

THE IRISH QUESTION.

The subject of Reform for Ireland is at present engaging the attention of the English House of Commons, and if a solution is to be wrought out, if the question be not abandoned as one beyond the power of British statesmen to settle, we may fairly conclude that employment has been forced upon them which will occupy their minds, and exercise their ingenuity for some time to come. They see before them not a mere colony, but an integral portion of the British empire, seething and bubbling in some parts into insurrection, the commotion being kept up by the fires of revenge, and a burning desire to emulate the traditional or historical heroes who loved their country with such intense affection that their names have been enshrined in her poetic lore and immortalized in her annals. And even where they cannot see open rebellion they may behold disaffection like a contagious pestilence spreading over the land, and carrying with it ruin, desolation and decay. About one-fifth of the entire population are the Hebrew dwellers in this Egypt of affliction; they escape the plagues; they have light in their habitations while the others groan in darkness. It is not to be supposed that all who are disaffected are really Fenians; on the contrary, there are many who long for an amelioration of their social condition that would never think of taking up arms to obtain it. But Fenianism is an outshoot of disaffection, an ugly excrement that has grown out of it, and causes much annoyance. It is disaffection run mad, a malignant type of a disease that affects perhaps four millions of people. When the reforms for which the more moderate among the dissatisfied crave have been granted, then Fenianism must expire for want of sympathy. It demands a complete separation of Ireland from England, and legislation in Dublin by Irishmen for Irishmen.—It is useless to speculate upon what the result of granting such a demand would be, for Ireland never will be separated from England so long as a bayonet gleams in the hands of a loyal soldier. But there is only a small proportion of the Irish people who entertain the extravagant hope that they can break the chains which bound Ireland in the union seven hundred years ago, or that these will be voluntarily loosed. Imaginative as Irishmen are the majority of them are possessed of minds more under the control of the reasoning faculties than to permit of their indulging in such a chimerical supposition. It is thus that Fenianism must die, if the milder form of disaffection on which it now preys can be eradicated.

Mr Bright sums up the wrongs of Ireland under two heads—the first is, the Established Church; the second is the tenure of land. In this he evinces no originality, for these causes of grievance were already known; but the remedy he proposes for them are entirely new, and have been quite unthought of except by himself. In dealing with the Church question his plan is to give all a moderate allowance in proportion to their numbers, and then let them shift for themselves without any further interference from the State. As we understand this scheme its tendency is to shift the burden, and, in consequence, the disaffection from one party to another. Although the Roman Catholics are the most numerous in Ireland, they do not pay a large tax in proportion to their numbers as Protestants, the latter being larger property holders, and consequently if churches were endowed on the per capita system it must be plain, that in a country where the two parties are not only distinct but hostile, such a system must afford ground for murmur. We do not know whether Mr. Bright takes into his consideration any other denominations than Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics, but there are others whose concurrence in the scheme would be at least desirable, if not necessary, and some of them are decidedly and unwaveringly opposed to any interference of the State with the Church, and would no more touch Government money than the Jewish priests would the pieces of silver which Judas in the agonies of remorse for betraying his Master threw down to them. If there is to be rest in the land, if an epoch is to arrive from which the bitterness of religious jealousy may date its amelioration and decadence it will be when all connection between the Irish Church and the State is severed, when the Government confers no more fat livings on lymphatic bishops, when ministers will work for their people, and from them alone receive their hire—and where will that hire be more freely or generously contributed than in Ireland?

