

CAPTURE OF A FENIAN COUNCIL IN DUBLIN.—On Thursday night a strong party of police made a descent on a spirit store in James street in which according to the information possessed by the authorities, a Fenian council used to assemble nightly. A large room with entrances opening into two streets was alleged to be used as the council chamber, and at both doors of this room the police suddenly and unexpectedly presented themselves on Thursday night. On entering, the police found the hall filled to its greatest capacity. In the large assembly, says the Freeman, were to be seen civilians and soldiers in earnest conversation, smoking and drinking, the former principally consisting of strangers to Dublin, who had come to this country within a short period, and who had evidently come with no good purpose. So sudden and well managed was the rush made by the police, that all in the room were in their hands before any effective resistance could be offered. Nothing could exceed their surprise. Some thought in vain to effect their escape, and a man named John Byrne of London, presented a loaded seven-barrelled revolver at Sergeant Magee, of the G Division. Magee promptly snatched the pistol from the hand of Byrne, who is a reputed Fenian agent, and came to Dublin from London on last St. Patrick's Day. Fight with a loaded revolver was also sought to be made by another 'brother,' named Edward St. Clair, but he was overpowered. James Doyle an alleged agent, and Stephen Kelly, who stated that he was an artist from London, had also revolvers, all of which were the newest patent pattern, containing seven chambers, each loaded and capped. They had elegantly finished saw handles and eight-inch barrels. Amidst all the confusion occasioned by the sudden incursion of the police on the Fenian council, one man made himself most conspicuous. This was Corporal Thomas Chambers, of the Sixty-first regiment, who it is stated, deserted nine months ago, and came to Dublin from London about five weeks since.

The noise of the row reached the street, the news of the fatal swoop spread like wild fire, and in a few minutes the house in which the arrests were taking place was surrounded by an excited mob, who were restrained apparently with great difficulty by three or four men, who seemed to possess considerable influence among them, from storming the house, liberating the captives, and venting their fury upon the police. In consequence, says Saunders's News Letter, of the large number of prisoners, the small available force to guard them, and the excited state of the crowd outside, Inspector Doyle did not think it prudent to attempt to convey them to the station house without further assistance, and he accordingly dispatched Acting Inspector Giles to the Town Major for a military guard, and another officer to the neighboring police offices for assistance. Nearly two hours elapsed from the seizure before a sufficient force came up, and during that time the excitement had greatly increased. The prisoners were then marshalled, each one between two policemen, a guard of soldiers, with fixed bayonets, marching alongside; and in this order, followed by an immense crowd, they were brought to Chancery Station House. Sixteen civilians were arrested at the same time. The latter having been sent to Mountjoy Prison, the soldiers being handed over to the military authorities whose line of treatment for them will doubtless be sharp short and decisive.

Of those recently taken into custody—some one hundred and fifty—about the third part have claimed to be American citizens, and are above the ordinary type of those brought before the Special Commission. They are neatly dressed, smart in appearance, active physically, and with a military air. They acknowledge that they have served in one or other of the American armies, and it is perfectly understood that they came here with the idea that there were regiments of drilled Fenians ready to be led by them. Instead of leading men to battle, as captains and colonels, they find themselves in prison. The only act of insurrection, if such it be, that has taken place as yet, is the firing on the police by a Fenian party in Tipperary. An idea has got abroad that Stephens may have been in the house; but that is merely a conjecture. The circumstances prove that Fenianism is still alive in the provinces, though there is no reason to think that there is that understanding among the Brotherhood which would lead to a greater rising than this battle.—Cork Reporter, Feb. 22nd.

A letter in the Post, dated Dublin, Thursday says:—A telegram from Limerick states that as a man named Geary, cousin to Head Centre Geary, of Cork, who escaped to America, and for whose capture a reward of £300 was offered, was standing in the street, a head constable addressing him said, 'You are my prisoner.' Geary replied, 'If I am taken that, and shot him twice with a revolver in the shoulder and body. Geary escaped. The constable is not expected to live.

