

means popular with the profession. "Demurring," however, would be but of slight avail, as the Attorney-General has the right of removing non-compliants from office, even though appointed by his predecessors.

Mr. BEANISH, M.P.—We are authorised to state that there is not the slightest foundation for the editorial question in the *Constitution* of the 16th, in reference to a new election for the city of Cork. Mr. Beanish having no intention of retiring from our representation. *Cork Examiner*.

A correspondent of the *Dublin Evening Post* states that six, now nearly the entire of the "Irish Independent Opposition" party, are about to give up their seat in parliament; and that one of the most prominent members of the party proposes shortly to emigrate to Australia.

Colonel the Marquis of Londonderry, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Royal North Down Rifles, have subscribed £100 to the Patriotic Fund.

DEPARTURE OF RECRUITS.—On Tuesday evening, some 30 recruits proceeded in the Liverpool steamer en route to Chatham, where they are to be drilled. They were very fine-looking men, and decently clad, the tallest of whom could not have been less than 5 feet 6 inches. Such is the large number that have been recruited in Belfast since the war begun, that if they could be placed they would make a tolerably large brigade. *Ulsterman*.

THE STRIKE OF THE NAVVIES AT BELFAST.—It is pleasing to record the peaceful termination of the strike of the navvies employed at the embankment on the Old Channel by Mr. Connor. On Monday morning about 150 men, principally those who refused to work at 1s. 6d. per tide on the late occasion, set to work at the same amount, perfectly satisfied with the arrangement. As the workmen made two "tides" on Monday, of course their day's pay amounted to 3s., which gave general satisfaction. *Belfast Mercury*.

THE DUNCRUE SALT MINES, NEAR BELFAST.—These works are still progressing with great energy. At the present time the company are building, contiguous to the mines, a row of substantial stone houses for the accommodation of the assistant manager and some of the men; and the whole appearance of the place indicates a combined regard for utility and comfort.

Two very unusual cases are to be tried by civil bill at the next quarter sessions at Bunclana. In one of these the Rev. N. C. Martin is plaintiff, and four of his parishioners are defendants, and the action is brought to recover a penalty of £10 for burying the dead body of a child within twelve feet of the wall of the church. The other is an action brought by one of the defendants in the first action against Mr. Martin, for reading the funeral service at the grave of a person some time since, the grave being within twelve feet also of the church wall, and for doing which he is liable to a similar penalty of £10. The actions are brought under an act of parliament, passed early in the reign of Geo. III.

THE HARVEST.—The subjoined report of the prospects of the harvest in the northern province is condensed from the *Banner of Ulster*, a paper which devotes great attention to agricultural affairs in the district in which it circulates:—"Amid the signs of returning prosperity in the world of cash and commerce, prospects of the earth's revenue at the forthcoming harvest become exceedingly favourable. Those who were so loud in their lamentations about the 'backwardness of the season' now see that, so far as the potatoes are concerned, the lateness of finish has been of vast importance. Last year the early plants were smitten so summarily by the frosts which we had in the first and second weeks of May that the progress of vegetation was arrested fully four weeks, and not that alone, but the effect of the second growth forced on the potato seed was very much against the future yield of that portion of the crop. This season few instances can be reported of frost having affected the young plants. On the contrary, the potato lands have hardly ever shown such healthiness; the plants are well coloured and very broad in the leaf; while the 'curl,' that most destructive malady, is rarely seen. Of the cereal crops we can speak no less favourably. Wheat, which occupies a very extensive space in the north of Ireland, is very much improved in appearance. Spring-sown lands are well forward. Oats look admirably. For several years past the quality of the oats grown in the several districts ranging 20 miles around Belfast has been held in high estimation in the markets across the Channel; and the appearance of the young crop of this season goes far to prove that the description of our oats will fully keep up that progressive advance. Barley, which for several years past has not been so fully cultivated as formerly, is likely to prove a most extensive crop. Prices this season have been very high, the rates since January averaging 9s. per cwt. The demand too, for grinding barley into flour has made a new opening for its consumption, so that, irrespective of all the requirements for malting, this grain will in future be much sought after by millers. Grass lands, which, more than any other description of soil, had suffered severely by the backward weather, are coming round again, and for some days past exhibit a richness of verdure hardly anticipated. The soils which had been laid down in poor condition are still bare and brown, but new pastures are now green and well covered. Lean stock, which had fallen in value because of the bareness of stock farms, have got up a point or two, and if the present very favourable weather continues rates will soon be equal to the highest of the season. For fat stock farmers are in receipt of prices unequalled since the days of Napoleon I."

