

7. That the thanks of this District Branch of the Church Society be given to the late Treasurer, Thos. Askew Esq. for his long and efficient services.

THE PROPELLER—CITY OF GLASGOW.
Has arrived from Liverpool. She brings 360 passengers and a full cargo.

The *Atlantic* arrived about six p.m., having left Liverpool at 10 a.m., on 8th. The *Niagara* out on the 8th. The news generally unimportant.

The following is from the circular of Richardson & Co., "After about three weeks frost the weather has become mild and the land will in all probability soon be in a state to receive seed. At meeting this morning a usual attendance. The local dealers and millers and a few others, but not finding holders of wheat offering under prices of Friday but a small business was done. Flour was in the same sluggish state that we have of late reported, in this branch of the trade and where sales were effected, the buyer had the market in his favor. Indian corn slow for both white and yellow at 32 for American. Large arrivals of Breadstuffs have slackened the demand." Robt. Macon & Sons in their circular of 8th quote wheat 1d. lower, and flour 6d. to 1s. London Money Market quiet, consols closed 99½ a 99½.

ENGLAND—In the House of Lords, on Monday Lord Aberdeen in reply to enquiries, said that Government had no information of the escape of Mazzini from Genoa, on the British frigate *Retribution*.

Lord Malmesbury said if it was true it was an act of most ill judged humanity.

The subject of Education in Ireland has been under debate in the House of Lords.

In the House of Commons Lord John Russell, has declared the Government to be in favor of the proposed Canal through the Isthmus of Darien if practicable and desirous of the Corporation of the United States.

Parliament was to adjourn over on the 18th to 4th April.

The Board of Trade returns for February show an increase of 30 per cent, in the value of the exports over the same month last year.

The Postage between England and all the British Colonies is to be reduced to 6d per ½ oz.

FRANCE—164 more of the political offenders have been amnestied.

AUSTRIA—The Emperor has nearly recovered from his wound. The reported conspiracy in the fortress of Comorn is confirmed.

ITALY—Mazzini has published two letters which have produced division in the democratic camp.

TURKEY—The details of the settlement of the Montenegro war are published. The ultra Turkish party are much annoyed at the submission of the Porte and the demands of Austria, and it is said the Ministry will have to resign.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. SPOONER presented various petitions against Maynooth, among them one from 17,300 persons at Manchester.

Mr. LUCAS, supported by Mr. Hume, complained that the Maynooth College was described in that petition as "Romish," but the objection was over-ruled by the Speaker.

Mr. SPOONER then moved for a committee to consider the acts on the subject of Maynooth, with a view to the repeal of such clauses of those acts as provided money grants to that institution. He had previously moved for inquiry on the subject, but as there had been no denial of his statements there was no need for further inquiry, and he called on the house, all of whose members were sworn to preserve the Church Establishment, to do its duty to the country, to the Sovereign, and to itself. The education at Maynooth justified its pupils in the violent and almost rebellious conduct pursued at the late elections in Ireland, and he read a series of accounts of priestly denunciations and persecutions of those who had voted against the Roman Catholic candidates. He thence argued that Maynooth had failed in accomplishing the objects for which it was intended. He adverted to bulls continually issued from Rome, absolving the Roman Catholics in Ireland from their allegiance to the Queen, and, insisting upon the importance of our preserving our Protestant character, implored the house, in the name of God, to arrest the downward progress the country had been pursuing too long. He dwelt upon the duty of a catholic priest to conceal confessional secrets, even when they involved murder or treason, and argued that no social government could exist where such a doctrine was taught; and he also reminded the house that in many parts of Ireland no reliance could be placed upon the verdicts of Catholic jurors, in consequence of the teaching of their priests that they could be absolved from their oaths. He concluded a speech of nearly two hours by an earnest denunciation of Popery, which he described as idolatry, and by an appeal to the government to stand by Protestant principles.