A soldier of the 3rd Batts, quartered at Limerick, has been lodged in goal, charged with Fenianism. Saunders's News Letter announces that three of the principals concerned in the murderous onslaught on the constabulary at Gola, in Tipperary, have been arrested.

Among them is the soldier who, it is alleged was drilling Fenians in Ryan's house. He is a private of the 1st battalion 45th Regiment, named James Dillon, and was on furlough in Cashel.

The regimental number on the uniform of the soldier corresponds with the number of a military forage cap found in the house.

FENIAN RAIDS.—On Wednesday, while Mr. John Ryan, farmer and poor rate collector, with his family were attending a funeral, three men, armed, decently dressed, and like Americans, entered his house at Raoscourse, near Cashel, and presented a pistol at the head of the servant girl—the only occupant at the time—threatened to shoot her if she made any noise. They then searched the house, broken open all the boxes and carried away money amounting, in gold and silver, to over twelve pounds. On leaving the house they demanded arms and fired two shots.—Dublin Freeman, Feb. 22nd.

A party of supposed Fenians made a raid on Sunday night in the neighbourhood of Swinburn, Co. Can, and robbed the houses of five farmers of a gun each, all of which were licensed arms. The freebooters were disguised. They numbered about eight or nine, and the men who were thus robbed of their arms declare they cannot identify the robbers.—Id.

The Freeman of Saturday gives the following account of the arrests:—

'Great excitement was occasioned this morning when it became known that the detectives and other police were making arrests of persons suspected of being concerned in the Fenian conspiracy. Detachments of police were to be seen going in every direction, and persons were much at a loss to discover what was the cause which led to such a general movement on the part of those charged with preserving the public peace. But the cause was soon explained in the batches of prisoners being led to the several station-houses. The first taken into custody were strangers to Dublin, who had been here for some time past, without any apparent employment, but who never were in want of money, and stopped at respectable hotels and lodging houses in excellent style. These persons had been for a considerable time under the close observation of the police, as it was alleged that they had come here from America, England, and Scotland for no good purpose. The men first arrested this morning were the persons whose dress and general appearance showed that they had been residents at the other side of the Atlantic. Although it was known that the Habeas Corpus Act would be suspended, those whom the suspension was likely to affect did not think that they would be interfered with for at least a week, which would give them sufficient time to make their arrangements for a well planned departure to Liverpool and elsewhere, but nothing could exceed their surprise on being pounced on this morning. Some

of them in bed, others were dressing, and some were at breakfast, when the police came on them by surprise; and when they asked what charge was against them, in no instance did they receive any reply. No time was given for communication with friends or associates, and as fast as the arrests were made the prisoners were hurried off to the nearest station-houses, where they were locked up without being charged with any offence, nor even told why they were taken into custody. The second class of prisoners that were taken up were principally of the class of strangers that had been residing in the streets adjoining the South Liberties, and who, like their friends who had been stopping in various hotels and lodging-houses in the city, had no occupation but walking about and who were remarkable for never being in want of money. Up to two o'clock 120 persons had been taken into custody, and the cells of the station-houses were receiving every moment new inmates in the shape of suspected Fenians. It is stated that the Government, in anticipation of the passing of the act for suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, issued a general warrant last night for the arrest of all persons suspected of being concerned in the Fenian conspiracy. The police have been active in carrying out their instructions, and the promptness with which the arrests have been made gave no time for escape or resistance.

