

been read, it was unanimously resolved—"That we regard the apparent insidiousness involved in retaining all the injurious effects of the measure, while its patron professes to relieve it of the disabling clauses, as an aggravation of the infliction; and that we ourselves determine and call on all the friends of civil and religious liberty to aid in the most determined opposition to this unjust and oppressive enactment.—*Dublin Correspondent of Truth Teller.*

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.—The *Melbourne Morning Herald*, Nov. 20, 1850, says—At a public meeting held at the Victoria Tavern, Murray-street, Hobart Town, on Tuesday evening, October 26th, an address "to William Smith O'Brien, Esq.," soliciting him to accept a ticket-of-leave, and signed by 900 names, including some of the most wealthy and influential gentlemen in the island, was unanimously adopted.

The following is Mr. S. O'Brien's reply:—
 Port Arthur, Nov. 9th, 1850.
 Dear Sir,—I have to-day received your letter of the 8th instant, and the address to which it refers. Even if I had resolved to resist the appeal made to me in this address, I could not but feel deeply affected by so unusual and so unexpected an expression of kindly solicitude on the part of a large number of persons to whom I am personally unknown. It is unnecessary for me to enter into any explanation of the motives which induced me to decline to accept a ticket-of-leave on the terms offered by the government; but I need not conceal from you that several of those motives have ceased to operate upon my mind; nor that, yielding to the advice given in this address, I shall comply not only with the desire of those who signed it, but also with the anxious wishes of many of my most loved and valued friends. I, therefore, transmit to you a written engagement, addressed to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by which I pledge myself not to attempt to escape from this colony during the ensuing six months, such being the period for which Mr. Meagher originally gave his parole, and it having been officially notified to me that I can obtain a ticket-of-leave upon the terms offered to me on my first arrival in Van Dieman's Land. With respect to the choice of a district, I feel myself quite unable to judge what district would be the most eligible for a residence, but I am inclined to think that New Norfolk would be as agreeable to me as any other in the colony. Requesting that you will offer on my part to those who have signed the address, the simple and kindly earnestness of which has deeply touched my feelings, my warmest acknowledgments for the interest which they have evinced with regard to my lot.—I have the honor to be, your faithful servant,
 W. S. O'BRIEN.

To T. G. Reeves, Esq., Hobart Town.

CONCILIATION HALL.—The *Freeman* of Tuesday contains a letter from Mr. J. O'Connell, explaining the circumstances under which the above building has been, or is about to be, given up to the Corn-Exchange Company. Mr. O'Connell states that the rent and taxes for Conciliation Hall and the premises adjoining amounted to 250*l.* a year, for which his brother Maurice and himself were jointly liable. After referring to his repeated warnings relative to the danger that the building, upon which 6,000*l.* of repeal money had been expended, would be lost to the country for want of funds to pay the ground rent, Mr. O'Connell says—"At length, last autumn, a friendly interview between two members of the Corn-Exchange Committee and me had the result, after much consideration on their part, of a compromise being effected, the chief terms of which were, that on our giving up to the company the sum of 100*l.* which we had economised and lodged in bank; and, secondly, transferring to the said company my brother's and my interest in the lease of the ground on which the hall stands, the company were to forgive us the payment of 127*l.* excess of arrears of rent, and relieve us from being any longer bound to the Corn Exchange premises, and liable for its rent and taxes. The company also agreed, on getting possession of the hall, to execute to me a new lease of it, by the year, at the same ground-rent that we paid before—viz., 60*l.* a year, with about 30*l.* a year taxes on the two fronts of the buildings. My brother was exonerated entirely, and withdrew out of the tenancy, I remaining the sole person liable and responsible; and my annual lease to be annually renewed so long as the Repeal Association lasted. Mr. Carolin was the ground landlord. Mr. Martin, the builder, at my father's instance, took a lease of the ground from Mr. Carolin. My father then took a lease under Mr. Martin, and built the hall on the ground. Before the arrangement, then, with the company, matters stood thus—viz., Mr. Martin held the hall by lease under Mr. Carolin, at 60*l.* a year. My brother and I held it under Mr. Martin, for the Association, at the same rent. After the arrangement with the company, the matter stood and stands thus—Mr. Martin still holds the hall by lease under Mr. Carolin at 60*l.* a year; the company next hold it under him in the same way and at the same rent; and, finally, I hold it under them by a yearly lease beginning in September last, at the same rent."

