

BLACKENING THE REPUTATION OF THE IRISH—It is but a few days since we published a report of some proceedings on which it was resolved that the trial of the Sligo election petition should be removed to Carrick-on-Shannon. The decision is of course of comparatively little consequence. It will probably make very small difference in the result whether the trial in Sligo or in a town thirty miles distant by rail. The judge who tries the case will be the same under any circumstances, and doubtless the decision will be satisfactory. But the mode in which the decision was procured is worthy of note, less as matter affecting the particular case at stake which after all it cannot much influence, than as part of a system of maligning the country which prevails amongst the party represented by the sitting member. It is a favorite device with that party to represent the humbler classes of Ireland as ignorant and stupid to the degree of savagery, in the hope thereby of obtaining English sympathy on their side. It is part of their tactics to accuse the Catholic clergy of the most violent terrorism and unmitigated despotism in order to arouse the prejudice of Englishmen in their behalf. Now, the Sligo election has been a peculiar specimen of this description of calumny of the country, and a curious example is afforded in the allegations that we have already published. Amongst them was one to the effect that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sligo had ordered that the Catholics who had voted with Mr. Knox should be separated from the rest of the chapel and put into the porch. To this statement the Bishop in question the pious and exemplary Dr. Gilooly, gives the most emphatic contradiction. He does not confine himself to a denial of the mere sentence embodying the accusation, but he declares that neither the alleged expression, nor any others equivalent in meaning, were ever used by him in any address to the clergy, and he adds, 'on no occasion, public or private, have I announced, ordered, or approved of the removal of these Catholics from their place where they might occupy in my parish church or any other house of worship. This is tolerably clear, but it comes unfortunately only after the original allegation has been circulated all over England to do its wicked work in darkening the character of the Irish Episcopacy in the minds of Englishmen. During and after the Sligo election the same sort of evil capital was made out of the death of Captain King. Sensation telegrams were sent all over the three kingdoms associating ingeniously the death of the unfortunate gentleman with the riot in such a manner that nineteen out of twenty persons in England, who remember anything at all of the matter, are under the impression that Captain King was murdered by a mob. The simple fact of the matter is that Captain King fell a victim to the favorite Orange habit of carrying deadly weapons on all occasions of the slightest excitement and was shot, accidentally of course, by his own immediate companion. They chose to go through a mob somewhat excited, in a fashion which would not be tolerated in England, but which Irish public opinion is not yet powerful enough to put down. They brandished their revolvers as if they were in New Orleans or Kansas, and one of them unfortunately paid the penalty of his life. Had Captain King and his companions not been actuated by the turbulent determination to respond to a possible stone with a bullet, the unhappy gentleman would now probably be alive and well, and the friends by whom he was accompanied would have saved doubtless many poignant regrets. Those Sligo gentlemen are merely specimens of a class in this country who have no idea of sacredness attaching to human life when the life is that of the humble. There is a journal of position in this city which does not hesitate to preach the lawfulness of executing the penalty of death for a broken pane of glass. It is from this feeling of hatred to the poor (and consequently the ignorance and troublesomeness) that outbursts which in England are treated with forbearance and good humour, so often and in tragedies that serve to darken the reputation of the country and give Ireland the name of being the cradle of a peculiarly turbulent race.

THE REPORT OF THE IRISH RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.—The second report of the Irish Railway Commissioners, addressed to the Lords of the Treasury, and dated 7th ult., was issued on Friday last. We cannot attempt, within the space at our command, to give an epitome even of this long but important and able document. We can only select a few of its most salient features. At the large public meeting lately held in Dublin for the object of urging about the purchase of all the railways of Ireland by the State, the successful result of the experiment in Belgium was naturally pointed out. And the report fully bears out the force of the illustration, in so far as more success is concerned. The sum total of its computations on this head is that, during the years from 1825 to 1852 inclusive, the excess of expenditure over receipts amounted £1,261,225; from 1852 to 1867 the excess of receipts over expenditure was £3,170,049, leaving a balance of profit on the whole of nearly £4,000,000. The latter group of years representing, we presume, on the whole, the result of low prices. The Commissioners point out, however, circumstances in the two countries respectively which would make it impossible, at present to adopt an equally low scale of charges for goods or passengers in Ireland as in Belgium. For example they are very different, situated as regards trade and manufactures. Belgium has a large transit trade to Germany and other parts of the Continent; the estimated value of the merchandise so carried being annually £2,400,000. The transit trade of Ireland is almost entirely limited to mails and passengers, and is of small extent. In those great elements of manufactures, coal and iron, Belgium has a great advantage over Ireland, as appears from the following statistics:—