The second question is the land

tenure. This is one of those quarrels in which there is a fault on both sides. Many of the landlords refuse to give leases, and the tenant tills on and makes his improvements not knowing the day when the caprice of the owner may deprive him of his occupation, throw him homeless on the world, while another reaps the fruit of his labour. Were such a state of things general it could not be expected that Ireland would be progressive. But all the farms are not let under an uncertain tenure like this. Many have leases for twenty-one years; some for a much longer period, and improvements made, of whatever nature, will in nine cases out of ten repay the labor fully within the term. It has been found that when long leases are given there is a mischievous tendency towards a division of land among families, until the fractional parts become so many little plots on which men work and starve. Here is the point at which the Irish people themselves are at fault. There is a land hunger among them, and land they will have, regardless of the rent charged, or the known whimsical or tyrannical disposition of the landlords. No matter how ill one person may have been treated by the owner of the property he has been cultivating, no matter if the rack-rent has wrecked his hopes and constitution there are dozens to be found ready to occupy the place from which he has been ejected, and take their chance of living or starving. Mr. Bright's plan of Government buying the lands of absentees, and allowing the tenants thirty-five years to pay for it, and thus become the owners themselves, will not be effectual unless they allow leases for that period on very low terms, or put into the hands of the tenantry the means of cultivating the lands more effectually, and making much more out of them than they can do at present.

If the Government have resolved to assist the struggling poor of the Emerald Isle, there is no more effectual way of doing it than by thinning their numbers. Send them from a country where the population is redundant, and the land scarce to one where the inhabitants are comparatively few, and where wide fields that the plough has never touched may be had almost for the asking. Let them spend their money in this manner, and if emigration be not sufficient to drain off the surplus, so that those who remain may live above starvation, let them promote and encourage manufactures, and allay the land-hunger, which is one of the most mischievous sources of Irish discontent. But we believe that emigration will do more for Ireland and Irishmen than all that Parliament can accomplish in an age, if it confine its efforts towards the adjustment of differences between landlord and tenant.

The Famine in Algiers. A letter from Algiers, in the *Voyage* of Cherbourg, gives some heartrending details of the famine among the Arabs. The writer says:— At Creansville I have seen from 150 to 200 of these poor wretches, scarcely covered with ragged barnous, eating the leaves of the aloe plant, the roots of the dwarf palm, and the filthy fragments abandoned in the streets. I have seen natives coming down from the mountains with asses laden with dates, robbed of all in an instant by these famished Arabs. The latter I have seen cudgelled unmercifully by Europeans in order to make them desist, and yet they received the blows without seeming to feel them rather than give up a single date. At Relizanne I noticed a squatted on the footpath, with their backs against the wall, some Arab children, the oldest of whom could scarcely be more than four. When I say children I make a mistake; they were only skeletons. Their arms and legs were, in the most rigorous meaning of the words, no more than bones and shrivelled skin. On looking at those poor little things, so frightfully shrunken, one was at a loss to know by what effort they could stand on their feet. I bought a dozen pound loaves, and distributed them to the starving children, but this was scarcely done when I was surrounded by a score of Arabs vociferating for a share. Only with great difficulty could I get out from the midst of the poor wretches, the numbers of whom rapidly increased, and had it not been for the assistance of some Europeans, I do not know what might have become of me. Scarcely had I got clear of the crowd when I saw them fall upon the children and snatch away the bread which I had distributed. At Oran, in the middle of the city, in front of the Hotel d'Univers, I witnessed the most disgusting of spectacles. Every evening there is thrown out of that establishment the remains of the kitchen—damaged leaves of salad and other vegetables, the entrails of fowl and game, and filth of that kind. Well, on the evening I speak of, I saw a dozen Arabs fighting with the dogs of the neighbourhood over this offal.

FARM FOR SALE In the County of Wellington, Within five miles of the flourishing town of Guelph, fronting the Elora Road, containing 100 acres, 50 of which are cleared, the balance good hardwood timber; two good frame barns, one with stone foundation, root-house, stable and granary, a young orchard in full bearing, good water on the premises; the soil is rich clay loam, clear from stumps and well fenced. For particulars, apply to BLAIR & ALEXANDER, Corner of Jordan and King streets, Toronto, Or to the proprietor, DAVID SAVAGE, Guelph, Ont. March 11th, 1868.

New Advertisements.

