

The Castlebar correspondent of the Freeman's Journal, writing under date of the 25th ult., says:—"A very important meeting is announced to be held here next Sunday at a place known as Fraugh Hill, the scene of a well-fought battle in '98. The meeting has been called for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument to those fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives fighting for the independence of Ireland. The bills had been profusely posted throughout the town and country, but, strange to say, no sooner had they been posted than the constabulary had them immediately torn down or defaced, a seemingly most mysterious proceeding, which I am unable to satisfactorily account for. The matter has excited much astonishment. The meeting will be held on Sunday, and will be addressed by several gentlemen from Dublin."

The abstract issued by the Registrar-General shows that the population of Ireland was reduced by 21,125 in the year 1874, for the registered births counted 141,411, but the deaths were 91,352. If to the deaths we add the number of emigrants, 73,184, the total amounts to 24,125 more than the births.—The estimated population of Ireland in the middle of the year was 5,314,845. The number of marriages registered in Ireland from January to December, 1874, was 25,201. Of these 17,763 took place between Roman Catholics and 7,528 between Protestants, but in proportion to the number of those professing these creeds there were three marriages of Protestants to two of Roman Catholics. The births during the year were 72,524 boys and 68,887 girls. The number of deaths of males was 46,684 and of females 45,658. Zymotic diseases were peculiarly fatal, having killed 12,473 persons. Of this number 3,894 fell victims to scarlatina, 1,950 to whooping cough, and 599 to diphtheria. From the same source we learn that bread, which was 5 1/2d. per lb. in 1864, was 7d. in 1874; oatmeal, which was 10s. 9d. per cwt. in 1864, was 17s. in 1874; while potatoes, which were 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per cwt. in 1864, and 4s. 4d. to 5s. 10d. in the first quarter of 1874, were 2s. 7d. to 3s. 7d. at the end of that year. Beef, which was 5 1/2s. 6d. to 6 1/2s. 6d. per cwt. in 1864, was 5s. 6d. to 5s. 10d. in 1874. The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Ireland in 1864 was 8,574; receiving indoor relief, 56,423. Last year these figures showed a remarkable variation, the number of indoor paupers being, 46,998 in December, and of outdoor paupers, 23,439. The mean temperature during 1874 was 49 degrees; the highest registered being 81 degrees, on July 18, and the lowest 22.5, on 5th February. Rain or snow fell on 186 days of the year, and the prevailing wind was the west, from which point it blew during 119 days.

The Chairman of the Limerick and Clare Farmers' Club has received a letter from the Rev. Mr. O'Leary, P.P., Bulgaden, assuring him of the willingness of the people of his parish to co-operate in the Butt Testimonial movement. The Rev. gentleman states that he has not seen for many years a stronger feeling or greater readiness on the part of the people to contribute to any political object than they display in the case of this testimonial. He also speaks in the warmest terms of the services of Mr. Butt, and of his claims on the gratitude of the Irish people. On the 25th ult., the sum of £100 was collected in St. Michael's parish, Limerick, for this fund. Forty-seven pounds have been collected in Kilmallock independent of Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan's subscription, which was paid in Dublin. Collections for the same purpose are progressing in several parishes in the county Limerick.

On the 22nd ult., the members of the Waterford Agricultural Society met in the County Grand Jury Room, to present to Sir Robert J. Paul, Bart., a magnificent silver punch bowl, as a token of their warm esteem for his lengthened and valuable services as honorary secretary and treasurer to the society. The chair was occupied by N. P. O'Shea, Esq., D.L., Gardemorris, and amongst the large numbers present were several ladies. The presentation was made amid the warm applause of the meeting, after which Sir Robert Paul returned his best thanks for the valuable testimonial made to him, which he would make an heirloom in his family; and still more grateful was he for the kind expressions accompanying it. Although he had retired from official connection with the society, he would still give it all the aid in his power.

The Freeman's Journal of the 28th ult. says:—"Since the beginning of the week the emigrant ship 'Dover Castle,' bound for Australia, has been anchored in Carrickfergus Roads, Belfast Lough, and daily large contingents of respectable, healthy-looking emigrants have been conveyed down to her in the steamer 'Eriu.' About 300 of them left Belfast quay on Wednesday, and another numerous party went down yesterday morning. Altogether there will be some 800 or 900 emigrants on board. Large crowds have assembled daily at the quay to witness their departure. Yesterday evening the 'Dover Castle' lifted anchor and set off on her long voyage."

