

PUBLIC MEETINGS.—THE IRISH EXILES.—A meeting was held at Wexford pursuant to requisition to the worthy mayor, on Monday to adopt a petition to her Majesty to use her royal prerogative and grant a free pardon to William Smith O'Brien, Thomas Francis Meagher, and such other of our countrymen as are under sentence of transportation for the same political offences.

A NEW PEERAGE.—Mr. Chichester Fortescue, who was, during the last session, so convenient and useful a supporter of Lord John Russell, has just got a reward for his services in the shape of an Irish peerage for his brother Mr. Thomas Fortescue, of Ravensdale, who becomes Lord Claremont, in virtue of the well-directed votes of the electors of Louth. —*Freeman*.

PEACEABLE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—The *Evening Post* says: "The tranquillity of the country generally affords a remarkable contrast with the state of the northern districts, and the county of Cork, in particular, appears to be altogether free from agrarian crime. In addressing the quarter sessions grand jury, at Skibbereen, a few days since, the assistant-barrister, Mr. Moody, made the following remarks:—'The calendar laid before me presents a most favorable aspect of the peaceable and orderly condition of your part of the county. The number of criminal cases, trivial in themselves, and unprecedentedly small, is the strongest proof of the moral and good character of its inhabitants.' In Limerick, the assistant-barrister, Mr. Tighe, was enabled to offer similar congratulations to the quarter sessions grand jury; and the magistrates of that county, at a meeting on Saturday last, unanimously adopted a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, praying for a further reduction of the police force, in consequence of the tranquillity of the district. In Kerry, also, in consequence of the great decrease of crime, the magistrates have applied for a diminution of the police. The extremely tranquil state of Connaught forms a prominent feature in the addresses of the assistant-barristers, even in those districts where the population had been so recently afflicted by famine. At Galway quarter sessions, last week, Mr. Freeman, in his charge to the grand jury, referred to the greatly improved condition of the district, as evidenced in the marked diminution of crime. He felt pleasure, also, in congratulating the grand jury upon the total absence of everything in the shape of conspiracy or combination against life or property in this county. On the contrary, the utmost security prevailed. In Roscommon it had become necessary some time since, in consequence of agrarian outrage, to place an extra force of constabulary in that county. The magistrates and cesspayers, at a recent presentment sessions, influenced by the tranquillity universally prevailing, adopted a memorial to the executive, praying that the entire of this force might be withdrawn. The Inspector-General, Sir Duncan McGregor, in a communication addressed to the secretary of the grand jury, announces that the Lord Lieutenant had directed that one hundred men of the extra force shall be removed as soon as the local arrangements for a diminution to that effect can be carried out."

A portion of the Blessington estates in Tyrone, lately purchased by Mr. Todd, of Dublin, was divided into large farms, and let to farmers at a rent which, according to the common rates of rent in the neighborhood, was not deemed excessively high. One of these farms was let to a Scotchman, who was to be a model in the neighborhood; the remaining farms were let to Irishmen. And now, after a three years' trial, the Irishmen still continue to hold their farms, and struggle to pay their rents, while the model Scotchman, under the pressure of an ejectment process, and some £100 arrears, makes his exit from the plains of Mountjoy Forest.

THE CAFFRE WAR.—A large French vessel is now at Queenstown, taking in powder (200 tons, it is said) for, if rumor be correct, the Kaffirs! Her Custom-house "clearance" is "Coast of Africa," and she has on board, we understand, 5,000 long-range muskets, to be employed in giving effect to the powder. This is the statement—we cannot, of course, guarantee it; but it is very generally believed, and the fact is pointed to as one of the "advantages" we derive from the repeal of the navigation laws. Notwithstanding, however, the benefit conferred on foreigners by our "liberal" legislation, might not this vessel be seized in the harbor if her cargo could be proved to be for the purpose to which we have alluded? Yet where could be the use? Powder the Kaffirs will get, and might we not as well have the profit on its manufacture? Previous to the war they obtained rather large supplies of it from this; and we doubt not that it is with it, and with those capital "long ranges" with which it is Britain's misfortune to find even the most uncivilized of her foes ready to overmatch her miserable muskets, they have been picking down our officers and troops. —*Cork Constitution*.