Table with 3 columns: Country, Year, and Value. Rows include Belgium (1865), Ireland (1866), Belgium (1865), and Ireland (1866) for both Coal produce and Iron produce.

The advantages in minerals possessed by Belgium have led to a great development of manufacturing industry, and to the concentration of population in certain districts, to a greater extent than in Ireland. But, more fatal, more telling contrast than any other comes a shameful one to this country. The population of Belgium has increased in recent years as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Year and Population. Rows show 1861 (4,241,600) and 1865 (4,934,351).

The population of Ireland has, on the contrary, diminished; and, below:

Table with 3 columns: Year and Population. Rows show 1841 (8,196,597) and 1867 (5,557,196).

The area of Belgium is 11,267 square miles, that of Ireland is 32,524 square miles; the population in Belgium giving 442 persons per square mile, and in Ireland only 171.

THE PORTAGE IN IRELAND.—The farmer is complaining much of the loss which he is sustaining by reason of the progress which disease is making in this valuable product. Whether in the house or in the pit, the progress of decomposition has often rapid. In many cases fully the half is gone.—Downpatrick Recorder.

On Saturday, Edward Rochmont his death at Mr. Wickham's brewery, Wexford. The singular feature of the case is that he had been reprimanded by his employer for not properly washing out the fermenting tun. Going down himself in the fermenting tun on another occasion, without sufficiently washing it out, he died, as was ascertained by the foul gases in the tun.

The appeal recently made in the case of Costello, the American citizen, convicted of complicity in the Fenian revolt, has been denied.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Curiously enough, the greatest increase in Scotland has been in the convents for communities of women. The first establishment of the kind opened since the Reformation, in that country, was St. Margaret's, near Edinburgh, which was set on foot in 1834-35, and the first lady who ever took the habit in Scotland since the days of John Knox is now the Reverend Mother of the Community at Swansiea, in Wales. Strange to say, the convents in Scotland have increased to 17, all belonging to non-dissolved Orders, and all actively engaged in works of mercy, or charity, or education. In no country in the world have they more full scope for their various labours amongst the sick, the ignorant, or the poor, than in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leith, Perth, Aberdeen, and Inverness.—London Register.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The Grand Jury has found true bills of indictment against the Directors of Overend, Gurney & Co., (limited), for conspiracy to defraud the shareholders of the company. One of the comic journals has a cartoon entitled 'I cannot sing the old song,' in which Mr. Brig is depicted in the dress of a lady standing at a piano, eyes full with tears. On the top of the piano lie pieces of music, entitled 'The Chartist Galop,' 'The British Aristocracy,' 'The Glorious Hyde Park Row,' &c.

A large meeting of clergy and laity, sponsors of Ritualism, has been held to consider the judgment in 'Marril v. Mackenochie.' In disapproval of the decision and condemnation of the 'lay' tribunal which pronounced it, there was a general agreement, but there was not such unanimity as to the course to be pursued in future. A subsequent meeting of the more determined members of the party has been held, at which it was determined to continue the use of lighted candles on the altar, notwithstanding the judgment of the Judicial Committee.—London Times.

