

THE NEW ASSOCIATION.—The Dublin correspondent of the Times writes Feb. 21.—The first meeting of the National Association was held yesterday in one of the smaller rooms of the Rotunda. The attendance was thin at the commencement, and when largest it is said that it did not amount to 200, a large proportion of the audience being priests. The chair was occupied by Alderman M'Sweeney, who said that attempts had been made to intimidate him by means of anonymous letters, and in one he was told that a bullet would be lodged in his breast, and that his last procession would be, not in the gold coach of the Lord Mayor, but in a black hearse; if he attempted to take part in the meeting when the association was formed. He claimed the success of Mr. Moore in Tipperary as a proof of its usefulness. Captain O'Way was compelled to retire because he could not come up to its requirements. It showed what the people of Ireland could gain by combination. He believed the association would ultimately triumph.

Mr. Devitt, town councillor, one of the hon. secretaries, stated that the number of members was 305, and of associates 748. He read a letter from Archbishop Leary, in which he said he had enlisted 40 or 50 clergymen of his diocese, whom he met at the funeral of a priest, and they all promised to join the association and work for it.

Mr. J. B. Dillon addressed the meeting. He thought if they knocked down the Established Church, and formed fair relations between landlord and tenant, they would soon have a consolidated nation, which would accommodate them all. They were engaged in a practical protest against the right of England to dictate law to Ireland. He also claimed for the association the triumph in Tipperary.

Mr. Deane, D. L., Cavan, a landlord himself, was willing to grant security of tenure and compensation for real improvements.

Archdeacon O'Brien went further than the association. They should unite the whole country first, and if Irish swords and knitting needles failed they had a new argument. They had, at all events, a union that might be useful for many things besides the object in view. If he could not get a four-horse carriage, he would take a jingle. The association might not be a jingle, but, at all events, it would carry him half-way, and he would find the means of going the other half.

Professor Kavanagh expatiated on the wrongs inflicted by the Established Church, and urged the adoption of a petition to Parliament calling for the removal of all religious endowments in Ireland. The Very Rev. Dr. Woodcock and several other priests addressed the meeting.

The speech of Mr. Haughton, chairman of the Great Southern Railway, in reference to the extraordinary diminution in the cattle traffic on that great line within the last three years, affords striking confirmation of the decadence of the chief industry of the kingdom, agriculture. To test whether the decline in the cattle traffic on that line was not exceptional, he applied to the various steam packet and other carrying companies, from whom he learned that diminution, to a far greater extent, existed in every one of their cases. He accounts for it by the forced sale of their cattle by the small farmers, for the last three years of bad harvests, to pay their rent, combined with the emigration and decrease of small holders, whose vast numbers supplied, heretofore, the main portion of the store of young stock for the great graziers who finished and fattened them. The state of the country occupies the attention of many pens, a pamphlet breathing a very sound and patriotic spirit having just reached a second edition, by G. T. Dalton, Esq., Clerk of the Peace for Cavan, and agent to the Marquis of Hertford, whilst Mr. Jennings, a Cork merchant, has just published an extremely well-considered and able pamphlet entitled "The Present and Future of Ireland as the Cattle Farm of England"—in which almost every controverted social, industrial, and political phase of the kingdom is discussed with good sense and sound liberality of sentiment.

The Qualification oaths taken by Protestants and also the Catholic oath have been brought under the notice of the Corporation of Dublin by Sir John Gray, who moved the adoption of a petition to both Houses of Parliament, praying that Her Majesty's Protestant subjects may in all cases be relieved from the necessity of taking the oaths which injuriously reflect on the religion of their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects; and that for the qualification oaths now taken by members of Parliament, members of municipal bodies, and others, there may be substituted a uniform oath, which shall be simply an oath of allegiance to the Queen and her successors, and of obedience to the laws of the realm; and that a deputation be appointed to wait on His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and on the Chief Secretary for Ireland to request them to use their influence as members of the Government and of the Legislature to effectuate this object, and to remove all other disabilities that affect any of the subjects of the Crown, because of their professing a particular form of faith.

