

**THE IRISH LAND BILLS.**—The *Freeman's Journal* contains an outline of Thursday's proceedings of the committee sitting on the Irish land bills, by which it appears that, "the cause of the tenant-farmers has been flung to the winds by the Government and its members on the committee." The meaning of this is, that the first clause of Serjeant Shee's bill, which is in reality an epitome of its leading provisions, and especially relates to the tenant-right of Ulster, has been rejected by a majority of 17 to 9, or nearly two to one, Lord Palmerston and Sir J. Young voted in the majority. This is regarded as "little short of a virtual rejection of the whole bill." The foregoing is confirmed by the *Weekly Telegraph*, with these additions,—"Mr. Serjeant Shee refused to sanction some amendments proposed by Mr. Bright in the wording of the clause, and the consequence was its rejection, and the virtual defeat of the bill itself. In the majority, Mr. Burke Roche, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Kirk voted. The members who sustained the clause were Messrs. Duffy, J. Sadleir, Lucas, Shee, Greville, J. D. Fitzgerald, W. Fagan, and Urquhart. The further consideration of Mr. Sharnan Crawford's bill stands formally adjourned to Tuesday next; but, after the decision at which the committee arrived to day, it is not probable that it will again occupy much of the time or attention of the committee."

The *Weekly Telegraph* gives the following as the result of an interview between Sir John Young and the Irish members who voted for the income-tax:—"All arrears of the consolidated annuities are to be renounced; that is to say, independent of the £1,500,000 which the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to wipe off, an additional £272,812 is to be cancelled.—The income-tax is not to come into operation in Ireland until after January, 1854. For the purposes of the tax, the Irish tenants are to be rated on the Scotch system of assessment. Non-tenant-farmer paying less than £300 a-year rent will be liable to the income-tax. All tenant-farmers paying under £300 a-year will be exempted from income-tax or consolidated annuities, and those whose rent is above £300 a-year will be liable for income-tax on one-third of their rent. The public Poor Law valuation is to be adopted as a standard of value both as to landowners and occupiers. The inquisitorial features of the Bill will be considerably modified. Generally speaking, the income of a person liable to assessment is to be taken as a multiple of the value of his tenement. Take the case of a shopkeeper or artisan, for instance; instead of subjecting him to the annoyance of an inquisitorial inquiry into the state of his trade transactions or earnings, his income will be set down at four or five times his rent, unless where such an assessment would be manifestly unjust. If a shopkeeper pays £25 a-year for his place of business, he will be presumed to have an income of £100 per annum. All clergy depending on voluntary contributions, if legally liable to the income-tax at all, are to make their returns to a central board in Dublin, and not to local commissioners; or, should they prefer it, through their ecclesiastical superior; and, in either case, the returns are to be treated as conclusive, without further inquiry. The proposed system of licensing traders in tobacco is not to be persevered in."

Mr. Onseley Higgins has addressed a letter to Archdeacon McHale, in which the hon. gentleman treats the case as one most favorable to his own constituents, especially as regards the remission of the consolidated annuities, and accordingly he declares it as his determination to vote for the income tax, accompanied by the entire remission of the famine debts. He holds that, as the farmers in the west of Ireland—all who pay less rent than £200 a-year—will escape the tax on income, they "must be enormous gainers by exchanging the consolidated annuities for the income-tax." Mr. Higgins argues,—"That the imposition of such a tax on Ireland should at first sight raise a host of opponents is nothing more than was to be anticipated. The justice of taxing Ireland to pay a debt she has not contracted is in itself untenable; but if we are compelled to contribute our quota towards its liquidation, it could be imposed in no mode less objectionable than the present, and, in truth, we, particularly of the west of Ireland, are enormous gainers by exchanging the consolidated annuities for the income-tax. To cavil at or oppose such a measure must justify the charge of irreclaimable discontent towards a ministry who seem more disposed to equalize the interest of the old privileged class and that of industry than any that in our days have held the reins of power in this country. In remitting the consolidated annuities, they have given the small farmers, and the numerous class who live by labor, not alone relief, but an exemption from taxation, while the burdens on all classes are considerably reduced. It is unnecessary to remind you, of all men, that I am not sent to Parliament by the aristocracy of our country, who alone, if any, can complain of the tax, that I owe my return to the people, whose interests I am bound to watch over, when I can do so without infringing on the rights of others; and, in fulfillment of my mission, I conceive I must support this measure, unless my constituents desire me to carry out a policy the effects of which would be to sacrifice materially their own pecuniary interests."

