

FREE PARDON TO W. SMITH, ESQ., AND OTHERS.—We have learned that a petition has been presented to Her Majesty's most gracious pardon, and granting her Majesty's most gracious pardon, and discharging from all pains, penalties, forfeitures, and the following persons:—William Smith, O'Brien, John Martin, Keven Izod, O'Doherty, William Doyle, Edward Sheehy, John Donohue, Luke Lennan, Mathew Joy, John Lennan, John Walsh, Edmund Tobin, Thomas Donohue, Richard Bryan, James Casey, James Crotty, Thomas Wall, James Lyons, James Ryan, and Thos. Ryan.—Dublin Evening Post.

DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS.—The squally and uncertain weather is not sufficient to deter the Irish emigrants, who still set out for Australia and America in considerable numbers. Last evening the Serica, a vessel bound for the quay a crowd of decent looking people bound for the new worlds of Columbia or Tasmania.—Banner of Ulster.

BREWS-MAKING IN BELFAST.—This trade is at present in a prosperous state. The majority of the employers in Belfast have granted to the workmen a liberal advance of wages, which the latter have acknowledged in an appropriate resolution.

LODGE COUNTY GAOL.—There are only 33 prisoners of all classes in our goal—18 females and 15 males. There is not a single case for trial at the quarter sessions, and only one case for assizes—namely, that of suspected infanticide.—Louth Advertiser.

THE IRISH BRIGADE.—The sword of Colonel Terence O'Reilly, the last surviving member of the Irish Brigade, was lately presented by Andrew O'Reilly, Esq., of Paris, to the Royal Irish Academy. This sword had been frequently used against the Sovereign of Great Britain. It is now the wish of the family that it should be deposited in our national museum.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Our readers will remember that on the 29th ult., we drew attention to the attempt of the Rev. Francis McKerrill to provide a suitable church and schools for the use of the congregation at Kelso, to supply the place of the chapel which, a short time previously, had been sacked and burnt to the ground by a lawless and bigoted Protestant mob. We have already published the appeal of the Right Rev. Bishop Gillis on behalf of the Catholics of Kelso, and now advert to it because we know that much assistance is needed to accomplish this laudable and necessary object. We learn from the excellent Pastor that the amount of compensation likely to be received from the county will be very small when compared with the necessities of the case; and we are sure that any contribution sent to the Rev. Francis McKerrill, Catholic Chapel House, Jedburgh, will be most thankfully acknowledged.—Weekly Register.

The extension of our coast defences is very properly under consideration. A number of military officers have been directed to inspect and report upon suitable sites for the erection of forts and batteries.—United Service Gazette.

WHAT ARE WE TO EXPECT FROM THE APPROACHING CONFERENCE.—The London Daily Telegraph, which writes vigorously upon the present aspect of our foreign relations, in commenting upon the approaching Conference, remarks, with an air of confidence, that from the indications which now present themselves, it cannot perceive any reasonable grounds for believing that the approaching Conference will lead to anything but discomfiture and disappointment.—The Emperor of the French, notwithstanding the gains which have been taken to persuade the people of this country of his devotion to English interests, is manifestly watching to ascertain the powers with which he ought to establish friendly relations; and there are many reasons for arriving at the conclusion that he is not indisposed to cultivate the same amity with Russia that Napoleon I. found so valuable. Russia, on her side, seems resolved; at all risks, to uphold her traditional policy, and whatever her dreams of aggression may formerly have been it is plain that recent sacrifices and disasters have not succeeded in humbling their spirit. The Telegraph fears that it would be a delusion to imagine that we have now secured a lasting peace, when, to judge from passing events, all we have obtained is a hollow truce. Under these circumstances, it would be well if Ministers imitated Russia, and gave the public some authoritative declaration of their foreign policy.

According to the London Morning Advertiser, measures have been adopted with the view of instituting a thorough investigation into the charges preferred against Dr. Davidson, Professor of Biblical Criticism in the Lancashire Independent College, of his virtual denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures, one of his heterodox opinions on various important points in connection with evangelical religion.

