

ARRIVAL OF THE "AFRICA."

New York, April 10.

The Africa arrived at seven o'clock, with Liverpool dates to the 20th. The Africa had 100 passengers. She has made the run in eleven days and twenty-one hours.

ENGLAND.—In the House of Lords, on Friday Lord Lyndhurst complained of certain refugees who are intriguing against Austria and other foreign states, and suggested the propriety of re-enacting the Alien Act. Earl Grey said the subject had attracted the attention of the Foreign and Home Secretary, but nothing short of danger to the internal peace of the country would justify its re-enactment. In reply to the Earl of Aberdeen, Earl Grey said the Government disapproved of the acts of the refugees.

In the Commons, on the same evening, a committee was appointed, with reference to steam communication between England, China and Australia. Leave was granted to introduce a Bill for the better Administration of Justice in the Court of Chancery. The bill fixes the Lord Chancellor's salary at £10,000.

Exciting debates have occurred in Parliament on the Papal Bill, the second reading of which passed the House by ninety-five to thirty-eight. The minority are the Roman Catholic members, a few leading Liberals, and a section of the Peelites.

Sir James Graham, Gladstone, Sidney Herbert, and Cardwell voted in the negative.

The Whigs and protectionists voted "aye," in nearly equal numbers. The bill will not go to Committee till after Easter, and if the ministry meet no contre-temps in the interval, the bill will probably pass the Lower House, as it was introduced in its amended form, by Lord John Russell.

FRANCE.—There still continues much speculation in Paris, with respect to the new ministry. It is thought that, with one or two exceptions, the old members will be reinstated.

The Spanish Minister at Paris has presented to the President his letters of recall.

ITALY.—A Roman correspondent of the London Times says, that the restoration of the Russell Cabinet has caused much annoyance to the Pope and Cardinals.

AUSTRIA.—A ministerial announcement that arrangements had been made with Prussia, on the subject of the Presidency appeared to-day. Austria will preside in the Diet, and the two powers will share the Presidency of the Executive Committee. The Austrian troops in the Papal States are said to have received considerable reinforcements.

GERMANY.—All is vague and unsatisfactory.

Further Extracts from our English Files.

CONVENTUAL INCARCERATION.—ROMISH ASSUMPTION. (From the London Times.)

A petition from the Hon'ble Craven Berkeley to the House of Commons will be found to-day in another portion of our columns. The facts disclosed in this document are worthy of particular attention at the present moment. They are so discreditable to some of the parties concerned that nothing we could say would add to the feeling of indignation which the bare recital of them must call forth. We will, therefore, state them in their naked simplicity, and leave our readers to draw their own conclusions.

The Hon. Craven Fitzhardinge Berkeley married some years ago Augusta Talbot, the widow of the half-brother of the present Earl of Shrewsbury. This lady had two children by her first husband—namely, John, since dead; and Augusta, who is now nineteen years of age and upwards. This young lady resided with her mother and stepfather until the death of the former, which happened on the 24th of April, 1841. From that period until the month of September last she was less fortunately placed, being left under the care and guardianship of the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury. How these noble personages have fulfilled this sacred trust will presently appear. At her brother's death Augusta Talbot became absolutely entitled to the sum of £80,000, and remains during her minority—which will end on the 6th of June, 1852—a ward of the Court of Chancery. Her interest in this large sum of money at once made her a mark for the manoeuvres and intrigues of the Roman Catholic priesthood. The opportunities afforded by her sojourn under the roof of the Earl of Shrewsbury must have been most sedulously improved, for we find that in the month of September last year—we must follow the words of the petition lest we libel the noble personages concerned—"the said Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury placed the said infant Augusta Talbot (not withstanding she is a ward of Court,) at the convent called the Lodge, situate at Taunton, in the county of Somerset, not as a pupil or visitor, but as a postulant, with the avowed object of allowing the said Augusta Talbot to take the veil and become a nun!" The prize was worth a bold venture! A sum of £80,000 at one sweep, and won with no greater labour than is involved in playing on the religious feeling of a young credulous girl who stood almost alone in the world—without counsel, without defence, without protection! The persons who should have interposed between her and the lamentable intrigues by which she was surrounded, must, if we accept the statement of the petition as true, have absolutely assisted in the practices of which she is now the victim. Is it intelligible, even taking such a view of conventual vows as a Roman Catholic may be supposed to take, that any persons placed in the responsible situation of guardians to a young girl under age should permit her to immure herself for life in the walls of a convent before she has attained even that slender degree of discretion which in ordinary cases twenty-one years' experience of life may give. For, mark the course which this unfortunate young lady's story will take unless there be some stringent interference in the matter. In the month of September next her period of "postulancy" expires; and then, as Mr. Berkeley tells us, she will be compelled by the Roman Catholic priests to take the white veil, although, even then, she will be a minor and a ward of the Court of Chancery. Those who seek to obtain possession of the £80,000 imagine that they have shrewdly calculated their times and seasons. In the month of September, 1852—when she will have been three months of age—but not till then, the black veil which is to divide her for ever from the external world will be drawn over her head. She will then be competent to execute any legal instrument to which her Superior may require her signature, and the rich prize—the £80,000—will fall within the grasp of the Roman priesthood.