A later edition of the same paper says:—As the day advanced the arrests became more frequent and general, and from every direction prisoners, principally well-dressed and respectable-looking men, were to be seen going to the various station-houses, where large numbers of the police were kept on reserve duty in case their services would be required. The female members of the families of those in custody were to be seen bringing food and refreshments to their relatives; and the strangers appeared to be generally well cared for. The greatest excitement prevailed throughout the city, as it was generally rumoured that the large number of Fenians now in Dublin would resist any further arrests being made, but in no instance could we perceive or learn that any such attempts were made or likely to occur. The neighborhood of Cullinstown, which for months past has been the resort of persons who had arrived in this country from America, who had been in the Federal army, and who were strongly suspected of being concerned in 'the movement,' was visited this morning at an early hour by the police of the 2 division, and a large number of stalwart looking men were taken into custody and conveyed to Rathmines station house, where they were locked up. Finer or abler-looking fellows could not be seen, and that they had been resident in America for a considerable time could at once be perceived by their manners and actions. Prisoners from public houses, drapers' establishments, workshops, factories, &c., were brought in, but in no instance charged nor informed on what ground they were detained, and it was sad to witness the wives and children of the prisoners collected in the neighborhood of station houses seeking permission to speak to their relatives, which had to be in all cases refused. The great majority of those now in keeping of the police are persons suspected of taking leading positions in the 'conspiracy,' and it is strange with what facility the constables succeeded in getting at them when they required. At two o'clock, when the workmen left off for dinner, numbers of them were arrested.—At the out stations in the constabulary districts adjoining the city-suspected persons have been captured in dozens, and it is stated that at the time we go to press not less than 250 suspected Fenians have been deprived of their liberty in Dublin and its immediate vicinity.

Consequent upon the visit to this city on Saturday of General Napier, who it is stated, came down to Limerick by order of Sir Hugh Rose, Commander-in-Chief, to re-investigate the charges for complicity in Fenianism preferred before the board of officers who sat last week, four non-commissioned officers of the 73rd Regiment, stationed at the new barracks, have been placed under close arrest. One is the Armour Sergeant, another the Sergeant of the Band, and two more Colour and Pay Sergeants of the same corps. General Napier, who is staying at Cruise's Hotel, attended by his aide-de-camp, has not concluded the inquiry, upon which civilian witnesses have been already examined. A person reputed a 'Colonel Byron,' and whose name appears conspicuously amongst the group yesterday arrested in Dublin, is said to have entangled the parties in custody, by means of associating with them at their dancing room in the barracks, and otherwise inveigling them out.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—The neighbourhood of Glasnevin was thrown into a state of great excitement on Saturday night by a statement which was made that Mr. Robert Byers, publican, Glasnevin, had been shot dead by a person named Sutcliffe. On making inquiries we found that Mr. Byers had been shot by accident by Mr. Stephen Sutcliffe, a clerk in the Bank of Messrs. Ball, Henry street, but that the injured man, though desperately wounded, was still living, and had been taken to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. The facts of the case, as far as we could learn, are as follows:—Shortly after eight o'clock on Saturday night, Sutcliffe called at Byers's shop, and went into a small room inside the bar, in which Byers and Police Constable Tracey of the D division were sitting. Sutcliffe was tipsy at the time, and had in his possession a sword and a revolver. He laid the former on a table, and Byers, who was well acquainted with Sutcliffe, asked him to play cards, which he refused to do, and subsequently asked him if the revolver was loaded. Sutcliffe replied that it was not, and he had scarcely said so when the contents of the chamber of the pistol accidentally exploded, and the ball lodged in the neck of Byers, after cutting the jugular vein. Sutcliffe was at once arrested by Constable Tracey, and the wounded man was taken without delay to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, where he was promptly attended by Dr. Stapleton. It was found that Mr. Byers had received a fearful wound, and we regret to say that, on making inquiries last night, we were informed that little or no hope was entertained for his recovery.

PATRICK'S DAY APPOINTED FOR THE RISING.—In one respect I find a perfect agreement between the opinion of Dublin and that of the principal parts of Ireland. Patrick's Day was appointed for the rising. I do not venture to say that it would then take place. It is easier to fix a day than to fix a government. But every one from the Lord Lieutenant down, is under the impression that, had the *bullus* of intended leaders not been made, some sort of outbreak would be attempted on that day. The idea of March are not gone, or even come. Is it possible that, even after so many heads have been cut off, the hydra may still show fight. But it is not very probable, and the prevailing impression is that there will be no attempt at general rebellion.—Dublin Cor of Star.

GREAT BRITAIN. CONVERSION.—The Rev. P. Gordon, vicar of Assington, Suffolk, who has announced his intention of resigning his preferment in the Church of England and joining the Church of Rome, has for some time past been identified with the ultra-ritualist party in the eastern counties. He had displayed zeal and activity as a pastor, and had shown much interest in the welfare of his poorer parishioners. Mr. Gordon will not officiate any further in his church, and will shortly leave Assington. A few years since one of his brothers, who was preparing for orders in the Church of England, left the Anglican communion, and it is understood that he is now a priest in the Church of Rome.—Times.

