

Speaking of the Irish Militia, the *Nation* says:—
 "What a splendid force it will be, to be sure, the same Irish Militia! Given Moral Force plus Pauperism to raise a standing army! Powers of War, such an idea! Speaking and screeching, Repeal Rent and Rate-in-aid, members cards and tickets for soup, wardens and relieving officers, yellow buck and the begging box. Where is the use of calling them City and County Regiments at all? Why not call them the North-Dublin Union and the South Dublin Union at once; head quarters, the Workhouses? Where is the use of a new uniform? Is not grey frieze and corduroy good enough for them? Valiant heroes! what are the Bash-Bazooks to such soldiers under such a chief. Fired by the fine military mottoes that grace their regimental banners, "He who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy;" and, "no political amelioration can justify the shedding of a single drop of human blood"—what glorious conquests may they not achieve? With muscles spun of Indian meal, and blood distilled from buttermilk, what a vigor they will carry into the charge, and what endurance to the trenches! Such an army (barring the Chinese), has the world ever seen! The *elan*, the *physique*, the *mens*, the *moles*, the soul and body suitable to the occasion are all there. The Coming Man is forthcoming, he utters the word of command, and "the Pauper (as the orator of the age beautifully says) is belched with his firelock and his poringer, from the bowels of the convulsed country." Some cease picking oakum, some stop breaking stones, some descend the treadmill, some unroll the capstan, some take a last fond look at the trough, where so long they have gregariously fed, and all give a parting lick to their skillets. Imagine them on parade! The Brigade might envy their drill. The terrible tread of their wooden shoes is more awful than all the gongs of Loo Choo.

THE MERE IRISH.—It is rumored that England will experience a formidable difficulty in the enlistment of her 10,000 mercenaries after all, and that the Foreigners Enlistment Bill may be included among the war blunders of the Coalition. Of course, Germany was expected to supply the *matériel* of the Legion; but it appears that by act 18 of the German Confederation, German subjects are expressly prohibited to enter the service of foreign states, and it is scarcely probable that the prohibition will now be removed, to the disadvantage of the Czar. It would be a memorable judgment if this prediction were fulfilled, after the savage glee with which the *Times*, a few days ago, anticipated the arrival of the "blue-eyed Germans," and rejoiced over the destruction of the Irish race:—"As for the Irish—troublesome at all times—they are gone—that is, the surplus is gone—gone with a vengeance." Even the English Conservative journals were forced to resent an outrage so cruel and ill-timed: and the *Herald* visited it with a really eloquent rebuke. "The Whigs," observed our contemporary, "were the set *distant* statesmen who drove out the Irish under Sarsfield, after the wars of 1688, as they were the men who expatriated their successors after the famine of 1846. We hope that the war, which the question of the right of search is almost certain to give rise to with America in the Spring, may not produce similar instances to what we are going to quote; if it should, however, the nation will know what they owe to their connivance at Whig policy in depopulating Ireland—600,000 of whose sons died in the service of France in little more than one hundred years after the expulsion of 1688."—*Nation*.

EXPLODED SHAMS.—The war has an inexhaustible supply of bitter revelations for those sanguine British gentlemen who expected that the towers of Sebastopol would be obliging enough to fall to pieces at the first flutter of the Union Jack. That catastrophe seems now tolerably remote, at all events; and in the meantime they have abundant leisure to reflect, that the most beautiful of constitutional despotisms is not calculated to expand the military resources of a nation, and that through, dint of Arms' Acts, and Coercion Bills, England has gradually subsided into the position of a third-rate European power. There is the act passed in Lord Sidmouth's administration, for example, to prohibit "training and drilling" as a felony: what is its effect upon the people? "Our fathers could all bend the bow, wield the broadsword, and flourish the quarterstaff," says a writer in the *Daily News*, "but now, our unwarlike youth can at most let off a squib or a cracker on the 5th of November. Our men of 25 and upwards can handle the distaff, but know nothing of sword, lance, and gun." And that superb volunteer army which we were requested to believe would spring up in Ireland at the touch of the Royal Commission! Alas! O'Neill and his sleeping warriors, in the Hill of Aileach, will leap as soon from their trance. "Except in a very few instances, the 'call' seems unheard and unheeded," as the *Evening Mail* confesses very reluctantly. The number proposed to be enrolled amounts, we believe, to something near thirty thousand men; of this number we have reason to think, that the volunteers have not exceeded one thousand, or, at most, twelve hundred: and how many of those will ultimately make their appearance, when noticed through the Post-office, is to be seen." Precisely; but after all, our contemporary should have added, that members of this magnificent force do, occasionally, reveal themselves. When the Poor Law Guardians of the Gorey Union assembled a few days ago, Michael Cunningham, "a young Militia-man," applied for admission to the workhouse. "What became of your £10 bounty?" said the Chairman. "I had to spend most of it on the sergeant, my lord," replied the warrior. "Are you sick now?" asked another guardian. "I am not well, sir," was the hero's reply. And here the Master of the Union replied that he had two other Militia-men in the house, "but they were not as able as the one present." They are dashing fellows to face Russian bayonets!" commented a member of the board.—*Nation*.