**THE CLERGY AND THE INCOME-TAX.**—It is stated in the *Evening Mail* that some modifications are to be made with respect to Ireland, and the statement is corroborated in the *Cork Examiner* on the authority of Mr. John Francis Maguire. The Catholic priests, it appears, are not to be exempted from the tax, but they are to be freed from its "inquisitorial" operation, and their own return (sent in through respective bishops) to be accepted. It is further rumored that the mode of rating the incomes of farmers will be as in Scotland, on one-third of the rent, instead of as in England, where the farmers' profits are supposed to be one-half of the rent. Some small concession may also be made to the smaller shopkeepers.

The *Louth Pilot*, remarking upon the extension of the Income-tax to Ireland, points to the marvellous unanimity of parties when once the "breaches pocket" policy is the stake at issue:—"Men who could agree on nothing else are agreed in denouncing the project which threatens to take money from them.—Had this union existed before, most of the evils of which we complain would not exist, and Ireland would probably be happy and prosperous. But men did not formerly feel the pecuniary evils of refusing to unite for the common good, though such evils have always existed, even to a larger extent than in this instance."

**VOTE BY BALLOT.**—COUNTY OF KILDARE.—The subjoined is a copy of a requisition in course of signature to the High Sheriff of the county of Kildare to convene a county meeting to discuss the question of the ballot:—"Sir, we request that you will, at an early day, con-

vene a meeting of the landlords, clergy, and inhabitants of the county of Kildare, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of petitioning parliament, that in all future elections for members to serve in Parliament, the votes of the constituency shall be taken by ballot.

**ENNIS ELECTION.**—The petition by Michael Feny and another against the return of Mr. J. Fitzgerald for the borough of Ennis will not be proceeded with.

**GOVERNMENT PATRONAGE.**—The clerkship of the Crown for the Court of Queen's Bench, vacated by the death of Mr. Pierce Mahony, has been at length filled up by the appointment of Mr. James Nangle, sessional solicitor for the East Riding of Cork. According to *Saunder's Newsletter*, the winner of the prize is indebted for it to the influence of Messrs. Pollard, Urquhart and Mr. E. B. Roche, the members for the counties of Westmeath and Cork. It was understood that the Lords of the Treasury intended to reduce the salary to £500 a-year—a sufficiently large remuneration, considering that the office bears a close relationship to a sinecure—but the intention has not been carried into execution, and Mr. Nangle will receive the same salary as his predecessor—namely, £900 per annum.

**BEAUTIES OF CHANCERY.**—The *Evening Packet*, together with four-fifths of the Irish press, holds out no encouragement to Mr. Whiteside's bill for the purpose of conferring on the Court of Chancery a jurisdiction similar to that of the Encumbered Estates Commission. A few cases are selected from the archives of the Equity Court, showing how the remnants of victimized estates have come under the hammer of the commissioners, and which fairly exemplify the tenacity of the Chancery gripe:—"In the case of John McDermott the original bill was filed in the year 1809, and the final decree not made until the year 1846. Again, in the case of William E. Hayden, the bill was filed in 1803, the final decree in 1818, and no sale had until it was brought into the Encumbered Estates Court.—Again, in the case of James Dillon, the original bill was filed in the year 1793, with the like result. In the case of Sir Joseph Burke, the original bill was filed in the year 1787, with the like result. Such are a few of the many examples of a system which it is the desire of Mr. Whiteside to perpetuate."

**AN ENCAMPMENT ON THE CURRAGH.**—An encampment on a large scale is about to take place on the Curragh, and besides the King's Dragoon Guards and 11th Hussars, now stationed at Newbridge, we understand that a troop of horse artillery is to be ordered down from Dublin, a squadron of the 3rd Dragoon Guards from Athlone, three troops from the 16th Lancers from Dublin, a demi-battery of Artillery from Kilkenny, and a demi-battery from Athlone, and five regiments of the line, not at present selected by reason of the Infantry moves about to take place, will complete the garrison. It is also said his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge will inspect the whole, after his arrival in Ireland from the encampment on Baginbun Heath.—*United Service Gazette*.

The viaduct across the Byne is proceeding rapidly. It is a stupendous undertaking. The contractor, Mr. Evans, has seven hundred men employed, and the works are being pushed on with the utmost vigor.—There is now in course of erection a temporary wooden bridge, across the river, to convey the passengers from the Belfast terminus to the Dublin line during the Great National Exhibition. This bridge they expected to have completed about the 27th ultimo. The temporary bridge will not interfere with the building of the viaduct, as the directors intend carrying on the original work, and finishing it as speedily as possible. From various parts of Ireland we are informed that the flight of the people, as emigrants, not merely continues, but is every day increasing. Scarcity of labour, and a remarkably decreasing attendance at markets, are mentioned as among the consequences of the continued and increasing exodus.