At the usual weekly meeting of the Castlebar Union on the 22nd ult., a prolonged discussion arose with reference to the prevalence of small-pox, which appears to extend its ravages with most serious and marked effects recently. Dr. Charles Walsh reported two deaths from the disease during the week. Dr. Kirby reported five since 20th March, and Dr. Blackwell said four fresh cases had occurred in his district (Balla). He also, in reply to a question, observed that sixty cases had been altogether registered in Balla, the division which he had charge of. A later report, however, states that the disease has very much diminished, and no fresh cases are reported. In consequence of the prevalence of the disease, the North and South Mayo Militia Regiments were necessarily debarred from assembling.

The Cork Herald of the 29th ult., says:—"Some children were sitting on a public road at the Northern end of the city, on Tuesday, amusing themselves, when a number of laborers in a field close by saw a donkey cart coming at a tremendous pace along the road, and bearing right down upon the children. They shouted as loud as they could at the driver, and beckoned him to look out, but all to no purpose, as the car never swerved a bit out of its course. One of them, though the attempt was apparently hopeless, considering the distance, ran to try and stop the car before it reached the children. He did not succeed in doing so, however, but when almost within two feet of the young ones, the donkey, to the surprise of the spectators, took the opposite side of the road. The laborer stopped the car as soon as he got out on the road, and was amazed to discover that the driver, an old man, was quite blind and hard of hearing into the bargain. When asked to explain how he happened to be in charge of this donkey, he replied that his son, who usually drove the cart, was unwell that day, and that he had taken his son's place to fetch a hamper from a shop on the confines of the city. The donkey, he stated, knew the road right well, knew, too, that the driver had not the use of his sight; and had not, at any time, done the slightest harm, though he drove him repeatedly on similar errands. Left to himself the donkey always avoided danger with his 'blind driver.'"

In reply to a question put by Mr. Bryan in the House of Commons on the 25th ult., Sir Michael H. Beach stated that the ruined churches and round towers of Glendalough have been included in the lists of ancient National monuments handed over by the Commissioners of Church Temporalities to the Board of Public Works to be maintained and preserved. The ruins were described, in the list of monuments thus handed over, simply as the 'Seven Churches,' and hence the supposition originated that the seven Churches of Glendalough were not the seven Churches of Glendalough.

in the schedule. There are clusters of ancient ecclesiastical buildings each known as the 'Seven Churches,' in many parts of Ireland, the number seven being considered peculiarly sacred by the Hebrews. The ruins of Glendalough, most interesting and important as they are, will now be preserved and kept in decent order.

The question of the purification of the Liffey was before the Dublin Town Council on the 25th ult., when a letter was read from the Lord Lieutenant containing a recommendation that the matter be allowed to drop for the present year, and a promise that next year, he will advise the Government to lend the Corporation for the purposes of Liffey purification £500,000, at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent. In the discussion which followed the reading of the letter, Mr. Byrne described that communication as a very satisfactory one, and moved that it be referred to the Main Drainage Committee, with directions to report to the house without delay the best mode of effecting the objects referred to. After some remarks from Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Murphy, this resolution was adopted.

The Malloow correspondent of the Cork Examiner says:—"Several persons of the laboring class in the neighborhood of Malloow, during the last two months, have emigrated to Australia. The farmers are complaining that it is almost impossible for them to get laborers, and it is thought that in the locality of Malloow they will be paid very remunerative wages for the present season."

A farmer named Sylvester Hennessey, of Clogscrige, near Thomastown, aged about 40 years, accidentally fell from his car on his return from Thomastown on the 23rd ult. He was rendered senseless by the fall and never rallied, and about 24 hours after the occurrence death relieved him in the workhouse infirmary, whither he had been removed, as it was convenient to where the accident occurred.

The annual sale of store and stall-fed cattle at Harristown, the property of John La Touche, Esq., D.L., came off on the 25th ult. There was a very large attendance of intending purchasers, and excellent prices realized. The store bullocks—105 in number—were a choice lot and were quickly purchased by Mr. Thomas Radcliffe for Mrs. McCann, of Wilmount House, county Meath, at an average of £16 1s. 6d. each. The entire sale realized £2,490 11s.

