

men; and is now producing the weakness, perhaps the ruin, of this once powerful empire—the refusal to extend to the wounded and dying Catholic soldier and sailor those religious helps and consolations which his holy faith teaches him to value dearer than life itself; the exclusion and bigotry displayed in the army, navy, military schools; and all the public institutions of the country; the compulsory maintenance of a gorgeous, useless, and hateful church establishment; and lastly, the insulting graduated scale of religious ascendancy lately published by Mr. Sidney Herbert; these are evils well calculated to try the patience and excite the indignation of every human and enlightened Christian. Yet this is the policy so long and so unwisely pursued by England towards the Catholics of Ireland. How insane to persist in it at a moment when the loyalty and courage of Irish Catholics displayed a fidelity and heroism rivalling it not surpassing their former fame, in defending the standard of Great Britain? I refer to these grievances because I believe the present a most opportune and favourable moment to seek their mitigation or total removal. Adversity is the best School of wisdom. In the hour of her need and humiliation England may lend an attentive ear to appeals which she heretofore received with ridicule and scorn. Her alliance with Catholic France, the first daughter of the Church, may dispose her at length to grant the just claims of Catholic Ireland. We therefore earnestly exhort you, in the exercise of your constitutional rights, by county and parochial petitions, to urge on the legislature, the prompt and satisfactory redress of the monstrous grievances to which I have adverted. The peace, the happiness and prosperity of the empire are all involved in their full and speedy removal. You will remind your representatives of their pledges at the hustings, and assure them that a constitutional opposition to every government, be it Whig, Tory, or Coalition embarrassing the minister who will refuse to redress grievances so intolerable, will be only evidence of the sincerity of former professions which you will accept when they next seek the renewal of your confidence.

**ENGLISH TYRANNY IN CONNAUGHT.**—A “National Teacher” sends us, says the *Tipperary Leader*, some tolerable verses on the Connaught Rangers and their achievements before Sebastopol. We may as well state frankly, that we have little to say for those who fight for England. We may sympathise with their sufferings and admire their courage in the abstract; but Irish hearts can have no feeling for the glory of the British arms. If the 83th knew the history of English “heroes” in Connaught we doubt if the gallant Rangers would make much distinction between Russ and Saxon. It is well for England that while she has crushed our country, she has hushed our history. If the 83th knew the achievements of that British General, that Saxon savage, Sir Charles Coote, in Connaught—if they knew how he desolated that province and desecrated its altars—if they knew the countless massacres he perpetrated on helpless age, and tender infancy, on man and maiden, few of them would be found to range themselves under that British banner which is reddened with the blood of their forefathers. “Hell or Connaught” was the war-cry of the Saxon when he murdered flying women and tossed children into the air on the point of a gory spear. We have it on the authority of an English historian, Carte, that when Sir Charles Coote saw an infant writhing in the agonies of death on the top of a soldier’s bayonet, the British hero shouted out laughingly that he liked suck frolics! Clarendon, another English historian, says, that all the Irish who were not transported to Virginia and the West Indies, were banished into the most barren, desolate, and mountainous parts of Connaught, in districts ravaged by a ten years’ war, that there they might all be starved to death; and he further states that in these districts of Connaught the Irish, destitute of food or habitations, suffered calamities such as the wrath of God never inflicted on any other people. And if an Irishman left his abode of famine and death, it was lawful for any one to kill him.—These are some of the obligations of the 83th to England, but we cannot say there is much compliment in the way. If our correspondent will teach those around him with whom the future of Ireland rests—if he will teach the rising generation the history of their country—if he will teach them to love its name and its memories—he will be doing Ireland more service than by writing verses on the British banner.—*Nation*.

**DEATH OF LORD O’NEIL.**—This event took place on Monday at Shanes Castle, County Antrim. The deceased, who was in the 75th year of his age, had seen much active military service, and attained the rank of General in the brevet of last year.

Three Irish peerages being now extinct, Lord Palmerston has the power of conferring one. Mr. H. Herbert, of Muckross, is spoken of as likely to be the person selected for the honor.

It is stated that every arrangement was made for Mr. Keogh, the Solicitor-General, to go as judge on the western circuit at the approaching assizes, and that the commission was actually made out for the purpose, when it was discovered that by accepting even the temporary trust he would vacate his seat in parliament, and have to stand a new election for Athlone. The same difficulty will exist for Mr. Sergeant O’Brien, the new member for Limerick, who has hitherto gone circuit for one of the absent judges.

