

The Catholic University opened its session on Sunday, the 11th October. High Mass was celebrated at the University Chapel, after which the Very Rev. Rector delivered a short and patriotic address. He said that day was the Feast of the Dedication of the Churches of Ireland, and was chosen as being not only a religious event, but also a festival of our Nation. Faith and Fatherland, Science and Religion, were the watchwords and ends of the Catholic University, and it became the duty of the students to do credit to their faith, and labor for the redemption of our country. Grand relics dot the face of the land, attesting the piety and patriotism of our ancestors, proclaiming their undying fame and ancient glory. They impose on the young men of Ireland the responsibility of proving themselves worthy of so noble ancestors. Under the shadows of those great cathedrals and churches sprang up those schools and virtual universities of past ages, which sent the fame of Irish learning over Europe. It belongs to the men of the present to emulate them, to revive the glories of the past, restore our ancient fame as a land of scholars as well as of saints and able to withstand those hostile to our faith and the enemies who oppose the elevation of our beloved country.—*Dublin Irishman.*

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE, AND THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AT DUBLIN.—We give elsewhere an article from the *Morning Herald*, for the sake of the interest it may have for our Catholic readers. But in so doing we must express our dissent from the view which supposes that there can be no adequate teaching for the sons of English Catholics without seeking for it at Cambridge or Oxford. Why should they not lend the aid of their wealth and the prestige offered by their rank to the Catholic University of Ireland? It would not be the first time that this country was sought for because of its possession of academics wherein Christian and secular learning were cultivated for the benefit of Englishmen and other strangers. True, at present it has to struggle against a thousand difficulties, but it would be a wholesome outlet for the long pent up energies of English Catholics to aid in winning its way through these obstacles. In England the English Catholics are few and rich; in Ireland we are poor and many. The long habit of fighting for the privileges to which munition and justice entitle all creeds alike, has given us the confidence and perseverance of a people destined to progress. The comparative helplessness of our brethren in England has had an opposite effect on them. Too proud to join a society where they were looked on doubtfully, they have condemned themselves to a sort of social and political ostracism, and in both social and political relations they are characterised by a shy and haughty reserve. They look even askance upon the rough energy of necessity, born with which we fight their battles and our own. But it is to that we and they are indebted for the equality we hold before the law with all men, no matter what their faith. It is that fearless effort they have to thank for the privilege, of which the *Herald* now boasts, that permits Catholics to enter at certain colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. But it is after all desirable that the sons of the purest aristocracy in England should feel themselves permitted to take their rank as English gentlemen upon suffrage? Would it not be the most manly course to seek education founded upon the principles they recognise, and in an institution devoted to the Faith for which they in other respects are ready to make sacrifices? By such a course they would establish a more complete understanding between the co-religionists of the two countries, and they would take for themselves a stronger and prouder position. Of course, we do not mean to contend that the educational advantages in institutions so old and so richly endowed as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are not in some respects superior to those that can now be obtained at the Catholic University. The last is but a newly born infant compared to a grown man. But the infancy is that of a Hercules, and will one day grow into an exuberant life. At present, it is quite clear that the son of a Catholic nobleman or gentleman of fortune sent to Oxford or Cambridge would find more of his peers to mix with than he would in the Dublin Academy. But if it be desirable that a young Catholic gentleman should mix largely with his equals in rank, for the sake of certain social advantages, let it be remembered that the gain is not unaccompanied with risk. There is in the terse language of the Papal bull "danger" at once "to faith and morals." It is of course quite possible that the Catholic youth may leave either University of the same faith as he left it. But will that faith be equally pure—equally well established? And how about the morals? Is the life of the youth of these great institutions regulated with an especial regard to the observance of the moral laws? It may after all be well worth while for wealthy English Catholics to consider whether the placing the advantages of the great English Universities, and the comparatively small Irish one, in the scales, there might not be some judgment in choosing humbly. Let us add, Irish Catholics have done something for us; why should they not do something to forward a great Irish undertaking?—*Cork Examiner.*