CASE OF LIBEL.—The case of Birch, v. Foster, for libel was tried on Wednesday before Lord Campbell. The plaintiff was the proprietor of the Dublin journal called *The World*, and, it may be recollected, brought an action against Lord Clarendon for money alleged to be due for inserting articles in his paper in support of "law and order." In consequence of the facts elicited in the trial, the defendant published an article, reviewing all the matters, in the *Evening Mail*, in which he severely condemned the conduct of the plaintiff. This was the libellous article complained of, for which the plaintiff sought compensation in damages. After hearing evidence, the jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

LIMERICK ELECTION.—Stephen E. De Vere, Esq., has been returned without opposition.

Our readers will remember that some months ago a priest, one of the leading orators of the Tenant League in the county Kilkenny, was ordered by his bishop, Dr. Walsh, to desist from interfering publicly in politics. Forthwith Dr. Walsh was assailed in the *Tablet*, the *Freeman*, and the *Nation*. A deputation was actually named to go to Rome to appeal to the Pope against his decision. Dr. Walsh has just published his defence, which is in the form of a circular letter to the clergy of his diocese. It is as follows:

"Sir—The Bishop of Ossory, for the sake of virtue, and in order not to provoke more calumny, and thereby multiply sin, has hitherto passed unnoticed the foul and false assertions on his character. But he feels convinced, from the reading of a 'memorial,' hawked about for signatures and to procure money, that he could no longer, in justice to the Catholics of Ossory, who have a right to his character, remain silent. This memorial, addressed to the Holy Father Pope Pius IX., is replete with false and calumnious statements against the Bishop of Ossory, who, during the thirty-seven years he has been in the sacred ministry, has strenuously, and if not efficiently, at least zealously, and according to the measure of grace bestowed on him by a merciful God, labored to discharge the duties of the many and important offices filled by him during that time. He never intermeddled, never took an active part, nay, scarcely any part, in politics. He never asked or accepted any favor whatever from any ministry, whether Whig, or Tory, or Coalition; or from any other political party, and is determined, with the help and grace of God, to pursue to the end of his life this line of conduct.—Why should he, then, be accused of prostituting his sacred ministry and patronage to Whig interests?—Why should he who has, without any moral reproach or stain on his character, lived so long in the sacred ministry, be now, without any ostensible cause or assignable reason, accused of sacrilegiously abusing that ministry for political purposes?"

"He is also accused of 'fording' it over his clergy by interdicting to them the exercise of their civil rights. He has interdicted only the abuse of those civil rights, and that to two priests solely.

"If a bishop commands a clergyman addicted to habits of intemperance to desist from intemperance, can he be justly accused of interdicting to him the moderate use of food and drink? Now, the Bishop of Ossory fearlessly asserts that a priest may be guilty of very great intemperance in politics, and therefore if he commands such a priest to desist from all political agitation, can he be justly charged with the crime of interdicting to him the exercise of his civil rights?"

"But it may be objected that the bishop has in this instance exceeded the limits of his power. If so there is a right of appeal, and an appeal to the proper tribunal the Bishop of Ossory courts. But this tribunal is not the public press, nor the people, nor even the priests, but ultimately the Pope. And until his Holiness finally adjudicates the matter in dispute, the bishop's command ought to be obeyed and respected.—He ought not to be prejudged; corrupt motives ought not to be imputed to him, nor the public press hired to defame him, thereby to deter him from the conscientious discharge of his duty.

"But it is asserted that the state of this country proves to demonstration that bishops and priests ought to take an active part in politics. Assertions are not proofs, much less demonstrative proofs. It remains, then, 'until' proofs are adduced, a matter of opinion whether a bishop or priest would benefit his country and advance the interests of religion more by taking an active part in politics than by devoting himself solely to the discharge of his sacred duties.

