

All we need observe is that in Lord Dufferin's opinion Parliament can do nothing whatever for Ireland over and above what nature and the course of spontaneous change is doing for her, unless Parliament will establish a registry for all improvements done by Irish tenant farmers, small as well as great, and lend any amount of money that may be found necessary for the redemption of these improvements, and the protection of the landlord from the growth of overwhelming claims. When nothing whatever can be done without two such creations of law we must conclude that Lord Dufferin is not very hopeful, and that he sees little help but that things must take their present course, and the stream of emigration flow on as it has done. What then, is the practical conclusion to which we find ourselves driven by this new and able authority? It is that there is inevitably, no law for Ireland except that which we all know is the law of England and Scotland—the law of material interest, and personal freedom—to pursue it as each man can do best for himself in a way of his own. It is the law of life in England, and it is only the numerical aggregate of a particular class exposed to a common uniformity of trials that makes the result rather formidable in Ireland. What is that result? It is that several hundred thousand persons, now supposed to be either struggling on with very small farms or banking after something they can call their own, but it ever so small, had better go elsewhere. Emigration is the remedy. There is not room in Ireland, upon any system whatever, not even if all the estates were cut into smaller ones. It would only be the worse for those who did not get a share, while those who did would find themselves no better off than they are now.

All this is good political economy, but it scarcely does not compromise all the problems of politics or of human existence. Let us see what what is involved in the apparently inevitable conclusion.—There is the agricultural population of the island to be reduced by a million or two. We may desire and even hope to see that number find other employment in Ireland, to which cheapness of labour ought to attract enterprises; but in effect they will go on swarming the population of this metropolis and the large manufacturing towns of England and Scotland, or find a probably more congenial home in the United States. Such a result, however beneficial to the persons most concerned, the emigrants themselves, set bears several aspects to which we cannot be blind, and which it is best to note. Should we happen to want more men for the army, there will be fewer from Ireland; and even our great works in this country, whether public or commercial, will feel that lack in the great reservoir of unskilled labour. A race which for centuries has contributed to the power of our national feelings, besides other distinctive and honourable qualities, is to be greatly attenuated, pruned, and tamed down. This may satisfy the Economist, and there may be really no help for it, but it will excite a few qualms in the mind of the Statesman. He will not deny to any landowner the full right to deal with his land and his tenants on some commercial principle. He may even be glad to know that a fair proportion of the peasantry are leaving emigration at home for competence abroad; but he will not consider it his mission to proclaim to Irishmen the duty of leaving their country and their allegiance for that of foreigners and rivals. Nor will he wish to see Ireland so greatly changed in his time but that he may still call it Ireland. It is his duty to improve, but so that there shall be a growth and a progress, and not a transformation. Lord Dufferin says he has been criticized, and that even the large space he has occupied in our columns has not been sufficient for the qualifications he would wish to have introduced. This is to admit that his philosophy must be diluted and sweetened for ordinary palates.—London Times.

To the Editor of the London Times.

