

On last Sunday respites were recorded by the governor of Maryborough gaol, committing the sentence of death, passed last assizes, on Mathew Colgan, John Fahy, and William Beigan; and transportation for life; and on yesterday these convicts were transmitted to the Mountjoy Government prison, preparatory to their being sent across the seas to one of the penal settlements.—*Leinster Express.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

CONVERSIONS AT CHESTER.—The following persons renounced the errors of Protestantism, and were received into the communion of the Catholic Church by the Rev. Edmond Carberry.—On Passion Week, Eliza Pughe, Mrs. Gallagher, and Mrs. Burns; on Easter Sunday, Mr. Thomas Robertson Hyde, Mrs. Hyde, their three daughters, and Thomas Williams; on Easter Monday, Miss Margaret Taylor, Bridget Sandford, and Michael McNamara.—*Cor. of Tablet.*

In the discussion in the House of Commons on Tuesday night, on the Caffre War, Mr. Gladstone observed, not with any rhetorical exaggeration, but with literal truth, that if we were to buy up every single colonist in the disputed territories ten times over, and transport them each in a carriage and four to some preferable residence, the arrangement would not cost half or even residence, the arrangement would not cost half or even one-fourth of the sums we were expending now. Sir William Molesworth stated the case with even greater force. The source of Caffre war was in "Caffre depredations," but on computation it appears that the cost of one century and a half of Caffre depredations would not reach the cost of one year of Caffre war!—Looking, too, at the whole territory of the Cape, and calculating our general obligations, not with any extravagance, but by reasonable and matter-of-fact deductions, Sir William affirmed that an "adherence to our present policy" would cost us exactly £5 per head per annum for the defence of every colonist in these parts.

Parliament has risen for the Easter holidays; and Ministers, though incessantly badgered, since their accession to office, to declare their policy, have, at least in so far as direct announcement is concerned, kept their secret. A last attempt was made by Mr. Osborne on Monday to goad them into frankness. The Member for Middlesex assailed them with keen and cruel jests, the more cruel that they were sarcastic and telling expressions of grave truths. Ministers lost their temper under the lash of Mr. Osborne, but even in their anger no word escaped them to betray their intentions. Lord John Manners rose in a state of excitement, defied the "moribund Parliament," and taunted Opposition with claiming a majority and yet shrinking from placing Ministers in a minority by a division. Before the evening closed, Opposition did place Ministers in a minority, by rejecting one of their amendments on the bill for repressing corrupt practices at elections. But Ministers have failed to be as prudent in their actions as in their language. The inconsiderate rashness of Mr. Walpole, in giving notice of a new and strange suffrage-qualification, apparently without consulting his colleagues, and then withdrawing his notice as hastily as he had given it, has seriously damaged them in the opinion of their followers. Mr. Walpole was regarded both by friend and foe as the solid, the sagacious, the prudent member of the Cabinet; and such an escapade from him shattered all confidence in it. Mr. Mackenzie's taking upon him to move the adjournment for the holidays, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer had intimated that he was to make the motion, and in doing so give some explanation of the course he intended to take with the public business, was deemed equivocal; it might have been in consequence of a preconcerted scheme to enable Mr. Disraeli to escape from his promise, or it might be merely the étourderie of the Secretary of the Treasury. The former explanation implies want of faith; the latter the same heedless levity and want of a right understanding and previous arrangement among Ministers that were evinced in Mr. Walpole's blunder. These and similar indications have conspired with the shuffling manner in which Ministers have evaded the explanation of their policy, to create an impression, not only that they have no policy, but that they lack the ability to conceive one.—*Spectator.*

INTENDED ROYAL VISIT TO BRISTOL, EN ROUTE FOR IRELAND.—It is again positively stated that our ancient city will be enlivened during the coming summer by a royal visit and embarkation. Old Bristol will be right glad to see her Queen, as her sons and daughters will testify by giving her a right royal reception. Her Majesty sails to Waterford, where she will be received by his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and after remaining a few days at Lismore Castle, will set out to enjoy the far-famed lake scenery of Killarney. She then moves up to Dublin, and after holding a levee and drawing-room at the Castle, and passing a day or two at the Viceregal Lodge, crosses from Kingstown to Holyhead, and travels direct from thence by train to Balmoral.—*Bristol Times.*

The Admiralty intend erecting a battery for one gun at the Constaquad station, Fair-hill, for the purpose of affording practice to the younger portion of the men, with a view of hereafter transferring them to the navy.