**MINES IN IRELAND.**—A bill is now before the House of Commons for the further encouragement of mines in Ireland. It repeals so much of the 1st and 2nd of Victoria, chap. 56, as relates to mines, except coal mines, and enacts that no mines in Ireland, shall hereafter be rateable for the relief of the poor. The bill is brought in by Mr. J. Fitzgerald, Mr. Napier, and Mr. F. W. Russell.

**FISHERY OF BELFAST BAY.**—The preservation of Belfast bay, as breeding ground for fish, has been formally secured, the commissioners having passed two by laws, which, if enforced, must be effectual. By the first, all trawling within a line drawn from Kiltroot Point to Grey Point is prohibited. By the second, the use of nets in the upper part of the harbor is rendered unlawful.

**ACTION FOR LIBEL.**—On Thursday week a trial for libel was decided in the Court of Exchequer, Dublin, which excited a good deal of interest. The plaintiff was Mr. Dycer, the proprietor of the most extensive horse repository in Ireland; the defendant, Mr. Henry Anderson, a dealer in horses, and likewise the proprietor of a similar establishment. There was a series of gross libels proved, and the jury returned a verdict of £300 damages, with costs. To the credit of Mr. Dycer, he has announced his intention of giving the whole amount of this verdict to the poor of Dublin.

**IRISH PEAT CHARCOAL.**—After six years, during which the subject was supposed by the public to have dropped, the question as to the possibility of the profitable extraction of oil and other commercial products from Irish peat is stated to have been solved. Ever since 1849, when Lord Ashley and Mr. O’Gorman Mahon surprised the House of Commons by a premature announcement that Irish peat might in this way be made a source of wealth, experiments have been carried on by the inventor of the process, Mr. Reece, and his co-patentee, Mr. W. D. Owen, from whom he first received encouragement, and for some time past an incorporated company has existed, by whom regular works have been established at a place about forty miles from Dublin. Many difficulties are said to have been encountered, but a regular supply of peat products has now been sent to market for several months, for which prices are realised giving apparently ample returns. According to a report from Dr. Sullivan, chemist to the Museum of Irish Industry, the total cost of obtaining the chemical products of one ton of average turf, exclusive of wear and tear of factory plant and management, is only 6s. 10d., and may be materially diminished, while the saleable value of the articles yielded—namely, ammonia, naphtha, oils of various kinds, and paraffine, is 14s. 7d. The manufacture of peat charcoal and the smelting of iron also are processes that remain to be added. Such, at least, are the particulars now announced by the directors to their shareholders; and, as they are all capable of immediate verification or otherwise, there is reason to hope that the assertion that the 3,000,000 acres of Irish bog would ultimately be regarded as among the most valuable resources of that country is actually capable of realisation.—*Times*.

The *United Service Journal* congratulates its “friends across the Channel” (save us from them!) on the fact that all the Cavalry Regiments in the English Army, the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards and the 8th Royal Irish Hussars are in the best condition and equipment, and count most men at reville. God be merciful to us! Is it not terrible to think of those thousand or so of gallant young Irishmen, of whom, in all human probability, not ten in the hundred shall live to see the snow on the ground again, or see it reddened with their blood. For the Gulf of Disaster only grows vaster and more awful before England, and now 2,500 of her men are now invalidated every week, while the reinforcements reach at the rate of 1,000 a week—and the supply grows daily more and more inadequate to the demand. Send those two Regiments to the Crimea, and ere a month you may look for their carcasses rotting under a few inches of steppe sand and snow—sent to their last account unhusshelled, unanointed, unannealed, with all their imperfections on their head—for let any Catholic only imagine one or two Catholic chaplains crying to attend those daily myriads of murdered men. Fortunately there is a little respite for the cavalry—there is nothing for them to do in the Crimea at present but act as beasts of burden; the two brigades which went out only count 160 chargers between them; and so those who are on for the next Balaklava or, worse by far, the next Scutari, have a little time to make their souls and their wills before hand.—*Nation*.