STORM IN THE NORTH.—The *Belfast Mercury* says:—Belfast and neighborhood were visited by a very heavy gale on Thursday evening, which continued till late yesterday morning; and throughout the day there was a smart breeze. The wind had been blowing from the south, but veered round to N.E. Snow, to a considerable extent, fell during the night. We have not heard of any damage done to the town beyond partial stripping of slates. We learn that, through the high tides in Lough Foyle and the gale, considerable damage has been done to the works of the Londonderry and Coleraine Railway, inasmuch as that portion of the line which had been made from Longfields to Ballykelly has been almost entirely washed away. Between the above-mentioned places about 1,600 acres of sloe land had been reclaimed, and a good deal of it was under wheat; but an embankment yielding to the pressure of the water, the entire ground has been over-spilled. A good many farm-houses were erected on it, and some cattle were also lost. The damage thus caused will tend much to retard the progress of the railway. A vessel, of the rig called dandy, named the Mary, belonging to Ipswich, and bound from Exeter to Glasgow, went on shore on Friday night near Bangor, county Down, and became a total wreck. Her crew, three in number, were saved; a rope having been thrown on board from the shore, by means of which they were dragged through the boiling surf, and with much difficulty placed in safety on the rocks.

It has been decided by many of the leading guardians of the different unions of Ireland, that a meeting of the guardians be convened for Friday, the 30th inst. at the Rotundo in Dublin. This time of holding the meeting has been selected in order to apprise the Irish members, immediately before the meeting of parliament, of the strong feelings entertained by the country in reference to government consolidated annuities, and also, generally to the oppressive taxation of Ireland.

A precept has been issued for holding a special commission in the county of Monaghan, for the trial of the prisoner Kelly, now in custody for the murder of Mr. Bateson; and also for the disposal of all cases of Ribbon or agrarian character. A large panel has been summoned, principally from the Nisi Prius list. Great efforts are being made for the defence of the prisoners, and Mr. Butt, Q. C., has been retained in their behalf. —*Monaghan Standard*.

MR. BATESON'S MURDER.—The fellow who presented himself to the police as an approver, in the case of the murder of Mr. Bateson, is an impostor. It is said that he will be indicted for perjury. His object was to obtain a portion of the reward offered for the conviction of the murderers. —*Banner of Ulster*.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE IN LOUTH.—The *Newry Examiner* of Wednesday, says:—"It has become our distressing duty to record another dreadful attempt at murder, the locality of the outrage this time being that part of the county Armagh adjoining the northern extremity of the county of Louth. It appears that Meredith Chamber, Esq., J. P., of Hawthorn Lodge, was returning from the petty sessions of Forkhill this evening, he was fired at and wounded. He now lies in the house of a peasant about a mile from his residence. We are unable to state particulars at present, nor can we say whether the wound is dangerous. A number of the Dundalk police have left to scour the country."

CLEARANCE OF THE CLOGHEEN WORKHOUSE.—Charges of gross misconduct were made against certain functionaries of the Clogheen workhouse by two of the respected Catholic Curates of that parish, the Rev. Messrs. Power and Sleaden. An investigation into those charges was held some few weeks since, and the result we have just learned is, that the master has been peremptorily dismissed, the matron commanded to tender her resignation, and the wardmaster and nurse dismissed also. —*Tipperary Free Press*.

EMIGRATION.—Notwithstanding the severity of the weather the current of emigration still goes on. Not a day passes over our heads without witnessing new batches of emigrants leaving the country. Letters are every day arriving from America containing remittances from preceding emigrants, to enable their friends to proceed on the voyage. Whole parties are also preparing for the spring time, and, if we can trust to appearances, the emigration next spring will exceed anything of the kind that has yet taken place. —*Tuam Herald*.