GUELPH EVENING MERCURY. DON'T fail to subscribe to the GUELPH EVENING MERCURY. VERY latest Telegraphic, Local and other News in the MERCURY. MORE and better selected Reading Matter appears in The Evening Mercury than any other paper in Guelph. EVERY Merchant and Business Man should advertise in this paper. REPORTS of all Local Proceedings up to three o'clock appear daily in this paper. THE Standing Circulation of the EVENING AND WEEKLY MERCURY is 6,400 copies, a circulation which no other journal in this section of Canada can lay claim to. ON an average five persons read each paper. So that 32,000 readers peruse each issue.

NORWOOD; BY HENRY WARD BEECHER. A LARGE SUPPLY

At Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market, Guelph. Guelph, March 14, 1868. day 11

For Sale at a Bargain THE Subscriber offers for sale at a Bargain the establishment on Upper Wyndham Street, in Guelph, known as MRS. DAVIS'S Eating House & Grocery. The house is well furnished, and will be sold with the stock-in-trade as they now stand. To a suitable purchaser an excellent opportunity is now offered of securing a good and profitable business at a moderate figure. Apply at once. MRS. C. H. DAVIS. Guelph, March 14, 1868. 43

TOWN HALL, GUELPH. MASON'S DRAMATIC COMPY

This Saturday Ev'g Mar. 14, Will be produced the beautiful Two Act Drama of "MAID OF CROISSEY." GRAND DANCE. Mr. HARRY LAMPEK. To conclude with the Farce of

The Pleasant Neighbors Admission 25 cents. Reserved seats 50 cents. Doors open at 7. Commence at 8 o'clock. Guelph, March 13th, 1868. 4

NOTICE. PARTIES indebted to the Subscriber either by Note or Book Accounts, are requested to settle the same on or before the 15th day of April next, as he wants money very much at present. Parties having claims against the undersigned, will please send them in at once, as all those things should be settled up at least once every 5 years. DENIS COFFEY, wit Guelph, 14th March, 1868.

NEW ARRIVALS AT THE 'FRUIT DEPOT.' FINNAN HADDIES, YARMOUTH BLOATERS, FRESH HADDOCK, FRESH COD, FRESH OYSTERS. At a great reduction from regular prices, for Cash only. HUGH WALKER. Guelph, March 14, 1868.

Free Lecture. MR. JAMES EVANS WILL deliver a Lecture (D.V.) in the old Masonic Hall on SUNDAY NEXT, the 15th instant, at 2:30 p.m. Subject: "THE GLORIOUS THINGS SPOKE OF JERUSALEM." The literal and symbolical—showing their bearing and connection with the true hope of a Christian. "—87 things are spoken of thee, O city of God."—Ps. 88: 3 verses. REFERENCES.—Isaiah 52 ch. 1, 2 and 7 to 9 ver. 15, 49 ch 2 ver. 3, 8 ch 3 ver. 17, 21 ch 2 and 10, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee."—122 Ps. 6 ver. "Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create, for behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy."—Isaiah 65 ch 18 ver. The public are cordially invited to attend with Bible in hand. PREPARED BY A. B. PETRIE. Guelph, March 12, 1868. 43

DOMINION HOTEL GEORGE BLACK BEGS to inform his friends and the public that he has opened the above Hotel, in the BRICK HOUSE, MACDONNELL-ST. A few doors above Higginbotham's Drug Store, and immediately opposite Messrs. Sharpe's Seed Store. There is a good stable attached to the house, with good and commodious stabling. Every attention will be paid to customers in order to secure their comfort and convenience. Guelph, March 4, 1868. daw 3m

New Advertisements.

