awaiting the arrival of trains, dressed in black, and looking very grave. Murray, the "high priest," is rented so highly for his residence at Sark-bridge toll-bar, that he is going to build another house, by leave of Sir James Graham, on the English side of the bar, and will do his marriages at a public-house on the other side.

THE LUCAS TESTIMONIAL.—Among the subscriptions to the Lucas Testimonial, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has sent the handsome one of ten guineas, with the following letter:—

"Fife, August 29th, 1854.
"Dear Canon Oakley—In sending you the enclosed contribution to the 'Lucas Testimonial,' I wish to mark my sense of esteem and gratitude for what we must all have observed, that in every religious question which has come before parliament, whether it related to England, Ireland, the Colonies, or the Continent, Mr. Lucas has always been at his post, and ready to defend the Catholic cause, without any reference to political considerations, or to the party from which such questions emanated.—I am ever yours very sincerely in Christ,
"N. CARDINAL WISEMAN,
"Archbishop of Westminster."

THE RECRUITING SERVICE.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* relates a recent conversation with General Bush, head of the recruiting service (and since dead of cholera), from which it appears that having been ordered to raise 25,000 men, and believing that 50,000 were equally required for the present exigency, he despaired of raising so many as 5,000 in the next six months.

PROTESTANT INTOLERANCE.—Who can have forgotten the clamor raised by Lord Shaftesbury and his party about the restrictions placed upon the interment of Protestants at Madrid, or the pharisaic ejaculation of Lord Howden, that his countrymen were not like Spaniards, blind zealots, or illiberal fanatics, but that, on the contrary, they were pinks of liberality who allowed Papists, Jews, and all other heathens to bury their dead just as they pleased without impertinent interference or inquisitorial surveillance? We replied at the time to this false and egotistical plea for a relaxation of the Spanish laws touching the sepulture of persons who did not die in the Catholic faith, by observing that in this liberal and enlightened land it is forbidden to a Catholic priest to perform his religious duty and to give consolation to relatives of a deceased member of his flock, by performing at the grave the last offices of the Church. And we instanced the really scandalous fact, that at the funeral of the lamented Earl of Shrewsbury the attendant prelates and priests were obliged to leave the mournful procession the moment the cortege reached the public road, although the highway itself was part and parcel of the domain of Alton Towers. We have now another instance of this Anglican intolerance; and, when all circumstances of this case are considered, we think it must be admitted by every impartial person, that the conduct of the Anglican minister was exceedingly discreditable. The facts are shortly these, as stated by the correspondent of the *Kent Herald*:—"A French Catholic soldier was recently transferred to the Naval Hospital at Deal from one of the ships that sailed to the Baltic; he was attacked with typhus fever, which terminated fatally a few days ago. During his illness he was attended by a clergyman of his own persuasion, who would naturally expect that on him would devolve the duty of consigning his remains to the tomb; but, to the disgrace of religion and humanity, this privilege was denied to him. The corpse was removed to the dead-house, and the minister was told he must limit his funeral offices to that pestilential atmosphere, and that he would not be allowed to perform any service over the grave, nor take any official part in the ceremony of interment. Accordingly the rites of the Roman Catholic religion were celebrated by him in the charnel-house overnight, and the Protestant clergyman read the service over the grave in the cemetery attached to the hospital, on the following day." Comment on these facts would be superfluous. After this let us hear no more about Spanish Catholic bigotry and British Protestant liberality. If anything could add to the disgracefulness of the Anglican minister's conduct on the occasion, it would be the circumstance that the deceased was a French Catholic soldier, the ally of this country in war, who caught his death in sustaining the cause of England, and yet upon whose coffin a minister of the Church of England was heartless enough to vent his wretched bigotry and fling an insult.

