

GREAT BRITAIN.

IRON BATTERIES FOR THE BALTIC.—Some weeks since it was announced in the *Mercury*, that our Government contemplated, through the suggestion of the French Government, ordering a number of floating batteries, to be constructed of wood, and cased with iron plates, as an auxiliary force to the allied fleets in the Baltic. The batteries are to be 40 in number, and are to be ready in March next. They will be flat-bottomed, with round stern and stern, and nearly 2,000 tons burden, 150 feet long, 56 feet wide, 20 feet deep, and propelled by horizontal engines of 200 horse power. The strongest materials are to be employed in the building of these formidable engines of war, and in their construction the resources of Liverpool have not been overlooked. The Mersey Steel and Iron Company, at the south end of the town, have received a large order for the manufacture of the casing plates, and the workmen are now engaged upon them night and day. A considerable portion of the plates has already been completed, and sent per rail to London. Each of the plates is 12 feet long 3 feet wide, and 4 1/2 inches thick; and each battery will require 700 tons of those plates. From experiments which have been made, and of which these batteries are the result, it has been found that the strength of iron increases enormously in proportion to its integral thickness as compared with the same amount of metal in laminae, or single plates, however closely or firmly they may be united. As, for instance, 8-inch boiler plates, strongly bolted together, being exposed to the fire of ordinary artillery, each shot perforated the mass with certainty and ease; but when a four-inch wrought-iron plate was subjected to the same task, it was found completely shot proof, and even the heaviest shot directed against it at a distance of 300 yards was shattered and broken like a snowball against a stone wall. These new flat-bottomed gunboats are to be armed with 12 of the largest Lancaster guns. Each boat will have two decks, the upper being bomb-proof, eight inches thick, and the lower will be the fighting deck. A number of these boats are already in a forward state, and the whole, no doubt, will be ready by the time they will be required by the Government. There is every reason to believe, from the experiments which have been made, that these enormous floating batteries will be more than a match for the formidable Russian forts in the Baltic, and that early in the spring of next year, if he should not give way in the interval, the Czar will find himself outwitted, after all his years of labor and expense upon his supposed impregnable strongholds.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

FOREIGN ENLISTMENT.—“Government has proclaimed a necessity, and we have no help for it but to submit to it, as the least of two evils. They must have been well aware how unpalatable the proposition would be, and how requisite it was that the bitter draught should be gulped down at once, for when was so grave a measure so abruptly announced, so peremptorily enforced. Without one word of preparation to anybody, without a hint in the Queen's speech, the Minister of War gets up and informs the House of Lords that he must have a foreign legion, and as the means thereto the power of keeping a depot of foreign troops in this country. We are accused of inconsistency. If it is inconsistent to say that we hate the thing intensely, that we distrust it, that we expect it to bring discredit on our army both abroad and at home, yet feel that we must acquiesce as a matter of confidence in the powers that be, then we confess we cannot satisfy those who abuse the government, whatever it does, and for the present measure only as much as for all its measures. It is not pleasant to find ourselves thus early as deep in a European war as we were in 1804. Think of all the old names—Hanoverians, Hessians, Brunswickers, Danes, and 20 other denominations—reviewed in Hyde Park! What a host of German princes and barons will turn up! All this is on the most favorable hypothesis. It supposes that we have caught our hare and have only to cook it. But it is possible we may not catch our hare; and if we go out recruiting over the continent, and do not succeed in bagging more than a few wretched criminals and vagabonds, the good cause we are fighting for will be considerably damaged by the failure of this appeal.”—*London Times*.

The *Daily News* has taken some pains to show that the expenditure of the war has not exceeded the supplies already provided. These are the figures. “The cost of the Army, Navy, and Ordnance, in 1853, was £16,325,675; and the number of men voted for the three services was 165,381—Army, 102,283; Navy, 45,500; Ordnance, 17,598. The number voted in 1854 as sufficient for the war was—Army, 127,241, increase, 24,958; Navy, 56,500, increase, 13,000; Ordnance, 19,266, increase, 1,669; total increase, 35,007, or about one fifth. The addition therefore to our military power, caused by the war; over and above the peace establishment of 1850, as measured by the number of men, which includes officers of all ranks, was 21 per cent. The additional money, however, asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and readily granted, for this increased military power, was the surplus revenue £2,000,000, additional taxes, £10,000,000, a loan by Exchequer Bonds £3,000,000, and a vote of credit, £3,000,000, total £21,000,000, which added to the military expenditure of 1853, makes a total provision for the military expenses of more than £37,000,000. While the force was increased only 21 per cent, the money voted was augmented 130 per cent.”

