

At Magherafelt Sessions, where the criminal business a few years since generally lasted for a week—there was at the late sessions one solitary criminal prosecution of little moment, and the sessions which formerly lasted from a fortnight to three weeks, were finished in two days!—*Coleraine Chronicle*.

From Dublin messages are now sent to and received from London within three hours, by means of the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph, which has been brought into working order between the two capitals. The messages are sent round by Belfast and the north of England.

GREAT BRITAIN.

POPULARITY OF PRINCE ALBERT.—A correspondent in a letter to the *Caledonian Mercury*, dated 10th ult., says—a curious instance of the state of feeling here as to the alleged indifference to the foreign policy of this country by a certain party in high quarters, was exemplified at a dinner yesterday of one of the large City Companies. When the second and usual loyal toast was given from the chair, the whole company refused to acknowledge it, by turning their glasses upside down. Under these circumstances, said the chairman, I give you 'The British Constitution,' which was drunk with immense cheering. A straw is sufficient to show how the wind blows, and tells its own tale.

PRINCE ALBERT AND THE PRESS.—With some acquaintance with the history of the British Press, we cannot recall the time when it appeared in so humiliating a form as it does at the present moment. Each paper, with the exception of three daily papers, has become the echo of its neighbor, and, without one single tangible fact to rest upon, affects to be exceedingly indignant with his Royal highness Prince Albert for some alleged interference in public affairs. We are told (what, indeed, we know), that the subject is spoken of at the clubs, in coffee-rooms, at the Royal Exchange, in mess-rooms, in private parties—in fact, wherever men do congregate: but what does all this prove? Does it add a tittle of weight to the evidence against the Prince Consort? Does it make the cool original "rumor," which no one can trace to any reliable source, one whit the more truthful? Or does it not establish that our contemporaries have been wanting in their duty to themselves, and to the illustrious Prince, in thus permitting absurd stories to gain currency without attempting to neutralise the poison by at least demanding upon what rational foundation these vulgar tales do really rest? What has the Prince done? Wherein has he offended? Can any one distinctly answer these questions? We grope through the dreary columns of certain starling papers, beneath a supporting party, and public confidence, and the equally interesting pages of revolutionary prints, in the endeavor to discover the nature of his trespass; but all that we can discern is a vague allegation, a doubtful inference, derived from a circumstantial chain of ridiculous tenuity, that his Royal Highness has sacrificed Turkey to the Czar in order to oblige the King of the Belgians, who has tried to strengthen his hands by an Austrian Alliance, and desires to separate this country from an association with France. We once heard of a man who walked from Hyde Park-corner to Whitechapel Church, in order, as he said, to prevent the Thames from being frozen over in summer. The connection between the act of this person (who afterwards died in Bedlam) and the object he had in view was not very obvious; but we will undertake to say that the identity of the deed and the purpose, was quite as worthy of respectful consideration as the sequence deduced from King Leopold's supposed wishes. How, in the name of common sense, can the interests of Belgium be served by the sacrifice of Turkey? If there be any reason in the argument, founded on the importance of preserving a political equilibrium in Europe, the safety of Belgium would be certainly compromised as that of any other small kingdom, were Constantino in the hands of Russia. This, King Leopold, who is a very astute personage, must perceive as clearly as any of the gentlemen—and we admit their great talent and sagacity—who devote their pens to the scarfication of his exalted nephew; but supposing the reverse—supposing that the King of the Belgians, under some not very clearly grounded alarm, sees ruin to Brussels in any check that England might offer to the mad ambition of the Emperor Nicholas—what proof is there that Prince Albert has seconded his views and taken a prominent part in the discussions at the Council Board against the dictates of order, prudence, and propriety? All that can be adduced on this head is the temporary withdrawal of Lord Palmerston from the Ministry, as if there could, by no possibility, be any other motive for his brief secession. On the other hand, in negation of the assumption of the Prince's influence, we have the undeniable fact of our continual good understanding with France, and the concurrent adoption of a war policy having in view the defence of Turkey against the aggression of the Czar. Whether that policy has been as active as could be desired is a question which may be fairly solved without supposing the interference of sinister objects and personal views. It would be most unjust to the Ministers of the Powers allied to coerce Russia to suppose that their dilatoriness has arisen from any other circumstance than an honorable anxiety to spare Europe the frightful consequences of a war as long as there remained a prospect of a peaceable adjustment of the question in dispute, consistently with the honor in Ministerial keeping. As for the rubbish about German alliances and connexions, we can only express our surprise that, with the knowledge we possess of the impossibility of the safe formation by our Princes and Princesses of matrimonial engagements with the scions of the great houses of Europe, it should be expected that in any other than small German Principalities the wives and husbands of our Royal family should be sought. For the last 100 years the same kind of connexions have been established and it would be difficult to show that any political injury has arisen out of the process. We have never gone to war on behalf of one of the little States, nor should we do so now, if it were placed by its own folly and disregard of treaties in a position to provoke hostility; on the contrary, we have seen several of them at the mercy of Napoleon, and we have not made his aggression in respect to them individually a separate *casus belli*.—The minor Duchies and Grand Duchies regard it as their peculiar destiny to supply the Princes of our Blood Royal with fortunes for life, and, to the credit of their intelligence, they educate the princely children in a manner to adapt them to their future condition. Look where we may, we find very few instances in which England has had occasion to regret the German alliances. There has been hardly a *mauvais*

