

The Irish Landlord "Conspirators" have had the tables completely turned on them. The originators of an aggressive movement, they were early put on the defensive, and have finally been obliged, with very undignified haste, completely to pull in their horns. This result of their movement promises to advantage rather than injure the tenant class against whom their chivalrous efforts were directed. The responses to that luckless circular, signed by the Lord George Hill, whose model landlordism has produced such model misery in Gweedore, have not certainly been such as the Honorary Secretary counted on. They include letters from the most estimable of the Irish landlords, many of them men not remarkable for the liberality of the sentiments they entertain on general politics, but who join in a hearty condemnation of this clique. The evidence of such men as Lords Massareene, Dunally, Granard, French, Viscounts Monck and Castlerosse, amongst others, is certainly entitled to considerable weight. It goes to prove the peaceable conduct of the people, their obedience to the law, and their respect for the rights of other. The testimony of many of them, the evidence of some of whom, we gave last week, goes further, and while denying that agrarian crime exists to any degree calling for general censure, they trace the commission of those crimes of that class which do unhappily, now and then, sully the fair name of Ireland, to the state of the Landlord and Tenant Law. That this is so, seems easily susceptible of moral proof. Remarkable for its freedom from other crimes—remarkable for the high standard of morality which prevails throughout it, Ireland is occasionally the scene for the commission of offences springing from causes connected with the land. So well is this understood that if to-morrow the Times correspondent at Dublin were to announce a rumored murder, he would, in the absence of contrary evidence, lay the crime to the charge of some unhappy tenant or tenants: so close and logical seems to be the connection between agrarian outrage and the state of tenant law—as between effect and cause. What renders the position of the Irish peasant more anomalous still, is that the injustice of the law is universally admitted, and year after year promises of redress have sounded delusively in his ears. Successive Administrations have recognised the abstract justice of his claim—while differing from each other and from the tenant himself as to what the remedy should be; successive judges—from the Assistant-Barrister at Quarter Sessions to those who sit in the high places of the Temple of Justice—have frequently pronounced on the injustice of the law, and given the tenant all the law will allow them to give, which is too frequently but sympathy. The case of Father O'Pay and Major Burke has been too recently referred to in our columns, to need notice in illustration of this. Thus we see that Ireland presents this day the curious spectacle of a country where laws are set in force which both Houses of Parliament have declared to be inequitable and against which the appointed Judges raise their voices, helplessly, in condemnation. It were needless to say how idle it would be to expect that respect for the law, which it would seem a chief province of lawmakers to inculcate, and it is but too evident, how such hope deferred must have acted on the minds of the tenants, and its direct tendency to foster that class of crime called agrarian outrage. We hope the resolution adopted by the important meeting of the Irish Liberal Members, lately held in Dublin, affirming the necessity of large and material alterations in the Law of Landlord and Tenant, may be the prelude to the settlement of this much vexed question. Its solution has been too long postponed.—Weekly Register.

Our Irish intelligence records the ignominious failure of the clique of exterminators in Dublin, their abandonment of their boasted public meeting, and the resolutions passed at another meeting of Irish Members of Parliament condemning them and their devices. The defeated party, learning from disaster more wisdom than they ever had before, have had an interview with the Lord Lieutenant, and profess themselves to be so well satisfied with their reception that they will content themselves with simply signing an address. They take their beating with cheerfulness, at their look with a good grace, and say they rather like it. But this does not satisfy the Freeman and the Post, which naturally desire to make political capital out of the event in favor of the Whigs, and therefore, though the boast of the conspirators that their interview with the Lord Lieutenant was most satisfactory is a notorious untruth, these Whig journals affect to believe it as a literal truth, and insist that the Irish Government is leagued with the Conspirators against the liberties of the people. We poor Independents, at whose mill no party can claim of right to have their flour ground, are free to take a different view. We see in the transaction neither a Whig triumph nor a Tory defeat, but a subject of congratulation to the Irish people. The most important feature of the case is surely the evidence it affords of a change of feeling in Ireland.—The old Landlord party of Protestant ascendancy is snubbed by the Government, and repudiated by the sense and good-feeling of Irish gentlemen of all parties. The endeavor to band together the lords of the soil against the people of the country proves to be an anachronism, and only serves to mark the progress made towards that happy consummation when, by the union of all classes in Ireland as component parts of one society and one nation, the real difficulty of the Irish question will be satisfactorily solved.—Tablet.