RUMOURS.—Rumours were circulated at Plymouth Dockyard on Tuesday, that Fenian tendencies have been discovered that such allegations were entirely without foundation, and only arose from exaggerations of ordinary trivial circumstances in no way whatever connected with Fenianism.

THE HABEAS CORPUS.—The eight members (including tellers) of the House of Commons voting against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland were—Mr. J. A. Blake, Waterford; Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Galway; Sir George Bowyer, Dundalk; Dr. Brady, Leitrim; Mr. J. B. Dillon, Tipperary; Mr. F. J. Maguire, Cork city; The O'Donoghue, Tralee; and Mr. D. J. Reardon, Athlone. It is worthy of note that on the last occasion—in July, 1848—when the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, the Bill was likewise opposed by eight representatives Irish constituencies. The minority was then ten, including tellers; but two Irishmen returned for English boroughs—Mr. Sharman Crawford and Mr. Feargus O'Connor—made up the number. It is also to be remarked that one of the members for Cork city was a teller on each occasion—Mr. Fagan having discharged the duty in 1748 and Mr. Maguire on Saturday.—Sunday Gazette.

THE HABEAS CORPUS.—The rapid passage of a Bill through all its Parliamentary stages is not an event of frequent occurrence. It has been resorted to from time to time, as much to meet public convenience as occasions of grave public need; to provide for the suspension of mercantile business on the funeral day of the Duke of Wellington, as well as to guard against insurrection in Ireland.—But that a Bill should become an Act within twelve hours of its introduction into the House of Commons is a proceeding almost unexampled. Two or three days elapsed between the agreement of Parliament to the two last Bills to suspend the Irish Habeas Corpus Act and the declaration of the Royal assent to those measures. The Legislative promulgation shown last Saturday has been equalled on but two previous occasions. On the day George II. announced to Parliament that he had declared war against France, the 2nd of April, 1744, he assented to a Bill for the more speedy recruiting of his land forces, a Bill that had been only that morning laid on the table of the Commons; and an Act with no less unusual expedition to meet an event of even more serious moment, the insubordination in the Royal navy, that culminated in the mutiny at the Nore. Soothed by promises, and by the presence of Lord Howe, the fleet at Portsmouth had returned to their duty in April, 1797; this submission was, however, of but few days' duration. The sailors required that their grievances should be righted by Act of Parliament, and broke out into mutiny on the 7th of May; they gained their object almost immediately, for an Act was passed through all its stages on the 9th of that month, in spite of the opposition of Fox, Sheridan, and Whitbread.—Express.

RAPID LEGISLATION.—We doubt if on any former occasion an Act of Parliament was carried through all its stages so rapidly as the new Parliament. At 12 o'clock on Saturday the Act for the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland was but a piece of paper, and before 1 o'clock it was the law of the land. Considering that the Sovereign was at Osborne, the rapidity was marvellous. The Bill had been taken down to Her Majesty in the early part of the day, and on its being notified by telegraph that it had passed both Houses without alteration the Royal signature was given, and the necessary document was brought up to London.—Sunday Gazette.

THE ARMY IN IRELAND.—The Army in Ireland was reinforced a few weeks since by the 59th and 64th Regiments, more lately the 2d battalion 60th Rifles and 63d have been added, and now the detachment of the 75th and 92d Highlanders will bring the increase up to six battalions. For a time this increase will be somewhat neutralized by the embarkation of the 1st battalion 60th Rifles and 1st battalion 8th for the Mediterranean; but the battalions they indirectly relieve, the 2d battalion 2d Queens' at Bermuda, and the 2d battalion 3d Buffs at Barbadoes, will land in Ireland on their return home, and be quartered in that country. The troops in Ireland are being distributed more among the small towns, thereby giving a great feeling of security to the ladies, both old and young.—Army and Navy Gazette.