*sujet* among the Dukes and Princes, and we cannot recall the lady whose fame has been tarnished by indiscretion. Away, then with the stuff which rabid malice calls in to its aid when engaged in the foul and villainous work of pulling down a reputation which has been erected by its owner on a noble basis of justice, intelligence, benevolence, and prudence.—*United Service Gazette*.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND.—The Town Council of Aberdeen, in reference to the petition for the appointment of a Secretary of State for Scotland, resolved, at their last meeting, by a majority, "That such an appointment as that for which their influence was now asked was uncalled for and inexpedient."—*Edinburgh Witness*.

TROOPS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.—The following announcement appears in the *Cork Constitution*:—"Transports are daily expected in Queenstown for conveyance of the service companies of the 9th and 62d Regiments on foreign service. It is rumored in military circles that it is in contemplation to strengthen the different regiments doing duty in the Mediterranean with a reserve battalion. On the score of economy reserve battalions are advantageous, for no additional staff, such as lieutenant-colonels, majors, &c., is requisite, such as are attached to what are known as second battalions. Much difficulty is experienced at present in obtaining the necessary recruits for any emergency, even for general service, but, in the event of reserve battalions being determined on for the regiments in the Mediterranean, there is no doubt that a sufficiency of volunteers from the home regiments would be at once available."

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The British Admiralty have announced that if intelligence of Sir John Franklin or his ships, "Erebus" and "Terror," and of the officers and crews being alive, is not received by the 31st of March next, they will be considered as having died in Her Majesty's service.

The number of creeds in England is a proverbial subject of remark; but the reader who turns over the tables in this book will receive new ideas as to the surprising subdivision—a subdivision which prevents any one sect from being other than a minority. We cannot even except the National Church. But, independently of the minor subdivisions of recognisable sects, such as the "Trinitarian Predestinarians," the "Free Gospel Christians," or the "Supralapsarian Calvinists," Mr. Mann reckons thirty-six religious communities or sects,—twenty-seven native and indigenous, nine foreign; besides a number of sects so small and unconsolidated that they cannot be included in the list, and separate congregations, of which there are many. Not a few of the last eschew sectarian distinctions. There are, for example, ninety-six which simply call themselves Christians.

Some interesting tables have been issued from the Health Office, comparing the loss of life by war and by pestilence. It appears that in twenty-two years of war, there were 19,796 killed and 79,709 wounded; giving an annual average of 899 killed and 3,623 wounded. In 1845-49, there were no fewer than 72,180 persons killed by cholera and diarrhoea in England and Wales, and 144,360 attacked; 31,397 of the killed were able bodied persons capable of getting their own living! Besides these deaths from the great epidemic, 115,000 die annually, on an average, of preventible diseases; while 11,419 die by violence. Comparing the killed in nine great battles, including Waterloo—4740—with the number killed by cholera in London in 1848-49—14,139—we find a difference of 9,399 in favor of war.

If any inference can be drawn from the augmented provision made for the reception of pauper lunatics, insanity appears to be largely on the increase. The Cambridgeshire, Essex, and Norfolk County Magistrates, are all about to expend large sums for this purpose, and a new establishment in Norwich is contemplated.—*Spectator*.

DISRAELI'S CATHOLIC TENDENCIES.—The *Nation*, reviewing Mr. Disraeli's works, observes that that writer and statesman makes no secret of his Catholic tendencies. "They appear everywhere. He, amid the buzz and intrigues of rank and fashion into which he drags his readers, a noble Christian gentleman appear on the scene, he is sure to be in the Roman fold, or journeying towards it through Puseyism; and he is sure at the same time, to shame, by the noble simplicity and earnest seriousness of his life, the frivolity and heartless licentiousness around him. The only heroes of his who have had high aims and grand aspirations, or who have looked beyond a seat in Parliament, or the portfolio of a minister, as the summit of human ambition, are Tancred and Contarini Fleming; and he makes them both converts to Rome."