The Conservative members left the House in a body as soon as the motion was brought on, and it was carried unanimously by those who remained. We wish, for the sake of our Protestant countrymen, and for the honor of the country, that these oaths were abolished. We do not say that in the abstract it is an unreasonable thing that in a Christian State every body to whom either legislative or administrative duties are confided, should be required to swear that he belongs to the religion of the State, and that he has no intention of subverting the Church establishment of the country, and that he will not use any privilege that he may possess in order to weaken the State religion. Catholics must take care last by associating with Whigs and Liberals and Dissenters, and making common cause with them, they come to borrow their language, and get gradually infected by their notions. We confine all that we have to say against a State religion and an Established Church, to the special case and the particular circumstances of Ireland.—Tribune.

BLOCKS RUNNING.—A story is current of the success of one of the most spirited speculations in the annals of blockade running, and by which, it is said, its originators have realised profits to the amount of £100,000. It is stated that Mr. George Tait, the well-known army clothier of Limerick, Sir John Annett, of Cork, and the firm of O'annock and White of Dublin going shares in the enterprise, had 60,000 suits of military outfits manufactured. A steamer possessing all the qualities necessary for blockade-running was purchased for £40,000, and the clothing put on board. Captain Burgoyne, a dashing sailor, son of the late Sir John Burgoyne, was appointed commander of the craft, with a pay of £1,000 a month, and with instructions that if he succeeded in landing his cargo in Wilmington he should have 5 per cent and his share of the profits, and on arriving in Liverpool, with a cargo of cotton, he should be rewarded with 2 per cent additional on the latter transaction. Everything was got ready with as much despatch and as little noise as possible, and about the middle of last month the vessel steamed out of Limerick port on her hazardous expedition. As she neared her destination the Federals were bombarding Wilmington, and in the thick of the fray Captain Burgoyne slipped in unnoticed, unshipped his military stores, put on board a cargo of cotton, and lately a telegram from Liverpool announced his arrival at that port without so much as having received a shot from the Federals.—Cork Examiner.

THE NEW MEMBER FOR TIPPERARY.—The Archbishop of Cashel and other Prelates at a conference held in Dublin, decided on Mr. Charles Moore as the candidate of their choice; and, this being so, Captain O'Way stated that he does not wish to disturb the peace and harmony of the county by a contest. Mr. Moore was present at the conference, and gave complete satisfaction to the Bishops by accepting the nomination.

ing literally the three points of the National Association, in consequence of which he issued a second address to the electors. It is stated that his canvass had been encouraging, even among the landlords, and that Sir John Garden has promised him his warm support, though he should go the length of voting for the disendowment of the Established Church. Mr. Moore, however, seems to be highly eligible on personal grounds. The Freeman's Journal describes him as—

Possessed of strong common sense, accustomed for years to business occupations of vast extent, and enjoying a princely income won by persevering industry. Mr. Moore asks the suffrages of the electors of Tipperary as the advocate and upholder of the measures which those best acquainted with the requirements of the country have pronounced to be essential to the prosperity and happiness of the people. As an extensive, perhaps the most extensive, landed proprietor in the county, he honestly proclaims that the tenantry of the country should not be robbed of the fruits of their laborious industry; but, on the contrary, he is ready to claim for them in the Imperial Senate protection and compensation.

He has other recommendations which perhaps have availed him more than all the rest with the Bishops. He is connected by marriage with influential Catholic families in Dublin and Kerry, and about a year ago he became a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Though an Irishman, he made his fortune in England, and when land was cheap in the Kacumber Estates Court he purchased a large property in Tipperary, including the estate of Moorefort, to which he was perhaps attracted by the name. As one of the wealthiest ship-owners in Liverpool, and one of the largest proprietors in Tipperary, he is a great acquisition to the Church whose communion he has joined.—Times Cor.

REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY OF WATERFORD.—It is stated that Mr. Bernal Osborne, M.P. for Limerick, is about to solicit the support of the electors of the county of Waterford. From the hon. gentleman's admitted ability and great experience in the House, and especially his declared opinions on the subject of the Irish Church Establishment, he is well known as a neighbor and landlord. It is also stated that Lord Tyrone, the eldest son of the Marquis of Waterford, will be the Tory candidate.—Freeman's Journal.