OUR RULES.—We find this horrible history of a genuine British family in the *Times*:—"One of the most diabolical cases of murder that have ever disgraced the annals of England has been committed within the last few days at Trowbridge. The name of the murdered man was Daniel Napper, and on the Wednesday his son, James Napper, quarrelled with another brother who had lately returned from transportation. The father interfered to separate them, and incurred the displeasure of his son James by striking him. On the following (Thursday) evening, they were all drinking together at the Bear Inn, when a second altercation took place. James Napper struck his father, knocked him down, and kicked him severely. The wife then fell upon her husband, taking hold of him by the hair and repeatedly striking his head on the ground, swearing she would murder him. They all three then left the Bear Inn and went towards home. What occurred after they left is narrated by John Mayell, the landlord, who says that while he was standing at the door of his house he heard some quarrelling going on, and saw the deceased knocked down by his son, who struck him a blow with his fist. While the deceased was on the ground his son knelt upon him and struck him again several times; he then knocked him severely in his ribs and side, the wife standing by at the time and offering him every encouragement. The son next took his father by the shoulders, raised him up to a sitting posture, and then dashed him violently to the ground, his head coming in contact with the hard road. The deceased was then quite insensible. All this took place in so short a space of time that the witness said he had no opportunity to interfere. The son came into the taproom some time afterwards, when he did not appear to be in the slightest degree intoxicated. Witness remonstrated with him on his conduct, but he only replied, 'I served the old right,' and that if he was not dead already, he would not care about subjecting him to similar treatment again. This statement is corroborated by James Brown, a clothworker, who says he was passing when he saw the deceased on the ground, and saw his wife catch hold of him by the hair and thump his head on the ground, saying, 'By G—, I'll murder thee!' The deceased was then in a state of insensibility, and the son afterwards took him by the shoulders and threw him backwards on the ground with all his might. Witness lifted the deceased on his knee, but the son still attempted to strike him, and said he would give any one who took his part "a good hiding." The wife and son then left, but, after they had gone a short distance, turned round and said, if the deceased came home that night they would "finish him off." The deceased, however, was shortly afterwards taken to his house, where he soon died.—Another person, named William Pearce, a mason, also deposed to the same facts. These circumstances having come before the coroner, he made a preliminary inquiry, which has resulted in his committing the son and the wife of the deceased to Devises goal. The history of the Napper family is very remarkable. The deceased was transported when a youth for theft; and in the year 1839 was tried for the murder of a common pedlar, named William Bishop. He escaped conviction owing to an informality in the indictment. Dennis Napper, another son, has just returned from transportation. The inquiry before the coroner has been adjourned.

THE HARVEST.—The *Globe* says it is calculated that the harvest throughout the United Kingdom will show an increase of 14,000,000 of qrs. of wheat and 8,000,000 of oats. In the absence of agricultural statistics, it is, of course, only possible to form an approximate estimate, but this increase will prove a saving to the country of £40,000,000 to £50,000,000 sterling.—The *Times* says that "wheat, which of late was ranging about 50s. or 90s. a quarter, is now ranging about 50s. or 60s., with a tendency to a still further decline."

American flour in Liverpool is at present offered at 30s to 31s per barrel, after payment of duty, freight, insurance, and other charges.

THE CHOLERA IN SCOTLAND.—The cholera is increasing in Scotland. In Edinburgh and Glasgow the disease gives way according as sanitary measures are carried out with effect, but in some of the more densely peopled localities it seems to have got a very firm footing. In most other towns isolated cases have appeared. In the city of Aberdeen there were several cases during the month of August, and on Sunday an Irish family, in one of the lowest localities, had four deaths—a mother and three children—out of five persons attacked.

It is in the moral and physical impurity of London that King Cholera seems to have found his most congenial home. During the week before last there were 1,287 deaths in the British metropolis, and last week the mortality amounted to 2,050. "Black flags are flying at the corners of several of the streets, which are strewn with lime," says a report. "All the people are turned out of the houses in the streets infected, and no one is allowed to pass through them. The sight is appalling—hearses and mourning coaches are in waiting all day, ready at a moment's notice." Yet a speedy abatement of the disease is predicted, forsooth, as if London had not 1453 acres of physical impurity under her surface, and—what extent of moral enormity above?—*Nation*.