From every parish in the county we receive the same accounts of activity of the farmers in getting down the potato crop; and from the quantity set, and the breadth of ground in all stages of preparation, it would seem that there will be as much, if not more in 1851 as in any year since the first blight.—*Tralee Chronicle.*

The weather during the week has been, on the whole, dry and fine, and favorable for outdoor work, in which good progress has been made. Potato planting goes on rapidly and vigorously, and a large breadth of land is already under cultivation for this crop.—*Cork Examiner.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

(From the London Correspondent of the Tablet.)

March 19.—The No-Popery agitation is not progressing very rapidly. Since my last letter, the London Clergy and the Common Council have had their demonstrations. At the former meeting a Dr. McCaul, who seems to be the Barnabas or chief speaker of this highly-respectable and influential body, gravely proposed that her Majesty should be petitioned to put off the Exhibition till the Establishment shall have revenged herself on her enemies. The speakers complained bitterly of the activity of the Jesuits, to whose diabolical machinations it is, of course, solely to be attributed that the truth enforced by self-denying Priests should be now making fearful onslaughts on error, committed to the guardianship of persons who think they do all that is required of them if they preach

a weekly sermon, and drink a due amount of port wine after dinner. No wonder if such persons demand penal laws to repress so inconvenient an aggression as the present spread of Popery.

The Protestants have another grievance. Miss Talbot, an heiress to the amount of £80,000, has "been placed" by Lord Shrewsbury at Taunton, as a postulant. As she is a ward in Chancery, of course wherever she is placed it is with the sanction, and even by command, of the Lord Chancellor. However, her step-father, one of the respectable house of Berkeley, has petitioned the House of Commons on the subject, and doubtless we shall have some most sapient additions to the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill proposed in order to meet this and similar cases.

The *Times*, in common with almost all the Protestant organs, is disgusted at the "profligacy" of the Irish members, who prefer religious to political questions, and "sport with the interests of a great nation to gratify sectarian pique or suicidal revenge." The question is very simple. Let "the great nation" give over insulting our religion, and no longer seek to fetter us with penal laws, and we will no longer put difficulties in the way of its government. But let Englishmen know that if theirs is a great empire, the Catholic Church is a greater; more ancient, more noble, more widely spread, more necessary to the interests of humanity, and that the children of this great empire love it better than country or national honor, and are determined, if they can, to render any government impossible which lends itself to the sectarian bigotry which attempts to cripple the action of the Catholic Church.

After three centuries of preaching and teaching, we are perhaps in a condition to judge of the influence which the Church of England has exercised over the morality of this "great nation." Her own warmest advocates are struck with dismay at the disclosures made by the assize lists of this spring. A person who is in the habit of studying the police and law reports, would be more likely to suppose that they referred to Sodom and Gomorrah than this land, which solely, among all the countries of the globe, has the happiness of having the pure Word of God administered to it by the most moral and learned Clergy of the world, in an incomparable Liturgy, and with no uncouth apparatus.

The Roman correspondent of the *Times* notices that Cardinal Wiseman was distinctly called "Archbishop of Westminster" in the official *Roman Gazette* of Jan. 22, 1848, and that either the English agent at Rome, (Mr. Freeborn,) is a most incompetent person, or else that the government was acquainted with the intentions of the Pope. Every one now believes the latter to have been the case, and attributes the ministerial denials to a heroic exercise of the diplomatic virtue of lying.

It is an interesting fact, in connection with your exertions in Ireland for establishing the Catholic University, that now at last the Prussian government has confessed that its long boasted system of state education is essentially "godless"—that, in spite of the paternal care which the bureau of Berlin has taken of all its subjects in all stages of learning, from the infant school to the university; in spite, too, of its paternal anxiety to prevent the reading of bad books by those who had finished their education, the age is essentially godless, and the educated classes are mere worshippers of human wisdom. And it is to these exploded theories of state education that our government, always behindhand in questions of real mental civilisation, is now, late in the day, trying to commit its subjects."