THE O'DONOGHUE.—Great Rejoicings in Kerry.—The correspondent of the London Times thus writes on the subject:—

The fanaticism of the Kerry people did not subside when the O'Donoghue was returned. There was a fresh peroxysm on Monday, when the chieftain left Tralee for Killarney. He traveled in a triumphal chariot, attended by immense crowds, all bearing laurel branches, and cheering with wild enthusiasm. It was a continuous ovation during the whole journey. His coming was expected, and in some places triumphal arches were erected. Women stood with their children at the cabin doors, and blessed him as he passed. Men left their work in the fields and followed the popular idol, mounting their horses to join the procession. According to the Cork Herald, there was nothing like it seen in Kerry since O'Connell was in the height of his glory.

The Nation, writing from special correspondence and from the accounts in the Kerry press, says:—

In all the towns and villages the populace have turned out in demonstration of rejoicing. Bonfires have been set blazing in the streets and on the hills; rich people and poor have filled their windows with illuminations; bands of music have paraded the public places amid crowds of young people and old, all happy at heart because the patriot leader had triumphed at the poll. Merry dances to the sound of the fiddle and the bagpipes have been danced in the pleasant glow of the huge bonfires; cheers and songs in praise of the young chieftain have made the welkin ring; and every sign that the people could give of heartfelt joy and satisfaction has been displayed in honor of the O'Donoghue's victory at Tralee. His progress throughout the county on his way to Dublin was such an ovation as Kerry had not seen since the days of the Liberator. Triumphal arches were raised across the roads and streets, and the cottages by the wayside were decked with evergreens, and portraits of the young chieftain were hung out on their fronts. A procession which at one time reached the length of four miles accompanied him on his way, every man of that vast body wearing evergreens in his hat or dress. Deputations came out to meet him, and every possible mark of popular affection was freely and enthusiastically tendered to the noble-hearted patriot. The latest news from Kerry is that a banquet is shortly to be given to him in Tralee, and that the ladies of that town are subscribing to present him with a handsome piece of plate.

A correspondent of the Irish Times, writing from Tralee, says:—The triumphant return of the O'Donoghue has created the most unbounded enthusiasm and rejoicing throughout the whole county of Kerry. The news spread with extraordinary rapidity to the most distant and retired districts. On every hill and mountain huge bonfires are lighted, and Killarney is one blaze of light. When the election was over, the O'Donoghue addressed a vast multitude, and was enthusiastically cheered. The greatness of his majority astonished his most ardent supporters, who had not anticipated so great a success. Although the town is literally packed by a dense multitude in a state of excitement no breadth of the peace has occurred.

The Tralee Chronicle of Friday, Feb. 24, speaking of the state of the weather says:—"The weather has been exceedingly severe for some weeks, and what is unusual here, many instances occurred, we understand, in which this severity has been attended by affections of the throat and lungs."

NOVEL MODE OF TRANSPORTING A CORPSE.—An Irishman named M'Hugh called at the Birkenhead ferry on Thursday with several wooden cases, which he said he intended to have dispatched by a steamer to Ireland, but found he was too late for that day. They were to be left at the ferry until called for, but as he did not call next day, and as some suspicion was excited in the minds of the police, one of the cases was opened, and found to contain the corpse of a woman. M'Hugh called on Saturday morning, and when asked as to the contents of the cases, at first insisted that they merely contained eggs, but on being told of the discovery which had been made he admitted that the body was that of his wife, and that his object was to have her conveyed at as cheap a rate as possible to Ireland for interment. The case was brought before the Birkenhead magistrates on Saturday, and upon M'Hugh producing a register of death, and undertaking to have his wife's body decently buried at Birkenhead Cemetery, he was released.

