

tion of husbands for their daughters; and it was very obvious that a man provided with ten sons could do but little in the way of giving fortunes to his daughters. Then, again, Mr. Power was well aware that his daughters were handsome, besides which they were extremely well connected and occupied a good position. Charles was much indebted to Fitz-James's forethought for the careful consideration he gave all these subjects.

He told Fitz-James, much to the sorrow of the latter, that he meant to return to Warrenstown immediately. Fitz-James, though quite seeing the propriety and advisability of such a step, felt much the loss he should sustain by the departure of Kate's brother; still he was too unselfish to desire him to remain when he saw his doing so would be attended with melancholy results to himself. Two days after the ball, Charles took leave of his friend. As he neared the railway station, he caught sight of Power Court in the distance, and he felt an intense pang of regret as he thought of the one lovely being who resided there, and reflected with a saddened pleasure, on the days he had spent there—days he longed to recall.

But there is no time for sentiment in this nineteenth century; the train came up almost immediately as he reached the station. He had but one moment to grasp his friend's hand warmly, and say hurriedly, 'God bless you, my dear boy!' and the train was off. He waved his handkerchief to Fitz-James from the carriage window. In one moment, however, Power Court, Fitz-James, the station, all were out of sight, and he was fairly on his road homewards. He was moody and out of sorts, and but little inclined for conversation; but after a while the constant efforts of his vis-a-vis to draw him out produced the desired effect; and Charles was, almost in spite of himself, deeply interested in a most animated conversation. His opposite neighbor was a bright, jolly, round-faced gentleman, intelligent and well informed. With a look of fun and amusement in his countenance, he seemed the very personification of kindness and good nature.

As usual, in travelling, the first advances were made by an offer of a newspaper—then inquiries from one whether the other would like to have the window opened or closed, &c. Charles, thought of giving polite answers to all these interrogations, for a while declined all further civilities. The gentleman opposite was not easily to be deterred from conversation. Incessantly, his remarks on things in general, and Fitz-James, neighborhood in particular, aroused an interest in Charles for information, and he was soon as earnest in this thirst for knowledge as the stranger was anxious to impart what he knew. After some preliminary remarks, Charles inquired if he could tell him anything of Mr. Power.

'He is,' replied the other, 'a regular Orangeman; no Catholic is ever admitted to his house, except indeed his neighbor Mr. O'Brien—he is tolerated for old acquaintance sake. I knew him once to turn out a whole township for voting for a liberal member; and many of these tenants' families had been on the land from his grandfather and father's time. He is very bad and hard. Now I am not one to say that the people are all in the right, but they should not be debarred the privileges of men and free citizens by those in a superior class of life. I knew a gentleman who was anxious to take his agency while he was abroad—a nice gentleman-like young man. The whole thing was arranged: he came down here among the tenants, and tried what he could to settle their grievances; and all in vain. He endeavored to persuade Mr. Power, of the impropriety of turning them out; urged him on every possible ground; but Mr. Power is desperately self-opinionated. He replied that he was the best judge of his own affairs; that an agent, in his opinion, acted entirely for one party (the landlord) and had no right to consult the wishes of the tenantry. This gentleman showed him, in black and white, that if all the ejected tenantry went—as was most likely they would go—into the poorhouse, the difference in his poor-rates would probably be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds a year. Nothing would alter his determination; he is as pompous an old gentleman as ever was seen; he is very rich; he has a large property in this country, and more in Connaught. It is a pity he has not learned to make better use of his riches.'

'What is your opinion of his neighbor Fitz-James O'Brien?' inquired Charles.

'We all respect him,' returned the stranger. 'He is an excellent country gentleman, a zealous magistrate; but there are many dislike him.—He narrowly escaped being shot; his offence being, making too diligent search after the murderers of an unfortunate gentleman in his neighborhood.'

'Ah, yes; I have heard of that dreadful affair,' replied Charles.

'Dreadful indeed you may call it; but like many others of his class, the victim of that outrage was not alone oppressive in his dealings with his dealings with the people, but he was obstinate to a degree, and never heeded the warnings of friend or foe.'