The following extract from an article in the February number of the Atlantic Monthly, on the 'Active Benevolence of the English Ritualists,' from a non-Catholic pen, shows conclusively how much of these bonafide virtues Protestant England of this day is endowed with:—One priest, Father Wagner of Brighton, has built one magnificent church and four smaller ones in his district at his own personal cost; he keeps six curates to aid him in his work; he has a sisterhood, a penitentiary for fallen women, a home for aged people, a convalescent home, and an orphanage; all of which works are carried on with funds mainly from his own resources. And yet this man, who devotes the whole of his large fortune to such objects as these, and whose private life is extraordinary in its simplicity and saintly character, has often been booed through the streets of Brighton, has been set upon by brutal gangs of ruffians, and at one time could not leave his house without endangering his life—and all because he is a Ritualist; on one occasion he would certainly have been seriously injured, if not killed outright, had it not been for the timely interference of some gentlemen who came up, and who were themselves seriously mauled in the encounter. Some of these wretches actually proposed to burn him as Guy Fawkes on the following 5th of November. When the Church of St. Michael and All Angels was first opened in Shore-ditch, some of the sisters were booed, stoned, and actually fired at in the streets.

The Pall Mall Gazette says:—We do not wish to seem ungrateful for the progress which has already been made, but we own we should have been better pleased if the whole negotiation could have stood over till General Grant had entered upon office.—Nothing can be more straightforward than the conduct of Mr. Seward and Mr. Reverdy Johnson throughout the later proceedings, but the ratification of the convention by the United States Senate might have been looked for with, to say the least, greater certainty, if it had been negotiated by another ambassador and accepted by another Secretary of State. With the best intentions, Mr. Reverdy Johnson has evidently overrated the affection of the American people for England, and his countrymen are naturally inclined to disprove his words as soon as may be by some exceptionally hostile act. The opportunity they are in want of is afforded by the right reserved to more than one third of the Senate to reject any treaty concluded by the executive. That the majority of the Senate will exercise this right on the present occasion is not, of course, certain; but in the existing state of parties in America it unfortunately seems highly probable. At the same time it would not follow even if the convention just signed were rejected, that one similar in all its essential provisions might not be accepted shortly after. The sort of hostility which will be provoked by the news of the arrangement depends far more upon the persons by whom the terms have been laid down than upon the nature of the terms themselves.

EMIGRATION.—The Pall Mall Gazette says: To those in this country who look upon emigration in the light of a hardship and who would condemn the proposition to establish a system of compulsory emigration as a crime, a discussion which has long been carried on in the New York papers would be instructive reading. Emigration enters largely into American life, although the immense extent of the country saves the unemployed in the State from the sentimental grievance of crossing the seas. A New Englander goes overland, or by water if he prefers 3,000 miles to California, whereas the East Londoner goes the same distance across the Atlantic to Canada. But when the surplus population does not move fast enough no one hesitates to recommend compulsory emigration. In New York, at the present time, there are some thousands who prefer to live upon charity, or by crime, rather than go farther afield to work hard, and one of the results is that during last year about 100 murders were committed in the public streets. Only the other day a man was mortally stabbed at his own door-step, and this in Twelfth Street, close to a thoroughfare as crowded as the Strand. The papers, therefore, cry out for some method of compelling the idle class to go somewhere else. 'The more money people give away' complains one journal, 'the more unmanageable our pauperism becomes.' Habits of providence are as little practised in American cities as in this country, and the effect with us is even every day. On Saturday a large number of bricklayers, joiners and other workmen were discharged from the builders' yards. Yesterday they were round the streets begging. Their reserved resources were completely exhausted in three days.

The London Saturday Review says: In the United States we see the influence of money in its worst and most debasing form. Of all the dangers to which the great democracy is exposed none is so consciousness, and none so generally recognised by all thinking men, as the danger of downright pecuniary corruption. An effort is being made in England to bring to justice men who are accused—rightly or wrongly—of having defrauded the shareholders of a great financial company. Whatever the result, no one doubts that the case will be fully investigated, and that the judges will do their duty without fear or favor. But in New York the leaders of commerce appear to be above the law. They use their power without restraint or concealment for transactions in shares which fairly astonish the enterprising British financier; and when an appeal is made to the law in consequence of a quarrel between the conspirator, it turns out that each of them has a judge in his pay, and is able to drag the machinery of justice through the dirt of the most unblushing corruption. Certainly no spectacle has been exhibited in England half so demoralising to the public mind as the whole course of a rival man'sulators of the great Erie railroad. Money has doubtless great influence upon the British Parliament, but at least it does not influence members in the repulsive form of direct bribery. The taxation of the country is doubtless determined in that great measure by rich men; but at least we are not told there that more than half the revenue escapes through myr-