A public meeting was held at the Russell Institute on Wednesday, for the purpose of considering whether the probabilities of success would justify the sending of a new expedition to the Arctic regions in search of Sir John Franklin. This meeting was attended by many distinguished Arctic travellers—Captain Osborn, Captain Inghfield, Lieutenant Pim, Dr. King, Dr. Seaman, Dr. Richards, Dr. McCormick, Mr. Barrow, and others. They concurred in thinking that the scheme projected by Lieutenant Pim, for a search by land and sea should be carried out; and a resolution embodying that view was adopted.

INCREASE OF CRIME IN ENGLAND.—The recent West Riding sessions for the trial of prisoners show indisputably that crime is increasing in that extensive district, to an alarming extent. The number of depositions in and around Sheffield, and, indeed, the whole district, extending as far as Barnsley and the neighborhood, has been greater, perhaps, than in any other district of the Riding. Only a short time ago, a farmer living in the district, when proceeding homeward with a large sum of money, was waylaid, robbed, and so violently beaten that he ultimately died of his wounds. Again, a little more than a week ago, the master of the Birdwell station, in the same district, was waylaid and robbed, with great violence, and is likely to recover. On Friday morning last—as already noticed in the Examiner and Times—one of the most atrocious murders ever recorded was committed upon the postmaster of Delton, near Wrath, and his wife, both of whom were found dead. And yet none of the perpetrators of these crimes have, as yet, been discovered, and the whole population are naturally much alarmed. Petty depredations, robberies, and garrottings, as was seen at the Sheffield sessions last week, keep pace with the heavier crimes. In the clothing districts of Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax, crime has seldom been so great as in the district mentioned. A murder was committed there within the last two months, and the perpetrators is as yet unknown; and, out of 53 cases tried at the sessions last week, 22 were committed by Bradford magistrates. Halifax and the other clothing towns in the district are far from being exempt, but it is in the out-villages where the depredators are most daring. It is notorious that these crimes have only in very few cases been committed by parties residing in the neighborhood, or by persons driven to crime by the state of trade and starvation. In the cutlery, the iron, and the clothing districts, trade has never sunk to so low an ebb as this, though, particularly in the worsted district, there has been considerable slackness. But even there a revival has been felt, and few hands are out of employ. The persons committed, however, have only in cases been factory workers, or engaged in industrial employment, but in many cases ticket-of-leave men, and depraved and reckless persons, too idle to work, preferring the dangers and ruffianism of the road to honest industry.

The Rev. Richard Appleton, chaplain of Kirkdale Gaol, in his seventeenth annual report, states that, during the past year, there has been an increase of 218 commitments over the previous twelve months.

CRUELTY IN A BOARDING-SCHOOL.—A female Dotheboys Hall has been discovered at Battersea, London, where some ten or twelve poor little girls were kept for eighteen guineas a year, starved for want of food, allowed nothing but the most insufficient clothing, and no bedding; and permitted to suffer from the most frightful neglect, so that one of them died. The mistress of this establishment seems to have adopted the "pious dodge" which now a days appears to be particularly profitable for this life at any rate. This was her advertisement:—"Mrs. Meers will receive twelve young ladies to be educated with her own daughters. It is her anxious prayer that these tender plants entrusted to her care may be early led (by the grace of God) to feel the deep importance of vital religion, and that the course of instruction pursued may lead to strengthen the mind, and to form the character and manners of the future elegant and accomplished gentleman. Mrs. Meers has been partly educated on the Continent. French is constantly spoken by her young friends, and professors attend to give instruction in the Latin, Greek, French, German, and Italian languages; the harp, piano-forte, singing, drawing, and flower-painting are cultivated as delightful sources of pleasure and amusement, and the hours of recreation are varied by many little and instructive pursuits. References to parents of pupils and many Christian friends. Mrs. M. begs to refer to the letter from the Dowager Lady Waterpark, of Doveridge-hall, Derbyshire." The letter was dated 13 Hertford street, Mayfair, signed J. Waterpark, and spoke in high terms of Mrs. Meers.