Sir,—As one deeply interested in those Irish questions which Lord Dufferin has ably discussed in his recent letters in your paper, I am anxious to put in a word of protest against the conclusion so implicitly to be drawn from them, though not intended by the patriotic writer, that Parliament can do little or nothing for Ireland in the way of remedial legislation—that we can only put down Fenianism and keep the peace. Some of the remedies for Irish evils which have been prescribed in the course of the autumn are calculated to lead most men's minds to the same result. If there be no legislative cure for Ireland, they will say, except 'sixty of tenure' or 'peasants' proprietors,' then those things, being impracticable, there is nothing for it but to keep the peace (by means of the Suspension Act or otherwise), and trust to time and emigration for the solution of the problem. But I deny that we are reduced to this dilemma; nor can I well conceive a greater misfortune than the growth of such an idea in the minds of English politicians, and in the English Press. It would be a melancholy, almost a hopeless result of all our discussions, our experience and our shyness during the period of Fenianism and suspended *habeas corpus*, if our statesmen and public writers could be induced to treat for the Irish nation, but—*laissez faire*. And yet there are signs and tokens here and there as though this doctrine—most importunate and dangerous as applied to Ireland—were making way in this country, and as though Lord Dufferin were taken to be an Irish authority in its favour. I am therefore anxious to call the attention of your readers to his last letter, in which though less hopeful than I am disposed to be as to the effects of better laws, and perhaps more contented than I am with the Irish land system as it is, he declares himself in favour of the Lynd Bill of the late Government, offering certain suggestions upon it which well deserve attention. I will not occupy your space with any discussion of the merits of that measure, which, especially at the present moment, may better be reserved for Parliament. I will only express my own conviction that some such legislation is urgently called for, and well calculated to give increased confidence and contentment to the tenant farmers of Ireland. This is also to be remembered, the opinion of those politicians who have long been the special advocates of the tenant, and whose good sense and moderation in supporting such a settlement of the question as the late Government proposed is of happy omen for the future. One of their number is, unhappily, lost to the cause, the late Mr. Dillon, whose single-minded and conciliatory nature made him a most valuable link between the 'tenant right' party and the rest of the House. But there are able men among his colleagues who have shown no signs of being directed by any impossible plans from the endeavour which they heartily took in last year to effect substantial and practicable reforms in the relations of landlord and tenant, and to reconcile the law as to tenants' improvements with public policy and the equity of the case. I am convinced, also, that many of the most enlightened landlords and land agents in Ireland are coming to the same conclusion, and are more and more disposed to meet the advocates of the tenants' half way.

Until the land, and, I may add, the Church, questions are effectually dealt with, we cannot hope to cut off the sources of agitation in Ireland, and we need not expect, I think we need not desire the stoppage of political agitation. Rest and quietness are good, but there is a peace which is no peace.—Political agitation may be a safety valve; it may be a token of health and hope. I believe it to be so at the present moment in Ireland. Political apathy may be a sign of perplexity or despair. I believe it has been so for some years in that country, a time during which too many minds were turning, madly and mischievously, from Westminster to New York. I trust that a Reformed Parliament will make good use of the lessons of Fenianism, and resolve to heal the social divisions, the heartburnings, the restlessness which make Fenianism formidable or possible. I know that some believe Irish disaffection to be incurable by any efforts which Parliament can make.

That was the view maintained by Lord Dufferin when answering Lord Grey's valuable and statesmanlike speech last year. It is a view from which I totally dissent; and, while I am sure that I shall have the pleasure of agreeing, for the most part, with a distinguished countryman and friend as to the measures of reform necessary for Ireland, I regret his adoption of a line of argument which fails, I think, to recognize the deep and pervading connexion between bad laws and unjust institutions on the one hand, and hatred of the law and political disaffection on the other, and so cut off the most powerful motive which powerful motives which can drive Governments and Parliaments into the road of effective reform. In the same way I feel that his countrymen have reason to thank Lord Dufferin for securing so much public attention to a great Irish question, which he has rendered attractive to your columns. But I hope he will forgive me if I feel and express some anxiety lest from his manner of treating it he should be imagined to preach that doctrine of 'let well, or ill, alone,' which in this crisis of Irish affairs I venture earnestly to deprecate.

Your obedient servant,
G. F. FORTESCUE.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN IRELAND.—We are very glad to be in a position to confirm the announcement that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will for a portion of the year take up his residence in Ireland. Though this has been determined upon the details connected with the event have not as yet been entirely decided upon.—*Courier Circular*.

An inquest was held at 10, Middle Gardner street, on the body of Mrs. J. Scott, a young married lady, who killed herself yesterday morning by falling from her bedroom window, on the third floor, into the street area. She had previously attempted to poison herself with laudanum, to avoid singing at an amateur concert. Dr. Beatty deposed that she was of unsound mind. Verdict accordingly.