Charles and his new acquaintance discussed a variety of topics of every shade and quality, until they arrived at a station on the line, where the stranger got out, having bade Charles a safe journey, and expressed some polite regrets that he was not going farther.

Several people now entered the carriage;—amongst others, a very fast young lady, with an old gentleman, apparently her father, and two young gentlemen. She flirted tremendously with the old gentleman, looking up now and then to see the effect on the other. She talked of balls, parties, *dejeuners*, pic-nics; and when these ceased, she talked sentiment, said she adored music and her lap dog, and worshipped scenery and the last opera; she discussed novels, actors, and actresses with wonderful velocity, talked religion and scandal in the same breath; in fact, such was the extraordinary rapidity with which these different subjects came under discussion, that Charles began to wonder if she talked by

steam. Paterfamilias soon fell asleep, nodding so hard that a secession of head from the other members seemed imminent. So, he being quietly disposed of, the young lady was left to her own devices.

'Miss Norton,' said one of the gentlemen, 'do you hunt in the season?'

'Of course,' replied the young lady, 'I ride to cover. One might as well die at once as not hunt; life would not be worth having. Oh, it is glorious to be off like the wind, dashing over every obstacle; walls, ditches, and fences—the excitement is quite bewitching! I never yet balked at a fence. I have such a stunning hunter! Few of the men can keep with me at all. Two gentlemen were actually killed trying to keep up with me; one was killed on the spot, the other lingered for a few weeks. It was all their own fault. They could not stand my getting the brush.'

'Were you at the Calmars' ball on Tuesday week?'

'To be sure,' answered the lady. 'I enjoyed myself so much; danced from ten to the evening till six next morning—altogether twenty-five dances—tired out three partners in one vase. I enjoyed it thoroughly. What fun a good ball is!'

'Were you staying long at Mrs. Parker's?'

'Three weeks,' answered the lady. 'I liked it so much—we used to dance every evening.—We had lots of people staying in the house; and riding every morning after breakfast. Major Freaks and I went out one day at half-past ten o'clock, and we did not return till dinner-time. Papa was so angry,—poor Freaks has not a penny—and he was raging all day. He thought perhaps Freaks and I might fall in love; and Bessy Parker told me he was ready to explode, like a sodawater-bottle, all day long; but the wrath did not explode so quickly. He walked into the dining-room every five minutes to ask if the riders had returned. I was so amused at the account she gave me of him.'

Charles mentally reflected that he did not like the young lady. He had often met specimens of the fast set before, and on the whole disliked them.

But Miss Norton was not disposed to allow a young gentleman to remain silent so very near her; to bring about a conversation, she adroitly managed to drop her handkerchief close to his feet. He of course picked it up, and handed it to her. She made use of this little circumstance to open fire at once; said she knew he was English. Would he be crossing that night? Did he think it would be calm? Not that she cared for the roughest sea imaginable; on the contrary, she rather liked rough weather.

Charles, in reply to all these interrogations, said his intention was to reach England that night.

'I am so glad,' she replied, 'we are going over also; the more the merrier. Papa is such a dull travelling companion. Are you going far the other side of the water?'

'To Shepstone.'

'Well, how odd,' said the young lady; 'I am going there too. I am going to stay with Mrs. Verner. She kindly asked me to her place. I liked being there—it is such a jolly house.—There are always such a number of people visiting there. Nothing to my taste like a good country-house, where every one does just what they like. Commend me to sport like that!—And then she always keeps horses enough for every one to ride and drive.'

Charles as the velocity increased, began to wonder if the poor tongue ever got tired. But no; on it rattled; seeming to derive fresh strength from the new acquaintance; every trifle excited it anew.

Meanwhile, dear good papa was dreaming, quite unconscious of his daughter's proceedings. She tried every effort to draw Charles into a flirtation. He was totally impervious to her assaults, and was thinking all the while of Mary Power. At last, finding him what she considered a slow-coach, she gave him up, and recommenced her conversation with her previous acquaintances.

