

ched slaves in America have ever been tortured by the worst of task-masters; but then the slaves in America are Pagans, or they sing Methodist hymns, while the Irish go to Mass; they are Christians, and they and theirs have suffered martyrdom after martyrdom for the sake of their religion—the martyrdom of the sword, the martyrdom of famine, the martyrdom of the law—and they still suffer, and they still defy, persecution. Humanity and philanthropy in England, embedded in the granite of heresy, cannot exude a single tear for them—the Irish—the mere Irish!—the Papal attached Irish!—*Dublin Telegraph.*

CORK QUARTER SESSIONS.

NOVEL MODE OF ADMINISTERING RELIEF IN THE MITCHELSTOWN UNION.

*Hannah Brophy v. James O'Brien.*

Mr. Exham informed his worship that this was an action of some importance, and was for the purpose chiefly of checking a system that had been in existence for some time in the Mitchelstown Union. The defendant, James O'Brien, filled the office of relieving officer in the town of Mitchelstown, and the present action was brought against him for the false imprisonment of the plaintiff under the following circumstances:—Hannah Brophy had been a native of another part of this county, and about two years ago left it for some part of England; on her return from England she went to Mitchelstown, about the month of May last, and resided in lodgings, where she supported herself by working at her needle; she had also a young child with her. In the month of December following her necessities compelled her to apply for relief to the defendant, and the relief she got from this compassionate officer was to be handed over by him to the tender mercies of Mr. Neal Browne, the stipendiary magistrate there, a gentleman who entertained rather peculiar notions of the act of parliament, commonly called "the Vagrant Act," and this gentleman committed the poor girl to the goal of this county for five weeks at hard labor. I am glad this action against the relieving officer has been brought; but there is another person also against whom, I venture to say, the action can be maintained.

Court—That is the difficulty that presents itself in this case. This woman has been imprisoned on the conviction before a magistrate, and how can you bring this action against the present defendant for false imprisonment? I am most anxious to investigate and punish, if I have the power, any conduct of this kind for some of the most afflictive and atrocious proceedings of this kind by relieving officers, in many cases at the instance, I believe, of their superiors, have come under my notice on my visits to the goal, and I fully determined to punish to the utmost of my power any relieving officer convicted of any such conduct before me. In one melancholy instance I found committed to the goal, to be contaminated by the confined thieves and prostitutes already there, a poor woman with three most interesting children. She had left Fermoy to go to Hammersmith to her husband; when arriving there her little means were expended, and one of the poor children having asked for alms, they were all sent back, and sentenced to imprisonment. How the magistrate, on seeing them, could have the heart to do so, I can't tell. I am happy to say they are safe in Hammersmith with their father at present. I will hear the evidence in this case, however, and at least tell my opinion of the relieving officer's conduct at the conclusion.

The evidence having been heard the Court pronounced its opinion.

Court—I have no hesitation in saying that the opportunities of the act of Parliament have been most shamefully exercised in this case. I think that, though the present defendant may not have considered he was acting wrong, he has done what he had no right to have done. If I can get over the legal objections in this case, I will give substantial damages to this woman; if not I will dismiss the case on the merits without costs. —*Cork Examiner.*

KIDNAPPING CATHOLIC CHILDREN.

The *Dublin Telegraph* says—A kind and intelligent correspondent in Liverpool sends us the following extract from the *Bradford Observer*, in reference to a traffic in Irish Catholic children, carried on by a landlord of Tipperary—so far famed for the kindness of its "gentry" to the poor. Our correspondent writes: "As well as I can recollect, these parties were carrying on the same game about two years since, when a number of poor Irish Catholic children, whom they had kidnapped, and were rearing up as Protestants, were rescued from their clutches by that untiring and zealous clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Collins, of New Mills. Would you kindly sound the alarm, and apprise the people of the Nenagh Union of the proceedings in question?" The following is the extract from the *Bradford paper*, which heads it, "British Slavery": "In the workhouses of Ireland are large numbers of orphan children, of children abandoned by their parents, and of children whose parents are but too ready to deliver them over to any species of legal slavery, which may obviate the cost or the care of parental responsibility. That a number of poor children should be so situated is, though distressing, not surprising; but we confess that we are surprised to find in this country, and, at our own doors, parties moving in respectable society, who are willing to cooperate with the 'guardians' of these poor little ones, in order to reduce their childhood to a species of assigned slavery. On the evening of Sunday fortnight, an Irish woman named Bridget Wilde, having arrived by the six o'clock train, with a party of ten children, proceeded straightway to the police-station. They had come from Ireland, and were quite destitute both of money and of food. They reported themselves as being consigned to a Mr. Leach, who was at first supposed to be a gentleman of that name in this town, but who was eventually ascertained to be Mr. T. Leach, of Wilsden. It is said that Mr. Leach had resorted to this method of importing juvenile labor from Ireland, in order to supply his factory at a cheaper rate than could be done with English hands. The woman in charge of the ten children was the mother of three of them, and had in her possession the following open letter, addressed to Mr. Leach:—'Prin Park, Nenagh. —Dear Sir—I stated this day ten children about the age of twelve years, and I hope you will be satisfied with them. I sent a woman to take care of them, Mrs. Wilde. She is the mother of three of them, and I trust there will be no mistake, and that they will all arrive right. I have written to persons in both Dublin and Liverpool to look after them, and forward them to you. If you wish me to send any more I can do so, as many as you please. On this occasion, I was confined to select them from the electoral divisions,