There is an old incident with theatrical matters to record, if you have not already heard of it. Barry Sullivan was seized in Dublin the other day as a Peznan. He was awake while in bed by a loud rapping. He was staying at Morrison's Hotel, and on opening the door two detectives burst in. He referred them to his name and pursuits, offered to decline them any passage in Shakespeare when he had retired himself. The gentlemen were incredulous; that might be his assumed name, but it did not follow that he was Barry Sullivan. Luckily he had provided himself in retreat with a license to carry arms—presumably this permit is necessary. Orbellio or Lertes, but not for the air-drawn dagger of Macbeth surely—and this was the weapon, as it was signed by justice of the peace. So the actor was allowed to get into bed again; the whole thing supplying a capital incident for a farce.—*Gen. of the London Express*.

The *Cork Examiner* understands that the attention of the House of Commons will at the earliest opportunity be called to the case of the sixteen persons recently committed at Dungarvan for a riot at Cappagh, in connection with the Waterford election. The extraordinary decision of the magistrates regarding eight of the accused, who had been previously a former bench for the very offence for which they have now been committed, will probably form the subject of inquiry in the Court of Queen's Bench.

It is probable that a suit will soon come before the Irish courts affecting the present holder of an Irish baronetcy of the seventeenth century, whose legitimacy will be disputed, on the ground that his father and mother were not lawfully married. The family is one that has been Catholic for centuries, and is respectable as having among its ancestors the first Catholic gentleman of station who joined the cause of the Prince of Orange, and was authorized to raise a troop of horse in its support. The late baronet, in 1813, in the lifetime of his father, was elected for an Irish borough, and entered Parliament taking the oaths then intended to secure the exclusion of Catholics. He soon after married a Catholic lady according to the rites of that Church, and had issue the present baronet, whose legitimacy is denied. This lady dying, he married again, and this time as a Protestant. The son of the second marriage claims the baronetcy on the ground that his father did act within a year of the first marriage amounting to a profession of Protestantism, and that, consequently under the Marriage Act of George III. that marriage was illegal as celebrated by a priest between a Protestant and a Catholic, and null and void.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

PROGRESS OF EASTCAST, IRELAND.—The rapid advance of Belfast to the first rank in manufacturing and commercial greatness, is strikingly illustrated by the immense extent to which the transactions of some of our private firms has attained. Take, for instance, the eminent house of Dunville & Co. (the largest holders of whiskey in the world), the magnitude of whose business may be imagined, and the colossal capital required to conduct it, by the fact disclosed in the last annual excise returns—namely, that the duty on spirits alone paid directly by this great concern amounted to no less than £148,757 10s. 7d., being considerably in excess of what any of the first London houses paid. Now, if to this sum was added the duty paid by their customers on the vast quantity of spirits sold during the year in bond, it would increase the amount to a total absolutely enormous, and which, at no remote period of our commercial history, would have been considered quite infeasible.—*Dumey of Ulster*.

Deputations from the committee of the conference of Irish railway directors, and from the Mansion-house and the corporate bodies of Ireland waited on his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant at the Castle yesterday, for the purpose of presenting memorials to him on the subject of Irish railway reform. The deputation of railway directors was received by his Excellency in the Presence Chamber. The Lord Mayor, after some introductory remarks, read the memorial, from which I quote the following:—

'It appears that the capital in Irish railways on the 31st of December, 1865, was 26,395,100l., and the net receipts, after payment of the working expenses, 927,147l., or at the rate of 3l. 10s. per cent. The working expenses might be materially reduced by amalgamation, and a large reduction might be made in the rates and fares with as fair a prospect of repayment as in Belgium. They desire particularly to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Imperial Government has sanctioned important encouragement for the construction of railways in India and Canada, and they respectfully submit that the peculiar disadvantages which Ireland has had to contend against, and from the effects of which she is still suffering, entitle her to as much consideration for the development of her resources as has been shown for the distant portions of the empire. In conclusion, your memorialists most respectfully urge on your Excellency that the severe losses which Ireland has sustained by the famine, the slow adaptation of agriculture to the altered condition of the country; the absence of mineral wealth and of extensive manufactures, and the smaller means of the people, entitle her to governmental consideration. They earnestly trust that your Lordship will recommend the Government your represent to introduce measures into Parliament for the purchase of the Irish railways, and by thus promoting its improvement, strengthen the ties which unite the separate but component parts of this great empire.'

