

Master James Lacy, son of Mr. Lacy, merchant tailor, Thurles, has proceeded to Newfoundland to join the Missionary College, established there by the Right Rev. Dr. Mullock.

An influential and important meeting of the committee was held on Thursday week, in Thurles to discuss the necessity of a county meeting to petition Parliament for an investigation into the particulars of the awful case of the brothers Cormack. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Morris, P.P., Borrisoleigh, seconded by acclamation, Solomon Lacer Cambie, Esq., J. P., Killoran, was called to the chair, and Mr. Dwyer, Esq., Solicitor, was requested to act as Secretary. Letters, promising co-operation with the objects of the meeting, were then read by the Secretary from (among others), Very Rev. Dean Cantwell; Samuel Cooke, Esq., Brownstown; the O'Donohoe, M.P.; John Bagwell, Esq., M.P.; Very Rev. Dr. Howley, Tipperary; Rev. John Power, P.P., Powertown; Rev. M. Bugler, Adm., Borrisokane; Very Rev. Dr. Burke, P.P., Clonmel; Rev. C. O'Brien, P.P., Lurina; John Coman, Esq., Cashel; Charles Bianconi, Esq., Longfield; Captain Byrne, Sorrell-hill; Rev. J. O'Dwyer, Doon. The synod of the Archbishop of Cashel and Limerick was said to be fully with the movement. After a protracted, but most animated discussion, carried on in the best understanding and with perfect good temper and kindness of spirit, it was unanimously resolved—"1st.—That a requisition should be prepared, convening a county meeting, to petition Parliament on the questions involved, and the subject of the criminal jurisdiction of the county. 2nd.—That the county meeting to be so convened should be held in Nenagh on Monday, the 30th of August."—Abridged from the *Kilncker Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*.

THE HARVEST.—For many seasons back there has not been so cheering a prospect as the present one holds out to the farmer. The accounts—come from what quarter they may—show no variation; everything looks promising, and there is only an isolated rumour from some remote district of the appearance of the potato disease, in, however, so very mitigated a form as to cause no apprehension of the consequences. The following *resumé* is taken from the *Cork Constitution*:—"The weather is now splendid and the various crops most luxuriant, the country perhaps never looking more beautiful than at the present time. The late rains with which we were visited has proved of great benefit to the oats, and they as well as the wheat and barley give promise of an abundant yield. The fears which were a few weeks ago expressed of a re-appearance of the potato disease in some districts have become quite allayed.—Some blackness was perceived in the tubers in some places, but as the east wind which prevailed at the time ceased they resumed their previous healthy appearance. Abundance of new ones are constantly pouring into the market, and the prices are rapidly coming down. From all quarters of the country the most cheering accounts of the crops are being given. In Roscommon, Tipperary, Limerick, Mayo, Kerry, Antrim, Down, Derry, Armagh, and other parts they are stated to be flourishing. In a few isolated patches in Mayo and Kerry blight is said to be perceived, but presented in a very mild form, and not likely to result in much loss. On the whole the prospects of this crop and that of grain are highly satisfactory, and an early and plentiful harvest may be fairly anticipated."

