

A CONFESSION.—Ireland is suffering a rapid decline. This is the sad fact forced upon us by startling evidence of which our readers will find a careful summary by A Magistrate of Cork, in another column. It has already been pressed on the unwilling ears of English statesmen, and it is only when three years in succession exhibit the same downward course that we can venture to accept it.

tion, as I am an active member of a charitable society for the relief of the deserving and industrious poor, and as such I have visited the poor in all parts of this city once a week for the last 17 years.— Without adequate employment for the population, at a fair rate of wages, no country can prosper. My object in thus bringing this subject under your notice is that its discussion in the columns of the Times may lead to a beneficial result.

Cork Oct. 15. A magisterial investigation, held at Youghal, on Thursday last, into the charge of sending a threatening letter to the Hon. W. Moore Smyth, of Ballinacorney House, and posting a threatening notice on the door of a tenant of Mr. Smyth. The charge was preferred against a young man named Sweeney, whose family occupied a farm on the Ballinacorney estate for upwards of a century, but had been dispossessed.

This New Peerage.—The Evening Mail understands that Sir William Somerville is to be raised to the Irish peerage, to fill the vacancy which is now available. The title the right honourable baronet is said to have chosen is Colville, but as there are two peerages already distinguished by that title, another has now been thought of, viz. that of Devlin, a choice which is scarcely more free from difficulty than the former.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS. To the Editor of the (London Times). Sir,—I beg leave to call your attention to the official agricultural and emigration statistics of Ireland for 1863, just published, in which there is startling evidence of the rapid decline of the country.

Table with 5 columns: Crops, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs. Rows show acreage for 1863 and 1862, and percentages of increase/decrease.

According to the rates assumed by the Census Commissioners of 1841—viz., for horses, 28 each; cattle, 20 10s; sheep, 22s; and pigs, 25 each—we find in the value of live stock in 1863 a decrease of £3,055,502 as against 1862, and a decrease of £1,227,611 as against 1861.

THE EXODUS.—The past week has witnessed, probably the climax of the emigration from this country, through Queenstown. No less than five ocean steamers left this port between Monday morning and Saturday evening, for the United States and Canada: carrying about 1,500 souls, and these almost exclusively belonging to the working classes.

THE BIRRA BIR.—Not long ago a sheriff's bailiff in the County of Sligo (says an Irish paper) arrested a man for debt, and directed his steps towards the County jail. On the way they shortened the road by conversation, and occasionally a blast of the pipe, entering a house now and then to obtain a 'coal.' One of the cabins they entered for this purpose happened to be a sbpbeu house, and after a glass or two the prisoner proposed that as the pater was good and the road was long they might as well have a bottle of the stuff to see their courage up and the land laid securing the cork, the bailiff deposited it in his capacious coat pocket.

Drains, Oct. 24.—A tremendous excitement has been produced among the Evangelical clergy here by the announcement that Canon Stanley has been offered the mitre of the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin. The fact that he is an Englishman is one objection, but this is merged in the dreadful charge of heterodoxy. He is believed to be the author of an article in the Edinburgh Review, in which, it is said, he defended the authors of Essays and Reviews.

ance of his character; but they deprecate his appointment. The more vehemently on account of these dangerous snares, which would render the attractions of heresy irresistible. Come what will, the clergy have resolved not to allow Lord Palmerston to taint the fountain of orthodoxy which has flowed so purely from Trinity College, Dublin. In vain they are reminded that Canon Stanley is the Chaplain of the Queen and of the Prince of Wales and of the Bishop of London, and that he is the Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford. So much the worse, they would say, for the Queen, the Prince, and the young clergy of London. They protest that they will not have Canon Stanley to rule over them, even if their resistance involved the separation of the Church from the State.

A clergyman delivering a kind of funeral sermon upon Lord Lyndhurst, remarked that, 'great as he was, he bowed before the greatness of the Supreme Being'—which was certainly very condescending. THE PRINCESS OF WALES.—We are enabled to state upon the best authority that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales will probably be confined in or about the last week in March next. The health of the Princess is all that can be desired under the circumstances, and the action has reason to rejoice at the prospect of the perpetuation, in a direct line, of the sovereignty of Her good and Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.—Observer.

DREAMING IN CHURCH.—At Ballisod, Spa, one Sunday afternoon, fatigued with his long drive, a waggoner, with his son John, drove his team into a barn, and determined to pass the Sabbath in enjoying a season of worship with the people of the village. When the time for worship arrived, John was sent to watch the team, while the waggoner went in with the crowd. The preacher had hardly announced his subject before the old man fell sound asleep. He sat against the partition in the centre of the body slip. Just over against him, separated by a very low partition, sat a fleshy lady, who seemed all absorbed in the sermon. She struggled hard with her feelings, but unable to control them any longer, she burst out with a loud scream, and shouted at the top of her voice, arousing the old man, who, but half awake, threw his arms around her waist, and cried very soothingly: 'Whoo, Nancy! Whoo, Nancy! Here, John, calling to his son, 'cut the belly band and loosen the breathing quick, or she'll tear everything to pieces!'

