

arms last night, as well as the Sardinians. General Pelissier apprehended an attack. The health of the army continues excellent. The weather is dry, clear, and not excessively warm. Sir W. Eyre, commanding the Third Division, reports to the Quartermaster-General under date the 14th inst., in very high terms concerning the excellent order in which he found the hospitals on a recent inspection. "I cannot conceive," he says, "that soldiers in the field can be more orderly or comfortably accommodated." He adds that the sick are in possession of every comfort, and gives great credit to the medical men of the division. The weather is decidedly favorable to field hospitals, permitting doors to be left open and canvas raised so as to ventilate thoroughly, and I am often struck, when passing through the camp, by the clean, cool, and comfortable appearance of the hospital-huts and marquees, and of their inmates.

Aug. 25.—We have had an agitated night and morning. There was a good deal of firing in the evening, which increased towards one o'clock, about which time a sortie was attempted by the Russians against the Mamelon, but promptly repelled. The troops not being yet up from the trenches, I am unable to give you details. The firing was very heavy for a short time—as heavy as any night-firing that has been heard here for a long time past. At 2 a.m. the Highland Division marched to support the Sardinians. The whole army was under arms before daylight, an attack being fully expected, and General Simpson and his staff were out and round the lines. At this present time all is quiet, but the troops are ordered to be in readiness. So strong was the expectation of an action on the Tchernaya, owing to the movement of the Highlanders and other indications, that several amateurs went down to the ground where the battle, it was thought, would occur. The hour compels me to close this letter, but, according to every appearance, my next must take you news of a collision. It is intensely hot to-day, and the Russians generally are very quiet from noon till one or two o'clock—probably eating or reposing.

DEFENCES OF SEBASTOPOL.—General Melnikoff, who has succeeded General Todleben as director of the defensive works of Sebastopol, has had mines, fosses, galleries, small redoubts, and barricades made between the first and second lines of defence. Upon the eminence between Fort Paul and the bastion No. 1 he has had a work constructed, which commands the towers of Korniloff and the Malakoff to such an extent, that the allies will be unable to establish themselves in these towers, even when they shall have conquered them. The Belbek heights again are stronger than ever, and the entire park of field-artillery previously at Sebastopol is also there.

PROSPECTS OF THE SIEGE.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Independence Belge* writes as follows, on the 31st ult.:—"The accounts received to-day from the Crimea are most interesting, although they bring no new fact of importance. They, however, throw some light on the future plans of the two armies. It appears that the besiegers are daily approaching close to the first line of fortifications, but it is beyond doubt also that the besieged have not remained idle, and that they have added to the old works of the Karabelnaia, of the city properly speaking, and of the Northern Citadel other defences, which appear completely to paralyze the works of approach of the allies. It was inferred from this circumstance that the generals of the combined armies would abandon the project of storming the Malakoff Tower, because if they succeeded in gaining possession of it, at the cost of immense bloodshed, they could not maintain themselves in it under the concentrated fire of the second line of defence. According to one report their plan would be to raise the siege for the present; to place their guns under cover behind the ramparts of Kamiesch, and to concentrate all their forces at Eupatoria, in order to operate against Simpheropol and Bakhiserai. According to another version, the officers of engineers of the allies have chosen Kamiesch as the base of their ulterior siege operations. Thence they intend, with the co-operation of the fleet, to obtain possession of all the points along Quarantine Bay, and push their approaches against the Bastion No. 6, which would require the whole autumn and winter. Such, it appears, was the plan General Canrobert intended to execute last winter, when General Niel, on his arrival before Sebastopol, chose the Malakoff as the principal point of attack. Whatever be the real plan of the besiegers, they are obliged, before the close of the fine season, to attempt some decisive enterprise. The continual arrival of reinforcements at Kamiesch would seem to confirm this opinion. A letter from Varna states, on the other hand, that a fresh attack of the Russians upon the Tchernaya was expected in the French camp. General Pelissier is thereby obliged to form *en echelon* a considerable force along the whole line to the valley of Baidar, and consequently to bring up all his reinforcements. The Ottoman army in the Crimea is to embark for Asia Minor in September, leaving only one division before Sebastopol, under the orders of Osman Pacha. The Ottoman contingent of 12,000 men, in the pay of England, is to take its place in the Crimea."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

New Bishop of Waterford.—The Papal bull appointing the Very Rev. Dominick O'Brien to the bishopric of Waterford and Lismore has been received. *Kilkenny Journal*.
Conversion.—The Earl of Dunraven, the brother-in-law of Mr. W. Monsell, has left the established church, and become a member of the Catholic Church.
A new weekly journal is about to be started in Dublin, devoted to the national cause. It is to be called the *Tribune*.
It is supposed that the entire of the Poor-law Inspectors in Ireland will be dispensed with. Pauperism has greatly decreased.