In accordance with instructions from the Home Office, Sir Richard Mayne, on Monday, gave orders that twenty policemen and a sergeant should be posted at the Model Prison, Pentonville, to aid in guarding the Fenian prisoners confined there. A strict order has been given that no Irish shall be employed in this special duty.

We have reason to believe that the amount of the surplus which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to announce, has been very much over-estimated. It cannot, even under the most favourable circumstances, come within a million of the amount which has been named.—Pall Mall Gazette.

It is rumoured in Parliamentary circles that Sir Hugh Rose has demanded further instructions from the Government with regard to his duty in Ireland. Sir Hugh says that he has the example of Governor Eyre before his eyes; that he knows how to put down a rebellion, but that he cannot act without further orders.—Standard.

The Hon. Mrs. Yelverton made her first public appearance on Friday evening as a reader of poetry in the Music Hall, Edinburgh. She was enthusiastically received by a large audience, and in a variety of readings from Tennyson and Longfellow, she called forth their frequent and hearty applause. She is announced to appear in several other towns.

We are requested to state with reference to paragraphs that have recently appeared in London and in country newspapers relating to threatened disturbances on the borders of Rosshire and Sutherland that the writers of these narratives have been very inaccurately informed as to the merits of the question that led to these occurrences, and as to the occurrences themselves. It is said in one newspaper that a large party of the local Volunteers were mustered on the occasion. We are informed that there is not the slightest foundation for such a statement.—Times.

On the revision of the Liturgy, Earl Russell has sent a note to Lord Ebury, in which he says:—After consulting my colleagues, and communicating with the Archbishop of Canterbury, I have to state to you the decision of her Majesty's Government not to propose the issuing of a Commission for the revision of the Liturgy. The former Commission upon the terms of subscription arrived at a conclusion which gave greater freedom of opinion to every person in holy orders. But a commission for the revision of the Liturgy would in all probability lead to heated discussions, and its report, if it framed any, would be sure to offend and irritate a large party in the Church. As her Majesty's Government are most anxious to promote peace and good-will, and not to open the way to discord, they must decline to adopt the proposal which your lordship and the deputation which accompanied you have made.

THE COPLEY FAMILY.—Mrs. Elizabeth O. Greene, a daughter of John Singleton Copley, the artist, and a sister of the late Lord Lyndhurst, died in Boston, Massachusetts, on the 1st of February, at the age of 95. Lord Lyndhurst and two sisters were among those who sailed from Marblehead, in Massachusetts, for England, in the last ship that left America while it remained under the British flag in 1775. One of the passengers, Miss Copley, now aged 93, alone survives. She lives with Lady Lyndhurst, and is still in good health, cheerful, and in possession of her intellect.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—A large party of gentlemen interested in the extension of religious liberty assembled at the Charing-cross Hotel, at the invitation of the committee of the Liberation Society and of the Dissenting deputies, on Thursday the 15th inst., for the purpose of conferring upon the ecclesiastical questions likely to be dealt with in Parliament during the present Session. Among those present were Sir Morton Peto, M.P.,

who presided; Mr. Baines, M.P., Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. McLaren, M.P., Mr. Miall, Rev. H. Al'an, Rev. W. Brock, Rev. J. B. Brown, Mr. W. Edwards, Mr. Courtland, Rev. N. Hall, Rev. Dr. King, Mr. Charles Reed, Rev. Dr. Barnes, Rev. J. Stoughton, Mr. J. Heywood, Mr. Carroll Williams, Mr. C. Shephard, Mr. Tuberville, and the Rev. W. Landells. The meeting was confidential, but we may state that among the subjects which engaged attention were the Church-rate Abolition Bill, the Qualification for Offices Bill, Mr. Coleridge's and Mr. Bonverie's Bills relating to University Tests, the Parliamentary Oath Bill, Sir John Gray's motion on the Irish Establishment, and the Irish Education question. In regard to nearly all the points mooted great unanimity prevailed, and a determination was expressed to afford the warmest support to those members of the House of Commons who have undertaken the conduct of measures calculated to advance the principles of religious equality. We may add that the second reading of the Qualification for Offices Bill is fixed for Wednesday, the 28th of February; the second reading of the Church-rate Abolition Bill for the 7th of March; Sir John Gray's Irish Church motion for the 13th of March; and Mr. Coleridge's Oxford Tests Bill for the 21st of March.—Times.

