

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

ENNISKILLEN.—The Catholics of Enniskillen have taken steps towards the establishment of a branch of the Christian Brothers Schools in their town. It is highly creditable to them as a body that they are among the first in the province of Ulster to show their appreciation of the unrivalled merits of the Christian Brothers in the cause of education. Fifty years ago scarce two Catholic families could be found in Enniskillen; while in the same place within the last few years, Catholics have purchased property for religious purposes, at the east end of the town, to the amount of £2,000, upon which they have at the present moment almost completed a convent for the Sisters of Mercy, which will be opened for educational purposes in May next. Upon the same property they propose erecting a residence and schools for the use of the Christian Brothers, for which purpose, at their first meeting held on the subject, on the 27th of Jan., they subscribed in a few minutes upwards of £200. And when it is known that the Catholics, in addition to their other undertakings for the advancement of religion and education, are engaged still further in erecting a new and beautiful Gothic church in the country division of their parish, it is to be hoped that all who have the will and the means of forwarding a holy and noble cause, will extend their generous aid to those people who have done, and are doing, so much for themselves. Great praise is due to the Pastor of the parish—the Very Rev. Dean Boylan—who has accomplished much since he was appointed to the parish.

We are credibly informed that a gentleman of high family connexion and good landed property in this and the Queen's County, and who figured in the last elections for this county, is about returning to the faith of his ancestors and becoming a Catholic.—*Kilkenny Journal.*

THE IRISH TENANT LEAGUE.—A general meeting of the Irish Tenant League was held on Tuesday week, at the Council Rooms, Dublin, "to take means for the introduction of the League Bill into Parliament at the opening of the coming session, and to consider the present position of the tenant cause." There was a numerous and highly influential attendance.

THE MAJORITY OF BELFAST.—One of the acts of the town council, at its quarterly meeting on Monday, was the election of Samuel Gibson Getty, Esq., one of the most estimable and deservedly popular of the highest mercantile class in Belfast, to the office of chief magistrate of the town for the ensuing year.—*Belfast News Letter.*

IRISH ENCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION.—The total of public and private sales in the Encumbered Court, up to the 31st December last, is represented by the enormous sum of £17,331,668.—*Dublin E. Post.*

STATE OF IRELAND—CATHOLIC IRELAND.—Not a single criminal case was for trial before the Assistant Barrister at the last Quarter Sessions for Cork county, containing a population of over 600,000 souls. So much for the peasantry obeying the advice of the clergy.—*Tablet Correspondent.*

Baron Pennefather, in opening the Commission in Green Street, on Tuesday, after telling the Grand Jury that there was no case calling for remark from the court, concluded by saying:—"For the present I shall only say that the state of the country affords matter of congratulation, for not only in the county which we are now conversant with, the county of Dublin, as well as the city of Dublin, but throughout the realm of Ireland, there is an appearance of tranquility and good order, creditable alike to the people and the country."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.—Among the many signs of Irish prosperity which are apparent, not the least significant is the unprecedentedly great number of marriages which are taking place at this marrying season. Our rural population seem one and all to have resolved against single blessedness, and induced by the unwonted success of their last year's agricultural pursuits, determined on venturing out on the uncertain sea of matrimony. We heard of no less than 12 marriages taking place in one day in a neighbouring parish, performed by one clergyman, and the reports from other districts are not less satisfactory.—*Tyrawley Herald.*

CORK ENTERPRISE.—The first screw propeller ever cast in Cork was cast on Thursday evening by the Cork Steamship Company, at the works lately occupied by Messrs. Lecky and Beale, but now added to the extensive concerns of this enterprising company. This screw is intended for the new steamship *Bittern*, now in progress of construction in the company's ship-building yards.—*Cork Constitution.*

STEAM TO AMERICA.—Everything must have a beginning, and great results have emanated from very modest sources. We hail, therefore, with much satisfaction the notice which appears in a morning paper of a steamship, of seven hundred tons, which is to leave London on the 1st of next month for New York, calling at Cork on her way out. Our spirited countrymen of "the Beautiful City" will be prepared to bid her God-speed after their hearty manner, and to greet her return in due course with generous enthusiasm. A new order of things may take its birth from this experiment. The interest, therefore, as well as the honor of Ireland, is concerned to give it every possible aid and encouragement.—*Even. Mail.*

A FACTION FIGHT.—A terrible onslaught occurred at a hurling match in the lawn of Roscliff, Nenagh, on Sunday week. Instead of confining themselves to the ball, the conflicting parties, infuriated with punch, laid most unmercifully one on the other, ending in a deadly strife, in which fifteen or twenty were mortally wounded of whom some are not expected to recover, which proves that if those hurling meetings are not put down, they will lead as heretofore, to the most direful results.

