

to sue for peace is more than can be said, but it would indisputably insure the chief object of the war. After the destruction of this fortress the Black Sea would be open, Constantinople safe, the Circassian coasts free from danger, and the mouths of the Danube once more restored to Germany and Europe. The power of Russia for encroachment and aggression would then be effectually reduced, and the purposes for which Europe was most unwillingly returned to the costs and horrors of war would be solidly and permanently answered.

UNITED STATES.

The Reciprocity Treaty Bill having passed through the Legislature was approved of by the President of the United States on the 4th inst.

DIocese of Philadelphia.—On Saturday, the 5th instant, the feast of "Our Lady and Nives," Doctor Alexander V. McNeal, an eminent physician and highly respected citizen of Concord, renounced Episcopalianism at Christ Church, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to the communion of the Church by the Rev. Father Doherty.—*N. Y. Freeman.*

THE CONFESIONAL.—The Newburyport Herald has recently published a series of sound articles upon intolerance, from one of which we make the following extract:—"On the subject of licentiousness our northern community is not so pure as to be entitled to cast stones at the south. According to the testimony of those who have the best means of knowing, druggists, physicians and others, there is a fearful and increasing amount of it at the North. To say nothing of the higher class of society, where as one says the pollution is covered by a thin crust of decorum, which keeps it out of sight, there is among the lower classes, in both city and country, a fearful amount of the vice; and honor to whom honor is due, there is reason to believe that were it not for the Catholic confessional, which holds the great mass of foreign females, who compose so large a portion of the community, in check, it would spread like a horrible cancer in society, and eat out its very vitals. There is satisfactory evidence that the Catholic females in our country are, as a class, among the most chaste in the community, and when their physical organization and their lack of education is considered, this can only be attributed to the powerful influence of the confessional. Occasionally some break through this barrier, and then the testimony of police officers and other observers is that the degradation is of the most frightful kind."

STREET PREACHING—CHURCH BURNING.—No one can look through the newspapers of the country without being struck with the great increase of crime, chiefly in our large northern cities. Every form of crime seems to be on the increase. There is one, however, that has recently been repeated with an alarming and a most disgraceful frequency—church burning. Mobs of excited fanatics, incited and led on by impious vagabond street-preachers, have either burnt or otherwise destroyed many of the sacred buildings that have been dedicated by Catholics to the worship of God. Most of the churches, however, that have been destroyed, have been destroyed under cover of the darkness and by unknown persons. When street-preaching, which at best is but a nuisance, has become an instrument in the hands of hypocrites and rascals to instigate mobs of fools and fanatics to breaches of the peace, public disturbances, and the destruction of churches, it is time that these street-preachers should be arrested in their mad career and punished with the utmost severity of the law. The quarrels, broils, and fights between the Protestants and Catholics are on the increase. They are stimulated by these vagabond street-preachers, who, we are inclined to think, are generally merely the catspaws of certain political associations, whose interest it is to keep alive the feuds between the natives and the foreigners, the Protestants and the Catholics. The sermons of these howling blasphemers do not manifest any of the characteristics of true religion. They are coarse tirades and bitter invectives against all those who differ from them either in birth or religion.—*Washington Sentinel.*

PALMYRA, Aug. 5.—The Angel Gabriel held forth here last evening, and during the night the Catholic Church was broken open, furniture destroyed, and an unsuccessful attempt made to burn the building.

It is becoming so common in the United States for the Protestants as friends of civil and religious liberty—to burn the churches of their Catholic fellow citizens—a writer in the *American Celt* calls attention to the subject, and strongly recommends the Clergy to have their churches insured; thus enlisting the sympathies of the insurance offices against the perpetration of Protestant outrages.