THE MINE RIFLE.—On Thursday, the 8th ult., the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by Lord C. Wellesley, proceeded to Woolwich to witness the practice with the mine rifle. The gallant Field Marshal remained nearly an hour, while the non-commissioned officers, at present under instruction, fired a number of volleys at 800 yards, and completely riddled the target. His grace afterwards examined the target to observe the effects of the balls. After his grace left the Marshes, the non-commissioned officers commenced practice at 1,000 yards, and the firing was remarkably good.

DRAGHTS OF TROOPS FOR INDIA.—Upwards of 2,000 men will sail from Chatham this and next month to join the different regiments in India, accompanied by 60 officers. They are fine young recruits, and have been exercised at the different depôts.

The penny subscription for a monument to the late Sir Robert Peel has been wound up. The total amount is £1,737 0s 6d; the money will be placed in the names of Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Hume, as joint trustees.

PROPOSED NEW PENAL SETTLEMENT IN SCOTLAND.—Sir James Matheson, M.P., the proprietor of the Lewis property, has offered the island of North Rona as a gift to the government, for a new penal settlement. Sir James has had the island surveyed by Captain Burnaby, of the Royal Engineers. The island, which is about 38 miles north-east of the Butt of Lewis, with which and Cape Wrath it forms nearly an equilateral triangle, contains upwards of 270 acres, about three-fourths of which are arable land.

REGIMENTS FOR CANADA.—The Simoon, iron screw troopship, Captain Kingcome, is to convey, on the 16th inst., from Portsmouth, drafts of the following regiments to Canada:—20th, from Chatham; 23rd, from Chester; and 54th, from Bristol. These drafts will comprise about three hundred men altogether. The Simoon, it is expected, will also call at Cork for other detachments for the same destination.

CURIOUS RELIC OF PAST AGES.—The *Stamford Mercury* says that, a short time since, two laborers who were digging upon the site of the Premonstratensian Abbey of St. Mary, at Barlings, founded by Ralph de Haye, in 1154, turned up the iron dies with which the monastic money of the house was struck. Unfortunately, only one has been preserved, the laborer who picked up the other having converted it into a small anvil, and thus defaced the inscription. The preserved die is the bottom one. Barlings is famous from the fact that Dr. Mackarell, who, under the name of Captain Cobler, headed the Lincolnshire insurrectionists against the suppression of the monasteries, was its abbot.

ASCENDING OF A RAILWAY MANAGER.—Some excitement has been occasioned in the railway world in consequence of a traffic manager on one of the principal railways having absconded. His accounts, it is feared, will exhibit serious defalcations.—*Daily News.*

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS.—The duty received on spirits entered for home consumption in the year ending the 5th of January last was no less than £6,030,323 17s 10½d in the united kingdom as the net produce.—*Times.*

REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.—It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that the Amazon and the equally ill-fated Birkenhead commenced their voyages on the same day; the Amazon having left Southampton and the Birkenhead Portsmouth on Friday the 2nd January. Friday is generally regarded by sailors as an unlucky day on which to begin a voyage.—*Globe.*

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.—It having lately been stated by a merchant captain at Tynemouth, in conversation with an officer of one of her Majesty's ships, that two three-masted vessels had been seen on an iceberg off Newfoundland in April, 1851, by the brig *Renovation*, of North Shields, when on her passage to Quebec, and this statement having been accompanied with a surmise as to the possibility of their being Sir John Franklin's ships, the Lords of the Admiralty, notwithstanding the improbability attaching to the circumstance of a story of such interest remaining so long unrevealed, have thought proper to institute the most rigid inquiry. Letters have been written to the Collectors of Customs at the whaling ports in England and Scotland, in order to ascertain if any whalers answering to the description here given were missing in 1850 or 1851. The master of the *Renovation* will be closely interrogated on his arrival at Venice. Amongst the replies received is the following from Mr. J. J. Palmer, Inspecting Commander of Kilmish:—"Limerick, April 9, 1852. The instant I received your letter this morning I proceeded to Limerick, and went on board the British Queen, where I found Mr. Simpson, late mate of the *Renovation*. He states as follows:—"On the 20th of April, 1851, at six a.m., I saw two full-rigged ships (one about 600 tons, the other 350) on an iceberg, high and dry, the larger one on her beam ends, head to the westward, three ship's lower masts only standing, with bowsprit; masts painted white, apparently not hoisted over. The smaller one was about 350 tons, head to the southward, with lower and top sail yards across, sails unbet, topmast an end, yards very square, and back not hoisted over, nearly upright, both vessels apparently abandoned. The *Renovation* was then about thirty miles to the eastward of Cape Race, and the iceberg about five miles N.W. The master was sick in bed, and was too unwell to take any notice. I have also examined T. Davis, now a seaman on board the British Queen, and who was at the wheel on board the *Renovation* when the vessels were observed, who entirely corroborates word for word the statement made by Mr. Simpson." An extract of a letter from Mr. Lynch, a passenger on board the *Renovation*, appeared in a Limerick paper of last May, containing a similar statement to that given above, but which at the time escaped notice. The most active exertions are in progress to complete the equipment of the Arctic expeditions for the renewed search after Sir John Franklin, and it is confidently expected that they will be ready to sail on the 15th of April. It is now determined that the expedition shall be confined to the ships employed last year—viz., two sailing ships and two small screw steamers.