THE REIGN OF INSULT.—The session of Parliament has opened amid prospects of peace and prospects of war, prospects of doubtful good and as doubtful evil for the empire at large; but, in the case of Ireland alone, there happens to be no variety at all in the dawn of perplexing prospects ushered in by the re-opening of Parliament. It were a relief if our doom was even a little chequered; if the lot which the Minister is disposed to carve out for us were even slightly varied in the dull tenor of its wretchedness; but it is not so. The prospect before us is one of un-mixed evil, unrelieved even by change, without a ray of sunshine to mingle with the shower. We are to have one ceaseless reign of insult and of neglect.—The canopy above us is all dark, and we may prepare ourselves for a remorseless drizzle, a cold, uniform, unwholesome Scotch mist.—*Tablet.*

The correspondent of the *Dublin Telegraph* writes:—"From what I have already observed, I can predict this:—the effect of my Lord Palmerston's renunciation, on last Friday night, of all connection with the Irish Land Question, will be at once, for ever, to terminate all friendly relations as between his Lordship's Government and every Irish Liberal member who has a spark of self-respect, and the firmness to prove, by his Parliamentary course, that no Minister, however jocular or plausible he may be, can openly repudiate the charge of the Irish Land Question without securing for his Administration the untiring opposition of those Irish Liberal members, whose moderation, tact, and permanent influence in Parliament and in the country render them an essential requisite to the safety of even a stronger Cabinet than that of which my Lord Palmerston is chief. The government could well afford to smile on the antics of the *soi-disant* "Independent Opposition" gentlemen so long as the same Government succeeded in retaining even the qualified confidence of men like the member for Cork County; but your own experience tells you what a different affair it becomes with a Palmerston Cabinet when the whole body of Irish Liberal members pronounce against "the tricks and stratagems," by which a great and pressing question is sought to be cushioned, or indefinitely postponed. Mr. Scully is, I understand, determined to follow up this matter, and to afford at once to all parties, by a deliberate debate, the full opportunity of speaking out. The learned gentleman has already given notice of a resolution which will raise the whole question. In all probability Mr. Scully's resolution will be lost; but in that defeat I predict the Government will likewise lose all hold on the consideration and forbearance of the entire Irish Liberal party in the House of Commons."

NAVAL STATION IN QUEENSTOWN.—There are now five men-of-war on the Irish station, under Admiral Sir G. Sartorius, a part of the Baltic fleet sent here to winter, at the requisition of the citizens of Cork. Their names and stations are as follows:—The *Russel* and *Hastings*, 60 gun ships, at Queenstown; *Edinburgh*, 60, at Dublin; *Meander*, 50, in the Shannon; and *Hecla*, frigate, at Waterford.—*Cork Reporter.*

During the week over 100 of the Queen's County Royal Rifles volunteered at Mountmellick into different regiments of the line. Volunteering on an extensive scale was carried on at the Curragh encampment among the militia regiments. It is expected that the camp will supply between 800 and 1,000 active and well-disciplined men to the line.—*Leinster Express.*

On Thursday the Foresters gave over a hundred volunteers to the line—principally to the light cavalry. The band of the regiment accompanied the volunteers to the railway station on their departure the following day.—*Westmeath Independent.*

The *Cork Examiner* gives an account of a meeting convened by the Mayor, and held in that city, to consider what steps should be taken to arrest the progress of the small pox in Cork, where it appears that that frightful disease has for some time raged as an epidemic. After various judicious suggestions from members of the medical profession, the meeting resolved on calling "on the Poor Law Commissioners to appoint an additional physician, whose sole duty it will be to carry out vaccination throughout the city."

In the County of Louth jail there are only fifty-one prisoners confined, of whom only four are awaiting their trial at the next assizes.

The question whether a Clergyman can legally marry himself, recently decided in the affirmative by the Irish Queen's Bench, in the case of *Beamish v. Beamish*, is to be brought before the Court of Error on appeal, and if the decision is sustained there, the parties announce that the case will be carried to the House of Lords.

