

four days without fire. Though several of them had changes of clothes sent in by their friends, they were not permitted to use them. They complain in the bitterest manner of the subsequent cold and suffering they had to endure.—*Cork Examiner.*

The Northern Whig reports that all access is refused to the prisoners seized at Belfast under the late proclamation. An application has been made with effect to Mr. Tracy, the stipendiary magistrate, who refused either to let them be seen by any person whatever (their counsel and solicitor not excepted), or to state what the charge against them is. This, he said, was known only to himself. The Executive is taking upon itself a grave responsibility. "Necessity, the tyrant's plea," as Milton styles it, will of course be alleged—how maintained is another question. Be it remembered that the allegation of a similar refusal of access to political prisoners in England was only the other day represented throughout England as an abuse which called for the intervention of foreign powers. By parity of reasoning, the French Emperor, and Mr. Buchanan, would have a right to interpose on behalf of the prisoners at Belfast. Things are managed very differently in England and in Ireland. The notorious Palmer had every indulgence of the sort, and also the Welsh Chartists, a case more exactly in point, because it referred to political prisoners.—*Weekly Register.*

SEVERAL SOCIETIES AND GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATIONS.—The Irish will always be conspiring for the overthrow of the English usurpation. If they cannot meet to offer open resistance in the light of day, they will assemble under the shades of night to carry on their plotting against the men who degrade and oppress them, and strip them of their property by oppression and wrong, and strip them of their property by the enormity of their plunder. This has been the case for hundreds of years, and we may take it for granted that it will be the case whilst a vestige of wrong is patronised by the alien government, and whilst a grievance remains to be redressed. Proclamations have been issued from time to time against these conspiracies and insurrection acts; and Crime and Outrage Acts passed into law by a landlord senate to enable the authorities to grapple with them and put them down. But down they can't be, although victims are executed, and men transported, and placed in chains during their lives.—There seems to be a principal of resistance to tyranny inherent in the Irish heart, which nothing can subdue, and which prompts to plotting, conspiring, and midnight legislation should failure, and failure only, be its reward. As to the government proclamation, what good can it effect? This is the sort of remedy England generally applies to Irish wrongs, and all such remedies have proved a failure. Putting down illicit rebellion by proclamation, is only aggravating the sore which urges men to revolt. The only plan by which treason can be extinguished, is to do ample justice to the wronged and to the oppressed. But England seldom does that at the call of justice. It is only when she dreads a terrible catastrophe that she considers it prudent to yield. Heaven knows we have wrongs by the score pressing the life-blood out of the Irish people. We have the monster Church establishment sitting on the breast of the country like a nightmare, and emitting our thoughts, and our feelings almost to madness. We have a land code which is a disgrace to the age; and which makes a whole nation of farmers tenants at will, who are ground to the earth by the most unmerciful torture. We have an insolent aristocracy, whose almost every act is directed to the humiliation and degradation of the millions. And we are dragged at the tail of a mammon-worshipping country, which has plundered us of our legislature and legislates for us as the robber does for his victim. There are wrongs which rankle in the minds of the sensitive Irish people; wrongs for which there is no redress, and when men cannot get a remedy by fair means, they will resort to illegal practices in order to get rid from their torturers. It is because we know this to be the case, that we say conspiracies of some sort or other will exist in Ireland till oppression is completely wiped away.—Beaten or victorious, the Irish, it would seem, will never surrender, and will fight on, in some way or other till they achieve their own again. Instead, then, of proclamations and rewards for convictions, let the English Deputy in Dublin Castle devise a better remedy for the evils he seeks to cure. The hangman or the jailer will never be able to pacify Ireland. The 'popish spade and scythe' still dig and cut out for an alien establishment. Let them tumble this monster grievance to the earth—let him issue a proclamation against it and lay it in ruins: and that nuisance swept away, let him set about doing justice to all classes in the land, and conspiracies will soon become few and far between; and proclamations will not be needed till the great movement comes, which will, in reality, give Ireland to the Irish, and enable this grand old Celtic land to resume her place amongst the nations of the earth. But we advise all such things as secret societies and plots to be given up, as they can do no service at present to Ireland.—*Dundalk Democrat.*