Mr. GAVAN DUFFY.—Colonel Duffy, who dates from Duke-street, St. James's-square, proposes the getting up of a public testimonial to commemorate the services of the member for New Ross, and by way of a beginning, the gallant Colonel encloses, as his mite, the handsome donation of £200. Mr. Duffy, however, repudiates the proffered honor, sarcastically remarking that he has never put the money of the people in his pocket; that he is happier without it; and that, in his opinion, it is better to starve than to be the bribes of the Castle, but even of the gossage of the people.

THE NEW ROSS CONSTITUENCY.—A long correspondence has passed between Father Doyle and Mr. Duffy, M.P., in reference to the representation of the Borough, in which Father Doyle, on behalf of the electors, requests Mr. Duffy not to vacate the seat, even should he retire from the country. Mr. Duffy expresses his determination to retire, but offers in deference to the wishes of the electors a letter, which may be used by them to vacate the seat at any time they are prepared to elect a successor. Mr. John Reynolds has already addressed the electors as a candidate. *Freeman's Journal*.

SMITH O'BRIEN.—Lord Palmerston feared to restore O'Brien to his country; he dreaded the presence of one pure-souled politician amid the mass of rascality abounding that constitutes modern politics; he feared also to lose votes; so he played a dishonest game to the end of the session, and then let it be known that he would not satisfy the hopes he had held out; that he would not let back to Ireland an honest man whose prestige and whose presence might prove very disconcerting to the God-abandoned wretches who are the tools of Palmerston—the fat scum that English rascality gathers off Ireland's hellbroth. Had Lord Palmerston, like an honest scoundrel—for there are rascals who are honest after a fashion, though, we believe, the house of Temple cannot boast them—had he said openly that he had such a dislike to Smith O'Brien that he would not let him return; or that he feared his return would prove annoying to the government "Irish stew," which was more important than even the "white bait dinner," or that he feared the return of Smith O'Brien might beget revolutionary feelings in the hearts of the people; had he said anything of this it would be possible to give him credit for as much honesty as a modern English statesman can possess or exhibit. But he did not; he only cheated. Perhaps it is better so. We know not what the secret feelings and longings of Mr. O'Brien are now; but we feel satisfied that he never wished a favor to be asked for him from the like of Palmerston; in fact we cannot believe that Wm. Smith O'Brien would consent to have any favor sought for him from any British minister. If it was hinted to Lord Palmerston that O'Brien would be grateful, quiet, obedient, and loyal to any form of rascality that chanced to have the upper-hand, we are satisfied that he did not consent. It is somewhat disgraceful to those enemies of Smith O'Brien who now call themselves his friends, that they asked a boon for him, and were not only refused; but played like monkeys on a string; but it is more disgraceful that the boon should be sought for such a man from such a man. *Fermanagh Reporter*.

THE MARQUISATE OF THOMOND.—Mr. Joseph T. Hoare, nephew of the late Marquis of Thomond, thus addresses the *Times*:—"A statement having appeared in your journal, copied from an Irish provincial paper, to the effect, that a Mr. Murtagh O'Brien of the Irish constabulary, was about to be installed in the Marquisate of Thomond; the Earl of Inchiquin, and Baron of Tadcaster, I shall esteem it a favor your giving such assertion a direct contradiction. The Marquisate of Thomond is extinct, likewise the Barony of Tadcaster, which was only a life grant to the late nobleman's eldest brother. The Earl of Inchiquin descends, I believe, to either the Earl of Orkney or Sir Lucious O'Brien, Bart. This entail being long since broken, the late and last Marquis could dispose of property as he thought fit. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add he had no relation whatsoever of the name of Murtagh O'Brien."