NORTH SHIELDS CATHOLIC DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North Shields Catholic Defence Association was held on the 22nd instant, to carry out the objects of the society in regard to the proposed penal enactments. Mr. Thomas Oates was in the chair, and among the speakers were Mr. W. Reid, Mr. Hall, Mr. Curran, &c. A resolution was passed earnestly exhorting the members for Mayo, Athlone, Dublin, and other friends in parliament, to obstruct the further stages of the penal bill under discussion, by using those forms of the house under their command on every practicable occasion. Mr. Drummond's late outrageous speech was commented on with the deep indignation which it deserved. The chairman adverted with pleasure to the important Catholic association which had been formed in the city of Limerick, and observed that it was in that city, a few years ago, that a number of brave Catholics had offered themselves to form a body-guard to the Pope. The meeting heartily cheered all the examples of the fair city of Limerick. A committee was formed for the purpose of registering the names of every Catholic municipal and parliamentary elector belonging to the Shields congregation, in moving which committee, Mr. Curran took the opportunity to impress on every member of the Church, at this moment, the necessity of uniting with each other for mutual protection against their common enemy. There were various ways in which the humblest members of the Church could contribute to the defence of their common rights—for instance, in uniting their pence, in each congregation, to take in a Catholic publication, in preference to reading other cheap literature, they would give the sinews of war to their own press, and weaken that of those publications which mainly existed for traducing and misrepresenting the Faith of Catholics. (Hear, hear). He was glad to say that by the aid of this society, though only a few weeks old, every member of the congregation who could read was enabled, by a subscription of sixpence per month, to provide, at his own fireside, a copy of each of the Catholic publications, by the system of "circle reading"—that is to say, the members are divided into alphabetical circles, and every member of each circle receives a paper on the Sunday, which they return on the Monday; the next circle gets them on the Monday, and so on each circle successively, and changing the days each week, to give each circle their first reading according to their respective turn. This system is promising to work more efficiently than the most sanguine subscriber anticipated—a system which he earnestly recommended to other congregations who might not have the convenience of a reading-room; by doing so, they would vastly increase the circulation of the Catholic press. The secretary communicated to the meeting the gratifying fact, that he had received letters from Hull and from Leeds, where arrangements were being made, in both these important towns, to form associations similar to the Shields Catholic Defence Association. After which, the thanks of the meeting were given to the chairman, and the business terminated.

BOLTON MOOR.—On Monday week, the Catholic laity of Bolton Moor held a meeting in the school-room attached to the St. Peter's and St. Paul's Chapel, on the subject of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill. The meet-

ing expressed loyalty to the Queen, but protested against the proposed bill as a measure fraught with persecution. They indignantly disclaimed the unworthy notions expressed by certain noblemen in parliament, that the Catholics were indifferent to the establishment of the Hierarchy. A resolution was passed expressing admiration for the forbearance shown by the large majority of the working classes in Bolton; and thanks voted to Sir Joshua Walsley for his opposition to the penal bill, as also to the Catholics of Ireland for the noble stand they had made. Petitions were adopted to be presented to the House of Lords by Lord Petre, and to the Commons by Sir J. Walsley. Joseph Whitlaw, Esq., solicitor, was in the chair, and among the speakers were Mr. Councillor Danderdale, Mr. Davis, Mr. Luke M'Hale, Mr. James Eskerick, of Brownlow Fold, &c., &c.

MORAL CONDITION OF ENGLAND.—Preston, St. Patrick's Day.—On Sunday last, the Rev. Alexander Goss, the Vice-President of St. Edward's College, Liverpool, preached at St. Augustine's, in this town. He came for the purpose of appealing to the congregation on behalf of the above newly-formed Ecclesiastical establishment. The discourse was exceedingly eloquent and practical, the text chosen for illustration being the 35th and 36th verses of the 36th Psalm—"And I have seen the wicked highly exalted and lifted up, like the cedars of Libanus. And I passed by, and lo he was not found." After graphically describing the greatness and wealth of England, he reversed the picture, and brought under review the dreadful state of our town—the ignorance, crime, and destitution which so fearfully abounded, remarking, that in London thirty thousand needlewomen were making shirts at 2*d.* each, and that throughout the kingdom 3,000,000 paupers were rotting in forced idleness. While we devoted to the purposes of education in Great Britain £350 a day, for prisons and convicts at home and abroad we expended £2,000 a day. One thousand three hundred prisoners in Millbank Penitentiary, cost £1,000 more than the education of four thousand children in Lancashire and Cheshire; and Van Diemen's Land, with its six thousand convicts, costs £6,000 a year more than the education of half a million in Ireland. One pound per annum is spent on the six thousand convicts, while in the districts of Liverpool, as stated by a Protestant Clergyman, the majority are not Christians." Where was the remedy for this accumulated mass of evil to be found? Charitable societies, government remedies, sanatory improvements, and all kinds of popular nostrums had been tried, and failed in producing a cure. The fact was, something more than the mere washing of the face and skin of the outward man—something more than an education by books and slates, or wearing a tidy suit of clothes and reading the Bible on a Sunday, was required to raise society from the dunghill of its wretchedness. The heart and the conscience must be washed, and the soul disciplined and taught by the precepts of religion. The poor must be cared for, sought after, and visited; respect and reverence for superiors inculcated; their hearts moulded by religious influence and pious teaching, and their aspirations and their thoughts directed above the groveling earth to a better and more enduring world. And it was only the Catholic religion that was able to bring a healing to the nations, and to pour balm, and oil, and wine into their wounds. To accomplish this noble and heavenly mission, an increased number of zealous, unwearied, and devoted Missionaries was needed, and, considering its population and importance, as well as the state and prospects of Catholicity amongst us, nowhere more than in Lancashire.—*Cor. of Tablet.*