not being able to get other guardians to join, these being sent out by private subscription. If you wish me to get more, and give me a little time, I shall bring the matter before the entire Board, and make no doubt I will be authorised to select out of some hundred children, and that they will be sent over at the expense of the Union.—I am yours, very truly, WILHELM WALLER. To Thomas Leach, Esq., Wilsden, near Bradford, Yorkshire." When the woman, with her train of little ones, arrived at the police-station, an officer went in charge of them to Mr. Leach first mentioned, but, on the mistake being discovered, they were conducted by the police to the vagrant ward.—Information of the circumstances was immediately communicated to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and, at the next meeting of that body, the circumstances of the case were fully discussed, and a resolution adopted to lay the whole affair before the Central Board in London. We have felt it a duty thus prominently to advert to a matter which, however viewed is humiliating and indefensible. We have no hesitation in affirming that the entire system—for it is, indeed, a system—merits the severest condemnation. Mrs. Julia G. Tyler, would give one year's proceeds of her tobacco plantations for such a case against the 'Britishers.' Considering that that lady was driven to rake up our old 'press' law (now rendered obsolete by the neglect of forty years) in order to find a set-off to the 'domestic institution' of the south, it is not difficult to see the use she would have made of such a letter as was subscribed at Nenagh, with the courtly name of Waller."

GREAT BRITAIN.

A POLITE REQUEST TO MR. DISRAELI.—The ultra-Protectionist party in Buckinghamshire are getting up a memorial to the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling upon him to resign his post as one of the members of the county, in order that the electors may have an opportunity of ascertaining whether he is still favorable to the principle of protection to British agriculture, or whether he intends, as has been somewhat freely stated in political circles, to lend his aid to the Liberal party in the House of Commons.—*Sunday Times.*

Mr. Thomas Chambers, the new member for Hertford, has the following notice on the paper:—"Bill to provide for the registration and inspection of convents and other religious houses of women now existing, or hereafter to be established, within the limits of the United Kingdom, and to make better provision in relation thereto."

On Monday night, the 6th inst., the House of Commons resumed its sittings after the recess. Lord John Russell occupied a considerable part of the evening with a statement of the intentions of the Government with regard to education in England. His statement was long, confused, and feeble to the last degree, and indicated very clearly, as many of his hearers judged, a divided and distracted Cabinet. What he proposes is to do a little good and not much harm. He is to maintain in Great Britain the separate system of education. The estimates under these heads have just been printed; for Great Britain the vote for public education, which, in 1851, was £150,000, and, in 1852, £160,000, is to be raised, in 1853, to £260,000—or an increase of a hundred thousand pounds. The vote for national education in Ireland, which, in 1851, was £134,560, in 1852, £164,577, is, in 1853, to be £192,073, or an increase of £17,496. Lord John proposes to continue and increase the grant through the Committee of Privy Council, and to distribute the amount among the schools of various religious denominations. He proposes also to enable municipal corporations, by vote of a majority of two-thirds, to raise local funds for the same purpose, but all under the control of the Privy Council. The same power, under certain conditions not yet made known, is to be given to parishes in some unexplained manner. He also proposes to sweep together a number of small charities, the purposes of which he deems useless or objectionable, and apply them in the aggregate to educational purposes; and to provide, in connection with the Privy Council, a cheaper and more summary mode of correcting abuses in the administration of charities specially devoted to education. Another subject on which the Government, of which Lord John is the mouthpiece, showed lack of union and strength this week is India. Mr. Disraeli inquired when there was to be a declaration of the Ministerial intentions on that subject. Lord John answered, amidst some tittering, that when the Cabinet had made up their minds, they would lay their plan before the House. Unless some accident, or extreme good management, gives a turn to this important subject of consideration, it seems clear that India will be the great bone of dispute for the end of the session. The Land Committee will not resume its sittings till next Tuesday, 12th inst.—*Tablet.*