GREAT BRITAIN.

GROWTH OF CATHOLICITY IN ENGLAND.—At a Protestant meeting in Humley, Stafford, lately, the Rev. W. Clementson, M.A., stated that in London there were double the number of Roman Catholics there were in Rome itself; in Liverpool there were from 80,000 to 100,000; in Manchester from 70,000 to 80,000, while in other large towns the numbers were proportionate. He said there were now in Great

Britain 1,019 Catholic chapels and stations, 1,388 priests, 163 nuncios, and 53 monasteries; that the increase since 1829 had been 570 chapels, 911 priests, 50 monasteries, 182 convents, and 13 colleges; and the increase since 1850 being 299 chapels, 416 priests, 100 nuncios, and 33 monasteries.

Several of Mr. Bright's political friends have written to him, begging him to explain the sentence in his speech at Rochdale, where, after speaking of the mutiny in India, he hinted that a great event might break out in England before long. As he also declared that the people might expect nothing from the present government, he is constructed to have wished to foreshadow a revolution in Great Britain. Several Tory members intend to ask explanations in Parliament on the subject, unless the awkward sentence be explained away.

OPINIONS OF THE BRITISH PRESS ON THE REFORM RESOLUTIONS OF MR. DISRAELI.—The *Times* condemns the Ministerial plan. It says:—'The House must take the Ministry at their word, and mould the resolutions so as to meet the requirements of the case.' and so the session of 1867 may not be wasted, and the work of reform may be accomplished.

The *Daily News* concludes that the Government is resolved to retain office, and Mr. Reform take its chance. The Ministry got into office on the Reform question, but they are resolved nobody else shall.—Their policy is that of evasion and delay.

The *Post* thinks that the Ministry, charged with a difficult work, should be allowed to go about it in their own way, even though that way seems roundabout. But it doubts whether their plan is not open to the objection that it has no plan whatever.

The *Star* says the country will receive Mr. Disraeli's abortive efforts with contemptuous disappointment. The nation will be indignant that its leader, Mr. Gladstone was obliged to face a ministerial announcement so devoid of dignity, so insulting to the common sense of the people. The Ministry is likely to become as great a by-word in England as in America. It seems there is nothing too paltry for a patriotic government to attempt.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that Disraeli's course surprises every one but the members of the Ministry. To the Opposition it was a surprise and a satisfaction. It adds: 'We believe some of the subordinate members of the Cabinet will resign. Indeed there was a rumor last night that one or more resignations had already been sent in.'

FENIANS IN LONDON.—Yesterday forenoon one of the Leeds borough police apprehended a young man who said his name was Thomas Fenian, and that he had been in white Hart yard, Brigsteed, in that town with a bundle in his possession, which he said he had said was wearing apparel, but which was found to contain twenty-four packages of ball cartridges, greased and ready for use. On being apprehended and taken before the magistrates, Fenian said that he had received the parcel from a gentleman in the carriage, about one hundred and forty in number, was wrapped in pieces of old newspapers, and it is believed that they are the property of some abettors of the Fenian movement. The man was remanded for a week.—*London Times*, Feb. 26.

Queer Castle was not actually attacked, but it was seriously threatened, and the inhabitants of the city were in the greatest anxiety. It was, indeed, a strange picture of consternation which Monday's telegrams presented, and one which suggested singular reminiscences. The old border city, which in its time has witnessed many a struggle, and has played an important part in many a civil struggle, was suddenly startled with the apprehensions that a scene from its former history was about to be repeated. Hundreds of strangers poured into it with an ominous air of mystery, and dispersed stealthily through its quiet streets. The magistrates, the volunteers, the soldiers, and all the guardians of the peace that could be enrolled were preparing, as it is said, to watch all night, and were on the alert for a sudden attack.