A meeting of the Independent County Club has passed resolutions, declaring that the minimum of justice with which the Irish people can be satisfied is contained in the League Bill—convening a meeting of the County Tipperary at Thurles, for the 14th February, approving of the honest, independent and fearless conduct of The O'Donoghue, and inviting him to a public banquet. A resolution was also passed declaring Mr. Bright's efforts to procure Parliamentary Reform worthy of the warmest approval and co-operation, hailing the sound principles he has enunciated, and "above all, his making vote by ballot an indispensable condition of his bill." Mr. Bright may have made the Ballot an indispensable condition of his bill, because we are not sure what he means by the phrase, if he used it, but we think the club would have had more solid grounds for their approval if he had made the Ballot an indispensable portion of his bill. As we understand things, the disposition prevailing amongst the friends of the Bill used to be, than any Reform Bill which did not contain a provision that the voters under the Bill should be entitled to the protection of the Ballot, would be deemed unworthy of support. Mr. Bright, in his speech at Bradford, as we understood it, did not say that the Ballot was to be a feature of the Bill he was about to introduce.—Tablet.

The Irish Poor Law Commissioners.—These important functionaries, all of whom in Catholic Ireland are Protestants, seem to get on by no means harmoniously with various bodies of guardians with whom they are brought in contact. Amongst other unpopular things which they have recently done, is the dismissal of Father Daly from the office of chaplain to the Galway union, and that in a most pre-emptory manner. The reverend gentleman thus addresses the local board:—"I would request your judgment, whether there appears on your minutes any evidence of the slightest omission of my duties? Whether any charge of any nature affecting my character or conduct? Whether any act or attempt at causing religious dissensions or rancor among the inmates of the establishment or its officers? Whether any intermeddling in its temporal affairs or any impediment given to the full development of its regulations? Whether, in fine, any encouragement to immorality, or disorder, or suppression of such as came under my observation? Your own good sense will readily see the propriety of my soliciting this declaration from you." The guardians thus reply at their next meeting:—"Mr. Thomas Comins said that in reference to the correspondence relative to the position of their respect-

ed chaplain, he would beg to move the following resolution:—"That we feel no ordinary pleasure in responding to the wish expressed in the letter of our respected chaplain, read this day at the board, desiring at an expression of our approval of his conduct during the long period of his official connection with this establishment—which has been marked by singular efficiency, pious zeal, and uniform kindly feeling towards all parties—and we feel ourselves called upon to approve of and to uphold his line of action on this occasion." Mr. James Martyn seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Orange press of Ireland and the Anti-Irish Portion of the English press are always ready and willing to admit that the sentiments of the Catholics of Ireland are correctly represented either by Ribbonmen, or by Phionicians, or by American sympathisers, or by Sepoy partisans. They positively like Ribbonism, Sepoyism, Incendiarism, and instead of applauding the efforts of the Clergy and others to put down Secret and forbidden Societies, they insist identifying the whole Catholic population with them. One would think that in support of their pretensions to be considered good and honest men, they would rejoice at being told, and in believing, that the Catholic Clergy and people of Ireland abhor all means but the lawful weapons of Christian Freedom in their pursuit of measures which they deem necessary for the social and political welfare of their country.—But this is just the thing which it would cut them to the heart to believe or to acknowledge. Let us learn by their example. Instead of affecting to believe with the Whigs that the ferocious howl of the Orange Peace and Prosperity-mongers is echoed in the hearts of the majority of Protestant landlords, let us refuse to believe it without proof; and let us hope that the disgusted silence or the indignant rebuke of the Protestant population will consign these madmen to a befitting obscurity. It is curious to observe how signally facts refute the old notion of the antagonism between principle and expediency being such that it was *prima facie* evidence that a man was not practical if he had fixed principles, and that the absence of principle was a reason for believing a man to be a skilful partisan. The Whig and Tory parties have both been injured by their partisans in Ireland quite lately. They have shown an abundant disregard both for truth and principle, but they have been dishonest to their own disadvantage, not to their enemies' loss.—Tablet.