ANCIENT IRISH LITERATURE.—PROFESSOR O'LOONEY'S LECTURES.—In the Catholic University, Dublin, on the 27th ult., Professor O'Looney gave another of his series of interesting lectures. Having in his former lectures treated of Ancient Irish Sacred and Ecclesiastical Literature, he now dealt with the Literature of Romance. This he classified under two distinct heads, viz.:—Osianic and Heroic, differing in time, in character and personages. The former narrates the career of the once potent and celebrated "Fianna-Erioinn," and the deeds of the most famous of their leaders, foremost among whom was Fionn, the son of Cumhall. The title Osianic was conferred by modern times, and is derived from Oisín, son of Fionn, at once warrior and poet, *trouvére* and knight, who witnessed, and, in part, enacted the deeds he is supposed to have recorded. The second class embraces the Romance Literature of an earlier date. It relates to the time when Conor Mac-Nessa was king of Ulster, and Medb Queen of Connaught. She now reigns in the realms of fairyland; he lives in the pages of the poet. The cycle relates to the wars waged between the two monarchs, and to the adventures and exploits of Cuchullin and his fellow knights of the "Red Branch." These romances, rich in trust poetry, and abounding in rich material for Irish history and Celtic mythology, are but little known, perhaps because they are Irish. Who will do for the "Red Branch Knights" what Tennyson has done for the "Knights of the Round Table," or who will give us Idylls of our Irish kings? Choosing as his text the tale entitled "The Cause of the Battle of Cúnae," fought A. D. 1174, between Conn of the Hundred Fights, Monarch of Ireland, and Cumhall, leader of the Fenians and father of the king-maker, Fionn, he proceeded with his analysis of the narrative distinguishing between the ancient versions and spurious modern productions, and pointing out their bearing on the habits and social condition of the early Irish.

THE BOOK OF LISMORE.—A singular story is told of the "Book of Lismore," an Irish chronicle of the fourteenth century, belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, and recently lent by his Grace to the Ordnance Survey Office authorities at Southampton for reproduction in fac-simile by the process of photolithography. This manuscript was discovered, in the year 1814, inclosed in a wooden box, together with a fine old crozier, built into the masonry of a closed doorway, which was reopened while the old Castle of Lismore underwent repair. Great interest was naturally excited among antiquaries of the time, and among them was a certain Mr. Dennis O'Flinn, of Shandon Street, Cork, a "professed" Irish scholar, but as O'Curry said of him, "a very indifferent" one. O'Flinn, however, on the strength of such reputation, induced the Duke's agent to lend the manuscript to him. It was detained for a year, and during part of that time, according to the borrower's account, was in the hands of a copyist. From the time of its return until 1869, the precious volume remained locked up and unexamined; it was then lent by its noble owner to the Royal Irish Academy to be copied by O'Curry. The discovery was now made that the book had been mutilated, that in such a way as to render what remained of the original almost valueless. Every search was made, but no trustworthy clue was got until the manuscripts of Sir William Betham, bought for the library of the Royal Irish Academy, were found to include copies of the missing portions. By means of a note attached to these copies, the holders of the originals were traced, and were induced to part with their somewhat doubtfully acquired property for the sum of fifty pounds. The whole volume has since been excellently repaired and handsomely bound by the present Duke of Devonshire. The contents of it include—ancient lives of the Irish saints, written in a very pure Gaelic; the conquests of Charlemagne, translated from Archbishop Turpin's celebrated romance of the eighth century; the story of St. Petrovillus, and the discovery of the Sibylline Oracle; an account of St. Gregory the Great; the Empress St. Justina's heresy; accounts of Charlemagne's successors, and of the correspondence between Lanfranc and the clergy of Rome; extracts from Marco Polo's travels; accounts of Irish battles and sieges; and a dialogue between St. Patrick, Caelin MacRonnain and Oisín, the son of Fionn MacCumhall, in which many hills, rivers, caverns, &c., in Ireland are described and the etymology of their names recorded.—Athenæum.