From the statements made last night in the two Houses of Parliament, as well as from our correspondence, we possess to day a sufficiently clear knowledge of what occurred; and it is plain that the danger had been in no degree exaggerated. Notwithstanding some idle expressions in incredulity let fall in the House of Commons last night, it is impossible to doubt that the attempt was due to a deliberate conspiracy of the Fenians. The chief police officers both of Liverpool and Chester appear to have received conclusive information on this point for the invaders were not without the general Fenian characteristic of having a traitor in their camp. Our correspondent adds some significant pieces of circumstantial evidence; and the mere look of some of the strangers was sufficient to indicate their character, if not their purpose. We must certainly give the Fenians credit for having formed a bold plan, and for having put it into execution with considerable promptitude. If it had not been for the inevitable traitor there is too much reason to fear they would have had at least a partial success. They began to arrive from different quarters, but principally from Liverpool, about two o'clock on Monday morning, and before daybreak several hundred of them were in Chester. At this moment the castle was protected by a single company of the Fifty-fourth regiment. The Fenians seem to have entertained a belief that this regiment would not offer them a very strenuous resistance. But, however staunch the troops might have been, it is probable their number would have been quite insufficient to resist an attack by two or three hundred men in a place almost indefensible, and if the first arrivals from Liverpool had marched promptly upon the castle they would scarcely have failed to obtain possession of it. In that case they would, according to our correspondent, have secured 9,000 stand of arms, 4,000 swords, 900,000 rounds of ammunition, besides powder in bulk and the arms of the militia.

Still the Fenians showed no signs of dispersing, and the mayor was obliged to send to London a still more urgent request for troops. To this at ten o'clock on Monday night, Mr. Walpole resolved to accede. The first battalion of Scots Fusilier Guards was summoned at half-past one, was ready to march at two, and left Easton square station at forty-five minutes past two. At a quarter to eleven yesterday morning they reached Chester. Before they had arrived, however, the strangers had begun rapidly to disperse, and before evening they had disappeared. By an examination of the railway tickets it seems that between 1,300 and 1,400 had arrived by train, and it is worthy of notice that they all dispersed, chiefly towards Birkhead, on foot.—*London Times*.

The proposal of the Recruiting Commission to make the recruiting of the army a distinct department, with an officer of rank at the head of it who would give his exclusive attention to the subject, has been objected to by the Horse Guards. The military authorities, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, think the business should continue to be under the Adjutant-General's department. It is because the Deputy Adjutant-General has no work to do, and Whitehall is teaching Pall Mall in economy? We shall be curious to learn the reason why a proposal thus condemned which was unanimously recommended by the Commissioners, and indeed we believe by the witnesses examined them on the subject; but no doubt there are reasons for the objections which we do not know.

The Government have withdrawn their resolutions on Reform, and promise to lay before Parliament a regular reform bill. The bill for the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America, has passed the House of Lords.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The privilege of the writ of *Habeas Corpus* in Ireland has been suspended for three months longer. Earl Russell censures the American Government for pleading for the Fenians.

MR. KAVANAGH.—The new member for the county of Wexford, concerning whose first appearance in Parliament much curiosity had been excited, was sworn in on Wednesday at the table, and signed the Parliamentary Roll. The hon. member entered the House from the direction of the speaker's private apartments, seated in a library chair, the mechanism of which is so contrived that he can wheel himself with ease to any point he wishes to reach. The large copy of the Testament used in administering the oath to members was managed—one cannot use the word handled—by Mr. Kavanagh without the least difficulty, and he wrote his name with as much quickness and apparent ease as any of the others.—The clerk handed to Mr. Kavanagh a pen with a handle of the length to which he is accustomed. The hon. member clasped the handle between what represents his arms, and, steadying it by putting the end into his mouth, guided the pen over the parchment with singular fluency and steadiness. This ceremony ended, he was introduced to the Speaker, and then apparently quitted the House. The proceedings, however, terminating soon afterwards, Mr. Kavanagh reappeared when the majority of members had left, and, accompanied by one or two friends, proceeded to familiarise himself with the internal arrangements of the building, as regards the distribution of seats, lobbies for voting, &c. At one moment, his friends having talked on a little in advance, Mr. Kavanagh showed of what exertion he was capable by propelling his chair with such velocity as speedily to overtake them.—*Times*.