DOWN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the committee and officers of the Down Protestant Association, held in Downpatrick, James Greer, Esq., Corbally House, in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved—That it is expedient to ascertain the sentiments of our representatives in parliament on the subject of Maynooth, Scriptural education, and the abolition of nunneries, and also their views on the question of the restoration of the Protestantism of our constitution; and therefore, that our honorary secretary be directed to forward this resolution to Lord C. Hill, M.P., D. S. Ker, Esq., M.P., and the Hon. C. S. Hardinge, M.P., with a request that they will, at their earliest convenience, communicate their views on these important subjects to the Down Protestant Association."

Mr. Ker, M.P., has returned the following reply:—"Montalto, February 1st, 1855."

"Sir—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, enclosing a resolution of the Down Protestant Association—That it is expedient to ascertain the sentiment of our representatives in parliament on the subjects of Maynooth, Scriptural education, and the abolition of nunneries, and also their views on the question of the Protestantism of our Constitution.—I confess that, when I consider these questions, they present to my mind a very limited and circumscribed view of the charter of Protestantism; they leave out of consideration so much that is valuable, and essential, and enforce so much that is neither essential nor practicable in Protestantism, that I cannot but regret the course which the Down Protestant Association have thought fit to pursue—viz., to bring before the public and invite discussion upon certain party questions, which are sure to create feelings of bitterness and animosity in this country, and to give offence even to moderate men—to throw a doubt, without cause or occasion, that I am aware of, upon the views and conduct of your representatives, and to compel them, willingly or unwillingly, to present the apple of discord to their peaceable friends and constituents. Such a course as this is, in my mind, less calculated to strengthen the bond of unanimity in the Protestant party than to bring down upon it the charge of bigotry and intolerance. I therefore think that I shall better consult for the true interests of Protestantism by declining your invitation to enter into the discussion of difficult party questions, upon which Parliament and the country are already considerably compromised; and can only take this opportunity of assuring you that I am warmly attached to the great and guiding principles of Protestantism—civil and religious liberty, and free use and interpretation of the Scriptures, the right of private judgment, and charitable toleration for religious opinions.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant."

"Wm. Johnston, Esq. D. S. Ker."

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.—On Friday week, an elderly young man? tired of the monotony of single blessedness, led to the hymeneal at Dunaroad C. Chapel, a young and blooming damsel. The gay Lothario is somewhere on the shady side of 50; his lady love has seen 17 summers. His reverence proceeded with the eventful ceremony with due gravity and despatch. The bridegroom had already plighted his hand and heart, and now came the bride elect's turn to give a similar response, when to the utter dismay of all present, she uttered a most decided negative, bounded to her feet, and bolted instantly from the sanctuary, leaving the unhappy swain in a state more to be pitied than laughed at. The present whereabouts of the spirited damsel is not known. It is said that a prior and more congenial attachment led to this new illustration of the old proverb, There's many a slip between the cup and the lip.—*Banner of Ulster.*

THREE CHILDREN BURNED TO ASHES.—Drumkeeran, County Leitrim, January 30th.—Yesterday morning the appalling news spread through this neighborhood that during the night the house of Michael Kelly, of Cloonaugh, had been destroyed by fire, and that three of his children had perished in the flames. The report, which could scarcely be credited at first, turned out to be too true. The following appears to be the facts of this melancholy event: Kelly and his wife had been at Drumkeeran fair, and returned home about ten o'clock. An hour or so later in the night Kelly's wife went to a farm, at the distance of a field or two, to milk and fodder some cattle, leaving in the house her husband and five children, the eldest of whom was not over eleven years of age. When she came back in the course of an hour or better the house was on fire; her husband and the eldest and youngest child were to be seen; but the second, third, and fourth could nowhere be found; they had fallen a prey to the devouring element. It appears that when his wife went to milk, Kelly, who, it must be added, was the worse for drink, partially undressed himself and went to bed. The children, waiting their mother's return, took a candle to search for cakes in the pockets of their father's coat. The candle ignited some flax in the room, and instantly the whole apartment was in flames. The eldest boy succeeded in rousing up his father. Half suffocated and bewildered, he carried out the children; the youngest remained outside in its cradle, but the others entered the house again, where they were suffocated and caught by the fire, except the eldest, who was dragged out a second time in a state of insensibility. In clearing out the debris, the bodies of the children were found, almost every part of them reduced to a state of cinder. Everything in the house was completely consumed; bank notes to the value of £17 were burned; even the dog and cat did not escape. An inquest was held to-day before James Morton, Esq., one of the coroners for Leitrim, when a verdict was returned in accordance with the above facts. The above occurrence has made a deep impression in the whole neighborhood.—*Sligo Chronicle.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON.—The Earl of Clarendon will leave London on the 15th or 17th instant for Paris, in order to take part in the peace conferences about to take place in that capital.