THE FIGHTING POWERS OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.—The French, proverbially a brave and excitable people, are brilliant and formidable in an attack. If repulsed, a revulsion equally violent usually takes place, and would often prove fatal if it were not for the precaution of placing reserves. When these are not wanting, they are capable of being easily rallied, and their lively spirit is soon restored. The Russians are less excitable; but, nevertheless, in an attack they are not to be surpassed in bravery and perseverance by the troops of any European nation, with this advantage, that they appear to be incapable of panic, and, though they may be repulsed and defeated, they cannot be forced to run in confusion from the field of battle. The Prussian armies engaged in these campaigns were not, for the most part, very young soldiers; a spirit of enthusiasm pervaded their ranks, which rendered them capable of the most brilliant achievements. In cases of defeat, the effects of momentary hurry and confusion, to which all young troops are liable, were less violent with them than the French; but, though easily rallied, and their patriotic enthusiasm soon restored, they could not rival the Russian stoicism in adversity. The Austrians, properly so-called, were highly disciplined and brave; but the infantry of that race appear-

ed deficient in energy, when compared with the French or Prussians, and their physical powers could not be compared with those of the sturdy Russian soldiery. The Bohemians appeared to be somewhat more healthy and robust, but did not materially differ in point of national character from their Austrian brethren in arms. The Hungarian infantry were decidedly superior to both in point of energy and physical power; and the select corps of Grenadiers furnished by that nation were equal, if not superior, to any in the field.—*Cathart's Commentaries*.

ALEXANDER McLEOD.—Capt. Alexr. McLeod, of steamer *Caroline* notoriety, has preferred, before the Mixed Commission, now sitting in London, for the adjustment of Anglo-Saxon claims, a demand against the United States government, for compensation to the extent of £5000, for the sufferings and losses sustained by him during his imprisonment and prosecution in this country, on the charge of being concerned in the attack on the *Caroline*.—*U. S. Paper*.

UNITED STATES.

We observe that the Massachusetts “Know-Nothings” are endeavoring to operate upon the United States. They sent last week a memorial to that honorable body “settling forth the evils arising from emigrants, and particularly Roman Catholic emigrants,” and asking for a law imposing a head tax of \$250 on every foreigner arriving in the country.—*Catholic Herald*.

The Governor of Michigan, in his annual address to both branches of the Legislature, recommends among other laws the prohibition of bank bills of a denomination under five dollars; the repeal of the prohibitory liquor law, and in its stead the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors in a less quantity than of one or more gallons.

Messrs. Buck, of Lebanon, N.H., have just completed a large order for their improved machinery, for the Army at Woolwich, England. Messrs. Robbins & Lawrence, at Windsor, Vt., have executed another for the same destination, to the extent of \$80,000. The latter is exclusively for the manufacture of Minie rifles, guns, &c.

The total naturalization in the Superior and Common Pleas Courts of New York, during the last year, was 66,04, and about the same number of foreigners have declared their intention of becoming citizens.

A memorial is in circulation, addressed to the Senate and House of Massachusetts, requesting those bodies to declare any United States officer residing in this commonwealth, who shall help to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, infamous and incapable of holding office under the state; also, to pass a law, making it punishable by fine and imprisonment for any state, county, city or town officer to help to enforce said Law. Claimants of slaves are to be punished by fine and imprisonment.

THE MAINE LAW IN BOSTON.—The enforcement of the liquor law gives a great deal of trouble in Boston. In six months there were four hundred and fifty-five violations of the law, and the offenders prosecuted. Mayor Smith, in his inaugural address on Monday, remarked:—“These familiar with the working of self-interest in these prosecutions, to aid the penalties of a conviction represent that there is a fearful amount of hypocrisy, misrepresentation, and wilful perjuries committed, indicative of a state of demoralization so truly painful, as to lead many of the staunchest friends of temperance to lament, that the attempted suppression of a vice destructive to reputation and the body, should sometimes peril the soul by sins of a darker hue.”—*Boston Pilot*.

