

IRISH WIT.

The following colloquy at cross purposes once took place between an agent and an Irish voter on the eve of an election:

"You are a Roman Catholic?"
 "Am I?" said the fellow.
 "Are you not?" demanded the agent.
 "You say I am," was the answer.
 "Come sir, answer—what's your religion?"
 "The true religion."
 "What religion is that?"
 "My religion."
 "And what's your religion?"
 "My mother's religion."
 "And what was your mother's religion?"
 "She took whisky in her tay."
 "Come, I'll have you now as cunning as you are," said the agent, piqued into an encounter of wit with this fellow whose baffling of every question pleased the crowd.
 "You bless yourself, don't you?"
 "When I'm done with you I think I ought."
 "What place of worship do you go to?"
 "The most convanyant."
 "But of what persuasion is that you won't find out."
 "What is your belief?"
 "My belief is that you are puzzled."
 "Do you confess?"
 "Not to you."
 "Come, I have you. Who would you send for if you were about to die?"
 "Dr. G——."
 "Not for the priest?"
 "I must first send a messenger."
 "Confound your quibbling—tell me then what your opinions are—your conscientious opinions, I mean?"
 "They are the same as my landlord's."
 "And what are your landlord's opinions?"
 "Faix his opinion is that I won't pay him the last year's rent, and I am of the same opinion myself."
 A roar of laughter followed this answer; but the angry agent at last declared that he must have a direct reply.
 "I insist, sir, on your answering at once; are you a Roman Catholic?"
 "I am," said the fellow.
 "And could you not say so at once?"
 "You never axed me," returned the other.
 "I did," said the agent.
 "Indeed you didn't you said I was a great many things, but you never axed me—you were driven' crass words and cruked questions at me, and I gev answers to match them; for sure I thout it was manners to cut out my behavior on your own pattern."

By the death of Brigadier-General J. McK. Taylor, Bombay Cavalry, on the 2nd of November, Brigadier-General J. Forbes, C. B., Bombay Cavalry, succeeds to Colonel's allowances and retires from his command. Thus two brigades have become vacant in the Bombay Presidency. It is doubtful whether their future commanders will be appointed until the reductions which are now being discussed have been finally decided upon.

The death is announced of Sir James Prior, who was for many years in the medical service of the navy. He served off Greenland and in the North Sea, in Africa, in the East Indies, Brazil, and on the eastern coast of Africa. He was staff surgeon of the Chatham division of Royal Marines, and was appointed in 1843 Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleets. He was the author of a life of Burke, a life of Goldsmith, and some medical works. Sir James Prior was born in 1790, and was knighted in 1858.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Gen. Shorman has been elected a member of the London Army and Navy Club.

Mr. Gladstone has denied the report that it is the intention of the Government to close the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.

Major General Sir Robert Walpole, K.C. B., has been appointed Colonel of the 65th Regiment, vice General Colos, deceased.

Captain the Hon. C. Edwardes, of the Rifle Brigade, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General at Alder shot.

Lord Lytton, it is said, is likely to have the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, vacant by the death of the Earl of Derby.

It is said the Government propose taking a number of the Royal Canadian Rifles, about to be disbanded, into the Government police, under the new Bill.

Major C. E. S. Gloig, half-pay, late 14th Foot, will attain the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the army, in succession to Major General M'Doy, R. A., deceased.

The post of commandant at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, has become vacant by the death of Colonel Edmund Gilling Hallowell, formerly of the 60th or King's Royal Rifle Corps.

By the death of Major General M'Coy, Royal Artillery, Col. H. S. Rowan, C.B., Royal Artillery, will be promoted to the rank of Major General, and a step will go through the regiment of Artillery.

Garibaldi's long-expected work, "Rome in the Nineteenth Century," has been translated from the Italian by Mrs. Colonel Chambers, and is in the press. It will be published in a short time simultaneously with the original.

The vacancy caused in the office of the Commander-in-Chief by the retirement of Mr. Drake will be filled by the promotion of Mr. Freeth, who will become the senior assistant to the Military Secretary. The vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. Freeth will be filled by Mr. Coleman.

It is said, and on the best authority, that 80,000 rounds of ball cartridge are now stored in the magazine in the Toronto Drill Shed, and the residents in the neighborhood are frightened, particularly since attempts have been made to enter the Drill Shed in the dead of night by, no doubt, evil-disposed persons.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that it is not impossible that the recommendation of the Royal Commission on purchase in the army, which advised that appointments to the rank of regimental lieutenant-colonel should in future be made by selection without purchase, may be definitely adopted and carried into effect next year.

HOLY WEEK.—Jack S——, a jolly shoemaker, always kept blue Monday; but on Easter Sunday, having a friend visiting him, he got pretty full and kept so all the week till it came Saturday morning, when his wife said, "John ain't you going to work to day?" He looked at her for a minute in silence and then said: "Jane, is this not a holy week, and have I not kept Easter Sunday, Blue Monday, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and now do yer think I will spoil the whole thing by working on Saturday? Not as long as I claim to be a religious man!"

Enlisting in the Papal Zouaves it is said to be a sure passport to a rich wife in Rome, if the soldier be matrimonially inclined.

The good service pension vacant by the death of Colonel Montgomery late of the 1st Royals, has been bestowed upon Colonel Hale, C. B., late 85th Regiment.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* announces that Colonel Johnson, C. B., will not retire from the post of assistant military secretary at the Horse Guards at the end of the present year, as was at one time contemplated.

A Russian corvette in Chinese waters has all her crew of 250 men armed with English snider rifles, and great guns which are all Armstrongs, "excelling anything in appearance which were ever seen in those waters before."

A fine new self-righting lifeboat, 33 feet long, has been purchased with the proceeds, amounting to 500*l.*, from Penny Readings in different parts of the kingdom. The boat is to be stationed at Wells, on the Norfolk coast, under the management of the National Lifeboat Institution.

It chanced one gloomy day in the month of December that a good humored Irishman applied to a merchant to discount a bill of exchange for him at rather a long, though not an unusual date; and the merchant having casually remarked that the bill had a great many days to run. "That's true," replied the Irishman, "but then, my honey, you don't consider how short the days are at this time of the year."

In consequence of the changes proposed by the Royal Commission on Military Education, it is probable that the control of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst may be entrusted to an officer of considerable lower rank than at present—in fact, to a field instead of a general officer, and it is rumored that Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney, R.E., may be selected for the post.

The representatives of several wealthy firms have visited Woolwich yard for the purpose of ascertaining its capabilities for engineering and other purposes. It is stated that the yard will be disposed of early in the ensuing spring, and the amount of its sale (estimated at from three-quarters of a million to a million sterling) to be carried to the credit of the navy estimated of 1870-71.

Rio de Janeiro dates to Nov. 22nd have been received. The allied army under command of Prince D'Eu had moved upon and captured one after another Paguati, Curnguaty and other strongholds of the Paraguayans, killing and wounding and taking prisoners nearly 400 of the enemy, and capturing a large amount of war material. Over 900 families were restored to their liberties and homes by these actions. At last accounts the allies were marching on Igaueterny, the last outpost of President Lopez.

The *Times*, while admitting the improved quantity and quality and price of the India cotton, does not consider the displacement of American descriptions possible.

The *Times* in an editorial on the Canadian reciprocity treaty, says its rejection by the United States Senate relieves England of an awkward question of free trade, which existed between Canada and the Union. The Canadian tariff would discriminate against direct trade between the Union and England. Canada would recognize a closer commercial interest with the United States than with England, and political is sure to follow commercial estrangement.