

Belgian patrol close by the frontier in the wood at Pure, some Belgian troops were hastily despatched and found a large tavern on the Belgian side of the frontier occupied by 52 French-Tirailleurs. It was surrounded, and the Belgian lieutenant entered, revolver in hand. He found them at supper, with their muskets between their legs. On his ordering them to surrender or leave the Belgian territory, they appeared inclined to resist, but finding the house surrounded, and fancying they saw in the darkness more Belgian uniforms than there really were, they agreed to depart. They had that morning pursued some Uhlan patrols, killed one, and forced the others to take refuge on Belgian soil, where they became prisoners.

Another exploit by Frances-Tirailleurs is related in a German letter. On two Uhlan companies being sent to Nemours, where they arrived in the evening, they were required for the Mayor. A suspicious looking person presented himself, whom the officer refused to recognize, and at length the real Mayor was found. On being questioned he stated positively that no hostile troops or Frances-Tirailleurs were in the place. A respectable inhabitant was detained as a hostage. The troops, consisting of two lieutenants, two sergeants, and about 60 men, quartered themselves in a large farmhouse, stationed outposts, and left horses saddled and bridled. About 1.30 a piercing cry from the sentry was heard, and from all sides, through the doors, loopholes, and windows, shot after shot fell on the sleeping Uhlans. An officer, a subaltern, and four men escaped; the fate of the others is still uncertain. The next day a detachment of the 2nd Army was sent to Nemours to punish the outrage.

#### MODERN PROGRESS.

(From the Saturday Review.)

In the current number of *Fraser's Magazine* Mr. Froude indulges in some reflections upon Progress, which are interesting in themselves and appropriate to the time in which we are living. What is Progress? Are we certain that Progress, whatever it may be, will continue indefinitely? And what are the grounds of the belief which we entertain? To two of these questions at least the demagogues of the time have an easy and satisfactory answer. They trouble themselves little as to the reasons of the faith that is in them, for reasoning is in many respects a very disagreeable and very useless process. If we can jump to a conclusion, why trouble ourselves by plodding through the dreary region which intervenes between our premises and our final inference? But of the fact itself, however it may be established, we are left in no doubt. Progress is continuous and unlimited, and is a chance from bad to good. We are better than our fathers, and our children will be better than ourselves. They will be wiser, richer, kinder, purer, more honest and more learned. War, crime, and misery will die out; the conflict between classes will cease. One man will be as good as another, and women will be as good as men. Hence follows the ordinary recipe for being in advance of one's time. Find out what way things are moving, and there can be no doubt as to the wisest policy. It is as easy to become an enlightened statesman as to produce a straight line in a given direction. Discover what a Tory thinks and what a Whig thinks, and then place yourself as much in advance of the Whig as he is in advance of the Tory.