Know-Nothingism.—An American paper throws some light on the policy of these miscreants:—"An effort has been made in more than one quarter to unite the adopted Protestant population of this country against the present American movement; but this we are confident, can never be done, for it is a movement entirely against Roman Catholics whether foreign or native born, who hold an allegiance under priests and bishops, to a foreign temporal and spiritual despotism, hostile to the genius and working of our governments, and people, heretical, and as much deserving of extermination as murderers and highwaymen. We have no more intelligent and firm defenders of our free institutions than Protestant adopted citizens; and let them understand that such is the sentiment of all true Americans, who are ever ready to extend to them the right hand of fellowship, and to assure them that they are one, with them, in upholding all the free and tolerant institutions of this country against intolerant Jesuitical Roman Catholics, who so long as they call themselves Irish and German, and not American citizens, have no right to enjoy the blessings and above all to occupy any of the offices of this American Protestant country."

Mormonism is said to be making very great progress in Denmark; there are now Mormons in the smallest hamlets. In the Isle of Amack, which is situated quite close to Copenhagen, almost all the women have adopted the worship of the Mormons. Five hundred Jutlanders, recently converted to Mormonism, are about to emigrate to the Mormon colony in the United States.—*Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 1st.*

We understand that among the four hundred and forty Swedish passengers by the ship Levi Woodbury, recently arrived at this port from Gothenburg, were one hundred and fifty Mormons on their way to Salt Lake city. Their leader had four buxom looking wives, and will, we suppose, double or treble the number on settling down in the Mormon country. They all left a day or two ago for the West.—*Boston Atlas.*

A MERITED REBUKE.—The Norfolk Herald says:—"Calumniated as the South is every day by the ruthless fanaticism of the North, her skirts are unstained by any of the atrocities which have recently disgraced the country in the long list of church-burnings, church-robberies, and church-desecrations. These are purely of Northern origin, and the most outrageous of them were perpetrated in that peculiar region of the North where wholly headed fugitives from the South are idolized, and three thousand and fifty clergymen pronounced the curse of Heaven on the constitutional and rightful repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Would it not be well for the foul mouthed Abolitionists to suspend for a while the discharge of their vituperation on the South, and bestow a little virtuous indignation on the perpetrators of these foul crimes within their own borders?"

We have seen enough of the common school system to excite our alarm. We have seen the gaol and the penitentiary soliciting their inmates from among its pupils. We have known riot and incendiariism, and opposition to the law, proclaimed as glorious feats, and practised as innocent amusements, or conscientious promptings of stern duty by those who were trained in the public schools. While we trembled for the future of our country, as we learned no sentiment of remorse, not a pang of horror, thrilled through a single soul that witnessed the American soil purpled by the blood of a United States officer engaged in preserving the peace of the city of Boston. And these things occurring at our doors, and under the shade of our superb common schools; while far, far away, but still within the limits of the Republic, and on the great highway to the Pacific, the foulest heresy that ever disgraced humanity, has succeeded in planting too firmly, we fear, its abominable doctrines; and the Polygamists of Salt Lake city increase their ranks every year by candidates who have been trained in the pure morality of our common schools.—*Pittsburgh Catholic.*

The Senators of the neighboring Republic seem to be a most disorderly set of towlies, if the accounts in the newspapers may be relied upon. Drunkenness, blackguardism, fighting and gouging one another's eyes out seem to be amongst the every day amusements of the Conscript Fathers. In one paper we read of one drunken Senator, asking the President "to take a drink with him" and upon the latter's refusal, pelting the head of the republic with eggs, in the style of our Montreal ruffians. When arrested, the rowdy senator who was in a state of maudlin intoxication, wept bitterly, and attempted to commit suicide, by stabbing himself in the leg. The Hon. gentleman was ultimately discharged, the President being unwilling to prosecute. Here is another scene, as recorded by the Washington correspondent of an American paper:—

I deeply regret to notice a fight between the Hon. Mike Walsh of New York, and the Hon. Mr. Steward of Georgia. The Hon. Mr. Steward said that he wished to see all the Indians massacred, in order to stop the annuities. Mr. Walsh characterized this as a base and inhuman sentiment. Mr. S. replied that he did not care for the Hon. Mike and his opinion. Mike rejoined with severity, that Steward was the most troublesome and worthless member of the House. Steward retorted that Mike was the greatest vagabond in New York; and Mike, that Steward was a liar!