COMMITTEE OF A MOTHER FOR THE MURDER OF HER CHILD.—A most revolting instance of unnatural and cold-blooded cruelty on the part of a mother, resulting in the death of her child, has just been discovered at Mantygio, in Glamorganshire, and has led to the committal of the murderer to take her trial upon the capital charge at the next county assizes. The name of the wretched woman, who is married, is Elizabeth Oran; and the deceased, George Williams, was her illegitimate son, about ten years of age. The little fellow has been for a long time subjected to barbarous treatment, being kept on unwholesome and insufficient food, and at times beaten with dreadful severity. Upon his death becoming known, the mother was arrested.

To be sold cheap, a first rate garrotte walk, in a dark parish, where the police are never seen. The property lies in the direct neighborhood of several rich squares that dine late. The present proprietor will part with the walk at a very low figure, and throw in an adjacent park as well, for the simple reason that he is about, in connexion with two or three members of parliament, to try his hand as a Bank Director. The receipts have, for the last three months, averaged as much as £35 a week, and watches (with the exception of the Police watch) are to be met with at every other corner. Apply to "Neck or Nothing," Scotland-yard. N. B. The lighting the very worst in London.—Punch.

COST OF CRIME.—It appears, by the return of public income and expenditure for the years ending March, 1855 and 1856, which had been moved for last session by Mr. W. Williams, that the cost of "Total Justice," to use the phraseology of the return, is £3,192,420. It is remarked, in reference to this portion of the return, that the cost of "correction"—that is, keeping delinquents in prison—rose in one year from £765,633 to £1,424,097. Thus, as the Times observes, "in the year 1856 our prison expenses were nearly doubled; this is, indeed, an important fact to reflect upon, and adds force to the remonstrances of those who are protesting against the usages which humanitarianism has lately brought into vogue." This heavy outlay, we take it for granted, has been made solely upon what are called government prisons, and does not include any portion of the expenditure upon ordinary goals, the maintenance of which forms so heavy an item in local taxation.

THE GALLOWES VINDICATED.—The gallows has found an advocate in Mr. Albert Smith—at least public report assigns to him the authorship of a plea for that institution, which appears in the London Times, under the signature of "A London Scoundrel." Writing on the 15th inst., he says:—"that good old institution the gallows reared its honest head once again, to my great satisfaction, in the Old Bailey, this morning—its first appearance since its late severe indisposition from diseased sympathy. A wretched brute was hung like a dog, as he deserved to be; and as his dreary corpse swayed in the eager north wind it was a pleasant and cheering thing to think that nobody could now give a ticket-of-leave, and let him loose again upon society. He was disposed of, once and for all, in the cheapest and most effectual manner. It was, sir, a fine wholesome corrective sight. I thought of the shattered, senseless victim—of the bloody work by which that poor creature was smashed and killed—of that awful night at the hospital, when the grating trephine set free a flitting consciousness, and the identity of the assassin was established; and as the brute fell with the drop, and his muscles contracted; with one short terrible spasm. I wondered how he liked it." And again, he says:—"Away with maudlin sympathy and twaddle. When a ruffian watches for you at night, fractures your skull, lacerates your windpipe, or clogs your brain with apoplectic blood, hang him, if you are lucky enough to catch him. Shoot him at the time, if you can, but if not, hang him."

A remarkable case of "housings" on a railway has been published last week. It occurred a short time back, on the Great Western Railway; the gentleman who was the victim has since gone to India. He was one day about to proceed to Reading by the Great Western Railway; in the waiting-room, he happened to show notes and gold in his pocket-book, which he placed in the breast-pocket of his coat. He got into an unoccupied compartment of a first-class carriage; a man of gentlemanly exterior followed; a pleasant conversation arose, especially on sporting matters. After a time, the stranger took from his pocket a small case containing a flask and a glass; into the latter he poured some sherry, which he drank, and was about to return the flask to the case, when he suddenly begged his passenger's pardon for not asking him to take a glass with him at first, and hoped he would allow him the pleasure, &c. The gentleman assented, and a glass was handed to him, the contents of which he drank. He directly fell asleep, and did not awake until the train arrived at Swindon, when he found himself alone; his pockets had been cut open, and he had been robbed of £69; but fortunately, a larger sum, which was concealed on his person, had not been found by the thief. It is supposed that the flask was duplex, one compartment containing pure sherry, the other a soporific drug mixed with wine.