And yet certain qualms intrude themselves upon the minds of all but the most blatant orators. Are we so clear that this mathematical formula for acquiring wisdom, this simple plan of constantly outbidding the last offer will lead to any satisfactory result? Assuming, which is rather a large assumption, that the process is right so far as it goes, we shall some day be landed at the bottom of the hill by a general abolition of everything; and what is to be done then? Our formula will fail us, and the next step is not so perfectly clear. And then certain doubts begin to assail us even as to the perfectly satisfactory nature of previous changes. We have swept away much rubbish; is it not just possible that we may have swept away some very sound materials along with it? Possibly the process of re-building the hill will have to be commenced when we are satisfactorily landed at its foot; we may have reason to regret that we did not stay quietly where we were. Mr. Froude, for example, suggests several points on which, whilst a change has unmistakably occurred, it is not plain at first sight that there has been progress. Though we differ widely from some of his conclusions, we may notice his statements as an illustration, if of nothing else, at least of the state of mind in which an intelligent man is landed by this ceaseless blowing of trumpets. What, he asks, are we to say of the agricultural laborer? Small estates, as we know, are swallowed up in great ones; if the land which used to be in common affords a larger gross income, the laborer gets none of the advantage; he is no longer able to keep his goose, his pig or his cow; and, in short, whilst a few rich men have a much greater means of enjoying luxuries, refinement, the poor have "lost the fagot on their hearths, the milk from their children, the slice of meat at their own dinners." They are more dependent than ever on their superiors; whilst their superiors, who have developed from stupid squires, into non-resident landlords of half a county, have a less intimate relation to the poor. The laborer in progress may give up the agricultural laborer, but point out that the clergy at least have improved in activity and morality since the days of Parson Trulliber, and the indolent prelates who owed their promotion to political jockeying, and left the Trullibers to disport undisturbed in their dioceses for months and years at a time. Even here Mr. Froude is sceptical as to our improvement. The clergy, he says, are divided by a wider gulf from the sympathies of their parishioners. The Establishment has less hold on the affections of the people. And one main cause is that the old faith has grown dim; the clergy have ceased really to believe in their creeds, and even "the most ardent Ritualist now knows at least that the ground is hollow under him." At any rate, the optimist will reply, education is advancing. True, says Mr. Froude, more people can read and write than formerly; but knowledge will by degrees be more widely spread; and book knowledge, as far as it goes, is a useful thing. But it remains to be seen whether it can supply the want of the more practical training received in old-fashioned days. The old English system was the apprenticeship system.—Farmers, smiths, joiners, and shoemakers parcelled out the boys of a parish, and taught them how to shift honestly for themselves. They learnt at church that they were moral and responsible beings. We now propose to put a certain polish upon the rising generation; to give them a dose of elementary knowledge, but to turn them loose upon the world to pick up such practical training in life as may happen to come in their way. They may be more knowing; but will they necessarily be honest, soberer, and more capable of making their way in a world where, now and always, five-sixths of us must depend upon steady, manual labor? At least, replies Mr. Froude's antagonist, we have much more liberty; we have upset monopolies, and are fairly on the way to universal suffrage. Mr. Froude admits the facts, but does not so readily admit their beneficial tendency. The great question is not whether we have liberty, for authority must always divide the world with liberty, but whether the rules enforced by authority are in the main just or unjust. As for universal suffrage, it means that we are to entrust the choice of our governors to the class least capable of judging of their merits. Nobody really supposes that a wide suffrage will give us a wiser Parliament. It comes to this, that we cannot trust anybody to attend to any one's interest except his

own; and it is, therefore, in substance, "a public confession of despair of human nature." Competitive examination means that we prefer to have officials chosen by a method which we all know to be inferior to the system of disinterested personal appointment, because we despair of any one ever using his power for higher motives than private or party interest. The choice of a Legislature by universal suffrage means in the same way that we have no leaders whom we can trust to do their duty; and that we would rather have incompetent rulers who are slaves to their constituents than competent rulers who would be sure to oppress them. It can hardly then be regarded as a cause for unmingled exultation.

The enormous progress of knowledge, of material wealth, and of our command over the forces of nature, is admitted and palpable. The inference that there is a corresponding progress in the morality and in the material welfare of the community at large is so natural that people do not take the trouble to inquire whether it is legitimate. Anybody who undertakes that inquiry will find himself called upon to solve many problems of extraordinary intricacy, and with constantly insufficient data. Even if we assume that experience extending over wide ranges of time proves that mankind advances on the whole, there can be no such certainty as to any particular period. There have been times of decay and disorganization as well as of rapid growth. Heights have been reached, in distant ages, which we are now unable to attain. Greek art, to mention the most obvious example, is the despair of all its modern rivals; and indeed the great periods of art recur so irregularly and are separated by such wide intervals of depression that, if it be possible to discover any law to which they conform, it is certainly not a law of uniform or continuous progress. There have been long periods during which mankind was occupied in forgetting what it formerly learnt.—There have been extensive districts in which civilization has perished from off the face of the earth.—The general presumption, therefore, whatever may be its value, will not prove without further inquiry that our own age or country is not one of the exceptional cases. We can find many symptoms of decay if we choose to look for them. The growth of masses of pauperism alongside of vast accumulations of wealth, the growth of corruption in the most advanced democratical countries, and many similar developments, are obvious grounds for moderating our enthusiasm. Some of the principal changes quoted on the other side are doubtful in fact or ambiguous in tendency. We have received a rude shock to the theory of the gradual extinction of war; and to some thinkers it seems that the substitution of gentler measures for the old rough modes of physical force indicates an obsolescence of national constitution, a preference for material comfort over motives of a more spiritual order, which renders the change of doubtful benefit.

#### IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE VERY REV. DR. PATRICK MURRAY ON THE PAPAL QUESTION.—The *Freeman's Journal* of the 30th ult. publishes a very eloquent letter from the Very Rev. Dr. Murray, of Maynooth, on this subject. His impeachment of Victor Emmanuel contains the following passage:—"The war thus waged is not only unspeakably unjust, it is manifestly and evidently so. The man who wages such a war is guilty of that horrible injustice, and he is also guilty before high heaven of the evils he foresees would accompany that injustice and spring from it. He is guilty of the innocent bloodshed at the Porta Pia, and the death of every soldier slain there is a black murder lying upon his head. Upon his head lies the guilt of the sacrilegious robbery and rapine which ensued. From the soul of his foot to the crown of his head he is a murderer and a robber. Murder and robbery are in the marrow of his bones and the blood of his veins, and unless he sincerely repents, which from my heart I wish may come to pass, they will cling to him till death, and in death, and after death, for ever and for ever. Aye, for ever and ever! And it is in this light of eternity that you, and I, and all should view this question, and every other question having a moral bearing. But there they go on, day after day, and year after year, with their embossed slang about unification and material progress and liberty—liberty which in this case, is simply the unbridled license of propagating infidelity and crime, of developing and intensifying the very worst passions of our fallen nature. They they go on, as if there were no God above, no hell below, no dread day, or judgment to come in which every deliberate thought, and word, and deed of every one of us shall be weighed in the scale of infinite justice. They they go on, as if the rest and felicity and perfection which we were created to attain were attainable in this fleeting life, of suffering, and trial, and decay."

At their meeting on the 3rd ult., the Cork Farmers' Club adopted a resolution in support of the Home Government movement.

The National Teachers' Association of the County of Cork held a meeting on Saturday, Dec. 3, to forward their claims to increased salaries and to superannuation in old age. Mr. Maguire, M.P., who was present, promised to advocate the cause of this very deserving body in his place in Parliament.

According to the returns obtained by the enumerators, the number of emigrants who left the ports of Ireland during the quarter ended 30th September last, amounted to 16,919—9,288 males and 7,631 females—being 665 more than the number who emigrated during the corresponding quarter of 1869.

THE POPULATION OF IRELAND.—The estimated population of Ireland is set down in the Registrar-General's last return at 5,516,674; of these, 2,845,511 are males, and 2,671,163 are females. In 1845 the population was 8,295,061; of which there were 4,023,043 males and 4,272,018 females. In 1861 the population was 5,516,329. So that in seventy years the increase in the population of this country was only 345 souls! Probably Earl Russell could explain "the reason why."—*Waterford Citizen*.