SEVERAL SOCIETIES.—The Northern Whig says:—It is a very well-known fact, whatever amount of guilt or innocence is attachable to the prisoners in the present case, that more than one illegal society exists in Belfast; and, notwithstanding the most earnest endeavors of the respected Catholic Bishop of this diocese, and the clergy under his jurisdiction, these discreditable associations have, to a very great extent, propagated their principles. We may here mention a circumstance which when taken in connexion with these proceedings is of considerable importance, inasmuch as it illustrates the views of the leading Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authorities in this district on the subject of illegal associations. Only a few days ago Dr. Devlin held a Confirmation; a great many young persons presented themselves for the purpose of receiving that important rite of the Roman Catholic Church; and, in his charge to the youthful assembly, the Bishop denounced, in strong and unmeasured terms, all illegal associations; he warned those whom he addressed against joining certain political societies; and he expressed a hope that they would be disowned and discouraged by every member of his own communion throughout the country. There was something prophetic in the language of Dr. Devlin on this occasion, for only a few days afterwards we have 17 persons arrested, charged with these very offences and committed to prison. A Galway correspondent writes, that on the 5th instant, the Rev. Mr. Whelan, the Catholic administrator of the parish of Trynagh, in consequence of some threatening notices being posted in that parish, after mass condemned in strong terms the authors of such villainous productions, and warned his flock at the chapel, near Killone Mills, Portumna, against the evils attending any connection with secret and unlawful societies. On the following Wednesday night the chapel was set on fire, and the confessional box and a portion of the gallery destroyed. Fortunately the flames were observed, the peasantry hastened to the spot, and after much exertion the fire was extinguished before further injury was done. MEETINGS OF LANDLORD PROPRIETORS.—It appears that a preliminary meeting of landed proprietors was held in Dublin on Saturday last, to make arrangements for a general meeting of the landed gentry of Ireland of all parties, for the purpose of taking into consideration the defects of the law for the protection of life and property, and the amendments which should be sought for in the next session of Parliament. The meeting will be held in Dublin about the 15th inst. The Nation says that:—Rumours which do not come to us upon sufficient authority to command our immediate credence, but which at least possess some intrinsic probability, state that Sir John Young has resigned the Commissionership of the Ionian Isles, and will probably be appointed to the Governorship of Canada in place of Sir Edmund Head, who has committed the great mistake of identifying himself with a particular party in the Canadian Legislature, and that by no means the strongest.

£400 a year reverts to the Crown by the death of Major Priestley, late Deputy Inspector General of the Irish Constabulary.

Mr. W. S. O'Brien has become a shareholder in the Royal Irish Art Union.

Mr. Walsh, provision dealer, county Carlow, was accidentally drowned on the 3d Dec.

Within a few days no less than seven persons were drowned in Dublin, by accidentally falling into the river off the quays.

A letter from the Archbishop of Tuam appears in the Freeman's Journal, in reference to the Lever line. The Archbishop says:—"The preference of Galway to any British port as a packet station between Ireland and America cannot be controverted, unless the clearest axioms regarding space and distance are reversed, and unless the science of geography, as well as that of theology, be made forcibly subservient to the ascendancy of political power. Should a steamer starting from Liverpool overtake and leave behind another starting from Galway, at the same moment of time, the relative speed of the former becomes a problem, which any schoolboy can solve, on ascertaining the relative size, construction, and propelling power of the two vessels, without, however, dreaming of the conclusion that a space of over 300 miles should never form an important item in such a calculation. That space remains, and will remain a stubborn quantity, which no process, however ingenious, can remove, and with vessels of equal power, and men of equal skill to conduct them, Galway must for ever have the advantage of the time requisite to traverse that difference of space in any competition with Liverpool. To what extent commercial enterprise may be stretched by this scheme, and from how many regions wealth is to flow into Ireland, is a question I leave entirely to those who have made political economy and the national wealth of nations their particular study. I recommend it in order to save the lives and the morality of our oppressed people. Though the famine has long since passed over, the cries of agony which it awakened from the emigrants have never since been suffered to die away, since they are heard yet at Athenry and almost every station as loudly as they were ten years ago. To those who read of the horrors which our poor virtuous females had to encounter at Liverpool, and in the passage across the Atlantic, there was something in that parting cry which told, even worse than landlord cruelty, exciting apprehensions for their future fate, of which the poor innocent creatures were not aware. The Galway packet station will save the poor of Ireland from the continuous inflictions of these horrors. If it cannot stay the arm that sends our people in thousands to foreign countries, it will spare them the necessity of spending their time and money in Liverpool; it will rescue our females from the evils of the agents of wickedness, and send them to adorn and renovate by their virtues the society of any foreign land into which they will have been adopted."

