



LORD LANSDOWNE.

Some Pertinent Facts About the New Governor-General of Canada.

WHY HE WAS SELECTED FOR HIS PREFERENCE TO "BUCKSHOT" FORSTER.

Horrible Stories of the Cruelty Perpetrated by His Ancestors in Ireland.

The Tenantry Died by Hundreds from Lack of Food and Clothing—A Startling Picture.

The Canadian Irish are up in arms about the appointment of the Marquis of Lansdowne to the Governor-Generalship of Canada. They are probably not aware that it might have been worse for them. It is positively asserted that Mr. Gladstone had to choose between the Marquis and Mr. William E. Foster, ex-Chief Secretary for Ireland, and "Blackshot" Mr. Forster was the choice of two members of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet at least. These are Sir Charles W. Dilke and Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Gladstone's refusal to appoint their favorite is said to have been much resented by both gentlemen. Their motives in pressing the appointment of Forster are not above suspicion. It is said that it was intended as a sort of honorable banishment for him. Mr. Forster, as is well known, attributes his virtual dismissal from the Irish Secretaryship to Dilke and Chamberlain, particularly the latter, and he has lost no opportunity to thwart the plans of both. They, therefore, determined his exile. Forster himself, it may be added, sought the appointment as a vindication. But Gladstone does not like Forster, and he also felt no doubt that it would be a perfidious experiment to send him to the town where D'Arcy McGee met his fate, therefore Lansdowne was chosen.

It may seem strange that the opposition to Lansdowne should be so great among the Irish. He is an Irishman himself, born by accident in England. He is a descendant of the most noted of the Norman-Irish families, the Geraldines, "who channeled deep old Ireland's heart by constancy and worth." His wife is an Irish lady, daughter of the only Irishman who has been Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for many years—the Duke of Abercorn. He is an Irish landlord, too, but right here comes the objection.

THE LANSDOWNE ESTATES.

The Marquis of Lansdowne inherits a large landed property in Southwest Cork and Kerry, the ancient patrimony of the O'Sullivan-Kerry, which was confiscated by Sir William Petty, his maternal ancestor, a Cromwellian soldier. His annual income from this land is \$175,000. Not a penny of this is spent in Ireland. The O'Sullivan sept have never acquiesced in Lansdowne's title. As tenants under English law they refused to pay rents, and they shot the agents of this Lansdowne and of his ancestors; the blood of his balliffs without number has bedewed the grassy slopes of Kerry. That the balliffs were nearly all of the O'Sullivan sept did not matter. The Lansdownes past and present retaliated. They rack-rented, they evicted, and they perpetrated the country. The most rigid, rigorous and merciless agents have been selected to do these things. The most hated men in the South of Ireland at the present time are Samuel Murray Husey and Townsend Trench, the agents of the Lansdowne estates. Their treatment of the tenantry has been characterized as infamous. This has been the verdict not only of Neasey (D. B. Locke), Radpath and William O'Brien, but of so conservative a man as Charles Russell, Liberal member of Parliament for Dandah, the leader of the English bar, who was sent specially to Ireland by Mr. Gladstone to report on the state of the tenantry. Mr. Russell published his experiences in the Dublin Freeman and London Daily Telegraph in a series of letters, which have been since published in book form.

In this volume it is stated how the Lansdowne family came to possession of their estate. In September 1654, Dr. Petty came to Ireland as Physician General to the English army. Until June, 1659, his salary was 20 shillings per day, and he had private practice. Within a few years he was owner of 50,000 acres in Kerry, and, as he states in his will, he had in Ireland "without the County of Kerry in land, reversions and remainders about £3,100 more." In the same document he quaintly adds that he dies "in the practice of such religious worship as I find established by the law of my country." This was the founder of the Lansdowne estates.

WHAT HE LEARNED. "In the famine years," says Mr. Russell, "this estate was not only the scene of the most awful miseries of that awful time, but it was also the place from which a large emigration took place under the auspices of the late Mr. Trench (the agent), who has left to this day bitter memories behind it." Many of those assisted emigrants, settled in Montreal. The majority of them died there in the hospital, or, during the voyage of the famine fever. Of those left behind many died of sheer hunger. Mr. Trench, the agent himself, published a book, called "Realities of Irish Life," in which he describes the condition of the people. "At least 6,000 people must have died of starvation within the union of Kenmare (where is the Lansdowne estate). They died on the roads; they died in the fields; they died on the mountains and they died in

the glens; they died at the relief works and they died in their houses. So that whole streets or villages were left without an inhabitant. In little more than a year 3,500 papers left Kenmare for America, all free emigrants, without any ejcements having to be brought against them to enforce it, or the slightest pressure put upon them to go. Only some sixty papers remained in the (work) house, chargeable to the property of which I had care, and Lord Lansdowne's estates at length breathed freely."