terious leaks between the contributor and the national exchequer, and we are entirely free from such mysterious but powerful agencies as the notorious 'whiskey ring.' The influence of money in England acts through what, by comparison at least, may be called legitimate channels; and we are not disgraced by paying one set of taxes to the public, and another to the plunderers of the public revenue. The wealthy classes may be powerful, but they have not the power to mould tariffs with an exclusive view to their own pockets.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE AT A RAILWAY STATION.—A correspondent sends to the Birmingham Daily Post the following narrative of a scene which he and others witnessed and took part in on Tuesday, at the railway station at Willenhall.—A thick chain; three little boys on either side, and a bigger boy at the end; all handcuffed. Several poor women crying. Lots of children, and three policemen. One of the children was so little that a policeman had to wrap a handkerchief round his wrist to make the handcuffs fit. 'What's the matter—what have these boys done, and where are they going?' 'Been a gambling, sir; going to Stafford for seven days.'—'Gambling, did you say?' 'Yes, sir; pit and toss, sir, on Sunday.' 'Pitch-and-toss! Do I understand you? Five little boys under 12, and two not 16 all going to goal for pitch-and-toss?' 'Yes, sir.'—'Without the option of a fine?' 'No, sir; fixed 63.' 'That's three and sixpence for the seven—'I'll pay the lot.' 'But then there's the case, sir.' 'Well, what's the total?' '£4 0s 6d, sir.' Now, as I understood, neither of the boys had ever been in custody before, and, as their dress denoted, they must of necessity be exceedingly poor. I inquired of a woman, who appeared in great distress, the habits of the boys. 'I can only (she said) speak for my boy, sir. He earns me 6s a week. He's a good lad. I haven't money enough to free him; and what he's to do when he comes out of Stafford I don't know. He can't walk the 20 miles home.' Fortunately, two gentlemen appeared on the scene, and inquired particulars, which were soon forthcoming. 'Scandalous!' said one. 'Monstrous!' said the other. 'If (I said) any gentleman will join me in payment of the fine the boys shall be liberated.'—'Two gentlemen did join the writer of this—the fine was paid, and the boys unchained, and although the tickets were taken from Willenhall to Stafford, the boys did not go to goal.

THREAT TO SHOOT A YORKSHIRE LANDLORD.—On Saturday Sir Charles Slingaby, the well-known master of the York and Ainsty hounds, published a letter he had received threatening to shoot him as they were shooting landlords in Ireland. It appears that Sir Charles has discharged certain well-to-do tenants from gardens intended only for labouring men, with the intention of letting them to tenants who really needed a patch of potato ground near Knaresborough, and that the letter refers to this. Sir Charles seems to think it incredible that any one in Yorkshire should ever think of shooting a landlord for an act like this. The document has made public runs thus:—'O Slingaby, you know they are 'shooting' their landlords in Ireland. I have got my discharge. I think it is 'thine you had years. It is time you followed your mother.—A Fenian! Sir Charles makes the matter public in order mainly to state his object in serving the notices to quit referred to.