THE DROEGAL EXPOS.—Hear what even the Irish correspondent of the Times says on this melancholy subject:—"The Derry Guardian states that nearly 300 emigrants from the celebrated Gweedore district, chiefly persons whose ages ranged from 18 to 24, left that city by railway for Coleraine on Friday morning on their way to Belfast, and proceeded thence, per steamer, for the emigration depot at Birkenhead. It is somewhat unfortunate that the peace of this notorious district can only be maintained by the deportation to the colonies of the flower of the laboring population, as may be presumed from the ages of the emigrants forming the first contingent from Donegal. The local paper says:—"They had arrived here on Wednesday evening, and were accompanied by the Rev. James McFadden, a Catholic priest, to the office of Captain Keele, the Government emigration officer at this port, who on Thursday morning entered upon the arduous duty of examining their outfit, &c., at the conclusion of which he expressed himself favorably with regard to their conduct and general appearance. Mr. McFadden, on behalf of the emigrants returned Captain Keele thanks for his courtesy and the trouble he had taken on the occasion. We understand that this is the first of three divisions of an equal number who are to proceed to Australia during the year."

THE RIBBON SYSTEM.—The Phoenix or Ribbon system, whose operations were hitherto confined to the county of Kilkenny, has spread (we learn upon authority) to the borders of this county, through the agency of the colliers; but we are happy to state, that up to the present, so far as we can learn, the peasantry of the county of Carlow have no connection with this illegal confederacy. In the mountain districts which divide the two counties, the Phoenix Society have numerous disciples. They meet in sheebens and other houses, on pretence of dancing, and the members are collected at night by beat of drum or tambourine, and conduct their proceedings in secrecy.—Carlow Sentinel.

The liberation of four of the Callan men, charged with being connected with the Phoenix Club, created great excitement in that village on Saturday night, on their return home from the County Gaol, and on Sunday they were objects of much attention in the streets. The Rev. Mr. Saloun, P.P., after Mass, preached to his congregation, referring to the discharge of these young men, and expressing a hope that what had occurred would be a warning to them and all their hearers against joining in any secret societies. He extolled in warm language the impartial and above-board manner in which the Earl of Desart had acted magisterially in the matter, both as to the arrests and the investigation, which resulted in the discharge of those men, and he recommended the noble earl to the prayers of his congregation, as a good and upright nobleman and conscientious magistrate.—Kilkenny Messenger.

KEMARÉ, JAN. 21ST.—We had two visits here some days ago from Mr. Davys, the stipendiary magistrate of the Bantry district. On the first occasion he came to hold a *palaver*—to borrow a phrase from the North American Indians—with some mysterious personages cloaked for the last ten or twelve days in the police barracks. It is now understood that this individual is brother to the informer Goala, and is inclined to play second fiddle to his worthy relative. The official *let-tele*, after the usual head-and-corner fashion, took place in the barracks, and lasted two or three hours. The "crown" was represented by the stipendiary and the local sub-inspector of police, and if you should be anxious to know the result, I must refer you to your friend the Th—f—Sec—y. On Friday evening Mr. Davys paid us his second visit, and it was generally expected that a fresh batch of "Phoenixes" would be bagged that night, Master Goula II., acting as pointer. This supposition in the minds of the townspeople received additional impetus from the fact that towards dusk two policemen called at the union workhouse and inquired for the "master" of that establishment. The "master" was not "at home." Could the visitors see his son? Now this was a very harmless request, one would suppose, but coming from the quarter it did, particularly in these very uncertain times, it deserved to be treated with some caution at least; so the son was reported not at home also (though perhaps he was within hearing at the time); but the gentlemen at the hall-door were kindly directed to the son's residence (you understand) a distance of about half a mile, but there as well as at the "big house" the police were unsuccessful, and they returned to town with a pleasant evening walk for their pains. When the "master" heard that the police were inquiring for him he called at the Lansdowne Arms Hotel to ascertain from Mr. Davys the cause of the police visit; but before waiting on the stipendiary he had a private audience with Mr. Horsly, Poor Law Inspector, who very officiously subjected him to an investigation of his own or, as a detective would say, a preparatory pumping. The "master" then had an interview with Mr. Davys, who would feel much obliged to him if he (the "master") would give him up his son for a short time, and, "pon his honour," (the stipendiary) would give him back again (when he did not say) safe and sound; but if the "master" did not comply with this modest request a warrant for his son's arrest could, and perhaps would, be placed in the hands of the police. The master deferred deciding the question until the following morning, and having meanwhile sought the advice of the Parish Priest, that reverend gentleman recommended him strongly to keep his son as far as possible from the clutches of the fat boy, the "pon his honour" pledge notwithstanding; and furthermore the Archdeacon