Nothing need be added to this language. "Lord Lansdowne's estates at length breathed freely." The assisted emigration and the famine had done its work, assisted by Mr. Trench. The history of the consequences of Lansdowne's clearances is told, says Mr. Russell, "on the hillsides of Kerry, and the traditions of the place keep alive the story of the Lansdowne ward in the New York hospital, where many of these ill-starred emigrants fell victims to disease and death." Mr. Russell fails to mention that there was a Lansdowne ward in the Montreal workhouse also. But these were in the days of the predecessor of the present Marquis. Let us see how it has been during the rule of the future Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada. "The present agent," says Mr. Russell, "seems to have denied strenuously the existence of distress on the Lansdowne estates in 1879-'80, and to have refused to act upon any of the several relief committees established in the neighborhood." But in April, 1880, "the agent applied for funds to promote a new emigration scheme." He told the Nun of Kenmare that "when he saw distress coming he said to his noble master that it would be the best thing that had ever happened for landlords—they would have their tenants at their mercy."

The Nun of Kenmare also says that during the time when Lord Lansdowne's agents said there was no distress on the estates managed by him "she had to supply clothes to cover the children of the Lansdowne tenants. She had done so in consequence of the statements made to her by the schoolmistress that for the sake of decency they could not otherwise allow the children to attend the schools, even if their parents were willing to permit them to do so." A member of the Relief Committee told Mr. Russell that "were it not for the relief given by our committee a great number of the Lansdowne tenants would have died." This was in 1880. The causes are not far to seek.

"I believe," says Mr. Russell, "the cases to be exceedingly few in which the tenants could, out of the land, pay the existing rent if they reserved to themselves a sufficiency of food and clothing for decent maintenance. In one house, and in one house only, on this estate did I see a piece of bacon hanging up in the kitchen. I was struck with this and with the otherwise greater comfort of the dwelling. I complimented the tenant on what I presumed was his greater industry or his better management. His answer was pithy and to the point. He said 'I could never afford that or to live any way decent out of the land.' 'How then do you afford it?' His answer was satisfactory. He was an ex-policeman with a pension of £48 a year."

THE "SILENT SYSTEM."

The rents have been raised recently on what the French call "the silent system"—that is, there is no general raise, but "when a new tenant came in, or the son was substituted for the father or for the mother, the rule is that an increase then takes place." The tenant may either agree to pay or go. Among the other charges made by Mr. Russell against Lord Lansdowne are that he borrows money to make improvements from the Government at the rate of 1 per cent interest for the first two years, and that he obliges the tenants to pay 5 per cent interest; that he obliges tenants to buy lime burned at his own kiln, and pay at the rate of 2s 6d per barrel, when it is being sold elsewhere at 1s 3d; that the sons or daughters of tenants are not permitted to marry without permission of the landlord or agent under penalty of forfeiture of tenancy; that the rents have been raised on an average three different times in twenty-five years; that in 1875 the average increase was 25 per cent. "The tenants are practically without alternative. They must submit." This was in 1880, before the Land Act was passed. But as the tenants were obliged to take leases in 1875 they are even now without redress. Here is the story of one of the tenants given by Mr. Russell. It is the first one in his book, and is taken as a specimen case:

"I was born on the land; so was my father before me. Rent £55 6s. Valuation £33. Rent used to be £36. It was raised twenty years ago to £44 6s, and it was raised again five years ago to £55 6s. I drained about sixty acres of the land without getting a penny from the landlord. It was poor, barren land. I removed lots of rocks and stones. I built outbuildings myself and did not get a penny from the landlord. I asked for but did not get slates or timber. I was a hangover on the property on the estate, and no tenant in 45 years of age, and I heard my father say he didn't remember when the hanging year's rent began."