Mr. J. M'GREGOR seconded the motion, advocating inquiry into the Maynooth system, of which he believed too true a picture had been drawn.

Mr. SCHOLEFIELD moved as an amendment that the proposed committee should consider all acts whereby the revenue of the State

was charged in aid of any ecclesiastical or religious purpose, with a view to the repeal of such enactments. Until all sects were placed on a level, the principle of religious liberty would not be carried out. His motion did not refer to the Regium Donum, but he found charges for the ecclesiastical establishments in the West Indies, for commissioners for building churches, for stipends to ministers of the Church of Scotland, and for ministers in the Highlands, all of which he wished to sweep away. If, as he expected, his amendment should be lost, he should vote against the original motion.

Sir WM. CLAY seconded the amendment and said that if Mr. Spooner's speech had any weight, it was merely as making out a case for inquiry, which he did not ask. But he contended that all ecclesiastical endowments interfered with the right of private judgment.

Col. GREVILLE could not think that the motion was calculated to increase the loyalty of the people of Ireland, or to inspire them with confidence in the Legislature of this country.

Mr. MIALL did not choose, by a vote in that House, to express his opinion upon the comparative merits of religious creeds. But if State money were to be given, he would rather give it in support of error than of truth, and the last creed he would wish to see endowed was his own. If you must give endowments, give them to the morally heathen, who admitted that they could not do without them. But he wished to see both Protestantism and Roman Catholicism without assistance from the State.

Mr. ED. BALL observed that the inference from the last speech was more severe as regarded the Roman Catholics than anything Mr. Spooner had said. He reiterated the argument that the Maynooth endowment had failed in accomplishing its objects.

Mr. DUFFY, after denying the value of the newspaper statements brought forward by Mr. Spooner, asked whether it was thought that the withdrawal of the Maynooth grant would put an end to the teaching of the Catholic religion in Ireland. It might be worth considering whether the Irish Catholics were to be driven to seek assistance from foreign sovereigns. Should this motion be carried, the Irish Church establishment must speedily fall, and he for one would never pay another shilling of tithes. But he invited the Government to extend to Ireland the wise system of legislation they were adopting towards the Cape and Canada, namely, that of consulting the wishes of the people.

Sir JOHN YOUNG regretted that this useless and irritating motion had been brought forward, but he was not surprised at it after the language of the Irish press and Irish politicians. The latter, however, he could not regard as representatives of the real feeling of the Irish nation. In regard to Mr. Spooner's objection to the principle on which the Maynooth grant was founded, he cited the contrary opinion of an English bishop in 1798, and alluded to the thorough discussion the subject had undergone in the times of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Perceval, Lord Liverpool, and Sir Robert Peel, and he quoted the speech of the Duke of Wellington on the subject in 1846. The measure had not been one of mere kindness to the Catholics, but was one of Imperial policy, designed to prevent them from acquiring Ultramontane opinions, and Mr. Grattan himself had borne testimony to its beneficial results. Defending the course Sir Robert Peel had taken, and referring to that statesman's declaration that his policy had been received in Ireland with as much gratitude as he expected, he added his own belief that there were thousands of Irish Catholics more kindly inclined to the English constitution in consequence of the increased grant to Maynooth. In regard to Mr. Spooner's allegation that the Catholic clergy had forfeited all claim to consideration by their conduct at the late elections he would say that we should not be hasty to condemn, but consider the circumstances of excitement at those elections, at which persons who had not a chance of success started in opposition to the popular feeling, when they could only hope to win by unconstitutional means. Then there were the proclamations against processions and the Stockport outrage. And there were 60 or 80 elections in Ireland, and 3,000 priests, and yet, on the evidence of ten or twelve papers, Mr. Spooner brought a charge against the whole body. After remonstrating with Mr. Spooner on his one-sided use of Scriptural language, he urged that there were some five millions of Roman Catholics in the kingdom, who paid perhaps ten millions to the revenue, and yet £30,000 was grudged to this body for education purposes. Mr. Spooner had complained of the persecuting spirit of Roman Catholicism, but though he himself could not persecute, the will was there, and he did all he could by excluding Catholics from posts of distinction. This was the beginning of a retrograde and condemned policy, of the