THE WICKLOW PEERAGE CASE.—The extraordinary Wicklow Peerage case is likely soon to come again before the public in a court of law. Shortly before the close of the last session of Parliament Mrs. Howard presented a petition to the House of Lords praying that her claim on behalf of her infant son might be revived, as circumstances have come to her knowledge that the present Earl had offered his son, Mr. O'Brien, a donation of £600 in the event of his succeeding to the title, and that various witnesses had been bribed to give evidence against her claim. It is now understood that Mrs. Howard feels herself in a position to take legal proceedings.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.P.—Some of our Protestant contemporaries have announced that Wm. Johnston, M.P., has been deprived of the position of Grand Master in the Orange Society, for disregard of the orders of his superiors. Beyond this we know not what was the nature of the quarrel, but we should be glad if we could learn that Mr. Johnston's superiors had disapproved of his firebrand speeches and his continual efforts to keep up strife and ill-will among his fellow countrymen. Some influential members of the Orange Society are beginning to feel tired and ashamed of such conduct, and if the disavowal of Mr. Johnston is a result of their acting upon such views it would be a good sign for the country.—*Nation*.

SUICIDE IN CLOMEL JAIL.—A prisoner named Martin Egan, who was awaiting trial at the ensuing Coshel quarter sessions for assault, was found on Friday night (Dec. 2) by one of the wardens strangled to

death in his cell. The web of his hammock had been run through the ring by which the bed was suspended from a hook in the wall, not more than eighteen inches from the ground, and the loop thus formed was placed by the prisoner around his neck. Lying along the floor he managed, by twisting his body around, to deprive himself of life. Everything that medical skill prompted was tried to restore animation—for the body was yet warm—but to no purpose. When the warden on duty visited the cell at 6 o'clock, in accordance with the usual rule, Egan was found preparing for bed.—*Clonmel Chronicle*.

MADAME MAC MAHON.—The wife of Marshal McMahon is evidently worthy to be the wife of such a hero. The Lyons papers publish a spirited letter from the Duchess to a friend, who had solicited the intervention of the Duke (Marshal Mac Mahon) with the Minister of War at Berlin to obtain intelligence of her son. The Duchess regrets that she cannot comply with the wish of her friend; "but," she says, "you will easily understand that Madame de Mac Mahon cannot ask a favor from the Prussians. To show you how scrupulous I must be upon the point, I may add that, notwithstanding their reiterated requests, Maurice has refused to select any place of residence, and desires to undergo his punishment, or rather his exile, without exercising the smallest choice that could in any way approach to a favour accepted by him. Maurice is going on very well, and expects to leave for Prussia at any moment."—*Irishman*.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN TIPPERARY.—Conferences between the Protestant clergy and laity were held in the various districts of Tipperary last week, says the *Lancet Independent* of the 10th ult. The subjects which were chiefly under consideration were the purchase of glebes and glebe houses, the union and revision of the present parishes, and the concentration of parochial districts. As many as six or eight clergymen announced their intention of buying their own houses and glebes for the benefit of the Church, in order that the clergyman should have houses and land rent free for all future times, in each of those parishes. In as many as twenty-five other instances an undertaking was given to purchase the glebes. In several places the neighboring proprietors came forward and gave their assurance that they would liberally subscribe, mentioning in many instances the sums they were prepared to give, with a view of the retention to their parish churches, and a regular ministry. Anxiety is manifested that none of the existing churches, however isolated, should pass from the possession of the Church, but no further offensive movements were made on Saturday.