THE EXODUS—THE PROTESTANT ESTABLISHMENT.—We learn from the provincial journals that the tide of Irish emigration, which the brutality of republican Protestantism, or the tempestuous inclemency of winter had stayed for a season, has recently broken out in a stream almost as wide and strong as when the horrors of famine added depth and celerity to the fatal current. This renewal of emigration may be readily accounted for:—the confiscation of improvements—the frustration of the tenant's hopes—the exposure of industry to the merciless rapacity of landlordism—the swelling of rent with the augmentation of prices; all these combine to appal and dishearten the peasant, and those who encountered famine with fortitude are scared from the country by the more formidable aspect of legislative injustice. The alarming renewal of a disastrous emigration is the more to be depre-

ated at the present moment when the vital interests of Britain need the strenuous services of every subject. Every enemy of Britain must rejoice every friend of England mourn—the infatuation of the Government which hesitates to spread the wings of law over the industry of the farmer, and criminally countenances the suicidal impolicy of decimating a nation of soldiers, and making emigration perpetual by the absence of security. The necessity of the Foreign Legion is to be found in the unbridled cruelties of Irish landlords, and until these ravages are arrested by law the emigration can never be arrested by expostulation. Unhappily for Britain it is from the very provinces that furnished the most valiant soldiers, the Catholic provinces, that the tide of emigration flows with the widest sweep; because these industry is most unprotected, and the landlord, who is generally a Protestant, unfettered by custom and unrestrained by conscience, is wholly unchecked by law. It is melancholy to reflect that while the bone and sinew of our industry is swept away by the torrent of emigration, the idle Parsons, whose rapacity wastes the wealth while their bigotry exasperates the feelings of the nation, remain sluggishly behind. The calamities which prostrated the landlords and swept away peasantry, have left the Parsons, and like the noxious vegetation of the churchyard, they flourish in dismal luxuriance amid the graves of a buried population. It would be an act of mercy to the young men, of prudence in a crafty establishment, to arrest the manufacturing machinery in Trinity College. Sooner or later a nation of Catholics will scruple that flagrant sin of Ireland—the pecuniary sustentation of Protestant heresy. The Parsons in Ireland have parishes without parishioners, and in many parts the shepherds are nearly as numerous as their flock, and yet the great Parson factory in College-green continues grinding away without the least stoppage of the wheels as fearlessly and fruitfully as ever. This enables us to understand why the Government so profusely lavishes the mammon of iniquity on the Parsons of its army. The Protestant service of the army in 1853 cost the sum of fifteen thousand pounds sterling. A single Protestant Chaplain receives a salary of five hundred pounds a year together with eighty pounds per annum for a clerk. Sprinkled over the various garrisons at home and abroad, a tempting variety of snug berths may be found with nominal duties and substantial salaries, ranging from four hundred to two hundred pounds per annum. Nor is this all. There are comfortable pensions to the Chaplains' widows and Chaplains on half-pay, *et hoc genus omne*. "The non-effective service" of the Protestant army costs the country three thousand pounds a year. A further sum of ten thousand pounds, quite distinct from the original fifteen thousand pounds, was likewise expended in the same year for the Protestant service of the British army. Let it not be supposed that this endowment of twenty-five thousand pounds, while the starveling pittance of £2,702 is stingily doled out to the Catholics of the army, awakens our dissatisfaction. On the contrary, we rejoice at it, because it suggests the hope that we may ere long behold the most auspicious exodus that Ireland has contemplated since the days of St. Patrick and the serpents, *i.e.*,—an exodus of Irish Parsons, all "leaving their country for their country's good." Assuredly, Irish Parsons are not wanted in Ireland. To hasten this desirable consummation, the appalling fact should be pointed out to the Protestant clergy that though Ireland has been for ages accustomed to calamity, her recent disasters were unknown in all her previous experience. We might exhibit the extent of her suffering by merely stating the number of her population. Before the famine, eight or nine millions swarmed over the island, who have since dwindled down to five or six. If the millions who have melted away have not all died of misery, pestilence, or hunger, they owe their lives to emigration—they are indebted to exile for existence. In this melancholy state of things—with these dreadful facts staring them in the face—facts by which the cruellest tyrants might be melted to compassion—should we not call upon the Protestant clergy to spare the scanty survivors of plague, famine, and exile. After the deluge of disasters which has swept over the land, and while all society seems tremulous with uncertainty, and a wide process of transformation is busily varying and changing the face of society, why should the Parsons alone be safe and secure? Is their reign of wrong to last for ever?—*Tablet*.