HORRIBLE MURDER IN LAMBETH.—A WOMAN'S HEAD CUT OFF BY HER SON.—A shocking murder was committed on Saturday afternoon by a young man upon his mother, a respectable connected female, of the name of Elizabeth Wheeler, a widow, about forty-four years of age. The house in which the tragedy took place was No. 1, Durham-place, Kenning-road. The building was occupied by Mr. Wickens, a dyer and scourer, a family named Toms, and the unfortunate woman and her son, a young man about twenty-eight years of age. Saturday afternoon, about one o'clock, Mrs. Toms had her attention directed to a loud scream proceeding from the upper part of the building, which was succeeded by a heavy fall of something on the floor. She immediately went to ascertain the cause, when the son of the unfortunate woman made a hasty retreat out of the building, carrying in his hand a stick and a knife. Mrs. Toms having entered the apartment occupied by the poor creature, she was horrified at finding the trunk of the woman lying on the floor in a pool of blood, and the head, which was completely severed from the neck, was lying on a table in the same room, the flesh still moving to and fro. Mrs. Toms instantly hastened down stairs, and informed her husband that the young man had murdered his mother. Mr. Toms followed until he got within a few yards of Chester street. At that point Police-constable Loekyer, No. 125, came along, and forthwith secured him. He at once admitted that he had murdered his mother, and informed the officer that he had first struck her on the head with an iron, and afterwards cut her head off by means of an axe and a knife. On his way to the station-house he told the officer he was now sorry that he had committed the murder, but that the fact was he could not help it, for his mother and other persons were continually torturing him and following him about. He also said that he had been confined in a lunatic asylum, and had not been liberated long. The murderer, when arrested, did not offer the least resistance, and to all outward appearance did not feel the awful position he had placed himself in. From the state of the room the unfortunate female was in the act of leaving the apartment with a saucepan of greens in her hand when her son gave her a violent blow on the head, which felled her to

the floor, after which he must have knelt upon her body, and performed the act of decapitation. In the midst of the pool of blood was lying a pillow, which, it is believed, the murderer had placed there to prevent the gore from flying over his clothes. When apprehended not a spot of blood was perceptible upon his clothes, and his hands were perfectly clean. In the afternoon the prisoner was examined before the Hon. Mr. Norton, at Lambeth Police Office. He appeared to be either unconscious or indifferent to the position in which he was placed. The examination of witnesses continued for two hours. One of them deposed that the deceased was a beautiful woman, and stood five feet ten inches, or five feet eleven inches high. She was always very kind to him. When he has been very bad she has threatened to put him away. He has been in bedlam eleven months, and seven months in an asylum at Wandsworth. He has been in Brazil, and had a sunstroke as he was crossing the Line. He had a salary of £300 a year, and he can speak three or four different languages. An inquest was held on Monday, when a verdict of wilful murder was found.

EXECUTION OF THE CONVICT KEENE.—Tuesday morning, at nine o'clock, John Keene suffered the extreme penalty of the law on the top of Horseferry-lane gaol, London. He was found guilty at the last Surrey assizes of murder, by throwing a child down a well upwards of 100 feet deep, belonging to his wife by a former husband. After placing himself under the fatal beam Calcraft adjusted the rope, but, from some cause or other the convict, after the bolt had been drawn, struggled in a frightful manner, which led to the belief that the rope had shifted. As soon as Calcraft could get below the struggling terminated, and the convict ceased to exist.

EXECUTION OF SARAH ANN FRENCH FOR POISONING HER HUSBAND.—On Saturday, Sarah Ann French, who was left for execution at the late assizes for poisoning her husband, underwent the extreme penalty of the law on the drop in front of Lewes county gaol. Of the many unhappy creatures who of late years have suffered for poisoning their husbands, perhaps none ever exhibited so revolting a want of feeling in carrying out her diabolical plan of murder as this wretched criminal.