Mr. W. S. O'Brien, the veteran supporter of tenant right, has addressed a letter to the Times, in which he sets forth various operations of the "landlord system" in Ireland as the causes of the ribandism which is now troubling the authorities of that country. He refers at length to the distress of the Gweedore district, which, it will be remembered was the subject of a parliamentary committee of inquiry last session. Whoever, he says, personally visits the district will see the unfortunate owners of the cuts [strips of waste land] living in homes of various grades, from dens in the earth covered with a few sticks and sods, up to houses built of stone filled with earth in place of mortar; "he will see a population huddled together on a combination of these cuts which they have partially reclaimed, with wonderful industry, so as to produce a stunted produce of potatoes and corn; and then, again, he will see vast tracts of reclaimable wastes lying in the state of their original barrenness, but which would afford ample means for the employment and support of a far larger population than that which is now miserably existing on their present occupations. If he inquires how the population can live on these strips, and afterwards pay rent and taxes, he will find the means to do so are derived from other sources, chiefly from the savings of their harvest wages in other parts of the United Kingdom and their submission to live on the lowest quality of food, and the smallest quantity even of that food which will sustain life. It appears that formerly the power of keeping cattle on mountain commons added much to their means of support; but these have been to a great extent withdrawn; and if there be any truth in the evidence, we find rights of mountain commonage held time out of mind, which in England would entitle the holders of such rights to compensation under the law of enclosure, arbitrarily cancelled and confiscated by landlord power; we find cattle impounded for trespass on unfenced lands and fines levied without magisterial decisions; and on one particular estate we find poor-rates charged on tenants on occupations under £4 rent on the plea of special agreements, made directly contrary to the poor-law enactments; thus practically teaching the people a disrespect for the laws by the example of their superiors. This picture of the landlord system in Donegal supplies a true sample of the general landlord system which has existed over the south and west of Ireland as described in the various reports I have referred to:—The tenant set down upon a bare sod, required to do everything for himself, but all impulse to industry destroyed by the want of security for the enjoyment of its creations—the means of proper cultivation wanting, and a rent extorted which, under such circumstances, left the poor occupier no means of subsistence but the lowest class of food—the potato. When the potato failed the famine followed, and the consequent destruction of thousands of human lives, increased by the heartless eviction of those who could no longer minister to the landlord's wants. All this evil arises from the land laws and the system of landletting under the section of these laws, by which the landed proprietors hold irresponsible power directly over the industrial property of their tenants, and indirectly over their lives thus investing the owners of the soil with a power above the laws, by the dread of which all the rights and privileges which the constitution confers on the people may be practically superseded. When this power is so given, we must expect that it will be exercised with oppression by the possessors of it, and in this way both parties are tempted to crime. The great delinquents, Mr. Crawford adds, are parliament and governments who have aggravated their delinquency by acknowledgments of the grievance and numerous unfulfilled promises of redress. Mr. Crawford concludes with an appeal to the judgment of the English people; and in a note he appends the heads of bills under which he conceives, provision might be made for a just settlement of the question.