A late issue of the Belfast News-Letter contains a bogaboo story about the arming of the Catholics of that town. The writer so jumbles up arms with coffins and mock funerals that we can only make, in a general way, at all events, that the weapons were brought into town in coffins, and buried at unseasonable hours. If the Catholics have got such weapons, we hope they will use them on the Orange ruffians who degrade and defoul the Irish name.

A correspondent writing to the Cork Examiner, of the dock accommodations about to be added to Cork harbor, says:—"The navy estimates are not printed; but as much anxiety exists on the subject of dock accommodation in our harbor, I may state that the dock to be constructed will be a first-class one, capable of taking in the largest ship in the British navy. Connected with this dock will be a basin, capable of floating two or three ships of the same magnitude; and this basin is to serve as an entrance to the dock. The sum proposed to be asked from Parliament is £150,000, but of this gross not more than £5,000 will be on the estimates for this year. However, the Government will demand permission

to contract for the whole amount at once, and will, no doubt, enter into a contract for the completion of what is at present contemplated."

The Lord Lieutenant has written a letter to the Mother Superior of the St. Vincent Orphanage, Dublin, in which he signified his intention of becoming a yearly subscriber to the fund for the benefit of the orphanage.

GREAT BRITAIN

The London Times thus discourses of the religious services on the occasion of the interment of the Archbishop of Westminster:—

A Requiem Pontifical Mass is, as our readers will readily believe, one of the most solemn and impressive services of the Roman Church. Unlike other ordinary Masses it lacks the magnificent music of the Credo, Gloria, and Agnus Dei, nor has it even those exquisitely touching lamentations with which even very rigid Protestants are familiar as forming part of the beautiful service called Te Deum in the three days of Holy Week. Nevertheless, in spite of these great omissions a Requiem Mass is still one of the greatest services of the Roman Church, and abounds in chants and hymns of such deep solemn paths in their music, of such a mournful melody of woe as no description can convey to those who have not heard those last great offices of religion that Roman Catholics pay for their most illustrious dead. The first of these sad choral efforts yesterday was the Gregorian Chant of the 'Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison' ('Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us') This was delivered alternately in solo and chorus by the whole choir with an effect that was really wonderful. The most breathless silence was observed as the long wailing cadence of the chant died softly away in a kind of moan none that could listen to unmoved. After this magnificent funeral chant the Collect and Epistle were recited, the thin, weak voice of Bishop Morris coming in with almost touching effect after the full, swelling sounds of the choir. At this portion of the ceremony an extraordinary effect was produced by all the great choir of priests and dignitaries lighting candles to read and follow the music of the Dies Ira, which was next to be sung. Without such extra aid it would have been difficult for any in the choir to read at all, and the effect of this sudden illumination, which showed distinctly the features and rich dresses of the whole throng of superbly clad ecclesiastics, who rose to recite the hymn, was one of the most singular and impressive features of the whole ceremony. Then for the first time the magnificent vestments could be fully seen, and as the assemblage of every rank in the Church of Rome, from mendicant friars to Bishops and Archbishops, stood around the coffin to join in that great chant of mournful praise, the scene became one of such grandeur as almost approached the sublime of stately religious ritual. The magnificent chorale of this great song of fear and entreaty was given as it has certainly never been given before in England, and there was a positive murmur among the congregation as its long, sad, wailing chorus closed at last in intervals of melancholy silence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, Feb. 24, Ireland.—

On the order for going into a Committee of Supply.—Mr. Hennessy moved the following resolution:—That this House expresses with regret the decline of the population of Ireland, and will readily support Her Majesty's Government in any well-considered measure to stimulate the profitable employment of the people." Hear. After noticing the many differences between England and Ireland, though a United Kingdom, in the principles of their respective laws, in the character of their laboring classes, and in the soil and geography of the two countries, he proceeded to indicate the symptoms of decline in the material prosperity of the latter country, in stock, in cereal crops, in the diminished extent of cultivated land,—showing, he said, that Ireland was using her capital as income. He then dwelt upon the decline of the population through emigration, and insisted that it was the duty of the Government to check emigration by finding profitable employment for the people, by applying public money to such works as arterial draining upon a large scale and the reclamation of the vast amount of waste land. Public money, he observed, had been voted for such objects in Scotland—the Caledonian Canal, roads, and bridges—none of which were for imperial purposes, and no part of the money had been returned to the Exchequer. By such money something might be done to check emigration from Ireland, and the outlay would be productive.