Delrin was finally reached. Here Charles lost sight of Miss Norton for a while, but only to meet her again on the steamer. She had now parted with the two gentlemen who were with her in the train, and she considered that the slow-coach might be agreeable; so she made him walk up and down the deck with her; carry her cloak; and when she sat down, she insisted on his wrapping his rug round her feet; and she did not refuse his offer of brandy and water.—Charles was amused with her. She said many original things. But he compared her with Mary Power, and thought what a difference!—On arriving at Holyhead, they got into the railway-carriage, when Charles soon fell asleep.—Old Norton, in his travelling-cap and woollen muffler, did the same. Miss Norton remained awake for some time; she was too excitable for sleep. She set down in her own mind that Charles was the most ungracious gentleman she ever met; and here we shall take leave of them for a while, and allow them, as best they can, to proceed on their way.

(To be continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

THE CATHOLIC CLERGY AND THE INCOME TAX.—The following letter appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*: Ballinagarry, 28th December, 1865. Dear Sir.—To-day the people of this little town witnessed a rather novel sight. In former years the amusements during the Christmas holidays were more of a festive kind—the wren carried in procession, with grotesque figures, accompanied with music and dancing—customs which have now happily disappeared with the advancement of science and the progress of civilization. On this day, however, the scene was of a more serious, if not less comic kind—viz, the sale of the property of the parish priest for income tax. Why this particular time should have been selected for it, is difficult to conjecture, except it may be that the auctioneer, who is a man of sharp practice in his vocation, considered the time immediately after the Christmas collection the most favourable, lest other creditors might anticipate him. It may seem rather harsh at the present time to insist on taking the dues

of the Catholic clergy, when their flocks are so much diminished by emigration and famine, and, as a consequence, their revenues much reduced. It is just eight years since a like demand was made on me, but I appealed to the Chairman of the County, Sergeant Howley, who, after a searching and impartial investigation, considered my revenues rather insufficient for the support of myself and my curate without subjecting me to the additional burden of income tax. And, if it were so then, in the opinion of that righteous and just judge, how much more so now, when the dues of the clergy are decreasing every day with the population. As we neither receive anything from the state, nor desire it, the limited resources derived from the spontaneous offerings of the people should be left untaxed, which, indeed, are in most cases under the necessary amount, and if, in some instances, it may be otherwise, the surplus should go rather to the poor than the auctioneer.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—We are delighted in congratulating the Venerable Lord Bishop, the clergy and people of the diocese of Limerick on the triumphant success that has attended the recent collection in aid of the Catholic University of Ireland—the sum realized amounting to £372 7s 8d., being £50 over the collection of last year.—*Limerick Reporter*.

The *Advertiser* believes ministers have finally determined on abandoning the mixed system of education in Ireland.

On the last day of the old year upwards of 2,000 persons took the total abstinence pledge at the house of the Very Rev. Dr. Spratt.

CONDITION OF IRELAND.—The return of the Irish exports for the past year is published in the Dublin papers. They prove by unerring testimony, says the *Express*, that in spite of some prejudicial influences, which are now fast declining, the country has considerably improved, and is exhibiting substantial proofs of commercial activity and progress. As regards the port of Dublin itself the report is especially encouraging. The exports of porter show an increase of more than 50 per cent., when compared with those of 1862. It is still a more noticeable fact that in the last year the spirit trade has shown more buoyancy, and seems to be recovering from the long depression caused by excessive duties. A much larger quantity of whiskey has been exported than for some years past. This may, perhaps, be attributable to more successful exertions in pressing the article on the English market, and to the increased demand for admixture with other spirituous liquors. In the exports of sheep and pigs we find a very large increase, sufficient to leave a very considerable balance of advantage after setting off a decrease in the exports of cattle. The falling off in the latter may be accounted for by the alarm occasioned by the spread of the rinderpest in England, and the natural indisposition to purchase beef in quantities. The timidty of English dealers, and the distrust which consumers felt in some localities, have checked for a while the supplies from this country, but as soon as confidence shall have been restored we may expect to see a strong reaction setting in. The condition of the farmer during the year has been more prosperous. We hear no more the monotonous cry of "three bad harvests," which politicians uttered so long that the phrase became a miserable proverb. Agricultural produce has commanded better prices, and the harvest last year was on the whole, early, abundant, and well saved. The steady advance in the railway receipts is another symptom of renewed health and energy in commercial life. Another circumstance which must be regarded with pleasure in the general stock-taking of the year is the successful establishment of the new companies for the investment of the capital in new Irish undertakings. Within the last year a new and promising group has been added. We need only refer as instances to the National Building Company, the new Brewery Company, the Palmerston Flax Company, the Munster Spinning Company, the Civil Service Building Company, to say nothing of railway speculations and projects in which private firms and individuals have embarked. As regards our own metropolis, we are happy to notice unmistakable proof that a new spirit of enterprise has been infused into it, and that some of the industries for which in former years Dublin enjoyed a high reputation are being revived and developed. We need not point at any collateral evidence of improvement to the many local bills presented to Parliament, on the ground that they are required to keep pace with the increasing demands of the public and to provide for the expansion in the traffic of the port and city already manifested, and which is expected to outgrow existing arrangements. We refer with pleasure, however, to the marked improvement in the silk trade, which in the hands of such manufacturers as the Messrs Pim and Fry has received a fresh impetus and is pursuing a prosperous career, winning every day greater favor in the English and colonial markets.