DEATH OF A CHARACTER.—An aged man, named Bilhard, lately died in the union workhouse, Leicester, in his 71st year. He was one of the mutineers of the *Nore*, and was sentenced to execution. The rope was about his neck, and he was on the point of being swung off when he was reprieved. From that hour to the time of his death—whether it was from a nervous feeling or from fancy cannot be determined—he never wore a neckerchief about his neck. Cravats had for him, probably, disagreeable reminiscences.—*Nottingham Review*.

The *Bolton Chronicle* narrates a *bona fide* case of selling a wife to have recently occurred at Bury. A laboring man named Bradley suspected his wife, and with good reason, it would appear, of being on too intimate terms with a fellow-laborer named Fletcher. One evening, a fortnight ago, the two men repaired to a taproom, and there Bradley agreed to part with his wife to Fletcher for a sovereign; Fletcher paid down the money, and took the woman home. The affair created such disgust amongst the neighbors that both parties were compelled to leave their residences; they have also been both dismissed from their employment.

A CHILD BURIED ALIVE.—A coroner's jury at Bytham, Nottinghamshire, found a verdict of "wilful murder," on Friday last, against a single woman named Elizabeth Lound, for having buried her illegitimate child, a few weeks old, alive in a field. It was proved that the inhuman parent had often expressed a desire for its death.

A NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POTATO.—In the garden of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick are growing two plants of a Chinese yam, which is expected to prove an excellent substitute for the potato. They have been obtained from the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, where they have been made the subject of experiments that leave no doubt that it will become a plant of real importance in cultivation. "If," says M. Decaisne, who has paid much attention to matters of this kind, "a new plant has a chance of becoming useful in rural economy, it must fulfil certain conditions, in the absence of which its cultivation cannot be profitable. In the first place, it must have been domesticated in some measure, and must suit the climate; moreover, it must in a few months go through all the stages of development, so as not to interfere with the ordinary and regular course of cropping; and, finally, its produce must have a market value in one form or another. If the plant is intended for the food of man, it is also indispensable that it shall not offend the tastes or the culinary habits of the persons among whom it is introduced. To this may be added that almost all the old perennial plants of the kitchen garden have been abandoned in favor of annuals, wherever the latter could be found with similar properties. Thus, *latyrus tuberosus*, *sedum telephium*, &c., have given way before potatoes, spinach, and the like. Now, the Chinese yam satisfies every one of these conditions. It has been domesticated from time immemorial; it is perfectly hardy in this climate (Paris), its root is bulky, rich in nutritive matter, eatable when raw, easily cooked, either by boiling or roasting, and then having no other taste than that of flour (*fécule*). It is as much a ready-made bread as the potato, and it is better than the *balatas*, or sweet potato. Horticulturists should, therefore, provide themselves with the new arrival, and try experiments with it in the different climates and soils of France. If they bring to their task, which is of great public importance, the requisite amount of perseverance and intelligence, I have a firm belief that the potato yam (*igname balatas*) will, like its predecessor the potato, make many a fortune, and more especially alleviate the distress of the lower classes of the people." Such is M. Decaisne's account of this new food-plant, which is now in actual cultivation at Chiswick; and, judging from the size of the set from which one of the plants had sprung, it is evident that the tubers have all the requisites for profitable cultivation. One has been planted under glass, the other in the open air, and at present both appear to be thriving equally well. The species has been called *dioscorea balatas*, or the potato yam. It is a climbing plant, bearing considerable resemblance to our common black bryony, and, when it is considered how nearly that plant is related to the yams, the probability of our new comer becoming naturalized among us receives support. Whether, however, it realizes all that the French say of it or not, the trial of it in this country cannot prove otherwise than interesting and worthy of the society which has had the honor of introducing it. Let us hope, however, that it may indeed prove what it is professed to be—"a good substitute for the potato," and in all respects equal to that valuable esculent.