The motion was seconded by Colonel French. The Chancellor of the Exchequer insisted that it would be most unjust to the House and the Government to force a division upon the motion. Mr. Bagwell, Mr. Dawson, Sir P. O'Brien, Colonel Danne, Sir F. Heygate, Mr. Beantick, Mr. Monnell, Sir R. Peel, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Macuire, spoke. On the motion of the O'Connor Don, the debate was adjourned to Monday.

Mr. Monnell has given notice that he will move on an early day, 'that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Roman Catholic Relief Act (10 Geo. 4. c. 7) in relation to the oaths thereof required to be taken, and subscribed instead of oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration.' But the Freeman's Journal depreciates this step, and we think with great reason. It was Sir John Gray who brought the question before the Corporation of Dublin, and we have seen that he thought it best to bring under discussion not only the oaths specially appointed for Catholics, but also the oaths concerning the Church of Rome which have to be taken by Protestants, and the offensive and extravagant declaration against transubstantiation, &c. Sir John Gray did this because he considered that there would be more advantage in bringing both parts of the subject under consideration at once, than in bringing forward one part separately. Sir John Gray's view appears to us to be preferred.—Tribune.

Major O'Reilly's motion on Tuesday about the imperfections of our recruiting system led to the following episode as reported in the Times:—

Mr. W. Hailey thought the speech of the honorable member for Cork a very marked contrast with the temperate observations of the honorable and gallant gentleman who had introduced the motion. It was still, he thought, somewhat doubtful how far members of the British army belonging to the Roman Catholic religion could be relied on in certain emergencies ('Oh, oh'), and it was a remarkable fact that the Duke of Wellington, who introduced the Act of Emancipation, would not allow a single Roman Catholic to be enlisted into the Artillery service. It had so happened that within the last five years, although the army exhibited about the same proportion of Roman Catholics and Protestants, yet that the number of Roman Catholic soldiers in the Royal Artillery had increased from 2,300 to 8,700, and yet this increase had taken place notwithstanding the Duke of Wellington's opinion that Roman Catholics ought not to enter the Artillery.

Mr. O'Reilly, in reply, said he wished to advert to two points which had been raised in the discussion. The hon. gentleman who spoke last had stated boldly that Roman Catholic soldiers were not to be trusted on their allegiance. Now, he felt he should lower himself and degrade the House if he wasted its time in answering such a charge (cheers). He would say for himself that, as a Roman Catholic, he would yield to no man in attachment to his religion and in his respect for every one of its precepts. He wished to make no species of reserve for himself—such as was sometimes made by persons like the hon. member for him. He was a Roman Catholic of the Roman Catholics, and he yielded in a faithful observance of the oath of allegiance to no man of any religion (hear). The hon. member had unwittingly uttered what he would not call a calumny, but which was certainly a statement very injurious to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington. He

would on another occasion take an opportunity of asking some one competent to answer on the part of the Government whether it was true that any order was issued or now existed by which Roman Catholics were excluded from any branch of Her Majesty's service. If any such order existed he would scorn any Roman Catholic who entered a service in any branch of which he was held unworthy to serve.