INCREASE OF PAPERISM IN RICH ENGLAND.—The weekly publication of the returns of paperism which has just been commenced by the Poor-law Board, though a small matter in itself, is of importance as indicating the spirit in which Mr. Gorchen has entered upon his laborious office. It is of the greatest importance that the public mind should be fully impressed with the vast proportions of this sad and difficult question, the constant tendency of pauperism to develop into a sort of chronic growth, and the alarming prospect which lies before us, unless some vigorous measures, based on broad and statesman-like principles, are speedily adopted.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE OVEREND AND GURNEY ACTION.—The history of the charge of conspiracy and fraud against six of the directors in Overend, Gurney & Co., was resumed at the Guildhall on Friday last. The names of the defendants are—Mr. John Henry Gurney, Mr. Henry Edmond Gurney, Mr. Robert Birkbeck, Mr. Henry Ford Barclay, Mr. Harry George Gordon, and Mr. William Beattie. As the action proceeds the public interest increases. At the last examination the court was crowded by commercial men, who listened with the deepest attention to all that transpired. It is not only in London that the greatest interest is felt in the action, but in commercial circles in all parts of the country. The only witness examined on Friday was Mr. Howell, the accountant who was appointed by the court of Chancery to look into the books of the Company—a work which engaged him for a long time. He was also under examination a part of the sitting the week before, and has, in answer to statements of the counsel for Dr. Thom and others, the prosecutors given a very dramatic exposure of the affairs of the company. The principal points proved at the close of his examination a fortnight ago, were that a sum of nearly £9,000,000, which consisted of irretrievable bad debts lost by the old firm, was carried to the credit of the firm of Overend, Gurney and Co. (limited) and a sum of £115,000 was also carried forward to the credit of the new firm at interest due upon that amount; the whole transaction being a myth. It was also proved that during the nine months that the new Company was in existence they largely increased the original losses. At this last examination he stated that besides the £9,000,000 above referred to continued in the general ledger as the liabilities transferred by the old firm to the limited Company, there were other liabilities in the shape of bills discounted, bills payable credits granted, and guarantees, amounting to £9,313,000, which did not appear in any way as having been taken over in the books of the limited Company, so that the liabilities were in reality £24,000,000, while the only pecuniary interest the partners in the old firm had in the new concern was their overdrawn accounts, which amounted to about three millions sterling. Mr. Howell also stated that twenty-eight letters had been torn out of one of the guarantee books, and that a short time before the stoppage the Messrs Gurney and the other leading partners had withdrawn the sums that formerly stood in their names, leaving only mere nominal sums. Mr. Barclay had a deposit of £10,434; it had previously been £71,000 but it was withdrawn eight days before the stoppage. It was also elicited that for five or six years before the transfer the old firm had been losing at the rate of £500,000 a year. These statements produced a great effect upon the audience, who gave audible expression to their feelings.—Christian World.

STRONG DRAIN.—A parliamentary return recently issued states the quantity of spirits charged with duty for consumption in the United Kingdom in every year of the present century. It is remarkable that the quantity at the beginning of the century and the quantity in the latest return for the year 1867—is almost precisely the same, allowing for increase of population. If we pass over the year 1801, in which the high price of corn led to a prohibition of distillation, except from sugar and molasses, we find that in 1802 the quantity of spirits charged with duty for consumption was 15,593,370 gallons, being 0.971 gallon per head; and in 1867 it was 29,538,531 gallons, being 0.979 gallons per head. If we take three periods we get the following results: In the five years 1802-1809 the quantity consisted of 50,724,004 gal. of home-made spirits, 9,873,641 gal. of foreign spirits, and 12,616,760 gallons of colonial rum; the whole averaging 14,623,861 gallons in a year, or 0.887 gallon per head. In the five years 1832-36 the quantity was 118,074,476 gallons of home-made spirits, 7,082,815 gallons of foreign spirits, and 17,116,892 gallons of colonial rum, averaging 28,354,797 gallons a year, 1.14 gallon per head. In the five years 1862-67 the quantity was 103,547,605 gallons

of home-made spirits, 15,452,734 gallons of foreign spirits and 19,289,125 gallons of colonial rum, averaging 27,656,873 gallons a year, or 0.922 gallon per head. There was a large reduction of duty on home-made spirits in 1823 and 1826, and the quantity charged sprang up from 9,698,974 gallons in 1827 to 19,684,425 gallons in 1827, and 23,413,770 gallons in 1828. There was, on the other hand, a great decrease in the consumption of home-made spirits in Ireland about 1840, in consequence of the temperance movement headed by Father Mathew. The quantity in 1838 was as high as 12,296,342 gallons, and in 1842 it had fallen to 5,290,650 gallons, nor did it ever afterwards approach the former amount, but now averages less than 5,000,000 gallons. Upon an average of years the consumption of spirits now appears to be somewhat greater than it was at the beginning of the century, but a gallon per head per annum does not seem to indicate very great intemperance. In 1861, the latest year in which the number of the population was ascertained, the quantity of home-made foreign, and colonial spirits charged with duty for consumption amounted to 0.77 gallon per head in England and Ireland, and 1.53 gallon in Scotland.