O'Sullivan had not the slightest objection that his advice and opinion would be made known to the whole tribe of "authorities," from Sub-Constable John Raw, third class, to the nobleman that wears the mock purple in "the castle." At the conclusion of the day's proceedings at the last petty sessions court, a batch of policemen, seven in number (the head constable and constables of the district), were paraded on the witness table before the justices; and had a rather long-winded oration, called an oath, administered to them. First of all they introduced themselves as constables of police, then swore fealty to their Sovereign Lady the Queen, and promised to perform their duties in the most satisfactory manner, without fear, favour, or affection—without malice or ill will for any individual, and so forth; then pledged themselves not to join, connivance, or support in any way political association whatever, or any secret society, except the Society of Freemasons. This is rather a good joke. No wonder the British Lion should quake at the slightest symptom of the very mildest form of 'disfranchisement' in that part of his dominions called Ireland, when he suspects his own paid servants of entertaining treasonable ideas, and compels them to take a second oath of allegiance fearing they might have forgotten the first, administered (of all places in the world) in the Phoenix Park. But let us not despair, there is hope for us still—the sub-constables were not sworn, and, ergo, I suppose they can join all manner of secret and political societies. Does it not seem rather contradictory that an oath, pledging men not to join 'secret societies,' should give them full permission to join one of the most secret of all societies. Roman Catholics by joining the Freemason or any other secret society incur excommunication, but the Catholic members of the force must not trouble themselves upon this head, as they have abolition before hand from the head of the church—as-by-act of parliament-established.—A Correspondent of the Nation.

DECLARATION OF IRISH LIBERAL MEMBERS.—The abandonment of the landlord meeting has been closely followed by an unobtrusive demonstration on the part of the Irish Liberal members of Parliament. A meeting was held which was private in the strictest possible sense, nothing having been permitted to transpire beyond a declaration, a copy of which is annexed. The Freeman's Journal assures its readers that it was a meeting for business, and that oratory was wholly eschewed; both vast improvements upon the old system, being, in fact, a complete reversal of the ordinary rule of practice. The document speaks for itself:—"A meeting of the Irish Liberal representatives took place yesterday evening at the residence of Mr. Cogan, M.P., 93, Stephen's-green South, pursuant to the following circular:—"Dublin, Jan. 18, 1859.

"Dear Sir,—It is proposed to hold a meeting of the Liberal Irish members of Parliament on Tuesday, the 25th of January, at 93, Stephen's-green South, at 4 o'clock, for the purpose of considering whether it would be advisable to attend the meeting of landed proprietors advertised to be held at the Rotunda on the 27th of January, and we hope it may be your convenience to be present.—Signed, "R. Deasy, "John Hatchell, "O'Donoghue, "Patrick O'Brien, "Laurence Waldron, "W. H. F. Cogan, "J. D. Fitzgerald, "Hon. Sec."

"The proceedings commenced shortly before 5 o'clock, when the following members were present:—Oliver D. J. Grace, Roscommon; J. D. Fitzgerald, Ennis; Michael Dunne, Queen's County; John Bagwell, Clonmel; The O'Donoghue, Tipperary County; J. F. Maguire, Dungarvan; Laurence Waldron, Tipperary County; P. O'Brien, King's County; Alexander McCarthy, Cork County; Lofus H. Bland King's County; W. H. F. Cogan, Kilkare County; John Hatchell, jun., Wexford County; S. M. Greer, Londonderry County.