The branch line between Kilmessan and Athboy, county Meath, on the Dublin and Meath Railroad, is rapidly progressing towards completion, and will soon be opened for traffic. The line is now finished to the town of Trim, and the works to Athboy are being vigorously pushed on, so that by the close of the year we shall be able to report the opening of the entire line. The rapidity with which the work has been executed reflects very great credit on the spirited contractor, John Killeen, Esq., who, with untiring zeal, has conducted the works personally throughout, and was enabled by great exertions to have the line ready for the conveyance of cattle by rail from the ensuing fair of Trim. The line from Lifford bridge which spans the Boyne near Rathfriland, on the most picturesque portion of the line, is quite complete, and was satisfactorily tested some time back. It is considered to be one of the strongest of the kind ever constructed, and must bring great credit to all concerned in its erection.

THE LATE BOAT ACCIDENT IN CARLINGFORD LOUGH.—At the last meeting of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution a reward was voted to the crew of four men for putting off and rescuing three out of six persons who had been capsized from their boat off Killybegs, in Carlingford Lough.—*Northern Whig.*

The weekly meeting of the Polish Committee of Ireland was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., at the City Hall, Peter Paul McCreaney, Esq., Lord Mayor Elect in the chair. Letters were read, enclosing contributions, from Rev. Sylvester Malone, Killeen, 10; Richard Dalton, Tipperary, 26 s. 6d.; John McCorry, 44; William Boyan, Leamington, Passage, Cork 21; and William Hill, East Ardee, Tipperary, 21. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dalton, Tipperary, and his name was added to the committee. An instalment of £20 was directed to be forwarded to the committee at Paris.

By the capsizing of a mail coach on the 28th ult., near Pemas, county Wexford, Sir James Power, who was one of the passengers, received a fracture of the shoulder. The coachman was seriously injured by the violence of the fall.

O'CONNELL MONUMENT.—On Wednesday, the 7th inst., a meeting of the committee for promoting this national project was held in the City Hall, Dublin, the Rev. Mr. O'Connell, P.P., in the chair. After a good deal of discussion on whether the monument should be erected in Sackville street or in Stephen's Green, it was proposed and carried, on the motion of Prof. Kavanagh, that the committee should advertise for the design for the national monument, the plans to be framed on an estimate of £10,000, and to be so designed as to admit of additional expenditure. It was next moved and carried that the committee give £50, £30, and £20 for such designs as the committee might select as best, second best and third best.

At a late special meeting of the O'Connell National Monument Committee held in Dublin, it was resolved upon to advertise for designs, of which O'Connell's statue is to form an imposing feature; that the monument be erected on the site in Sackville street, granted by the Corporation, and that while the plans of the testimonial be framed on an estimate of £10,000, they shall be so designed as to admit of additional expenditure. The Committee also voted sums of £50, £30, and £20 for the three best designs that might be selected. At the meeting a subscription of £5 was handed in from the Venerable Archdeacon Laffan, P.P., V.G., who was unanimously added to the Committee. Some £5,400 are at present in the hands of the Committee, but they feel confident of having £10,000 by the time of the completion of the work.