THE LATE LORD REAY.—We have to record to-day the death of one of the oldest and most famous of the Highland clans, Eric Mackay, ninth Lord Reay in the Peerage of Scotland. In other days the Mackays owned a very large portion of the counties of Sutherland and Caithness, now absorbed for the most part in the property of the Duke of Sutherland, their lands being known several centuries ago as "Lord Reay's Country." The nobleman now deceased, at the age of about 60 years, was the younger but only surviving son of Alexander, eighth Lord, by Marjorie, daughter of the late Colonel Gall, and widow of Mr. David Ross, eldest son of David, Lord Ankerville, a Scottish Lord of Session. He entered the Army in 1830 as Ensign in the 23rd Foot, served for some time as barrack-master at Malta, and retired about the year 1840. He succeeded to his father's title and honors, including the representation of his clan, in February, 1863. According to Lodge's Peerage, his lordship lived and died unmarried; the barony, therefore, passes to his distant cousin, the Baron Mackay, of the Hague, Minister of State, and Vice-President of the Council of the King of the Netherlands, as eldest living male descendant of John, the second Lord Reay, who died nearly two centuries ago. The new Lord, according to "Lodge," was born in the year 1806, and married, in 1837, Maria Catherine Fagel, a native of the Netherlands, by whom he had a family of two sons. The first and second Lords were staunch adherents of the Stuart cause, for which they suffered severely in the loss of their lands and expatriation; and Sir Bernard Burke records the fact that a patent was ordered to be issued by Charles I. creating the first Baron of Reay also Earl of Strathnaver, but that it was never completed owing to the Civil War, the Parliament refusing to allow the creation to take effect.

The new Arctic Expedition, which sailed from Portsmouth on the 30th of May last, has better prospects of success than any heretofore dispatched from any quarter. With two strong vessels completely equipped and provisioned, a commander experienced in Arctic navigation, and the benefit of recent discoveries as to the most feasible passage, it will be strange if results are not attained in advance of anything yet realized. A wise part of the plan is the announced intention of the British Government to dispatch a relief vessel at the expiration of two years, thus insuring the safety of the explorers as far as it depends upon human forethought. The route to be taken by the expedition will be that of Dr. Kane and Capt. Hall, through Baffin's Bay and Smith's Sound. The Alert and Discovery are the names of the vessels first sent out. At the eightieth parallel the Alert will be left as a depot of supplies, and from that point the Discovery will be carried as far as the ice will permit. Sledges will then be used to reach the pole. This is said to be the first expedition sent out by England avowedly and solely for the purpose of ascertaining and fixing the exact position of the pole. The Northwest passage, formerly the chief object of exploration, is now considered not worth looking for.

PRIVATE CONFISCATION.—The Manchester Guardian's London correspondent writes:—"As the Judicature Bill has abolished the title of sergeant-at-law, the members of Serjeants-in-law, in Chancery Lane, have determined to sell that property and divide the proceeds among themselves. The value cannot be less than £30,000 to £35,000, so that each of the six-and-thirty gentlemen who now wear the coil will receive a very handsome sum." A proposal to devote a portion of the sum to purposes of legal education has, I believe, been discussed and negatived. The inn is the personal property of the serjeants, so that these gentlemen are acting according to their strict right; but their proceeding is sure to be sharply criticized."

THE CATHOLICS IN LONDON.—Cardinal Manning in a recent pastoral, says to his priests:—"Be so good as to state:— 1. That the aggregate church room, giving the succession of Messus, does not at this time nearly suffice for the Catholic population of London. 2. That the intervals between church and church are in many places so great as to render attendance at the offices of Divine worship impossible to many. This is especially true in some of the outskirts of London, where the poorest of our people are often congregated in great numbers. 3. That the multiplication of smaller churches is the only certain way of ensuring the attendance of our poor. They are often reluctant to frequent our larger churches; which are also already so filled by others as to leave comparatively little free space. 4. That in the course of last year two churches were opened among the poorest of our people; name-

ly, in the neighborhood of Drury Lane and Covent Garden, and in the Isle of Dogs.

5. That the first stone of a church in the Mission of Barking road, in the midst of a population of 2000 poor, was laid on the 8th of this month; and a church, to replace the church of St. Boniface, for the use of the German population in London, is already begun. It will be remembered that the church of St. Boniface fell to the ground in the year 1873. The priest had hardly time to remove the Most Holy Sacrament when the whole fabric came down.

6. That two other churches are urgently needed; namely, at Wapping and at Homerton. If we possessed the means, they would be at once commenced.