W. Robinson, left for execution at Bury St. Edmund's, has been reprieved in consideration of his extreme old age—eighty-three years—and the remainder of his wretched existence will be spent in close confinement. Eliza Dower—who was convicted with her paramour, Abel Ovans, for the murder of their illegitimate child at Monmouth—was to have been executed on yesterday (Friday), but, as not being actually engaged in the commission of the crime, it was expected that she would be reprieved.

UNITED STATES.

ORDINATION.—The following Deacons were promoted to the Holy Order of Priesthood, by the Most Reverend Archbishop in the Cathedral Church of St. Louis:—Rev. Messrs. Grogan, Hogan, Power, Lillis, Grace and Dillon.

A meeting is about being held in New York for the purpose of raising a subscription to assist in erecting a monument to the memory of the late Thomas Moore.

BOSTON, APRIL 29.—The special train, with Kossuth and suite, and the Reception Committee, arrived at the mill-dam crossing of the Worcester Railroad, a little before 12 o'clock, yesterday, where carriages were in waiting, and the Light Dragoons (late Lancers) Capt. J. C. Jipson, attended as an escort. The speaker of the House of Representatives, N. P. Banks, Jr. Col. Austin Williams, Governor's aid, and the President of the Senate, were present, and waited upon Mr. Kossuth and Count Pulzsky to a barouche drawn by six black horses. Mrs. Kossuth, Countess Pulzsky, Hon. Mr. E. L. Keyes, and Benjamin Stevens, Esq., Sergeant-at-arms, occupied another carriage. The Legislative Committee and the residue of Kossuth's suite, were equally well provided for. The Dragoons then escorted them to Washington street, near the Roxbury line, where the troops were in readiness to receive them. Great curiosity was manifested to see the illustrious stranger, and there was some cheering, but no very marked enthusiasm prevailed. Kossuth addressed the crowd about the carriage in a very brief manner, and bowed his thanks for the interest expressed. He was then received with military honors by the volunteer companies on duty, who turned out in full ranks, and presented a very fine and soldierly appearance. The escort was composed of a division formed from different regiments and brigades, commanded by General B. F. Edmunds. The other officers were Brigadier General Samuel Andrews and staff, Col. Robert Cowdin and staff, Col. Charles L. Holbrook and staff, Col. Abijah Watson and staff, and Col. Nathan P. Coburn and staff. The line of march was then taken up, and the procession moved to the State House.

THE NEW MARRIAGE BILL IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.—This bill was before the Assembly on Monday. It allows divorce where marriage is a "hardship" to either of the parties, and caused some fun, according to the report of the Albany papers. Should it pass, says the *Albany*, the marriage contracts, past and future, may be vacated by a Court whenever Mrs. Shandy proves that her spouse has omitted to wind up his house clock, or Mrs. Caudle can bring her husband in guilty of lending the family umbrella; while on the side of the Benedicts, much less formidable grounds of accusation will be the cause of rupture.

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.—A correspondent wishes us to state what is our opinion of the Maine Liquor Law? As the law would be assuredly unconstitutional, if passed by the Legislature, private opinions are of little consequence. We have the same opinion of the law as we have of Kossuth—an out and out unmitigated humbug—a scheme as ridiculous as ever emanated from the fanatical brain. The idea of legislating men into heaven and making them virtuous by the ministry of a sheriff's officer, looks like throwing the Bible aside and substituting the statute book. It is well known that the number of insane persons in New England is greater, in proportion to the population, than in France, Italy, England, or Germany; and the report just published by the superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, says that "the ratio of increase in Ohio is fast approaching that of the New England States." This, we suppose, is the reason why the fanatical excitements of the North are often popular in Ohio. The Catholic citizens, with their customary prudence, will oppose this as they did Anti-Masonry and the Doctrine of Intervention; one is as ungodly as the other. It is by the Grace of God, and not by the Power of the Legislature, that souls

are saved. If the self-righteous, self-complacent Puritans succeed now, we will next have conventions to suppress particular creeds. A proposition to violate the rights of conscience would be acceptable to many in Ohio, but we hope that the good sense of the people will ever preserve us from the affliction of fanatical legislation.—*Cin. Catholic Telegraph.*

During a religious meeting recently held in a town near Boston, one of the brethren, largely interested in the flour business, rose to address the meeting. "Brethren, and sisters," said he "we must believe in the Scriptures. I fully believe in them, as fully as I do that I shall receive to-morrow two hundred barrels of Genese flour, and mighty good flour it will be too." "Hut, hut, brother," said the parson, "do not advertise your flour here if you please." The good man had "freed his mind," and sat down.