We believe at no former period did more money reach from America to the relatives of emigrants at home. All these funds are availed of to enable the recipients to leave Ireland, and these, in turn, will draw after them others. There is scarce at this moment an individual in this part of Ireland who has not relatives in America, consequently each batch of emigrants who leave our shores give earnest of the still larger number who are to follow.—*Roscommon Messenger*.

It has been calculated that £60,000 changed hands in Limerick during the late Munster Fair. The same amount of money was, perhaps, never turned in that city in the same time, nor was there ever so large an assemblage on a purely business undertaking in Limerick. The Dublin, Cork and Waterford trains, overflowed with passengers and cattle, and parties attended from all parts of Ireland, either as sellers or buyers.—Several extra trains ran day and night, and on the second day one monster train containing 75 carriages and waggons drawn by three engines.

The *Waterford Mail* reports that crime of every description has nearly altogether ceased in that now peaceable and well-disposed county.

**SALES OF ENCUMBERED ESTATES.**—Property to the gross amount of nearly £30,000 changed hands on the 11th before the tribunal in Henrietta-street, Dublin.—The estates thus disposed of lay in Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Kilkenny, Clare, Meath, Dublin, and King's County. None of the properties were of any very great extent, and the rates of purchase varied according to circumstances. The minimum price obtained was 6½ years' purchase for an estate in Mayo, and the maximum 28 years' for a leasehold property, including house and demesne, in the county of Meath. An estate in Galway realized nearly as high a figure, having sold for 26 years' purchase on the net rental.

**AGRICULTURE.**—We have been presented with a sample of new potatoes, of the ashleaved kidney species, grown at Ballyheigue Castle, by Mr. Waters, the steward. They are of full size, and are quite free from any appearance of disease.—*Kerry Post*.—The weather for the past fortnight has been most favorable for farming operations; there has been a very considerable breadth of oats and barley got in; farmers are using their best judgments to procure genuine seeds.—*Dundalk Democrat*.—Vegetation has set in vigorously. The weather is still changeable, but the occasional showers are of much advantage. Most of the spring work is now completed; and, though late, there is an average complement of land sown.—*Roscommon Messenger*.—The *Belfast Mercury* says:—"Since our former notice the progress of outdoor labor has been rapid beyond anything ever before recollected. The impulsive spirit of progress seems to have caught hold of the farming ranks, and certainly the exertions made this season go far to prove that the agricultural world

is not likely to fall behind the commercial either in enterprise or energy. The soft rains we had at the end of last week tempered the atmosphere, while they refreshed the soil, and for some days past the first indication of summer heat has been experienced. Vegetation, which up to the end of the month was so far in the rear of the season, is at present very active—so much so, indeed, that a close observer can see a daily advance in some particular plants. Young wheats are well forward, healthy, and of good color; the early-sown oats also show a promising braid.—The falling off in the acreable quantity of wheat sown this season may be computed at fully a fifth in some districts, and still more in others. When the entire of the oat crop is finished, we should say it will be fully one-fourth above the highest ever before sown in this part of the country."

**TRADE OF BELFAST.**—The following satisfactory statement is extracted from the general trade report of the *Banner of Ulster*:—"The decisive majority which the Government have obtained on their financial measure has removed all that uncertainty which, in some quarters, existed as to the issue of the budget, and the consequence is, that business, which here, as elsewhere, was somewhat affected by the contemplated change, has resumed its wonted activity. We have to report a steady week's business in all departments of our local trade, and to repeat what, of late, we have frequently had the gratification of being able to state, that, on the whole, manufacturers and general merchants are fully employed, operatives have abundant work at remunerative wages, and all classes seem to be enjoying common prosperity, with more than ordinary contentment and comfort. Our banks and railway companies participate in the general advantages, and it is not a little satisfactory to observe, by the report of the Harbor Commissioners, that for the first three months of this year, as compared with the same period last year, there has been an increase in the year's trade of the port of 8,126 tons, and a consequent addition to the revenue of upwards of £400. Had the usual quantity of coals been discharged, the increase of tonnage would have exceeded 12,000 tons."