ON BOARD THE BLACK PRINCE.—A correspondent of a Dublin journal gives an amusing description of the scenes on board the Black Prince when a number of visitors were compelled to remain on the ship by a sudden and violent storm, which cut off all communication with the shore. 'The storm,' he says, 'exceedingly alarmed the visitors; but what was their consternation when the captain gave orders to get steam up, so that the vessel might put to sea if the wind increased. Here was a pretty fix for us citizens, who expected we would have been all home to our dinners and business before six o'clock! Things looked gloomy, and hunger did not improve the state of our temper. Suddenly an order is heard—"Supply all the visitors with tea and biscuits." "Ay, ay, sir," and no sooner said than done. Behold us all sitting around the mess-tables, the noble crew having vacated them for our accommodation. The politeness and hospitality of the sailors exceeded anything I can describe, and as we walked round the enormous mess-tables afterwards, each master of ceremonies vied with the other in the pressing solicitations, "Have you had tea, sir? pray prevail on the ladies to have some from us!" Tea over, the fine brass band of the vessel, in handsome uniforms, took their places amongst the visitors (no selfish performance for the captain's own pleasure), and performed several galsops, waltzes, &c. Imagine our astonishment when we hear the order that 200 lbs. of beef is to be got ready for our supper. Hungry as wolves we attacked the soup and beef; then followed the gay dance, the jocular song, and every exertion to make us jolly. Still the storm continues; and—can you believe it, sir?—the next order was, "Prepare beds for the ladies in the Captain's cabin; gentlemen will be made comfortable in another part of the ship." Large sails and blankets were provided for all of us. The generous crew also gave up their hammocks to those who preferred the method of sleeping, while they cheerfully stretched themselves on the floor. And observe, this was all disinterested for no pecuniary compensation was sure to offend and be indignantly refused. Soon were 500 visitors quietly asleep. However it was not of long duration; for it having become calm, the Kingstown and other steamers came alongside, and we thought it better to return, the officers most gallantly forming a gangway, and putting our wives and daughters safe on board, without being rudely crushed. We men then got on board, and finally arrived in Kingstown between one and two o'clock in the morning.

Dr. Whately is believed to have been the main author of National Education in Ireland. It is well known to have been a compromise for which the sanction of Archbishop Murray and many other excellent Catholics was obtained. It is equally notorious that it is now condemned by almost all Catholics. On this the *Times* charges the rulers of the Church of having repudiated for their own convenience terms to which they had originally consented. It says, "He had done what he could. He had made his compromise with the existing authorities of the Roman Catholic Church, and might have known that Church would not hold itself bound to it when it found the opportunity of obtaining more favorable terms." Nothing could be more opposite to the facts than this insinuation. How far Dr. Whately was personally responsible we do not know. But the simple fact is, that the Protestant party, having prevailed upon the Catholics to make great concessions in adopting a system of education which was very far indeed from what they approved and had a just right to demand, began almost from the first to modify that system by little and little, and always in an anti-Catholic direction. It is true that very recently some slight concessions have been made to demands of Catholics. But, even thus, the present system is incomparably greater facilities for proselytism than that to which Archbishop Murray gave his consent. If our space allowed nothing could be easier than to prove this.—*Weekly Register.*

Lord Leitrim's scandalous insult to the Viceroy of Ireland has been promptly and most properly visited upon his author. The owner of the *fan* at Mann is no longer a Deputy Lieutenant for Leitrim, but a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Leitrim, Galway, and Donegal. To have allowed him to retain these social distinctions and the Magisterial office after his indecent and ill-bred insult to the Viceroy of the Queen in Ireland, would have been an act of complicity after the fact on the part of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland deserving of the severest censure. Lord Leitrim had no personal quarrel with Lord Carlisle and in Ireland Lord Carlisle's individual rank, name, and character, are at present merged in his high official position. It was as Viceroy that Lord Leitrim felt animosity towards him, and it was against the Viceroy that he ordered the tenant of his hotel in Connemara to close his doors. The act was stupid, ill-bred, inhospitable, and disgraceful, in whatever light it may be viewed; but, on the part of a magistrate towards the representative of the Sovereign, it was a great deal more and a great deal worse.—*Id.*

Michael Connolly, late of No. 25 South King street, in the city of Dublin, bread and biscuit baker, who died recently, bequeathed to the governors of St. Vincent's Hospital, Stephen's Green, Dublin, a sum of £50 for the use of said hospital; and to the Catholic clergymen of Whitefriar street and Chandon street chapels, Dublin, the respective sums of £5 each, for Masses for the repose of his soul.

The Killeeney Journal says:—In a conversation that took place at the Killeeney Board of Guardians, on Thursday last, with regard to the crops, Mr. Blanchfield stated that the potatoes were daily "blackening," and gave it as his opinion that this year's yield would not equal last. In this opinion many Guardians concurred, adding that before winter sets in the applicants for admission to the workhouse will be more numerous than heretofore. The corn crops are not so much despaired of, but it is the prevailing opinion that the reports about the beautiful harvests that were daily chronicled were entirely premature.