It is evident that unless the bait which has excited their avarice be at once removed from the reach of the persons who could so shamefully practise upon the credulity of so young a girl, her fate is sealed. When the first step is taken, and a young woman has com-

mitted herself to the care of a conventual Superior, to the influence of a conventual life, and, above all, to the direction of an astute priest, farewell for ever to all independence of action or liberty of thought! The method of bringing the feelings and sentiments—it is idle to talk of reason—under subjection has been reduced to a perfect science by the Roman Catholic priests. When once a patient is handed over to his exclusive care, and he can shut out every wholesome influence from the external world, the question is decided at once. The Roman Catholic convent is like the cave of Cacus—vestigia nulla retrorsum. There is no need of personal violence; that would simply be the treatment of a clumsy practitioner. A few unctuous words in season, a few volumes of the Lives of the Saints, and a few "sweet" pictures, with a plentiful admixture of flattery well wrapped up, would be more than sufficient to turn the head of any young woman in Miss Talbot's unhappy situation, until the sacrifice shall have been consummated and indignant nature shall assert her rights. Then indeed, she may awake to a painful consciousness of the realities of her position; and, if spirit enough be left in her, will indignantly protest to the series of artifices and manoeuvres of which she had been the dupe. But then it will be too late.

It would be idle to dilate upon this most disgraceful story. Is all remedy impossible? That is the only point which at present it behoves us to consider. So far as any act of volition on the part of the young lady is concerned we may dismiss that hypothesis at once. The Superior of the "ladies" would no doubt be ready to produce her at a moment's warning exulting in the prospect of self-immolation. It remains to be seen if a removal of the bait which has aroused the cupidity of the Roman priesthood might not produce some effect. Mr. Berkeley proposes, in the petition he has presented to the House of Commons, that clauses shall be introduced into the "Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill," now before the House, which shall forbid the reception in any convent or similar institution, belonging to the Church of Rome, of any young person under age as a "postulant." He proposes further, that in the case of "infants," who during the period of their minority shall have been admitted as "postulants" into convents for the purpose of becoming nuns, all their property, absolute or contingent, shall become forfeited to the Crown, to be disposed of as Her Majesty may appoint under her sign manual. This would meet Miss Talbot's case to a certain degree, although we greatly fear that even so the crafty intriguers who pull the puppet-strings might find means of evading the provisions of the clause. Suppose that the taking of the veil is deferred, is the property to become forfeit to the crown upon the bare proof of "postulancy" with intention to become a nun? Would the Crown be advised to detain the money from Miss Talbot if she were sent back into the world, as she clearly would be, when the loss of such a sum, or its transference from the control of its present possessor, might be the consequence of her seclusion? The indignation natural to every honest man on reading this disgraceful story might no doubt be gratified at a direct act of retribution which should deprive the intriguers of the golden spoil on which they have calculated. It is however clear enough that such a remedy as the one proposed by Mr. Berkeley, even in Miss Talbot's case, would very imperfectly meet the evil with which we are called upon to contend not only in her instance, but in a thousand others. It is no doubt something to gain time, and to defer the sacrifice for a few years; but as matters stand at present, or as they would stand, even should Mr. Berkeley's clauses be adopted, the sacrifice would simply be postponed. The difficulties of legislation upon such a point are great; but the evil is far greater!