Earl Russell, on Monday, received a deputation appointed by a public meeting at Glasgow on the 25th ult., on the subject of parliamentary reform. The deputation consisted of four gentlemen from Scotland and several Scotch members of Parliament, who urged the chief features of the adoption of a measure the chief features of which should be a £6 rental franchise, and a redistribution of seats, but there was a general willingness to give up the latter provision if the former could be made certain thereby. It was suggested that as in France and America the artisan had the advantage of the franchise he should have it here. Earl Russell, in his reply, expressed a determination not to adopt the policy of any foreign country, preferring to adhere to the Constitution which had been found for 600 years to work well at home, and to amend it regardless of the example of our neighbours. He declined to state the character of the Reform Bill to be introduced, but expressed his view that the redistribution of seats was a very difficult task, and not by any means so pressing as the extension of the franchise.

New Boys.—The Owl gives the following as an extract from Mr. Goschen's private diary: To-day I took my seat in the Cabinet for the first time. I confess that I felt very shy, and it was some time before I could quite make up my mind to go in. I felt rather like the Amateur Casual, and got out of my brougham in the same sort of half-confident manner. I got to No. 10, Downing street, and tried to look as if I knew exactly where the Cabinet room was, and hoping that I should see Gladstone or some one to show me the way; but unfortunately I saw no one except a most civil old gentleman with gray hair, who looked at me most kindly as I walked down the long passage in the entrance of the house. Of course I thought he knew me by sight, and when he pointed to the right and said, 'That way to the Treasury,' I fancied that of course the First Lord would naturally sit there and the Cabinet with him. I accordingly went up some stairs, and after some trouble found myself in a kind of open hall, with several messengers seated behind a glass frame like early vegetables, being forced with mutton chops, potatoes, and beer. On asking one of these gentlemen where the Cabinet was, he first inquired what I wanted, and then suggested that the Cabinet was not on view for the public. I confess that at this moment I forcibly felt the inconvenience of not having been trained up in official habits, for if I had been the messenger would most likely have known me, or at all events I should have known how to treat him. With great civility, however, the messenger guided me back again the way I had come, and pointed out the door where he said the Cabinet sat. I accordingly walked up to it, and with an effort of boldness quite contrary to my usual character, was about to open the door, when my gray-haired friend rushed up to me, and seizing me by the arm, said, 'You must not go in there, Sir; the Cabinet is sitting.' I explained to him that I was the Duke of Lancaster, or the Lord Chancellor, or Chancellor of the Exchequer, for I was so nervous, and had been so recently moved about, that, like wine, I was rather sick, and hardly knew what I was. In fact, it was not till I mentioned my name was Goschen that he really took in who I was, and allowed me to pass in. I never felt so shy in my life as at that moment. But I must say that they were all very kind to me, excepting one Minister, whom I will not name, who remarked in an audible whisper, 'Here is the theory of foreign exchanges; but as it was only an exchange from the Board of Trade to the Duchy of Lancaster I thought it was a bad joke.

During the week Sir Robert Peel has tried to extract from Mr. Gladstone, and a Presbyterian deputation has tried to extract from Lord Russell, some more definite information. Mr. Gladstone told Sir Robert Peel on Tuesday, that no changes are intended in the charter and constitution of the Queen's Colleges; but with regard to the changes contemplated in the charter and constitution of the Queen's University, that their object is to qualify persons who have received their education in institutions where a particular and exclusive religion is taught, to take degrees in the Queen's University, and likewise make some arrangements for the purpose of obviating and removing jealousies, and securing confidence with respect to those degrees. Lord Russell told the Presbyterian deputation which waited on him on Wednesday, 'I think an attempt ought to be made to secure to Roman Catholics in Ireland the same academic advantages which they would receive if they were in England. Such has been the foundation of the inquiries which have been made by the Government. Of the measures which are in contemplation by the Government I cannot give you the details because they are not yet settled; and although I fancy Archbishop Oullen will not be satisfied with the proposed changes, still if we propose nothing but what is fair and impartial, regard being had to the large number of the Irish people who are Roman Catholics, we cannot, I think, be blamed if we endeavor to give them in consideration of their attainments the same honors and marks of pre-eminence which they deserve, and which they would obtain if they were educated in England. The changes in contemplation are entirely with that view, and I trust neither the system of primary education under the National Board nor the Queen's Colleges will suffer from the changes which we propose. With regard to those who have no conscientious scruples to attend the Queen's colleges, they will, of course, continue to avail themselves of them, while, on the other hand, those who do entertain conscientious scruples will have other facilities afforded them of acquiring academic distinctions.—London Tablet.