Rebecca has re-appeared in Radnorshire. She comes this time with "her daughters" and her object is the plunder of the salmon ponds of the Wye and Eilan near Rhyader. On Saturday, Rebecca, with her face blackened, a short worn smock-frock fashion, and armed with a gun, went first, flanked by two sword-bearers, and followed by eighty daughters, similarly armed and disguised, except that some carried pitchforks; and marched by night through the town of Rhyader. All this magnificent preparation ended in the capture of thirty salmon in the ponds. One man, who came nearer to them than they liked, was slightly wounded by a gun-shot.

A discovery was made on Thursday, of a fraud committed by the Chief Collector of the City of London Union to the extent of £13,000. Some extraordinary revelations, it is said, will come out of the inquiry; and it is expected that more than one person will be found connected with this serious matter. Nine parishes in the city, so far as at present known, will be sufferers from these extensive frauds.

A horrible sacrilege was committed to St. Augustine's Church on Saturday night or Sunday morning, and speedily followed by a melancholy retribution.—A Dutch sailor secreted himself in the church, violated the tabernacle, trampled on the sacred vessels, and scattered the Blessed Sacrament on the floor.—Before the close of Sunday the wretched man was found dead, having suspended himself from a bar of the prison to which he had been committed—a fate similar to that of the first Christian traitor, Judas, whose crime this culprit's had somewhat resembled.—Cor. Weekly Register.

MODERN PROGRESS.—Each improvement that we invent cheats us into a false reliance, until the thief has found out the trick of circumventing the improvement, and then we fall to a new trap to ourselves by some fresh "security." The invention of a more ingenious lock by Chubb, or Bramah, only calls into requisition a better workmanship in skeleton keys; an iron shutter is a stimulus for producing a superior kind of jemmy; the advent of Hobbs is accompanied by the development of an Agar. You appoint guards on railways, and they become as Burgesses did, the partners of the Agars. The streets are thought safe because they are crowded and the policeman is near; but some very clever fellow strikes out the invention of the garrotte, which at once supercedes alarm and resistance. The fact is that the knave's civilization has gone on quite as fast as the honest man's, in some respects much faster. Perhaps there was no period in which society could show such a large number of names in the Rogues' Peetrage as England at the present moment. Mr. Agar belongs only to the middle class of roguery. The annals of high commerce can show us a Windle Cole, a Cosmo Gordon, a Davidson, a Sadler, &c. &c. We have the list by heart. Eminent merchants, scions of noble families, honorables, members of parliament, are reckoned amongst the swindlers, false pledgers, forgers, defaulters, and thieves. Yes, stealing is not unknown even amongst the aristocracy. In some of those notorious cases the real offence was the stealing other people's property from the places of safety in which they have been reposed. Joseph Windle Cole stole men's money under pretence of selling them "sureties" on worthless paper. An eminent merchant told his customer Davidson, that he was a "thief," and undoubtedly the word might be applied in other cases. The rogue therefore meets us in the counting house which is "as safe as the bank," in the House of Commons, in the lordly mansion. Undoubtedly the Rogues' march has gone ahead much faster than the march of civilization.—London Leader.

TOTALITARIANISM AND TIPPLING.—A quondam minister of the Gospel, who advocates the Maine Law—"the total and immediate suppression of the liquor traffic"—is a shipowner; and one of the ships in which he is interested, recently delivered a cargo of French brandy in the London docks! The freight being lucrative, another of the vessels in which he is interested was sent out for another cargo of brandy.—Gateshead Observer.