Steward seized a chair, with the intention of applying that article upon the head and shoulders of the Hon. Mike. Being prevented by the the bystanders, Mr. Steward applied the tomb of his right hand to the left nostril of Mike which he gouged. Almost simultaneously he furrowed the right cheek of Mr. Walsh with his left hand.

And connected with this combined movement was a dexterous insertion of one of Mr. Steward's knuckles whereby the right eye was considerably damaged. At this stage in flagrant violation of the rights of the parties, the fight was stopped.

Had Dickens ventured to hint at the possibility of such disgraceful scenes in the Senate of the United States, what an outcry there would have been against the "British libeller!"

MR. HUME ON THE MAINE LAW.

TO MR. SAMUEL POPE, HON. SEC., MANCHESTER.
Bryanstone Square, London, July 12, 1854.
Sir—I have received your circular (dated in May) enclosing a printed address (agreed to by the United Kingdom Alliance, on the 5th November, 1853), to "The People of Great Britain and Ireland."

Few men in the House of Commons have been more anxious than I have been to see measures adopted to lessen the evils from drunkenness, which are indeed of the most serious nature, and so extensive as to threaten society with still greater mischief.

The records of the police and of the courts of law have, daily, for many years, put forth proofs of the prevalence of that vice amongst the mass of the people, and yet the Legislature have not taken efficient measures for abating these evils.

There are two modes of correcting evils and violations of social habits; one by punishment and restrictive measures, the other by going to the root of the evil and removing the cause as far as possible.

The Parliamentary Committee in 1835, as quoted by you, attributed the prevalence of Drunkenness, crime, and poverty, to the existing facilities and means of intemperance (i. e.) to public-houses, whether licensed or under the exise and the commendation of that committee as a remedy for drunkenness was for restricting the number of public-houses for the sale of liquors. Now it is proposed to prevent altogether the sale of spirits, as the remedy for drunkenness. I observe, that the United Kingdom Alliance, on the 5th of November, 1853, by their 5th Article declare "that the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic is perfectly compatible with rational liberty and with all the claims of justice and legitimate commerce." I demur to that declaration, and object to any law that shall prohibit me from the rational use of any article because there are other persons who will not use it in moderation. I may state that such a proposition is not new in this country. I heard it proposed in the House of Commons by a member of long standing, and of great influence, that the use of pewter pots in which beer is sent out from public-houses in London, should be prohibited, because many of them are stolen, and a bill was actually introduced to enforce that prohibition. I was then a young member, but nevertheless ventured to object to that legislation, as it would have established a principle productive of results far more extensively injurious to society than all the evils that arose from the stealing of pewter pots. I submitted to the House that as gold

and silver were often stolen, it would be equally wise and just to prohibit the use of gold and silver in spoons and other utensils in common use that are exposed hourly to depredation.

If you will follow out this reasoning, I think you must agree with me that the declaration of the Alliance, No. 5, is erroneous.

If the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1835, had followed out their inquiry, it could have been clearly proved to them that, in Holland, Belgium and other countries where spirits can be purchased at one-fifth of the English price, there is less drunkenness than in the United Kingdom. Besides, there are fewer restrictions on the sale of spirits in these countries, that in obtaining licenses in Great Britain, where there is in many places a monopoly.

If the number of gallons consumed in England, Ireland, and Scotland, where every possible difficulty has been placed upon the sale of spirits, the quantity consumed is the greatest.

You admit that 'restrictive measures, prohibitory duties, and pecuniary fines, have all been tried in vain, as the criminal and police records daily prove. Why not, then, try a different course? Educate all; train them by proper discipline when young; and as they grow up, provide for their progressive improvement during the hours of relaxation and amusement. Recollect that the man who is shut up at his work from 6 o'clock on Monday morning to late on Saturday, requires some relaxation and exercise on the Sunday, or at such times in the week as can be best spared from his labor.