7. That in other parts of the diocese the existing buildings, now used for Divine service, ought to be replaced by fitting churches. Nothing but the prior and overwhelming claims of London have delayed our making this effort.

8. Finally, you will make known to the faithful that the diocese possesses no means whatsoever for the building of churches, except the proceeds of this annual collection. The many beautiful and useful churches which have been built are the work of good priests, who have devoted themselves with great privation and self-denial to encourage them with little beyond our heartfelt commendation and benediction.

Whosoever shall leave behind him a church, or an altar, raised to the glory of the Ever-blessed Trinity, will leave a memorial of his love of Jesus and of souls; and will obtain for himself the prayers of many in his time of need, in this life and beyond the grave.

May the abundant gifts of the Spirit of grace be given to you.

Given at Westminster, and appointed to be read in the churches of the diocese on Trinity Sunday, 1875, when the annual collection will be made for the Church Building Fund.

HENRY EDWARD, Cardinal Archbishop.

W. A. JOUSSON, Secretary.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECT.—A London telegram announces the death of Edward Welby Pugin, the eldest son of the late Augustus N. Welby Pugin, who was the chief reviver of the Gothic architecture and ecclesiastical art in England. Mr. Pugin was born March 11, 1834. In 1852, when he was only in his eighteenth year, his father died, and it devolved on him to complete his professional engagements. This he did successfully, and henceforth held a prominent place in his profession. One of the first of his best works was the Church of Notre Dame du Daderell, in Belgium, for which he received from Pius IX. the papal order of St. Sylvester.—Among his other works were the new College of St. Cuthberts, Lisant; several large churches in Liverpool; St. Michael's Priory, Belmont, Herefordshire; the Church of St. Peter and Paul at Cork; the Augustinian Church, Dublin; the Kingsdown Parish Church for the late Lord Kingsdown; the splendid orphanages of Hellingly and Bletchingly for the Duchess of Leeds; and magnificent buildings at Scarisbrick Hall, Lancashire, in the completion of the mansion which had been begun by his father in a sumptuous Gothic style. Mr. Pugin was a prominent member of the Catholic laity of England, and evinced a warm interest in the affairs of his Church. He was a captain in the English volunteers, and occasionally sent letters to the press on professional topics. He asserted in 1867 that his father, and not Sir Charles Barry, designed the new houses of Parliament, and afterwards published a book on the subject. Mr. Pugin was in this country about two years ago.

LABORERS IN NEW YORK.—The N. Y. Nation of the 10th says:—"The wages of the laborers in the employment of this city were cut down from 25 cents to 20 cents, or from \$2 for a day of eight hours to \$1; whereas the laborers were justly indignant, struck work and marched to the City Hall, and expressed their disappointment to General Porter and other officials, who made the excuse that the Board of Appointment having reduced the appropriations, there was nothing for it but to discharge some of the men now at work, or reduce the rate of wages, so as to employ more. It will thus be seen that the theory of the relation of the taxpayers to the laborers they employ is not one of business, nor yet of charity, but something in the nature of a right to maintenance on the side of the laborers, or a duty to maintain on the side of the taxpayers. This is acknowledged just as fully by giving more than the market rate of wages as by employing more men than are needed, and its full recognition has now come to be, as we have often pointed out, a prominent article in the creed of any party which tries to rule in this city. In fact, the municipal works are to all intents and purposes a reproduction of the French Ateliers Nationaux of 1848; and if they are not carried on as yet on so great a scale, it is because more avenues are as yet open to the energetic and enterprising in this country, or because the habit of dependence on the State has not yet got so fully hold of the working classes here as in France. But the mere existence of such a system here of course operates, year after year, as a strong inducement to the shiftless, lazy, improvident and incompetent in all parts of the country to come to New York, and they are coming steadily and increasingly. Once they get here they become voters, and decide how much the bankers, and broker, and shopkeepers and mechanics ought to spend on drains, pavements, bridges, and other public works, or how many men they ought to employ, what should be the length of the working-day, and how hard a man should work for a given sum. The reason they are allowed to do this is that the nature of a municipal government requires it; and the answer to all objection to it is, 'Let the substantial classes attend to their political duties, reason with the lazy and shiftless, and show them by the force of logic that they ought to do more work for less money.' Governor Tilden's recognition in his late message of our suggestion that the taxpayers should be allowed to do a good deal of their own work under State superintendence, we take to be a sign that sensible men are beginning to open their eyes to the danger and folly of the present state of things."