There is an immense number of private motions on the notice lists—enough, with the government business, to occupy a long session. Amongst the subjects which will excite some warm discussions, and perhaps cause some awkward questions, is that of election petitions. A Whig county member, one who has already upset a Whig government, Mr. Locke King, has a motion for "an inquiry into all cases in which election petitions have been withdrawn." More than one ex-minister have motions for suspension of writs—a species of temporary disfranchisement—and several private members are for stronger measures. Meanwhile, one is for having up Cop-pock to the bar and eliciting disclosures as to that worthy's public declaration that all the boroughs of England are in the same plight as St. Alban's. From a pretty extensive acquaintance with borough elections the last fifteen years, I am satisfied he speaks the truth, and that it is hypocrisy and humbug to select any particular place for example. From Carlisle to Ipswich—from Cambridge to Hertford—it is all one. The fact is, the ten-pound householders in this country, as a class, have not morality enough to resist bribery, and the representative system giving to these people really the political power of the country is a "mockery, a delusion, and a snare." It is absolutely absurd. My cheesemonger, my cobbler, and my baker and butcher have votes—I have not. Yet I know something of the history and laws of my country, and am at least as able to exercise the franchise, but don't happen to live in a ten-pound borough constituency, nor to have a county vote, so I am disfranchised; and this is the position of the majority of the more educated portion of the middle classes, who usually "live out of town," as it is called, and have no fifty-pound leases, so as to vote for counties. And the government is in the hands of the most bigoted, most

besotted, and most easily bribed class in this country—the common jury class, the small shopkeepers, who hate Catholicity and Irishmen with all the hatred of ignorance and prejudice. And we are told to be proud of the British constitution!—*Correspondent of Tablet.*

There is a very general impression that the conduct of the government on the Canada Clergy Reserves Bill, as to the clause guaranteeing the endowments of the Protestant Clergy out of the consolidated fund, was a symptom of elements of disunion in the cabinet.—It has been called, in familiar phrase, "Gladstone's first kick over the traces," and there can be small doubt that he was concerned in the insertion of the clause. It was observable that, when in speaking on the subject, he declared himself, in his solemn and sonorous tone, "not indifferent to the welfare of the Church of England," there was a general burst of laughter. This certainly was the first time during the many years he has been in parliament, in which such a declaration from him provoked sarcastic laughter, and it indicates a feeling towards him upon the part of the Tories as regards the Church of England, very much resembling that which they entertained towards Sir R. Peel at the era of Emancipation, or, rather more recently, as respected the repeal of the corn laws.—*London Cor. of Tablet.*

CAMPS OF INSTRUCTIONS.—Stores and equipments for the formation of an extensive encampment have been forwarded from the Tower of London to Chatham, on the race ground of which place troops are to assemble for the purpose of forming a camp of instruction. Ascot-heath, and some ground near Sandhurst have also, we hear, been selected for the summer camps of instruction. Other sites suggested themselves, but a difficulty existed in the absence of suitable supplies of water.

FEARGUS O'CONNOR.—A gradual paralysis is said to be stealing over the frame of poor Feargus O'Connor. He is treated as one of the family, and spends his time at billiards, in playing with the children of Dr. Tuke, arranging books, &c. He told a late visitor that he knew he was in a lunatic asylum, but he was under no constraint, and all the people were mad there but himself. He could go away if he choose, and did not know why he did not. Reference being made to the Chartists, he asked, "How are you going on?" and sung his old stave of "The Lion of Freedom," asking with exultation, "Do you know how I thrashed the blue lambs in Nottingham Market Place?"