The Government has been defeated on the Life Peerage question, and the letters patent creating the Rt. Hon. Sir James Parke a Peer for life, are referred to Committee for inquiry, that is, for shelving. But Sir James denies the power of such a tribunal to call in question Royal Letters, but it is supposed her Majesty will recall the letters and issue others, making the title descend to heirs male of his body, and so the question will be disposed of.

THE LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE QUESTION.—Sir Joshua Walsley's motion for opening the public galleries and the British Museum on Sundays is fixed for the 19th inst., and if it be negatived Mr. Vincent Scully will move that the West-end clubs be closed entirely on the Lord's Day.

All the screw gunboats at Portsmouth are fitting up with coal and water, and those that have not their guns on board are to receive them immediately from the gun wharf, so as to go out of harbor and assemble at the Motherbank. About thirty are ready to go out of harbor at the present moment, and others are progressing.

Peace looks very near now. The gravitation towards it on all sides has become more visible and decided. All parties seem to desire it. What secret springs, if any, have been set in motion—what hidden wheels have been at work—whether it is true, as grave authorities say, that a certain stimulus has been applied both to Prussia and to Great Britain, propelling them in different directions, but with a convergent aim, by the French Emperor's expressed conviction that Russia is really vulnerable only on her Polish side, and his determination that across Germany therefore the torrent of war should flow, whatever frontiers it might remove, whatever political ruin it might carry in its track—historians must tell us, if they ever find out. All that we see is, that the course of events moves that way—yet that a small thing might check and turn it.—*Guardian.*

THE ORDER OF VALOUR.—The *Gazette* contains a copy of the royal warrant for creating a new naval and military decoration to be designated the "Victoria Cross." The rules under which it shall be conferred are set forth. The decoration will consist of a Maltese Cross, in bronze, with the royal crest in the centre, and underneath this inscription—"For Valour."

COBDEN UNPOPULAR.—A letter from Manchester says:—"Last night (Jan. 31) was the annual election for honorary officers of the Manchester Athenæum. The election is by ballot; and at least four-fifths of the members who voted (and hundreds did so) have voted for Manchester. Richard Cobden, Esq., was proposed and seconded as one of the vice-presidents; and he was black-balled!"

The *Times* intimates that another Arctic expedition is proposed, with the view of searching for the relics of Franklin and his party, and protests against the project with "the full earnestness of deep conviction." On the 26th of next May eleven years will have elapsed since Franklin sailed from Sheerness; it is scarcely possible that one man of the party remains alive; and why, asks our contemporary, should we risk living men for the sake of dead men, or serviceable ships for the sake of mere skeletons of ships?

THE LATEST FROM THE UNITED STATES.—We think it our duty to caution our readers against any undue alarm in regard to the last news from the United States. The papers state, apparently upon authority, that Mr. Buchanan has been positively instructed to demand the recall of Mr. Crampton, the Minister at Washington, on account of the part he took in the enlistment of American citizens for the British service. Be that as it may, it is certain our Government will decline such a demand, if made; for no sound headed and right-minded man can have read the correspondence between the two Governments on the subject without seeing, in the first place, that there was no complicity on the part of Mr. Crampton in these transactions; in the next place, that any ground of complaint arose entirely either from errors on the part of agents employed, or in their having acted beyond and against their instructions; and, in the last place, whether errors had been committed or instructions exceeded, full and ample reparation had been made by an apology from the British Government. There is only one word in the English language which fairly represents conduct which, after such a course, still seeks to fasten a quarrel upon a good and powerful neighbor. Happily, however, for us, the great majority of the American people are as much alive as we are to the course which good taste, good sense, and patriotic principles dictate under such circumstances, and we have the best means of knowing that President Pierce is looked upon with as much displeasure by a majority of the American citizens as he is in this country. Indeed, it would appear as if every man in the United States who enjoyed any weight in the country, who was independent of the Government for the time being, and who had a correspondent in this country, had availed himself of the last mail to tell us that we must regard all this vaporing as the thunder of Mr. Pierce, unsupported by the American people. This we really believe to be the case; and that when the small clique who for their own selfish ends would not hesitate to embroil two great nations in a dispute, find that already a preliminary treaty of peace is signed with Russia, and an armistice established, they will quietly acquiesce in the more sensible and patriotic views which the great bulk of the people in both countries entertain.—*London Economist.*

