

SELLING THE PASS.—It is stated that the son of a distinguished member of the notorious "Priests' Protection Society," from which emanate most of the libellous handbills against priests and nuns, has been appointed by the present Government—Lord Aberdeen's Government!—to a situation, under Government, worth £1,200 a year!!! It is also stated that, within the past week, a most virulent and notorious Tory has been appointed a magistrate, in the city of Waterford, where there are already a superabundance of Tory magistrates!—*Catholic Telegraph.*

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.—The virus of Irish Orangeism continues to strengthen and spread under the "liberal and enlightened administration" of Lord Aberdeen.—Mr. Gregg's new Operative Society now hebdomadally vents its venom in Duke street; and it has already become so considerable a power that Members of Parliament are not unwilling to preside over an occasional seance. It is amusing to perceive that Lord St. Germans has not himself secured any immunity from attack by consenting to insult Mr. O'Callaghan. At the last meeting of the society—presided over by Mr. Grogan, M.P., by the way—the chief business discussed was a resolution denouncing the Countess of St. Germans, for patronising a Catholic Ragged School Bazaar. Another equally characteristic resolution was adopted with enthusiasm, to the effect that "having learned from the organs of the Romanist party, that the Romanists are drawing up a declaration of their peculiar rights, the committee be instructed, immediately on its appearance, to prepare an *exposé* of that document." Mr. Grogan, in his own speech, declared that there was a party in the House of Commons determined to carry Mr. Chambers' Bill against all opposition; and Dr. Gregg intimated that, when the British Protestants—"having gone as far as their zeal and duty demanded"—failed in appealing to the authorities, it would be time to invoke the thousands of England.—*Nation.*

KIDNAPPING IRISH PAUPERS.—Disclosures recently made in the cotton emporium of Lancashire reveal a system of drawing, or drafting from, the poorhouses of this country, on alarming emergencies, which must be met with an united spirit of national resistance. These revelations of deception and despotism harshness not only illustrate the cupidity and thorough heartlessness which at times develop the odiousness of this age of Mammon, but they are well calculated to rouse the honest indignation of every class of Irishmen. The facts to which we refer have been supplied by the *Globe*, and we shall here repeat them on the authority of that journal. A few days ago, nine boys, between the ages of twelve and fourteen, presented themselves at the relief board of the parish guardians in Manchester, and asked for relief, when in answer to questions put to them they made the un-dermentioned statement. They said that they were originally inmates of the Dublin poorhouse, and that one day, while under the protection of that establishment, a cotton-spinner from Glossop, near Manchester, entered the yard in company with the schoolmaster, and inquired if any of them would like to go and work at a cotton-mill in Manchester, where they would have "plenty to eat," and "spending brass for Sundays." The latter inducement was too great to be resisted, and fifteen of them said, "Yes, they would." They were accordingly sent off, their work-house dress being retained. On reaching Glossop they were apprenticed to the spinner for a term of seven years, and commenced exploring the great labor mine of Lancashire. They soon found, however, that they had been shamefully deceived, and that the golden expectations held out to them were doomed to disappointment. They were all crowded together in one small house, while fourteen other boys, obtained in a like manner from Cork, occupied another house.—The twenty-nine messed together, and their food they had no reason to complain of; but in the mill their treatment was marked by great severity. They were overworked, and harshly punished for the most trivial offences; they were knocked down and beaten by a strap while almost in a nude state; the "spending brass for Sundays" had not been given them; and for three weeks they had been without a change of linen. On hearing this statement, the Manchester Board immediately ordered the boys to be placed in the pass-ward of the house, and to be sent back to Ireland at the cost of that township. We have before pointed out the baneful effects of the English law of settlement, as it affects Ireland. We have shown that a man may be tempted to quit his native soil, may spend the best of his days in increasing the wealth and adding to the resources of England, and yet he is no sooner too old or too feeble for active employment, than he is sent back to Ireland, and flung on the quays of Dublin, Belfast, or Cork, destitute of any means by which he may procure shelter and protection. In the case which we have taken from the *Globe*, we have another remarkable instance of the unjust tendency of this oppressive system. A number of poor and friendless boys are beguiled from that protection which the law and humanity of this country provide for them.—They are seduced by specious words, and fine promises, to intrust their well-being and safety to a Manchester cotton master, who not only violates every pledge he has given, but exposes them to hardships and cruelties which the spirit of our free country cannot brook. Ultimately they are driven to seek relief from an English board of guardians, when an order is made to the effect that they be sent back to Ireland, without the slightest redress, or even so much as a solitary voice being raised in vindication of their grievances, and legal rights as apprentices. Can anything be more oppressive or more iniquitous than this? To the Manchester school, presided over by Messrs. Cobden and Bright, and absorbed in the consideration of £ s. d., matters of mere humanity may appear of no moment; but we are greatly mistaken in the character and temper of our countrymen if a very general protest is not entered against this national outrage and indignity.—*Daily Express.*