COUNTY OF DUBLIN ELECTION.—We are advised, says the *Dublin Express*, that it has been currently announced during the last few days, in circles likely to be well informed, that the radical candidates for the representation of the metropolitan county at the next election will be Captain George H. Lindsay, J. P., Chairman of the North Dublin Union Board of Guardians, and Charles Donville, Esq., J. P., eldest son of Sir Compton Donville, and also, it is said, a near relative of Captain Lindsay. For the city of Dublin, at the next election, several gentlemen are spoken of as likely to address the electors on radical principles; among the most prominent of the names mentioned are Alderman George Roe, J. P., D. L.; Sir Edward McDonnell, late Lord Mayor of Dublin; and Francis William Brady, Esq., Barrister at Law, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

Several public institutions of Dublin have joined in an invitation to the British Association to hold their annual meeting for 1856 in that city; and a letter on the subject from the Rev. Dr. Robinson, President of the Royal Irish Academy, addressed to the Lord Mayor, was very warmly responded to at the meeting of the corporation on Monday.

THE IRISH FISHERIES.—After the failure of almost numberless projects, another effort is now in course of being made to carry on, in a commercial spirit, the extensive, but long-neglected fisheries of the west coast of Ireland. It is proposed to do so by means of a company, to be called the London and West of Ireland Fishery Company, the headquarters of which is fixed to be at Galway.

In order to give increased facilities to communication with America, the harbour board of Cork have determined to exempt from tonnage dues all steam vessels touching at that port, and conveying the mail passengers or telegraphic intelligence to and from America.

An enterprising English merchant, the owner of several stores and mills at Westport, is about to run a steamer between Liverpool and that town.

A GOOD PURCHASE.—A Scotch gentleman, named Urquhart purchased the house and lands of Bloomfield, in this country, containing about 135 Irish acres, three years since, on the sale of the Carlin estate, of which it was a portion, for £2,300. Last week he resold it to the Rev. Peter Foler, a gentleman residing in Kildare, for £4,600, exactly double what he gave for it. *Roscommon Journal*.

The *Belfast Commercial Chronicle*, an old Irish paper, which became a daily one on the change in stamp duty, has ceased publication.

THE FLAX CROP.—We have been favoured, by an intelligent and well-informed correspondent, with the following communication, relative to the breadth of land under flax this year, in one district of County Monaghan, which, we doubt not, will prove interesting to many of our readers. As that County Monaghan is, perhaps, the largest flax-growing county in the north-west of the Kingdom, the result of the statistical returns in this case may not be a bad criterion of other counties. *Ballyborough, 1st Sept., 1855.*—Gentlemen.—The police have made up their returns (agricultural) for this district. Flax, as compared to last year, is 37 per cent deficient. Sown in 1854, 2,146 statute acres; ditto, in 1855, 1,846 acres. Deficient in this district, 890 statute acres. It has nearly all been pulled, and the bulk appears an average. The samples of new flax just appearing in market are better in quality than last year's. It is, however, too soon to form a correct opinion of the quality and produce of the crop in general. It is feared that a large portion, which was early laid down by the heavy rains, will prove weak in fibre, and poor in quality. *Northern Whig*.

The *Belfast Daily Mercury* says—"During the last three days immense progress has been made in the reaping of oats and wheat; large tracts of country are already cleared off, and if we had a full fortnight of fair weather the greater portion of grain in the north of Ireland would be safely stored."

AGRICULTURAL STRIKES.—The combinations of the agricultural laborers for higher wages have, in certain districts, assumed the character of ribbonism, and serious agrarian outrages have been the result. Threatening notices have again become frequent. Employers are warned of the usual consequences if they dare to offer their men less than certain wages, while the laborers receive fully as intelligible hints that punishment awaits their accepting lower than the scale fixed by their mysterious governors. In the Queen's County, the county Tipperary, and Kilkenny, this state of things has become a source of considerable embarrassment to the orderly portion of the rural inhabitants. *Morning Herald*.

The library of the late Thomas Moore, the poet, has been presented by Mrs. Moore to the Royal Irish Academy, and it arrived safely in Dublin, on Saturday 1st inst.

The new Emigration Act has been published. It is full of penalties against the owners of ships, whose requirements will, it is supposed, entirely put an end to the carelessness with which ships depart from Ireland.

ANOTHER MILITARY RIOT.—A formidable riot broke out on Saturday last between two of the militia regiments stationed at the camp on the Curragh. They fought with sticks, their fists, and some few used their bayonets. The officers were at mess at the time, and only for the prompt and energetic measures taken by Lieutenant-Colonel ———, who dashed amongst the rioters with a large stick in his hand, belabouring them heavily, the consequences must have been most serious as some of the combatants had just procured their fire-arms, which they would undoubtedly have used on the occasion.