HEADS OF BILLS.—1. A bill to give equitable jurisdiction to courts of justice on trials of ejectments, to award compensation to tenants for buildings and works of permanent improvement producing an increase of value to the premises, executed (whether before or after the passing of the act) at the tenant's cost, and for which no allowance has been made or agreed to be made by the landlord. 2. A bill to give power to landlords under an act to give improvement leases, or to make agreements to compensate tenants for improvements to be made by them, which shall bind the successors in the entail. 3. A bill to enable the state to take by valuation (as for other public purposes) waste or unimproved lands, and in case of evictions by landlords from over-crowded districts to have power to allot such land to evicted tenants, under proper conditions of tenure, &c., charging on the evicting landlords a certain portion of the expenses. 4. A bill to amend and limit the laws of distress and ejectment in certain cases."

THE ST. MUNCHIN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY, Limerick, have adopted the Penny Savings Bank system. A considerable sum of money has been already received from the members. A memorial has been forwarded from the county of Kerry to the Admiralty, praying for an inquiry into the merits of Valencia harbor, in comparison with other Irish ports, as to its suitability for Transatlantic Packet purposes. The Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, on the 1st ult., Thomas Kavanagh, porter, obtained a verdict of £15 damages against Mr. William Clarke, for falsely accusing him of having stolen money. Daniel Carroll, a pensioner, aged 70 years, and an inmate of Tralee workhouse, was found dead on the road on the 3d ult., on which day he had gone out to receive his pension. HAND FACTS.—The English correspondent of the Armonia, speaking of Chancellor Napier's decision in the case of the O'Malley orphans, says:—"Behold now and admire the justice of the English magistracy. It is not yet two years since the Lord Chancellor, in London, gave orders that the girl Alicia Race should be torn from her Catholic mother's arms, because her father was a Protestant; and though he had made no provision with respect to his daughter's religious education, nevertheless, as the Chancellor decreed, 'children must be educated in their father's creed, whenever he has not expressed a wish to the contrary.' Six weeks after, the same Chancellor decided that the boy Stourton should be left in the hands of his Protestant mother, and brought up as she pleased, although she had apostatised after his father's death, who was a good Catholic, and who, if he could even have foreseen his wife's apostasy, would certainly have taken the necessary measures for the Catholic education of his son. Last Saturday the Lord High Chancellor for Ireland decided that although the deceased father was a Catholic, and the paternal Uncle had declared that it was his desire the children should be brought up Catholics, nevertheless these eight orphans, instead of being left to the care of their paternal uncle, should be put into the hands of their maternal aunt, in order to be brought up in heresy."

We are sorry to find so large a section of the Irish press now lending an unwholesome aid to the British calumniator of this country. We assert, that there never was a greater injustice than to charge the peasantry with sanguinary intentions towards their landlords. They are slavishly silent under unmerited abuse, and cringingly subservient under a series of downright oppressions such as no educated Christians should endure; and yet they are represented as all but in arms against the constituted authorities. Surely there is no pressing occasion for the propagation of lies to prevent legislation. Such a course as is now being pursued by the anti-Irish press can effect no purpose which can ultimately benefit the traducers.—*Mayo Telegraph.*

Respecting the objects of the Phoenix Club a Belfast paper gives the following information:—"The club was preparing to receive with open arms the regiment of American militia which we lately heard so much about as coming to Ireland to see once more their native land. This was the ostensible object for such an unprecedented visit from the American militia; but, coupling their avowed intention to come with the fact of an illegal society being established in Ireland to receive them, it is evident: to us that they only wished to feel their way. Colonel Ryan was to command them, and their stay in Ireland was to be something about six weeks. During that time they were to encamp (that was the military word employed) in the south and in the north. Great things were, no doubt, expected from these Yankee invaders, who would have endeavoured to spread as much disaffection and disloyalty as possible in the breasts of the ignorant people who would have flocked round them. In fact, there cannot be a doubt of the object of their intended visit, and the result now proves it. The British Government has very properly put a stop to their coming, and since they have been stopped the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has issued a proclamation against illegal societies, and the recent arrests of the members of the Phoenix Club have closely followed the proclamation."