The army estimates are nearly completed; and we (*Army and Navy Gazette*) believe we may assure officers now serving that they are safe from further reductions or disturbance for a year at all events.—The changes in numbers will be very trifling, and of a character not to affect the commissioned ranks.—A considerable amount of financial reduction has been effected under the head of warlike stores, a result which is rather matter for surprise, considering how much had been already lopped off this item, and also bearing in mind that the amount of the new forces must be provided for before long.

The Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, gave a lecture in Dumfries last month, on 'The good old times.' We extract the following passage:—

'Men did as wonderful intellectual feats 2,000 and 3,000 years ago as are done in the present time. It is to be feared that man was only an improved gibbon; we do not find that he allowed a greater resemblance to it than that now; for his own part, he believed there were more monkeys now than then, and the gorilla might not so much represent the race from which we sprang as the destiny to which we are hastening. Abraham is believed to be a thoroughbred gentleman many in the nineteenth century; Jacob as good a man of business as they would find on the Liverpool Exchange; while Joseph was a statesman, and Moses a legislator, with a great deal more in their time than our lords, courtiers, and terms could put together.

'We think we do all things on a grand scale, and a country will boast that the largest theatre in London will hold four thousand people; thirty thousand would have scarcely filled the Colosseum at Rome; St. George's Hall, Liverpool, is justly regarded as a magnificent building, but it was only a reproduction of a very little bit of the baths of Diocletian, which were nearly a quarter of a mile square, the whole of the ancient times should visit the earth, they would be very much astonished. He had no doubt they would, but he would to very sorry if they did in case they only laughed at us. Possibly, our grandfathers who lived in that stupor of all centuries, the eighteenth, would be astonished, but not the men of two thousand years ago.

'We thought we had made great progress in military science, but believed we were at a disadvantage compared with the ancients. In Rome alone there were 800,000 public baths, and it never had more than half the population of London. They had hot, cold and vapor baths, and something like our Turkish baths; and what was better still, the people constantly used them. We boasted of our civil engineering, but it was questionable if it had advanced much since the time when the Romans built their aqueducts, which were carried over valleys supported on thousands of arches, or tunneled for miles through the solid rock, while the greatest scientific skill was required to give the supply a proper grade.

'There was a great deal of talk about that wonderful triumph of genius, bringing the water of Loch Katrine to Glasgow, but the quantity of water delivered to every inhabitant of Rome was ten times the water supplied to London. An abundant supply of water was a special characteristic of ancient cities. We often read of the inhabitants of a besieged city suffering from hunger, but rarely, if ever, from thirst. And there was no overcrowding. Ninewah contained 600,000 inhabitants, but the population of London was, for its area, five times as dense as that of Ninewah. The ancients did not allow the dew to be buried within the walls of their cities—a practice only beginning to be abolished with us. In point of cleanliness, also, they were more careful than we are. He also read the other day of some people taking cholera from washing the clothes of persons who had died from that malady. According to the Mosaic law these clothes should have been buried. Moses would not allow people to live in houses that were uncleanly, but it was no use turning the people out and allowing the house to stand; he knew people would live in it if it remained, and so he said:—'Down with every stick and stone of it.'