A correspondent of the *Nation* gives a description of the Militia Camp at the Curragh:—"Five regiments are here encamped. The North Cork, the County Dublin, the County Longford, the 60th Rifles, and the Westmeath Rifles, in all about 4,000 men—more properly, 4,000 individuals. There are not 400 men among them. The pencil of Cruikshank would fail to do justice to the subjects presented here, in which all that was ludicrous, ridiculous, and droll was mingled with a great deal that was repulsive, saddening, pitiable. Here strode a deformed coal-porter, evidently incapacitated from working any longer at his honest vocation, his shako clumsily stuck on the back of his head like a lady's bonnet, his clothes hanging about his person all awry. There stood an old young man, who had had long acquaintance with dry-arch dormitories before he took the shilling, his face bearing that withered aspect which denotes premature age and long practice in city vice. In another place lounged a low, clumsily-built fellow, whose confused eyes gave tokens of his recent engagement in a practice long customary. Close by one of the water-cocks, which are placed one at each corner of the quadrangle, was a group of a different type. They were all young, some as old as 17, others about 14. In the effort to make them look like men, large shoes, coats, and hats, had been put on them, but the effect was a ludicrous failure. They, on their own part, desiring to be thought 'Militia-men,' seemed to believe a profuseness of oaths and ribaldry an infallible sign of proficiency in drill, and, accordingly, it was hard to say which disgusted the more—their swagger or their swearing. Stalking stealthily in the shade of the sheds might be seen others, men indeed in years, but their gaunt limbs and sunken features shewed that it was the infirmary, not the day room they had left for the militia; that greedy expression of the eye which does not accompany a too liberal dietary, still remained, a sure sign that their acquaintance with union fare had not been long severed. But the prominent feature of all was the comic—the fairest specimen of the force was the raw pauper lad too weak (or too dishonest) to get farm employment. He strolled about with the air and consciousness of one who felt that he was in a strange element and an object for laughter. Indeed I was forcibly struck with the fact that no one appeared more conscious of the ludicrous appearance or enjoyed the drollery of the thing more than the fellows themselves. Occasionally, a really fine, healthy, active young fellow stepped across the square bearing himself like a real soldier until his eye caught the figure of some of his 'gallant comrades' when his lip curled with disdain."

FATAL ACCIDENT.—An accident of a deeply painful nature, resulting in the loss of two lives, occurred near Carpenham, Rostrevor, on Saturday afternoon. It would appear that three men named Joseph Cole, aged about seventy years, Murphy, and Whyte, were employed in a quarry or sand bank, in the neighborhood of Carpenham; surmounting this abyss there was a large embankment which stretched out over the empty space to a considerable extent, a portion of which unfortunately gave way, and was precipitated upon the men below with a fearful crash, causing the death of Cole and Murphy, and inflicting several grievous injuries upon the person of Whyte. *Newry Telegraph*.

A poor man, named Christopher Byrne, employed in the Irish Peat Company's works, near Athy, was burned to death a few days ago in the hot cinders of one of the furnaces, into which he accidentally fell.

THE SIEGE OF MAYNOOTH.—This significant paragraph is at present circulating among the Conservative Journals:—"The following number of petitions and signatures sent up to parliament from England, Scotland, and Ireland, against the Maynooth Endowment Act, up to the 1st of August, 1855, will be interesting to many of our readers:—England, 1,275 petitions; signatures, 211,243; average of each petition, 166; Scotland, 425 petitions; signatures, 99,379; average to each petition, 233. Ireland, 8 petitions; signatures, 6,954; average to each petition, 824. Total petitions, 1,708; signatures, 317,216. The total number of signatures falls greatly short of those affixed to petitions ten years ago. In 1845, when Sir Robert Peel attempted to make the endowment of Maynooth perpetual, more than 1,200,000 persons petitioned against the measure. The immense number of petitions at that time was, no doubt, partly owing to a great temporary excitement, so characteristic of the Protestantism of Britain. The present movement has, we believe, been partly arrested by the war and other causes, but is of a more calm and determined description, and, if steadily maintained, will, without doubt, be ultimately crowned with success."

MINISTERS' MONEY.