EMBARKATION OF EMIGRANTS FOR AUSTRALIA.—Owing to a variety of causes, the North wall, on 13th ultimo, was a scene of extreme interest and excitement, whether as regarded the broken and wounded Irish soldier returning towards his humble home, perhaps to die, or the departing peasant about to quit for ever the land of his birth to seek in a far distant clime the reward of his labor denied him at home. The whole line of quay extending from the custom-house to almost the extreme end of the wharves was lined with crowded groups of emigrants to Australia and their sorrowing friends. The system of government emigration seems now to be made available by the peasantry generally. No less than four hundred and twenty emigrants, principally young females, embarked yesterday on board the *City of Limerick*, London steamer, en route to take shipping for Australia. On no previous occasion have we witnessed the departure of a body of our countrymen and countrywomen with keener regret at the necessity which has driven them to the bitter alternative of exile. All seemed to belong to the better class of small farmers—all were comfortably clad, and perhaps no country could produce so large an assemblage of health, well looking, and intelligent peasants of both sexes. *Freeman*.

THE IRISH POOR LAW.—The eight annual report of the commissioners for administering the law for the relief of the poor in Ireland has just been presented to the Lord-Lieutenant. It embodies some statements which are of no ordinary interest as evidencing the rapid improvement in the condition of the people during the last six years, commencing in 1849, which may be considered as the starting point in the progress of the "social revolution." One of the first and not the least gratifying results of the great change in the social system is the gradual adoption of the maxim of a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. And here it will be necessary to quote as examples a few extracts from the reports of the inspectors:—"In reply to inquiries made by us recently on the rate of wages in all parts of Ireland, the inspector, Mr. O'way, in reference to agricultural unions in Leinster, writes as follows:—"In fixing the average weekly wages of agricultural laborers at 6s per week, I do not take into account the extraordinary and tem-

porary increase in the wages for agricultural laborers which takes place now at seed and especially harvest time, varying during the pressure from 1s. 6d. to 2s. and 2s. 6d. a day. The opinion I wish to convey by this return is that well-conducted and able-bodied agricultural laborers can now not only obtain, but command continuous work during the year for 1s for each day's work. This increase in the rate of agricultural laborers' wages, compared with the amount shown in my return for 1853 before alluded to, has been caused by a decrease in the number of agricultural laborers now willing to work for hire, without any corresponding decrease, but an increase, in the demand for their labor. The decrease in the number of agricultural laborers for hire has been caused partly by an emigration of some of that class, and partly by the fact that small farmers and their immediate dependents, who used to work occasionally for hire, now find it more profitable, nay, absolutely necessary, to devote all their labor to their own farms, and have in many instances come into market as hirers, instead of sellers of labor. The increase in the demand for agricultural laborers has been caused by the high prices for all agricultural produce, which has created not only a larger fund for the payment of wages, but has induced an increase of the extent of land under tillage, and greater care in the cultivation of the crops."

"Mr. Bourke, whose district lies almost wholly in Connaught, writes as follows:—"The wages of agricultural laborers have improved since my last report, in April, 1854. The minimum rate, which was then 6d. per day, has now risen to 9d., and the average may be taken at 10d., though in some localities 1s. per day is given. In spring and harvest time these rates augment to 14d. or 18d. a day, and in the neighborhood of towns rise to 2s. An improvement has also taken place in the wages paid to farm servants, who are usually from 16 to 20 years of age; boys thus employed receive from £4 to £6 a year upon an average, and sometimes as much as £8, with food and lodging; women from £2 to £4. The demand for mechanics varies considerably in this district; in the counties of Sligo and Roscommon it is tolerably active, and the wages noted in the enclosed return are paid; but in Mayo there appears to be very little employment for tradesmen, who are represented to me as suffering considerably from the slackness of trade.—The improved circumstances of the laboring poor are apparent from their clothing, and those of the small farmers from the increase in their stock and pigs. The egg trade, moreover, which is considerable in this district, is very actively carried on, and affords additional evidence of the improved condition of the peasantry. During the last twelve months the general health of the poor has been good, and this district has escaped any serious visitation of epidemic or contagious disease. The potato has continued sound to the last, and is abundant for seed."