William John Holywood, John Maguire and Richard Goddard recently lost their lives by being buried in a well by an explosion of gas in pipes which the former had been employed to repair at the Blacker Cross Canal.

The tenacity of Sir William Henry Roger Palmer, on his county Dublin estates, recently presented him with an address of sympathy and condolence on the death of his daughter, Mrs. Peel.

Died, on the 5th of October, at the Convent of Mercy, Rensselaers, Sister Mary Paula, in the world, Miss Hogan. Upon Wednesday, the 7th inst., the coffin for the dead had been recited, High Mass for the repose of her soul was celebrated. The deceased Sister was from Waterford. She was young, highly accomplished and handsome. The funeral was immensely large, and was rendered striking by a procession of the girls belonging to the school in which the deceased was a very efficient teacher, dressed in the mourning for virgins—white, set off with black.

We understand that a widow, residing at Lowthertown, county Fermanagh, has been left the sum of \$100,000 and 10 acres of valuable land, at the diggings in California. The Most Rev. Dr. McNally has received the paper document from the bishop of the district, and when vouched for by his lordship, they will be handed over to the fortunate widow.—*Dundalk Examiner.*

The post of Secretary to the Board of Catholic Cemeteries, says the *Dublin Nation*, has this week been conferred on a truly deserving candidate—Mr. Charles Coyle. The compliment involved in this selection, from a list of nearly one hundred competitors, is in itself a high testimony to his character and worth. Mr. Coyle won the esteem and confidence of every member of the Central Relief Committee, of which body he was Assistant Secretary during the two years of its arduous labors which have just closed. Active, trustworthy, and faithful, amiable, kindly, and obliging, he was an invaluable aid in the great and good labors which his worthy chief, Mr. Devitt, so ably directed or discharged. We rejoice at Mr. Coyle's appointment, and feel confident the Board of Catholic Cemeteries will have no occasion to repent their choice.

At a late meeting of the Dublin Corporation, the Lord Mayor, who presided, stated that the Dublin Evening Mail said that the salary of the Lord Mayor is £2,000 a year and about £1,000 from fees, he felt called on to show that the salary which he had received was but £1,900, and that during his term of office he had not received one penny of the so-called fees, for he had left them to his Secretary—which he believed had been the usual custom amongst his predecessors.

Samuel Johnston, Esq., of Brookville, Wexford, has been appointed to the commission of the peace for the county of Wexford.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

DR. MANNING AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Very Rev. Dr. Manning, formerly Archdeacon of Chichester, preached at the opening of a new Roman Catholic Chapel at Bath a day or two since, and in the course of his sermon remarked that the Anglican church had reached a crisis in her history and that signs were not wanting of her decline. There was the cry from her teachers to be released from the "Articles" which bound them; there was the lament that the youth, the intellect, the hope of England, were turning from their teachers; and there was on the part of some of her highest dignitaries not only a disposition to discredit portions of the Word of God, but a denial of its inspiration. The rev. gentleman reviewed at great length the history of the Papal Church and the Church of England, and said that while the latter, in the full enjoyment for the last 300 years of liberty and State patronage, was now declining, the former was no sooner relieved from penal enactments and persecutions, compared to which the falsely styled barbarities of the Inquisition were tender mercies, than she showed her native strength, vigor, and earnestness, and stood forth in these days the terror of their opponents.—*Times.*

The British Admiralty had decided to construct a new squadron of iron gunboats, armor plated, double screw propeller, to be armed with two heavy Armstrong guns.

Sir Roundell Palmer will have to defend the Government in the House of Commons for seizing Mr. Laird's steam ram, and, if it be possible to elicit a spark of the old feeling against truckling to foreign threats, and against arbitrary interference with the property of the subject, he will have an unpopular cause. But after all that has passed, there is no certainty that the Government will be seriously assailed.