It is asserted that an efficient inspection of the defensive capabilities of the existing fortifications on the shores of Belfast lough will be immediately made, in order to ascertain whether the present batteries, which are, indeed, few in number and notoriously inadequate, may be enlarged, or whether new ones will require to be erected.—*Belfast News-Letter.*

The Russian sailors on board the ship Norden to Waterford have mutinied against their captain, when some of them were brought before the magistrates this week. They said that their ship, having been sold to a British merchant, they had flung off their Russian allegiance and would fight for England. For their assault, however, on the captain, they got two days' imprisonment, and, having been paid off, have left for London.

THE POPE AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.—His Grace the Archbishop has been presented with a magnificent Paschal by his Holiness the Pope. This column of solid virgin wax seven feet in height, and eight inches in circumference. From its base to within six inches of its apex it is richly adorned in the most florid style of flower painting, representing the cross, with a halo and spaces for the insertion of the five grains of incense. Lower down is a representation of the Paschal Lamb resting on the sealed book. This splendid Paschal candle stands on a fluted Corinthian column seven feet in height, richly gilt and carved.

THE IRISH LAND BILLS.—The Peers composing the Select Committee on the Irish Land Bills have made short work of them. The Landlord and Tenant Bills—substantially those introduced last season by Mr. Napier in the house of commons—have been somewhat modified by the committee, and are to be brought forward early in May, probably by Lord Donoughmore; but the really important bill for the protection of the Tenantry—the Tenants' Compensation Bill, which the Government succeeded in passing through the House of Commons last Sessions—has been rejected. The result is that a Bill of pains and penalties—as you have truly designated the Landlord and Tenant measure—is to be recommended by the Lords' Committee for adoption; whilst no Compensation Bill of any kind—not even that which virtually obtained the sanction of Mr. Napier—has the slightest chance of favorable consideration from this Committee!—*London Correspondent of the Evening Post.*

DECLINE OF LITIGATION.—Notwithstanding the extended jurisdiction given to assistant-barristers, the number of cases at the late quarter-sessions were not a tenth of what they used to be generally in former years. At the late sessions of Portunna, Balinasloe, Clifden, and Galway, the combined number of processes entered were under 500. In the year before the famine the number of cases at these sessions averaged 5,000. Whilst the business thus dwindled down the number of practitioners remains undiminished.—*Galway Packet.*

REMOVAL OF SUB-INSPECTOR McMAHON FROM GORT.—We regret to hear that T. McMahon, Esq., Sub-Inspector of Police at Gort, is about being removed at the instigation of the Rev. Mr. Brownriggs, because he would not, as a conscientious Catholic, allow the men under his command to be used as the instruments of proselytism. This is another proof of the Exeter Hall tendencies of the Government. He has been transferred to Fribane.—*Ibid.*

DANGEROUS AFFRAY IN CORK.—An affray occurred on Friday night between some officers of the 49th regiment and a number of civilians, which resulted in a rather serious consequence to some of the parties engaged. It appeared from the statement of some of the parties, that those officers, after leaving a respectable house in North Street, pursued some persons into Fish Street, whom they alleged had thrown stones at them. They followed them into a house of a young man named William Murray, where a row of a very serious character ensued. Sticks were freely used on both sides, and in a few minutes the greater portion of the combatants were covered with blood. One of the officers had his eyes very nearly, if not completely, knocked out, another lies dangerously wounded in the head; and as may be supposed their opponents did not escape without considerable punishment. The persons whom they followed into the house of Mr. Murray positively deny that they threw stones, and assert that their assailants were mistaken in supposing so. In consequence of a row of somewhat similar character in which the persons belonging to this regiment were said to have been engaged a few nights since, Constable Edwards was patrolling in the neighborhood, and in a few minutes after took down the names of the parties engaged on both sides. The names of the defendants are Thackwell, Bullen, O'Reilly, and Aaron Jones. The case was partially investigated at the police office on Monday.