POPULAR PREACHERS.—We look forward with some dismay to the consequences of holding out a prize so magnificent as a Bishopric to the London popular preacher. Quite sufficient scandal is created by the proceedings of these gentlemen on occasions when a much poorer reward is in view. There is a particular instance of this in the City of London which periodically exhibits clerical evangelical human nature in anything but an edifying aspect. The swoop of the popular preachers on the Golden Lectureship, always reminds us of the stories told in Natural History books of the effect of carrion on the vulture tribe. First, there is a black speck in the air. A newspaper paragraph states that "a certain valuable piece of preferment in the gift of the Candlemakers' Company is vacant, and report assigns it to a well known clergyman officiating not a hundred miles from the Scrofula Hospital." Shortly afterwards, dark forms loom in the distance; and we are told that "Rev. Oily Gammon, Rev. Dismal Horror, &c., &c., are candidates for the Golden Lectureship—the first mentioned highly popular divine is the favorite." Then follow a contest in the sight of Heaven and the Candlemakers' Company—there is screaming, clawing, and flapping of obscene wings—till at last the savoury morsel is obtained by one blacker, noisier, and stronger than his fellows, and the others soars sulkily away. There is really no saying how far this scene may be outdone, if gentlemen of this sort have a fair chance of becoming Bishops. We have long had a State Church, and if Mr. Ditcher succeeds, we are to have an Act of Parliament Christianity; but should the principle of the late promotions be maintained, we may live to see a special service on Thursday evening in some of the London Churches for the health of Lord and Lady Palmerston.—Saturday Review.

The Morning Star says—"The Spurgeon class of literature evidently promises to become a nuisance. We have several tracts before us, all written in defence of this popular preacher, and it is said borrowed from his own peculiar mode and style of dealing with disputed subjects. Here are a few extracts:—

"Will his popularity last? They might as well ask if the brilliancy of the sun will last. Spurgeon is a fixed star, and no doubt will become a star of the first magnitude. The youth who once 'Whistled at the Plough' seems destined to become the guiding star of the Christian world. The 'Coming man' has at last come; he will silence the thunder of the Vatican, and Cardinals with red stockings will find his Cardinal points in Spurgeon too much for them. His Grace of Canterbury and the Bishops will, indeed, say with Othello, 'Our occupation's gone!'"

"This is evidently a comic age, we have a Comic Blackstone; Punch is considered the leading journal of Europe; and a comic History of England, but since the death of Rowland Hill we have not had a comic preacher. We have now got one, and we trust Spurgeon will for years to come continue to joke people out of their sins; and while he cracks the sides of his hearers with laughter, will at the same time crack the bonds of the old gentleman. Spurgeon is the Shakespeare of the Church. We may indeed say without flattery that Spurgeon is the Kembel and Keelley of the pulpit, combining the majesty of John with the drollery of Robert. Long may he continue 'the observed of all observers,' and prepare us for that 'unknown country from whose bourne no traveller returns.'"

"Since St. Paul the world has not had such a preacher. He is indeed 'the right man in the right place.' He has drawn the sword, 'let him throw away the scabbard.' He is fighting the good fight. "When Disraeli first entered Parliament, the House would not listen to him. He told them the time would come when they would hear him, and they lived to see him 'the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer'; and those who now detract from Mr. Spurgeon will live to see him raised to the highest pinnacle of fame."

UNITED STATES.