DUBLIN, Dec. 5.—The Ulster tenants have lost no time in asserting their rights under the Land Act. A rather curious application was made yesterday in the Landlord's Court on the part of 300 tenants on the estate of the Marquis of Waterford in the county of Londonderry. The trustees of the Marquis are about to sell the property, very much against the will of the tenants, who have tried every means to prevent the transfer. Finding, however, that a sale is inevitable, they have filed objections to the settlement of the rental on the ground that it is stated in it simply that they are tenants from year to year, whereas they claim to have it put upon the face of the conveyance that they are entitled to the benefit of the Ulster tenant custom, under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant act. They also require to have their right to turbary set out. Counsel on the part of the owner and petitioner contended that the effect of making such an entry would be either that the purchaser would be concluded by the Parliamentary effect of the conveyance, or else the decision that the tenants were so entitled would have to be reviewed by the ultimate tribunal for dealing with land cases reserved, and set aside; and, whether its judgment was binding or fruitless, it would prejudice the sale to have the statement entered on the rental. Judge Lynch observed that if the lands were not subject to tenant-right it would very materially increase the value of the land for sale, and asked was he not, under such circumstances, to give notice to the public? Mr. Law, Q.C., submitted that the proper course would be to leave the question to be determined by the ordinary tribunals established by law for disposing of them. The effect of allowing the claim put forward in this case would be that an acre of land could not be sold in Ireland without inquiring what improvements had been made, and whether the Ulster tenant-right or an analogous custom prevailed on the estate. Counsel for the tenants contended that under the 54th section of the Landlord and Tenant Act the Court was bound to ascertain the rights of the tenants, and to make the conveyance subject to them. It might be a serious injury to have it merely stated in the rental that they were only tenants from year to year. Judge Lynch stated that he was clearly of opinion that the conveyance of that Court could not prejudice the statutory rights of the tenants, but as the matter was important he would reserve his judgment.

DECEMBER 7.—Manifestations of public sympathy with the Pope are still proceeding in the provinces. On Sunday a meeting was held in Athlone to protest against the conduct of Victor Emmanuel, and yesterday there was a similar demonstration in Waterford Cathedral, under the presidency of the Bishop. There were 5,000 persons present. Resolutions were passed, declaring that the invasion of Rome was a violation of international law and justice; also that the independence of the Pope, which can only be guaranteed by his temporal sovereignty, is essential to the free Government of the Church and the security of Catholic conscience, and is thus vitally associated with the cause of peace and social order throughout Christendom; denouncing the plunder of the patrimony of the Church, and tendering to the Holy Father the heartfelt sympathy of the meeting.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Right Hon. John Bright resigned his position as President of the Board of Trade and his seat in the Gladstone Cabinet to-day.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* is anxious that Americans should know that England is heartily tired of the Alabama controversy, and is ready to pay any impartial money award, if the adjustment can be confined thereto.

The Fenian convicts were discharged from Portland prison on Friday, Dec. 23rd.

John Walter, Jr., son of the chief proprietor of the *London Times*, broke through the ice while skating, and was drowned.

LONDON, December 27.—There is immense excitement in this city consequent on the alarming intelligence that the Prussians have virtually committed an act of belligerency in the sinking of the six English trading vessels in the Seine, for the avowed purpose of obstructing the navigation of the river. The *Shipping Gazette*, which first doubted, now admits the truth of the report concerning the treatment of British vessels in the Seine by the Prussians, and declares that the Government must instantly demand explanation and redress from Prussia. The *Times* has published an extra, a most unusual course, and endeavors to calm the public sentiment by expressing a hope that the report is exaggerated, and avows a strong conviction that the Prussians would not commit so suicidal an act.—"The people will not listen to this, and point to the despatch with indignation, which states that the British Vice Consul at Rouen has presented to the Prussian commander at Rouen a formal protest against this act of spoliation committed on British

subjects. This is regarded here as a confirmation of the truth of the despatch. The *Standard* and other Conservative newspapers have bitter war-baited articles, calling upon the government either to sign or to declare itself insulted and take the most dignified means for the correction of this outrage upon the British flag.

King William of Prussia and his daughter-in-law, the Princess Royal of England, have written to Queen Victoria objecting to the marriage of Princess Louise with the Marquis of Lorne, to which her Majesty responded that they had better attend to their own affairs entirely.

The first-class Army Reserve of the British army is receiving numerous recruits. It is formed of soldiers who have served their term of enlistment, and voluntarily join for five years, during which time they will receive 4d. a day, and be allowed to reside where they please in the United Kingdom, following their usual avocations. The order states that they are liable to be recalled to their places in the army in case of "imminent national danger or of great emergency," and to serve for six months after peace is proclaimed. If married, their wives and families will be maintained by the State during their absence on service, and every man will resume his former rank in the army.

