

according to the principles of constitutional law, not in any degree one of principle, of authority, of jurisdiction. Mr. Gladstone, then, as much and as truly as Mr. Horsman, or Mr. Roebuck, or Mr. Hume, recognises the "majority of the House of Commons for the time being" as the supreme authority in all matters purely spiritual over the Established religion.

We suspect that there may be some difficulties in the exercise of the Parliamentary Papacy in this instance; but assured whatever there may be, they will have nothing to do with the authority of the jurisdiction. Neither Mr. Bennett nor the Protestant Bishop of Bath and Wells, nor the Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury have, or could be supposed to have, any authority at all, except that which they have derived from the civil government, and the civil government has an undoubted, indisputable right to correct and control its own creatures. In the mean time, and the parliamentary Bishop and Pope need an *oculus episcopi* as much as any other spiritual authority, Mr. Walpole and Mr. Disraeli have been charged to hold a commission upon this affair, as Archdeacon and Vicar-general in spirituals to the House of Commons, and report to the "many masters" of the Protestant Church the result of their inquiry. We suppose we shall all know it in good time;—we say all, for of course the constitutions (whether Catholic or Protestant, Dissenting or Establishmentarian), to whom the Members of the House are themselves responsible, are the ultimate spiritual authority in the body which is immediately subject to those Members; and here for the present the matter rests.

TRIUMPHS OF PROTESTANTISM.

A correspondent of "The Statesman" writing from Oregon, gives the following account of the progress of Protestantism in that country, and the lives of the Missionaries:—

"A year ago last winter, a law was passed by the Legislative Assembly of this Territory, prohibiting blacks from settling in this country, and the law has generally been put in force. This winter they attempted to have it repealed, or amended, but without success. The Indian population in Oregon is very large, nearly if not quite equal to the white; also many Kanakas, (Sandwich Islanders.) The Indians are a very indolent class, and live mostly in the towns. They chop stove wood, perform scullion duties about hotels, run messages, &c. They are treated very kindly generally by the whites, and one could hardly treat them unkindly, as they are so harmless. They are a far better population than the free blacks. Not one out of a hundred, however, can speak a sentence of English, but converse in jargon entirely, even amongst themselves. The H. B. Co., when they first commenced west of the Rocky Mountains, adopted a jargon which the people in this country nearly all speak; it is composed of about two hundred words, and is very easy to acquire. The "freemen" of the H. B. Company, who have settled in this country, have Indian wives, as also a large number of American settlers. Dr. McLaughlin, the proprietor of Oregon City, and who is worth an immense fortune, has a squaw for a wife, by whom he has several children.

"The Missionaries who early came here from the Atlantic States, have made themselves rich, but have never done anything for the advantage of the 'poor' Indian, and now the only idea they have of christianity is associated with swindling and cheating, and always associating Jesus Christ with a good horse trade."

The Missionary Societies are wonderfully expert in gulling the Christian Evangelical public! This was known to Kossuth when he coaxed the preachers to carry round the hat! The work of converting the heathen always begins with a glorification speech about a "free Bible," a snarling language against the Catholics, then a big collection contributed by the green members, then an affecting narrative of the sacrifice made by Mr. and Mrs. Luther in going on a foreign mission, the comedy to conclude with letters from abroad, or no difference between Protestantism and horse-trading in Oregon.—*Catholic Telegraph*.

SCOTCH MARRIAGES.

At the Westminster Court, on Wednesday, Macdonald Wiley was charged with neglecting to maintain his wife and two children, whereby they had become chargeable to the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster. Mr. James Rogers, solicitor and vestry clerk, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. H. B. Roberts the defence. Defendant having disputed the validity of the marriage, Mary Wiley, the alleged wife stated that seventeen years ago she accompanied the defendant to Springfield, near Gretna Green, where the form of marriage was gone through between them. A gentleman married them, but she did not know what he was. He read the marriage service out of the English Prayer-book, after which he wrote something in a book, and gave her "her marriage lines." He then told them they were married, and they declared themselves man and wife. They told the gentleman they were single, and had come to be married, and they were asked in the ordinary manner whether they would take one another, and they answered "Yes." Mr. Arnold read the certificate, which pronounced that the persons whose names were therein contained "had been married according to the way of the Church of England, and agreeable to the laws of the Kirk of Scotland," and observed that the "gentleman" who had performed the service appeared to have been very illiterate. Complainant said that after the ceremony had been performed they each returned to their respective homes, and did not see one another for a week. Mr. Roberts—"Is that part of the law of Scotch marriages?" (laughter.) Witness—"I don't know. He came to my mother's at the end of that time, and we lived together seventeen years." Cross-examined—"It was a runaway match, and we walked fifteen miles to get married. We started at twelve at night; we were married by the regular parson who married every body that went there; at least I was told so; the half-crown given him for performing the ceremony was not spent in whisky; we did not all get drunk, the gentleman and all; the gentleman did not sing a song; I don't know whether it was a public house; the witnesses belonged to the place; I never saw them before; we remained in the place where we were married two hours. Mr. James Law, writer to the Signet, said he was acquainted with Scotch law. That which had been stated by the wife to have taken place constituted a legal marriage according to the Scotch law, if proved by such evidence as was necessary to satisfy the court before which proceedings, with respect to its validity, arose." Mr. Roberts—"Then this irregular marriage is as good as a regular one?" Witness—"Many a man is married, and does not know he is married."