ECCLIASTICAL ART IN LIMERICK.—The Church of the Venerable Order of Friars Preachers in the ancient city of Limerick, has lately been receiving some important features in the way of adornment, and true to their ancient traditions, love, and encouragement of Ecclesiastical Art, the good Fathers have taken care to secure works not unworthy of the palmist days in the ages of Faith. The new chancel built about three years ago has been, of course, the point which has called for their earliest care and attention; and a high altar and reredos, and a stained glass Eastern window, with some rich decorative colouring in the roof and walls, are the features of new interest. The whole of the altar reredos, tabernacle, and throne, are executed in various marbles, satory, and stucco, forming the principal material. It is needless to remark how much of sumptuousness of effect is thus obtained, and the objections which sometimes present themselves in the employment of stone in our large towns and moorland climate, are removed. The altar is paneled in front with three exquisite bas-reliefs from the chisel of Mr. Bolton, of Worcester, representing the good Shepherd drawing from brambles the strayed sheep; Our Lord raising Lazarus from the tomb; and Magdalen at the feet of the Lord.

Running quite across the chancel, but considerably detached from the eastern wall, the reredos is composed of an elegant open arcade, with green marble shafts, having bases to capitals of Carrara marble, with the arches and cornice in Siena. The tabernacle, containing an iron safe, lined with cedar and silk, with richly gilt and engraved doors set with crystals, occupies the centre of the altar. The throne above it rises up to a considerable elevation; but yet not so as to interfere with the window beyond, and terminates in a rich group of pinnacles and gables, borne on and inlaid with various coloured marbles, supporting, as a terminal, an angelic statuette. This work has been executed in a most creditable manner by Mr. P. Soanell, of the marble works of Cork, under the direction and from the carefully detailed drawings of the architect, G. Goldie, Esq., London. Many important judges are of opinion that, amongst the many equal works produced by Mr. Goldie, in England and Ireland, the present holds a deservedly high place. The great eastern window which consists of five lights with rich tracery, is filled in with a stained glass representation of Our Lord's transfiguration. This is a work of unrivalled excellence by Wailes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The decorations on the roof and hall were executed by Mr. Hodgkinson, of Cork.

Late news announces the death, in Dublin, of Richard MacGillycuddy, otherwise 'The MacGillycuddy, of the Red,' in the 78th year of his age.

The Fenian trials continue to progress at Dublin.

A quantity of military uniforms, supposed to belong to Fenian officers, were discovered near Coonear Ouloukas.

An active search is still going on in Ireland for Head Centre Stephens.