THE SERGEANT AND THE ASS.—A correspondent sends us the following:—"On Saturday week last six police came to the house of Pat Fitzpatrick, of Loran, about ten o'clock at night. When they entered the house there were four servant boys playing cards for a young ass belonging to Fitzpatrick's son. They put the young ass into a large corn bin that stood in the kitchen until the winner would claim him. After searching the house closely the police were about to depart, when the ass made noise in the bin with his feet, when one of the police cried out to the sergeant that Delaney was in the bin. All right, says the sergeant! John, you are in for pre-ferrit! Rise the lid! Begor, sergeant, it is not for me to rise the lid after finding him said John; so the sergeant called on another of his men to rise the lid, but all in vain—none of them would venture to do it. The sergeant requested the man of the house to open his bin, but Paddy refused; so the bayonets were screwed on, and all preparations made for battle. Then the sergeant spoke through the keyhole to Delaney, advising him to make no resistance, as there was no great proof against him—look courage himself to open the lid, and found to his great mistake—a young ass!!!"

GREAT BRITAIN.—The Rev. C. R. Rowlett, M.A., late Curate of West Throck, Essex, has been received into the Church; as also was F. G. Burnard, Esq., B.A., of King's College, Cambridge, and lately of Guedden College, on Saturday last, by Dr. Manning, at Bayswater.—*Weekly Register.*

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION IN THE CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, ABERCROMBY-STREET, GLASGOW.—On the 5th inst., the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Miss Jane Ann Hope Johnstone, eldest daughter of Admiral Hope Johnstone, after a novitiate of two years, made her solemn religious professions, as a Sister of Mercy, in St. Mary's Convent, Glasgow. The Right Rev. Dr. Murdoch, Vicar Apostolic of the Western District of Scotland, assisted by the Rev. G. Rigg, of Perth, and the Rev. R. Chisholm, chaplain of the convent, officiated. A most eloquent and impressive sermon was delivered by his lordship on the occasion.

A petition for requesting Government aid for the purpose of carrying out the electric communication with America, by means of a new Atlantic cable, has been originated and extensively signed at Liverpool. A Government guarantee of moderate interest is prayed for. The Globe states that Mr. Poole's application to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus to the Archbishop is to be resisted, chiefly on the ground that the Bishop of London passed sentence upon the gentleman pleading guilty to many of the charges, the depositions having been taken down by his lordship's solicitor. C. and Perronet Thompson writes on the Reform question to his Bradford constituents. He says:—"We who are hungry have made up our minds. We will have anything we can get, and everything we can get. As the poor men on the raft set their moribund imagination it may be on pork and peas, or see in vision the coppers on the forecastle turning out luxurious complement of what ungrateful sailors call by the harsh epithets of 'junk' and 'dog's body'—so we, perchance, will set our hearts on what we will have, and it shall be the plain dumpling of the ballot where three-fourths of the constituency shall petition for it, with so much of what Irishmen call 'kitchen,' in the shape of extension of the suffrage, as our happy star shall enable us to accomplish."

THE LATE ATLANTIC GALES.—Great anxiety had been expressed in North Shields for the safety of the Jeanie Johnson bark, of that port, which was long overdue on her "fall" voyage from Quebec to the Tyne. On Tuesday however the gratifying intelligence was received that the captain, with his wife, child, and crew had been providentially saved, after having been nine days in the maintop of the ship. Captain Johnson gives the following particulars of the loss of his vessel:—"We sailed from Quebec for Hull October 5, with a cargo of timber and deals. On the 21st had a fresh breeze from E.N.E. to N.E., with heavy squalls during the night. At 1.30 a.m. on the 22d the wind increased to a heavy gale from E.N.E.; hove the ship to under main trysail. Set all hands at the pumps. At 6 a.m. was boarded by a sea which washed away the skylight binnacle, starboard side of deck house. At 9.30 stove in front of the house, filling the cabin with water; washed away longboat, skiff, bulwarks, and split covering board about the main rigging. The crew were several times washed away from the pumps. At 11.40 p.m. ship full of water; all hands took to the maintop; tremendous sea making clean sweep over the ship; had no time to get up water; the barometer showing 28.70 deg. This in latitude 47.45 deg., longitude, 41.25 deg. On 23d, at 7 a.m., saw a bark to leeward; set a signal of distress, but was not seen. Strong breeze from N.E., and heavy sea. On 24th at noon, saw a brig to leeward, but she did not make us out. Our rudder unshipped during the night, and took away the counter; had been now nearly three days in the top; no water; the weather cold. Saw no more vessels until the 31st. Another week in the top. At 2 p.m. of that day saw a bark to windward, standing S.W.; at 4 p.m. she bore down, and took us all of before dark—a very heavy sea on at the time. The last two nights spent in the maintop were dreadful, the wind being from the northward, with heavy squalls, snow, and hail, from which we got water to drink. Our deliverer proved to be Captain S. F. Vanderhoff, of the Holland bark Sophie Elizabeth, of and from Amsterdam for New York, who sent his boats, and notwithstanding a heavy sea, took us all safely on board where we have received every kindness and comfort which it was possible to receive, and for which I shall be thankful as long as I live, having, with my wife and child, and my crew of 13 men, been in the maintop nine days and nights." Captain Johnson and four of the crew have their feet and legs much swollen. The Jeanie Johnson was 10 years old, owned and insured in Shields.