Mr. Russell that there was no remedy for this state of things but the "Tipperary remedy." What that is may be gathered from the following:

"I believe," said a Cahirovren man, "Mr. Gladstone is a good man; but what can he do against a whole House full of landlords? No, sir, the Tipperary boys did more for themselves in a short time than any Government has done in my time. When I was a boy Tipperary had the worst name for landlords in all Ireland, and some of them got badly hurt. God help them!" From what has been said it will be seen that the Irish have little reason to love Lord Lansdowne—that he is an exterminator of their race. He may, in the language of the Dublin Freeman, appear to the ordinary Englishman or Canadian "a great Whig magnate—to the Irishman he is a man who has inherited the traditions of the most cruelly managed estate in all afflicted Ireland."

Mr. Russell, whose work is here so largely quoted, is the same gentleman who is to accompany Lord Coleridge, the English Lord Chancellor, during his American visit. His inquiry into the management of the Lansdowne and other Irish estates was undertaken at the special request of Mr. Gladstone. (Chicago Tribune.) GARY OWEN.

IRISH AFFAIRS IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

MR. HEALY TO CONTEST THE COUNTY MONAGHAN.

LONDON, June 12.—In the trial of the dynamite conspirators, precautionary measures on an elaborate scale are being taken to prevent a rescue of the prisoners while being conveyed to and from Court; twelve mounted policemen with drawn swords surround the van containing the prisoners, and policemen armed with revolvers ride inside. The streets are also cleared to allow of the rapid passage of the vehicle.

A man named Sweeney has been arrested at Queenstown charged with complicity in the murder of Lord Mountmorris at Butlwin, near Olanbar, Galway, on September 25th, 1880. Sweeney had taken passage for New York by the steamer which leaves Queenstown tomorrow. The prisoner recently left Oong, County Mayo, abruptly, and an enquiry into his disappearance was ordered under the Crimes Act.

LONDON, June 12.—This afternoon, Mr. Trevelyan stated that the body of Jury, the Dublin hotel keeper, whose death it was reported had been caused by poison, administered by the Invincibles, had been exhumed, and no trace of poison discovered. Mr. Trevelyan also stated that Peter Tynan ("No. 1") had boasted after the death of Jury that he had poisoned him, and no doubt this was generally believed among the Invincibles.

Mr. Gladstone accepted a resolution proposed by Lord Claude Hamilton and supported by the Conservatives and Parnellites, in favor of an early revision of the purchase clauses of the Land Act for the purpose of giving fuller effect to the intentions of Parliament.

LONDON, June 13.—In the trial of the dynamite conspirators Inspector Majendie testified that he examined the contents of Whitehead's factory in Ledson street, Birmingham, 600 pounds of nitric acid and 700 pounds of sulphuric acid. He also examined a portion of the Local Government Board office wrecked by the explosives, and gave it as his opinion that twenty pounds of nitro-glycerine caused the damage. The prosecution then closed.

Mr. Gladstone began his argument on behalf of Dr. Gallagher. He declared there was no occasion to defend the prisoner against the charge of levying war against the Government, as no evidence had been adduced showing that he was guilty of the offence. The Lord Chief Justice declared that if the prisoners agreed to destroy property of the Crown, to endanger life, or to intimidate the councillors of the Queen, they virtually levied war against the country. The counsel for the defence submitted that there was no case against Bernard Gallagher, who acted while under the influence of drink. It was proved that Mr. Galer introduced Ansburgh at the Charing Cross hotel as Gallagher in order that he might obtain a letter and telegram. In examining Inspector Melville, who was called as a witness to a conversation between them when the former was arrested, he called the inspector a liar because he denied that he said to him (Ansburgh) at the time, "You had better turn in for the night." The Lord Chief Justice here interposed. Police Inspector Glasgow testified that Bernard Gallagher informed him that he knew the other prisoners, but was not connected with the New York dynamite scheme. He knew O'Donovan Rossa, president of the school. An Irish constable swore that Curtin lived at Fermoy, Ireland, under the name of Keat after he left America, and was connected with the Gallagher.

during the past week. It is expected that a number of other arrests will be made of persons suspected of connection with the murder.

DUBLIN, June 14.—It is believed the police are cognizant of the fact that a society has been formed here for the purpose of "removing" the informers who testified at the late trials, particularly James Carey. The house in which the society held the meetings has been closely watched. A raid was made recently on a house where it was supposed a meeting was being held, but no arrests were effected.

Carey has been permitted to go out of Kilmahnam Jail occasionally of late, but this has been stopped, the police declining to hold themselves responsible for his safety.