EMBARKATION OF EMIGRANTS.—A novelty was witnessed in the Liffey on Tuesday, namely, the first of the fine steamers of the Chester and Holyhead railway that has been on this side of Kingstown, and which came to our quays for the purpose of conveying away a number of government emigrants en route for Australia. The emigrants, who belonged chiefly to a respectable class of small farmers, whom we deeply regret to see thus abandoning our country, have been taken to Holyhead by the steamer, and from thence will be conveyed by railway to Birkenhead, where they will take shipping on board that splendid new ship, the Mangerton, for their final destination. Lieut. Henry, government emigration agent and Mr. Ellis, his assistant, were present at the embarkation to see that the comforts of the emigrants were properly attended to.—Captain Reade, the commander of the ship, was also kind and active in his attention to them. Mr. Gray, the agent of the Chester and Holyhead Company, was as usual attentive to his duties on the occasion. —*Freeman*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—Not for many years has the meeting of Parliament been looked for with so much curiosity. There is, indeed, no change in that body since it last sat and talked, and no one expects anything from it of a substantial kind; the same old voices, the same old "measures," the same old speeches, the same old disappointments, are anticipated as certainly as February comes round. But since parliament last separated, important questions have been forced upon the public mind by events; and, if simply as a matter of news, they can be answered only through Parliament. The difficulty is to conceive how answers can be provided to some of the questions. For example, who are our Ministers? On what footing do they stand? What happened during the week preceding the Privy Council of the 8th inst., when there were such comings and goings at Downing Street and at Bowwood, and such assurances that the Ministry was to be strengthened by "new blood"? Where is the new blood; is there any, or not; and if not, why not? What were the reasons for the elimination of Lord Palmerston; who brought it about? Those and many similar questions will press upon Ministers with a peremptory force of curiosity; and all parties will be too much interested in the replies to be put off. The attempt to put them off would precipitate another crisis. "What is Palmerston's position—what did he do to be ejected, what is he doing, or will he do?" is an ancillary question, that the first week of the session may suffice to answer. Again, "What are the Protectionists doing, what Peel's lieutenants, what the Manchester party?" So fertile has been the recess in events, so much have the relations of party questions been altered, that the public is curious to see how the old faces will settle down in the political kaleidoscope. The Protectionists have all but given up Protection, and are the freer for something else. The Manchester men, once so accommodating, have been made to "keep their distance" by the Premier. Sir James Graham has once more been looked for in office, but he has not yet joined the present company.—Though the government is weak, we are told that it will be strong,—a strong Reform Bill, a strong Continental policy, a strong Chancery Reform Bill, and strong other things. "Credit Judmus": men mete their own measures; you never yet saw weak men able to carry strong measures, and we are not to expect that anything "strong" should be got out of the present men. But how will they manage to comply with the mere form of statesmanship—how get up even a ballet of administration?

ACHILLI V. NEWMAN.—We learn from an independent source, and not from the defendant, that the prosecutor in this cause has given notice of his intention to demur to the pleas of the defendant. The effect will be, if the demurrer be allowed, to call up the defendant for judgment without hearing the evidence.—The prosecutor admits the truth of the libel for the purpose of shutting out the defendant's proofs, and by so doing will have gained an advantage by means of technical deficiencies, if any, in the pleas, and the defendant will be punished without an opportunity of trying the cause on its merits. Dr. Achilli's solicitors are gentlemen who are employed also by the Government in Government questions. —*Tablet*.

IRISH EMIGRANTS FROM LIVERPOOL.—A return, just issued from the Government Emigration Office in this town, above the total number of emigrants who have left the United Kingdom by this port during the last year to be 206,000. Of this number no fewer than 196,851 have shipped for the United States, leaving considerably less than 10,000 to be diffused over Canada (3,839), Australia, West Indies, Cape of Good Hope, &c. Notwithstanding the inducements held out by the government only 1,800 are set down as having settled in North and South Australia collectively. It is calculated that, of the whole number of emigrants, about 200,000 are Irish. —*Liverpool Mercury*.

Neither masters nor men, so far as Manchester and its neighborhood are concerned, appear disposed to yield the points at issue between them. Deputations of employers are actively engaged in visiting other employers and urging them to join the central union. The workmen are holding meetings, and are endeavoring to set themselves right with the public. On Thursday, the 22d of Jan., they had a great aggregate meeting at Carpenters' Hall, Manchester; and another at Oldham, at which Mr. W. Newton spoke.

Mr. Macaulay, it is said, has delayed the publication of the third and fourth volumes of his "History of England" in consequence of his having obtained some new information relating to King William the Third. King William, it is asserted, figures as the chief personage in the narrative—and the greatest stress is laid on his conduct subsequently to the revolution. —*Athenaeum*.

The *Times* thus sums up the qualifications of the new commander sent out to the Cape:—"General Cathcart may fairly be assumed to be in possession of full mental vigor and bodily power. But when we come to turn to the brief abstract of his services which the *Army List* supplies, the account appears somewhat bald and unsatisfactory, with reference to his present appointment. One might naturally have expected that an officer of considerable experience in the peculiar species of warfare practised at the Cape would have been appointed to the command. The little service that General Cathcart ever witnessed—about forty years ago—was entirely involved in military operations on the largest scale. Nor does he appear throughout his brief campaigns to have acted in any other capacity than as a staff-officer. In the years 1813-14 Lieutenant Cathcart, then a very young man, acted as Aide-de-Camp to his father, Lord Cathcart, who was present with the allied armies as a kind of English Commissary. He was present at Lutten, Baulzen, Dresden, Leipsic, in 1813; and throughout the advance into France, in the early part of 1814. In 1815 Lieutenant Cathcart acted as Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Wellington, and witnessed the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo. All the military operations named were, of course, on the most gigantic scale, but what instruction could they afford in the art of bush-fighting at the Cape? We can readily conceive that some of our Indian officers might have found themselves comparatively at home in the sharp skirmishes of Southern Africa. The case seems very different with a young staff-officer of the great German campaign of 1813. We cannot but notice the appointment as a strange one, considering the magnitude of the interests involved, and the comparative disgrace to the British arms which so far has been the result of the operations."