The most feasible plan of settling the Alabama dispute which occurs to the naval periodical at London, *Broad Arrow*, is the appointment of a mixed commission of Americans and Englishmen, to sit with full powers to adjust the claims and agree upon the draft of a treaty to that effect, by which both Governments should be bound. "Such men," says *Broad Arrow*, "as John Bright, Lord Ashburton, Sir John Pakington, R. W. Crawford, Colonel Wilson Patton, Lord Russell and Sir John Lubbock would be deserving of all confidence on our part, and could hardly be unacceptable to the American Congress, who on their side, we have no doubt, could name men worthy of the great trust to be reposed in them. If some such plan is not adopted, and the friendly relations between the two countries are to be left at the mercy of individuals, and subjected to the violent interruption threatened by such messages as that of President Grant, the world may well despair of peace in our time."

The regret of President Grant that no settlement of the Alabama claims has yet been concluded is fully shared by the government and people of this country; but no one conversant with the history of this question can accept his view of its present aspect. By allowing claims to be presented against us of which the validity must depend upon a consideration of the conduct pursued by Lord Palmerston's government at the outbreak of the war, and still more by consenting to allow the whole diplomatic correspondence to be laid before the Commissioners, we did, in the fullest sense, concede that Lord Palmerston's government might have been guilty of negligence and might have done, or permitted to be done, things of which the United States might have just cause to complain. To require us to go further, and pre-judge the case against ourselves by admitting beforehand that which is the very issue to be decided before the commission of arbitrators, is so utterly monstrous that we cannot believe President Grant to have intended it. The doctrine that a pecuniary claim may be established against our Government for a premature recognition of the Confederate States as a belligerent power, or other alleged breaches of neutrality, apart from the Alabama claims, is of course, arguable, but it is certainly not tenable. As for the idea that an unfriendly animus can be the subject of compensation, it is one that no discerning advocate of American rights would be willing to advance. Whatever may be the object of President Grant in recommending that a commission should be appointed by Congress to ascertain the amount and ownership of these claims, with a view to their being liquidated by the United States government, which henceforth would become the sole plaintiff, it is not quite impossible that it may ultimately simplify arbitration between the two governments.—*London Times*.

On the morning of Dec. 9, about 11:40 o'clock, says a telegram to the *London Standard*, one of the most terrible catastrophes that has ever visited Birmingham took place at the ammunition factory belonging to Messrs. Ludlow, at Witton-lane, Witton. The scene of the accident is a large field about a mile from the Ashton Lower Grounds, and in the direction of Perry Barr. Here are situated nineteen sheds, in which the work of making and priming English cartridges is carried on, some 500 hands being employed. At the time stated, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and persons at a distance of even two miles were alarmed by a series of explosions, accompanied by shocks as of an earthquake and severe concussion of the atmosphere. On reaching the locality of the explosion a scene of destruction was revealed of the most appalling character. "Three sheds, in which there had been working 100 girls, boys and men, were a mass of ruins, and in the smoking, blackening heap there was scarcely a sign of life. Ready hands were soon at work, and the awful extent of loss to human life then became apparent. A few had escaped from the burning mass and were limping off, while the helpless, who gave any signs of life, were quickly conveyed in carts and cabs, which had come to the spot on the alarm being given. No fewer than fifty shockingly burned and mutilated but living human forms were carried off with all speed to the general hospital, the condition of many being pitiable in the extreme. Some of those taken thither were so badly burnt as to be hardly recognizable. Bleeding and insensible, they were quickly put under the medical care of the staff of the hospital; but it was too evident that many a sufferer entered only to prolong a lingering existence till death added new victims to the list. The scene among the wrecked remains of the sheds was one of the most sickening description. The field was strewn with the mutilated remains of human bodies, and pieces of clothing covered with blood. In one shed lay the charred bodies of seven, and in another five workers, while in the Witton Arms lay another five, all disfigured beyond recognition. Each body lay smouldering and smoking on a shutter, covered by a tarpaulin, and beneath this was nothing but a mass of charred flesh and bones. In some cases there was only a charred skeleton, and in others the head arms, and legs were missing. A human head, supposed to be that of a female, was picked up in the field, and a human hand was found in the same manner. Seventeen are ascertained up to the present time to be killed, but no names can be given, as identification is impossible at this stage. It is rumored that the cause of this dreadful affair was the accidental ignition of a woman's apron, who was standing warming herself at a stove, which, strange to say, every shed contains. The scene in and around the field after the accident was enough to move the most callous observer. The eager inquiries of anxious mothers for their children, and of relatives for missing workpeople, were heartrending. Little groups were gathered here and there along the road, surrounding a pale and suffering victim, bringing water, and doing all that ingenuity could suggest to allay the agony of the moment.