DISCOVERY OF A STILL IN A CHURCH.—Considerable sensation has been created in this neighborhood by the discovery of a still in Euxton Church, near Chorley. A few weeks ago some workmen were employed in making some repairs in the church, when they discovered, concealed underneath the pulpit, a perfect still. The minister of the church, whose parsonage is adjoining, was apprised of the circumstance, and the still was removed from the pulpit into the vestry. Notwithstanding the above extraordinary fact became known to a few individuals, so well has the secret been kept, that it was only on Saturday night last the Excise became acquainted with it. Early on Monday morning, therefore, Mr. Peacock and Mr. Bently, Excise-officers of inland revenue, obtained a search-warrant from Captain Anderton, of Euxton Hall, and, proceeding to the parsonage first, found a part of the still in the pantry; another portion was found in the coach-house, and, on searching the church, the remainder was found under a heap of other things in a cupboard in the vestry. The still being thus completed, was brought away by the officers to Chorley, and the particulars of the seizure communicated to the Board of Excise in London.—*Preston Chronicle*.

GREENWICH WEATHER WISDOM.—A careful study of the thermometer has shown that a descent of the temperature of London from forty-five to thirty-two degrees kills about 300 persons. They may not all die the very week when the loss of warmth takes place, but the number of deaths is found to increase to that extent over the previous average, within a short period after the change. The fall of temperature, in truth, kills, them as certainly as a well-aimed cannon shot. Our changing of meat, or deficient food and shelter, has weathered them for the final stroke, and they actually died at last of the weather. Instead of a warm summer being followed by a cold winter, the tendency of the law of the weather is to group warm seasons together, and cold seasons together. Mr. Glasier has made out that the character of the weather seems to follow

certain curves so to speak, each extending over periods of fifteen years. During the first half of these periods the seasons become warmer and warmer, till they reach their warmest point, and then the sick becoming colder and colder, till they reach their lowest point whence they rise again. His tables range over the last seventy-nine years—from 1771 to 1849. Periods shown to be the coldest were years memorable for high-priced food increased mortality, popular discontent, and political changes. In his diagrams the warm years are tinted brown, and the cold years grey, and as the sheets are turned over, and the dates scanned, the fact suggests itself that a grey period saw Lord George Gordon's riots a grey period was marked by the Reform Bill excitement and a grey period saw the Corn Laws repealed.—*Household Words*.

A MODEL PARSON.—At Worcestershire Epiphany quarter sessions last week a respectable looking young man, named Henry Edens, was charged with stealing a peck of walnuts, the property of Mrs. Charlotte Hawkes. The Rev. Mr. Hawkes, son of the prosecutrix, deposed—I live at Tredington. About eleven o'clock on the 25th of October, I observed a man picking up walnuts from underneath one of our trees. I thought of frightening him away by taking up my gun and telling him that I would shoot him. When I came up to the prisoner I collared him, and demanded the walnuts. He said, 'Don't touch me,' and knocked me off with his elbow. Cross-examined—I have not a cure. I am very fond of racing and sporting. There are as good men in the racing world as in any other society. I was brought up to the Church, but subsequently took to racing, as I rather preferred it. I keep a 'book,' and frequent race courses. I also keep a race horse. I am a racing man if you want to know that. I don't remember some of the prisoner's brother's cows straying into my pasture. I took the prisoner's hat off and said 'Pepper, here?' I might have said to the prisoner, 'I'll be d—d if I don't pepper you.' I think your questions all rubbish. The prisoner took my hat off and put it on his own head. I have had the cure of souls at Hanley castle, about twenty-five years ago. (During the cross-examination of this witness the court was convulsed with laughter.) The chairman, in summing up, said that a more painful, lamentable, and disgusting exhibition than that afforded by this trial had probably never been approached in any court of justice. He trusted that the moment which had been occasioned amongst the auditors would be succeeded by grave reflection; and probably if the Rev. Mr. Hawkes would immediately commence retracing his steps to the position he occupied when in the cure of souls, it would cost him his lifetime to afford the restitution to society which so much unseemly and unbecoming levity demanded.—*Birmingham Mercury*.