"Mr. O'Brien, whose unions are chiefly in Connaught, but partly in Munster, observes, "All the accounts that have reached me concur in representing the demand this year existing for labor of almost every kind as unprecedentedly great, and the remuneration paid for it has everywhere advanced in a corresponding degree. It is not, of course, to be understood that the rates of wages exhibited in the accompanying return represent anything more than the amounts paid during the present season, which has proved one of peculiar pressure, owing to the unavoidable lateness of the spring operations generally, together with the great increase in the extent of cultivation, which has been induced by the irresistible attraction 'war prices' never fail to present to the farming classes. But, while the present prosperous state of the labor-market, as illustrated in this return, must be regarded mainly as being confined to the exigencies of the season, and does not extend to the condition of those classes who may be regarded as being in the enjoyment of permanent employment throughout the year, I am glad to add that, even among the latter, a decided and satisfactory advance of wages has also taken place this year; and, though many persons appear to apprehend that the present prosperity, among agricultural laborers especially, must sooner or later, on the cessation of the temporary influences which have this year contributed to swell the demand for them, be followed by a period of severe disaster and reaction, I cannot say that I participate in this feeling of alarm."

From Ulster, as might be expected, the reports are even more satisfactory, and, thus fortified, the commissioners justly remark,—

"It is thus attested that universally throughout Ireland a more continuous state of employment of agricultural labor prevails, and that wages of 1s. per day are given where formerly the rate was 4d., 6d., or 8d.; while in most parts of the country a man's wages reach 1s. 6d., 2s., or 2s. 6d. per day, at certain seasons of the year. We believe that to these facts another important element of an improved condition may be added. We allude to the greatly increased demand for the labor of women, and young persons of both sexes, which materially assists in rendering the income of an average family more proportioned to their physical wants than it was formerly, notwithstanding the present very high price of the necessaries of life."

It appears that in the period of six years, from 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, considerably more than 200,000 young persons of both sexes have left the workhouses of Ireland, and have not since returned to those asylums. "Many," says the report,—

"Have joined their friends in the United States, in Great Britain, in the Canadas, or in other British colonies; but the greater part, in all probability, has been absorbed by the local demand for labor in the districts adjoining the several work-houses. In rendering back to society so many young persons whose lives have been preserved from the dangers of the famine period, it is hoped that the temporary residence in the workhouse when young has tended not to pauperize them, but to teach them to rely on their own exertions for their future support; and it may be added that this hope is better founded, perhaps, on the industrial training than on the literary education which these young persons have received while resident in the workhouse, although few have left it after a considerable period of residence without moral and mental, as well as physical, improvement of the condition in which they entered it."

The commissioners further report that visible signs of an improved condition of life are to be found in the appearance of the peasantry in all parts of the country, more especially in their clothing. There is some slight improvement, too, in the dwellings of the poor, but not sufficient to warrant a conclusion that the "social revolution" in this respect has progressed to any considerable extent.

GREAT BRITAIN.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO THE CRIMEAN INVALIDS.—The Queen went on Tuesday afternoon to Chatham to inspect the invalids at the military barracks. Her Majesty was received by Colonel Eden, commanding the garrison, and was conducted over the hospital at Fort Pitt, and afterwards minutely inspected a large party of invalids recently returned from the Crimea and the colonies. Her Majesty then inspected the invalids at Brompton Barracks and the Casemates, and went over the Marine Hospital. Nearly one thousand sick and wounded men were seen by the Queen, who questioned many of those who had suffered most severely as to the actions in which they had been wounded, and the nature of their injuries.

A first report of the Patriotic Fund Commission states that the Commissioners have now lodged a sum exceeding a million sterling in the Bank of England. All classes, all parts of the country, the colonies, British subjects resident abroad, natives of India, North American Indians, and natives of many foreign countries, have contributed liberally. The number of applicants is considerable; each week adds from seventy to eighty widows as recipients of relief. The total number now is 1,487 widows, 1,802 children, and thirty-three children who have lost both parents. Steps have been taken for the effectual education of the children.