#### UNITED STATES.

The New York *Tribune* when it speaks of aristocratic and despotic Russia, sees in that power a colossal whose mandate trembling nations must obey. The day of England's humiliation cannot be distant according to the *Tribune's* war estimate of the military resources which can be invoked to furnish Russian aggression: "Russia has evidently carefully studied the old fable which illustrates the wisdom of preparing for

war in time of peace; moreover has put it to practical use. A Vienna correspondent furnishes from that capital an estimate of the forces of the three powers likely to come into conflict in the East in the event of the failure of the London Congress. He states that numerically the force of Russia will equal those of Austria and Turkey combined, and be very little inferior to those of all the probable allies united.—In point of military organization, arms, &c., the superiority of Russia is unquestioned; and while she has few formidable internal enemies to keep in subjection, Austria and Turkey are distracted by rebellious vassal-recess and provinces. In the event of war, the probability of which the calling of a Conference has not wholly dissipated, the success of Russia would seem assured, if invasion does not entail upon her unexpectedly great contingencies of a disastrous nature.

A novel action for damages is now in progress in the town of Cavendish, Vermont. A man named Page, while suffering from small-pox, visited the house of a man named Taylor, and stayed some days with him. The result was that Taylor and his family were stricken with the disease; all of them disfigured for life; and one of them losing an eye. Taylor has sued Page for two thousand dollars damages, the accusation being that the latter, knowing the nature of his illness, took no means to prevent its spread. The case excites great interest in the locality, for nothing of a similar description ever came before the courts in that region.

Mrs. Yelverton, in a note to the editor of the *San Francisco Bulletin*, briefly denies her position, which a few of the American papers have somewhat misrepresented. Her case, she states, has been through 18 different trials—the Scotch and Irish benches each declaring in her favor. In the trial in England the marriage issue was never decided, she having been acquitted on the ground of no jurisdiction. Upon another occasion the House of Lords, having a conjoint action before them, refused on the one hand the petition of Major Yelverton to be declared free of marriage with her, and on the other pronounced a judgment of "non proven" against her marriage with him. This singular decision took the legal world by surprise. It was the acme of mystification of the Scotch law of marriage. Major Yelverton was not freed, but she was not bound! Fortunately their real status did not depend upon the Scotch marriage, the Irish one having been finally proved in 1862, since which time the continuation of the various suits has only been litigious vexations, as a Scotch Court could never interfere with an Irish marriage, and the litigation was intended merely to stave off criminal proceedings for bigamy in Scotland. They were not married a third time in England, otherwise, she presumes, there might be a third claimant for dower on the Avonmore estate. Such are the peculiar complications of the British law.

Rascality seeks out many inventions. The last trick most novel of all, occurred in a New York jewelry store. A well dressed man asked to see diamonds and other rich jewelry; every now and then during his deliberate examination stepping to the door and crying out "whoa!" to an imaginary restive horse, standing in an imaginary buggy. After making his selections of a diamond ring and a set of jewelry, costing \$225, he put with a Turkey morocco wallet, apparently very pathetic, and laying it on the counter put the selected valuables in his pocket. Then turning to draw out the bills, suddenly heard his restive horse, and leaving his pocket book stopped out of the door, crying "whoa, whoa!" Not coming back the clerk looked in the wallet and found its stuffing not greenbacks. The man, at last accounts, had not overtaken his horse.