MORAL ENGLAND.—An able writer in *Frazer's Magazine* (Jan. '52), has some well timed reflections on the appalling amount of crime which prevails at the present day in "moral" England. "Isolated instances of pure savagery," he observes, "happen in all countries, but until recently we have never known the criminal records of England to be darkened, day after day, by an appalling succession of horrors, happily of rare occurrence amongst us, and which can be accounted for only on the ground of that infatuation which great crimes are said to exercise over the imaginations of the ignorant and depraved." "Is it true that we are in that debased condition depicted so forcibly by Mr. Laing as existing in Sweden, where, with the most perfect system of education pervading all ranks, and under an exterior of the most formal decorum, with the strictest outward conformity to all the observances of church-going and religious ceremonies, the darkest depravity is practised in secret, of which such criminalities as these are only the cases that have been found out?"

There is nothing in the whole range of journalism more remarkable than the horror department of English newspapers. Either more horrors occur in England than anywhere else, or English editors are more diligent in collecting information of a horrible description than their brethren elsewhere. The following is a fair sample of the kind of matter to which we refer: "Saturday morning a man, whilst engaged in putting on a door, discovered something among the ashes, which was carefully wrapped up in paper. Removing the ashes, he took out the bundle, which became the subject of curious observation—some of the numerous by-standers, who collected in a few minutes, asserting that it was a goose, and others holding the opinion that it was a child. The bundle was removed to Mr. Levi Fox's, where a slight examination satisfied the parties that it was the body of a child, having its head and half its limbs cut off; the remains of the arms pressed close to its side; and altogether presenting an appearance very much resembling that of a goose!"

UNITED STATES.

The New York Life Insurance Company has made a dividend within the last year of forty per cent. It has made a large amount of loans notwithstanding.

Hon Henry Clay is opposed to any interference on the part of the United States in the affairs of Russia.

Kossuth is still touring through the Western cities, making speeches, feasting, and receiving "material aid." In reply to the address of the citizens of Cleveland, he went over the whole ground of intervention, in which he paid a handsome compliment to the Irish character. Too late.

Kossuth, in his speech at Columbus, Ohio, mentioned that the State of Ohio and himself had the same birth day. This was considered a remarkable coincidence in view of his hopes of the West.

Archbishop Hughes, of New York, denies all knowledge of the Mr. Wagstaff who proposes to establish a line of steamers between New York and Galway, and who, at a public meeting in the latter city, exhibited a certificate purporting to be from the Bishop, recommending Mr. Wagstaff and his enterprise to his friends in Ireland.

A bill has passed the Senate of Alabama, prohibiting the introduction of slaves for sale into that State.

"ROME TO AMERICA."—One of the late steamers has brought the news that His Holiness Pope Pius IX. has determined to send to the Washington Monument, a block of marble from the ancient Temple of Peace of Imperial Rome. The inscription, it is said, that is to be put on the block is to be: "*Rome to America*." Of all the blocks that are to be sent from east and west to compose this national monument, there is no one that can fix with equal interest the eye of the statesman or the scholar. This gift of the Father of Christendom to a nation that numbers among its citizens millions of his spiritual children, will be a theme for many a poet, and many a moralist. It is full of beauty, full of appropriateness, full of suggestive reflections. It is the gift of Rome to America from the Temple of Peace. —*New York Freeman's Journal*.