'In the matter of sewerage, the Romans were superior to us. The city was built on arches for the purpose of complete sewerage, and there yet remains a sewer in Rome so wide that a cart loaded with hay might pass through it. Excellent and well contrived drains had been discovered in Nineveh and other towns. The refuse of the cities was burned in the open plains. The hard-woods of three thousand years ago produced cloth of as fine quality, in point of texture, color and style, as we can produce; and the Hindus, and some of the Africans, knew the process of manufacturing iron and steel, which led them to look with contempt, and to reject as rotten the specimens of those metals which we sent them. In all these points the past compared favorably with the present.

No doubt the present had its achievements. It has the printing press and railroads, telegraphic and extensive manufactures. He believed that its superiority consisted more in the greater power of production, and in the wider diffusion of wealth and knowledge than obtained in the past, rather than in the intrinsic excellence, or beauty, or brilliancy, or depth of what it did or achieved.'

THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT.—At the evening sitting of the House of Peers the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech was moved by Earl Beauchamp and seconded by Lord Delamere.—Earl Russell commented on but four copies of the Speech—the late war, in reference to which he expressed a fear that the spirit of aggression which of late years had animated some of the European Powers, especially Prussia, might lead to future calamity—the pending questions between the United States and this country arising out of the civil war—the question of Reform, and the condition of Ireland. With respect to Reform, he would be glad to support the bill proposed in Her Majesty's Speech if it were a good one. He hoped that when Parliament had got rid of the question of Reform, it would turn its attention to measures for the amelioration of the condition of Ireland.

UNITED STATES.

CATHOLICITY IN THE WEST.—A correspondent of the *Baltimore Mirror*, writing from Des Moines, Iowa, says:—'Being lately a sojourner in Des Moines, Iowa, where I had some business engagements, I had the

good fortune of attending 'a mission' given there by Rev. Fathers Smarius and Boudreau, S.J. of Chicago, and so great was the satisfaction I enjoyed and the pleasure I derived from hearing the lectures delivered on the occasion, that I feel fully compensated for my journey Westward. I have never heard a clearer or more impressive exposition of Catholic doctrine than from Father Smarius, while giving his reasons for the faith that is in him. He reasons so closely, and logically, and his arguments are so tempered with the *Sauveteur in modo, fortiter in re*, that he cannot fail to bring conviction to every unprejudiced inquiring mind. The most satisfactory results have attended the labor, and the earnestness of these fathers in their efforts to teach their hearers a knowledge of who they are, and whose they are, and what the end of their creation. While 'the mission' lasted, the other churches, fearing for their flocks, held prayer meetings against 'these Jesuits.' But the Protestants of all denominations who have been taught to hear, and read, and judge for themselves, had their curiosity excited, and attended in great numbers, so that the Catholic church, which is the largest, as well as the best finished in the city, was crowded every evening. To the Very Rev. Father Dr. Zell, who is pastor, is due the credit of building this fine church, and supplying it with all the appliances necessary for the decency of divine worship in the most complete and splendid order, so as to bear comparison with our most finished and well appointed Eastern churches. And to his zeal and efficiency in providing for the spiritual welfare of his people was owing the acknowledgment of the missionary fathers that 'they never visited a congregation less in need of a mission.' Thirteen hundred approached the sacraments. Seven Protestants were received into the Church; and others have been so shaken in their long cherished opinions on matters of faith as to feel a tendency in the same direction, and have placed themselves under instruction.

The New Bedford *Mercury* records the fact that a chicken thief in the House of Correction has experienced religion.

New York, Feb. 27.—It is reported that a Mexican embassy has arrived here from Ireland, and reports to the Brotherhood that the English statements that the rebellion has ended are false. The organization is stronger than ever. The soldiers are under the immediate drill of 400 officers who served in this country during the rebellion. As to defection among the British troops, it is understood they will march wherever ordered, but when they come to fire, they will know what to do. An American officer has enlisted 8,000 British soldiers since Christmas.