RESULTS OF CENSUS-MEN.—The corrected census returns of New Hampshire show the population to be 317,975. Net loss 8,070 in ten years.

The fact that Mr. Oliver lived in a uniform row of houses in the Fourteenth Ward, says the *Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch*, was the reason why he was unfortunate. One moonlight night last week the noise made by the cats on his roof was stuporously awful. Mr. Oliver lay in bed, trying in vain to get to sleep and grinding his teeth in rage, until at last the uproar overhead became unendurable. Mr. Oliver crept out of bed softly, so that his wife might not be awakened. He put on his slippers, seized a boot with each hand, and clad in the snowy robes of night, he opened the trap door and emerged upon the roof. There were thirty or forty cats out there holding a kind of general synod in the cool of the evening, enjoying the bracing air and singing gloes. As Mr. Oliver approached, the cats moved over to the next roof. Mr. Oliver advanced and flung a boot at them. They then adjourned suddenly to the summit of the adjoining residence. Mr. Oliver projected another boot and went over after the first one. In this manner the synod retreated and Oliver advanced until the last row of the twenty houses was reached, when the cats arranged themselves in a line along the parapet, ruffled up their fur, curved their spines, and spat furiously at Oliver. That bold warrior gathered up his boots and determined to retreat. He walked back over a dozen houses and descended through a trap-door. He went down stairs to his bed-room, and opened the door. There was a man in the room in the act of walking up and down with a baby. Before Oliver had recovered from his amazement, the man flung the baby on the bed, and seizing a revolver began firing rapidly at Oliver. It then dawned upon Oliver that he had come down the wrong trap-door. He proceeded upstairs again suddenly, the man with the revolver practising at him in a painful manner. When Oliver reached the trap he shut it quickly and stood upon it. The man fired through the boards twice, and then hooked the door upon the inside. A moment after Oliver heard him springing a watchman's rattle from the front window. As soon as the neighbors knew there was a man on the roof they all flew up stairs and fastened their trap-doors, and Mrs. Oliver fastened hers, with the firm conviction that some predatory villain had entered while she slept and stolen her Oliver. When he tried the door it was fast, and Mrs. Oliver was screaming so fiercely that he could not make himself heard. By this time the street was filled with policemen, all of whom were blazing away at Oliver with their revolvers, while the young men in the houses across the street kept up a steady fire with pistols, shot guns and miscellaneous missiles. Oliver, with every advantage for forming an opinion, said that Gettysburg was a mere skirmish to it. He hid behind the chimney, and lay up against the bricks to keep himself warm, while the policemen stationed themselves all around to capture him when he would slide down one of the water spouts. But Oliver did not slide. He sat out on that roof all night, with the bitter air circulating through his too trifling garments, listening to the howling cats and the occasional shouts from the picket line below, and thinking of the old Jews who used to pray from their house-tops, and wondering if Mussulmen were ever shot at or bothered with cats and policemen when they practiced their evening devotions on their roofs. And then he wondered how it would do to take off his night shirt and wave it over the edge as a flag of truce! He concluded not to, because of the danger of a bullet from some misguided policeman not familiar with the rules of war. When daylight came, the neighbors rallied in a crowd, armed with all kinds of weapons from howitzers down, and mounted to the roof. Oliver was taken down and put to bed, and he now has more influenza for a man of his size than any other citizen of the Fourteenth Ward. He says he is going to move as soon as he gets well—he is going to move into a house that is next door to nobody, a house that stands in the middle of a prairie of some kind, and he intends to stencil his name in white on the trap door.