FENIANISM IN LIMERICK.—There is much gossip on town this day respecting an attempt made last night by the constabulary of three supposed Fenians; one a late Colonel of the 88th Irish Volunteers, who served in the American army, named Byron and whose fashionable appearance and frequent visits to the leading hotels here during the last two months, had attracted the attention of our local detectives, and made them watchful of the stranger's movements. The other two, in whose company he was when arrested, are clerks in certain establishments out of mercantile pursuit. For a long time the police had been on the scent owing to private information given, but it was not deemed advisable, to take 'active steps' However, one constable, who had been told that he would be sure to succeed in establishing a case if he only made the arrest, decided upon distinguishing himself in the affair, and he accordingly made the capture. The three were taken direct to the police barrack in William street, and Sub-inspector O'Connell was summoned from his residence in front of the station to the apartment where the parties in custody had been placed. The accusation having been deposed to, the two clerks gave their names, and repudiated any complicity with the Fenian movement. Sub-inspector O'Connell, under the circumstances as they presented themselves, went at once to the lodging-house where the colonel sojourned (a most respectable locality), and upon examination of his boxes only found therein four books of drill instruction, but no document of any kind in connection with the Fenian movement was discovered. The colonel is again at large for the present, upon parole, with a strict watch after him; and, as the rumour goes, there is good reason to believe that before many hours he will be again in custody, as his associates are known to have been sympathisers, if not actual leaders, of the Fenian movement in this quarter.—*Freemans*.

The *Dublin Freeman's Journal* of Thursday has the following respecting the alleged flogging of the Fenian prisoners: We are enabled to state, upon the authority of the Directors of Convict Prisons, that the statement which has appeared in various papers as to the flogging of the Irish political prisoners at Dartmoor is totally without foundation. They are not at Dartmoor, but at Pentonville. They have not been flogged, and have been quiet and well behaved since their arrival.

MISTAKING A CIVIL ENGINEER FOR HEAD-CENTRE STEPHENS.—We have been informed that a gentleman residing at Birlhill, county Tipperary, made rather an awkward mistake, from excess of loyalty, a few days ago. The civil engineer inspecting Mr. Malcolmson's new works in that neighbourhood is said to bear some resemblance to the escaped Fenian Head-Centre, Stephens, and the gentleman alluded to, having noticed the similarity, ran after him at top speed when he got some distance. A few explanations sufficed to convince him of his error, and the consequent loss of £1,000.—*Limerick Southern Chronicle*.

NOVEL MODE OF PUNISHING AN APPROVER.—A young man in this town carried on the business of an eggler for some years past rather extensively, and for the purpose of further increasing his trade, rented a house in one of the outskirts of this town, where he would have an opportunity of meeting people who came to dispose of eggs before they entered the town. Everything was going on satisfactorily until a few months ago, when his brother became an approver, and implicated some parties as connected with the Fenian conspiracy. The moment the intelligence became known it was quickly ventilated far and wide, and such an effect had it that the country people refused to sell the eggler there were at any price, or even to enter his house, which, we heard, they used never to pass by without making the sign of a cross on their foreheads, and in a short time the man was compelled to leave the place altogether.—*Newspaper Guardian*.

A desperate attack was made on John Warner, the informer on the Fenian Brotherhood, in the vicinity of his lodging at Richmond road, Ballybough bridge, on Thursday night week. He was escorted home by a number of police about seven o'clock, and after dinner went out to an adjacent public house, where he called for some drink. There were a number of persons in the shop at the time, and Warner having got into conversation about Fenianism, a dispute became rather warm. Warner pulled out a revolver. The owners of the house seeing the serious turn which matters had taken succeeded in getting all the parties out of the house. No sooner had they got outside than Warner was knocked down, and one of the parties who assaulted him wrung the revolver from his hand. Happily the person who took the revolver did not know the manner of firing it, or the result of the affray might have been of a fatal character. Warner was then severely beaten, one of his eyes being nearly knocked out and his face very much bruised. A person who interposed was also desperately assaulted, and during this time Warner crawled to his lodgings. The occurrence was seen by a woman, who immediately went for the police; but on their arrival all the persons concerned had disappeared. Warner has been since under medical treatment, and being confined to bed, was not in attendance at the Commission Court during Friday and Saturday. He complains greatly of the soreness of his chest; it was believed that he would lose the sight of his eye, but it is now thought such will not be the case.—*Irish Times*.