Let all public gardens, museums, and institutions of art be open freely to the mass of the people; and thus bring them up with a desire to obtain useful information, and healthy amusement, instead of being from the want of such resorts, drawn, as they now are, into public-houses, and other places where their health and purses suffer—let reading-rooms, where the news of passing events can be obtained, free from public-house temptations, be established in every parish—let working men be treated as reasoning animals; and I have great confidence that, with a change of system, reform would soon be effected.

In London, where access to the National Gallery, British Museum, and other places in and around the metropolis, has been wisely given to all classes of persons, for their amusement, and instruction, there has been a great decrease of drunkenness; and the masses of the people now conduct themselves orderly, and eagerly seek on their leisure days these places for that instruction and amusement.

Let that course be adopted everywhere as I have proposed, and there will be no necessity for Maine laws, as recommended by the Alliance.

I remain your obedient servant,
JOSEPH HUME.

NO NOTHING IN SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY.—In Scotland, it seems, from cases lately published, you cannot get a dinner on a Sunday. You may starve for what the hotel-keepers care, before they will give you anything to eat. Yes, there is one mouthful of a chance for you—if you will take a bed, they will throw a dinner in. The saying formerly was, 'No sorg, no supper'—it must be altered now to meet Scotch consciences at least, to 'No bed, no dinner.' But why not improve upon the absurdity, and make the hungry travellers go to bed at once and eat their dinners between the sheets? It would be just as tyrannical, and besides, would throw a solemnity, instead of a tablecloth, over the ceremony. Or again, why not insist upon their turning waiters, on the plea that you are only allowed to give the servants of your establishment any meals on that day? It would be fine puritanical fun to see gentlemen whisking about with napkins under their arms, handing toothpicks to the customers, before they were allowed to swallow a basin of Scotch broth themselves. As it is, it stands thus:—"Take a bed, and you may eat—don't sleep in the house, and you may starve, even in the sight of the larder." Surely benevolence like this is born (as they say) on the wrong side of the blanket.—*Punch.*

MR. MACAULAY.—The secretary of the Edinburgh Young Men's Protestant Society wrote to Mr. Macaulay recently, asking him to give the reason for his absence when the vote was taken on the subject of paying Roman Catholic prison chaplains, and stating that some explanation was necessary "to remove the strong feeling of dissatisfaction entertained by all the Protestant electors of Edinburgh." Mr. Macaulay replied as follows:—"I was absent from the division which you mention because my health did not suffer me to venture out late. I am most sensible of the indulgence which has been shown to me by my constituents, and I assure you that I would instantly vacate my seat if I thought that they generally wished me to do so. But it would be disingenuous in me not to add, that if I had been able to attend the house I should certainly have voted, and probably have spoken in, favor of the grant to the Roman Catholic chaplains of gaols, and against Mr. Spooner's motion concerning Mayoouth. It is impossible for me to believe on your authority that all the Protestant electors of Edinburgh are surprised and indignant because I did not vote against the Government on these points. The Protestant electors of Edinburgh, when they did me the high honor to elect me to represent them, knew well what my conduct had been in times of great religious excitement, and yet they did not think it necessary to require from me any assurance that I should act in a manner different from that in which I had always acted. The young men in whose name you write are, I presume too young to remember the passing of the Mayoouth bill for 1845. If they will take the trouble to inform themselves as to my votes and speeches on that occasion, they will not, I believe, think it necessary to ask me for any further explanation."