THE STEAM RAMS.—The Daily Courier says:—Much excitement was occasioned in Liverpool, yesterday, by a telegram from Plymouth, which stated that Messrs. Laird's steam rams intended to force their way out of the Mersey, and that several members of war had been hastily despatched in Liverpool, to prevent the contemplated movement. This statement was at first discredited, but inquiry shows that Government has been taking most extraordinary precautions against any attempted departure of the rams. On Tuesday afternoon H.M.S. Heron arrived in the Mersey, and took up her position in front of Laird's dock, in which the least forward ram, El Mouassir, is lying. The Heron did not anchor, but passed cable to the Woadside ferry buoy. This rattle was slipped at the moment's notice, in this position she now lies, her bows backed and steam up. Marines were then landed and sent on board El Mouassir. Laird's workmen were ordered off the vessel, which remains in exclusive possession of the marines. No one is allowed to go on board, and the workmen's tools were sent ashore. About the same time an additional force of marines were sent on board the other ram, El Toussant, and all the workmen, with their tools and appliances, were ordered ashore in her case also. No persons are admitted on board. The gunboat Gosbank continues to be moored ahead of the ram. It is understood that the iron-plated frigate Prince Consort is on her way to Liverpool, and it is difficult to ascertain whether this is correct or not. The authorities are very reserved. H.M.S. Majestic being already in the Mersey, these hostile preparations created much consternation, and it is believed that Messrs. Laird deemed the seizure altogether illegal. The other vessel, seized by Government, the Alexandria, still lies in Tortoise Dock, Liverpool, under embargo. The case will come before the Court of Exchequer early in the approaching term.

MONARCHY AND DEMOCRACY. (To the Editor of the Times). Sir,—In the leading article of your journal of this day, in which you support our Government for their denunciation of the Iron-clads in the Mersey, I have read with great pleasure and admiration the following remarks:—'She (the Albatross) was the product of trickery and evasion. We cannot say how, where, or by what instruments her equipment was furnished; but we can say that she did not leave our ports in the character or fashion of an honest vessel. As the Attorney-General put it, it was an escape and such escapes are exactly the things which we ought to prevent.'

THE 'CITY' ARTICLE.—The London Times asks 'what becomes of all the gold?'—The recent singular absorption of gold continues to attract attention, but no new light has been thrown upon it. Several correspondents have endeavored to suggest explanations, none of which, however, reach the real question. One points out that India has probably, as usual, constituted a main cause of the depletion; another remarks that, as much of our cotton comes now from Egypt and other places where specie, if it once penetrates, may be a long time in coming back, a considerable quantity may have accumulated in those regions; and another thinks there is nothing peculiar to be accounted for, because the Bank usually experiences a demand for sovereigns in the period between April and October. Some hint that as Messrs. Rothschild, who carry on large refining transactions, frequently hold a large stock of gold in deposit, the main quantity may, after all, lie hidden in their cellars; while others consider the late speculation in new banks and other joint-stock undertakings affords an ample solution of the whole difficulty. To persons of experience most of these ideas will appear at once irrelevant or inconclusive. A drain to India, Egypt, or other distant places, would, of course, be a natural explanation if it were not known that no such drain has existed in any unusual degree. The matter at issue is simply this. The importations of specie from abroad for several months past have been of extraordinary magnitude, and far beyond the recorded exports, and yet the amount held by the Bank has experienced a diminution. Where has the surplus of imports over exports been absorbed? The only obvious view that arises is that if it has reached our