NEW YORK, June 14.—A meeting of Irish ladies and gentlemen was held to-night, at which an appeal was issued to their co-nationalists for assistance for the relatives of those who lately died in Ireland's cause.

CHICAGO, June 14.—In an interview with Alexander Sullivan, President of the Irish National League of America, he said there was no truth in the report that that body proposed to espouse the cause of a protective tariff in American politics. Its policy was no trade with England and protection for Ireland. He denied that he had ever been in any way connected with the skinning fund.

The statement is published here that Archbishop Feahan of the Catholic archdiocese, together with all the Archbishops in America, has been called to Rome by the Pope to consult with reference to the proposed Plenary Council for this country, to consider matters of church polity and discipline in America. It is not definitely known, but it is supposed, that the council will consider the relations which the Church should assume towards members of the Irish National League of America. The Archbishops are to appear in Rome in September.

LONDON, June 14.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a question of Mr. O'Donnell, member for Dugurragh, said the Government had taken no steps to ascertain the opinion of the Canadian people before nominating the Marquis of Lansdowne as Governor-General of the Dominion.

DUBLIN, June 15.—Healy will resign his seat in the House of Commons for Wexford, and contest the election in County Monaghan for the Home Rulers.

LONDON, June 16.—Sir Stafford Northcote has informed John Bright that he will call attention in the House of Commons to that portion of Bright's speech on Thursday night, in which he referred in severe terms to Tory obstruction in the House, saying that "obstructionists in alliance with the Irish rebels were doing their utmost to make it impossible for the House to do any work." Sir Stafford will point out that Mr. Bright committed a breach of privilege in using such language.

Montagu Curzon (Conservative) has been elected without opposition to the House of Commons for North Leicestershire, made vacant by the death of Bulcuthy (Conservative).

NEW YORK, June 17.—London speculists say Mr. Gladstone shows signs of a recurrence of the symptoms which rendered his visit to Cannes necessary. He is clearly breaking down under the continuous strain and repeated disappointments caused by a threatened break-up of the party. He privately disapproves of the new radical measures of the more advanced section of the Cabinet is forcing upon him, and which include universal suffrage, equal electoral districts and the payment of members of Parliament. If the country rallies Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, it is said Mr. Gladstone will finally retire from public life.

LONDON, June 18.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Sir Stafford Northcote called attention to Mr. John Bright's speech at Birmingham, and declared that his statement which the Conservatives were in alliance with the Irish rebels in thwarting the House from doing its work was unfounded. He moved that Mr. Bright's utterances be declared a breach of privilege.

Mr. Bright, who was much cheered on rising, said he had a right to speak with great freedom to his constituency. The term "alliance" was capable of having a meaning given it that he did not intend; but it was the word that first occurred to him. Perhaps he ought to have been more careful, but he affirmed that there was combined action between the Conservatives and Irish in both debate and division to worry and destroy the Ministry. He was pained to witness the manner in which some members of the House clamored at the Premier. Such conduct was a modern innovation. Mr. Bright commented on the existence of societies in America which were disloyal to the British Crown, and were sending funds to similar disloyal societies in Great Britain. If the Irish members of Parliament disavowed connection with these disloyal societies in America and declared their loyalty to the Crown he would withdraw the word rebel and apologize for having used it.

A TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT CHILDREN PERISH.

TRAMPLED TO DEATH IN A STAIRWAY.

PANIC AT VICTORIA HALL, SUNDERLAND.

Sad End of a Conjuror's Show.

Getting Out the Bodies—Heartrending Scenes—Feeling in the Town.

LONDON, June 16.—A terrible calamity, involving the death of 178 children, occurred in the town of Sunderland, in the county of Durham, this evening. From details thus far received it appears that an entertainment had been given in Victoria Hall by a conjuror, which was attended almost altogether by children, several thousand being present. The accident occurred at the close of the performance. The body of the hall had been entirely cleared of its occupants, when some 1,200 little ones came rushing down stairs from the gallery. At the top of the first flight of stairs there was a door which opened only twenty inches, and thus but one child was permitted to pass through at a time. At this point, while the mass of children were pushing forward, some of them fell and were unable to rise owing to the others crowding on. The result was that a great number were pushed down, trampled on and suffocated. The scene was terrible and no effort could stop the mad

ROSE OF THE AFFRIGHTED CHILDREN.