The London Correspondent of the Patriot gives us the following additional information on the subject:—From the statement of the person calling himself "Bishop of Clifton" Miss Talbot was declared to be a postulant in the convent where she is near Taunton. It appears, however by a letter written to the Chancellor that she is not, and never contemplated anything of the kind. Mr. Reynolds, the member for Dublin, averred in the House of Commons that the lady was not a postulant for the veil; upon which Sir B. Hall, on the authority of the pseudo bishop's letter, gave Mr. Reynolds, the "lie circumstantial," and the Irish member, contrary to his custom, was silent. It now turns out, if this young lady is to be credited, that she is not a postulant; but then the lady's letter was written from a convent, and therefore is not to be relied on, as it may have been written under undue influence. I suppose we must wait till the case is argued upon the petitions before we come at the truth out of all these contradictions. The bishop flatly contradicts the young lady, and the young lady makes a statement directly at variance with her bishop. In all these "popish plots," there is always such an enormous amount of hard swearing that one is at a loss who to believe. The Lord Chancellor has ordered the young lady to leave the convent at once, and Miss Talbot will be placed under the care of a Roman Catholic lady of high rank—generally supposed to be the Duchess of Norfolk. It has come out in the course of the inquiry that the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury wished to force Miss Talbot into a marriage repugnant to her feelings, failing which they did their best to immure her in a convent for life.

A very serious accident occurred on the 17th instant near Liverpool, in a large mill belonging to Mr. Henry Marsland, the late member for Stockport. About five o'clock, from some unknown cause, the boiler which supplied the motive power to the machinery burst, and, carrying the furnace along with it, threw down the wall of the building, and caused the loss of nine lives. The mill was totally consumed by fire in less than an hour.

Early in the morning of the 15th instant a fearful explosion took place at the coal pit of Mr. Geo. Coats, near Nisshill, between two and three miles from Paisley, causing the loss of sixty-one lives. The Victoria pit, in which the explosion took place, is the deepest in Scotland, being 1050 feet in depth at the downcast shaft, which is situated about the centre of the southern edge of the workings, from which the inclination of the strata tends upwards to the north at an angle of about one foot in five, so that at the upcast shaft or pit, which is about a quarter of a mile distant from the working pit, the workings are only 780 feet below the surface. Saturday being pay-day, a large number of the men employed in the pit had commenced work at an earlier hour than is usual on other days, and at the time the explosion took place about sixty-three men and boys had gone down. This was about twenty minutes to five o'clock, and the report was so loud that it was heard distinctly at Paisley. The whole neighbourhood, of course, was alarmed, and on the people rushing to the pit mouth it was found that one of the cages, which had descended a few fathoms, had been blown up the shaft to probably the height of the pit

framing, some thirty feet above ground, and after jerking the rope off the pulley at the top of the framing, fell back down the shaft. The shaft presented a scene of wreck and havoc such as perhaps was never before seen on any similar occasion of a coal-pit explosion. The wood-work had been blown from the bottom of the shaft, and scattered for one hundred yards all round the pit-head in a perfect shower. The same appearances were presented round the ventilating pit mouth, called the "Free Trader," and situated at the distance of half a mile from the main down shaft. Every effort was immediately made to relieve those who might remain below, but this was a work of extreme difficulty, as the shaft was choked by various obstructions. On Sunday evening, the men employed reached the bottom of the shaft, where two men were found alive, but in an extremely weak and exhausted condition. They were immediately brought to the surface, and means were taken for their restoration. They could give no account of the cause of the explosion. The latest particulars state, that from the examinations which had taken place, it had been ascertained that the work of recovering the bodies would be one of time and danger. Two dead bodies have been brought up, but the bulk of the others, fifty-nine in number, are supposed to be in another portion of the pit, the approaches to which are so filled with foul air, that the miners were beaten back. There is no hope that any of those in the pit remain alive. A number of coffins had been made to receive the bodies of those who had been brought to the surface.

General Sir Charles Napier has arrived in London from India. On arriving at the London Bridge terminus, the gallant General was received with three hearty cheers by the railway officials, who were drawn up to receive him.

THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—According to the report of the Conservative registration committee for the city of Dublin the new constituency amounts to no less than 11,280 electors entitled bona fide to vote at the next election, viz:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Number. Rated occupiers... 5,629; Lease and freeholders... 1,842; Freemen... 3,809; Total... 11,280.

Of these the Conservative party lay claim to a clear majority of 2,000, "the largest ever obtained in Dublin." For the county of Dublin the registry under the new Act gives a constituency of 4,852, of whom fully two-thirds are Conservatives.

POST-OFFICE.—Notices have been issued from the General Post-office, that henceforth all newspapers to be sent to the British colonies or possessions, or to foreign parts, must be put into the post within seven days after the day on which they were published.