THE REPORT OF THE CITY SCHOOLS.—The Report of S. S. Randall, City Superintendent of Public Instruction, New York, contains the following admission, which is well worthy of being noted:—"That culture which regards exclusively or primarily the mere attainment of knowledge, to whatsoever extent it may be carried, or to whatsoever degree of advancement it may be enabled to arrive cannot be otherwise than essentially and fatally defective. And yet it is not to be denied that hitherto the course of instruction in all our systems of popular education, public and private, has far too generally assumed this direction. Hence, while the boundaries of science have been almost indefinitely extended in every direction, and while knowledge has been almost universally diffused throughout every civilized community, no corresponding advancement has been made in public and private morality and virtue. On the other hand, we are assured upon the most unquestionable authority, and there is unfortunately, but little room to doubt the fact, that the increase of vice and crime, and the prevalence of dishonesty, and of open and secret fraud and corruption, have been more than proportionate to the increase of population, and the advancement of our modern civilization. In a community like our own, where the great mass of the population have enjoyed the advantages of early and continued education during the period ordinarily allotted to instruction—when, too, such instruction is entirely free to all, and nearly universal, in fact—where the various sciences and arts especially those which have any relation to the pursuits and wants of practical life, have been carried to the highest attainable excellence, it might reasonably be expected that the criminal calendar, instead of annually increasing, should rapidly and steadily be diminished—that a high stand, both of public and private morality, should prevail, and that the upright, the virtuous, and the good, should be effectually secured against the depredations of the vicious and the burden of their maintenance and support.—If this result has not been attained—if the generous and ample expenditures which have been, and continue to be, lavished upon the education of the youth of our land, produce no perceptible melioration in the tone of public or private morals—and diminish in no perceptible ratio the expenses of repressing and punishing crime, or of suppressing the worthless and the dissolute—the inference would seem to be a legitimate one—either that the influence of education for the improvement and elevation of humanity has been overrated—or that it has hitherto failed, in a most important and essential respect, in availing itself of the proper means for the accomplishment of its object.—American Celt.

(W. N. Y. Herald) begins to be seriously of opinion that it would be as well to abolish the criminal code altogether, or else to ascertain distinctly the true intent of criminal law, which is to protect society, and carry out that intent to the letter by allowing society the privilege of protecting itself by such methods as it may choose. What protection is there for life and property in this city at this time? The stream of Justice is polluted at the fountain head. It is almost impossible to procure the conviction of a rogue if he can command a few hundred dollars, no matter how patent his guilt may be. Astute advocates set up impudent and absurd theories, bully the bench, weary the jury, and employ the most disreputable means to save a scoundrel from merited punishment. Take the Baker case, for example, and witness the unblushing effrontery of the defence in the Huntington matter. Happily, it was not successful in the last instance. After the rogue is convicted, sentenced and duly shut up—what then? His friends bring all sorts of influence to bear upon a weak governor for his pardon. Every man, said a great statesman, has his price; and some queer prices, in singular currencies; have been paid, it is said, for pardons in this State. Sometimes the executive clemency is exercised for a political friend, who amuses himself between elections by a little bit of grand larceny or a nocturnal foray for silver plate, accompanied with a deadly assault upon the owner thereof. Sometimes the convict has a pretty mistress, who fascinates some of the Governor's friends; and sometimes the lobby will put its influence with the executive for a round sum. It is not alleged that the Chief Magistrate is aware that the benevolent exertions of his advisers are altogether selfish, but his ignorance cannot be pleaded in excuse for the betrayal of the trust reposed in him by the people. No matter how it is done, or what does it. The fact is that it is very hard to get a rogue convicted, and still harder to keep him in prison, with an executive who yields to the most delicate outside pressures.—The consequence is there is no protection for society, except in revolvers, which immediately rise in value as each new batch of convicts is liberated from Sing Sing.