"The chair was taken by Mr. Grace, and Mr. Cogan was requested to act as secretary to the meeting. Letters of apology were received from the following representatives, expressing the strongest condemnation of the proposed meeting of landed proprietors:—W. Fagan, Cork City; Sir T. Burke, County Galway; O'Connor Henchy, Kildare; Sir T. O'Brien, Cashel; S. De Vere, County of Limerick; W. Kirk, Newry; P. W. Russell, Limerick; B. M. Ebovy, Meath; Colonel Greville, Longford; M. E. Corbally, Meath; John Ennis, Athlone; J. Isaac Haard, Kinsale; Lord Castlerosse, Kerry; Sir Denham Norreys, Mallow; W. H. Gregory, Galway County; Lord Proby, Wicklow; Dr. Brady, Leitrim; Henry Herbert, Kerry; John Esmond, County of Waterford; and Captain Daniel O'Connell, Trafalgar.

"The subjoined declaration was proposed by Sergeant Deasy, seconded by Mr. Maguire, and unanimously adopted:—"A circular having lately issued convening a meeting of Irish landed proprietors, to be held in Dublin on the 27th of January, for the purpose of 'expressing their sense of the impunity which has attended agrarian outrages, the insecurity of life and property in Ireland, and the necessity of some further measures for remedying such alleged evils,' and a statement having been published by the honorary secretaries of the proposed meeting, assigning as reasons for not holding that meeting, that 'a deputation, consisting of themselves and of two other members of the committee, had had an interview with the Lord Lieutenant of a most satisfactory nature, and that the objects of the contemplated meeting had been attained'—we, the undersigned Irish members of Parliament, feel called upon publicly to express our dissent from the opinions expressed by the promoters of the contemplated meeting, and our disapprobation of the objects principally sought to be attained by it.

"We believe that life and property are as secure, and that justice is as effectually administered in Ireland as in any other part of the United Kingdom, and we consider the statements to the contrary, put forward by the promoters of the contemplated meeting, unfounded and calumnious. "We therefore strongly deprecate and shall strenuously resist any attempt to introduce any measures of a coercive character. "We consider secret and exclusive political societies, whatever names they may bear, and of whatever class or creed they may be composed, dangerous to the peace and injurious to the prosperity of Ireland, and we expect that the Legislature will discourage and suppress all such mischievous organizations without distinction.

"We also feel bound to express our conviction that the existing laws, regulating the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland, are, in many respects unjust and impolitic, and require immediate and material amendment; and we trust that the Legislature will speedily pass into a law some measure giving adequate security to the tenant that he shall not be deprived of the benefit of the improvements effected by his industry and capital.

"Dublin, Jan. 25, 1859. "J. D. Fitzgerald, "Alexander McCarthy, "M. Dunne, "Lofus Bland, "J. Bagwell, "F. Calcult, "The O'Donoghue, "R. Deasy, "P. O'Brien, "W. H. F. Cogan, "O. D. J. Grace, "John Hatchell, "J. F. Maguire, "S. M. Greer, "L. Waldron, "T. O'Brien." "On the motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, it was resolved that a copy of the above declaration should be sent to each of the absent representatives for signature. The meeting then separated.

The boroughs in Ireland are much less than the boroughs of England; they have nine boroughs whose average number of electors is only 1,537; they have one whose number of electors is only 84 or 85. Now what am I to do with these little boroughs? Some would say, "Disfranchise them." Some would say, "Make them into groups," I believe, make them into whatever groups you like, and with little exception, they will still be boroughs, very small, and hardly competent under an improved system to return members to Parliament. I have concluded to take this course now, but of course not only I, as a member but an official member of the House of Commons, but a minister even, in proposing such a measure, would feel himself at liberty to make such changes as might appear most satisfactory to the population of Ireland (hear, hear) I have proposed that nine of those boroughs, beginning with Fortliff and ending with Bandon, should be disfranchised, and six of their members distributed in this way—two to the city of Dublin, and one each to the town of Belfast and the town of Kilkenny, and the cities of Limerick and Cork. Then, looking at the vast population of many of the Irish counties, I propose to give from the boroughs of England five new members, which, added to the three saved from these disfranchised boroughs, will give one member each to six of the principal Irish counties, and two members to the county of Cork, which may be termed the Yorkshire of Ireland (Applause).