SCOTCH PEARL FISHING.—The mode of fishing is primitive in its simplicity. No expense is incurred, no instruments are required. There is no mystery in the craft. Nothing is needed but patience. Men, women and children are rewarded indiscriminately, for skill does not avail. To search the bed of the stream until a collection of the muscles is discovered is the first care, and this is often the most tedious part of the work. If these fresh-water shell fish lay in such extensive clusters as their brethren of the salt water, a bank of them might be easily lighted upon, but they congregate in comparatively small numbers, and if the river have a muddy bottom the search is almost hopeless. Once discovered, however the operation of fishing them out is easy. The fisher wades into the river armed with a long stick, one end of which has a simple slit made with a knife. This stick he pokes down among the shells, and brings them up firmly wedged in the slit. He tosses the shells ashore as he gets them, and usually does not leave off until he has amassed a goodly heap.—Sometimes he has only to wade above the haer, and can pick up the muscles by stooping; but more frequently the water covers his hips and at times he is immersed almost to the arm-pits, on which occasion he must dive with his head below the current. On some of the streams the people have hit on the expediency of raking the bed with a large iron rake and bringing the muscles ashore; but the cleft stick is the popular way. When the fisher has collected shells enough to try his luck with he proceeds to open them. Occasionally he carries the muscles home and proceeds leisurely; but more frequently, if the day be not too far upon the wane, he contents himself with searching for the spoil upon the river bank. Those who can afford a knife make use of it to force open the shell; others who have none, perform the operation deftly with a shell sharpened for the purpose. This way has an advantage inasmuch as there is less risk of scratching the pearl, should there be one inside. The fisher reckons himself unlucky if he opens one hundred shells without finding a pearl. Many a time, however, this happens, and he goes home deploring a lost day. The fates may be against him for a whole week. On the other hand, the first or second fish he opens may reward his labor. Frequently the toiler finds a dozen pearls, not one of which is of any value, by reason of bad color, bad shape, or other defect. Speaking roughly it may be estimated that about one pearl in a dozen brings a profit to the fisher; and that that one pearl is found in every 40th shell. The chances of the pearl-seeker are about equal to those of the gold digger, and many who start eagerly on the quest are soon disheartened. Perseverance and dogged determination seldom fail in the long run to realize modest expectations.—All the Year Round.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The Times special says:—Almost the universal individual sentiment of Congress is opposed to the ratification of the protocol on the 'Alabama' treaty in the form in which it exists, and there can be no doubt that this feeling will find legislative expression when the time comes, and that there will be a non-concurrence in the treaty stipulation. So far as the English counter-claim to our demands are concerned, the few stray words of Gen. Grant, a few days ago, that it was not a mere question of dollars and cents, for a few ships burned, but a question of the destruction of our commerce meet with hearty approval everywhere, so that the fate of the pending protocol may be regarded as sealed.

The Nor' Wester, 24th ult., has arrived.—It says the Sioux Indians should be driven from the territory back to the United States, there to receive punishment for their atrocities on American soil in 1862. Only small bands remain in the territory but they are doubly dyed villains; and notwithstanding the destination of the settlement, are constantly robbing the farmers of horses and cattle. If they are allowed to stay longer fears are felt that they will be largely increased by an influx of their starving kindred in the spring. The Council of Mesquites have petitioned the Council of Assiniboine for immediate aid to expel the Sioux.

HOW THEY DO THING AT WASHINGTON.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Herald writes concerning the expenses of the House of Representatives.—

The expenses of the House in 1863 exclusive of the pay of members and mileage, was \$198,000. In 1864, the expenses were \$329,384; in 1865 \$481,854; in 1866 \$462,481; in 1867 \$664,810; in 1868 \$686,281. It will be seen that from 1863 to 1868 the expenses of the House have increased nearly \$500,000. It must be borne in mind that all this time there has not been a full House, the Southern States being out. The expenditures for furniture alone were for 1865 \$340,000; 1866 \$750,000; 1867-8 \$60,000. This does not include the amount for furnishing the Speaker's room, which is about \$60,000, and which has not as yet been all met by the Committee on Accounts.