kind to which great part of the evils of Ireland were to be attributed. The Protestants, being a majority, were to be urged to disregard the wishes and feelings of the Catholic minority. But he appealed to the Protestants of the House not to be turned from their onward course, but to go on in their calm strength, and in the light of their own pure faith, disregarding any ingratitude they might have met, and avoiding even the appearance of persecution, by rejecting this motion by a large majority.

Mr. STANHOPE spoke warmly against both the principle and the working of the Maynooth grant. It being then past midnight.

Mr. FAGAN moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to, but not without cries for a division.

The consideration in committee of the Examiner in Chancery Bill occupied the next hour and a half.

The House then adjourned at half-past one.

THE FRENCH INVASION.

Admiral Sir Charles Napier has addressed the following letter to the *Times* of Thursday:—

Sir,—Lord Mount Edgecumbe has written you a very alarming letter. No wonder; he lives near one of our great arsenals, and knows its weakness, and he has no wish to see a French admiral or general in his house. Mr. Ewart on the other hand has written a very tranquilizing letter, which is not surprising, as he has been living in the society of the scientific and learned men in Paris, who cannot desire war. Had he associated with the naval and military men, I suspect he would have come to a different conclusion. Mr. Ewart, I am glad to see, approves an effective system of defence. All experienced and right thinking men agree with him. Lord J. Russell, as you observe, Sir, has announced that it is not the intention of the Government to further increase the army or navy. I am sorry for it. I am told that you cannot bring into the field more than 20,000 regular troops of all arms, after leaving garrisons in places that must be defended. That is a very small force for the protection of the country, even when supported by 80,000 militia. The Government, however, seem satisfied. I therefore conclude they have no fear of a sudden attack, and the 80,000 militia, if well officered and well commanded, and kept longer in the field, will no doubt become effective in time. As to the navy I am in hopes the 5000 seamen and 1500 maines voted will enable the Admiralty to produce an efficient Channel fleet, and as the Committee have made their report on manning the navy, it is to be hoped some plan will be fixed upon for the Queen to call out the seamen wanted in any emergency. The country looks up to the navy as its surest defence, and I have no doubt it will do its duty; but it cannot do impossibilities. The attacking party at the beginning of a war has always the advantage, because it can call in all its ships from foreign stations without ont knowledge, and concentrate them where it pleases, and steam greatly facilitates such an operation. In 1840 this was done. France disagreed with the Allied Powers on the affairs of Syria, a rupture was expected, a French fleet superior to ours, was collected at Toulon, and no less than twenty ships-of-war of different sizes—eight being large frigates—were assembled at Martinique and Guadaloupe, to face which we had a half-manned British frigate. This can be done again, and there is our danger.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

A lamentable accident, resulting in the death of one of the directors of the Great Western Railway, and the serious injury of several other persons, took place yesterday morning to the up express train, leaving Bristol at 8 10 a.m., and due in London at 11 30 a.m.

The Secretary of the Great Western Railway Company has communicated to us the following official account:—The morning express train from Bristol reached the Ealing cutting at the usual time 11, 14, and had passed the Ealing station on its way to Paddington, when the travelling porter, who sits on the tender, looking back on the carriages, observed one of the first-class carriages to sink at one corner and to run off the rail. He instantly called to the engine driver, who on looking back upon the train, saw the gravel flying about, and shut off the steam, reversing his engine. When this was done, but before the train could be stopped, the three first-class carriages broke away from the coupling, and were discovered running up the left slope of the cutting. The foremost of them, after reaching the summit of the slope, fell over, and the second carriage coming into violent collision with it, also fell over on its side. The last carriage was but slightly injured and the passengers in it escaped without injury. In the second body of the middle carriage four of the Great