The *Ulsterman*, in an able article on the Irish constabulary, remarks, "Here we are met with evidence of injustice such as no people but the down-trodden people of Ireland would endure. Selected from a Catholic population, the great majority of the members of this magnificent force—the finest in the world—are necessarily Catholics. In the rank and file there are seven Catholics to every one Protestant. But the moment we rise above that level the order is reversed. With a few exceptions, which only prove the rule, the Catholics are never promoted.—No matter what intelligence they show—no matter what honesty, education, discipline—the ban of 'Popery' is on them; and they are not suffered to raise their heads from the dust. And if they do chance to manifest more manhood and intellect than usual, they are forthwith voted dangerous, and, like honest Constable McGivney, immediately expelled from the force with contumely and insult. There are eight thousand three hundred Catholic sub-constables in Ireland. There never was one single Catholic county inspector over that force. Oh! we beg pardon, there is one now: appointed to throw dust in our eyes the moment a noise was made. There are only sixteen hundred Protestant sub-constables. But there are thirteen hundred Protestant constables and only five hundred Catholics. Again, the Protestant head-constables are two hundred and eighty-six, and the Catholics of that grade only fifty-four! Now the Catholics of the force, who make up its power and strength, are selected from the finest, physical, and the most intelligent of our peasantry; and, as a body, a better, more soldierly, more moral class of men, there is not in the world. Yet these men are not raised from the ranks. They are kept down, snubbed, crushed; and all the promotions are made from amongst the few Protestants. No brand of slavery could be more bitter or humiliating than this. Look at these figures again, and more in detail. They should be stamped on our brains as memoranda, never to be erased, of the degradation of Irish Catholics in their native land. There are 8,309 Catholic sub-constables—the men who are ill-paid and heavily-worked—the drudges of the force, whose part it is to be drilled, and snubbed, and shoulder the musket; and of Protestant sub-constables only sixteen hundred. Of constables or sergeants there are 1,300 Protestants chosen from the favoured minority of Catholics only five hundred. Of head-constables we have 286 Protestants, picked by sectarian favour out of the small minority of Protestants in the whole force, and only fifty-four Catholics chosen from eight thousand three hundred able, intelligent, and efficient men. Then there are 219 sub-inspectors, all Protestants, and only twenty-nine Catholics. And no Catholic ever raised to the office of county-inspector at all! In addition to this, all the lucrative posts of paymasters, receivers, surgeons, and so on, are conferred on Protestants exclusively. Need we say more? Evidence abundant is here that in their native land, where they are the strength and the flower of the race, the Catholics of Ireland bear the ignominious brand of slaves and drudges still."

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.—A provincial journal (the *Kilncker Moderator*), which devotes considerable attention to military matters, has some speculations with respect to the means whereby the alleged shortcoming in the supply of volunteers from the Irish Militia regiments to the Line might be remedied without resort to any extreme measure.—"We believe (says the *Moderator*) that never in the history of these countries were larger numbers of recruits found to offer themselves for the Queen's service, and, at least so far as Kilkenny is concerned, we have lately shown that our own country and city have given an extraordinary contingent of fighting men to the army during the last year. With respect to volunteering for the Line from the Militia, so far as our information goes, it has received as high a percentage as could possibly have been looked for under the circumstances of the country, and considering that no very great inducement has been at any time held out to the men of the Militia to transfer their affections to the Line. But, be all this as it may, the national interests require more troops than have yet been obtained, and the problem is—how are they to be got? For our part, if Her Majesty's advisers could for a week or two be induced to abandon the traditions of the 'Circumlocution office,' and renounce red tape propensities, we can see no difficulty in the Queen of Great Britain being supplied with a hundred new regiments, or twice the number if she needs them, in as many days; and to the Militia force we would point as the means whereby this great augmentation of the army is to be ob-

tained. If the embodied Militia were given the option, each corps as it stands, commanding officer, field officers, company officers, non-commissioned officers and men, to form at once a Line regiment, we do not doubt that to a man every corps to which such an invitation might be held out would accept it with joy and pride. We will answer for it that at least the Irish Militia regiments would come forward unanimously to accept such an offer from the Queen. The old feudal spirit has not yet been totally obliterated among our people. The men in the Militia regiments are connected and associated with their officers by strong ties, and where the officers would go the men would follow most willingly. The men, or their fathers or grand-fathers, have been the tenants or the dependants of many of the officers, and the others and their families have grown up among them, and are respected and esteemed from old recollections of kindly feeling and hereditary sympathies.—Those men who decline to accept the offer of the recruiting sergeant of some regiment of the Line who chances to be sent among them, and who invites them to go and serve in a corps which they know nothing of, and among officers whom they have never seen, would not hesitate one moment to go the whole world over with their own colonel and officers, or take any service or denunciation which their colonel and officers might accept; and, as we said before, did but Her Majesty's Government resolve to invite such a general volunteering as that to which we point, there would in a few days be no lack of new regiments of the Line to any extent which might be required. Something of this kind may already be traced in the early history of the British army. What was that distinguished corps the 3rd Buffs originally but a militia force raised in East Kent; or the 5th Fusiliers but a militia of Northumberland men; or the 27th Buffs originally, the 31st Huntingdonshire Regiment, the 8th Royal County Down Regiment, and 50 others whose titles a glance at the *Army List* will supply, all had their origin in pretty much the same way."