The *Telegraph* states that in Cincinnati the Catholics are now more than one-third of the entire population of that city—and of course far more numerous than any sect of Protestants. The number of marriages in the Catholic congregations during the past year, was one thousand three hundred and forty-two—births, three thousand six hundred and sixty-seven—deaths, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

THE MORMONS IN UTAH.—The United States Officers have withdrawn from the Territory of Utah, and have addressed the President in a lengthy document notifying him of the fact and the cause. The address would occupy some eight or ten of our columns, and officially confirms the many accounts of outrageous conduct amongst the Mormons. Indeed the details it gives of the lawlessness and immorality of these people is calculated to stagger the credulity of even the most credulous. Hostility to our Government appears to be universal and most bitter; its denunciation, in terms heard only amongst the most degraded blackguards, is the essence of all their sermons, speeches, and private conversations. They practise the disgusting immorality of polygamy; it being lawful according to their peculiar belief for one man to have as many wives as he is able to support. The officers accuse them of rendering the execution of their duty as United States officers impossible, and their lives unsafe whilst residing in their midst. Also that they have embezzled the public money and permitted some of their body to commit murder with impunity upon the persons of American citizens. One truly, in perusing this document would not have to tax his imagination, to believe he was reading an account of a most outrageous, God defying congregation of robbers. But it is certain the whole affair is rapidly approaching a crisis. The Government after the representations made by its officers cannot longer refrain from interfering; it will be compelled out of respect for itself, the law, and the people of the United States, that such a man as this leader of the Mormons, Brigham Young, should not be permitted under its jurisdiction to openly defy all law, human and divine. —*Pittsburg Catholic*.

"MATERIAL AID."—Among the startling developments of the week is a letter from George Law, the wealthy steamboat speculator, in which he informs the public that he has in his possession one hundred and fifty thousand muskets, several millions of ball cartridges, accompanied with full accoutrements, a large supply of infantry equipments of all kinds, and for artillery, dragons, &c. Also, cannon for sea service—that he stands ready to furnish, on reasonable terms, at the shortest notice, the fastest steamships in the world, fully equipped, and armed with cannon that will reach farther than any now in use, and manned by men that cannot be captured by any on earth. The ships shall carry 2,000 men each. An agreement will be made to deliver all the "personnel and material" of war above mentioned, at any given point, anywhere in the world. To say the least, this is rather a startling announcement, and will create some sensation in Europe. We would suggest en passant to Mr. Law, that if he intends making a descent upon Europe, or aiding in the overthrow of despotism, that Ireland would not be likely to refuse such tangible and practical "material aid" as he possesses. Two or three hundred thousand stand of arms planted in Tipperary, with a fleet of war steamers off Cork harbor, would, in our humble opinion, create a slight change in the destinies of a country that has been suffering from seven centuries of wrong. Will Mr. Law take the hint?—*N. Y. Truth Teller*.

SLAVERY ADVOCATED BY ONE OF THE VICTIMS.—On Thursday evening last, a colored man named Jones, for some years a slave at the South, gave an account of his life, at Lyceum Hall, South Boston. Supposing that of course he would speak against the peculiar institution of the South, several gentlemen who believe slavery is the greatest curse in our country, and that it should be abolished, cost what it may, came forward and assisted in paying for the expenses of the hall. Much to their surprise, however, Jones took a different view of the matter, applauding Daniel Webster for the course he has taken, and saying that the happiest part of his life was when he was a slave. Indeed, he had no objection to returning to "Old Virginia," and he thought the slaves of the South were much happier than many persons of the North. This greatly excited several of the contributors, and two or three gentlemen rose and endeavored to refute Jones. He however persevered in his statements till the close of the meeting stopped the dispute. —*Boston Paper*.

Jacksonville, Fla., was invaded on the 13th ult., by a northern snow storm, when snow fell to the depth of an inch and a half! The *News* says there is no record or tradition of such an event in the previous history of East Florida.

In the able charge to the jury in the Forrest case, Judge Oakley said: "You are called upon to decide on this case in the midst of the greatest mass of perjury, on one side or the other, that I have ever before witnessed while on the bench or at the bar."

A HARD CASE.—On Tuesday afternoon an Irish woman was brought before the Police Court (Boston) by officer B. G. Pettengill, on a charge of throwing waste water into the street. The woman is very poor and industrious, and gave as an excuse for having violated the law, that her sink drain was frozen up. She was found guilty and fined \$5 and costs. The woman wept bitterly and was, doubtless, unable to pay her fine. This is a fair specimen of the kind justice which very poor people occasionally get in the Police Court. If some lawless scamp had knocked his honor, the Justice, down in the street, he would not have had to pay a much severer fine. We do hope that Justice Rogers will read our Alms House Commissioners' report and if hereafter a poor but industrious woman is brought before him for violating a simple city ordinance, he will just take into consideration the fact that she has not been a public charge. —*Boston Herald*.

There are at present twenty-five thousand Indians in the Territory of Minnesota.