IDEA OF COCHIN CHINA IN IRELAND.—A friend has sent us the following characteristic anecdote:—The people about Enniskerry are great poultry fanciers, breeding Hamburg, Malay, Spanish, and Cochin China fowls to a great pitch of perfection. I was going to Dublin the other day on the Enniskerry coach, and two of the passengers, country gentlemen, were deep in a discussion respecting the merits and size of certain famous birds of the last mentioned description, which they had recently seen at Lord Monck's. Another of the outside, a Munster jobber, who had listened silently and attentively to the conversation, at last remarked, "Your honor, I never heard of the like of them coaching fowls, but I seen Tim Deegan's turkey down in Tipperary that I think would be a match for any of 'em." Upon being requested to mention what were the peculiarly valuable attributes which distinguished Mr. Deegan's fowl, the boy from Tipshire very gravely narrated how—"Tim Deegan's turkey was the greatest baste of a bird he ever seen; how they had him six days in the week carting out dung, and on Sunday drawing the jaunting car; and how in the winter, the times was intirely hard, and the could no give the poor thing enough to ate, so they was forced to kill him, and with that they snited him down, and well beseechs them, they axes Father McGuirk to dine; and, begor when the dinner was over, his Reverence had said grace, says he, 'Tim ye gave a tight good dinner, so ye did, but Tim, ye villian,' says he, 'where did ye get that beautiful beef?' The Cochin China gentleman at once yielded the palm to the Munsterman, who gravely remarked, 'Deed, then, it's hard to bate Tipperary.'

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.—The *Tuam Herald* reports that agricultural operations in that district, favored by the extreme fineness of the weather, have been carried on to an extent unequalled for many years past.—"We have not seen, since the famine, so large a breadth of land laid down under oats and potatoes as is to be seen in every direction this season. The oat crop has already appeared over ground, and presents a most promising appearance. As regards pastoral affairs, stocks of all descriptions are looking well, and have quite recovered from the effects of the severe winter that has passed. The only drawback that farmers have to complain of, beyond the high rates of wages for labor is, that the weather has been of late so dry and warm that a little rain is now much required. On the whole, however, we must say that their prospects are most cheering this year."

The young potato crop everywhere in Ireland is growing up most luxuriantly and vigorously.

THE EXODUS.—A table, exhibiting the number of emigrants who have left the port of Cork from the 8th of January to the 9th of April in the years 1853 and '54, shows a marked decrease in the latter period,

Thus, in 1853 the grand total was 8,633, while in the present year it was only 5,905. This, however, is not to be regarded as an indication of the decline of emigration from the southern counties, inasmuch as the proper season for the despatch of vessels has scarcely yet come round. Besides, the current high rate of wages has no doubt had the natural effect of checking the emigration for the present. The four months next ensuing will in all likelihood tell a different tale.

The *Southern Reporter* states that no little surprise has been occasioned recently by the continued and apparently increasing emigration from that part of the kingdom of young and active men, the demand for whose labor is certainly much greater than it has been for a lengthened period, and who, it might be supposed, could find tolerably remunerative employment at home. The Cork paper thus accounts for the anomaly:—

"From some statements made to us within the last few days by persons in a position to know the facts, we are much inclined to believe that this particular migration of the younger peasantry has had its origin in a most absurd and unfounded apprehension that, if they remain at home, they will be forced to take service in the army or navy, and to take part in the Russian campaign. We have been assured, on what we consider excellent authority, that the dread excited on this score is so great that in one parish of this county, when Captain Jeringham, R.N., a short time since visited it with the view of enrolling coast volunteers, the young men actually slept in huggards, and avoided their own homes during the period of his stay, to escape the impressment, which they had been led to believe was contemplated. And the extent just now of this peculiar kind of emigration would seem to show that some unusual motive of the kind must operate on the class which it is removing from the country."

Mr. Thomas Gibson, of Kilrush, embarked on board the *Thesis*, Captain Richmond, 62 young women from the Cashel workhouse for Quebec, and provided them with all necessary bedding, cooking utensils and extra provisions, as agreed on by him with the board of guardians on the 6th April.