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.**—A man named Fadden, living at Colchancey, county Donegal, who had been out of his mind for some time, made an attempt to stab his little child with a pair of hedge clippers, and on his wife interfering, cut her throat, immediately after which he cut his own. Surgical assistance was immediately called in, but the woman's life was despaired of.—*Enniskillen Reporter*.

A man named Thomas Connors, by trade a mason, was choked on Sunday by a piece of veal sticking in his throat whilst at dinner in his house on Hennessy's road, near Waterford.

**PROTESTANT IMPOSTURES AND DELUSIONS.**

It can hardly have failed to be observed that never, since the introduction of Christianity, unless it were in the early part of the fifth century, at the periods of the Hunnic irruption and the grand systematic attempt to reconquer the world to Paganism, has there been such a tendency of the human mind to break out into new and strange schisms and heresies, as in the present boasted era of civilisation and mental illumination, wherein it is the popular argument that error cannot exist undetected in this nineteenth century.

It is within the memory of the most of us, that, in the great and intelligent city of New York, a centre of arts and learning, a vulgar, ignorant, uneducated adventurer succeeded in passing himself off to a number of persons, men and women far above the average standard of culture and understanding, as Jehovah himself, created a considerable sect, and actually deluded his votaries into the unheard-of madness of forcing their wives to his the impostor's bed, in the blasphemous hope that some of them might become the mother of Messiah.

The imposture of the insane millennialist, Miller, is of too recent occurrence to have been forgotten by any of us, with its miserable dupes numbering literally their hundreds of thousands.

The spread of Mormonism, that gross imposture, has been more rapid than the early growth of Mahometanism, and wider perhaps than ever would have been that of the Arabian imposture, had the latter not called in the sword to aid its propagation. It is already one of the facts of an age pregnant with wonders; and what shall be its results, where the terminus of its extension is yet in the womb of time.

Close on the heels of these travelled a host of new delusions, or old heresies revamped under new titles; mesmerism, phrenomanism, clairvoyance, and, last not least, the arch imposture of the day—spiritualism—all differing in degree between themselves, but all having one general object and tendency, more or less openly avowed—that of subverting and abolishing the authority of the Bible, overthrowing the whole Christian system, and erecting in its place a phantasm of natural religion.

At this last heresy it is useless to laugh, or to treat with levity, or even contempt, a delusion which, however absurd and despicable it may appear to men of sound reason and resolute convictions, is spreading itself like a pestilence through our borders, carrying with it the madness of infidelity, sensuous materialism, if not actual atheism, and distracting the minds of the nervous, the feeble-witted, and the timid, into actual insanity.

It is not our purpose to inquire, at present, into the nature of this delusion, whether it be unaccountable or no; whether, it be in all cases a mere imposture; or whether, as is perhaps more probably the case, it shall turn out to be a natural phenomenon, arising from a diseased and highly excited nervous diathesis, analogous to that form of mania which afflicted the energumeno, or possessed, of the Scriptures, and the many various sufferers of the middle ages, lycanthropists, vampires, and spiritual fanatics of many denominations, not forgetting the victims of the Salem witchcraft in our own country.

That there was something of fact, something of tangible reality, mixed up with all those delusions, is not now doubted, though the fact was not that the persons, tormented by these strange and highly contagious disorders of the imagination and the nervous system, were capable of changing themselves into wolves, or were actually possessed by the spirit of evil, any more than that the assumed spiritualists of the present day are capable of holding communications with departed souls, or with any disembodied spirits whatever. In many of the frantic fanaticisms, some of them celebrated with horrible and obscene orgies and saturnalia of impiety and madness, it was found necessary, especially on the continent of Europe towards the close of the dark ages, to call in the aid of the law, and to resort even to wholesale punish-

ments of the utmost severity, not excepting the infliction of death, in order to check their perilous and demoralising propagation.

And in the present century, during which so much light has been thrown by science on the various and almost inexplicable possessions of the human mind, under various conditions of disease, and their apparently supernatural and really abnormal effect on material bodies, it has been effectively urged by a luminous scientific writer, that, although the Salem hangings were cruel, useless, and illegitimate as punishments for crime—more particularly for a crime which did not exist, communication with the demon—they might yet have been necessary in order to cut short the growth of a horrible and contagious species of monomania; and that there may yet arise, at future periods, similar or analogous disorders of the popular mind, invading and corrupting the whole body politic, which it may in like manner become necessary to suppress by the strong hand of the law.—Indeed, we might point, as already coming within this category the Rochester knockings, with their kindred train of rascalities and abominations.