FOUR MILLION SERMONS.—Four million sermons a year, says Dean Ramsay, are preached in Great Britain. What a thought, and how pregnant with other thoughts. In how many of these sermons, we wonder, is St. Paul's opinion taught, to the effect that though faith is a good thing, charity is a far better. Conceive the gigantic listening power of the British mind, that can maintain such a tremendous institution in existence of year to year. Consider, again, how many of these sermons would be preached if the fairer sex were not allowed to go to church or chapel. If congregations were made up of men alone, would any sermons be ever preached? Again, suppose no persons were allowed to go to church in their best clothes, what would be the appearance of our churches, both in town and country? What portion of the female sex would find the attractions of a preacher a sufficient counterbalance to the annoyance of being compelled to appear in their everyday and working habiliments? Further, supposing that no clergyman or minister was per-

mitted to preach against anybody else, would sermons continue as numerous and as long as they now are? Supposing a Protestant was suffered to attack the Pope, and no Catholic priest to assure his hearers that Protestants will be damned, would sermons diminish in quantity as they rose in quality? Once more, is there any hidden connection between the fact of these four million sermons and the ten thousand outcast boys of London? Are those miserable pariahs of the English race in any way the result of this profusion of talk, and of the 'Christian zeal' for the conversion of back people which it encourages?

A short account of the meaning and effect of a 'suspension of the Habeas Corpus' may not be inopportune at the present moment. Under the law of England no man's personal liberty can be restrained unless by due course of law, and in order to secure to every man this constitutional immunity, the Common Law provides that any person aggrieved by illegal imprisonment is entitled to a Writ of Right, technically named Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum, directed to the person detaining him, who is commanded to produce the body of the prisoner with a statement of the law and cause of his capture and detention, *ad faciendum, subjiciendum et recipiendum*; to do, submit to, and receive whatever the judge or court awarding such writ shall consider in that behalf. This Common Law process was secured and explained from time to time by various Statutes, from the Great Charter and Petition of Right, down to the 91st Car. 1., c. 2, and the Irish Act 21st and 22nd Geo. II., c. 11, by which two latter statutes the method of obtaining the writ in England and Ireland was pointed out. The general effect of the law as it stood on last Sunday morning was, that on complaint and request in writing by or on behalf of any person committed and charged with any crime, the Lord Chancellor, or any of the twelve judges, was bound to award a Habeas Corpus for such prisoner, immediately returnable; and that within two days the party, if bailable, should be discharged. In the case of committal for crimes not bailable, the accused person could require, under the protection of the same Writ of Right, to be indicted in the next term or next session of Oyer and Terminer, and if acquitted, or if not indicted or tried in the second term or session, he was entitled to be discharged from his imprisonment for the imputed offence. The effect of the legislation of Saturday is to suspend the efficacy of the writ of Habeas Corpus, whereby the Executive officers of the Crown are freed from legal responsibility for arresting and imprisoning any person to whom a crime may be imputed, and the person so imprisoned is deprived of the privilege of insisting upon being admitted to bail or being indicted and tried. Thus, during the term of suspension defined by Parliament, the Crown can imprison suspected persons without giving any reason for so doing, the nation by its representatives—Queen, Lords, and Commons—agreeing to place a portion of its liberty, for a while, in abeyance, in order to preserve the whole for ever.

