

The Premier of England said some four months ago that Ireland was "within measurable distance of war." Subsequent events have shown that Mr. Gladstone's utterance was not a needless alarm. The country is at present not only in an unsatisfactory, but perilous condition. The agitation that exists is not an ordinary political excitement, but a wild outburst of anarchy that threatens to sweep away not only the rights of property, but all law and order. The tumultuous state of the country is mainly owing to a few unprincipled demagogues, who pretend to be the people's friends, but are in reality their worst enemies. A well informed writer says: "The tenant-farmers are urged to pay no rents, except on condition of owning the land they occupy, in a few years. Parnell tells them that the present race of landlords must be got rid of. The brutal and cowardly murder of Lord Mountmorres is gloated over by the mob without rebuke from their leaders, and the excitable populace is recommended to put evicted tenants into possession again. It is needless to say that wild talk of this kind can only aggravate the evils from which our country is suffering. Nor is it surprising that, as the fruit of such agitation, acts of violence are rife in some parts of the land. There never was a time in the modern history of the country in which there was less excuse for such acts, for never was there a Government more honestly and heartily disposed to redress grievances." It is pleasing to note that the Government is determined to stop the progress of the agitation so hurtful to all classes and interests; by *ordinary* means if sufficient, by *extraordinary*, if required. Some of the leading agitators have been arrested, and wait their trial. Prayer should be offered to Him who rules the nations, that all such unholy excitements may be overruled for good, as they assuredly will be; and that the light of the Gospel may so shine upon the dark places of the earth—and Ireland amongst the number—that righteousness and peace may universally prevail.

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There is, perhaps, no country in the world in regard to which there are more geographical mistakes, than Africa. It is almost universally believed that the Sahara, as it is called, is a great desert. "On the contrary," says the *American Messenger*, "it is now pronounced a cultivated country, fruitful as the garden of Eden. It is said by recent travellers to be a vast archipelago of oases, filled with flourishing towns and villages, each surrounded by a large belt of tropical fruit trees."

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The Rev. Dr. Ryle, the recently appointed Bishop of Liverpool is reported to have said not long since that, there is an organized conspiracy in Britain, to bring the English church over to Rome. Considerable progress seems to have been already made in the Romeward direction. It is stated that in several ritualistic churches, in London, on a late Lord's day, prayers were offered for *the repose of the soul* of a recently deceased clergyman of the ritualistic school. It is confidently asserted that negotiations are really going on between the ritualists of England and the Vatican.