A badly smelling box at a Buffalo express office, marked 'to be called for,' was found to contain a female body with a stab over the heart. A LITTLE UNPLEASANTNESS.—During a recent trial in the Chancery Court at Memphis, Tenn., two suitors, brothers-in-law, named Capt. Pattison formerly of Indiana, and Dr. Dickens a native of Memphis, became involved in a little dispute, when, in presence of the Court, Dr. Dickens challenged Captain Pattison to follow him out of the room. The Captain complied; and on reaching the ante-room, the doctor opened fire with a revolver, which was promptly returned, the Captain being slightly wounded, and one of the witnesses in the suit was also hit in the leg. The doctor had his hand slightly grazed by a bullet, when the parties were separated. Thereupon the Court fined the combatants \$50 each, and sentenced them to ten days' imprisonment each for contempt of Court; and a local paper commends this action of the Court as a long step toward civilization.

ADRIPT IN NEW YORK.—A New York paper says:—'The number of homeless and anxious young men in New York city is on the increase; and, as the difficulties of getting into business suitable to their tastes and acquirements are daily becoming of greater magnitude, many are discouraged and disgusted. The time has gone past when one with a little capital could launch it to commerce, and the ranks of commission merchants and middle-men generally are greatly overcrowded, as people find it to their interest to purchase from the large capitalists. The more enterprising and ambitious among our young men seek homes in the West; but still a large class, with a strange fascination for the city, prefer to remain here as clerks, and gradually sink into mere machines, without any aspirations. These are the class that frequent the cheap places of amusement and

lounge at night on Broadway. They have no ideas beyond the present, and, barding as they do in cheap boarding-houses, they contaminate each other, and are gradually plucked into the vortex of dissipation. Formerly, clerks lived with their employers, but inexorable fashion has increased the exclusiveness of society, and strangers and men of moderate means experience a difficulty in obtaining access to that which is beneficial and elevating. It is lamentable that though society knows that those of them who are successful will, in a few years, be honoured and influential citizens, yet, until success it woe, it chooses to exclude them as adventurers from the domestic circle capable of throwing a cheering and relieving influence around them after the toils of the day, and they must depend for companionship upon those who will corrupt their morals and debase their manners. Such is the social ordeal through which all pass who, inexperienced and unaided, seek employment in our cities. Yet it is an ordeal which benefits none, but injures all, and ruins many. Something should be done to rescue young men from this low, pestilential condition, where society quarantines them until they are disabled by floating wrecks, and then cuts them adrift to shipwreck in their turn others who may come after them.

We have all heard the story that when one of the Emperors of Russia, scores of years ago, needed a cup of tallow one day he sent out and purchased it on credit; and that ever thereafter the price of a cup of tallow daily has been included in the Russian budget for the grocer and his heirs. If we may not confide in a Washington despatch to the New York Tribune, our own government has been paying money for fifty years on a charge in some respects similar to that against the Muscovite empire. It is related in connection with the legislative appropriation bill: 'When this bill was under consideration by the committee on appropriations, General Butler discovered an item providing so much per annum for the superintendent of the crypts. Not understanding what this meant, he sought knowledge from his fellow-members, but they were no wiser than he. He then consulted the appropriation bills for fifty years back, and found the same thing charged in each bill. After a determined search among the employees of the capital the superintendent of the crypt was found. He was brought forward and made to relate his history. It seems shortly after General Washington died an act was passed by Congress providing for the building of a vault beneath the capitol which was to hold the remains of the immortal statesman and warrior, and to be called the crypt. It was found necessary to have a man to watch the sacred spot, and accordingly an officer was created to be called superintendent of the crypt. The duties of the superintendent were to sit near the crypt daily, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., and see that only our gall done was used. This the present occupant was bound for the last forty years, and now General Butler cruelly proposes to abolish the office.'