They came on pell mell, though, strangely, without much shouting, and soon one hundred and seventy-eight of them were knocked down and suffocated to death by the others trampling upon them. The greatest number of bodies, which were badly mangled from the trampling, lay seven or eight deep. Many victims and others who were not killed had the clothing torn from their bodies, and this, together with the bleeding bodies of the unfortunate, shows the terrible nature of the struggle. The ages of the one hundred and seventy-eight children known to have been killed ranged from four to fourteen years. The excitement in the town when the news of the disaster spread was terrific. Great crowds of people rushed to the scene, until at last 20,000 persons surrounded the hall. The feeling was so intense that the authorities ordered out the 68th Infantry to preserve order. The work of

of the victims was begun immediately. They were laid out in the hall, and the parents of those killed were admitted for the purpose of identifying the bodies of the children. Most heartrending scenes transpired while the work of identification was in progress; the mothers of the dead children constantly uttered piercing shrieks, and many of them fainted on discovering the bodies of their little ones.

LATEST PARTICULARS.

LONDON, June 17.—Victoria Hall, Sunderland, where the calamity occurred last evening, has been surrounded today by a distressed and excited crowd. The stairway from the gallery, at the top landing of which occurred the pressure which led to the accident, was from five to six feet wide and the gallery door, through which the children were allowed to pass only one at a time, which circumstance is regarded as the direct cause of the calamity, was fitted with a bolt which lodged in a hole in the floor, thus narrowing the passageway for the purpose of facilitating ticket-taking when the audience was entering the hall. The janitor says the scene behind the gallery door was fearful. Some children were fixed tight in a heap and actually gasping for breath, so great was the pressure of the crowd behind them. The majority of the children in the hall were under twelve years of age. When the disaster happened, the janitor and his wife and several hastily summoned bystanders went to work immediately to give the sufferers relief. They first set out of the building by the other exit ways, the little ones who were still in the hall, by this means avoiding fears of a further crush. Those who were rescued from the unfortunate sufferers found the work of removing the heap of crushed, crushed and suffocated bodies no easy task. Two hundred children were rescued from the pile who were practically unharmed. Many others were found in an unconscious condition, but of these a number were restored and immediately taken to their homes. Nearly all those who were regarded with a number whose wounds were regarded as fatal, were laid out in the main hall, where the local doctors in attendance used every effort to restore those in whom a spark of life could be detected. One eye-witness states that he saw lying on the flagstones, a short distance from the bottom of the stairs, the dead bodies of seven children.

THE STAIRCASE.

from the gallery was a winding one. Both the audience and the officials, who were in the hall at the time of the disaster, were unaware for some considerable time of the terrible tragedy, that was being enacted at the door, and were not informed until Mr. Graham, the hall keeper, who was strolling near by the scene of the calamity, was attracted by the groans, and gave the alarm. Mr. Graham, who gave the alarm, was busy packing up his apparatus to depart, when a man rushed up and informed him of the disaster, and he immediately fell down speechless in a fit. Some families, whose homes were so suddenly darkened, lost over three children. One man and his wife pushed their way into the hall in which lay the bodies of the victims, and without betraying any emotion began to scan the faces of the dead, recognizing the face of one of his children, the father pointing with his finger exclaiming: "That's one," passing on again he recognized another, and then a third. Staggering in a fit of agony he cried: "My God, all my family gone," and overwhelmed with grief, sank to the floor. In some houses there were five children dead.

One Sunday school loses thirty scholars by the catastrophe. Many survivors had their arms broken in the crush; others are suffering from broken ribs or rupture of internal organs. Graham, the hall keeper, says that the children who were not twenty yards from the door came pressing forward unaware of the tragedy, thus making matters ten times worse than they really were. The scene inside the Victoria Hall during the identification of the bodies was painful in the extreme and of a bliss description. The faces of the dead children were almost in every case black and swollen from suffocation, from which many died. The lips were cracked and parched and the noses bleeding, and the parents, rushing wildly about, would fall upon the bodies of dead children, and with loud wailing and weeping, clasp the unconscious forms in their arms, vainly endeavoring to note any sign of life. Many poor mothers swooned away at the first sight of the dead, while others were wild and almost violent in hysterical grief. After the moving of the dead from the hall today was the occasion for renewed lamentation. One witness of the calamity stated today that for the first five minutes after the accident there was a great lack of assistance, and from this cause alone there were certainly one hundred lives lost. The weather was warm and the passageway very close, so in a short time after the catastrophe a stinking stench came from the pile of corpses at the main outlet of the hall.

aster, and he immediately fell down speechless in a fit. Some families, whose homes were so suddenly darkened, lost over three children. One man and his wife pushed their way into the hall in which lay the bodies of the victims, and without betraying any emotion began to scan the faces of the dead, recognizing the face of one of his children, the father pointing with his finger exclaiming: "That's one," passing on again he recognized another, and then a third. Staggering in a fit of agony he cried: "My God, all my family gone," and overwhelmed with grief, sank to the floor. In some houses there were five children dead.