The Ministerial organs no longer attempt to blink or disguise the fact that Lord Palmerston's Administration is rapidly losing the confidence of the country. The evidences of the reaction are too palpable and too numerous to allow the boldest partisan of the Cabinet to deny its existence.—*Weekly Register.*

We learn from the Court Newsmen that the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, who lately arrived in this country with their three children, intend to make a considerable stay in England. The fact is so, we believe, and it is one of much significance. The King of Prussia and his son and heir are notoriously divided in opinion as to the mode in which that country should be governed, and this divergence upon so grave a subject has produced a serious domestic alienation.—*Id.*

On Tuesday all the Ministers met in Cabinet Council, and so urgent was the occasion and so important the matter or matters for deliberation that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was summoned from Balmoral, where he was in attendance upon the Queen, and thus prevented from accompanying Her Majesty to Aberdeen on Tuesday, as he had been previously arranged. As yet no light has been thrown upon this matter by the Ministerial press, but in the clubs it is rumored that the Polish Question and the presence and proceedings connected with the Russian Squadron at New York, are the main points upon which the Foreign Secretary desired to commune with his colleagues. We believe that the visit of the Russian Squadron to New York, and the incidents to which it has given rise, have occasioned some anxiety to Ministers.—*Id.*

The proprietors of the Great Eastern met in London on Friday to consider the course they ought to take in the present desperate position of their property. The directors had no definite "policy" to submit to the shareholders, who were told that it was for them to consider what should be done. After a good deal of discussion, in the course of which various propositions were put forward, it was determined to appoint a committee to inquire into the state of the company's affairs. It is stated that the ship has been seized under an Admiralty warrant by the owners of the *Jane*, a vessel which was recently run down by the Great Eastern off the Irish coast.

OPENING OF THE "GAROTTING SEASON."—Great consternation has been excited in London by a very tragical event, which has given warning of the commencement of the garrotting season. A pork-butcher, named Viki, was walking to his home one evening in the eastern part of London, when he was struck down by a violent blow on the head, and robbed of what little money he had, only about 8s. The unfortunate man contrived to rise and reach his home, but in a most pitiable state of fright. As soon as his wife opened the door to him he rushed frantically into the house, exclaiming that the thieves were behind him. So great was his alarm that he took refuge in a cupboard, which he entered with such force that he got jammed between the woodwork, and could not extricate himself for five hours. The incident would be laughable were it not for the disastrous ending. It was found that he had sustained most terrible injuries of the skull, from which he died a few days afterwards. Strange to say, the wife gave no alarm to the police, and so the unfortunate man made no deposition. On the coroner's inquest it was stated that the blows inflicted were just such as would have been caused by a "knuckleduster." Of course there is no clue as to the murderer.

LORD BROUGHAM AND THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.—Lord Brougham, in his opening address to the Social Science Association, spoke favorably of the introduction of Sisters of Charity into hospitals, and praised the efforts of Lady Fullerton. "It was more than once urged at our last Congress," said Lord Brougham, "that the invaluable attendance in French hospitals of *Sœurs de Charité* made their establishment in this country not only expedient, but a kind of duty. There's great satisfaction in finding that steps have been taken with much success towards the attainment of this object. The most important by far is the foundation, by the sister of our colleague, Lord Granville, Lady G. Fullerton (so well