THE TOMB OF JAMES III. OF SCOTLAND.—The researches made in the grounds of Oambuskenneth Abbey during last summer by the Royal Society of Scottish Antiquaries and the magistrates of Stirling will, in all likelihood, be productive of much good to the town, and also cause this fine old ruin of the 11th century to be repaired, and the tower, which is so much admired, saved from destruction. If funds are available it is proposed to improve the entrance, open up the built-up windows, and make the ground a suitable place for receiving antiquarian relics and for tourists resting. The most interesting fact in connexion with the Abbey was the discovery of the tomb of King James III. The grave was found near the spot where in old guide-books and histories it was indicated to be, and was covered with a marble slab, bearing the marks of iron bands and sockets attesting it to have been the last resting-place of a person of noble rank, and in all probability that of the unfortunate monarch. The grave appeared as if it had been disturbed at a former time. The whole circumstances of the discovery were laid before the Queen, who most graciously signified her wish to erect a memorial stone or cross over the remains of her Royal ancestors James III. and his Queen, Margaret of Denmark. The wish of Her Majesty was brought before the Stirling Town Council, who at once and with the greatest pleasure unanimously assented to the pious and thoughtful desire of the Queen. During the excavations, several large oak trees were found in one of the foundations. These were carefully removed and placed in the tower. Having lain for 700 years in a wet soil, the oak has become of quite a black colour. It is supposed that, owing to the bad foundation, the trees were used for the purpose of making a proper found, and supporting the pillars and arches of the choir.—Scotsman.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—On Tuesday morning were issued the navy estimates for the year 1865-66. The net decrease as compared with last year is 316,427, the total amount required being 10,392,224, against 10,708,651. It should be stated, however, that the sum thus voted last year includes the votes in the supplementary estimate for increasing the full pay and for the extension of naval retirement of officers of the navy, amounting to 61,041, and the supplementary estimate for purchase and completion by contract of the El Tousson and El Monasser, iron-clad ships, amounting to 220,000. The estimated amount for the coming year of extra receipts and repayments to be paid to the exchequer is 239,319, which reduces the net amount of the navy estimates to 10,152,905, against the net amount last year of 10,507,732. As regards numbers, the number of officers, petty officers, and seamen to be voted for the coming year is 33,000, against 38,500 last year. There are also 7,000 boys, and 7,000 men in the Coastguard service, against 7,500 last year, making the total 52,000 against 53,000. The marines are in all 17,000—namely, 8,000 for service afloat, and 9,000 for service on shore, being 1,000 less than in 1864-65. The civilians for the Coastguard service are 750 against 950, leaving the total force in the fleet and Coastguard service 63,750 against 71,950 last year.—Express.

Who that remembers the state of feeling here fourteen years ago, and witnessed the proceedings of Thursday, but must be filled with astonishment at the change. Then all was violent excitement against an aggression that was never made or even contemplated,—vehement denunciation of an insult to this country that was never even thought of by those to whom it was imputed,—and phrenzied assertions of rights that no one ever dreamt of disputing. How changed was all this on Thursday! On that day all was serenity, sympathy, gentleness, and good nature. We saw frankly that, poignant as our grief is at the overwhelming loss which the Church, especially in England, has sustained by the death of Cardinal Wiseman, it did not touch us so deeply as did the noble demeanour, the kindly bearing, the amiable, gentle, generous deportment of the hundreds of thousands of British Protestants in the midst of whom the funeral oration passed on Thursday from St. Mary's Church, Moorfields, to St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green. We watched attentively the conduct of the dense multitude that filled the streets, and the balconies, and the windows for the long space of six miles over which the procession passed and so orderly, so good natured, so well conducted a people—a people who evinced more gentleness, more respect for the illustrious departed, or more cordial sympathy with the deep sorrow of their Catholic fellow-subjects, it would be impossible to imagine. Throughout the whole of that long route the shops were closed, all business was suspended, the spectators in the windows wore black in innumerable instances—as the hearse conveying the remains of the great Prelate and Prince of the Church moved on, every head was uncovered—and the silence that reigned in the line of procession was as if each spectator had suffered a personal loss. Along that long line every class of society was represented. Private carriages without number were drawn up to enable their old and young occupants to witness the proceedings—and of pedestrians, young and old, male and female, the number must have considerably exceeded half a million.—Yet the polite had little trouble in preserving order, for the people were themselves most orderly, and their admirable behaviour showed how the Cardinal's career in this country, since 1851, has revolutionized English feeling and softened down, if not eradicated, those prejudices which a few years ago his name and his title had excited among the Protestants of this country.—Weekly Register.