On Saturday and Sunday morning a large number of well-dressed and stalwart-looking young men arrived in Liverpool by the Irish steamers. It is believed they are members of the 'Brotherhood,' who are anxious to escape the clutches of the law. Some of these men have taken passages for America; others have gone into the country, and a few remain in Liverpool. As the Irish population forms a very strong proportion of the inhabitants of Liverpool, a good deal of uneasiness was increased yesterday by the serious news from Dublin, and in the course of the afternoon this uneasiness was increased by a rumor on Change that a local banking-house had received a telegram from Dublin to the effect that some disturbances had taken place. A portion of the excitement culminated in laughter when it was known that a cartload of 'pikes' which passed through the town were not Fenian weapons, but ordinary boarding pikes, en route for one of the man-of-war in the Mersey. The authorities in Liverpool are, it is believed, prepared for any emergency.—Star.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.—Our old friends—the Protestant Alliance—have been rather quiet of late. They have been so occupied with ritualistic developments in the Church of England that Popery has had a brief respite. They are however alive and active in the cause. Popery is still their terror and horror. The new year afforded an opportunity to open the campaign. So far it is tame enough. Mr. Secretary Bird hops from branch to branch of the great Protestant oak, and cracks lugubriously of 'Papal aggressions' and 'Popish invasions.' He is not at all satisfied with the aspect of affairs. He begins with that remote epoch, 1850. From that inauspicious year may be dated the long catalogue of woes which have flown in on Protestant England. We thought the Ecclesiastical Title Bill was as good as forgotten, but Mr. Bird revives it, and goes through all the clauses with the acumen of a trained lawyer. He bills from 7, Sergeant's Inn, Fleet street, so we suppose, he combines the two functions of secretary and law adviser to the Alliance. He informs us the committee have called the attention of the Attorney General to numerous violations of the Act, but he does not tell us what they are.—That monument of folly has been so ludicrously ineffective—so complete a failure—that it scarcely deserves a moment's consideration. The Attorney-General, who spoke and voted against the bill, is not likely to pay much attention to the remonstrances of the committee. Mr. Bird assures us that the committee will not relax their efforts to put the law in force. When they get hold of a case let them try it. Another grievance is the erection of Chapels, and the promotion of other 'Popish objects' through the instrumentality of lotteries. In the strict sense of the word a lottery is no part of the apparatus for raising funds for charitable purposes. To sell, or advertise, a ticket Mr. Bird conceives to be a violation of the act. We say he is wrong in his law. We know nothing of the system in the north of England, to which Sir George Grey's law adviser adverted in his letter to the Protestant Alliance, but very eminent lawyers have given their opinion that something more than the sale of tickets is necessary to make a bazaar, for charitable purposes, a 'lottery' within the meaning of the Act. But suppose it was not lawful, how many things are done by members of parliament and lawyers themselves which infringe some law or the other? One would think a practice free from all private gain and employed solely on something religious, benevolent or charitable—the erection of a church, an hospital, or a refuge—would escape that intolerant persecution which sent 'our paper on lotteries' to all the members of the Government, to 300 newspapers, 50 railway companies, 500 post-masters, and 200 booksellers. The Alliance cannot be too offensive. It appears the number of priests, chapels, monasteries, convents, and colleges have increased in England since 1829. So they have, and so has the population for whose use and service they exist. If English Catholics support these institutions, how does it concern the Protestant Alliance? If they require more priests and churches that is their affair. What is the object of these statistics? Is it to expose the danger of Protestantism and the necessity of legal restrictions? We see no other end unless it be to stimulate the flagging zeal and enlarge the paying circle of the alliance. Perhaps, the last is the true solution, for the Alliance feel that all their energies will be called into activity on the Irish Church question. Will the 'United Church of England and Ireland'? We think the friends of the Establishment in Ireland may still calculate on the Alliance and the resources of Sergeant's Inn. We had almost forgotten one complaint in the address—the total amount of payment by Parliament 'for Romish objects' in Great Britain and Ireland last year. The amount is £288,829, of which somewhat less than half a million is for National Education in Ireland. The remainder includes grants for reformatories, Maynooth Grant, school chaplains, colonies, and India.—Freeman.