shores, and has not since been shipped from them, it must still be in the country. If it be in the country the greater portion thus in circulation must be in coin, since neither country banks nor country traders are in the habit of carrying on their transactions during the past two or three years has experienced a demand for coin at about the same season explains nothing, because in no recent year has there been the same anomaly of a drain in the face of large imports and comparatively small exports to be accounted for; and so much of the specie business of the world is now carried on in sovereigns, which are becoming a universal medium, that it would be rash to draw an inference from the isolated experience of the Bank of England. It is certain that the Bank since April have disbursed more than 3,000,000 sovereigns for home use apart from those taken for exportation, and although the drain of sovereigns in the past two years may have been large, the possibility is that the main part may then have been for exportation. Exact statistics on the point would be interesting and useful; but even if they were to show that the Bank have not issued to the public this summer more than the normal quantity, they would still leave the question in darkness as to where the heavy importations peculiar to this year have been carried, and would fail to contradict the definite export statements, which would seem to indicate that they have not been sent abroad. Again, the idea that the late speculations in joint-stock banks, foreign securities, &c., afford a clue is equally delusive. As regards foreign joint-stock banks, and foreign enterprises generally, there have been no heavy commitments for many months. The heaviest were provided for in the spring, and it is to be repeated that, even if this were not the case, the inquiry as to remittances abroad has nothing to do with the difficulty under discussion, because all these remittances are, as it is supposed, included in the shipments which have been accounted for. As to home joint-stock banks, the very function of these establishments is to economize the use of coin, while as regards speculation in other undertakings the movements in connexion with them consist merely of the transfer of sums by means of checks from one holder to another, leaving the specie in the country wholly untouched. In relation to the possibility of Messrs. Rothschild holding a considerable accumulation, it is not at all unlikely that some of the heavy arrivals from abroad of the past week or two may be in the hands of that firm, with a view to meet any requirements either from the Government of Russia or Brazil or from the Bank of France; but this would be only a very partial explanation of the existing position of the market. On the whole, therefore, the more the question is considered the more probable does it seem that the amount of specie in circulation in the country, owing partly to the quantity employed in the unprecedented autumn pleasure traffic, but still more to the great activity and prosperity of trade throughout the entire United Kingdom, is largely beyond its nominal total. Should this be the case there will be reason to look for its gradual return, and to expect the Bank accounts to present better features in the winter and spring, a result the probability of which is increased by the fact that we are rich in most kinds of imported goods—the stocks in the bonded warehouses being large—especially in those of which the American markets are becoming exhausted. Meanwhile, however, there is the danger of a rather restless revival of foreign undertakings, although Russia and Greece have shut themselves from the field, which, unless it be counteracted by the warning furnished by the present unexpected pressure, may not only prevent a revival, but be attended by serious embarrassments.

A PIG IN A CRYOLINE.—The wide distended skirts of the ladies dresses of the present day have been the cause of many amusing scenes. An incident of the latter class, which happened the other day in Montross, is one of the most laughable we have ever heard of.—A young lady, dressed in full fashionable attire, including an ample cryoline extended dress, was in a friend's yard, looking at the cows, perhaps, and during the time she was there a fine small pointer was roaming at will in the yard. The pig, impelled, no doubt, by curiosity, commences to make a close inspection of the young lady, while she was inspecting some other animal, and having ventured rather near, was caught and caged within the compass of the cryoline. No liking so small a sty, wide though the skirt was, the pig soon made known to the owner of the cryoline the unpleasant fact that he was within, by making desperate efforts to get out. The young lady was in a sad plight at the commotion within her dress, which was not lessened by hearing the grunting which indicated that a tenant she had got; but, notwithstanding the shock to her nerves, she made various attempts to get the pig out. His swine-ship, however, had got his snout fixed in the network of the cryoline, and his ejection was found to be no easy matter. A 'lord of the creation,' who was attracted to the spot by the noise of the struggle, was amused by the absurdity of the scene, that the noble creature, who had just been rendered assistance, for the pig, assisted by the remaining strength of the young lady, made good his exit by carrying away one half of his cage on his snout. The lady retreated in great haste, as the pig, in a state which can be better imagined than described.—Montross Standard.

men assembled with arms, or otherwise, in opposition to the Government. Simultaneously with this statement I despatched to Mr. Marcey Mr. Bethune, requesting his Excellency, in conformity with the statute existing between the Canadian Provinces and the State of New York, to deliver to the authorities of Upper Canada William Lyon McKenzie, to be tried for the murder of Colonel Moodie, for arson, and for the robbery, with his own hands, of Her Majesty's mail: in full proof of which the requisite documents were enclosed. To my letter and request I received the following reply:— 'To His Excellency Sir Francis B. Head, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. 'State of New York, Executive Department. Albany, Dec. 23, 1863. 'Sir,—I have received from D. Bethune, Esq., the official application, with the documents accompanying it, made by your Excellency on me, as Governor of the State of New York, for the arrest and delivery of William Lyon McKenzie, as a fugitive from justice from the province of Upper Canada. 'The documents show, as clearly as they can do, that McKenzie committed the crimes imputed to him that previous thereto he had violated, and was in arms against Her Majesty's Government of Upper Canada. His crime is, therefore, treason; and, if a fugitive in this State, he must be considered as a fugitive, to avoid the punishment for this offence, rather for those imputed to him in the documents accompanying your Excellency's application. These latter offences must be considered as the incidents of the alleged treason. 'I have the honour to be, &c., 'W. L. MARCEY.