REBELLION OF THE CONSTITUENCIES.—The latest journals from the provinces are filled with accounts of meetings and with other indications of the dissatisfaction of the Irish constituencies at the conduct of their Members in not voting with Mr. D'Israeli, for the purpose of turning out the Government. Mayo demands that Mr. O. Higgins should resign his trust; Drogheda means to give Sir W. Somerville notice to quit; Ennis is up against the O'Gorman Mahon, and Kerry against Mr. M. J. O'Connell.

WORK FOR THE CHURCH.—The Clergy of Bethnal Green declare "there are 14,000 children from 4 to 14 years of age, in that parish, without any education whatever, in consequence of the extreme poverty of their parents."

A DISSENTING TESTIMONY.—The following curious confession has been made by Mr. Thomas Binney, the minister of Weighhouse Chapel:—"It may be easy to argue against national establishments and the royal supremacy: the demonstration may be complete of the impropriety of secular legislation in religion, and in favour of unrestricted religious liberty; that the law should know no man in his religious character; that all religious bodies should be treated by the state equally and alike, and every church have 'a clear stage and no favour.' So far as popery is concerned, I am beginning to be suspicious of carrying this theory practically out—not, indeed, because the theory was itself erroneous, but because popery is not a thing to which it can be applied. Popery is not simply and purely a religion. It is a great and mighty ecclesiastical confederacy that aims at and desires pre-eminence; it is a terrible compact, almost physical unity, animated by a spirit of intense hatred to real liberty, civil or religious. It requires to be held in check by law, not because its tenets are not true, but because its heart is not to be trusted—not because its creed is a corruption of the faith, but because its tendencies are inimical to freedom—not because it 'ignores' this or that church, but because it is a power dangerous to the state. It will join the dissenter in his theoretical reasoning when it is low;—will applaud him for liberality in striving to gain for its own 'emancipation,' when it wishes to rise;—will shout at times, for religious 'liberty' and the 'voluntary principle;'—will smile, and bow, and take everything it can, and look humble, modest, and demure, as long as is necessary to gain its ends: but when once gained, and any opportunity for a spring forward or upward opens, it will take either with both force and ferocity, and care not if it crush, in its headlong career, the simple souls that served it in its need! Churchmen may find that, after all, popery is really worse than dissent; and dissenters may find that an ecclesiastical establishment, though an evil, may, with a Protestant Church, be a less evil than stark popery without an establishment."

On the 12th inst., a workman at the Chrystal Palace, engaged in painting the windows, lost his life. He lost his equilibrium; falling upon the glass works, his weight causing the frame to give way, when he fell upon the top of a table standing on the floor with such force that the table was dashed to pieces.

The decoration of the building is now being rapidly proceeded with, and will, so far as the painting of the interior is concerned, be all completed by the 10th of March. In order to provide the flags of all nations, which will wave upon the exterior of the building, each country was requested to furnish a certain number, in proportion to the amount of space allotted to it. The flags will be about four feet in length, and will be placed around the upper portion of the roof, and upon the corners of the lower part of the building. Among the objects of art from France the most attractive will be the colossal group of M. Jean du Seigneur, representing St. Michael overthrowing Satan. The subject is taken from Milton. This group is thirteen feet high, the figures being nine feet in proportion. The conception is bold and original.—London Morning Chronicle.

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS.—Miss Jane Cook, a maiden lady, who recently died at Cheltenham, has left the sum of £18,000, to be applied to

religious objects as follows:—Operative Jewish Convalescent Institution, £1,000; Episcopal Jew's Chapel Abrahamic Society, £2,000; Trinitarian Bible Society £2,000; Church Missionary Society, £5,000; British and Foreign Bible Society, £5,000; Malta Protestant College, £1,000; Edinburgh Bible Society, £1,000; Irish Society of London, £1,000. The testatrix directs that the residue of her personal property, not disposed of by herself, be applied to the endowment of district Churches or Chapels in populous parishes.—Mr. Beaufoy has given another £1,000, to the City of London School, to found a prize essay, the subject to be taken from Shakspeare.