The Freeman's Journal tauntingly exclaims:—"Lord Downshire and his confederates have fled! The public meeting is abandoned! The coercion decalogue dwindled down to three contemptible and peddling resolutions, which were to have been proposed to the intended meeting, and the 'three' have in turn given place to a 'humble address' to the Lord-Lieutenant, which is to be prepared and presented by a yet unnamed committee, whose decree is to be the substitute for the pronouncement of the 'largest and the most influential meeting of the nobility, gentry, and others, ever held in Ireland?'"

IRISH TASTE FOR LITERATURE.—Mr. F. Morgan Fetherstone, of Brompton, in a letter to the Morning Star, vindicates the Irish nation from the charge of disrelish for literary culture. He says:—"I am certain that you will be glad to insert a refutation of the stale charge against the Irish people of ignorance and disrelish for literary culture, implied in the statement that 'seventy-four towns in Ireland with populations not below 2,500, and in some cases, consisting of 10,000 to 15,000, have not a single bookseller.' The original charge (made at a Protestant meeting in Scotland) declared in addition, 'that the counties of Donegal, Kildare, Leitrim, Queen's County, Westmeath, and Wicklow, did not contain a single bookseller or library.' This extract has gone the round of the press and occasioned, no doubt, many sighs over Ireland's ignorance and degradation, the Pope being ascribable, of course, for all. What will your readers say when I declare the whole statement to be a complete invention. The Dublin Catholic Telegraph has inserted letters from booksellers in many of the places said to be without one; and I can, of my own knowledge, declare (having had business transactions with them) that there are booksellers doing a good trade in several towns in Donegal, Leitrim, and Queen's County. I am also convinced that, generally speaking, the Irish people are fully as well informed on political matters as the same class in England."

Of Irish business—or, at least, talk upon and about Ireland—there will be no lack, if a general election should not cut short the session. For instance, there will be a discussion raised on the subject of Orange Lodges, and the rescinding by the Government of the rule made by Ex-Chancellor Bealey of not appointing any member of the Orange Society to the Commission of the Peace. The Lord Lieutenant's Proclamation and the arrests made under it will also form a prominent topic. And then the question of the abolition of the Irish Viceroy, which I noticed in my hurried letter of last week, will take up some time, but it is the opinion here that it will meet with very little practical opposition. It is said that many of those who were for retaining the office at the time of the previous discussions, have changed their minds, and are now for doing away with the Lord Lieutenantcy. I have other matters to draw your attention to, but must close for the present.—Derry Journal.

On Wednesday morning a placard, written with a split pen or small brush, was found pasted over the Lord Lieutenant's proclamation on the wall of the Court-house, Navan. The following are its contents:—"Men of Meath beware of English bribery. Be steady and united. Twenty pounds for the head of an informer." It was signed "A foe to tyranny," and it was filled up with two pikes, having between them a flag bearing the word "Liberty." Since then the police are every night on their watch in the Court-house.—Meath People.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CORK.—On Monday night a fire broke out in the room of Mr. Ruby Johnson's upholstery establishment, Great George's-street. At first it was supposed to be only a chimney on fire, but the increasing flame soon showed that it was proceeding from the house itself. Mr. Johnson's family not being resident, some policemen who were on patrol, assisted by the bystanders, burst in the shop door, and as soon as this was done the whole range of waterworks was discovered on fire, and burning embers were seen falling down from the upper rooms. With great energy and presence of mind, some of the bystanders, along with the police, succeeded in safely depositing at the opposite side of the street upwards of £300 worth of mahogany furniture, consisting of chairs, tables, sofas, &c. Pears were entertained for the neighbouring houses. Fortunately, however, these fears were not realised, for about eleven o'clock, though the premises of Mr. Johnson were reduced to a mere shell, all the floors having successively fallen in, Mr. Jordan's house, which the flames had already caught, was saved, and Mr. O'Connell's remained untouched.—Cork Paper.