PROGRESS OF CATHOLICISM.—The Rev. W. Pollock, of St. Mark's, London, in the course of a recent lecture to the members of the Church of England Institution, let out some truths displeasing to his hearers, which he endeavored to render somewhat more palatable by malignant misrepresentation. He said he was not one who believed that Rome's sway was at an end. He was a man who walked about with his eyes open, and did not believe it. He might see that in Ireland her ancient sway was being largely shaken (which he could only see through the delusive spectacles clapped on John Bull's nose by the Irish Proselytising Societies); he might see, too, that in other localities—perhaps in France and Belgium—she was here and there receiving a local defeat (another erroneous vision); but upon the whole, he firmly believed that Romanism was progressing and would progress. He saw Rome rising up on all sides in new strength and power. He could not shut his eyes to the fact that in Liverpool Rome was multiplying her institutions, her priests, friars, black, white and grey, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Notre Dame. He could see them multiplying their institutions every year—he had almost said every month—which was passing over us. He could see a large school opened in Mount Pleasant for the Sisters of Notre Dame—an immense building; and he was told that the next house to it, occupied as a boarding-school by Miss Errington, a Protestant lady, had fallen into Rome's hands. They had just purchased it, as it was adjoining the other. Then he understood that they were gradually getting a great deal of land in that place; and they had got in Hope Street, the new Catholic Institute, a large house that lately belonged to a member of his own congregation, with extensive garden-ground behind, and offices; and, from the moment that they got possession of it, he had seen people working night and day—for he often passed that way at night on sick or other calls—that "or" is deftly introduced, for Mr. Pollock is not famous for always attending night-calls on the sick, and once excused himself from a morning one on the plea that he had been "up all night with baby"—to get those offices ready as a school. Afterwards he saw a large placard stuck up, stating that the Catholic Institute would be re-opened, although the fact was it had never been opened before (Mr. Pollock's "fact" is a fiction. The Institute had been opened; it was closed, like other schools, during the holidays, and then re-opened.) This was the deceit the Romish priests practised. He dared say that by addition to this, there were educational establishments which did not come before the public; and there were those who were doing the work of God, and preparing, by means of a Catholic education, persons to stand in that position of society who would hereafter confer benefits on the whole Catholic body. He might also mention the religious houses of ladies dotted throughout the town, and crowded with young ladies receiving a truly Catholic education. During the last three years, four establishments, of this kind had sprung up, and at these four establishments, at the present moment, not fewer than 300 children, whom he might call those of the middle and higher classes, were receiving a truly Catholic education, which would prepare them to be an ornament to the Catholic body in this town. He hoped that, with the blessing of God, they would in a short time, have an equally efficient system for young men, giving them a sound commercial and classical education, and selecting those whom God, by giving them greater talents, seemed to have destined for a higher vocation. They were doing a great and a glorious work (great applause). They were looking after young men, beset by temptation on every side.

STATISTICS OF DRUNKENNESS.—"We don't care to plunge into the details—we are willing, in the meanwhile, to take the Edinburgh return as aggravated by our Lord Provost; only we must also, on the grounds already stated, take the Glasgow return in its correct form. The figures then assume this very ugly form:—Edinburgh, 9,318 cases in 186,000 of population, or 1 in 18; Glasgow, 26,000 cases in 333,657 of population, or 1 in 13. This is what our Glasgow friends have to thank our Lord Provost for. His lordship's attempt was not to raise Glasgow, but to lower Edinburgh—and there we are, Edinburgh low, but Glasgow lower still."—*Scotsman.*

NORTH WALES CIRCUIT.—CHESTER.—The calendar is heavier than for several years past, not only as to numbers, but also as to the serious nature of the crimes charged against the parties in custody. It contains a list of 97 names, of whom no less than 10 are charged with murder, 4 with manslaughter, 9 with wounding with intent to murder, 8 with cutting and maiming, 21 with burglary, 3 with arson by setting fire to farm produce or farm buildings, 16 with house-breaking, and the remainder for bigamy, cattle stealing, conspiracy, concealment of birth, embezzlement, forgery, night poaching, highway robbery, stealing in a dwelling-house, robbing the post-office, unnatural crime, rape. Of the last-named offence there are five persons charged.—*Times.*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT, LONDON.—The number of prisoners already on the books of the goal for trial at this session is 102, and there are no less than four cases of murder and several charges of manslaughter to be disposed of, in addition to other cases of a serious character. The Recorder in his charge to the Grand Jury regretted he could not congratulate them, for he perceived that the calendar contained far above the average number of cases, and the offences charged were of an unusually serious character.—*Id.*

EASTER FUN AT EXETER HALL.