BOSTON, Mass., June 16.—At 3 p.m. to-day a terrible explosion occurred in a large two storey building on the marshes near the corner of Kemble and Farnham streets, used by C. E. Martin as a manufactory of fireworks; ten men and boys were employed in the building at the time, only one of whom escaped uninjured. Without a moment's warning the building blew up with tremendous report, and a confused mass of inflammable material at once took fire. The building was completely consumed before any assistance could be rendered by the Fire Department. Six bodies, burned and charred beyond recognition, were taken from the ruins. Thos. Harley, Michael Trinity, and Wm. Meely, were rescued from the ruins, all seriously, if not fatally burned and bruised. The bodies of Thomas Dooley, Herbert Meely, Jno. McNamara, Thos. Cochrane, Jno. H. Kelly, and Wm. Burrell, were taken from the debris of the building, so charred and burned, as to be beyond individual recognition. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Loss on building and stock, \$50,000.—No insurance.

The shutting down of the Atlantic mills in Lawrence, Mass., is very likely an example which will have to be followed by other corporations in New England. Except in some particular lines of goods, there is but a limited sale for the product of our looms, and our warehouses are beginning to be crowded with bales of merchandise for which the market makes very little call. For manufacturing cities and towns we very much fear the bottom has not yet been reached.—Lowell Courier.

A quantity of mail matter from the wreck of the 'Schiller' has been received at the Dead Letter Office, Washington. The envelopes were broken and torn in most instances having become almost pulp. Several of them contained photographs, and one of the packages were two sheets of prob-ably headed in large capital letters. Pius P. ment headed in large capital letters.

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in preparation for his visit to that country. Prince Arthur is said to be always busy, while the Princesses Helena and Louise are seldom seen abroad. It is impossible to suit everybody, and so it is more than likely, if this sort of thing is continued, that the prediction will be verified of "an awful howl from the shopkeepers."

SUSPECTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A rather mysterious affair is reported from Colchester. It seems that about 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening 2nd inst., Mrs. Bryan, who resides in Castle-road, Botanic garden, London, allowed her daughter Ada, aged six, to go for a walk with Mary Newman, the servant. They did not return, and the parents, after searching the neighbourhood in vain, gave information to the Police. Strong fears of foul play were entertained the girl Newman, who three years ago attempted to commit suicide, having a few weeks back threatened violence upon herself rather than obey her mistress's notice to leave, as she was much attached to the child. The Police sent scouts all over the neighbourhood and dragged the river. The next day the bodies were found in the stream. The child had evidently died in the servant's arms.

COLLISIONS ON FIRE.—Shortly before noon on the 3rd inst., an explosion occurred at the large colliery, situate at Worsbro-park, about three miles from Barnsley. The colliery belongs to the Barrow Hematite Iron and Steel Company, of which the Duke of Devonshire is chairman. A considerable staff of men were employed, and a depth of 350 yards had been dug through and several seams of coal passed. Preparations had been made for firing off three shots, when the men were drawn to the surface. The first shot appears to have gone off all right; the second however, liberated a considerable quantity of gas, which exploded, setting fire to the brattice boards at the bottom. The third shot was still more serious for it caused the gas to explode and set fire to the bottom of the sinking shaft. The fire engines from Barnsley were fetched, and a continuous stream of water was poured down the shaft for several hours. At 4 o'clock two men attempted to descend the shaft, but immediately signalled to be drawn up, their safety-lamps having been extinguished. The Hafod-y-Bwch pit of the Raabon Colliery Company took fire yesterday morning, but whether from an explosion or otherwise has not yet been ascertained. Six men have been severely burnt, and Mr. Johnson, the underground manager, who together with a fireman named Roberts, rescued the men, is also burnt, while Robert himself is slightly injured.

LABOR LAWS OF ENGLAND.—In the House of Commons, on the 10th inst., Mr. Cross, Secretary of State for the Home Department, introduced bills amending the labor laws. They provide that branches of contract calculated to cause public injury by the work of people employed in a public capacity, as in the supply of gas and water, shall be dealt with criminally. All other cases shall be regarded purely as matters of civil contract, to be settled by the county courts. The law against picketing is to continue in force. Defendants, however, are to have the option of a trial by justices or jury. In regard to strikes no agreement to do any non-criminal act in relation to disputes between masters and workmen shall be punishable as a conspiracy.