It is said the Government are again in serious danger of a defeat. They escaped on Disraeli's motion by Pitt, Lindsay, Lawing party voting with them, and the Manchester party refraining from voting. But now, it is confidently predicted that all these reformers and the entire Opposition will be coerced to unite in opposing them on a motion about to be framed by Mr. Roebuck, in relation to the Sebastopol Report. A change of ministry is confidently promised as the sequel of this move.—*Nation*.

The Emperor Napoleon the Third—who, although he is no hero of ops, has not yet quite fulfilled his destiny, we hope—has generally a purpose, even in trifles. So we regard his letter to Cardinal Wiseman as a rather significant compliment. About the time that Louis Napoleon was being abused as a burglar and murderer in the English Press and Parliament, his Eminence was the other grand bugbear of John Bull. What Catholic in the land does not remember the foul-mouthed Chief Justice's talk of trampling the Cardinal's hat in the mire? Even still the scarlet symbol of Rome terrifies the free Briton. But it seems his ally, and master has undertaken to reconcile him to it. In direct contravention of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, Louis Napoleon addresses the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster by virtue of his dignity—nay, even addresses him in exactly the same style he would use in writing to Prince Albert, or Prince George, or any thorough bred British Prince you please. Here is the letter.

"MON COUSIN—Vous avez eu devoir ordonner, a l'occasion de l'événement du 28 Avril, un 'Te Deum' en action de grâces. Votre Eminence a voulu y officier elle-meme, et de plus elle a prononcé des paroles qui ont eu un noble retentissement. Ce sont a autant de témoignages de sympathie particulière dont j'ai été profondément touché. Je prie votre Eminence d'agréer l'expression de toute ma gratitude et pour les sentiments, et pour les prières, que lui a inspirés la circonstance. Sur ce, mon Cousin que Dieu vous ait en sa sainte digne garde. Ecrit au Palais des Tuileries, le 11 Mai, 1855."

"NAPOLEON. A mon Cousin, le Cardinal Wiseman, a Londres."

We should suppose Mr. Spooner is entitled to explanations of this matter. We hope Lord John Russell will not delay to express his opinions of so base a compliance with "the mummeries of superstition." We submit it is a reason for dissolving the French alliance, at least. The next thing we may expect to hear of, we suppose, is that his Imperial Majesty means to prevent inspection of Convents, on the ground that his cousin is a Superiorem in London; and to protect Catholic interests in general throughout the British empire—an office to which, for our part, he is perfectly welcome.—*Nation*.

Mr. Swift addressed the questions which appear in the following form on the notice-paper of the House of Commons, to Lord Palmerston upon Monday night, the 11th ult.:

"1. To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is true that application has been made by the English Government to the Emperor of the French to secure his interference with the Holy See, in regard to the appointment of a coadjutor bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Elphin—such interference being supposed to be in favour of the Rev. Mr. Kilvaie, the secretary of the present Bishop of Elphin and a known political partisan of the Irish Attorney-General.

"2. Whether any such interference in respect to the appointment of a coadjutor bishop, if not formally by the English Prime Minister to Count Walewski has been made less officially through some subordinate members or agents of the English or French Governments, or whether there has been any interference substantially of this nature or to this effect on any other, form or through any other channel.

"3. Whether the Government has any objection to lay upon the table of the House, the correspondence which is known to have taken place on occasion of the vacancy of the Catholic Diocese of Armagh in 1850, and the letters whether emanating from members of the same administration by which an attempt was made to secure in Rome the appointment to the vacant See of Nominee of the English Government."

Lord Palmerston is equal to Talleyrand in the statesman's art of using language to hide his thoughts, and superior to any minister living or dead in that still finer branch of the diplomatic science which consists in replying to a question without answering it. We expected a dexterous evasion of the careful verbiage of the questions, and confess ourselves annoyed that his Lordship's reply is merely a *non mi ricordo*. His Lordship assures us he is quite ignorant of any intrigues of the kind, past, present, or prospective—although his Lordship has been in the Foreign Office for half his life time, and has sent full as many new agents to the Vatican as to any other Court in Europe—and although his Lordship's obedient borough of Sligo bring in the devices of Elphin, it might be imagined that his Lordship would like to have a Neto upon the appointment of the Catholic Ordinary. What more reasonable than that his Lordship, who is in fact as Premier Prime and Patriarch of the established Bench of Bishops, should occasionally wish to arrive a *Congé d'Élire* to the Papist as well.—*Nation*.