APPROACH OF CHOLERA.—As we anticipated, this disease is approaching nearer and nearer every day. After an outbreak in the city and county of Limerick it next showed itself in Ennis. It has now crossed over into this county. Within the present week some cases have appeared in Gort. Should it extend its track onwards here, it is to be apprehended that its violence will be very much aggravated by the present warmth of the weather, and imperfect sanitary precautions. It seems useless, however, to say any more about this scourge. No effort will be made to have the town properly cleansed until it shall be too late.—*Galway Packet.*

THE CHOLERA.—The last accounts state that the pestilence is progressing steadily, though slowly, through the lanes and courts of Belfast. The *Limerick Reporter* has the following statement:—"In consequence of representations made to the Mayor of Limerick with reference to the appearance of the epidemic on board one or more of the emigrant vessels about to leave this port for America, but particularly on board one of those vessels, his worship, we understand, has put himself in communication with the Government, in order that no infected vessel shall be permitted to go to sea, until all danger to the passengers shall have been averted by timely precaution and the supervision of the most efficient medical aid. The vessel we have heard particularly noticed as having had its passengers attacked with the epidemic, is the *Jessy*, and we understand it was conveyed on board by some of its sailors, who lodged in an infected house in Windmill-street, and who had been cautioned not to go on board by the medical inspector, Dr. Geary—a caution which they neglected. Within the last few days, we believe, others of the passengers of the *Jessy* have been attacked; and we have now only to echo the public voice when we express an anticipation that the proprietor will do what is expected at his hands under the circumstances. We have heard it asserted that one or two other vessels have been attacked; but the statement has not reached us with the same clearness and precision as the case under our notice. We learn that the Mayor has received an answer from the Castle, in reply to his communication asking the Government to appoint medical men to take charge of emigrant vessels leaving the port of Limerick. It appears that in the Emigration Act there is no clause which renders it imperative on the part of the proprietors of emigrant vessels to send out medical men to look after the health of emigrants; and it is therefore to be hoped that the Government will either take this duty on themselves or introduce a clause in the act that will make provision for medical attendance on board emigrant vessels. It is right to say that the rumor referred to, that disease had broken out in other ships besides that mentioned above, turns out to be true."

GREAT BRITAIN.

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster arrived in London, in good health, on the 12th ult.

CONVERSIONS.—The English converts lately received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the private chapel of Mgr. de Montpeiller, Bishop of Leige. One of these, Mr. Hamilton, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, belongs to one of the most celebrated families of Scotland. He was recently received into the Catholic Church, after having been for some time curate of Christ Church, Kent Road, London.—*L'Univers.*

The two youngest sons of the Marchioness of Lothian have been received into the Catholic Church at Edinburgh. These make six converts to the Catholic Church in the noble family of Lothian.

It is said that Thackeray the author, has conformed to the Catholic Church.

THE NUNNERIES.—A report has prevailed for the last week that Mr. Chambers was about to abandon his Committee at the instance of his leader, Lord J. Russell. And on this hint the agitation somewhat abated in certain quarters. We disbelieved the story from the first; and now we are in a condition to give it a positive contradiction. A parliamentary friend, who has communicated with Mr. Chambers, assures us it is his intention to press on with the greatest eagerness; and that the notion of stopping short was never even mooted.—*Nation.*

A late and able article of the *Morning Chronicle* in a tone of warning, adverts to the fact, that at the solemn moment of the Declaration of War, the House of Commons was engaged, not in devising means of

defence, but in seeking to cast unmerited contumely upon peaceful communities of charitable nuns. Bent on following up the inglorious strife, the first order of the day, after the adjournment of the House announces a renewal of that debate. May it not still be possible to direct the attention of parliament and the country to some more worthy theme—to some more patriotic course of action?—*Catholic Standard.*

It seems that Government are unwilling to fulfil their promise to appoint Catholic Chaplains for Catholic prisoners. The Correspondent of the *Tablet* says: "I have been told, upon what seems to be good authority, that in answer to a recent application Lord Aberdeen has intimated the impossibility of carrying out the promises made by Lord Palmerston. This impossibility consists merely in the treason of the renegades of Sligo and Athlone and their accomplices—and in the weakness of those who, without the same personal guilt, have adopted the same unhappy course. To them thousands of souls will owe their ruin, for they it is who, by their wickedness and weakness, stand between the Grace of God and the salvation of these afflicted captives. Yes, I am told there is little chance of the promises of last year being carried into execution. The Government has got the goods this year without paying the price, and having got the goods they are not such fools as to make a concession the granting of which would not make their weak and wicked friends a bit more friendly, and the refusal of which will save them from many hostile blows from another quarter."