**THE SECTARIES.**—The *Banner of Ulster* has a good paragraph about religious sectaries. There are some valuable statistics, likewise, in the extract:—“According to the ‘Congregational Year Book for 1855,’ which has just made its appearance, there are at present 3,244 independent places of worship in England and Wales. According to the same authority they are only 1,941 independent ministers in England and Wales. The statistics, furnished by the Congregationalists themselves, establish a fact of which we have already heard from other quarters, that is, that there are hundreds of independent congregations in the sister Island, without ministers. With all the boasted advantages of voluntarism, it cannot, even in rich England, provide itself with the first necessities of a Church, The Independents, with the redoubted Mr. Foster at their head, have a society for the liberation of religion from State patronage, but they are certainly in much greater need of a society for the liberation of religion from starvation. It appears that there are in England and Wales no less than 1,303 places of independent worship, without ministers.”—[It must have been (observes the *Dublin Telegraph*) from those used up conventicles the cohort of vagabonds, one hundred strong, were subsidized last year by Exeter Hall, for the invasion of Ireland.]

**NOVEL MODE OF IMPRESSMENT.**—The following curious scene took place in the Cork Police Court, last month:—

Two young men, who gave their names as Jeremiah Leary and Thomas Hyde, the former being from Rye-court, and the latter from Blarney-lane, in that city, were brought before the bench for fighting in the streets the previous day.

Captain White—Well, as you are two fighting men would you not sooner go out to the Crimea, where you will have plenty of it? If you enlist with these two men [pointing to two soldiers who were in the court] I will discharge you, but if you do not I will inflict a heavy penalty on you. Take your choice. Well, what objection have you? Leary—I would not wish to leave my father, sir.

Captain White—Would you not sooner go out and fight the battles of your country?

Mr. Humphries—As the British army is composed of none but volunteers, perhaps it is better to leave him go.

Captain White—Go and fight for your country, and come home to your friends with laurels. Prisoners—We do not like it, sir.

Captain White—Are you willing to be attested for ten years in the 40th regiment of foot? Prisoners—We are not, sir.

Captain White—Well, you must therefore find bail for your good behavior during twelve months, or go to gaol.

The prisoners were accordingly put into the dock. *Nation*.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

**ADMIRAL DUNDAS AND MR. LAYARD.**—The London correspondent of the *Freeman* writes:—“Admiral Dundas I am told, has instituted proceedings against Mr. Layard for libel, the notorious letters written by that gentleman from the ‘mantop of the Agamemnon’ containing the cause of complaint. I hear that Mr. Layard is to make an apology in the house; but of this you may be certain, that his appointment as Under Secretary for the War Department has been stopped until he clears either himself or Admiral Dundas before the world.”

**THE COST OF WAR.**—The estimates for the English army and navy for the year 1855-’6 have just been published. The total amount required for the army is upwards of £11,500,000. The increase on the year 1854 is about £6,000,000. The total increase provided for is 50,819 men and 2,610 horses. The navy estimates for the same period, including transports, amount to something like fifteen millions of pounds sterling. Of this, about one-third—£5,181,456—is required for transport service and prisoners of war. These estimates are based on employing in the service 38,819 seamen, 10,000 boys, and 16,000 mariners, which, with their officers, will make an effective naval force of 70,000 of all ranks. Thus we find that the British Government contemplates having engaged in the war during the opening year no less than 263,594 men of all ranks in both the services, land and sea, and that the sum necessary to support and render efficient this body of men and the ships to be manned by them, for a single year, will be over £27,500,000. Such is the cost of war for a single year; or rather, such is the estimated cost, for the actual cost will, in the aggregate, doubtless, greatly exceed these estimates.—*Montreal Herald*.

A member of Parliament, with excellent means of information, assures us in a letter just received that the coming General Election will take place, before Easter. We think it right to lay this information before the country, though our own opinion is that it will not happen so early, if the embarrassment of Mr. Roebuck’s Committee be got over either by greatly restricting his operations, or otherwise, a crisis can hardly arise within the next couple months; and no minister would feel justified in dissolving Parliament in a time of war, except after a serious defeat. We believe the dissolution will take place in July or Aug., when the ordinary business of the session is terminated. Our correspondent, however, is confident it will be during the next month.—*Nation*.

The *Press* says that “Lord Palmerston is far advanced in years, as old, in fact, as Lord Aberdeen. He is overwhelmed with physical infirmities, very deaf, and nearly blind.”