A deputation of the acting committee of the National Association for the Protection of British Industry and Capital, and of delegates from the provinces, headed by Mr. G. F. Young, has had interviews with Lord Stanley and Mr. D'Israeli, communicating to them resolutions of confidence. Lord Stanley, after acknowledging the complimentary terms in which the resolution adverted to his services, expressed the hope that neither himself nor those with whom he acted would again be subject to the misrepresentation to which they had been exposed, namely, that they had abandoned the principle of protection—

"He contemplated the imposition of a moderate duty on the import of foreign corn and provisions, partly for the purpose of giving a slight—certainly a slight—but nevertheless a certain amount of protection to the British agriculturist, and also by furnishing a certain amount of revenue, enabling Parliament to take off those taxes which pressed most heavily upon him. It was with a double object, therefore, that he was in favour of a moderate rate of duty; first as a slight relief from the burden of taxation on the other. One expression of his, the noble lord subsequently remarked, which had been very much commented on, was, that he had stated that he was not prepared to reverse the policy of Sir Robert Peel. What he had stated was, that he did not propose a reversal of Sir Robert Peel's policy, but a modification of that policy in those cases in which it should have been found to work injuriously. The evil effects of that policy; he then went on to observe, had been proved with regard to the interest which was mainly suffering—the agricultural interest; and he thought it was now time, and necessary, to deal promptly and generously with that interest."

Mr. D'Israeli entered largely into the defence of his policy in the Lower House:—

"If, as a Minister, he were placed in the position to have to recommend that settlement which he should consider to be most for the advantage of the country, and not for the advantage of a particular class, he should not say, 'You had better take off the burden of local taxation upon the land, or the tax upon mail.' On the contrary, he should say, 'One is the source of a large amount of revenue, and the other the source of an excellent local government.' I wish to have these advantages, but I cannot recommend the continuance of these advantages at the cost of the land; and, therefore, he must come forward with some scheme—to the details of which he could not pledge himself—which would secure to the land a sufficient compensation for the abrogation of protection.—London Guardian, March 12.

The committee of the London Diocesan Board of Education, in their report of July, 1850, states that the number of juvenile delinquents, under 15 years of age approaches to 5,000 annually; and that there are 50,000 children wandering in the streets—untaught in religion and morality—and crying "I perish with hunger!"

The Society of Antiquaries have been informed by Sir Robert Inglis of the intended retirement of the celebrated historian, Mr. Hallam, from the office of vice president, which he has filled during the last thirty or forty years. The loss of his only son is the cause of his retirement.

The Times correspondent thus writes on the feeling in Rome as to the upshot of the Papal aggression in England:—

"The Pope and the Cardinals will not give way—of that you may rest assured; and let Lord John Russell and the British Parliament make any enactments they please, the Church has pronounced its fiat, and the new dignity is to it, 'Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster,' and so he will be named to the end of the chapter. You may expel the Pope, create another civil war, or send him a refugee to Naples or Avignon; still will Roman Catholics call him the Sacred Pontiff, visible head of their faith, and recognise by no other titles the great officers of the Church than those which he has created. The interests of the English Government—the protection that Protestants demand, and even Catholics desire, against all encroachments on the privileges of her Majesty, and the independence of the constitution—are one thing, and the established custom, and resolute determination of the Sacred College, another. The Pope cares not for your acts of Parliament; and, though you may legislate to exclude the substance, he will still preserve the name. I repeat these facts, because it is right that when we in England should not deceive ourselves as to the intentions of the See of Rome, because the late conversions are, in its mind, a sufficient answer to all you allege, and that the hierarchy will be established in silence however the open execution of its authority may be denied."

United States.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN NEW YORK.

New York, April 11, 1851. Hudson & Robertson's Dry Goods Store, 180 Broadway, and several other stores, were destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The wing of the Howard Hotel was destroyed. Loss \$30,000. There was great consternation among the boarders.

The fire was first discovered in Hudson & Robertson's store, where goods were being received last evening as late as eleven o'clock. Messrs. Hudson and Robertson saved their Books. Their loss is \$120,000, insured for \$15,000 on their stock, and \$20,000 on the building. Fifty rooms were more or less injured; insured for \$24,000. Ira Todd, Hatter, was insured for \$10,000, Caspar Garnier, \$5,000, and Underhill \$5,000. CALIFORNIA.—By the arrival of the Georgia at this port last evening, we have advices from San Francisco received to the 5th March, twenty days later than previously received.

We regret to believe that the news will give many an unfavourable impression of the people of California. In Sacramento City there has been a painful tragedy enacted. A desperado, engaged in a brawl, wantonly took the life of an inoffensive by-stander, was arrested, tried by a People's Jury under the Lynch Code, and