YANKEE FREEDOM.—On the 7th of April last, certain residents of Buffalo procured the passage of an Act incorporating a Juvenile Asylum. By the provisions of this Act that body is empowered to take into charge any child found idle or want, without lawful occupation (which children never have); to require security from any parent or guardian who may wish to release it, that he will keep such child on his premises until it arrives at the age of 14 years (which no parent or guardian can do); to retake such child if this engagement be not kept, and permanently hold possession of it; and, to educate it in any religion, or no religion, just as the Directors see fit. To enable the body legally entitled to carry out these powers delegated from a Legislature in which they never rested, the city of Buffalo is authorized to give \$45,000 in bonds, and \$60 annually for every child kidnapped into the institution, or from \$35,000 to \$100,000 yearly, to be raised by direct taxation. This sweeping Act, as will be seen, was accordingly, three characteristics. It is unconstitutional, as was very ably argued by Mr. M'Nett, because it violates that clause of the Constitution which declares "liberty shall not be sacrificed without due process of law" which includes trial by Jury, guarantees opportunities for a defence, and allows an appeal to a higher tribunal than a two-penny Justice. It is tyrannous, as Dr. Bruck showed, because it establishes a close and irresponsible Corporation to disburse public money without the election of the public. And it is grievously unjust, as Bishop Timon conclusively proved, because, practically, it will make the Catholics of Buffalo pay for the proselytizing of their own children! Any priest who attempts to enter the Asylum on his own account, or at the instance of Catholic parents, is liable to a suit for "trespass." The twenty-nine Protestant Directors can teach their prisoners that there is no God, or that there are twenty. No provision limiting their power is made in "the Charter." Meantime, the Catholics of Buffalo are taxed, as we have before remarked, from \$38,000 to \$100,000 annually for the freedom which those men enjoy of proselytizing Catholic children.—American Celt.

THE PURITANS KEEP CHRISTMAS.—We, old world Christians, have, at least, taught the children of the Puritans one thing—an outward decent observance of Christmas Day. Though as yet they have taken it from us only in a superficial sense—the sign rather than the significance—it is not the less a noteworthy conquest over inveterate prejudice. On that day business was suspended, except among the Jews, churches opened, and every outward solemnity observed. Considering the penal enactments made against "the Popish observance" of Christ-Mass by Cromwell's Commonwealth, and the Puritan Colonies, this is a decided social revolution in the "manners, customs, habits, and ideas of the country." What says the Pilot. Ought we conform to their no Christmas, or they to ours, Christmas?—American Celt.

Some hundred respectable citizens of Worcester, Mass., have called a Convention to meet in that city on Thursday, the 15th inst., and there "consider the practicability, probability and expediency of a separation between the Free and the Slave States." Their call affirms "a rapid increase in the hostility between the two sections of the Union," and that this springs from "a fundamental difference in education, habits and laws" and declares "the existing Union to be a failure, as being a hopeless attempt to unite under one government two antagonistic systems of society, which diverge more widely every year."

CHURCH MANNERS.—Lord Morpeth, now Earl of Carlisle, when in this country, some years since, though he went to old Christ's Church in Philadelphia, the mother of staid high church Episcopacy, remarked upon the irreverent behaviour of Americans in the house of God. We cannot wonder that this lack of reverence struck a foreigner, especially an English nobleman, accustomed to the decorum of the Church of England, for it is apparent even to ourselves. If it has not attracted our attention, a moment's reflection will convince us that the remark was a just one. Go to your place of worship and unless it be a happy exception to the rule in most churches of any denomination in America, you will find a large part of the congregation coming in with a jaunty, careless air, entering their pews with much respect for the ladies if with little for the place, and after taking their seats, looking around upon their fellow worshippers and into the gallery to see that all is right. The English habit of bowing the head for a few moments in prayer immediately upon entering the pew, a habit seemly and profitable (even if it be with some a mere form,) is not followed in the most of our churches, and thus the first act is not one in keeping with the place and object of assembling. During the prayer and singing, a large part of the congregation declines following the established custom of the church as to position (what that custom may be, is far less important than the proper observance of some custom,) and by their conduct seem to be protesting against the supposition that they have any part or lot in the matter. No sooner is the sermon done than there are preliminary symptoms that the business of the session is nearly over. An eye is cast toward the clock and hat to see that they are at hand. The singing of the Doxology follows, an opportunity for putting on the gloves, buttoning the coat, and getting all things ready for a start; and the last word of the Benediction is scarcely uttered, without a moment's pause, by the clatter of opening pew doors, and the rush of the escaping multitude.—Boston Herald.