THE PROTESTANT AGITATION.—A party of clerical fanatics met in the Commercial Sale Room, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday last, to take proceedings to petition parliament for the adoption of more stringent measures to arrest Catholicity than are provided for in Lord John's modified bill. The question was discussed as to holding a public meeting to take the sense of the inhabitants; but remembering their former narrow escape, and the lashing they received from Mr. Charles Larkin, they decided to decline the danger of an appeal to the public in meeting assembled, and agreed to send round the town from door to door a petition to carry out their views—thus unmistakably bearing testimony to the fact that the great and important town of Newcastle is opposed to the efforts now making to re-enact penal statutes.

A Middlesbrough correspondent of the *Gateshead Observer* writes:—"It is full time that Church and State were separated, when a poor man's bacon is taken from him by the former, under the sanction of the latter, and offered for sale to buy sacramental wine. On Friday 10*th.* of flour, 3*lb.* of bacon, and other fruits of a church-rate seizure, were exposed to auction in the market; but no man would bid. The goods, however, were not restored to their rightful owner, but locked up in the police-station. The poor man has not saved his bacon:—how much longer will the Church save hers?"

MONITION AGAINST PUSEYISM.—We are informed that a monition has been issued from the Court of Arches, at the suit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, against the Rev. S. Cuffin, of Westminster, Kent, in consequence of complaints made against the Rev. gentleman of intoning the prayers and other Puseyite practices. Our informant adds, that this is the commencement of proceedings which the archbishop intends to institute against all the clergymen of his diocese who may persist in the introduction of innovations into the services of the church.

THE PALACE OF INDUSTRY.—Societies, religious and secular, are preparing to take advantage of this vast aggregation of men. We are to have a "World's Temperance Convention," teetotal breakfasts, and open-air demonstrations, gatherings of juvenile abstainers, and (very appropriate) aquatic excursions for our temperance friends of all ages. Other sects and sections amongst us will, in a similar manner, exhibit their numerical strength, and illustrate their peculiar principles; so that whatever the number of castaways who, according to clerical vaticinations, may be corrupted by the Labor Jubilee, we may at least anticipate a fair share of converts for the truth, an equal degree of well-merited success for the advocates of the "memorable, the progressive, and the beautiful."—*Weekly News.*

The *Birmingham Mercury* acknowledges the receipt of the following notice of a late marriage in the neighborhood:—"9 March 1851.—Plese to incur in your next weekes paper at St Thomasseses Dudley 9th by the vicar the Rev M H, Mr C.—of humble cutt to Elizabeth—of Kradley Heth. Whent on shankes poney came back in apost Shayes Drawed by two splendid grays."