HELSINGFORS AND SWEABORG.—The town of Helsingfors is built upon a peninsula, or promontory, and more immediately defended by the two forts of Bra-berg and Ulricabourg, placed on the main land within the port, which is said to be capable of admitting sixty or seventy line-of-battle ships, all riding at anchor under the cover of these forts. The proper strength of the place, however, lies in the magnitude of its outer defensive works, which are of the most formidable description, and go under the term of the fortress of Sweaborg. They occupy no less than seven islands, several of which are united by bridges. Casemates appear to be formed in them for no less than 6,000 or 7,000 small arms, and the united fortresses are said to amount to 800 cannon, and to possess a garrison of 12,000 men. Some of these formidable works are formed by

cutting and fashioning the solid rock, and there are magazines, arsenals, and barracks both upon one of these islands, and upon the main land. There are even docks upon the same tongue of land upon which the town stands; that have been partly cut out of the solid rock.—*Hill's Travels on the Shores of the Baltic.*

A PRISONER FOR DEBT FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.—In the last English mails we find a case of appalling legal tyranny. A man named William Miller was imprisoned in Winchester jail thirty-nine years ago, since which time he remained closely immured, spending the last three years and eight months in solitary confinement. At the age of 71 years, this man emerged from his prison at Winchester, to enter another in London. Some humane persons, hearing of his case obtained permission to have him transferred to the Queen's prison, London, where he enjoys what is to him comparative liberty. His sole crime was the debt of \$500.—*Montreal Herald.*

It is a common observation that the most wonderful and the most wished-for events often come at a time when they are no longer matters of interest, and scarcely of remark. Indeed, it is a lesson against over-craving and golden dreams of all kinds, that perhaps you may some day have that you so longed for when you have ceased to care for it. This is very much the case with our Australian colonies. Ten years—ay, five years ago, no statesman, no politician, rapt into the third heaven of colonial progress, could have ventured to imagine such a picture of development as that contained in the letter of our Sydney correspondent, which we published yesterday. A man would have been set down as stark mad who writing only five years ago, had suggested that in 1853 the value of the exports from a single Australian colony, New South Wales, might exceed four millions and a-half; that the imports might be much over six millions; that the Legislative Council might vote near seven hundred thousand pounds for the service of the year; and that among many other more agreeable symptoms of improvement, the Council might propose the acquisition of a new and formidable navy, in the shape of a screw line-of-battleship and two steam frigates. This last incident will perhaps tell more with some people than vast arithmetical totals, which, happily for the poetry of the human mind, are not always equally appreciated. The traveller rejoiced to find himself once more in a civilized country when he saw a gallows; and when New South Wales sets up its own engines of destruction we may safely congratulate it on having emerged from the rude state of a colonial innocence. Yes, New South Wales, with Sydney, the capital of it, which, in the memory of many living men, was an undiscovered shore, is now one of us, a populous and exceedingly rich community, with defensive and offensive preparations, and in many respects a good deal ahead of old English society. The pulse of life is much quicker, the knowledge of good and evil much more expanded, the children of this world are much wiser in their generation at Sydney or Melbourne than in any quite old country town in this island.

SYDNEY SMITH'S PUNS.—Moore says in one of his letters:—"The pun-Smith Sydney keeps us all in roars of laughter. In talking of the stories about dram-drinkers catching fire, he pursued the idea in every possible shape. The inconvenience of a man coming too near the candle when he is speaking; 'Sir, your observation has caught fire.' Then imagine a person breaking into a blaze in the pulpit, the engines called to put him out, no water to be had; the man at the water works being a Unitarian or an atheist. Smith called with Moore at Newton's the portrait painter, to see his picture, when Smith said in the gravest manner to Newton—'Couldn't you contrive to throw into his face somewhat of a stronger expression of hostility to the Church establishment?' This story reminds us of an order given rehearsed by a Dublin manager to Mike Kelly, the leader of the band—"Mr Kelly, you must throw in a little music here, just one or two bars, describing that the hero left his native country, and travelled in foreign parts, changed his religion and took to drinking beer."

GOOD ADVICE.—A young Irishman (placed by his friends as student at a Veterinary College), being in company with some of his colleagues, was asked, "if a broken winded horse were brought to him for cure, what he would advise?" After considering for a moment, "By the powers," said he, "I should advise the owner to sell it as soon as possible."

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