Lord Brougham has made a discovery, and with characteristic generosity listens to acquaint the public with it. He finds that the Divorce Act, that crowning victory and saving mercy of Whig legislation, is disgraced by a very serious blemish. According to the noble and learned lord, the new Court of Divorce has no means of detecting or preventing collusive divorces. Married people tire of one another, quarrel, or for any of a thousand reasons, wish to free themselves from an uncongenial bond; and, under the new law, they have only to agree to commit adultery, and supply the evidence of the fact, and their liberation is secured. Lord Brougham points out that, under the old law, not only was collusion treated as a bar to divorce, but the means of detecting collusion were ample and efficacious; and he suggests, as a remedy, that a public officer should be charged to represent the interests of the public in divorce cases, and to detect and defeat collusive suits. In reality, that which Lord Brougham treats as an accidental defect or omission, is the very characteristic and principle of the new law, as we pointed out scores of times during the struggles which preceded the victory of the enemies of marriage.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—Just forty-four years since, a young joiner lived with an only sister, in a village in the south of England. The girl was seduced by a rich tradesman, a butcher, in the neighborhood, and the latter, fearing the vengeance of the brother, who was then an active, powerful young man, had him arrested on a forged obligation, and thrown into Winchester jail. The prisoner was poor, and within stone walls, and had no redress but to file a schedule and become insolvent; but this he resolutely refused to do, alleging, and with truth, that he owed no money, and that to swear he did would be perjury. Time went on: his persecutors both died miserably, but he was still a prisoner.—There was a legal form to be complied with, and without that, he must remain a prisoner all his life. The prison authorities naturally got wearied with his obstinacy, and used every means of annoyance to subdue his indomitable determination. At one time he was four years in solitary confinement, and at another, when the prisoners were removed from the old to the new jail, he was taken from his room, carried in his shirt to his new quarters, and placed in a room so damp as to make him a rheumatic cripple for the rest of his life, still they could not induce him to sign his name to a debt which he did not owe.—During this long incarceration he became a complete lawyer; corresponded with every Lord Chancellor, from Lord Eldon downwards, and having suffered the pains, at last began rather to enjoy the dignity of martyrdom. At last he got a "Habeas," as he calls it, and was removed to the Queen's Prison, after thirty-nine years in Winchester jail, and there he has remained for the last five years, being forty-four years' imprisonment in all, and as he is now against acknowledging the false claim as a debt, as ever. The original demand was £1,000, and in resisting it, he soon exhausted all his means. We may presume, therefore, that during the 44 years his maintenance must have cost the country £2,000, besides his proportion of the £5000 a year which the Queen's Prison authorities get for keeping him and others in safe custody. But if we add to all this the 44 years of skilled labor of a strong industrial artisan, we shall then come nearer to a practical estimate of the public profit arising from imprisonment for debt.—*Daily News.*