A little girl named Eliza Ann Butler, of Stewards-town, York County, Pennsylvania, was murdered mysteriously on the 10th ult. Since then her sister, Catherine B. Butler, aged 12, has confessed that she committed the crime. It appears that the deceased had threatened to tell her mother that Catherine had stolen something out of the closet whereupon the latter struck her a violent blow, and seizing a butcher's knife, deliberately cut her throat from ear to ear. She is under arrest.

Thompson's Reporter, alluding to forged notes in the United States, says,—Refuse all notes corresponding to the following description, no matter of what denomination it may be, or what bank it may be, or what bank it may purport to be issued by:—5's Center vignette, three females, agricultural implements, sheaf of grain, ship on stocks, &c., with a round die containing figure 5 on each side of the vignette—on upper right corner the letter V, with portrait of Lafayette in the centre, and FIVE on the lower corner—on left end, upper corner, the word FIVE, and the letter V on the lower corner, with Franklin between—anchor, &c., between the signatures—engraving well done.—These notes originally belonged to the old Citizens Bank of Maine, but they have been altered to a great many banks, and will be continued to be altered to others, and we therefore wish our subscribers to remember their description. They are well engraved, and generally neatly altered, and are therefore the more dangerous to those not acquainted with them.

EXTRACT OF A LECTURE ON IRELAND AND HER DESTINY BY THE VERY REV. DR. MORIARTY.—Travellers in Ireland, of cynical temper, have to find fault with the repeated crossings of old dames, who also indulge in shower-baths of holy water; but in England they have to find fault with the overwhelming multitude who never hear the name of God, except in blasphemy. The traveller in Ireland can attribute a teeming population to the piety of the people, who do not deem it improvident that holy wedlock, which our Redeemer has sanctioned, and his apostles declared to be honorable in all, without distinction of rich or poor; but in England, if he takes in hand one single blue book containing parliamentary evidence on this subject, he must look with loathing on the shocking picture exhibited in every parish. The traveller in Ireland is annoyed by swarms of children, who have been preserved in life by the seal of baptism; but in England he will be rid of all such inconvenience, because there, mothers tinge the breast with arsenic, to give the food of death to the suckling babe. In depressed Ireland starving men bow down to beg their bread; but in prosperous England relief is sought more genteelly—a woman murders a couple of husbands to obtain the burial fees.—In Ireland the people are many centuries behind the knowledge of getting along in the world—but in England there is an ingenuity truly astonishing, as exemplified in a Mr. Hill, a famous anti-Popery lecturer, who, recently in Bristol, insured the life of his wife for three thousand pounds, but proved the uncertainty of human life, the risks of insurances, and the value of gold, by poisoning her and four children. We will turn to more agreeable illustrations. I introduce again Mr. Thackery to speak on Ireland, because even though disposed to levity and making sketches to sell in an English market, we glean from him evidence, so much the more impartial and sufficient, to give pleasing reliquary specimens of fallen, decayed Ireland. Mr. Thackery, speaking of his tour in Ireland, says:—"I have met more gentlemen here than in any place I ever saw, gentlemen of high and low rank. In regard to the gentlemen of Cork"—be it remembered he speaks of those of high and low rank—"a stranger must remark the extraordinary degree of literary taste and talent among them, and the wit and vivacity of their conversation. The Cork citizens are the most book-loving men I ever met."

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.—THE STATE PRISONERS.—The *Advertiser* says—"The conduct of his Excellency with respect to the Irish political prisoners has received the full approval of her Majesty's Government." Of course every one knew that it would. A colonial governor is sure to be protected, no matter what injustice he commits. Witness Lord Torrington at Ceylon, and Sir W. Denison in Van Dieman's Land. But it is rather too bad to mix "her Majesty's" name up with the mean acts of tyranny which are perpetrated by the agents of the Colonial Office abroad. Every honest man in this colony felt that Sir W. Denison's conduct to the state prisoners was cruel and unjustifiable, and as a propitiation of their justly aroused indignation Earl Grey gives it his "full approval." We should like to see the despatch. Why does not his Excellency publish it?—*Colonial Times.*

EPITAPHS.

A London journal calls attention to ridiculous epitaphs in English church-yards. Here are a few specimens:—

- From the church-yard in Biddeford, Devonshire:—
The wedding day appointed was,
And wedding-clothes provided;
But when the day arrived did,
She sickened and she die did.
- From Ulverstone—
Here lies my wife, here lies she;
Hallelujah, hallelujee.
- From Doncaster—
Here lie two brothers, by misfortune surrounded,
One died of his wounds, and the other was drowned.
In the Manchester church-yard is one "sacred to the memory of"
Miss Martha Gwynne,
Who was so very pure within
She burst the outward shell of sin,
And hatched herself a cherubim.