“A beautiful mulatto slave was hanged at Entaw, last Friday for murdering a child.” The circumstances were as follows:—Her master was a young man and the father of her child. When her child was three years old, he married a young lady of small fortune, and bought the plantation for himself. The lady soon ascertained that he was the father of the little-curly-head and at once became indignant towards it, and at the slightest offence would cruelly abuse the child. The mother bore it with patience for a while, but seeing her mistress get no better, she knocked her child's brains out with an axe and went to the Court house, told the circumstances, gave herself up, and was committed to prison.

The people of Ellsworth have had presented to them an American flag, for tarring and feathering Mr. Bapst, the Catholic priest.

Bishop Delaney, of Western New York pronounces “Protestant Episcopal Brotherhoods” and “Sisterhoods” to be “needless, cumbersome, hazardous, forming a church within a church, and likely to become a sectional, exclusive, and inimical party organization.”

The “Escaped Nun” is going to write a romance *a la Marin Monk*. Before so doing, we would recommend her to read the life and sad end of her prototype. No woman has ever yet dishonored her sex by such an attempt, on whom God's vengeance has not visibly fallen.—*Boston Pilot*.

The *American Celt*, whose talented editor is about to pay a visit to his native land, complains that “taking advantage of the state of excitable uncertainty—theseimps of darkness—the organizers of secret societies—have lately gone among our young men, and have sworn in many of them, for an illegal expedition to Ireland. They say they are already certain of ten thousand young men in this and three other cities; but the number we think grossly exaggerated. They have, however, ensured a good many, and are catching many more;—the most taking bait to hook these gudgeons being, certain pretended accounts that a similar society is spread ‘all over Ireland, including at least two or three million members!’ A million, more or less, is no trouble to these gentlemen. Of course we have no faith in any such report or expedition. We have and can have neither act nor part in secret societies. No Catholic, no good citizen can. But there is no use in reasoning with these men, at this distance. They will believe their own informants, not yours, and very possibly they may bring again, within ten years, on the Irish name and cause, another burden of shame as sad and as heavy as the memory of 1848.”

A young American engineer of talent and skill, who had served in the navies of England, Russia, and the United States, sailed from Boston last week for Europe, in response to tenders made him by the Emperor of all the Russias again to enlist in his service. He took with him some fifteen or twenty young men, whom he had enlisted as associates.

IMMIGRATION.—The total number of foreign immigrants arrived at Boston, during the last year, numbered 22,000.

“A KNOW-NOTHING.”—John W. Shrock, Treasurer of Holmes County, Ohio, has absconded, taking with him some \$30,000 of the people's money. The gentleman is thus described in the *Cleveland Leader*:—“Shrocks is an old gray-haired man, a prominent church member, and a leader of the ‘Democratic party.’”

An extract of a letter from Mr. Walsh to the *Journal of Commerce*, represent the Rev. Mr. Coquerel, a Protestant clergyman of Paris, and an associate pastor with the Rev. Mr. Monod, whose tenets are of what is called the evangelical school, as avowing, though with certain modifications, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The sinless birth of the Virgin however, he makes no exception to the general rule, maintaining the entire innocence of all human beings at their entrance into the world. Mr. Coquerel is what some call a liberal Christian, agreeing, we believe, in his general views, with the Unitarians of this country.—*Christian Inquirer*.

IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—OUR STAPLE IMPORT.—A correspondent has supplied the *Albany Evening Journal* with a mass of information respecting what the journal quaintly, but very appropriately, calls “Our Staple import,”—to wit, the bones, blood and sinews of men, women and children from the shores of Europe. The information thus supplied is derived from authentic and official sources, having been, in fact, obtained at the census office, where it accumulated during the taking of the census. According to these figures the Irish immigration is still the largest and that from other countries ranges numerically in the following order, after that from Ireland:—Germany, England, Scotland, France, the Canadas, Switzerland, Prussia, Holland, Norway, the West Indies, Wales, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Russia, China, &c. The whole number of immigrants in the Union is 2,244,602. The largest number that ever arrived in one year was in 1852—372,725. The largest from any one country in that year was from Ireland, 157,543. The smallest number from any one country was from Turkey which sent us but three Turks during the year. The total immigration increases a few thousand every year. The immigration from Ireland in particular, however, is decreasing.—It reached its climax in 1850, when 117,038 Irish were imported into the United States, through the port of New York alone. The same remark applies to the Protestant and Catholic immigration respectively. The former is increasing; the latter is diminishing, and were the immigration from Ireland to be discontinued, the number of Protestant immigrants now yearly arriving would largely exceed that of the adherents of the Romish church. Of the various creeds which this importation of aliens incorporate with our own religious denominations, the Germans are (principally) Lutherans and Catholics; the Irish Catholics and Presbyterians; the English, Episcopalians and Methodists; the Scotch, Presbyterians; the French and Canadians, divided between Protestants and Catholics; the Swedes, Norwegians, Prussians, Swiss and Dutch, Lutherans or Calvinists. Of the temporal avocations of the 2,244,902 immigrants already mentioned, 62,628 are farmers, 82,571 labourers, 24,514 mechanics, 11,558 merchants, and more than 50,000 household domestics.