"This plain and unvarnished statement will, it is hoped, satisfy every unbiased and unprejudiced mind that the Bishop of Ossory has not merited the calumnies that have been so unsparingly heaped upon him. If he be, as his conscience tells him he is innocent of those crimes imputed to him, he can claim a share of the blessings promised to those who suffer persecution for justice sake—"Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; blessed are ye when they shall revile and persecute and speak all that is evil against you untruly for my sake, be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven; for so they persecuted the prophets that were before you."

"J. E. WALSH, Bishop of Ossory.
 "Kilkenny, Dec. 21, 1854."

THE IRISH IN AMERICA.—Every day adds to the feeling of insecurity which pervades our countrymen in America. Their relations with the great Republic appear to be hastening to a rupture, the extent and results of which no man can foresee, and of which we shudder to think. The latest news from the United States is pregnant with ill-omen. The opposition to Irishmen and Catholics has assumed new proportions—Know-Nothingism, with its gaunt bigotry and grim persecution, carries its giant head higher, and fills many with dismay. From a factious and insignificant sect, this society has assumed the character and form of a powerful national party; and having tested its strength at the ballot-box—with a success which even its most ardent advocates dared not hope—calls upon the present Congress to slant out from participation in the privileges of citizenship the outcast emigrants of Europe, and especially the Irish. The rise and progress of this society is unexampled in the history of agitations. Six months ago, in numbers and respectability it resembled the organization of a Ribbon Lodge. To-day it sweeps the Massachusetts State Election, from the Governor to the street inspector; and holds a national convention at Cincinnati, under the presidency of John Clayton, Secretary of State during Harrison's administration, and Senator from Delaware in the present Congress. "Down with the Irish" is a cry from Maine to California. The formidable results of this agitation are already severely felt. The strong Democratic and National party, to which the Irish always strictly adhered, is split into fragments, and those who were loudest in professions of lip-loyalty to the Irish at election times, are often the bitterest enemies against whom our people have now to contend. Worse than all, the ranks of the Society are doubled by persons born in this country, who sacrifice the honor of their race to their selfish interests. One of the Society's candidates for a prominent place during the recent elections in New York, is known to have been born and nursed in Donegal, within view of O'Donnell, and another active crusader saw the light within a mile of old Dunleary.—They are sowing the storm, that their friends may reap the whirlwind; and that it is fast coming no man can doubt. The first Bill of Attainder against the Irish has been already submitted. In the United

States Senate—that council once enlightened by the learning and eloquence of Calhoun, and the wisdom of Jackson—a project to extend the period of residence within the States, required to qualify for citizenship, from five to twenty-one years has been proposed. It is directed at those who may arrive in the States after its enactment, if it should pass, of which there seems no doubt at present—as the patriotism and good sense of a few Senators will avail little against the pressure of a rampant party—a pressure which has made itself felt even in the White House, if we take the Administration organ as the exponent of the opinions of President Pierce, which lately contained an article tacitly admitting the justice of a change in the Naturalization laws. The bold denunciation of which Senator Douglas, of Illinois, Cass, of Michigan, and Seward, of New York, have hurled at the movement will be followed by no result unless the public opinion of the country take some extraordinary turn. And of that there is little hope at this moment. Every new triumph gives fresh impulse, and there is actually reason to fear that the movement will not stop short of a President of its own making. It is hard to think that one must live on sufferance in the mansion which his father reared—to feel that gratitude, generosity, and the recollection of old associations, may be effaced in the short space of two score years—but more hard to think, that Irishmen must feel as strangers on that soil consecrated to liberty, and to them by the blood of ten thousand of their fellow-countrymen. Yet such a thing is possible—even probable. To such an extent has this spirit of intolerance and opposition to foreigners—as the fathers, brothers, and relations of the most zealous citizens of the United States are designated—that men who were loudest in their welcomes to the distressed of Europe, now whisper their fears—for to avow them publicly would be to encourage Know-Nothingism—that the ancient Celt—the exiled Swiss—the hopeful sons of poor Poland, and the victims of *Dix Decembre* may no longer find an asylum in that country to which their eyes are turned as to a haven of repose, and to whose infant struggle, Kosciuszko, Lafayette, and Montgomery lent such invaluable aid. We are not, therefore, surprised to learn that an important convention of the Irish in Canada is about to meet, and discuss the most advisable means to be adopted for the security of their friends in the States. Neither are we surprised to hear that the latter are returning in large numbers to the home which it were better, perhaps, they had never left. Degradation at home is even better than a life of insult and suffering in a foreign land. It is not improbable that an exodus on a large scale may be directed across the St. Lawrence before many months. The Irish in the States have numerous friends in Canada, who have warm hearts for them, and more sincere welcomes, than the time-serving politicians of the Union. There are also fruitful fields and noble rivers outside the States—communities of people identical in religion, in feeling, and in patriotism with the Irish in the Republic, and it is quite possible the latter may accept any invitation that may be offered them to settle in the backwoods, where they may rear their churches, adore their God, and bring up their children in the love of their fatherland, without fear or favor.—*Nation*.