(laughter.) Mr. Arnold—"Pleasant country that" (laughter.) Mr. Roberts—"Can a sweep marry two English persons in the same agreeable manner, or an applemoman perform the ceremony?" Witness—"If two persons declared themselves man and wife, a sweep or an applemoman might do. All that is necessary is, that they shall declare before witnesses, and if credible witnesses, an applemoman or a sweep would do perfectly well, if an intelligent, clear-headed fellow" (laughter.) Mr. Arnold—"Not acting as clergyman, but being present at the agreement." Mr. Roberts—"If all the parties were drunk, would it be a good marriage?" Witness—"Yes. If they said the words, and evidence could be given of it." Mr. Roberts—"If so drunk that they could not speak, or hardly speak?" Witness—"If so sober as to be able to say 'Yes' or 'No.'" Mr. Roberts submitted that the case could not be maintained on the present evidence, and contended that, with such uncertainty as it was surrounded with, it would be unsafe to act upon it, and put it to the worthy magistrate, amongst other points, whether defendant had not a right, under the new law of evidence, to be examined. Mr. Arnold thought there was some force in the latter point, and adjourned the case for a few days to consider it.—*Daily News*.

THE UNKNOWN SHIPS.—Slowly drifting down from the frozen seas of the North, to lose themselves in the waters towards the Equator, annually come vast herds of icy rocks; crags that would be immortal in their native deserts, where land and water forget their separate nature in the common rigor of the iron frost; but, wandering down to more living waters, those rock pinnacles melt and die. Amongst the herd last year was a field or floe of ice, and on that floe were two ships, idle and deserted, performing a strange, helpless voyage. One smaller vessel, going to Quebec, sails near them, and they pass on their way, not unseen, as well they might have done; but they were neglected. Many in the Quebec-bound vessel wished to explore those deserted wandering homes, but the master was sick and listless and would not be disturbed. Were they Franklin's ships, the Erebus and Terror? the question occurred to one person on board, but it was unsolved; and now, a year after the event, Admiralty and public are engaged in seeking evidence. At first the story was point-blank disbelieved; then it was credited as a tale of a delusive apparition, a mirage; then it was thought possible that ships there might have been, but not Franklin's—only wrecked whalers. Now, however, the details of a minute examination strengthen the probability that the ships were Franklin's. No one can know; no one can as yet deny it. It is mournful to reflect, that if they were the historic ships Erebus and Terror, the last known of them should be that passing sight on their voyage of mystery. How much one would give to know all that might have been learned, positively or even negatively, from those ships! There were men on board the brig who felt the impulse, although they did not know that a reward had been offered for the discovery. The mate, in laudable curiosity, wished "to rummage the cabins." Had he done so we should have known what the vessels were. But he did not obtain permission from the sick and listless master. Perhaps, if the reward had been known, the listlessness of disease might have been roused to animation at the report of two ships so strangely stranded. But the golden incentive was wanting, and the ships were abandoned to drift down to the sunny seas where the floating ice-dock would melt, and its burden be yielded to the waters for the quiet consumption of fate.—*Spectator*.

DEATH BY STARVATION OF A MISSIONARY EXPEDITION.—Despatches furnished by the Admiralty give a most melancholy account of the death by starvation of all the members of a party sent out by the Patagonian Missionary Society in September, 1850, to Picton Island, the southern extremity of South America.—Captain Moorhead, of her Majesty's ship Dido, had received orders to ascertain the fate of the unfortunate party. In the execution of his commission he had scoured the entire coast, and at length succeeded in finding the dead bodies of all the members of the missionaries. In a cavern in which the wretched sufferers had taken refuge was found a quantity of papers, containing an account of all the privations they had endured, and apparently continued up to the moment when, their provisions being exhausted, all hope of human aid was at an end, and attacked on all sides by the furious savages of that wild region, but still maintaining their trust in Providence, one by one they died. Painful as is the announcement, there can be no doubt, from the diligent search made by Captain Moorhead, that all the members of the expedition perished. The sad tale may, however, have one good effect in deterring others, unless supplied amply with provisions, arms, and all necessary resources, from venturing into regions where none but the wild inhabitants could by possibility unaided exist.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LORD PALMERSTON AND LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—We can state, in positive terms, that there never has been any real reconciliation between Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, since the expulsion of the former from the Foreign Office. It is true that the noble ex-Secretary for Foreign Affairs did, at the earnest intercession of mutual friends, agree to meet the ex-Premier, and that they shook hands, and spoke together for a few seconds. It is also true that Lord John Russell afterwards went to one of Lady Palmerston's receptions, but he did not remain more than a quarter of an hour. Since then there has been no intercourse between the two noble lords, and the estrangement between them is as great as ever. Lord Palmerston's friends would be sorry were it otherwise; for they feel that the treatment which he received at the hands of the ex-Premier was of such a nature as to preclude all claims on the part of the latter to the future friendship of the ex-Foreign Secretary.—*Morning Advertiser*.