known for her excellent writings), of a sisterhood under a Paris superior, in a spacious building, for which her coadjutor, Miss Easton, has nobly contributed £5,000. These ladies being Roman Catholics, their sisterhood is of the same persuasion, and this somewhat interferes with their attendance in hospitals. But Miss Brownlow Byron has established an other body of the same kind—the All Saints' Home in Margaret Street—and there are no other attendants than these sisters at the North London Hospital of University College. This is a great benefit gained; and undoubtedly the exertions of this association, and of those ladies especially who are in cooperation with us, have mainly effected it. It is plain that the duties of nurses offer a great and constant means of female employment, as our amiable and able colleague, Miss Hope, and her coadjutors in this town have shown, confirmed by the excellent training schools for nurses under Mrs. Balfour. The *Sœurs de Charité* also perform the service of nursing the sick at their dwellings. I remember that when attending M. de Tocqueville's funeral at Cannes, the feeling most generally expressed by all present was thankfulness for the comfort which attended the last weeks of his life from the care of those excellent persons. Surely those who have introduced this sisterhood into our country are worthy of all acceptance. They well deserve to be the countrywomen of Florence Nightingale—and no higher panegyric can be pronounced. Lady G. Fullerton's fame as an author, great though it be, is eclipsed by her distinction as a philanthropist. These remarks (which we did not quote last week, as Lord Brougham in the same speech grossly insulted the Pope), it seems, had the effect of rousing the bigotry of some of Lord Brougham's hearers, and accordingly at the close of the congress he said, "I have seen very great exception taken to one or two things I stated in my opening address, and among other things exception is taken to my having praised and recommended the Sisters of Charity, who will immediately set themselves to proselytize this country. My answer is this—that in the case of Lady Georgiana Fullerton and Miss Easton we did not import Catholics from France or Ireland, for they are our fellow-countrywomen, who happen to be Catholics, and the only person who came from France was the sister superior. The rest are all English Catholics, and I have seen here to-day some most worthy persons, Sisters of Charity also, who came from France, and they are Catholics no doubt, but they are Englishwomen and Scotchwomen who have been settled in France, and have come back to this country. But it is not to be supposed that I only praised or recommended the Catholic sisterhood. I expressly pointed out Miss Brownlow Byron's Home Refuge for English Sisters of Charity, and stated that they performed all the nursing at the North London Hospital in connexion with University College. This explanation renders things worse, as it makes out that Irish Nuns are not to be deemed fellow-countrywomen. We would like to know why Nuns are excluded from London University Hospital, which receives much Catholic money.—*Weekly Register.*

THE CONFEDERATE RAMS AT BIRKENHEAD.—The two rams still continue at Birkenhead—one, the El Toussou, being moored in the Great Dock, and although there are two custom's officials on board, the workmen still continue their labors in fitting up the monster cupola shield on the deck of the vessel. A statement in the *Times* of Wednesday, to the effect that a guard of marines from the Liverpool, man-of-war, were sent on board the El Toussou on Monday, was incorrect. On inquiry made yesterday we learn that no such guard has as yet been placed on board the ram, and that the only officers connected with the seizure of the ram were two custom's officials, who were then on board. The error of the *Times* is no doubt attributable to the too conspicuous proximity of the gun-boat Gosbank to the El Toussou, and to the fact that the crew of the gun-boat often in their eagerness to reach the shore, got over the sides of the ram for the sake of a "near cut." As it is, however, the Government have treated the pledge of Mr. Laird, that the rams should not leave the Mersey without a substantial guarantee of their legality being given, with courtesy. The Liverpool on Monday left her moorings near Seacombe, and went up into the Sloyne and anchorage.—*Post.*