THE POLICE IN THE KITCHEN.—In the Marylebone County Court, on Saturday, Ann Page, formerly housemaid in the service of Miss Spence, Crescent-house, Royal-crescent, Addison-road, sued for 19s. 6d., as wages owing, and 21 1/2s for wages in lieu of warning. Plaintiff said, I suppose, my lord, I must tell you why I left. On Christmas-eve a friend called to see me, and as we had a party up stairs I thought there was no harm in keeping my friend down stairs.—Well, about half-past twelve o'clock at night Miss Spence actually came down stairs into the kitchen, and found my friend in the dark—(laughter.) and made a great piece of work—(laughter.) In the morning the cook and me were discharged without warning. I was offered the wages due.

Miss Spence—Now tell the judge how many policemen you had in our house to supper?

Ann Page—I only had one, the other policeman was the cook's not mine. (Laughter.)

Miss Spence.—Were not two policemen supping of our mutton in the middle of the night? (Laughter.)

Ann Page.—Cook asked them to have a little mutton, and they are not the men to refuse. You know Miss, that you sent for the police to take me up.—Were you not enjoying yourselves enough up stairs, without coming down in the middle of the night to upset our Christmas-eve? If cook and I had expected you would have been one of our party you would have seen our two friends. (Laughter.) I have witness, your Lordship.

Police-constable T 70, here, amidst much merriment, stepped into the witness-box. He said—I was on duty in the Addison road. Miss Spence called me in to take the plaintiff out. I inquired the reason, and Miss Spence said it was for having two of our men to supper. (Laughter.) They don't belong to the T division, but came all the way from Whitechapel. (Much Laughter.) I told her I couldn't take the servant girl into custody for such a trifle. I waited whilst the girl put on her things and came out with her. I saw her refuse 19s 6d.

Miss Spence said—On Christmas-eve, your Honor, I had a party of friends, and by mere chance, about twelve o'clock I left the drawing room, and on getting down stairs, I saw two men at supper in the front kitchen, and as soon as my footsteps were heard, out went the lights, and I heard a great scuffle, caused by their hiding themselves in the back kitchen. (Laughter.) I called for lights, and whilst I was groping about in the dark I caught hold of one of the policemen's buttons. The man then called out, "Don't be alarmed, Miss; I am here to protect you. Don't shriek out, for I am a policeman." (Shouts of laughter.) The other man then said, "No, no, there's no fear Miss, for I am another policeman, and will protect you too." (Continued laughter.) They each begged me to forgive them; admitted having had supper, and said they were very sorry that the girls should have overcome their sense of duty. (Increased merriment.) The discovery quite upset our merry party, I assure you, sir. We took the policemen's numbers, and reported them to the Commissioners of Police, and Sir Richard Mayne fined each of them 2s. 6d. and severely reprimanded them. We instantly discharged the cook and the plaintiff.

The Judge.—I think enough has been said to satisfy me that the plaintiff as well as the police grossly misconducted themselves. I shall only make an order for 19s. 6d., without any costs.

MORALS OF PROTESTANTDOM.

There are in London (says the *Times*) above 12,000 children under training for crime—30,000 thieves; 6,000 receivers of stolen goods; 150,000 of both sexes leading abandoned lives, and 38,000 illegitimate children annually; 1,500 are yearly added to the dangerous classes in the town of Manchester; 1,200 thieves under 15 years of age in Liverpool; 40,000 houses of ill-fame; 280,000 unfortunate females; and further, that in this land of Bibles and religion eight million pounds are spent annually in these places. Parliamentary reports inform us that when asked who the