It is a perilous thing in any body politic to invoke the powers of the State in relation to matters appertaining to religion, and involving the recognition or maintenance of peculiar sects or churches; and to the policy of the United States, it is particularly foreign and averse, the utmost jealousy prevailing concerning any thing that seems to savor of a connexion between Church and State.

The probability, however, is that in the case of Mormonism, some of the practices of which, polygamy in particular, are directly at variance with moral law, and with the statute laws of the several States, sooner or later some legislative action will be taken, and coercive measures adopted, either to restrain the practices sanctioned and enjoined by that so-called religion, or in default of that, to suppress and prohibit the religion itself with such criminal malpractices co-existent.

In like manner it is the general opinion of well-informed and deep-thinking persons, that it is already high time to call in legislative aid, if the execution of no existing statutes can reach the present evil, for the suppression of this perilous imposture, or yet the more perilous contagion of morbid minds. By such far-sighted thinkers, the action is highly approved of by the Massachusetts Legislature, which has recently recommended it to the attention of the Committee on Education to consider whether the interposition of legislative enactments is not needed for the suppression of spiritualism; and, if it be so deemed, to inquire what measures may be best and most effectually taken for its arrest.

It is true, indeed, that in case such measures be taken, the spiritualists will raise a cry of persecution; and such a cry is wont to tend to the increase rather than the check of the sect alleged to be persecuted.—Still, it is generally thought at the Eastward that the evil is of such magnitude, and is increasing to an extent so alarming, literally filling the lunatic asylums to an unprecedented degree with raving victims to this unholy delusion—that it is better to risk the chance of giving it a temporary stimulus by allowing it to constitute itself a persecuted creed, than to permit it to diffuse itself more widely; since it is evident that no arguments of reason, common sense, or religion have any weight or influence to prevail against it; and since no degree of social or even mental elevation seems to be proof against it; in evidence of which men cite the adhesion to this insanity of a celebrated member of the New York Judiciary, and his alleged consultation of spiritual mediums in reference to the delivery of judicial opinions—a fact which, if it can be established, would go very far to show that the application of coercive measures is already and imperatively needed.—*National Intelligencer*.

**PAYING LIKE A SINNER.**—Several years ago, in North Carolina, where it is not customary for the tavern-keepers to charge the ministers anything for lodging and refreshments, a preacher presuming stopped at a tavern one evening, made himself comfortably during the night, and in the morning entered the stage, without offering pay for his accommodations. The landlord soon came running up to the stage, and said, "There was some one who had not settled his bill." The passengers all said they had, but the preacher, who said he understood that he never charged ministers anything. "What, you a minister of the Gospel—a man of God?" cried the innkeeper; "you came to my house last night—you sat down at the table without a blessing; I lit you up to your room, and you went to bed without praying to your Maker for I stood there until you retired; you rose and washed without prayer, ate your breakfast without saying grace; and as you came to my house like a sinner, and ate and drank like a sinner, you have got to pay like a sinner!"

**MORALS OF NORTHERN CITIES.**—We live in an age of extraordinary civilization; but it is a mystery of mysteries, which confounds the reason of philosophy and the faith of philanthropy, that evil keeps equal pace with good, and that in the blazing light and humanising institutions, so long as rampant and vice as daring as in the darkest period of the past. While the Christian is shocked at the impieties of Mormonism and Spiritualism, the moralist stands aghast at the mania of wickedness which is spreading in the world, the most enlightened countries being precisely those in which the infection shows the widest and most mortal extension. Crimes against property have perhaps, no where diminished in frequency; crimes against the person are, assuredly, every where on the increase. The spirit of riot rages with an omnipresent ferocity, as if the spirit of a demon unchained for a thousand years; and murder stalks about by day and night, in streets and highways, and in parlors and bed-chambers, and is never still or satisfied. It is a day of blood; and assassins spring out of the ground like mushrooms—a fresh crop every morning. It seems almost impossible now to open a newspaper without finding an account of some new homicide, which is usually, of a most fearful character. Two men have, almost within as many days, been convicted of murdering their wives in the most brutally savage manner in New York; and a third, at the same time, at Fall River, kills his wife by the unimaginably awful mode of tying her feet and hands, and pouring oil of vitriol down her throat. We have had six assassinations, each a most horrid one, in Philadelphia, since the beginning of the year. The community is aroused;—but, it must be said, rather with dread than with resolution: and there is we apprehend, a greater disposition to wonder and lament than to ask why such things are, and how they can be prevented.—*Norfolk American*.