**LORD J. RUSSELL’S PARLIAMENTARY ANTECEDENTS.**—Let the past career of Lord John Russell be looked to; and it will be seen that in none did he exhibit the capacity of a great man, or an enlightened Minister. He has been in everything a failure. For four years Paymaster of the Forces, he did nothing effectual but receive his own pay—for four years a Secretary for the Home Department, he left no trace of good domestic government behind him—for two years a Secretary for the Colonies, he was regarded with contempt—for six years a Prime Minister, he who professed to be a Catholic Emancipator, added, as a memorial of his Administration, a new penal law to the statute book, and finally fell from power through sheer incapacity—for three months a Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the only record of his holding such a position is a letter on the Madia affair, containing so glaring an untruth, that the Minister at Florence had publicly to give a contradiction. And now a leader of the House of Commons for two years, he has signalled himself in that position—first, by observations upon the Catholic religion so insolent and so unbecoming, that the Prime Minister had to repudiate them, or else the Catholics connected with the government would have refused to retain their offices; and lastly, that act by which he will be immortalised in parliamentary history—an act of unparalleled political cowardice—a leader flying from a debate—a general abandoning his forces on the eve of battle. Oh! marvellous John Russell!—*Weekly Telegraph*.

The Thames about Richmond is completely frozen over, and no craft even of the smallest description, can pass either up or down the river. As low down as Blackfriars Bridge a large surface of the water was on Tuesday covered with ice (on the upper side) to the width of two of the centre arches, which extended many yards from the piers of the bridge. This prevented any description of vessels from passing under that part of the bridge. Nearly all the steam-boats plying above London Bridge have been compelled to be laid up for the present, and strong fears are entertained that, if the present severe weather should last another week, a fair will be able to be held on the Thames, as was the case in the year 1814.

In the city of London—without any increase of population—the number of lunatic poor has doubled within the memory of some of the guardians and the cause his baffled their inquiries.

**UNITED STATES.**

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY.**—We notice with great pleasure that the collection in the Cathedral on St. Patrick’s Day is to be for the benefit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an association that has done so much, in the most quiet and unostentatious manner, for the good of the poor in this city.—*N. Y. Freeman*.

**CRIME IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.**—The New York Chief of Police, in his semi-annual report, just presented, announces that there were 43 arrests for murder and 166 for assault with intent to kill, during the six months ending with December last!

To the Editor of the *New York Tribune*:

Sir,—An article appeared in the *Tribune* of last Wednesday, copied from the *Newark Mercury*, relative to the present situation of Dr. Ives, the late Protestant Bishop of North Carolina, calculated to deceive and cause pain to his numerous friends abroad, if not contradicted.

The statements of the *Mercury* are totally false. Dr. Ives, far from being in a state of external destitution &c., as the *Mercury* falsely states, is now, and has been almost since his return from Europe, occupying his beautiful cottage built by Henry F. Spalding, Esq., on the banks of the Hudson, in this village, where he devotes his time quietly to his literary avocations, and, with his excellent lady, is administering to the wants of the neighboring poor. The writer of this, whose happy privilege it is to enjoy frequently the society of Dr. Ives, was one of the first to welcome him to the neighborhood, and feels pleasure in being able to contradict the strange fiction of the *Mercury*. D.

Manhattanville, March 2d.  
The above absurd report may, from what we have heard, have arisen thus: There is a person around New York of the name of Ives, who says he was an Episcopalian minister, and says that he is a convert to the Catholic Church. This person has been in the habit of soliciting and receiving aid from a large number of Catholics on the plea of his personal poverty.—*N. Y. Freeman*.

The Irish emigration, says the *Journal of Commerce*, continues to set back towards the “Old Country” as strongly as ever, while the current hitherto has been in a great measure arrested. Almost every ship leaving New York for England takes out from thirty to fifty of these passengers. Some attribute the change to the influences of the know-nothings; but in a majority of instances it results from the improved condition of Irish lands, under the operation of the “encumbered estates” bill, and to the increased demand for labor. Should the proposed law of parliament regulating passenger ships be sanctioned, Irish emigration to this country will be still more sensibly diminished. Germans, on the contrary, will continue to pour in upon us in large numbers.

More than thirty thousand persons returned from America to England during 1854.

**DOLLARS EXTRACTED FROM “FOREIGN EXTRACTION.”**—The *Newburyport Herald*, in the course of some remarks on Mr. Chandler’s comments on the Alien Commissioner report, says:—“It will doubtless surprise many, to find that the head money received from immigrants the last year, was more than all that was expended for alien paupers.” In a subsequent paragraph, our *Newburyport* contemporary says:—“It is better to be a little too generous and fraternal in our treatment of brethren, than to incur any risk of dealing with them ungenerously and harshly.”