The *Duffin Reviewer* last summer was a violent supporter of the Fenians in their execrable designs against the people of this province, but since then he has had a change in his views, which is now to be seen in a recent issue. Noticing a statement in the *New York Herald*, that the Roberts Fenians were preparing for another raid into Canada, he writes upon the United States government to indicate an early day what its policy shall be in regard to the matter. With a returning sense of justice and honor to Canada.—'The authorities of the United States cannot afford to remain silent and give tacit consent now to these threatened raids, and when they are attempted with arms and ammunition purchased from government arsenals and stores, interposed its power as it did in June last to prevent that which it is, to some extent, given countenance and encouragement, and thus augment a difficulty that, unless it desires its success should be promptly prevented. A sudden and impulsive raid might occur without attaching responsibility to our government, but where three months notice is given, in a widely circulated journal, it cannot plead ignorance, or escape the responsibility of a movement so long threatened.'

A stout-hearted old Virginia Sheriff was charged, once upon a time with the duty of getting a jury together, in a wild, western district, the inhabitants of which were notoriously disinclined to the pleasures of litigation. The Court had been forced to adjourn many times, from day to day, because the Sheriff as often came in and reported an incomplete panel.—Finally things came to a crisis. When that day arrived, the enthusiastic Sheriff rushed into the Court Room and exclaimed, 'It's all right, your honor! We'll have the jury by twelve o'clock. I've got eleven locked up in a barn, and we are running the twelfth with dogs!'

AS HERESY IN ENGLAND.—It is said that a manifest against 'Ritualism' in the Episcopal church in the States is about to be given to the public, signed by a number of the Bishops. The names of Bishop Potter, of New York, Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, and Bishop Doane, of New Jersey, it is said, are not among the signers. It will not be according to precedent, if this manifesto should not draw out another from the opposite side not endorsing the ritualistic revival, it may be—but (in the spirit of Bishop Potter's recent Trinity Church sermon) counselling moderation on both sides and all sides, with the warning to the church against running into extremes on any thing.

Churches in New York are being put to strange uses in consequence of the progress of business. One church has become a stable, another a theatre, another a masonic hall. In the meantime, while mechanics and masons are hurrying up their work the pastors without churches hold services in the most suitable halls they can find. Cooper Institute, the colleges and several of the schools have occupants. One denomination has settled for the winter in a large room on Bleecker street, the ground floor being occupied as a liquor saloon, aptly illustrating the epigram of Dean Swift in a similar case:—

'There's a spirit above and a spirit below
A spirit of love, and a spirit of war;
The spirit above is the spirit divine,
The spirit below is the spirit of wine.'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—John H. Serratt, was today arraigned before the bar of the Original Court of this district. The fact that he would be brought before that tribunal so early, was not generally known, and the crowd in attendance was not uncommonly large. The prisoner was brought out from the jail and placed at the bar by Marshal Gading.—His Zouave uniform had been removed, and his person attired in a suit of black when brought into court. His hands were in irons, and by request of his counsel, the judge ordered them to be removed. When the handcuffs were removed, and the indictment read to him by the clerk of the Court at the close, Serratt opened a plea of not guilty. The clerk then asked how he would be tried? To which the response was made, by my countrymen, when the officer addressed him: May God send you a safe deliverance. The handcuffs were replaced, and the prisoner remanded to jail. No excitement was manifested during Serratt's presence in the courtroom. No day has been fixed for Serratt's trial.

EXPATRIATED IRISH CANADIANS.—A gentleman who recently visited Buffalo, during his stay in that city, had some conversation with the celebrated James McCarroll, popularly known as 'Perry Finnegan,' and Mike Murphy, the former President of the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Toronto, and now a saloon keeper in Buffalo. Terry Finnegan strenuously denies having written the 'blood and thunder' articles attributed to his pen. He is not the editor of the *Fenian Volunteer* as generally supposed, but merely a subordinate writer, and has no control of the course pursued by that paper. Mike Murphy is apparently doing a thriving trade in the saloon business. Our informant conversed with him on Fenian prospects and expresses himself as surprised at his moderation. Mike goes for the peaceful annexation of Canada to Uncle Sam's dominions, and thinks we have not yet seen the last of the Fenian trouble.