SERIAL ABILLI AGAINS.—At a meeting of the Y. M. Christian Association of this city, Dr. Abbill was introduced to the Association. He stated that he had been engaged for the last twelve years in translating the Scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek into the Northern Italian language. He gave a glowing description of the state of religion in Italy, and said that the present prospects which are presented to Christians for the dissemination of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the poor and hitherto deluded and tyrannized people of Italy, were encouraging. He presented his subscription book, and hoped the members of the Association would patronize his efforts in his great and important enterprise. As soon as the Doctor had taken his seat, one of the members of the Association said, that he deemed it necessary that the Rev. Dr. Abbill should make some explanation as to the reason of his leaving England, where, he understood, he (Dr. A.) had been settled as pastor of a church, and well provided for. The Chairman stated that courtesy demanded that such a proceeding should not be taken. The Association was incuring no damage whatever in attending an audience to Dr. Abbill. Neither individual members, nor the Association itself, was sacrificing anything in this exercise of Christian courtesy, and he hoped that any proceeding such as had been alluded to would not be further entertained. The counsel of the Chair prevailed.—N. Y. Paper.

MATRIMONY MADE EASY.—A bill has been introduced into the North Carolina Legislature, entitled an act to encourage and promote matrimony. This bill authorizes the Judges of the Supreme and Superior courts, and all licensed practising attorneys at law, to solemnize the rights of matrimony, under the same rules as Justices of the Peace and ministers of the gospel.—Exchange.

Who will deny that we live in a progressive age after reading this pithy morsel? To-morrow, gentlemen will be the conjugal king. The day after the couple will be "a law to themselves." The question arises—When marriage is made "easy," is not a premium set upon bastardy? or, should such a term be recognized in modern civilization?—Boston Herald.

THE LADY DOCTORS.—Lady doctors are coming to be institutions amongst us. This is perfectly natural; the proprieties dictate the need of their practice among their own sex, and even the "regulars" are beginning to extend them the right hand of fellowship and to welcome them to the ranks of the profession. They are, in fact, but reviving an old custom, dating as far back as the days of Moses. It is but nine years since the first female medical student graduated—of course the fact was then a nine days wonder—but students and colleges have since been multiplying with unconceivable rapidity. Boston and Philadelphia have Female Medical Colleges, aided by Government, and the Colleges of Syracuse, Cleveland and Cincinnati have opened their doors to women.—New York Times.

NEW YEAR'S CALLS.—"HAVE YOU SEEN BRIDGET?"—A friend of ours called upon a fashionable family New Year's Day, and found a table loaded with all the delicacies in the eating line, but no liquors. Congratulating one of the women upon the change, she inquired of him, "Have you seen Bridget?" He replied in the negative, and was as once invited to walk down to the basement with several gentlemen who were going to wish that humble member a happy New Year. The first word that he heard upon entering her domain was addressed to a gentleman standing by the side of a table containing a good deal of glass ware; when Bridget asked him if he "would have it with hot water and a little lemon." From what we saw in the streets on the evening of New Year's Day, we are led to believe that a large number of people did see Bridget in the course of their walks. Now this is the sort of "whipping the devil round the stump" that was very extensively practiced upon the late festival, that we do not approve of. If women are disposed to make their visitors drunk, let them take the responsibility in their own persons, and not send the poor victims down stairs "to see Bridget."—N. Y. Tribune.

A GOOD HIST.—A Methodist divine of this city, on Sunday last, administered a most severe rebuke to a common custom in these days of reading advertisements from the pulpit. A paper was handed to him, giving notice that "the introductory lecture of the annual course would be delivered on Monday night," &c., at a certain Medical institution in this city.—The preacher said he had conscientious scruples about cheating the printer by making such announcements in the pulpit; that he never heard such advertisements read in church without reminding him of the deacon in Alexandria, who, on a certain occasion, exhorted, in most earnest and vehement language, the sinners in the congregation to repent or they would all go to hell as sure as there was flour for sale in Alexandria, and he was sure there was flour there, for he had received, just the day before, a fine assortment, which he would sell as cheap as any man in the city.—Ohio Statesman.

A "Witch" was whipped to death at Malabar, Texas, a month ago. We are prepared to wager a certain sum, (to be spent for a charitable object) that the lineage of fanatics in this tragedy can be traced to New England. Who will take us up?—American Celt.