The Mayor of Lowell, Ambrose Lawrence, and Adjutant Gen. Stone, have been sued by the Jackson Musketeers, of that place, for ransacking their armory, carrying off their arms, equipments, papers, &c., in their absence. The damages are laid at \$2,000.

Letters have been received in this city from Lexington, stating that the town of Warrenton, in this State, has just been the scene of one of the most wholesale murders ever perpetrated. The circumstances are detailed as follows:—Two Irish peddlars named John Kehahan and James Carrigan left Lexington about two weeks ago with a large quantity of dry goods and jewelry. They travelled to the town of Warrenton, about forty-five miles from Lexington, and stopped for one night. Kehahan retired to bed first, and about an hour afterwards was followed by Carrigan, who discovered that his companion was absent. On making a search, he found him under the bed dead, with his skull split open by an axe. He found the bed also full of blood. At this juncture, he heard footsteps approaching, and arming himself with a large Bowie knife, he blew out his light and jumped behind the door. Immediately three men entered, one having an axe. Carrigan instantly attacked them with his knife, and after a short scuffle succeeded in killing all three of them.—*St. Louis News*, Feb. 21.

**RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.**—The *Boston Bee* of Thursday says:—“In the House, yesterday, on motion of Carey, of Ipswich, an order was passed instructing the Committee on Constitutional Amendments to report a bill to prevent Roman Catholics from holding any office under the government of the State of Massachusetts.” How strangely this sounds side by side with the following extract from a letter written by George Washington: “If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution framed in the Convention where I had the honor to preside might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical society, certainly I would never have placed my signature to it.”

A new divorce bill has passed the General Court of Massachusetts, and become a law.

A bill has been introduced in the senate of Indiana to break up the Know-Nothing Lodges in that state. It declares it a conspiracy for persons to band themselves under solemn oaths for the purpose of depriving any citizen of the state of political rights under the constitution.

**KNOW-NOTHING CHIVALRY.**—The *Bee* states that “two Sisters of Mercy were attacked by some rowdies in Providence, Thursday evening, while passing through the street.” This is not the first time these good Sisters have been insulted.—*Boston Pilot*.

The *Providence Journal* thus notices the new *ism* in the land of Roger Williams:—“A correspondent, who sends us his name and address, says that two of the Sisters of Mercy, while returning from a visit to a sick person, were attacked by four or five women, who attempted to pull their cloaks and bonnets off, but were prevented by the approach of some persons whom their noise had attracted.”—*Id.*

**PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES.**—The Protestant sect called “Free Thinkers” have, it seems, a strange way of observing their Sabbaths:—“The room at 142 Chatham street, kept by Lewis Donckel, was last Sunday filled with tables and arm chairs, with the exception of a space in the rear portion of it, where is set a billiard table, which was covered over with a black cloth. On one end of this table was erected a kind of altar, by the side of which stood two wax candles. On this altar lay a large Bible, open. The shutters of the doors and windows were up, and the room lighted with gas. Mr. Donckel was dressed in a long black clerical robe, white neckerchief, and a black skull cap. “Shortly after 10 o’clock, Mr. D. arose and apologised to his audience for not having commenced the exercises, and gave as a reason therefor, that his two chaplains had not yet arrived, who, he said, he supposed had been drunk over Saturday night, the same as all other ministers. He would therefore wait a few minutes longer, in hopes that they would yet come. After waiting some time, he said that he could not wait any longer, and would therefore be obliged to select the bar keepers as his assistants on this occasion.—These last accordingly donned the clerical robes, but not having any neckerchief to suit, they took two of the table covers, tied them around their necks, and the services commenced. The officiating clergyman read a passage from the Bible, and then proceeded to exhort the audience, which was continually increasing. After speaking for a few minutes in the most violent manner against Mayor Wood and all reform measures, and exhorting those who heard him, as an independent society of “Free Thinkers,” (by which name they are known) he would sit down and take a mug of beer. After resting for half an hour or so, he would again commence. In this manner he kept the meeting up until a late hour in the evening. During the continuance of his remarks, the officers estimate that the number of persons who visited the saloon and partook of beer could not have been less than four hundred. There are three or four other places in this city which carry on a similar business on the Sabbath, all of whom the Mayor intends to suppress, if possible, during the present week.—*American Paper*.