

of the world, will be a very active politician in the world, and in the empire of the world. It is to the committee, the church, and the missionary enterprise of the Christian world.

If we turn our eyes to the great Republic in our neighborhood, at first sight we see little but the ever active energy of a restless and somewhat unscrupulously progressive people. As usual, the last year has had its British difficulty, which it has handed over unsettled to its successor. The seizure of the Island of San Juan, by General Harney, appears, so far as the facts are yet known, a most disgraceful act, and the conduct of the Americans such as to excite grave fears and suspicions in the minds of honest men. But let us hope that all will yet be well; England loves America with a true and generous affection, which we fear is scarcely reciprocated, but still so sincere is the regard of the former, that a rupture is all but impossible, unless the outrage is gross indeed.

In this great republican empire, where it has long been thought, and perhaps truly, that the pursuit of the "almighty dollar" was the all-engrossing one, a powerful and widespread religious feeling made its appearance during the past year, or perhaps a little earlier, in the form of an extraordinary revival in religion. For a time it perturbed all ranks—afflicted all sects, emptied the theatres, crowded the churches, invaded the basins of commerce, thinned the drinking houses, reclaimed thousands who were apparently on the highway to destruction, hallowed the great mass of society with a great and religious seriousness and was distinguished above all things by an almost total absence of physical excitement. Who will venture to say that this great and apparently spontaneous movement will not be blessed, notwithstanding the appalling wildness of evil that stands out, and partiality obscures it? We believe, that through its means, a true and abiding spirit of piety has reached and occupied the hearts of thousands, who by precept, and most of all by example, will yet irradiate and humanise many a circle of practical infidelity, by the simple exercise of a consistent and religious life.

Strange to say, this religious feeling has made its appearance in Ireland and partially in Scotland in the same unaccountable manner as in the States, and in the former country especially, has taken an extraordinary hold on the minds of the common people. Some of the cases in Ireland have been marked by extraordinary physical manifestations, excessive excitement, and occasional convulsions and prostration of the body. These, we think, may be attributed partly to the national character of the people, partly to the want of judgment on the part of the preachers, but which have been eagerly seized and dwelt upon by the indifferent and irreli-

gious, in order to condemn and turn the whole matter into ridicule. They do not reflect, that these incidents, painful as they are, die away and are soon forgotten—that after all, they do not, like living and active wickedness, leave any baneful effects behind them, while the grand tidings of salvation, touch and soften the heart, and it is to be hoped, save the soul of many a poor sinner. We admire the great luminary of day; what would we think of him who would think and talk of nothing but the spots on his surface? Would that some portion of that beneficent spirit would wake the many listless and dormant hearts in our own Zion, showing them at once their strength and their deficiency!

We have alluded to what may be called the national facts of the past year; we will now ask the reader's attention for a few sentences, to some incidents of a more special kind.

The present age has been of unexampled progress in discovery and improvement, the age of railroads, steamships, gas, electric telegraphs and of numerous other improvements which we have not space even to mention. Of these, the past year appropriates a fair share. It has witnessed a vessel, christened the "Great Eastern," ploughing the waste of waters, whose vast proportions have been unequalled since the deluge; exciting at once the wonder and admiration of the civilized world. Never, perhaps, was the skill of the mechanic or the resources and power of science so proudly exhibited as in the successful construction of this giant ship. To the present year, will belong, in all probability, the solution of the problem, whether this immense in structure of iron, nearly one-seventh of a mile length, weighing upwards of twenty thousand tons, and capable of carrying ten thousand people, will be a great or but a partial success. We hope and believe, for the sake of England and of science, that it will be the former.

If the past year has not exactly decided the fortune of the great steamship, it has settled a problem which has excited a far deeper, even a world-wide sympathy—we allude to the fate of that Christian hero, that intrepid navigator and martyr to the cause of science, the ever to be loved and lamented Sir John Franklin. Nearly fifteen years have elapsed since he left the shores of his beloved England, and till last year though expedition after expedition went in search of the devoted band, no tidings whatever reached us of their fate, governments had given up the search in despair—the most sanguine friends ceased to hope, but a woman—a wife, worthy to be the wife of this brave man, persevered even against hope—marked her prayers, her every thought, her fortune in this forlorn cause; and where is the man who has read or heard of its issue without a swelling heart and a full eye? To the gallant Capt. McClintock and his devoted comrades, let us accord