To those who are fond of making comparisons between this country and United States unfavourably to the Province of Quebec, we submit the following figures from an official report for 1867, issued by the State of Massachusetts:

Population of Massachusetts.....1,267,031
Paupers in State Almshouses..... 77,251
Massachusetts is an old settlement, abounds with capital, and is in full blast as a manufacturing community;—is not over-run by immigrants but has been sending its excess of population to the West for the last twenty years, and yet no in every sixteen of its population are paupers, maintained by this public charity. What State-charity and the conditions of State pauperism are in neglected Massachusetts, may be gathered from the fact that the deaths in its almshouses during 1867 exceeded 19,315—or 25 per centum of the whole number of inmates. These figures convey a terrible lesson, but one as old as civilization viz, that colossal wealth and extreme indigence generally elbow each other, and that the aggregate capital of a country is no index to the individual happiness of its people. With all our drawbacks, our severe climate, our want of capital and manufacturing enterprise, and the yearly influx of the poor poorest class of European immigration—the poor creatures constrained to halt and strive for the pittance necessary to carry them on their destination, we doubt if our public beggars number one per centum of our total white population. But we permit our paupers personal freedom, and their impurity excites unfavourable comment; the State of Massachusetts hides its pauperism in almshouses, killing it off at the yearly rate of 25 per cent., and that makes all the difference.—[Quebec Mercury]

GRANT'S DICTUM.—The silent General Grant, if we believe the Tribune's correspondent, has spoken; but if he cannot talk better sense than the following, he would do well to maintain his character for taciturnity. Of the Clarendon-Johnston treaty, he is reported to have spoken as follows:—'The treaty is unjust to the United States, because it assumes to measure injuries inflicted upon this country by money value of ships actually destroyed, whereas the chief damage to our commerce was in our ships being driven from the seas by Amg—Rebel pirates. In addition to this, the sympathy extended by the English Government to the South prolonged the war at least a year; and for all lives lost, and money expended for this time, England is directly responsible. The treaty proposes to settle all these things by the payment of the paltry value of a few ships. The constructive damages caused by the fears of American ship-owners, and the lack of the sympathy of the English Government, are such claims as no court of law could consider for a moment, and the urging of them could only be considered as a gratuitous provocation. But, however erroneous such opinions may be, they are, we fear, shared by General Grant's countrymen; and, as feeling generally rules in such matters instead of reason, the conclusion of this vexed question may still be remote enough.—[Montreal Witness]

It is a little curious to observe with what intense delight we hear of a rebellion against any Government no matter what it is or where it is, so be not our own. We don't stop to inquire into the objects of the revolt, its motives or chances of success, or whether it is likely to benefit or ruin those who engage in it. If it is only a rebellion against a Government that is all we ask. It is all our sympathies,—all our good wishes,—all the help we can give it without getting into trouble ourselves. The Fenians in Ireland,—the handful of Creteans starving in hopes of overthrowing the Turkish Government,—the Spanish Liberals overthrow of the monarchy and now the Cubans rebelling against the Spanish Liberals,—they all have the sympathy and encouragement of our people. The prevalent idea with us on this subject seems to be that all government is bad and ought to be overthrown, and that we are bound by our principles, our traditions and our interests to help those noble spirits who rebel against authority anywhere or of whatever sort. One would think our own experience should teach us the necessity of some discrimination in this matter. We insisted that no foreign nation should sympathize with our rebellion, no matter what they might think about the causes of their rebellion. The whole thing was none of their business. Have we any more concern with Crete, or Spain, or Cuba, or Ireland, than England had with us during our war?—[N. Y. Times]

THE ALABAMA TREATY.—NO REPORT.—WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee have not yet taken up the consideration of the protocol to the Alabama treaty, and no day has been decided on for its discussion. The question when it shall come up, rests entirely with the chairman of the committee, and he has not yet mentioned a word on the subject. The indications now are that there will be no action taken on it, even in committee, during the present session of Congress. The best opinion on the subject is that the Committee will present an adverse report on it, if even they report at all.