One Sunday school loses thirty scholars by the catastrophe. Many survivors had their arms broken in the crush; others are suffering from broken ribs or rupture of internal organs. Graham, the hall keeper, says that the children who were not twenty yards from the door came pressing forward unaware of the tragedy, thus making matters ten times worse than they really were. The scene inside the Victoria Hall during the identification of the bodies was painful in the extreme and of a bliss description. The faces of the dead children were almost in every case black and swollen from suffocation, from which many died. The lips were cracked and parched and the noses bleeding, and the parents, rushing wildly about, would fall upon the bodies of dead children, and with loud wailing and weeping, clasp the unconscious forms in their arms, vainly endeavoring to note any sign of life. Many poor mothers swooned away at the first sight of the dead, while others were wild and almost violent in hysterical grief. After the moving of the dead from the hall today was the occasion for renewed lamentation. One witness of the calamity stated today that for the first five minutes after the accident there was a great lack of assistance, and from this cause alone there were certainly one hundred lives lost. The weather was warm and the passageway very close, so in a short time after the catastrophe a stinking stench came from the pile of corpses at the main outlet of the hall.

ONE SAD INCIDENT.

was witnessed in the vicinity of the hall. A lad was sitting on a railing near Murton street crying. A passer by inquired if to the street cryer: "Why, sir," said he, "I was in that place and when I was coming out a boy that was dying bit my hands, and that's him," he added, pointing to the corpse of a child lying near by.

MORE DEATHS.

A number of deaths have occurred since the first report, and the list is now placed at one hundred and eighty-six. One of the persons who responded immediately to the call for help, says many who volunteered to assist in rescuing the children, sickened at the spectacle and died horrified from the distressing scene.

A HORRIBLE SCENE.

The rescuer's first efforts were directed towards reaching the children who were apparently alive, but so tightly were the victims jammed together, that it was regarded as dangerous to drag them out of the helpless mass, lest the effort would result in pulling off the limbs of the living children as well as unfastening the dead. They therefore proceeded steadily and systematically to lift off the topmost. Few of those who were beneath had survived, and their moanings and low cries of pain could be distinctly heard amid the excitement, and the cries of bereaved parents and friends, who were thronging the adjacent streets. The disaster was referred to in all the obituaries in Sunderland to-day, and by many of the preachers in London, and prayers were offered for the parents and friends of the victims.

LATEST REPORTS.

tonight figure up 188 dead, and the gravest fears are felt that the number will yet be shown to have reached at least two hundred. The eagerness of the children to depart from the hall was caused by a desire to receive prizes that had been promised them. Graham throws the blame for the calamity upon a man connected with the entertainment, who, it appears, fastened the door half open in order that the prizes might be given to the children, one at a time, while they were leaving the hall.

THE QUEEN.

The Private Secretary to the Queen telegraphed to the Mayor of Sunderland that Her Majesty directs him to state that she is terribly shocked at the awful calamity which occurred at Victoria Hall on Saturday, and her heart bleeds for the sufferings of the many bereaved parents. She prays God to support them in their terrible distress.

SUNDERLAND, June 18.—The excitement over the catastrophe in the Victoria Hall continues in intensity. Some children who escaped say the report spread through the gallery at the close of the performance that the child first out of the hall would get a prize, and there was consequently an eager rush for the doors. Most of the bodies of the victims will be buried together in a long trench.

Several children who left the exhibition before the accident state that they saw a man just before the rush partially close the door on the landing on which the disaster took place. It will be proved at the inquest that the man bolted the door ajar in order to facilitate the distribution of toys to the children as they left. A box containing the toys still stands near the door. LONDON, June 19.—The number of deaths caused by the calamity in Sunderland has reached 187. The average of land devoted to the cultivation of wheat in the United States has within the last year been extended from 15,800,000 to more than 36,000,000. In the year 1880 the States grew 60,000,000 quarters of wheat, of which 23,000,000 were exported.