THE MILITIA OF ENGLAND.—A return has just been laid before Parliament of very considerable interest in the present position of affairs. It is nothing less than an accurate muster-roll of our militia force, showing the quota due from each county for the year 1853, the number of volunteers actually enrolled on the 1st of January, 1854, and the number of each corps attending for training and exercise during the year last past. The total force intended to be raised was, as the reader will recollect, 80,000 men, who were to be levied by contingents from each county, according to its population. Of this number no fewer than 66,280 stood actually enrolled on the first day of the present year, and 51,561 are reported as having been out for training in 1853. Considering that the whole of this force was raised by voluntary enlistment, that the ballot has never once been put into requisition, and that the excitements of real war were not in operation at the period referred to, we think these results may be regarded with great satisfaction.—*Times.*

OFFER OF A POLISH LEGION.—Major Strawinski, of the Polish army, has written to Lord Aberdeen, offering, on behalf of himself and countrymen residing at Portsmouth, the services of a Polish legion for the war. An answer has been returned to the effect that the letter has been referred for the consideration of the Duke of Newcastle.

Lord Campbell's bill to prevent any future deputations of peace societies or conventions to foreign sovereigns, similar to the recent one of Mr. Sturgeon and others to the Czar, will make all such proceedings a misdemeanor.

THE LABOR BATTLE.—The benevolent designs of the Mediation Committee, appointed to settle the Preston dispute, have been abruptly defeated. As usual, the operatives were willing to treat upon any reasonable conditions—to return to work at an average of the present wages in Lancashire, or to refer the entire question to arbitration; but the mill-owners peremptorily declined to enter into the negotiation at all, lest by so doing they should "admit a principle subversive of the natural ties between Capital and Labor." So the movement proceeds as of old.—*Nation.*

A London weekly paper gives the following curious portrait of Sir Charles Napier:—"A farmer looking man with a fat face, thick lips, and a tremendous nose covered with snuff; large ears like the flaps of a saddle, and like 'Uncle Ned' in lyric history, with no wool to speak of on the top of his head, although his phrenological developments display an extensive surface where the wool ought to grow; the head placed on the body of a stunted alderman, whose clothes appear to have been pitchforked on his back, with one short collar up and the other down, his waistcoat buttoned awry, and his shirt front smeared with snuff—and you have a portrait of Sir Charles Napier. If there is a thirst for further or more minute particulars it may be added that the Admiral wears Blucher boots, and takes snuff with three fingers."

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—On Wednesday a parliamentary paper was printed containing the instructions issued to the commanders of her Majesty's ships now engaged in the Arctic regions in search of Sir J. Franklin. They are to leave in the summer of 1855, and not to wait the winter of that year. Should England be engaged in hostilities with any other power, they are not to take part in it, it being the established practice of all civilized nations to consider vessels engaged in all scientific discoveries as exempt from the operation of war.

Punch informs us that the London Life Assurance Offices have given notice that they will charge no "danger premiums" upon the assurances of the lives of officers in the Black Sea fleet, so long as that squadron is under the command of Admiral Dundas.

GIGANTIC STEAM SHIP.—There are about to be built at the works of James Watt & Co., of Soho, a set of marine engines of 1,700 horse-power. They are intended to work with another set of 1,300 horse-power, driving paddle-wheels. These engines, amounting together to 3,000 horses, are to be placed in a gigantic ship of 23,000 tons burthen, to be propelled at the rate of 18 miles per hour by the united action of paddle-wheels in the usual manner, with the addition of a screw at the stern, a complete novelty in the science of steam navigation. The immense steamship is to be built of iron for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company, and is intended for the conveyance of passengers and goods from this country to India by way of the Cape of Good Hope, which voyage it is expected to perform without any stoppage for coaling in the short period of thirty days. The dimensions of the ship will be 699 feet long, 83 feet breadth of beam, 53 feet depth of hold, and drawing 28 feet of water.

INCENDIARISM IN THE WEST.—An unusually large number of incendiary fires have occurred in Devonshire and the neighboring counties during the last few weeks. Agricultural buildings have chiefly suffered, but in several instances some malicious persons have set fire to extensive tracts of plantations.

THE CHOLERA AT LEEDS.—The cholera still rages in Leeds, but does not assume an epidemic character. Diarrhœa prevails to a large extent in certain districts of the town and shows a tendency to increase.