A coal-pit disaster, supposed to be unparalleled in Scotland for the extent of loss of life, occurred early on Saturday morning, the 15th ult., in the Victoria colliery, Nithill, near Glasgow. While sixty-three men and boys were in the mine, a very violent explosion of fire-damp occurred. Unfortunately, the shock was so great that the gearing of the shaft and the sides of it were destroyed, and the shaft was filled with rubbish. Only two men at a time could work in clearing the ruins away, and meanwhile the relatives of the mines assembled and caused a most distressing scene. At midnight, so much of the debris had been removed that voices could be heard at the foot of the shaft. But it was not till four o'clock on Sunday afternoon that actual communication could be established with two men who still lived. Provisions were conveyed to them; at midnight, one man was extricated, in an exhausted state, and half an hour after the second was got out alive. These men said they had been working with two others in a part of the pit where the explosion was not very severe; they hastened towards the shaft, where there would be an in-draught of fresh air; but two perished by the way from the choke-damp. On Monday morning, the corpses of these sufferers were got out of the pit; and at that time no hope existed that any of the fifty-nine people missing had survived. The present workings are a third of a mile from the shaft, and several days or weeks would elapse, it was believed, before the mine could be thoroughly explored. Smoke issued on Monday from the upcast shaft, showing that some of the wood-work or even the coal itself was on fire. It is stated by all the accounts that the ventilation of this mine was admirably good; but it is believed that the calamity arose from some great sinking of the roof, or the penetration of some great cavity full of explosive gas.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICAN FRIGATE "ST. LAWRENCE."—The frigate arrived off Cowes on Thursday afternoon, and was expected to immediately come up to Southampton, when she will exchange salutes with the town, and immediately commence discharging the articles intended for transmission to London. She brings a much larger quantity than was at first expected, there being upwards of 500 exhibitors in all, and there are between 1,000 and 2,000 packages, extending to a total of nearly 1,000 tons of general products of industry, many of which are of great interest and of considerable value. Owing to the largeness of the freight, all the armament of the "St. Lawrence," save only the guns on the spar deck, had to be taken out. She has a complement of 303 seamen. Some of the packages are very large, consisting of machinery, models, sculpture, &c. The list of exhibitors alone occupies three columns in the *New York Herald* of the 13th ult. One curious item is an immense block of zinc ore weighing 16,400*lb.* (eight tons), and is probably the largest single block of that ore ever obtained. It is sent by the New Jersey Exploring and Mining Company, and cost that association many hundred dollars to transport it over the mountain roads from the mines, to its place of shipment. From the magnitude as well as from the peculiarity of this kind of ore, this block is esteemed a great curiosity. After discharging her cargo, the "St. Lawrence" is ordered to take on board the remains of the celebrated Commodore Paul Jones, now reposing in Paris. The ashes of the first Republican naval officer under General Washington are thus to be honored by special removal across the Atlantic in a ship of War.

Here is a paragraph from the *Newcastle Chronicle* that no Inferno of Dante or Milton surpasses in horror:—"We know a single house—not a large one—with sixty persons in it. Many of them are married, and have their beds placed in the midst of single persons of both sexes. The children have beds on the floor. Close to this awful fever-spot there are a mother, her adult son, a daughter seventeen years of age, and a boy about twelve, who wash, eat, and sleep, in a small place very like a coal-hole, and close to which is an open place used by eighty persons."

RELICS FOUND IN WHITTLESEA MERE.—A variety of interesting relics have been found in Whittlesea Mere, in Cambridgeshire; and among them a vessel of silver, of a boat-like shape, resting on an elegant hexagonal base. All the ornaments (which are of silver gilt) are most elaborately and delicately made out, and the whole is in beautiful preservation. It was found in the draining of the Mere, and is the property of William Wells, Esq., of Home Wood House, the Lord of the Manor, at whose expense this great undertaking of the draining is chiefly being executed. This vessel has been conjectured to be a salt-cellar; but, with more probability, a case for containing incense. Its length is eleven inches.

Among other objects found in the Mere, are a silver censer, of beautiful workmanship, and well preserved; a silver chandelier, having on it a representation of Peterborough Cathedral; also some Roman ware, curious seals, old swords and iron ornaments, and crockery of all descriptions. The draining off of the water is now finished; but large dykes are being cut, and articles are constantly being turned up, many of them valuable.

The correspondent who has favored us with this information, suggests that the rams' heads at either end of the above vessel may have reference to Ramsey, to whose Abbey this article may have belonged?—*London News.*

PROTESTANT CHAPEL AT ROME.—The Rev. Mr. Hastings, the American Chaplain at Rome, has addressed a letter to the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, stating, "that the worship of the American chapel has not been suspended by the Papal authorities; that we have no reason to suppose it will be; that the stated services of the Sabbath go on as quietly and as free from annoyance of any kind whatsoever, as if held in the United States; that there is but one sentiment among the Americans in Rome upon this subject, viz: that the Papal Government has acted handsomely towards us in the toleration of our Protestant chapel within the walls, and that we are bound to see that it has the credit for it." This concession in favor of Protestants, was obtained at the instance of Major Cass, the American Charge d'Affaires at Rome.

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.—Late accounts from Liberia contain satisfactory statements of the progress of that Republic. The annual message of President Roberts had been presented on the 18th of December. It referred to the prosperity of all the affairs of the country during the year, and announced with satisfaction the extension of territory obtained by purchase, comprehending the "notorious Gallinas," which would henceforth be free from the slave trade.