THE FRONCHS IN THE MERSEY.—The protracted controversy respecting the *fronchs* has at length been put in the way of solution. The broad arrow has been marked on one of these steamers, and the suspected vessels, therefore, can only be cleared by force of law. The case will be tried, and the whole question argued on its proper merits. Enough, however, appears to be established to make the matter intelligible. The Federal and Confederate States of America are belligerents; we are neutrals. It is urged upon our Government that these vessels are destined for the Confederate service, and that they ought to be stopped. To justify such prohibition, it would have to be shown that the alleged destination was the real one, and that it was an unlawful destination. The first of these questions is a question of evidence; the next a question of law. Now, as regards the law, it seems to be admitted that neutrals may supply belligerents with munitions of war, ships included, and yet commit no breach of neutrality. The only conditions are that the neutral merchant should not give to either belligerent an advantage of partiality. But these admissions presume that the bargains shall be conducted in the ordinary way of trade, and that the goods supplied are for delivery at the ports of the belligerent purchaser. We sell guns, powder, bayonets, and sabres to the Federals, and these commodities are carried to New York, and then there landed. Similarly, when we sell ships of war, to foreign Governments, delivery is made at the ports of the purchasing State—and if it could be reasonably assumed, that any vessels built to order of the Government would be delivered at Charleston or Savannah, the transaction would be perfectly lawful. It would be impossible to impeach the part played by the neutral shipbuilder in the proceeding. His trade would be just as allowable as that of the neutral cannon-founder or the neutral sword maker. But the transactions now in question are not of this character. What is suspected of the *fronchs* is that they are designed to follow the *Alabama*, and to become what the *Alabama* is known to be. Now, the *Alabama* was never exported for delivery at a Confederate port. She proceeded to act against the enemy without ever having touched Confederate territory at all; therefore, these *fronchs* were to do the same;—either we, the neutrals, must have provided them with their equipment, in which case we should be participating in the war, or the belligerent purchasers must have done so in our ports, and therefore, under our neutral territory the basis of hostile operations. If a ship leaves British waters in a condition to act at once against the enemy, it is clear that those who conduct her are doing just as much as we could do, if we were the belligerents, and not they. It is equally clear that in doing this they are exceeding their rights, and that such proceeding ought not to be allowed. It is competent to any shipbuilder whose proceedings may have fallen under suspicion to say that the suspicion is unfounded; but that plea, if sound, could of course be established so plainly as to preclude any further dispute. It would be also competent to a builder to say that he was building a vessel for a belligerent, but that that such was his lawful trade, and that he had no concern with the bargain after delivery to the purchaser. But this plain statement has not been put forward, and it is impossible to dismiss from our minds the notorious precedent of the *Alabama*. In short, assuming that the alleged destination of these *fronchs* can be established, one of two things would be beyond denial,—either the *Alabama* could not have been detained, or the detention of these steamers is justifiable. As a matter of fact, however, we know that the departure of the *Alabama* was not regarded by any parties as a lawful proceeding. Those who took her to sea smuggled her out of port on a false pretence. Those who had their eyes upon her were only prevented

from stopping her by accidental impediments. It concerns us all, however, that the law should not be evaded, and that is why the public has felt a species of satisfaction in the detention of these now famous steamers. The trade in question is either right or wrong. If right, there is no reason why Government should trouble itself with "anxious enquiries." If wrong, which is really unlawful should not be left practicable by evasion. In the interval we know only this, that certain vessels suspected of a destination like that of the *Alabama* will not be allowed to slip out as the *Alabama* did.

THIS ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—It is confidently expected that in July next a renewed attempt will be made to lay a telegraphic cable across the Atlantic. The directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company have succeeded, after very great exertions, in obtaining a subscription list of about £300,000 towards the new capital required to make and lay the cable. The entire cost of making and laying the cable has been estimated at £600,000, and of that sum—the subscribed capital of the company being only £300,000—the contractors take upon themselves, in round numbers, one-half. Their interest is, therefore, identical with and equal to that of the general body of shareholders. The risk which they undertake is a very serious one, and it is only by the complete success of the undertaking that any profit can be realised. On the laying of the cable and transmission of the first messages the contractors will receive one instalment, and one each month, until the expiration of the first year of the actual and continued working of the telegraph; they will also receive further instalments, until the whole of the contract price has been paid to them. The experiments which have been made lead to the belief that the rate of transmission through the cable when laid down will be at the rate of eight words a minute. The tariff will, probably be five shillings a word, so that a very large return of profit may be looked for, if only the line continues to work. The Government of the United States give a minimum subsidy of 75,000 dollars a year, and our own Government £200,000 a year to the company so long as the line continues to work, to go in payment of the messages sent by the respective Governments. The two Governments also give a joint guarantee of eight per cent, on the capital expended while the line is at work. As to the laying of the cable, nothing has, of course, yet been decided; but if the Great Eastern should be delivered from her present financial troubles, and be again made fit for sea, it might be very usefully employed for carrying and laying the Atlantic telegraph.—*Observer.*

