

excitement has been produced in the midland counties of Ireland by the execution, at Mullingar, of a man named Bryan Seery, whom the whole country, and we think with justice, believe to be innocent. He was accused of firing at Sir Francis Hopkins, and although that gentleman positively swore to his identity, there is now little doubt that he was mistaken. The attack was made about the middle of a rather dark night, and Sir Francis only got a momentary side view of his assailant's face. Seery was tried twice in one week for this offence, at a Special Commission. At the first trial the Jury could not agree. At the second, three most respectable Catholics, Grand Jurors of the county, were called on the Panel but challenged by the Crown. A more unwise or unfortunate exercise of the Royal prerogative was never made. We have had the pleasure of knowing for many years two of the gentlemen thus wantonly insulted, one of them the uncle of the Earl of Fingal, and more respectable or intelligent persons could not be found in any County of Ireland or England. Seery protested his innocence on the scaffold, and the unfortunate man who really fired at Sir Francis Hopkins is now well known, and is torn with remorse from the consequence of his guilt, by which an honest, religious neighbour of hitherto unblemished character has been brought to the gibbet, and a widowed wife left with five unprotected children. The whole affair has assumed a religious and party complexion, and it has done more to weaken the people's respect for the laws than anything that has occurred for a long time. Those concerned in the administration of justice thought no doubt that they were discharging a public duty in bringing a great culprit to deserved punishment, but we cannot help looking on this legal murder as a very great calamity in Ireland just now.

Mr. O'Connell has appeared in Parliament, and in an earnest and heart-rending speech called the attention of the House to the progress of famine in Ireland. He has also made some pointed allusions to the atrocious cruelties practised on the Basilian Nuns of Minsk. It is said that the Liberator and that uncompromising Catholic and truly honest man, the Hon. Charles Langdale, are about getting up a Public Meeting in London on the subject. We hope the example will be followed by the

Catholics of Ireland and England, as well as by every lover of humanity, that the indignant lash of public opinion may at length reach the ferocious hide of the savage monster of the North. The Pope has nobly performed his duty as Head of the Church and protector of the rights of humanity. The Roman people have immortalized themselves by their treatment of this huge Russian Tiger, and we trust ere long that all civilized and Christian Europe will raise one universal shout of execration which will be heard along the banks of the Neva, and penetrate even the heart-crushing mines of Siberia.

A Bill has been brought into Parliament by Mr Watson, most creditably supported by Lord John Manners for the abolition of the Penal Statutes against Catholics, which still disgrace our modern legislation. The Bill was drawn up by that very clever and promising Catholic Barrister, Mr. Anstey, author of the 'Guide to the Laws affecting Roman Catholics,' a most valuable work. The Liberator was, as usual, in his place, to defend the interests of his religion, but we are sorry to perceive in the short debate which ensued, that Lord John Russell delivered himself of an ignorant, wanton, and unstatesmanlike attack on the religious orders of the Catholic Church. His speech betrayed a narrow-minded bigotry which we think will seriously damage his future political career, and most especially in Ireland. It is evident that Lord John had read and swallowed all the one-sided accounts of the Jesuits and other orders. But, we must admit that the proprietors of Woburn Abbey would not find it very convenient to believe that the Religious Orders were always distinguished for piety, learning and hospitality, as it might be difficult in that case to justify the sacrilegious pillage of the Reformation. That travel-stained and industrious naturalist, Charles Waterton, has addressed a rebuke to Lord John on the subject, which will find an echo in millions of hearts. We confess we are sorry to be obliged for the future to place this Great Liberal, and Constitutional Scion of the House of Bedford, in the same category with those celebrated characters, Mr. Eugène Sue, the profligate novel-writer of France, and Messrs. Michelet and Quinet, its Infidel Professors.

Speaking of France we are delighted to find that Religious principles are getting into the ascendant,