Now before uttering wholesale condemnation of the “influx of foreigners to our shores,” it might be well to consider awhile the above array of facts. But for this large importation of foreigners, how could our railroads have been built, our vast private city improvements have been made, or our public works have been constructed. Suffering commerce had suffered no disturbance where should we be if the eighty-two thousand laborers, the twenty-four thousand mechanics, the sixty-four thousand farmers (probably the larger portion of them farm laborers) and the upward of ninety thousand household domestics were removed from our midst? Why, the contractor could not afford to build a frame road at prices which would tempt any one to employ him on such a work. The farmer could not afford to build a fence or dig a trench; while, alas! for our wives and daughters, (and ourselves by consequence,) the menial service of the household would have to be performed by their delicate hands, all women's rights to the contrary notwithstanding, for the man's whole time would be required by the increased labor thrown upon them.—Ary fear that the native population will at any time be crowded out, is proved to be groundless by the fact that the native births in the Union annually number 653,917 or about double the number of immigrants yearly imported to our shores. The same writer mentions that of the two millions, two-hundred and forty-four thousand immigrants now in the Union, the slave states contain but 314,670, while the free states have within a fraction of 1,930,000. This unquestionably is one of the secrets of the more rapid growth and prosperity of the free states, and as the *Evening Journal* justly remarks, it is also an element in their increasing political powers as opponents of slavery, and hence it is properly held that the slavery question and the immigrant question are not isolated and separate issues.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

SISTERHOODS OF MERCY.—The British nation is learning a lesson of practical wisdom just now, arising out of the exigencies of the war, which is dispelling a large amount of prejudice, and imparting no inconsiderable quantity of enlightenment. Hitherto everything that was found in the Church of Rome, whether good, bad, or indifferent, has been either denounced or derided: Its connection with Popery was its inevitable condemnation however great or small its merits.—People were prejudiced against it, because of its associations. The Protestant mind of England had yielded to the blinding and besotting influences of prejudice. “There are habits of misapprehension and misjudging.” It has been aptly said, “common among all degrees of men: fretfulness, industrious to seek, or even feign and chew upon matter that may nourish it; captiousness, ingenious in perverting the meaning of words; partiality, warping everything to its own purpose; censoriousness, unable to discern a bright part in characters; self conceit, averse to discern the real motives of acting; melancholy anguishing always for the worst; beside many more, some of which every one may find lurking in his own breast, if he will but look narrowly enough.” Now, that such habits are but too common with all, there is evidence in all directions; and the prejudices which they create and enforce are apt to prevail with overwhelming effect among us Protestants, in our judgment of everything Roman.—Much that is useful and good, there-

fore, has been lost to us on that account. One thing in particular, the value of which is beginning to be seen and acknowledged, and by England at the present moment, taken advantage of to a considerable extent—we mean the institution of Sisterhoods of Mercy and Charity. What has opened the eyes, lately so blinded with prejudice, to the value of an institution of which the Church of Rome has been allowed so long to have a monopoly, is the urgent necessity that has arisen to provide suitable nurses for the wounded and the sick of the British army in the Crimea. The French had no difficulty in finding as many as they require among their Sisters of Charity—women of whom Voltaire, who is not one likely to be suspected of a leaning towards any religious order, has yet been constrained to say, that their devotedness to the consolation of the afflicted, and the relief of the distressed, and their friendliness to the desolate, was one of the noblest sacrifices which the world could witness. But the English knew not where to look—save indeed, to Rome.—*N. Y. Churchman*.