THE CHOLERA.—Despite snow and frost this terrible malady still lingers in some old haunts in the northern counties.

ORANGE DISTURBANCES NEAR BROOKFIELD.—We have had frequent complaints respecting the annoyance which the humble Catholic inhabitants of the above district suffer nightly from bands of Orangemen who parade the place with file and drum, and batter their doors and windows.—*Ulsterman*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

RUMORED MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—That which we have long anticipated is likely soon to take place. In well-informed circles the impression is general, that a Ministerial crisis is at hand, if it has not actually arrived. Lord John Russell, it appears, and the party who act with him in the Cabinet, are determined not to incur the responsibility of acting further with the men to whom the management of the War Department has been confided. The agree rumor of Cabinet dissension has at length assumed a definite shape. The Lord President of the Council has demanded, it is said, the removal of the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Sidney Herbert from the posts for which they have proved themselves so miserably disqualified, and the dismissal of these poor incapables involves the retirement of the remainder of the "gang" including of course the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—*Morning Herald*.

EMBODIMENT OF THE ENTIRE MILITIA.—It is intended to call out the whole of the Militia regiments of the United Kingdom, including the entire Irish as well as Scotch militia.

THE BALTIC FLEET.—With a few exceptions, the ships comprising the Baltic fleet have reached the British waters, and are safely moored in the harbours of the various outposts. The services of those mounting 90 guns and upwards are required to convey reinforcements to the army in the Crimea, and every exertion is being used by the authorities to get them ready for the emergency.

It is said to be the fact that Vice Admiral Sir C. Napier, K. C. B., and Rear Admiral Chads, C. B., have ceased to be in active employment, and are both on half-pay! With respect to Sir Charles Napier, it is now said that he is determined to make a clean breast of it; and we are led by his friends to expect an exposition that will justify himself.—*Nation*.

The imperial steam-yacht *Reine Hortense*, belonging to the Emperor Napoleon, has arrived in Southampton water, to assist the large merchant ships to be loaded at Southampton with stores and wooden houses for the French army in the Crimea. The fact that the imperial steam-yacht used by the Emperor is to be employed in such a service as a mere tender or tug to a merchant transport-ship is a strong evidence of the energy which our French neighbors are infusing into the operations of the war, and of their earnest desire to provide for the safety and comfort of their suffering soldiers.

The Emperor Nicholas is winning the game (observes the *Leader*). The English government, which went into the war with reluctance, and which has conducted the war with a stupidity that, at times, has looked like treachery, is conspiring for peace.—An "honorable peace," of course, was there ever a peace which was not "honorable," according to diplomatists.

Lord John Russell says that there is one bit of truth in the Austrian treaty, and that it is at the end, where the name of the representative of England is coupled with the words, "Done at Vienna."—*Punch*.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION RETURNS.—The returns for the month ending Dec. 5th are published. During that month, the total value of articles of British produce exported was 6,680,000*l.*, being a decrease of 1,020,000*l.*, from the corresponding month of 1853, and an increase of some 6,000*l.* on that of 1852. For the first eleven months of 1854, the total value of these exports was 89,747,000*l.*, of which 10,673,000*l.* consisted of unenumerated articles. Exports for the same period of 1853 amounted to the sum of 80,784,000*l.*, and, in 1852, to 65,280,000*l.*

ST. MARY'S EDINBURGH.—CHRISTMAS-DAY.—Solemn High Mass was celebrated here, commencing at eleven o'clock. Long before the doors were opened, hundreds of persons of all classes had assembled around the entrance, anxious to obtain admittance. In a short time the chapel (which had been decorated for the occasion) was literally packed with people. The choir also on this occasion had been considerably enlarged, numbering not less than 100 vocal and instrumental performers, under the able management of M. Encholz. Mass was said by the Bishop, assisted by the Very Rev. Canon Rigg, and the Rev. Messrs. McManus, Stothert, Corry, &c. The services commenced by the choir giving, with great spirit, that heart-stirring piece, "For unto us a child is born," &c.; after which a discourse was delivered by his Lordship—which reverberated through the spacious chapel quite as nobly as the voices of the faithful of old did through our glorious cathedrals.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.—The poor clergy of the Established Church are about to petition the Queen and two Houses of Parliament for a more equal distribution of ecclesiastical revenues. The facts on which the petitioners ground their case, are, that while bishops and great dignitaries receive enormous incomes, the yearly income of 10,000 parochial clergymen does not exceed £200, the yearly incomes of 7,800 are under £150, and of 600 under £50. The men who receive these pitiful salaries are the "working clergy."