The Rev. Mr. Pugh, paid chaplain, and therefore, as we need not say, established Church Chaplain of St. Pancras Workhouse, has got himself into a mess with his employers—the Vestry of the parish. An assistant-surgeon of the Workhouse is charged with serious offences, and is hiding from the police.—Wanting, or feigning to want, spiritual assistance, he wrote to Mr. Pugh, and receiving from the Rev. Gentleman a promise not to disclose his retreat, he gave him his address, and received a visit from him. Hereupon the police wished to be let into the secret confided to Mr. Pugh; but this gentleman, after consulting the Rev. Dr. Dale, and the Right Rev. Dr. Tait, refused to give it up. The Vestry have accordingly dismissed him from his office. The Times backs Mr. Pugh for not breaking his promise, because as "a gentleman" he was bound to keep it, but blames him for making it; meaning, we presume, that a supposed criminal is to be deprived of spiritual assistance until he submits his person to the police and his cause to the tribunals. The law of England does not protect the confidences between the Ministers of Religion and their penitents. The Attorney and the Barrister are not witnesses against their clients, but the Priest and the Medical man are not similarly protected.—*Tablet.*

WOMEN RAILWAY CLENKS.—In taking a ticket the other day at the Edinburgh station of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway, we were pleasantly surprised on being waited upon by a blooming and bonnie lassie, who, along with an activity quite equal to that of the literary ruler sex. We observed that the department was entirely occupied by women, there being another giving out tickets, and a third telegraphing. This innovation thus far north is rather startling; but, instead of objecting to it, we think it highly commendable, and hope to see the employment of women in light occupations rapidly extended. The only inconvenience we can see is that the good-looking and intelligent girls like those in the Edinburgh railway-office will not book many

passengers before they are booked themselves for the life-long journey of matrimony, so that the company will soon lose their services. We wish them all for that journey first-class tickets.—*Scottish Press.*

BIBLE READERS IN LIVERPOOL.—Nothing seems to go down with us in Liverpool unless it has a religious cast. No matter what is the imposture broached, only let the promoters take Burn's advice "wrap in religion," and down it is gulped with the gastronomical gusto for which your true John Bull is eminently distinguished all the world over. If things do not mend religiously we will be driven to found an anti religious preaching for pay league.—A few days back two most sublimated specimens of the Bible reading brotherhood appeared in rather an unliberal character before our stipendiary magistrate. These worthies felt a desire to add a little of the mammon of iniquity to their spiritual calling thus—A grocer was in want of a shopman, when Reader No. 1 applied for the berth, fortified with a testimonial of character from Reader No. 2, which set forth that No. 1 was in the employ of No. 2 in his establishment at Southport, and speaking largely for the prayerful watchings of the applicant. Ten days had not passed off ere the grocer had cause to doubt the honesty of his scripture assistant, and communicating his misgivings to one of the detectives, a look out was kept upon the movements of the shopman, the result of which was found to be that No. 1 was robbing his master. No. 2 who never had a shop in Southport or elsewhere, was acting as the guardian of the proceeds of the robbery. So thriving a business did they carry on, that No. 1 took under his protection a young woman whom he fed and clothed sumptuously out of his master's cash. Nos. 1 and 2 are sent for trial.—*Cor. of Drogheda Argus.*

TESTING HUMAN NATURE.—A pleasant incident enlivened the usually grave and serious course of Dr. C. on Friday last. When the lecture was finished, the doctor, instead of making his usual bow, and retiring from the estrade, was heard to call out in a loud voice, "Let all whose hearts are free stop and listen." In an instant there was a check to the rush which was making towards the door, and amid general astonishment, the doctor, drawing a letter from his pocket, proceeded to read it with the greatest gravity. It was from a patient in the provinces, requesting him to look out amongst his band of medical students for a husband for his daughter—a beautiful girl, with a handsome dot. Of course, one general cry of deprecation rose from the assembly, which Dr. C., who has dissected the human heart with even more minuteness than the human body, suffered to subside; then, resuming his discourse, he added, that the particulars of the girl would be confided to any gentleman applying for them at his house on the morrow. The old surgeon needed not to be told the next day that more than two hundred applications had been received by his secretary, in spite of the cry of indignation with which his proposition had been received.—*Court Journal.*