SHROPSHIRE RIOT IN CASHEL.—On Thursday evening a private of the North Tipperary Light Infantry was arrested by the constabulary in Cashel, for being drunk and disorderly. Immediately after his arrest, a number of his comrades rescued him, and a serious riot took place between them and the police.—Stones were thrown by the militia, and cries for break open the arm store freely used. The police had to retreat into their barracks, and one of them was badly wounded on the head, and a woman was also seriously hurt from blows of stones. The infuriated Light Infantry then attacked the barracks, and broke the windows; after which they proceeded to demolish the windows of the inhabitants, who had to close their shops to save their property from destruction. The Hon. Martin J. French, Esq., M.P., was quickly on the spot, and read the Riot Act, after which he ordered the constabulary to load with ball cartridge, an order which was at once obeyed. At the time the most serious results were dreaded, but owing to the firmness of Mr. French and his deserved popularity in Cashel, the riot was suppressed. The regiment was disembodied on Wednesday morning, but fortunately there was no recurrence of the scene of the previous evening.—*Tipperary Examiner*.

SAILING OF THE LADY EGLINTON.—This vessel sailed at half-past two o'clock on Wednesday, on her first trip from Galway to Quebec and Montreal, carrying her full complement of passengers, one hundred and sixteen in number, and nearly three hundred tons of bale and case goods, principally manufactured goods from Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin. It is a significant fact, that on this, the first sailing on the route between Galway and Canada, a greater number of passengers have offered than the ship could accommodate, and more than half the number are first and second class cabin passengers. They were all received on board yesterday, and comfortably arranged at dinner, and their berths, which are spacious and well fitted, assigned to all in the course of the evening. One gentleman, Mr. John William Barter, from the county Cork, had a remarkably fine family with him. Mr. Barter booked to Toronto six grown-up sons and five daughters. We understand as soon as he is located in Toronto, four of his sons will at once proceed to the newly-discovered gold diggings in British Columbia. They formed an interesting group at the table. Another large family of American citizens were not the least interesting. As soon as they came on board the young ladies, with the characteristic smartness of their 'almighty nation,' got large cards, and having written their names on them thus—'Miss Mary Moneypenny's place at table,' 'Miss Fanny Moneypenny's place at table,' affixed them to the upper seat near the Captain's chair.—This was a wrinkle which some of the Irish voyagers did not fail to improve on. Among the first-class passengers were:—Mr. and Mrs. Barter, and family, Cork; Mr. Mrs., and the Misses Moneypenny, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Goughgan, Dublin; Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer, Dublin; Miss Taylor, Dublin; Mr. Proctor, London; Mr. Hegarty, county Wicklow; Mr. Hughes, Dublin; Mr. Battersby, Torquay; Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, and family, Montreal; Mr. Walker, Londonderry; and a very large number of others, whose names we are not able to ascertain before going to press. Mr. W. Egan, the Secretary of the British and Irish Steam Company; Mr. Stirling, one of the directors, and one of the principal officers of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, were on board the vessel all yesterday, and afforded every assistance and facility for the accommodation of passengers, the stowage of cargo and baggage.—*Galway Vindicator*, 14th August.

LIBEL.—THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL V. ROBERT E. GIBBINS.—This was an action for libel, tried at the Cork assizes on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Gibbins, who is a county magistrate, became, in 1854, the purchaser, under the Incumbered Estates Court, of an estate called Garroche, and in virtue of that purchase asserted, in September last, a right to quarry limestone on a piece of land called Gastellagh, forming part of the demesne of Gannamore, the property of the Countess of Listowel. To this claim her ladyship objected, and Mr. Gibbins persisting in it, and proceeding to put his claim into practice, the servants of her ladyship, acting by her orders, forcibly prevented him. Mr. Gibbins then published in the *Cork Daily Reporter* what he pretended to be an account of the part which the countess took in the transaction, and attributing to her very violent, outrageous, and improper conduct. This constituted the alleged libel. The defence was that the statements were made in error, that an apology was offered as soon as Mr. Gibbins found he was wrongly informed, and that part of the statements were true. A great deal of evidence was adduced, and the countess was herself examined at great length. The jury, which was a special one, returned a verdict for £300 damages, and 6s. costs. An action to decide the right to the quarry is now pending in the Court of Queen's Bench.