Western directors were seated, coming to attend a special meeting of the board. One of them, Mr. James Gibbs, of Bristol, we lament to say, was killed on the spot. Dr. Prichard Smith was severely injured by a dislocation of the shoulder. The other directors Mr. Potter of Gloucester, and Mr. Simonds of Reading, escaped unhurt. Three or four of the Passengers met with some injury by cuts or contusions, but not in any case to a serious extent, and all were enabled to proceed on their journey. The only cause which can be assigned for the accident is the breaking of the scroll iron and axle guard of the first-class carriage, and it is difficult to distinguish whether either or both of these were fractured before the carriage left the rail, or when it was upset. The wheels and axles proved to be entire, one axle only being bent, which was obviously occasioned by the blow when the carriage was thrown over from the slope of the cutting.—*Morning Chronicle*.

IRELAND.

SHOCKING DEATH OF CHARLES CAVANAGH, ESQ.

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Charles Kavanagh, Esq., of Borris House, formerly of the 3rd Buffs and late of the 17th Hussars, under the following melancholy circumstances. It appears that this young gentleman, the representative of the ancient Kings of Leinster, and who so very recently succeeded to the family estates, on the death of his elder brother, was alive and well on Sunday morning, but whilst shaving himself, it is said, too near the fire in his bed-room, his morning gown caught the flame and blazed about him, whereupon he flung himself upon his bed, to the curtains and sheets of which the flames were communicated, and before assistance could reach him he was so fearfully burned in many parts of the body that he only lingered to Monday evening, when he died. Mr. Kavanagh was in his twenty-fourth year, and was to have been married on Easter Monday to a beautiful and highly accomplished young lady, residing in the county of Meath. Arthur Kavanagh, Esq., the youngest of the three sons of the late Thomas Kavanagh, Esq., and Lady Harriet, succeeds to the family property.—*Kilkenny Moderator*.

United States.

Degradation of the New York Common Council.

The corrupt practices of the New York civic authorities have for years been matter of grave public censure; but a check has at length been given to them by the conviction of fourteen aldermen and seventeen assistants for passing a resolution to suit their nefarious purposes. Alderman Sturtevant was the most prominent actor, and of course the sentence has fallen heavier upon him than the rest.

We copy the following report of the trial before the Superior Court, from the *New York Herald*:—

"What will be done with the Common Council?" was the enquiry that struck upon our ear from every group about the City Hall, and from all quarters of the court room. "Nothing," was the laconic reply, in more instances than one.—Others, however, supposed there would be a fine and an admonition, but no imprisonment.

Shortly after ten o'clock the court was filled in every part, leaving scarce room for the seven-and-twenty defendants of judicial injunctions. Some time before the hour appointed (eleven o'clock,) for the sentence, the Aldermen and assistants entered the court, and with some difficulty made their way to the position assigned them.

"Make way for the Aldermen," was heard from the stentorian lungs of the official, who, though not a lachrymose individual, is called a "crier;" but, to look on the portly array of the Common Council, and their good humoured faces, there seemed no need of tears of sympathy for them.

All conjectures as to the amount of penalty, were soon, however, at an end. The Judges having taken their seats, the clerk proceeded to call the names of the defendants.

The clerk said all but three answered to their names.

Here Alderman Cornell, who is a fine, jolly, rotund looking specimen of civic good things, was seen waving through the mass of people that thronged the court.

Judge Duer then delivered the written judgement of the Court, which is very elaborate, and occupied more than three-quarters of an hour.—He concluded by saying:—

Alderman Sturtevant's case is different from that of the other Aldermen. His framing and preparing this resolution was a deliberate act; the adoption of it by his brethren might have been the result of haste or passion. The sentence as to Ald. Sturtevant is, that he shall be imprisoned in the City Prison for the term of fifteen days; and he shall pay