THE WEXFORD MILITIA.—From the communications which have been received by the colonel of this regiment, it is anticipated that it will soon return to Ireland, and be disembodied. Mr. Michael O'Regan, says the Munster News, who has so long and so well filled the honorable post of President of the Congregated Trades of Limerick, is about emigrating with his family to Auckland, New Zealand, during the ensuing spring.

GREAT BRITAIN. PARLIAMENT.—Queen Victoria opened Parliament in person on the 3rd inst. The speech commences with congratulations on the state of the country, and on the progress made in India. On foreign affairs it says:—"I receive from all foreign powers assurances of friendly feelings. To cultivate and confirm these feelings, to maintain inviolate the faith of our public treaties, and contributing, as far as my influence can extend, to the preservation of general peace, are the objects of my increasing solicitude." The conclusion of treaties in regard to the Principalities, and one of commerce with Russia, are noticed; and the latter is referred to as an indication of the complete re-establishment of friendship between the two countries. The treaties with China and Japan are mentioned as promising great commercial advantages. Satisfaction is expressed at the abolition, by France, of negro emigration on the east coast of Africa, and that the pending negotiations give promise of a total abandonment of the system. In respect to Mexico, the speech says:—"The state of the Republic of Mexico, distracted by civil wars, has induced me to carry my forbearance to the utmost limit. In regard to the wrongs and indignities to which British residents have been subjected at the hands of two contending parties, they have at length been carried to

such an extent, that I have been compelled to give instructions to the commander of the naval forces in those seas, to demand and, if necessary, to enforce reparation." Increased expenditure for the navy is asked, on account of the universal introduction of steam power into naval warfare. The rest of the speech is devoted to local matters, and amongst the measures promised are Parliamentary reform and a new Bankruptcy law. Addresses in response to the speech were agreed to in both Houses. Earl Melbourne, in the House of Lords, and Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons, complained of silence in regard to the threatening state of the Italian question, and other matters of interest. Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli expressed their confidence in the maintenance of peace.

INCREASE IN THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.—We believe we may announce with tolerable certainty that ministers are prepared to ask for a considerable increase in the naval estimates in the approaching session. No absolute increase is contemplated in the army estimates. The regiments returning from India, their period of service having more than expired, will, however, form an augmentation of the regular military force in the United Kingdom. This will probably enable the authorities to lessen the estimates for the militia. The increased amount required for the navy will be principally appropriated to a considerable augmentation of the Channel Fleet.—Observer.

COAST DEFENCES.—By direction of the War Department, 18-pounder field batteries are to be provided at Gravesend and Tilbury, and notices have been issued for tenders to construct gun-shots for the same. Numerous heavy guns for the coast defences have recently been forwarded from the Royal Arsenal, and similar orders have yet to be executed. In consequence of the demand for this description of ordnance, a large number of guns have been supplied from the Low Moor and other foundries, but it is anticipated that the Royal Standard Foundry for casting iron guns, erected at this Arsenal since the Russian war, at a cost of £110,000, will hereafter prove equal to the exigencies of the service. The most activity still prevails in the shot and shell factory, and the men are employed overtime in the completion of several heavy orders for India and other foreign stations.

It is alleged that the Government have completed a compact with three large Iron Companies for a supply of 68 pounds as fast as they can be cast.—An important contract for gunpowder has also been taken.

The Guardian announces that the Prince of Wales will be the first presiding heir to the throne of Great Britain who will have visited Rome since the schism with Henry VIII. "The schism" was of but with Henry VIII. The august line of the Supreme Pontiff, that is, for the last half century, have been, in the judgment of the Guardian, in schism against the spiritual authority of the British monarch.

The obituary of the week contains the name of the historian Hallam, and of the widow of the poet Wordsworth, the last survivor of that small circle enclosed with so many gifts of genius and high aspirations, who many years ago were famous as "the Lake School."—Weekly Register.