UNITED STATES.

LABORERS IN NEW YORK.—The N. Y. Nation of the 10th says:—"The wages of the laborers in the employment of this city were cut down from 25 cents to 20 cents, or from \$2 for a day of eight hours to \$1; whereas the laborers were justly indignant, struck work and marched to the City Hall, and expressed their disappointment to General Porter and other officials, who made the excuse that the Board of Appointment having reduced the appropriations, there was nothing for it but to discharge some of the men now at work, or reduce the rate of wages, so as to employ more. It will thus be seen that the theory of the relation of the taxpayers to the laborers they employ is not one of business, nor yet of charity, but something in the nature of a right to maintenance on the side of the laborers, or a duty to maintain on the side of the taxpayers. This is acknowledged just as fully by giving more than the market rate of wages as by employing more men than are needed, and its full recognition has now come to be, as we have often pointed out, a prominent article in the creed of any party which tries to rule in this city. In fact, the municipal works are to all intents and purposes a reproduction of the French Ateliers Nationaux of 1848; and if they are not carried on as yet on so great a scale, it is because more avenues are as yet open to the energetic and enterprising in this country, or because the habit of dependence on the State has not yet got so fully hold of the working classes here as in France. But the mere existence of such a system here of course operates, year after year, as a strong inducement to the shiftless, lazy, improvident and incompetent in all parts of the country to come to New York, and they are coming steadily and increasingly. Once they get here they become voters, and decide how much the bankers, and broker, and shopkeepers and mechanics ought to spend on drains, pavements, bridges, and other public works, or how many men they ought to employ, what should be the length of the working-day, and how hard a man should work for a given sum. The reason they are allowed to do this is that the nature of a municipal government requires it; and the answer to all objection to it is, 'Let the substantial classes attend to their political duties, reason with the lazy and shiftless, and show them by the force of logic that they ought to do more work for less money.' Governor Tilden's recognition in his late message of our suggestion that the taxpayers should be allowed to do a good deal of their own work under State superintendence, we take to be a sign that sensible men are beginning to open their eyes to the danger and folly of the present state of things."

BOSTON, Mass., June 16.—At 3 p.m. to-day a terrible explosion occurred in a large two storey building on the marshes near the corner of Kemble and Farnham streets, used by C. E. Martin as a manufactory of fireworks; ten men and boys were employed in the building at the time, only one of whom escaped uninjured. Without a moment's warning the building blew up with tremendous report, and a confused mass of inflammable material at once took fire. The building was completely consumed before any assistance could be rendered by the Fire Department. Six bodies, burned and charred beyond recognition, were taken from the ruins. Thos. Harley, Michael Trinity, and Wm. Meely, were rescued from the ruins, all seriously, if not fatally burned and bruised. The bodies of Thomas Dooley, Herbert Meely, Jno. McNamara, Thos. Cochrane, Jno. H. Kelly, and Wm. Burrell, were taken from the debris of the building, so charred and burned, as to be beyond individual recognition. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Loss on building and stock, \$50,000.—No insurance.

The shutting down of the Atlantic mills in Lawrence, Mass., is very likely an example which will have to be followed by other corporations in New England. Except in some particular lines of goods, there is but a limited sale for the product of our looms, and our warehouses are beginning to be crowded with bales of merchandise for which the market makes very little call. For manufacturing cities and towns we very much fear the bottom has not yet been reached.—Lowell Courier.

A quantity of mail matter from the wreck of the 'Schiller' has been received at the Dead Letter Office, Washington. The envelopes were broken and torn in most instances having become almost pulp. Several of them contained photographs, and one of the packages were two sheets of prob-ably headed in large capital letters. Pius P. ment headed in large capital letters.