POVERTY OF ELECTION.—The *Clonmel Chronicle* tells the following curious story:—"Just as the borough petty sessions were about to be declared adjourned, a respectable-looking farmer appeared at the table, and said he wished to make a declaration before the presiding magistrate. The applicant, who said he lived at that famed locality, 'The Commons of Cashel,' stated in his declaration that he was the possessor of half Bank of Ireland notes amounting to fifty-five pounds, and that the corresponding halves were held by a neighboring farmer, who had lodged his in the bank. The declarant added that he got the money from a gentleman in Cashel previous to the last election, and that he now wanted to put the half notes into the bank with the declaration, in order that he might be paid his moiety of the fifty-five pounds, which he held jointly with the other party. In reply to Mr. Butler, who asked him if he had given full value for his money, the man said that he gave in lieu all that was asked from him—namely, his voice at the election!"

MR. BAGWELL'S REPORT ON DOWN.—We have already published the report of the landlords on the state of Gweedore; also those of Mr. Maguire and Sergeant Deasy. The following is the draft report which was submitted to the committee by the chairman, Mr. Bagwell.

"From the vast mass of conflicting evidence that has been tendered to your committee during the course of a very protracted and patient investigation into the alleged destitution in Gweedore and Cloughaneely, they have found it very difficult to arrive at any very definite conclusion as to the causes or extent of the undoubted poverty of the district. That it appears to your committee that those districts are now, and always have been, in a state of rude poverty, which seems to be the normal condition of mountain regions, and that this state of affairs has been rendered more acute by a partial failure of the potato crop last year, and by the enormous taxation consequent upon the reckless conduct of the people, by the wanton destruction of sheep, and by endeavoring to prevent Scotch shepherds from establishing themselves on the mountains, which had been reserved by arrangements entered into by the landlords some years ago.

"Your committee trust that this expression of their opinion will show to the people of the district that such conduct is not only contrary to the laws of God and man, but positively cruel to their helpless families, and fatal to their own best interests, by preventing the influx of capital into that wild district. Although your committee do not consider the paucity of numbers in the workhouse, which may be attributed, amongst other causes, to the large amount of charity distributed and collected by the Roman Catholic Clergy, to be any test of poverty, yet still they cannot think that destitution can be said to exist whilst that establishment is nearly empty.

"It has been shown to your committee that the clothing and dwellings of the people are generally bad, and the latter exceedingly filthy; but they cannot arrive at the conclusion that the people are in a much worse state than in former years. But, at the same time, the committee cannot conceal from themselves that any increase of population or further multiplication of small holdings is very undesirable; and that they think the landlords, in conjunction with the poor law authorities, should endeavor to establish some system of emigration to prevent the permanent increase of population in a region where the existence of human beings must always be one of deprivation and hardship, and the success of crops most precarious."

GREAT BRITAIN.

One of the last incidents of the session was not one the least amusing. Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald has actually given notice of his intention next session to introduce a bill to establish one uniform Parliamentary oath for all her Majesty's subjects of whatever religious denomination. This would relieve Catholics from the ignominious position which they now occupy by themselves, thanks to Lord Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, and Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, who was an active supporter of the first-named noble lord in his attempt to liberate every one, except Catholics, from the disagreeable necessity of taking the old oaths. Catholics then made the excuse that they could not oppose the Oaths Bill on account of the Jews. But the Oaths Bill actually did become law without the clause relating to the Jews, and the Jews were emancipated by a separate statute. The mischief having been done, and a special exclusion of Catholics from the general measure having been carried by Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald's help, that gentleman now promises a special measure to relieve them. There are, unfortunately, too many men who have not sufficient principle to be honest politicians, but the Priest-prosecuting ex-Attorney-General of the Whigs is especially unlucky in this, that his natural perception of the ludicrous is so extremely blunt. The most ignorant of the peasantry of Mayo, whose superstition he despises, will enjoy a laugh at his unconscious exposure of himself in the incongruous attitude of a new Catholic emancipator.—*Tablet*.

The harvest is now general throughout the South of England. Common report hitherto declares the wheat to promise a full average yield, the barley to be exceedingly various, oats to be if anything below an average, peas and beans to be decidedly below an average, the hay crop to be of first-rate quality, though below an average in quantity, mangel wurzel to be in general promising well, and turnips to be in general promising very ill.—*Gardiner's Chronicle*.