It will be observed that, in the above reply, Governor Marcey abstained from noticing the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, in obedience to which I had, on his application to me, faithfully surrendered to the authorities of his State fugitives from the United States, simply on the legal evidence of their guilt. He also abstained from noticing the fact to which Mr. Bethune drew his special attention—namely, the robbery by Mr. McKenzie of his own State arsenals. On the 29th of December, 1837, Governor Marcey, after having allowed the American Generals Van Rensselaer and Sutherland with impunity to seize 24 pieces of his artillery, and to issue 'proclamations' in the United States offering £500 for my apprehension, with 100 acres of land in Canada and \$100 to whoever would join what they were pleased to call 'the patriot army,' permitted the steamer Caroline, in broad daylight, in the presence of the United States Marshal, and in the immediate vicinity of a regiment of Militia of the State of New York, to be cut out of the ice by a thousand men. He allowed his own collector of customs to give her a license, under which, and issued from 1837 by a bond publicly given by 17 American merchants, she sailed, amidst the acclamations of the people, to act as a passage boat to convey Government artillery and American citizens to take possession of Navy Island in Canada. After reporting to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington the foregoing facts, I imperfectly expressed to him my feelings as follows:— 'I need not remark to your Excellency how unfair and unjust it is that a rebellion, which within this province was so insignificant that it was instantly crushed by the civil inhabitants of the colony, should be revived and rendered formidable by the direct and active management of the American people; and that during the existence not of peace, but of the most friendly relations between Great Britain and the Government of the United States, the potential population of this province should be threatened with degradation and plunder and all the miseries of war by the unjustifiable interference of American citizens. 'As their conduct in the bygone period to which I have referred has long ago been forgiven and forgotten by England, surely the Government and people of the disunited States will do well to consider, in what way they can now entertain feelings hostile to the British people for having, without intervention, merely expressed their opinion as to the probable results of a Transatlantic civil war, which, if permitted, they would have endeavored to prevent, and which, without permission, they all deeply and sincerely lament. 'I am, Sir, your obedient servant, 'G. DODD, Oct. 17. 'F. B. HEAD, 'The Receiver of Liverpool, or The Rev. Mr. Beckwith.—Reverend Campbell has sent the following letter to the secretary of the Emancipation Society:— 'Childwell, October 10, 1863. 'Sir,—In reply to your letter requesting me to inform you congregations that Mr. H. W. Beecher will deliver a lecture in the Palladium Hall on the American war and emancipation, I beg to inform you that I decline to invite my congregation to attend a lecture on that species of emancipation which Lord Brougham, in my opinion, justly calls 'hollow protest designed to produce a slave insurrection.' I return you the platform ticket you have sent me, not intending to attend a lecture; being of opinion that persons professing themselves to be the ministers of a merciful God, the Author of peace and lover of concord, might be better employed than in advocating a fraudulent war accompanied by atrocities which, as Lord Brougham says again, 'Christian times have seen nothing so equal and at which the whole world stands almost almost incredulous.'—Your obedient servant, 'ALAN CAMPBELL, Rector of Liverpool. 'Liverpool, Albion.

On the express requisition of the Admiralty the War Department has ordered the manufacture of 50 muzzle-loading guns to be at once commenced in the Royal Arsenal. Another gunboat has been placed on guard opposite Messrs. Laird's works, and an iron-plated ship, the Prince Consort, has been despatched from Plymouth on similar service. The workmen engaged in completing the El Toussant have been ordered by the customs officials to suspend work, and the ram is now exclusively in possession of Government officials. The Times and the Daily News comment upon Mr. Laird's speech at Birkenhead. The latter says that Mr. Laird has no reason to complain of the course the country has taken in seizing the rams, as he has been remedied at law. The Times dwells upon the loss of a man's contract between the cost of works to private yards as compared with the public dockyard, and also upon his strictures with respect to the inferior quality of iron which has been made upon artillery. On the latter point, the Times makes out the best case in favor of the Armstrong gun, but admits it to have been a failure. With respect to the extravagance and dilatoriness in our dockyards, the leading journal fully endorses the complaints of the member for Birkenhead, and asks who will show us any good? Mr. Lindsay, the shipowner and M.P., and Mr. George Sanders, agent for the Confederate Government in England, have written to deny the statements made in alleged intercepted Confederate correspondence quoted by 'Historians' in the Times to prove that the Birkenhead rams were built for the South. Mr. Lindsay says that so far as he is concerned the correspondence is utterly false. He never supplied any ships to the Confederate Government, and never had any interest in any blockade runners. Mr. Sanders says that six ships ordered by the Confederate Government to be built in England were not ships of war, but swift ships of the mail class, intended to run the blockade and which might be legally constructed. The Daily News shows that difficulties have arisen respecting the cession of the Ionian Islands to the Ionian Parliament has refused to comply with certain conditions required by England and Austria. Before consenting to the cession, it demands the demolition of the fortifications.