QUEEN VICTORIA UNDER A CLOUD.—According to the witty and well informed correspondent of the *Liverpool Advertiser*, Queen Victoria received a most frigid greeting during her passage through London, for the opening of Parliament; and her most Gracious Majesty was consequently in a decided *huff*. What can have been the cause, he demands? Was it the war budget? Perhaps it was pensiveness begotten of this same funeral figure-work that imparted to the Queen's share in Thursday's pageant the unwonted grave aspect that undoubtedly distinguished it. Instead of being all smiles and gaiety, she was as stern and nearly as stiff as her buckram predecessor of super-starched memory, Miss Tudor, commonly called Elizabeth. It may be that she never thought of the multiplication and subtraction table at all, and knew, and now knows, nothing about it. Perhaps she may have been pained at the comparative coolness of her reception along the line of procession, for that it was cool is as certain as the chilliness of the atmosphere, and that was enough to set chattering the teeth of any man but Mr. Mechi, who is always patriotically thinking of his coming profit upon skates, and of writing to the newspapers about the losses he didn't incur upon pigs. The newspapers don't say a word about this; not about the pigs, but about the swinish multitude being so frigid, but it is a fact that they were most unmistakably so; and a further fact, which you may also look for in vain in the journals, is, that they granted out many an oburgation about the war, and many a cry, more emphatic than elegant, against the peace. These cries were particularly resonant just about the vicinage of Cannings's statue, where the unsophisticated denizens of unwashed Westminster on the one hand, and of soap-making Lambeth on the other, conjoin in thickest stream while the royal show glides by. A sense of annoyance from this or some other cause seemed to have settled on her Majesty as she entered the House; and in passing up the Royal Gallery it was surmised by at least one observer that pickled cucumber must have largely entered into her lunch ere she left Buckingham Palace; while as for the Consort, he must have partaken profusely of horseradish, and afterwards swallowed a whole stick thereof as large as his Field-Marshal's baton, if one might judge by the hot-kitchen-poker condition of rigid irritability he appeared to be in.

A FALSE ASSERTION REBUKED.—The Rev. Mr. Newland, rector of St. Mary's Protestant church in London, having written a letter in which he had the hardihood to state that Mr. Maskell, formerly vicar of the same church, and one of the most distinguished of the recent converts to Catholicity, now regretted his secession from the establishment, a correspondence has been the consequence in which Mr. Maskell writes as follows:—"I have to say that it is utterly untrue and false. I have never doubted for one instant, since I became a Catholic, that I was right in leaving the established church. I have not the slightest shadow of doubt as to the claim of the Catholic church to the obedience of all men. I do not believe that the church of England has any claim; and I do believe that she is in fatal error, and schism, and heresy. I would not recall one single act by which, under the grace of God, I was led out of the establishment into the Communion of the One Holy Catholic Church. Are these words plain and strong enough? Will any of you require of me further evidence that as I thought and believed in 1850, so I think and believe now, and purpose so to believe until my life's end?"

THE LATE SECRET POISONINGS.—At the close of a lecture on Monday, at Bristol, Mr. William Herapath, the distinguished analytical chemist, took an opportunity of alluding to the cases of secret poisoning. He said apprehensions respecting the security of life had been greatly increased by the statements which had gone forth as to the difficulty of detecting certain poisons after death. He understood it had been stated that prussic acid could not be detected after 14 days, that strychnine could only be detected a few hours after death, and that cocculus indicus could not be discovered at all. Now, he had himself, in a case which had been published, detected prussic acid in a human body which had been buried two months; he had discovered cocculus indicus in beer, in dead fishes, and in a human body exhumed after ten months; and with regard to strychnine, his belief was that he should be able to discover its presence as long