The result of the trials proves conclusively, that there is no sympathy with Fenianism to the extent of affecting jurors, or frustrating the administration of justice. Opinion is much divided as to how far the Irish Government is justified in the large amount of precautionary measures taken within the last few weeks to suppress an apprehended rising of the Fenians. A large increase of troops has been brought over from England, a re-distribution of the whole military strength of the country has been made, and a large number of police have been drafted from stations where not wanted, to the leading centres of disaffection. The news from America tends more to put down Fenianism, in its present form, than all the resources at the command of its Government.—There remains, nevertheless, the important fact, the consideration of which no statesman can ignore, that nearly the whole Irish population is deeply disaffected to England, that they have subscribed vast sums, a vastness greatly increased when their poverty is considered, to help to vitiate British authority in Ireland, that large numbers of the working classes, at home, are ready to join, at the peril of their lives in any attempt, however foolish or absurd, at treason against the constituted authorities, and, worst of all, that a very large portion of the most intelligent part of the population are deterred from active participation therein, solely from their confidence in its failure, not at all from their belief that *per se*, such disaffection is, in anywise, improper. Happily, the present Government appears fully impressed with these grave truths, and seems determined to consider the political and social woe of the country with a view to the removal of existing grievances.—*Times' Dublin Correspondent*.

At a special meeting of the Committee of the National Association held on the 22nd ult., there was a protracted discussion on the past and future policy of the association, which terminated in the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:—Proposed by the Most Rev. Dr. Conaty, seconded by the Most Rev. Dr. Keane, and—Resolved—That (confiding that the conduct and management of the National Association will be in strict accordance with the fundamental principles on which it was originally established, viz., independence of all political parties) we declare that the political interests of Ireland require that the association should be sustained and strengthened, and we earnestly urge immediate and energetic action for that purpose.

A LIVING WREN.—Recently, during the late gales a fine, large brown dog, of a Russian breed, was washed ashore in a very exhausted state at the Shanganah junction of the Wicklow Railway, where it was secured by one of the pointmen resident there. It had evidently been washed off some distressed or sinking vessel.

THE FENIAN TRIALS.—Dublin, Jan. 1866.—The public trial of the Fenians, looked forward with eagerness to the trial of George Hopper, brother-in-law to Head Centre Stephens, and the only person to whom the reception of money from the Fenian treasury in New York, to sustain the cause here, could be traced. Considerable anxiety was manifested yesterday, therefore, among the public generally, to obtain admission to the Commission Court when it became known that he was to be placed in the dock; but great was the disappointment of such as secured standing room in it—for little space is left after the legal gentlemen, the officials, and the police are accommodated—on hearing that he intended to plead guilty, and throw himself upon the mercy of the Crown! The near relative of the redoubtable Stephens a applicant for clemency from the Saxon ruler? It was, certainly, a singular and significant circumstance. For some weeks past there has been a report that Hopper intended to 'save himself,' not a few weeks ago, indeed, from the remarkable conduct of the Crown officials in keeping him back until they had tried many Fenians of a far inferior position in society, as to assert that he would turn up in the approver's chair.

After a short explanatory address from the Attorney General,

Mr. Justice Fitzgerald passed sentence. He said that the prisoner had pleaded guilty to an indictment, charging him with the crime of treason felony. The Attorney General had stated that he had looked into the case, and had arrived at the conclusion that the prisoner was, mainly led, into his present position by James Stephens, who was undoubtedly the head and leader of the conspiracy, and probably by the undue influence which such a relative exercised over him. The court had also looked into the information, and had come to the conclusion that the prisoner's guilt did not stand on the same footing as that of others. His lordship then said the prisoner had now adopted the only course open to him to make reparation to the laws which he had violated. He could only hope that those who were the dupes of Stephens would adopt the same course. Under all the circumstances, the sentence of the court was, that the prisoner be imprisoned, with hard labor for two years to date from the time of his first imprisonment.

The prisoner was then removed.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION.—The County Cork Jury Panel.—The following protest against the exclusion of Roman Catholics from the County Jury Panel has been adopted by the inhabitants of Fermoy:—We, the undersigned, Catholics of Fermoy, deem it our duty to record, in the strongest terms, our solemn protest against the formation of the panel from which the juries have been selected to serve under the Special Commission lately held in Cork, for the trial of political prisoners.