The Rev. John McGhee Martin, Presbyterian Minister of Hapley, Staffordshire, recently decamped to evade a Magistrate's order for the weekly payment of 2s 6d, for the support of an illegitimate child; but he was apprehended the other day by a detective-officer on board the Red Jacket, in which he had taken a passage to Melbourne.

It was attempted the other day, in the House of Lords, to obtain from the Government some recognition of the hand of God in our recent victories of Alma and Inkermann. They may be, for all we know, our last. The Duke of Grafton urged upon the Government this duty, but Lord Aberdeen positively declined to recommend the Queen to give public thanks to God for so great a triumph. Lord Aberdeen's objection to return public thanks for the recent victories is this: that to do so exposes the Queen's supremacy to contempt. In the opinion of the Prime Minister, God must give way to the Queen, and the most signal mercies—for surely it is a great mercy that our small army was not exterminated at Inkermann—must remain unacknowledged, if the Queen's supremacy cannot stand the shock. There is nothing surprising in this declaration of Lord Aberdeen; it is in harmony with statecraft; but there is something inexpressibly dreadful in it, something so serious, that we question whether it be not more wicked than open infidelity. The mind that could set up a mere human usurpation or invention on so high a pedestal as to overtop all considerations of God's providence and protection, must be unutterably sunk in worldliness. It is come to this: an old act of Parliament, binding only on a portion of the Queen's subjects, for some two-thirds of them utterly scorn it—Catholics and Dissenters being here agreed—is, in Lord Aberdeen's eyes, so supremely sacred that he cannot, even for the sake of giving God thanks for a most miraculous escape of our wasted army, venture to run the risk of its being exposed to doubt. Lord Campbell agrees with his countryman, and at the same time furnishes another reason—namely, that it is not expedient to be thankful for every blessing that is given us. Our thanksgivings ought to be rare, that they may be the more valued.—*Tablet*.

IRREGULAR MARRIAGES ON THE BORDER.—The following inscription fronts the public road, on the gable-end of a small public-house which stands as a half-way house between Berwick-on-Tweed and the hymeneal toll-bar of Lamberton:—Marriages celebrated at Lamberton Toll. For further particulars inquire within."

THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER.—If ever a series of events happened to rebuke the ordinary sectarian absurdities, it has been the war in the Crimea. The secretary of a charitable association may have refused "to recognise" the Roman Catholic clergymen; but Roman Catholic clergymen have forced the British public to recognise them by the admirable spirit in which a missionary like Davis administered to the wants of the soldiers in a field, without distinction of sect, and in which the Catholic prelates in Ireland have appealed to the claims of a common Christianity and a common country in stimulating the exertions of their flocks. The Russian guns made no distinctions, and no distinctions were made in the handling of Russian soldiers. The blow which was struck for "God and the right" in the service of Queen Victoria and of England was as deep, whether it came from Protestant or Catholic hand. The wounds inflicted by Russians, inflamed with special services from the altar, special messages from the Emperor, and brandy, were as sharp for Catholic as for Protestant. If anything has called attention to the difference between the two persuasions, it is the manner in which the actions of all have compelled the most bigoted to overrule their ancient prejudices. At the Presbyterian Church in Crown Court, on Sunday last, Dr. Cumming read a beautiful letter from Sister Mary Gonzaga, describing to the wife of a Scotch sergeant who had died in the hospital at Scutari, the manner of her husband's death. Sister Mary bears testimony to the attention which the dying man received, from his brother soldiers: she brought him, at his wish, a New Testament with large print, that his feeble eyes might read it; and a minister of the Church of England was with him at the least. Here is a Presbyterian with an English Episcopalian for his clergyman, and a Roman Catholic Sister of Charity for his ministering attendant; and the letter of the Sister is read as an example for Christians by the pastor of a Presbyterian congregation in London.—*Spectator*.