Attention Ladies! NEW HOOP SKIRTS. A. O. BUCHAM HAS JUST OPENED a superior lot of Hoop Skirts, including the Newest & Most Graceful Styles, And invites the attention of every lady to his stock. Guelph, March 10, 1868. A. O. BUCHAM.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP. THE Partnership heretofore existing between HOGG & CHANCE, Dry Goods Merchants in Guelph, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All parties indebted to the late Firm are requested to make immediate payment to Mr. HOGG, who carries on the business in his usual stand, Golden Lion, Corner Wyndham and Macdonnell Streets. All claims against the late Firm will be settled by Mr. HOGG. Parties having claims will please present them at once for settlement. HOGG & CHANCE. Guelph, 9th March, 1868. 40-w2

Commercial Union Assurance Company, CHIEF OFFICES—19 AND 20 CORNHILL, LONDON, ENGLAND. CAPITAL £2,500,000. Fire Department. THE success which has attended the Company's operations has been such as fully to realize the most sanguine expectations of the Directors, who have resolved to extend the business more widely, and now offer to the Canadian Public PERFECT SECURITY guaranteed by large subscription of capital and invested Funds. PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS. The Directors and General Agents, being gentlemen largely engaged in commerce, will take a liberal and business like view of all questions coming before them. Life Department. Volunteers assured in this Company, are permitted, without extra charge, to do duty on the Frontier, and to engage in repelling marauding attacks. Eighty per cent of the Profits of the Whole Life and Annuity business are divided among participating Policy Holders. Claims are paid one month after Proof of Death. By a recent Act of Parliament a Wife can now hold a Policy on the life of her Husband free from all other claims. MORLAND, WATSON & Co., General Agents for Canada. OFFICE—385 and 387 St. Paul St., Montreal. FREDERICK COLE, Secretary. Inspector of Agencies—T. C. LIVINGSTON, P.L.S., Upper Canada. McLACAN & INNES, Agents for Guelph. Guelph, March 10th, 1867.

FOR WALL PAPER! GO TO ROBT. CUTHBERT'S. Guelph, 9th March, 1868. 4w

TO FARMERS. Pianos, Pianos NOW IS THE TIME TO USE FRENCH'S Condition Powders! HAVE now on hand Pianos made by the Union Co., New York, whose Instruments are second to none, and yet are sold at least \$100 less than those of either Steinway or Chickering; also by HEINTZMAN & CO., Toronto, who took the first prize at the late Provincial Exhibition for "purity and equality of tone." They will also sell cheap a due bill of \$100 (American currency) on GBOVESTEEN & CO., Pianomakers, N. Y., also a good second hand Cottage Piano. They are also prepared to take second hand Melodeons or Pianos as part payment of new Pianos or Melodeons of their own manufacture. Pianos tuned to order at \$1.50. Guelph, 9th March, 1868. 4w1

Notice of Co-partnership TAKE NOTICE that a co-partnership has this day been entered into between the undersigned, under the name, style and firm of A. THOMSON & CO., for the purpose of carrying on the business of Merchant Tailors in the Town of Guelph. ALEXANDER THOMSON, SAMUEL SHAW, GEORGE MURTON, Jr. Guelph, 2nd March, 1868. daw3t

500 Tons PLASTER! OF best Ground Paris and Caledonia FOR sale by the subscriber Five Hundred Tons of best ground Paris and Caledonia Plaster. As the above was ordered when the prices were low, farmers had better send in their orders at once, and get the benefit of THE LOW PRICES. Apply at the old stand, near the Railway crossing. GEO. BALKWILL. Guelph, 10th Feb, 1868. 4w

Cordwood Wanted. WANTED Thirty Cord of good, sound Beech and Maple Cordwood (green). Apply at once to C. A. SHARPE, Seedsmen Guelph, 9th March, 1868. 5w1

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT. No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street. Guelph, July 31, 186 (dw 10 MOLTON

Books for the Times.