QUEEN'S SHIPS.—The annual return made by the Controller of the Navy shows that on the 1st of Feb. there were in the Royal Navy 445 steamships afloat, 357 of them screw and 26 screw steamers building; there were also 69 effective sailing ships afloat, 54 of them mortar vessels and floats. These numbers make 540 in all. Of the steam-vessels afloat, 27 are armor-plated screw ships—namely, six third-rate iron ships and six wood, two fourth-rate iron ships and one wood; four cupola ships, fourth-rates; one wood corvette, sixth-rate; two sloops, three iron floating batteries and two of wood. There are 55 ships of the line, screws; and 43 frigates, 37 of them screws. There are also 37 gun vessels and 105 gun-boats, all screws. The rest are block ships, corvettes, sloops, mortar ships, small vessels, tenders, &c. Of the 26 steamships building, eight are armor-plated—namely, three third-rate iron ships and one of wood; one wood corvette, sixth-rate; and three iron gun-boats. Of the other 18 steam-vessels building, the building of 12 is suspended, and only a frigate, three sloops, and two gunboats, all screws, are proceeding. The return of the 1st of February, 1864, showed 532 vessels afloat and 38 building. There are seven more armor-plated vessels afloat now than there were then, but fewer paddle-ships, fewer gun-boats, and fewer sailing ships.

On Tuesday evening the popular Primitive Methodist preacher, William Weaver, was arrested at St. George's Hall, West Bromwich, on a charge of bigamy. It appears that he had been announced to lecture on 'The Mixed Family,' and between 400 and 500 persons, both male and female, attended to hear his exposition of that very interesting subject. The prices were 6d., 3d., and 2d. He was announced on the placard as a converted clown and comic singer. On one side of the handbill was the figure of a clown in his motley costume with the phrase beneath 'Weaver as he was,' while facing this wooden figure was another of a preacher dressed in the legitimate suit of black, with a Bible in his outstretched hand; and beneath this figure, the inscription, 'Weaver as he is,' and also

printed on the placard was the 7th verse of the 71st Psalm, 'I am as a wonder unto many but thou art my strong refuge.' The lecturer concluded by explaining and dilating upon the baseness, Christianity, and morality, of the Lord's prayer; and as the last American died away police serjeants Lester, Bayler, and Smith stepped upon the platform, and, charging him with bigamy, wrested him on the spot. He demanded by what authority he was taken into custody, and Police-serjeant Lester read the warrant, signed by a local magistrate, to the assembled people. Shouting, swearing, threats, and blasphemous imprecations ensued, the whole room resounding with the uproar, during which the prisoner was removed to the west-ward, where he was confronted with his wife and child, whom he at once disowned. He was then removed to the police station through the by streets followed by a large crowd of people, some expressing their conviction of his innocence, while others were no less confident in a verdict that would condemn his guilt. Weaver, who lies to the look-up at West Bromwich, will be brought before the local magistrates on Saturday next.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The estimates of army services from April 1, 1865, to March 31, 1866, were issued on Monday morning. As regards the numbers, there is a decrease this year of 4,289 in the general staff and regimental and military education establishments, and a decrease of 1,334 in the native Indian troops employed on the British establishments; the numbers required by the former vote being this year 142,477, and by the latter 178.

With regard to money, the total diminution of charge in these estimates, as compared with last year, amounts to £374,639. The total amount of estimate for the coming year is £14,346,447, which is £495,541 less than the amount last year; and there is to be added an estimated increase of extra receipts to be paid into the Exchequer during the year, amounting to £378,998; making the total diminution of charge as stated, £384,639.

UNITED STATES.