PROTESTANT MORALITY.—It is stated that work is flowing into the Divorce Court in a stream so copious that a second Judge must be appointed, so that two Courts may sit at the same time "to put under those whom God has joined together." Rumor confers the office on Mr. Justice Willes. The Protestant papers while recognising the principle of the Court, (that marriage may be dissolved by human authority) are raising a cry against the demoralising effect of its proceedings. When will men find out that morals can be secured only by adherence to the law of God?—Weekly Register.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—A gentleman residing at Darlington, who had married his deceased wife's sister, has recently been openly expelled from the communion in the face of the whole congregation by the officiating minister of his parish, with the sanction, we sincerely regret to say, of the Bishop of the diocese.—Durham Chronicle.

RIBBONISM IN NEWCASTLE.—It is no longer, we believe, a secret—or for the purposes of justice, necessary to be a secret—that there is a Ribbon Society, bound together by an unlawful oath, and for purposes which we fear, it is also unnecessary to indicate, in full operation in this town. From documents obtained in Ireland the Government became aware of the fact which we now feel at liberty to announce; and, if our information be correct, the Home Secretary has had some correspondence with the Mayor of Newcastle on the subject. We need scarcely add that the police are upon the alert.—Northern Express.

The Daily Chronicle and Northern Counties Advertiser publishes the following declaration, which Father Suffield, of St. Andrew's Church, has repeatedly enforced from the altar, and says the Chronicle, in substance invariably and not unsuccessfully acted upon during the nine years of his priestly life, thus showing the inaccuracy of statements reiterated in ill-informed quarters:—"I, A. B. do solemnly declare that I do renounce, now and for ever, all connection with the Hibernian Benevolent Society, Knights of St. Patrick, Freemasons, or any other secret society now existing or hereafter to be formed; and that I am, therefore, firmly resolved never, in future, to receive from the Hibernian Benevolent Society, or any other secret society in Ireland or elsewhere, letters, cards, signs, or passwords of any kind; never to ask or receive relief from any such society, never to contribute to their funds, never to attend any of their meetings, and never, as long as I live, to hold any communication with the Hibernian Benevolent Society, Knights of St. Patrick, Freemasons, or any other secret society whatsoever.

Our contemporary remarks that "this notice shows the laudable activity of the Roman Catholic priesthood in putting an end to the fearful system of secret association which has been unfortunately too prevalent among Irishmen. The declaration published by us is required to be made before the sacraments can be administered to the recipient. Father Suffield has acted on this plan for nine years. The West London Protestant Institute has been holding an inaugural meeting at the Westbourne Riding-school. Speeches by the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., President, the Rev. J. P. Gell, Canon Stowell, the Rev. Alexander Dallas, and several others, occupied many hours. All that was said, however, might have been said in a few minutes. It was that "Popery" was spreading rapidly on every side—new congregations forming everywhere and conversions numerous in every congregation. That it must be stopped. As to the important question how, that was answered ably by Mr. Stowell, who said, "There will be no danger if England is only Protestant to her hearts core" (i. e.) we need not fear the spread of the Catholic Church in England so long as all Englishmen remain sturdy Protestants—very true, no doubt, but cold comfort under the circumstances. In an article upon "Spiritual Destitution in England," the Quarterly Review avails itself of Mr. Horace Mann's Statistics, to show that the cry for Church services is worse than idle. At the three services on the Census Sundays, there was an aggregate attendance in all places of worship amounting to 7,261,032 persons, while the total number of sittings within reach was 20,225,797. As far as we are concerned in this question there cannot be a moment's doubt that we have no part in the excess of accommodation over worshippers. Mr. Mann and the Bishop of Exeter's committee must settle the matter between them. The reviewer writes:—"There are 5,000,000 and more of people," says Mr. Mann, "who might go to church or chapel and don't go. What will you do with them? 'Build more churches,' says the Lords Committee. 'But they will not go to them,' repeats Mr. Mann; and they don't go to them," confesses the Rev. Mr. Stooks. 'Build more churches continues the Lords Committee.'—Tablet.