STANDARD THEOLOGICAL WORKS BY Rev. Dr. COOKE. CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, \$1.88. Containing Chapters on The Holy Scriptures, their divine authority, The Holy Trinity, their infallible inspiration, The Deity of Jesus Christ, The Personality and Godhead of the Holy Spirit, The Original State of Man and His Fall, The Atonement of Christ, Election and Reprobation, Justification by Faith, The Witness of the Holy Spirit, The Doctrine of Regeneration, The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification, The Immortality of the Soul, The Doctrine of Purgatory proved unscriptural, The General Resurrection, Eternal Re-tribution, The Christian Sabbath, The Christian Ministry, The Ordinance of Baptism, The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Also, The Deity, \$1.50; Shakhinah, \$1.25; Explanations of difficult passages of Scripture, \$1.13. The Intercession of Christ, of the Holy Spirit and of the Church, 30c., &c.

BISCUITS ABERNETHY, SODA, LEMON, WINE, ARROWROOT, CINCHER NUTS, CABIN, &c. LONDON LAYER RAISINS Jordan Almonds, Keiller's Dundee Marmalade, Finest Turkey Figs in layers, Peaches, Greengages, Plums, Cherries, Damsons and French Plums.

AT JOHN A. WOOD'S. Guelph, March 9th, 1868. 4w

NEW Oyster Rooms Valentine Wald BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on MACDONNELL STREET. The very best of Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept. The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. R. McCURDIE, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases. The very best of Oysters always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice. TOWN and JERVIS, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner. Guelph, 27th Dec. er, 1867. 4w6m

REMOVAL. STEPHEN BOULT, Architect and Builder, Has Removed his Workshop and Planning Factory to QUEBEC STREET, (site of the old Congregational Church, a short distance east of Wyndham Street. Plans, Specifications & Estimates, Supplied, and work superintended in all its branches. STEPHEN BOULT having succeeded to the old established Lumber Yard of Thos. McCrae, Esq., begs a continuance of public patronage. All kinds of Lumber on hand. Prompt attention given to all orders. Planning Done to Order, AND ALL KINDS OF Mouldings, Sashes, Doors, Blinds, and Machine Joiners' Work. Executed with despatch and kept always on hand. Cash paid for all kinds of Lumber at the yard. Guelph, March 10th, 1868. 43wmy

TAVERN LICENSES Office of the Clerk of the Peace, GUELPH, 7th March, 1868. COUNTY OF WELLINGTON, I HAVING been appointed Justice of the Peace for the County of Wellington, I beg leave to inform all Tavernkeepers in Townships, Towns and Villages, that I am ready to grant them their Licenses on payment for the same. By order of the Treasury Department of Ontario THOMAS SAUNDERS, Distributor for the County of Wellington. Guelph, 7th March, 1868. 4w-1 Herald and Weekly Advertiser copy one month.

Not Run Away Yet! THE Subscriber begs to inform his old friends and the Public, that though several noted characters have lately been constrained to leave Guelph for the sake of their health, he is still hale and hearty, and hangs out his shingle at the old spot, CORK STREET, OPPOSITE DEADY'S HOTEL, Where he is prepared as formerly to make up CUTTINGS of every description at short notice and in a superior style. To Farmers! Having had 30 years experience, and devoting all his time to the business, he can make up Home-made CLOTH! And trim it CHEAPER than can be done at any other Establishment in Town. All Work carefully finished, and at Moderate Rates. Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868. WM. MITCHELL, wsm-46w

NOTICE. HAVING sold out my stock at "Bradford House" and Book-accounts to Mr. Philip Bish, all parties indebted to me on book account will pay the amount to Mr. Bish. GEORGE JEFFREY, Guelph, 5th March, 1867. WITH reference to the above, I have much pleasure in stating that I have purchased the whole stock in trade, also the book accounts, &c., of Mr. Geo. Jeffrey. The business will be carried on as formerly in all its branches, trusting for a continuance of that patronage which was so liberally bestowed on my predecessor. For further particulars see future advertisement. P. BISH. N.B.—All accounts not satisfactorily settled will be placed in first court for collection. Guelph, March 5th, 1868. 4w

Board Wanted. BOARD WANTED by three gentlemen, where no other boarders are kept preferred. Apply at this Office. Guelph, March 12th. 40m