Easter is always a merry season, and all classes of the people very properly look for fun and entertainment during the holidays. The theatres bring out attractive new pieces; exhibitions are everywhere open; the show-men at the fairs look for a harvest; crowds flock to Greenwich and the out-of-town places of enjoyment; everywhere people put on their Sunday dresses, and, forgetting the gloomy winter upon which they have just turned their backs, look forward with cheerfulness and joy to the near prospect of sunny days and pleasant weather. Even parliament suspends legislation, and the members rush into the country to enjoy the holidays. This being so, why should not the religious world also have its holiday fun and enjoyment? The thought is a happy one; Drury-lane has its man walking on the ceiling to crowded houses; why should not Exeter Hall furnish an attractive Easter novelty to catch the stray crowds and shillings of the dull religious world? Undoubtedly, it is proper that the folks of Exeter Hall should be merry as well as all other people. But what should be the precise kind of entertainment, so as not to outrage the solemn character of the place, seemed to be a difficulty. Two Rev. gentlemen, one the notorious Mr. McGhee, and the other the well-known Dr. Cumming, have surmounted this apparent obstacle, by announcing a grand spiritual contest, or "set-to," between themselves and Cardinal Wiseman, on the stage of Exeter Hall. Here is the advertisement, which has been placarded over the town, of this expected surprising contest:—"Challenge to Cardinal Wiseman.—Four great meetings will be held in the large room, Exeter Hall, on Wednesday evenings, March 30th, April 6th, 20th, and 27th, at each of which Cardinal Wiseman is invited to preside. A chair will be provided for his convenience, and half the platform railed off for the use of the Cardinal, and as many of the Bishops and Priests of his Church as he may be pleased to bring. The Rev. R. J. McGhee and the Rev. Dr. Cumming will attend the meetings. First Meeting.—The Rev. R. J. McGhee will propose to Cardinal Wiseman that he (the Rev. R. J. McGhee) and a large number of the Clergy and laity will subscribe to his creed, and join his Church, provided the Cardinal proves that the creed proposed as a test of communion, and sworn to by beneficed Priests, and presented to all converts to the Romish Church, was ever heard of or known as a creed previous to A. D., 1564. Dr. Cumming will show at the same time, the utter falsehood and deception of the second article of the Cardinal's creed, from the fact that the Church of Rome never has given his sense and interpretation of any chapter of the Bible, and that she is unable, in answer to the above invitation, to give the sense which the Church holds, and has held, on any one chapter of the Bible. The chair will be taken at seven o'clock each evening. A ticket, admitting to the four meetings, price—side gallery, 7s; reserved seats, 2s 6d; platform, 2s 6d; raised seats, gallery, and back of platform, 1s; may be had at the British Reformation Society's Office, Exeter Hall, Strand." This flaming announcement drew, as might be expected, a great crowd of persons to Exeter Hall on Wednesday evening, who willingly paid the admission money, in the expectation of witnessing an earnest spiritual contest between the Cardinal and his well-known opponents. Although there is little probability that the Cardinal would be present, yet the throng of simple-minded people who crowded the hall really believed that they should see an actual contest.

The Cardinal was not there, nor was there a single Priest to take up the gloves against the Protestant Parsons. The chair, covered with scarlet cloth, intended for his Eminence, stood empty on one half of the vacant platform. The Cardinal did not even condescend to return one word of answer to the challenge, but treated it with the contempt it deserved. Here was a great triumph for Messrs. McGhee and Cumming—Cardinal Wiseman dared not meet them. But if the Cardinal's non-appearance was seized hold of to raise a shout of triumph, it was still a great disappointment to the people who paid their money to see the real Cardinal. Clearly, the Cardinal not appearing, the admission-money ought to be returned, or the people were duped. The showman in Drury-lane, who advertises the sea elephant, will either exhibit that animal alive, or return the money. He feels himself bound to keep faith with the public. Now, let us say plainly that if Dr. Cumming and Mr. McGhee do not return the admission money, to those persons who went to Exeter Hall in the belief that Cardinal Wiseman would be present, then they will have duped and cheated their auditors. And they have, in reality, done so. They know beforehand, as well as we know, that Cardinal Wiseman would neither accept nor notice their challenge. England is a country where men uphold the dignity of their order. A gentleman does not fight with a chimney sweep. A challenge to Cardinal Wiseman, unless it came from a Bishop, would have no valid claim to notice. If the Clergy of our well-paid church are desirous to witness a great discussion upon matters of doctrine, let them put forward the Bishop of London as their champion, and no doubt Cardinal Wiseman will pick up the glove. We would walk a mile or two to see a genuine fight between the Bishops of rival churches. If Dr. Cumming and Mr. McGhee do not return the admission-money to those who were drawn to Exeter Hall to see Cardinal Wiseman, they will have been the authors of a pickpocket exhibition.—*Weekly Dispatch.*