LABORERS IN NEW YORK.—The N. Y. Nation of the 10th says:—"The wages of the laborers in the employment of this city were cut down from 25 cents to 20 cents, or from \$2 for a day of eight hours to \$1; whereas the laborers were justly indignant, struck work and marched to the City Hall, and expressed their disappointment to General Porter and other officials, who made the excuse that the Board of Appointment having reduced the appropriations, there was nothing for it but to discharge some of the men now at work, or reduce the rate of wages, so as to employ more. It will thus be seen that the theory of the relation of the taxpayers to the laborers they employ is not one of business, nor yet of charity, but something in the nature of a right to maintenance on the side of the laborers, or a duty to maintain on the side of the taxpayers. This is acknowledged just as fully by giving more than the market rate of wages as by employing more men than are needed, and its full recognition has now come to be, as we have often pointed out, a prominent article in the creed of any party which tries to rule in this city. In fact, the municipal works are to all intents and purposes a reproduction of the French Ateliers Nationaux of 1848; and if they are not carried on as yet on so great a scale, it is because more avenues are as yet open to the energetic and enterprising in this country, or because the habit of dependence on the State has not yet got so fully hold of the working classes here as in France. But the mere existence of such a system here of course operates, year after year, as a strong inducement to the shiftless, lazy, improvident and incompetent in all parts of the country to come to New York, and they are coming steadily and increasingly. Once they get here they become voters, and decide how much the bankers, and broker, and shopkeepers and mechanics ought to spend on drains, pavements, bridges, and other public works, or how many men they ought to employ, what should be the length of the working-day, and how hard a man should work for a given sum. The reason they are allowed to do this is that the nature of a municipal government requires it; and the answer to all objection to it is, 'Let the substantial classes attend to their political duties, reason with the lazy and shiftless, and show them by the force of logic that they ought to do more work for less money.' Governor Tilden's recognition in his late message of our suggestion that the taxpayers should be allowed to do a good deal of their own work under State superintendence, we take to be a sign that sensible men are beginning to open their eyes to the danger and folly of the present state of things."

IX" The contents were written in Latin, and in the left hand lower corner was a red seal containing a portrait of the Pope. Most of the letters were written in European languages.

District Attorney Phillips is quoted as to the legal status of Tweed at present; immediately on Tweed's release from Blackwell's Island, he will be re-arrested by a Sheriff's officer on orders of arrest in civil suits at present in the hands of that official, or on a bench warrant which he had himself just issued on an indictment for false pretences in having obtained the signature of A. Oakey Hall to a warrant for payment of one of Garvey's bills, amounting to, \$126,000. In addition to this Tweed can be brought up and arraigned on any of twenty-six untried indictments still standing against him.

Quebec, Ill., June 15.—A violent tornado and thunder-storm passed over the north-east part of this city last night. A large number of houses were blown down, and several people were seriously injured. Jno. Menne, brickmaker, was struck by falling timber and killed. The railroads in the immediate vicinity were considerably damaged.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., June 16.—Resumption of work in this region is a fact that the slight disturbances occurring here and there are not likely to stir up another general strike. The loss sustained by the prolonged strike now ended is estimated at more than ten millions of dollars.

The business outlook at Taunton, Mass., is far from being encouraging. Scores of unemployed men are seen day after day in the streets and about the Green. The recent orders received at Mason's and the Taunton Locomotive works will help a few, but the majority are still idle.

The Atlantic Cotton Mill at Lawrence, Mass., will be closed July 10 until about September 1. When running to its full capacity the Atlantic employs 1250 operatives, and manufactures 450,000 yards per week. The suspension is caused by the dullness of the market.

NEW YORK WAGES.—Wages have fallen, even from those of last year. Bricklayers in New York now get from \$3 to \$4, instead of \$5; carpenters from \$2.50 to \$3.35, instead of \$3.50; hod-carriers \$1.75 instead of \$2.50.

The three paper mills of the Marlboro' Paper Company, at New Marlboro' Mill River, Mass., have shut down after having worked up the stock on hand. About 100 persons are thus thrown out of employment.

The grasshoppers have nearly all disappeared from Kansas region; farmers are busy replanting their fields, and a general condition of hopefulness prevails.

Advises report great damage to grain, both cut and standing, in the northern and central portions of California, by rain. Harvesting is suspended, and the grasses in many localities are ruined.

The Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad repair shop is now run 10 hours a day, and the workmen receive 10 per cent less than before the reduction of last year.

Hon. T. Wentworth, of Lowell, bequeathed the bulk of his property, estimated at \$175,000, to Dartmouth College.