ANTI-CATHOLIC MEETING AT WORCESTER.—A meeting of the friends and supporters of the 'Society for promoting Special Missions to Catholics,' was held in the townhall, Worcester, on Thursday morning. The meeting was a complete failure as regards number, the assembly-room of the hall was never more than half-filled, and the audience consisted of antique females and the local clergy. The chair was taken by a preacher named Wright, well known in Worcester for his strong aversion to Catholicism.—The Rev. J. Drury, the clerical secretary of the society, and Dr. Cumming of anti-Catholic notoriety, attended as a deputation. We are not told whether the great society had any members, or whether it merely consisted of a principal and secretary. Dr. Drury was the first to display his grandiloquence, but a peculiar nasal utterance rendered his voice far from agreeable. We extract the following from his speech:—"The Society's Missionaries had not been well chosen for their work. It was a well known fact that every Catholic was instructed in their particular kind of controversy. Their Missionaries must therefore be trained for their work, and hence the necessity for a training institution. Dr. Cumming would instruct them, and when they were prepared they would enter every house and call at every door, for they must bear in mind that Romanists would never come to inquire for them—(hear, hear)—for when a Romanist once begins to inquire he ceases to be a Romanist. In Liverpool more than 200 had left the Catholic Church, and in Sheffield as many as fifty.—Now he knew they would think that a very small number and ask him to show them greater effects, but they must remember the Catholic Church was marked out for Divine judgments, she was to be punished with everlasting destruction. Her time was now fast approaching, and he should not feel surprised if a person might not be in that room who would awake some morning to hear the words, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils.'" Dr. Cumming followed in the same strain, but he took rather a more depending view of the subject. "The Protestant alliance (he said) was not at present in a very prosperous state. It was proposed to raise a sum of money; they had had two meetings at Stroud and thought they would have another at no great distance, and therefore had selected the City of Worcester. The Catholic Church was very quiet at present, but this change was only a change in her tactics, she was more dangerous in her silence than she was in her noise. The Duchess of Buccleuch had become a Catholic, the Dowager Duchess of Argyll had done the same only the other day, and laboured in the cause with a zeal which would be worthy of all praise if the purpose was a different one, and he verily believed that all the old Scotch nobility would go over to Romanism. (Hear.) In England not less than 200 Clergy had gone over owing to the doctrines of Poole, Liddell, and others of the Dr. Pusey school. Cardinal Wiseman had recently stated, that in the district of Belgravia they had as many as 200 converts." (Hear.) The day selected for this precious display was particularly ill-chosen, it being the day on which the fine regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Lord Ward, assembled for their annual eight days training, and Dr. Cumming has learnt a lesson from Worcester, viz., that people prefer any kind of amusement to the stale twaddle and self-sufficient bombast of an Anti-Popery lecturer.—*Cor. Weekly Register*.

The total number of deserters from the regular army serving in the United Kingdom, in the six months ending the 31st March last, was 8,222, of whom 3,038 were recovered and brought back to service at an expense of £1,474 12s. 3d. The deserters in the same period from the militia numbered 6,614, of whom 5,123 were brought back at an expense of £358 14s. 6d.

The *Daily News* thinks it possible that there may still be here and there a few well-meaning and conscientious men who are half inclined to look upon the Queen's visit to Cherbourg as something between a trap and a humiliation for England. To these people our contemporary points out that, if the Emperor Napoleon entertains a deep and determined hostility to England, his first aim must be to arouse the spirit of the military and excite the old animosity of the French people against us. But the Emperor follows a policy the very opposite of that which would excite the war feeling and please the war party. The *Daily News* says:—"A more complete damper could not be given to this party than that administered by the imperial invitation to Queen Victoria to grace the *fetes* of Cherbourg by her presence. It was impossible to devise a more crushing blow to the rising hopes of the anti-English and pro-Russian intriguers than the substitution of the English court for a Russian fleet at the great naval festivities so long announced. The step taken by Napoleon the Third is one of courage and generosity; for it certainly thwarts the wishes of his too ardent partisans. The most subtle ingenuity cannot devise what the Emperor could gain by such a course of proceedings, on the supposition that he was insincere. The more rational, or rather the only rational, conclusion is that the courtesy of Napoleon is sincere; that he wishes to smooth away whatever feeling of suspicion or irritation may have been caused by his naval armaments, and that he seeks to throw a veil of oblivion over the exasperation produced in both countries by the consequences of the explosion of February last. There are some politicians, however, for the most part of the Palmerston school, who have a quick eye for discerning in the distance the thunder clouds of war. Their vision is of a kind which sees in every neighbour an antagonist, in every smile a deception, and in every whisper a plot. We are to be overwhelmed by Russia one day, and to be invaded by France the next. Yet surely never was a period in which the general powers of Europe displayed towards each other fewer signs of active animosity."