Saviour was, one replied "He was Adam," another "He was an apostle;" a third that he was "A king of London a long time ago," and when the name of Jesus Christ was heard "extraordinary desecrations or confusions, the result of ignorance, have been developed in the reply to any further questions." The awful picture drawn by Charles Dickens of the people of England, as portrayed at the execution of the Mannings was such—"that a man had cause to feel ashamed of the shape he wore, and to shrink from himself as fashioned in the image of the devil." He says—"I believe that a sight so inconceivably awful as the wickedness and levity of the immense crowd collected at that execution this morning could be imagined by no man, and could be presented in no heaven then land under the sun. The horrors of the gibbet, and of the crime which brought the wretched murderers to it, faded in my mind before the atrocious bearing, looks, and language of the assembled spectators. When I came upon the scene at midnight, the shrillness of the cries and howls that were raised from time to time, denoting that they came from a concourse of boys and girls, already assembled in the best places, made my blood run cold. As the night went on, screaming, and laughing, and yelling, in strong choruses of parodies on negro melodies, with substitutions of Mrs. Manning for Susannah, and the like, were added to these. When the day dawned, thieves, low prostitutes, ruffians, and vagabonds of every kind, flocked on to the ground with every variety of offensive and foul behaviour. Fightings, faintings, whistlings, imitation of *Punch*, brutal jokes, tumultuous demonstrations of indecent delight when swooning women were dragged out of the crowd by the police with their dresses disordered, gave a zest to the general entertainment. When the sun rose brightly—as it did—it gilded thousands upon thousands of raptured faces, so inexpressibly odious in their brutal mirth or callousness, that a man had cause to feel ashamed of the shape he wore, and to shrink from himself, as fashioned in the image of the devil.—When the two miserable creatures, who attracted all this ghastly sight before them, were turned quivering into the air, there was no more emotion, no more pity, no more thought that two immortal souls had gone to judgment, no more restraint in any of the previous obscenities, than if the name of Christ had never been heard in this world, and there were no belief among men, but that they perished like the beasts." The rival districts are equally bad. One missionary says—"There are among us not less darkness and ignorance than are to be found in the pagodas of China, or among those who, amidst the deepest wilds of Indian forests, sacrifice their children or prostrate themselves before demons." Another missionary says—"In England there are millions who never heard of the Prince of Life." A missionary traveller through three of your counties says—"Darkness covers this part of England, and gross darkness the people." A fourth says—"That the very garden of England, in a moral light, should be regarded as a vast howling wilderness." A fifth says—"That the greater part of the 300,000 inhabitants of Staffordshire sit in darkness, and in the gloomy shade of overspreading death—yes, that it is a moral wilderness of awful dimensions." Another—"That your whole village population is in a condition of moral degradation, unusually deepened—ignorance with insensibility united—wickedness blended with every vice, and heightened into barbarity of manners." "Under heaven," says another, "there is not a worse place than this—men, women, and children, glorying in blaspheming the name of the Lord." Another informs us—"That infidelity, like a mighty flood, is devastating English society with the most awful errors and moral abominations." How could it be otherwise where so many conventionalities of infidelity are tolerated and thronged? No wonder that a Protestant Bishop should say—"That there is unprecedented indifference to the religion of Christ." And the *Times* "assures us that infanticide is frequent, and increasing to such an extent that the interference of the Legislature is imperatively called on to arrest the frightful progress of this crime." Is it not a mockery of God and man to find the spiritual guides of such a people go to Ireland to preach the Gospel when they have made England such a "moral wilderness of awful dimensions?" According to Dr. Begg, "It was melancholy to think that in Scotland, three centuries after the Reformation, one half of the people should be sunk in ignorance, and yet this was an undoubted fact." And the *Glasgow Examiner* says—"Three-fourths of the population of Scotland are, to all intents and purposes, uneducated; and one-fourth of these three-fourths are about as ignorant as the North American Indians, and much more wicked." And the *Examiner* adds—"It is a well-known fact that the people of Scotland have long been a head of the bulk of the national clergy, both as regards secular and religious information." Is it possible that, although three-fourths of the people of Scotland are as ignorant as the North American Indians, yet they are a-head of the bulk of the national clergy as regards secular and religious information? Very flattering, indeed! And yet Scotland contributed her quota to the invasion of Ireland, and her people and clergy in such a condition! Hear Dr. Buchanan on the spiritual destitution of the people of Glasgow:—"In 1835 the Church Building Society ascertained, by careful domiciliary visits, that there were at that time 18,000 families—numbering altogether at least 80,000 souls—who did not possess one solitary church sitting. In 1836 the Government Religious Instruction Commission came to Glasgow, and, after inquiry, they reported to Parliament that in Glasgow there were at least 66,000 persons of an age to attend church, who were, not in the habit of attending public worship. Now, since that period there had been added to the population at least 150,000 souls. In order to supply the additional population with church sittings, at the rate of 60 per cent., would require ninety churches of a thousand sittings each, and ninety additional ministers. Now, it was perfectly well known that during that period not half the number had been actually provided; and even of that half it was well known that a very large proportion had been produced by the memorable disruption of 1843, and therefore enhanced rather the subdivision of existing congregations than the formation of new ones. If spiritual destitution was proved to exist in 1836, that destitution must be immensely greater now. In one section of the Tron Parish there was only 546 church sittings among a population of 12,000, or less than five to one hundred persons. In another large section there were only three sittings to the hundred persons. In 694 houses no Bible or Testament was to be found. In upwards of 2,000 families 158 persons avowed themselves to be infidels."—*Correspondent of Glasgow Free Press*.