LORD J. RUSSELL AND THE LIBERAL PARTY.—It would not be easy to describe the indignation which the Liberals feel at the way in which the ex-Premier has for some time past demeaned himself, and especially with regard to the Militia Bill now before the House of Commons. There is hardly a man among them who does not openly charge the noble lord with irreparably damaging, if not betraying, the cause of popular progress. His conduct on the Militia Bill was, they say, just such a course of procedure as might have been expected from the author of the notable Durham epistle, and from the minister who dismissed Lord Palmerston. We have referred in another article to the propriety of the Liberals choosing another leader, and we may here state that the urgent necessity of

this was yesterday the almost universal topic of conversation at the clubs, and in the West-end political circles.—*Id.*

It will be seven years on the 25th of May since Sir John Franklin sailed for the Arctic regions.

EMIGRANT VESSELS.—A return to the House of Commons shows the number of passenger ships which have sailed from ports in the United Kingdom with emigrants on board during the last five years, the number of ships wrecked, and the number of lives lost. From 1847 to 1851 inclusive, the number of emigrant vessels from ports in the United Kingdom was 7,129, of which 252 were chartered by the Emigration Commissioners, of which there was only one wreck. The per centage of loss was 396, or 1 in 252. Of ships despatched from ports under the superintendence of government emigration offices there were 5,964, out of which there were 30 wrecks, and the per centage of loss was 503, or 1 in 199. There were 913 despatched from other ports, of which there were 13 wrecks, and the loss was 1-42 per centage, or 1 in 70. In the 7,129 ships which sailed in the five years, there were 1,494,044 passengers. The number of lives lost by shipwreck was 1,043. The per centage of loss was 669, or 1,432. No lives were lost by the ships chartered by the Emigration Commissioners.

A meeting of the Durham and Northumberland Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches, held at North Shields a few days ago, passed a resolution unanimously, "That notwithstanding the opinions of a portion of their body that it was the duty of the state to endow and maintain the truth as it is contained in the Holy Scriptures, yet that the grant to Maynooth shall be discontinued, they cordially unite in a petition for the withdrawal of all grants for the endowment of religion." This is another instance of the wide-spread combination which exists in the provincial towns of England to strike a blow at the Catholic Church through the institution at Maynooth.—The Low Church party and the Dissenters here, lay and Clerical, are in perfect delight with the position, as they term it, of public feeling in reference to Maynooth—they point to the language of the Solicitor-General and Lord Derby as harbingers of a coming triumph. These parties here will regard even a commission of inquiry as the first serious successful attack they have been able to stem what they term Papal aggression. It is calculated there will be 420 English and Scotch members prepared to vote for inquiry with a view to the withdrawal of the grant. So long as persons in the position of the Solicitor-General and Lord Derby are permitted unchecked to pauper by their public declarations to the extraordinary extent of prejudice that exists in England, so long will every liberty dear to Catholics be placed in imminent peril. These persons high in office would do well to contemplate the ultimate consequences of this crusade of public feeling they encourage and patronise against their unoffending fellow-countrymen.—*Correspondent of the Tablet*.