MAINE LIQUOR LAW IN MAINE.—A writer in the *Leader* (Toronto), who is sending to that journal a series of articles on the operation of prohibitory laws in New England, gives the following startling statements, which our Maine Law friends will have to explain. We know nothing about the statistics. For the rest, we can ourselves testify that at the dinner tables of the Portland hotels, the drinking of intoxicating liquors is as open as at those of the hotels of Quebec or Montreal.—*Montreal Herald*.

“That there might be no possible room to cavil about the accuracy of the statistics, I resolved to search the records of the courts in order to note the fluctuations of crime since the celebrated ‘Maine Law’ went into operation, in July, 1851. For judicial purposes, the city of Portland is united with the county of Cumberland: one municipal court serves the joint purposes of both. From the official records of that court I obtained the following statistics, showing the number of persons annually charged with crimes and offences from the year previous to the enactment of the ‘Maine Law’ to the 21st of this month, the day on which I examined the judicial records:—

No. of persons charged with crimes and offences.	Year.
495	1850 (the year before the law passed)
523	1851 (Law in force from July)
642	1852
627	1853
734	1854 (to Dec. 21)

Thus, then, the number of persons charged with crimes and offences, in the city of Portland and the county of Cumberland, in which the city is situated, rose from 495, in 1850, the year before the law went into operation, to 734, on the 21st December, 1854, when the year had ten days to run. The law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors has been three and a half years in operation; and the progress of crime so far from being arrested has gone on increasing in a geometrical ratio, having far outstripped that of the population. In 1850, Portland contained 20,000 inhabitants; in 1854 it has 25,000; showing an increase of twenty-five per cent. in four years. The increase of crime, in the same period, has been nearly fifty per cent. But, it may be said, there may be some other explanation of these astounding figures: that these crimes do not necessarily argue the existence of drunkenness; but that they may have occurred in spite of the forced but exemplary sobriety of the people. This theory, however, does not rest upon facts. The judicial records show that somewhat more than do drink to excess in this model city of forced abstemiousness; that in the police office charges of drunkenness are daily preferred; and what is more extraordinary still that the number of persons charged with this offence in 1854 is greater than it was the year before the prohibitory law was enacted. On this point also I examined the judicial records before quoted; with the following result. In 1850, the year before the ‘Maine law’ was enacted, two hundred and sixty-six persons were charged with drunkenness, or with being common drunkards; while two hundred and sixty-eight had been charged with the same offence to the 21st December in the present year! But the actual increase of drunkards in the city of Portland and county of Cumberland is greater than even these figures indicate. The actual number of persons accused of drunkenness in 1850, the year before the ‘Maine law’ went into operation, is exaggerated in the records of the courts; owing to the practice which then existed of classifying as ‘common drunkards’ vagrants sent before the court on workhouse warrants; a practice which has since fallen into disuse. Nor do these figures show the whole number of drunkards arrested during the present year; for many who are taken to the Marshal's office during the night are released in the morning. We have thus official evidence of the astounding fact that the number of public drunkards in this city and in the county of Cumberland, in which it is situated, is considerably greater after three and a half years' operation of the ‘Maine law’ than it was before that law was enacted.

“From all the evidence I can collect, I believe that the sellers of liquor not only derive great benefit from the prohibitory law; but that they are so fully convinced of the fact that they would not procure its repeal if they could. They charge about twice as much for liquor as they did before the law was enacted, and that for a vastly inferior article; thus making their profits three or four times as great, as before the law was passed, on the quantity sold. And that the quantity sold is much less, the statistics I have quoted give no indication. But the advantages of the law to retail liquor-dealers do not stop here. They are free from the license tax; free from the obligation to provide stated accommodations for their patrons; in short, they enjoy a lawless freedom from everything but the least of detection. And, in point of fact, they care very little for that; for society having conspired to defeat the law, the liquor-dealers are held harmless of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, which are ultimately borne by their customers; being raised by a sort of voluntary assessment. When a fine for illegal selling is announced, the regular customers of the house mulcted contribute each his proportion to make up the amount.”

KOSUTH.—If you ever meet with a person whose special gift it is to prove everybody wrong and set every body right—who is always ready to school his neighbors—to whom all difficulties are trifles and no subject is strange, he generally turns out to be one whose own career has been a series of failures and mistakes. M. Kosuth is one of these unhappy creatures.—*Guardian*.