This parish, with its seven thousand Catholics, counts about seven to one against all other religious denominations together, and this minority counts seven of its members on this special panel, whilst Catholics are entirely excluded.

We ask not whether the panel has been thus formed through design, on the old principle of exclusiveness, through carelessness, or ignorance; but we must, and do hereby, denounce it as a wanton and gross insult to the Catholics of this great Catholic county; and we further pronounce that the convictions obtained under its operation cannot carry with them the same moral weight or effect which they otherwise should. Here follow the signatures.

THE ESCAPE OF STEPHENS.—A number of rumors were in circulation through the city on Tuesday that the authorities had received some information relative to the whereabouts of the Irish Head Centre, who, it is now generally believed, is still in the country. In every district the greatest exertions are being made by the constabulary and other persons. The rumors concerning him derived much strength from the fact that it was known that Messrs. McDermott, Allen, and O'Donnell were in consultation with closed doors at the Head office on Tuesday, and that the Chief Clerk was actively engaged in taking the informations of several persons. Whatever these proceedings were they were strictly private, but one thing is certain there is unusual activity and vigilance amongst the police and the constabulary throughout the country relative to Stephens.

On Wednesday a telegram from the Government authorities was received in Spike Island directing the placing of a large additional number of convict labourers on the works of Fort Carlisle. The fortification of the harbor are, from every indication, to be proceeded with at once, much more vigorously than hitherto. The authorities in Spike Island who have control of the convicts—the labourers chiefly employed in the fort—are kept continually on the *qui vive* by messages from the authorities as to the speedy completion of the works. It is stated that the nature of the fort walls round Fort Carlisle are to be projected by a *chassis de frise* consisting of iron spikes projecting at right angles to the wall from its top, and that other steps are to be taken in the speedy and effectual defence of both forts, which either show that the Government has got substantial grounds for fearing something in the shape of a speedy attack of these fortresses, or that the panic that has made Cork like a beleaguered city recently has extended far beyond the borough boundary.—Such speculation is excited in Queenstown by these steps.—*Cork Examiner*.

SEIZURE OF ARMS IN DUBLIN.—One of the most important and startling seizures of Fenian arms which has taken place since the commencement of the raid upon the conspiracy was effected yesterday morning by the detective police. It appears that Detectives Coles, McDermott, Rice, Doyle and Rothary, acting on private information, entered a house in Blackhall row, which had been used as a butcher's shop, between 8 and 9 o'clock yesterday morning. They found the place converted into a workshop, furnished with benches, tools, &c., and on the floor were strewed 306 pikes and pike heads. Sixty-six of these weapons were mounted on ash poles ten feet long, and the rest were lying in a corner ready to be mounted. There were 29 poles without heads. All the pike-heads bore the appearance of being fresh from the hammer, and it is supposed that their manufacture is being rapidly proceeded with from day to day in various quarters of the city. They were not certainly made on the premises, as there was no forge or other appliance to be found. Four or five planes, a few chisels, &c., were on the benches, and a patent machine for the manufacture of percussion caps. While the police were prosecuting their search a man named George Browne, a barber, residing at No. 9, Dean street, entered the shop, and on being asked his business there, he replied that he had come to shave a man. When asked to produce the materials requisite to perform that operation, he stated that he had not them with him, and he was at once taken into custody. When it became known that a large seizure of pikes and pike-heads had been discovered, the greatest alarm was generally expressed through the city, as it showed that the Fenian organization was much greater than it was supposed to be, and that the activity of the conspirators had not abated. The manufacture of spear heads in the city and neighborhood must be much more extensive than it was generally believed, although persons were surprised that more of the pike heads were to be at the trials of the Fenian prisoners to have been made and distributed as rods had not been discovered.

No new arrests or seizures of Fenians have taken place.

A LIVING WREN.—Recently, during the late gales a fine, large brown dog, of a Russian breed, was washed ashore in a very exhausted state at the Shanganah junction of the Wicklow Railway, where it was secured by one of the pointmen resident there. It had evidently been washed off some distressed or sinking vessel.