The intolerance of Catholics is the frequent theme of Protestant animadversion; the sufferings of the Cechetti and Marliani are blazoned through the world as flagrant instances of it. But whatever be the case in Italy, in Ireland it is certain that Protestantism is not merely tolerated, it is fed and clothed at the expense of Catholics. While the Government of England is shaken and perplexed by war, the support of the Protestant Church must be considered as the voluntary crime of the Catholics, for their unanimous wish would sweep it away.

Ministers' money is a tax levied upon houses in certain cities and corporate towns in Ireland, which was created for the maintenance of the Protestant incumbents of those towns by an act of Parliament—namely, 17 and 18 Car. II., c. 7. By that statute, which is entitled "An Act for Provision of Ministers in cities and corporate towns," it was decreed—"That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors, and six more of his Majesty's Privy Council of this kingdom, to allot, ascertain, set forth, and charge, or cause to be allotted, ascertained, set forth, and charged, any sum or sums of money to be paid unto the several and respective incumbents and their respective successors," &c.

Under the authority, given by this act, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Drogheda, Kilkenny, Clonmel, and Kinsale became charged with Ministers' money.

As Ministers' money is imposed on the followers of truth to sustentate the missions of error, the towns selected for its imposition are remarkably Catholic.—The Protestant cities of Ulster are exempted from the burden of supporting Protestantism. To them it might not be a grievance; but as the object of the Establishment is the persecution of truth, heretical rapacity crushes and exorcises Catholic penury, while exempting the opulence of Ulster. Nor is this all. According to this act if a new house be rated at a high amount, and time should alter it to ruins, yet the Ministers' money will continue unabated; and age, which modifies so many things, cannot mitigate this exaction. The reason of this is obvious; houses in decay are generally occupied by poor Catholics. The property of the island is in the possession of Protestants; so Ministers' money is not levied on the houses of the opulent. No house can be estimated for the purposes of Ministers' money at a greater value than sixty pounds a year, though worth five times that amount. The factory of Beamish and Crawford in Cork, valued at two thousand two hundred and twenty-five pounds, paid £2 5s as Ministers' money, and the humble mansion of James Simms, valued at twenty-six pounds sterling, paid the same sum—£2 5s. Thus legalized rapacity grinds only the poor, while exempting the wealthy. As the adoration of mammon is the true religion of Protestants, the extortion of money must be, they fancy, as excruciating torture to Catholics as it would be to themselves.—Hence persecution in Ireland assumes the form of rapacity. Our Divine Redeemer commanded His Disciples to preach the Gospel to the poor; the Protestant Establishment sends them the taxman. If the object were merely to extort money, it is the rich who should be taxed; but the object is to inflict persecution, and therefore it is the poor who are mulcted.—Through the instrumentality of taxation they expect to impress on Catholics a firm conviction as to the Apostolic origin of the established religion. The Apostles of Christ were often cast into prison for proclaiming truth; the apostles of Protestantism cast the Catholics into prison if they refuse to sustentate error. This is the difference between them: what the Apostles suffered the Protestants inflict. They hope to be regarded as shepherds, while preying on the Faithful like hungry wolves—that is, a religion which denounces the continuance of miracles expects a result which, if it arose, must be regarded as essentially miraculous. A highwayman might prove himself honest by presenting a blunderbuss and roaring, "Stand and deliver;" if the Protestant Establishment could prove itself Apostolic while levying Ministers' money. But the Protestant Establishment is not a missionary Church—its object is to inflict persecution, not to produce conversion; and, regarded in this light, no one can deny its efficiency. If the Protestant Clergy were really Christians they would not only abstain from levying this obnoxious tax—they would petition Parliament to abolish it.

But, however flagrant the injustice of this impost from its origin, it remained for a subsequent act of Parliament to reach the acme of wrong on this subject. By the 17th Vic., chapter 11, the Catholic corporations are converted into instruments to enforce and levy this obnoxious assessment. Catholics are made to mulct themselves for the support of a Church from which they receive nothing in return but calumny and vituperation. This is the most outrageous circumstance connected with the history of the flagitious imposition.

The corporations could not possibly retain the respect or confidence of the people if they lend themselves to this infliction of injustice. It would make those who should be guardians of the public liberties the plunderers of the public property. We are, therefore, glad for their own sakes that the corporations begin to exhibit the sense and manliness to act on the principle of conscientious resistance.

The corporation of Drogheda is particularly entitled to the gratitude of Catholic Ireland for its honourable refusal to act as the instrument of Protestant persecution.—*Tablet*.