RECORDS OF CRIME.—Murder! Why, scarcely a week elapses without the account of some atrocious crime of this class in this Protestant island. They have become so common that one almost expects them, and wonders if a week passes without one case at least. They have become so frequent, and many of them have been accompanied with circumstances of such frightful atrocity, that they now cause little more sensation amongst us than the ordinary news of the day. But every single murder that is perpetrated in Ireland creates a sensation we cannot afford to home. One would think it was a crime of deeper die for an Irishman to murder than for an Englishman or a Scotchman. It lasts the newspapers for a topic for weeks—week after week it is reproduced in every different form and shape of which it is susceptible. The rotten state of Irish society is dilated on, and in nine cases out of ten every effort is made to connect it, in some way or other, with the religion of Ireland. The inference from one significant fact which was prominently urged in the debate is entirely overlooked. The few cases of murder that actually do occur in Ireland are traceable to one secret iniquitous society; but for it we should but seldom hear of murders in the sister isle. It is no secret association, however, in England and Scotland to whose emissaries all, or any, of these terrible crimes are ascribable; but here and there, everywhere up and down society, they occur. The well-to-do farmer, the demure Quaker, the lady's waiting-woman, the Calvinistic schoolmaster, the game-keeper's daughter, the laborer, the artizan, have all achieved in turns their horrible notoriety. These and scores of others are but the extreme deposit of society decomposed by Protestantism. And what have been the actual motives of these agents in their horrid deeds of blood? Revenge, avarice, and rage. Whilst these vices have been more exasperated by others so black and unnatural, that the crime in which they ended scarcely adds to the hell that was already raging within their breasts. Now, without, of course, intending a shadow of apology for those cowardly assassins of the Riband clubs, who are a scandal to their country, we do maintain that their crimes are without those accompanying circumstances of unnatural depravity which have signalised so many of the murders in England. We do not hear of fathers dashing out the brains of children they beget, or throwing them alive to swine to eat—of mothers strangling, or poisoning, or drowning, the infants they had suckled at their breasts—of wives despatching their own husbands by the protracted agony of deadly poison administered in small quantities from day to day—of daughters placing these deadly particles in the food which their own hands were in the habit of preparing for their unsuspecting parents, and then going to the gallows denying their guilt, with a certain assurance of acceptance with their Saviour. The men who commit these foul deeds of bloodshed in Ireland do so smarting under a sense of injustice. They have learned that but for wholesale robbery, and murder as wholesale, the land on which they are scarcely allowed to live would not have been in the hands of its present owners; and a far more-to-be-dreaded enemy than their oppressors has, alas! succeeded in obliteration from their memories, 'Thou shalt not kill.'—*Glasgow Free Press*.

UNITED STATES.

The Massachusetts Liquor bill, which has just passed the Legislative of that State, provides that the act shall take effect on Saturday, the 19th of June, and that on Monday, the 21st of June, the people shall be called together and vote on the question whether the laws shall be suspended in its operations for one year, or continued in effect. If the vote is to suspend operations, the Governor is to issue his proclamation suspending the operation of the law.

DECIDEDLY COOL.—The Senate of Massachusetts passed an order to-day, providing for the purchase of tickets to the Kossuth banquet for each member of the Legislature, at the public expense! The order was sent to the House for concurrence, but that body very very properly refused its sanction to this scheme to obtain unusual perquisites.—*Boston Jour.*, Monday.

Kossuth is still going about Massachusetts, getting a little money, a few compliments, many rebuffs, and a conviction that the free-soilers do mean Massachusetts, after all. They are mean individuals, these free-soilers. Notwithstanding their "enthusiasm," their loud talk and their magnificent promises, they have not averaged to Kossuth twenty-five cents each. "Why, it's mean, that's wot it is. It's mean!"—*Boston Pilot*.

HUNGARIANS vs. KOSSUTH.—The *N. Y. Courier and Enquirer* contains a letter from a distinguished Hungarian, reflecting severely upon the conduct of Kossuth since his arrival in America. The writer was selected organ of his countrymen in first welcoming Kossuth to our shores. The *Courier* says, that a meeting of Hungarians is to be held in protest of the conduct of Kossuth, and is to be presided over by General Perzel.

WOULD-BE "GENTLEMEN."—There are in this town as in every other, a certain order of beardless bipeds, 'yclept "young gentlemen," who, if they are not walking nuisances, take every possible means to make themselves so. They have their cabbage-leaf cigars, the smoke of which they must puff in every lady's face in the public streets, and their sticks, which it is essentially necessary they should whirl about to the imminent danger of every pedestrian, male and female, who is unfortunate enough to be obliged to cross their path. With these articles, used in this way, they are—save the mark! gentlemen—to be treated and respected as such by the vulgar mob who conduct themselves in a much more becoming manner. A few days ago, one of the class described was passing through a leading and fashionable thoroughfare in town, when a circumstance occurred which afforded not a little merriment to those who were privileged to witness it. The "gent" was making some most extraordinary gyrations in view of three or four handsome young ladies, when, *horribile dictu*, the perfumed lucifers in his pocket took fire, the contents of a whole case of "genuine Havannas," which he had stowed away in the same receptacle, were consumed, and the entire side of the fashionably-cut coat, in which both had been placed, was completely destroyed. The state of the "young gentleman," who was quietly asked by the "swinish multitude" whether they would send for the fire brigade, can be better imagined than described. It did not transpire whether an insurance had been effected on the damaged property; however, it is hoped that the lesson taught on the occasion will itself prove an ample compensation for the loss sustained.—*Boston Pilot*.

A C A R D.

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