VICE-PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—The editor of the New York Independent, who was personally present in Washington during the inauguration, gives the following notice of the appearance of the Vice-President on that occasion:

And now concerning the Vice President and the humiliating spectacle which on that day he furnished to the world, shall we speak, or keep silent? Perhaps there exists some good reason why the sad truth should be suppressed, but no such reason have we yet discovered. We cannot therefore join with our three neighbors, the Tribune, the Times and the Evening Post, in pardoning with silence the great disgrace which Andrew Johnson inflicted that day upon his country. Had the tables been turned, and a similar offence been committed by George H. Pendleton, we can hardly believe that these journals would have laid their fingers on their lips in a hush of criticism. As for ourselves we trust we are habitually slow to speak ill of public men, even of such as deserve deprecation; and certainly among the many journals which have of late been heard in their kind words of Andrew Johnson, none have been heartier than this sheet; but if such an appearance as he presented during his inauguration is to pass without public rebuke, in these and in other columns then there no longer remains to the press any duty of impartial criticism of men in official stations. Once or twice, we have felt it our duty to speak against the excessive use of intoxicating liquors by some of our public men. It may be asked, What is the duty of a public journal in such cases? It seems to us plain. We hold that if a public man is drunk in a private company, he is not amenable to comment in the newspapers, but if he be drunk while acting his part on a public occasion, his offence is against the public, and should never be shielded from the just punishment of public censure. In the Senate chamber, on the 4th of March; in presence of the Senate, of the House, of the Cabinet, of the Supreme Court, of the Diplomatic Corps, of the newspaper press, of a gallery of ladies, and (during part of the time) of the President of the United States—and on an occasion to be forever historic—the Vice-President elected presented himself to take his solemn oath of office in a state of intoxication. Not in anger but in sorrow do we chronicle this fact, which we have no just right to suppress. A few weeks ago, the Speaker of the House of Representatives was commanded by vote of that body to administer a public reprimand to a member who had committed a similar offence with less conspicuous shame. If a member of Congress is to be punished for such an act, shall the President of the Senate remain unpunished? Of course, the Senate will choose its own method of reaching the case—a method which, we trust, will be kind, moderate and just. But meanwhile, it is the plain duty of Mr. Johnson either to apologize for his conduct, or to resign his office. In the name of an insulted people, we are compelled to demand that so great an affront to the dignity of the republic shall be made to bear a fit penalty, atonement and warning.

A JESTER AND A DRUNKARD.—The rhapsody of a jester affecting to be devout, the mountings of a drunkard affecting pride in his low descent,—so commences the new Presidential term. Mr. Lincoln, inaugural address can be dismissed from the public mind with a sigh, in token of the painful conviction that there is neither brain nor heart to guide the hands that hold the reins of power over this republic. But to know that Andrew Johnson, the inebricate, who not even in the presence of the United States Senate, in the presence of the American people, in the presence of the world, with millions regarding his action and awaiting his utterance, could summon enough of energy and self-denial to remain sober until the brief ordeal was over, to know that this debauched demagogue is only withheld by the thread of a single life from the Presidential chair, is appalling to every American citizen who is not entirely careless of his country's honor and welfare.

Whenever any Democratic member of the late Congress has chanced to express himself indiscreetly during an evening session under the influence of a dinner party in conviviality, the Administration journals have been relentless in their denunciation. What will they say in comment upon the conduct of their Vice-President, who enters the Senate Chamber to undergo the solemn ceremony of his inauguration in a condition that would shame a rowdy at the threshold of a tavern? Think of it Americans, a Vice-President in such a beastly state of intoxication that he was unable either to take his oath of office or administer the oath of office to the Senators whose deliberations he has to preside! What message will the Ministers of Foreign Powers, who listened wonderstruck to his ravings and mutterings, convey to the haughty emperors and queens and kings they represent? The despots of the Old World have mocked our sufferings for the past four years; they will now point the finger of scorn and ridicule at our disgrace.

A jester at the head of the republic; a drunkard next in authority! Such are the men that are to guide us through the fearful storm that tosses our doomed ship of State. One day of such statesmanship as has often been vouchsafed to us in time of peace would save us from the wreck; but now, when all is convulsion and chaos, we have given the control of our destinies, under Providence, to a jester and a drunkard.—N. Y. News.

Governor Brough, of Ohio, in his late message, states the startling fact, illustrating the terrors of the draft in that State.—It is estimated that the number of men who fled from this State as the recent draft approached, and during its execution, exceeded twenty thousands. To such an extent has his emigration gone that in some places there has not been enough left in the townships to fill the quota.