ALARMING INCREASE OF CHILD-MURDERS IN ENGLAND.—Infanticide—child-murder by various horrible and worse than brutal means—is becoming almost as general as the slaughter of the beasts that constitute our daily food. Compared with this all other kinds of murder seem to be dressed of much of their atrocious character. The assassin is, generally speaking, an utter stranger to his victim, he may meet with effectual resistance, and be dragged to justice the instant after he has perpetrated his dark deed, or he may lose his life in the encounter. But what can the helpless infant do for its preservation—where shall it find a defender when its maternal mother's arms, which should guard against all harm, are upraised for its destruction, and her pitiless heart is insensible to the natural affection that should be its strongest shield? What earthly power can possibly exercise any salutary influence on a mother who can bring herself to imbrue her wretched hands in the blood of her unoffending babe, and thus violate the law of God, of man, and of nature simultaneously? True, isolated cases of child-murder have occurred, under various impulses and from various motives in all ages, and in all countries. But in no age and in no country has this rank enormity been carried to so fearful an extent, or been committed from such sordid, unnatural and atrocious motives as in this age, and in Great Britain. However silent, passive, or unobtrusive the clergy of the State Church and its offshoots may be in the matter—however powerless the law, and indifferent the Legislature may be to this frightful state of things, the press of England has for some time past loudly sounded the alarm, and called for more rigorous action on the part of the Executive. "It is calculated," says the *Press*, "that of the children under two years of age, six out of every seven do not live to see the return of their birth day. In one year alone (1851) inquests were held in London upon 1,100 children under two years of age." This, however, comprises only those which, presenting some peculiarity—that peculiarity has been brought under the notice of the authorities by some parent or other. When this is not the case, the number of infant corpses that are thrown away in London thought of? But there is an enormous number—60,000, it is alleged, not England and Wales—of infant corpses that are neither taken up nor registered, and all, not subjected to a coroner's inquest, but classed under the head of "still-borns." Whether they are so born or not, there is a large proportion of them may have been disposed of by violent means. "At the inquest," says the *Press*, "held on a number of infant corpses discovered in various stages of decomposition in the roof of Wapping Church, it was clearly established, that the undertakers are in the constant practice of taking charge of 'still-borns'—that the process is used to them for an empty shell, and to bring a sick with a little corpse in it, with or without a certificate, that they consider a certificate unnecessary, and that any certificate to which a female signature is affixed, is taken by them to be the certificate of a midwife, and perfectly correct, without any inquiry whatever." Here we see, not only facilities for child-murder but something very like temptations to it. Meanwhile, a small knot of philanthropists have initiated a movement of some kind purposing to check the frightful evil. It is, however, ridiculous to suppose that a species of crime, which seems to have become indigenous in England during the present century, can be eradicated by the efforts of a few well-meaning members of private individuals. The very fact of an association being formed for such a purpose, not only shows the vast extent which the evil has reached, and the deep root it has taken, amongst the masses especially, but it discloses the melancholy fact that the law is unable to deal with it, and that the moral and religious teachers and the State, possess no power or influence over them, and that those duties which have been conscientiously performed, are rendered almost powerless by the organized system in the land. "I repeat," says the *Press*, "that members of infant clubs for the purpose of checking the two or three per cent of illegitimate children, and their innocents. As it is, the lives of children, from one to two in number, are being poisoned by their savage mothers, who are not willing to urge in palliation of their of their unnatural brutality that their murdered offspring would be better off with the *fronchs* than in the *fronchs*."

Another case of infanticide has occurred in London. The parents are suspected of having played through they are said to be in a respectable London family.

On Wednesday, the 14th ult., the British Parliament was prorogued to the 1st of Dec.

The London *Morning News* says that the capture of the steamer "Sir Robert Peel" by the *Federals*, off the Rio Grande, is exciting considerable attention at Lloyd's, and pressure will be brought to bear upon the British Government on the subject, it being alleged that there was not the slightest ground for her seizure.

The odd proposal has been made to turn the Great Eastern into a floating hotel, and anchor her off Cowes to make occasional sea excursions.—What the directors will say to this idea is doubtful. It has originally to recommend it, if nothing else.