At the recent Winchester Assizes (there were forty persons for trial, of whom no less than eleven, more than a quarter of the whole, were charged with crimes springing directly from the low standard of purity among our agricultural population. To estimate this fact aright, we must remark that immorality in itself is not treated by the law of England as a crime, except in rare cases, which remove it from the common level. These rare and exceptional cases, however, constitute by themselves more than a quarter of all the crimes of a great country, and that not one demoralised by a crowded manufacturing population, or equalled with want and ignorance. Laws, as any man who passes along its railroads, may see, is a model country, purely agricultural, thinly inhabited, thronged with the seats of resident gentry, and the parsonages of resident clergymen. Mr. Justice Byles, horrified at the exposure which came before him, attributes the cause of morals as it reveals to the want of proper cottages, and to crowded dwellings. Does he know the cabins of the Irish peasantry? or is he aware that all Ireland does not produce in many years a list of such crimes answering to those of the Winchester Assizes in a single week? Why will men shut their eyes to the notorious fact that the maintenance of morality requires a moral power which Protestantism does not afford? Hence the mountain-valleys of Norway are in a moral condition larger than the crowded alleys of Dublin, Naples, or even Paris; and hence too the fact (pointed out by a Protestant traveller, Dr. Foster) that the illegitimate births, in different parts of Ireland chiefly, are in exact proportion to the number of Protestants in each district. If it were possible for us to report the proceedings of the last week or two in Sir C. Crosswell's Court, they would tell only too much of the condition even of the middle classes in England.—They exceed in horror the complication of wickedness laid bare, and the number and variety of cases, all that we feared when the wicked act under which the Court was constituted was under discussion. It is announced, moreover that the Court is clogged up with business, and has numerous cases standing over from inability to go through them all. We must add that it would have been more creditable to the London Press, and better for morals, if those which have been tried had been more sparingly reported.—*Weekly Register.*

An Absurd stir has been made about a great crinoline case at Liverpool. On the 1st of November, it appears, a governess with her two pupils, Miss Mary Jane Heyes and Miss Alice Maude Heyes, were walking in the Prince's Park-road, all dressed in a mode, when a person came up with a knife, put his hand to one of the young ladies' petticoats, and cut her crinoline, exclaiming, "These ropes, these ropes, I will cut them;" and adding, when he had done so, "It's the most disgusting thing I ever saw in my life." He then walked away, whistling to a dog to follow him. Through this dog the police were led to apprehend Mr. John Huntington, of a respectable firm of corn-dealers, its owner. The case was brought on for disposal at the Borough Sessions, last week. St. George's Hall was specially taken, and was crammed with auditors, of whom a large proportion were ladies. In the course of the case the counsel for the prosecution asked a witness—Who is the minister of St. Paul's Church? Witness—A very popular clergyman in Liverpool. Counsels—Have you heard any sermons against crinoline at the church in Mr. Huntington's presence? (Laughter.) Mr. Simon—I object to this course of examination. Does my learned friend mean to say that Dr. McNeill was an accessory before the fact? (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Segar—I don't suppose he intended to do so. Mr. Simon—That seems to be the tendency of the examination. Mr. Segar—Possibly the sermon may have had some influence on the defendant. Mr. Simon—On behalf of Dr. McNeill I say this is not correct. Mr. Segar—My friend is not retained by Dr. McNeill. The Recorder—I cannot justify you in bringing him before the Court. The defence was an *alibi*; and the jury, after an hour's deliberation, found a verdict of "Not guilty." The Liverpool Mail adds:—"No sooner was the verdict made known than the whole hall resounded with cheering. The Recorder tried to suppress the applause, but failed, and a young man named Davis was by his direction taken into custody, the learned gentleman observing that he had seen him shouting and waving his hat." Mr. Huntington was then formally discharged; and the 4,000 people who had assembled inside the hall suddenly left, and assembled in front of the building, where Mr. Huntington was greeted with enthusiastic cheers until he reached his cab, when the horse was unyoked, and men ran with the vehicle to the Brunswick Hotel.