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL CIVILISATION.—How strange says the *Times*, is the contrast which might be instituted between the rush to Fraser River, described by our San Francisco Correspondent, and the Crusades, which carried so large a portion of the population of Europe to die on the burning sands of Palestine! Let us present our readers with two scenes.—a medieval and a modern one. At Clonmel Ferrand Peter the Hermit has concluded his discourse; cries are heard in every quarter, "It is the will of God! it is the will of God!" Every one assumes the cross, and the crowd disperses to prepare for conquering under the walls of the earthly a sure passage to the heavenly Jerusalem. What elevation of motive, what faith, what enthusiasm! Compare with this the picture drawn by our correspondent. A steamer calculated to carry 600 persons is laden with 1,500. There is hardly standing room on the deck. It is almost impossible to fight your way from one part of the vessel to the other. The passengers are not knights and barons, but tradesmen who have "evacuated," without paying the "jobbers" who supply them with goods—"jobbers" who are in debt to the wholesale houses that employ them,—tenants who have "abbequiated" without deigning to remember the existence of their unfortunate landlords, and losers of all the known varieties. They seek in their overloaded vessel a land where innumerable labours, trials, and dangers await them,—where they have to confront the alternative of starvation, drowning, or death by the hands of the Indians, besides such minor inconveniences as persons of the class we have described may be supposed capable of causing to each other in the shape of robbery, murder, or the lesser evils of cowardice, and any amount of "difficulties" likely to obtain the speediest and most fatal solution. Nor does the end elevate the means. Their object is of the earth earthly,—wealth in its rawest and rudest form—gold, the one thing for which they bear to live or dare to die.

A vigorous campaign against Church rates is about to be commenced under the auspices of the Liberation Society. Besides the issue of tracts and handbills dealing with the points discussed in the late debates, it is intended to take systematic steps for carrying the opposition into new parishes, and to urge all the local committees of the society and its correspondents—of whom it has many hundreds, scattered all over the country—to undertake the responsibility of insuring that there shall not be an unopposed rate in any parish in a given district.—Machinery will also be put in motion for collecting information relative to the rate.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

We get a curious insight into ecclesiastical arrangements in a pamphlet with the title "A Plea for Kenilworth" (Collingridge, City Press). The Rev. P. Wallis, the writer, was the curate of Kenilworth, and the story he tells is the history of his dismissal from the curacy. We should judge that he is a very earnest curate, and the complaint against him appears to be that he preached extempore and talked a good deal about "conversion." The vicar accused him of believing that those who did not come forth to the communion-table was unconverted, and on the way to hell. The vicar asked him in vain to talk less about "conversion" and "hell," and at last dismissed him with the sanction of the Bishop of Worcester. But 1,100 of the parishioners memorialised the Bishop in Mr. Wallis's favour, to which the Bishop replied by saying that he deemed it his duty to sanction the dismissal of the curate, seeing that nothing good could come from a difference of opinion between a vicar and a curate, which certainly existed in this instance.—*Weekly Register*.

Mr. Grant, the editor of the *Morning Advertiser*, is to have a testimonial presented to him by those who respect his zeal and ability in combining the interest of his work with the fervour of Evangelicism, and also manufacturing marcs' nests with a power and profession unequalled in the history of journalism.—*Sheffield Argus*.

RAPID INCREASE OF CHIME IN SCOTLAND.—Whilst the journals are recording the steady decrease of criminality in Ireland, the *Times* is sorry to be obliged to notice from a Blue Book just published that crime in Protestant Scotland is steadily and rapidly on the increase. "We are sorry," says the *Times*, "to notice from a blue-book just issued that the number of offenders in Scotland exhibited an increase for last year of 3,972 per cent. 3,840 culprits (whereof 1,097 were females) were committed for trial last year, 3,169 were tried, and 2,931 convicted, outlawed, or found insane; three were sentenced to the scaffold, and the sentences were executed. The proportion of convictions to commitments was 76-3281 per cent., and of acquittals to commitments 30-7627 per cent. 1,140 committed offences against the person, 408 against property with violence, and 1,043 without violence, 63 malicious offences against property, and 80 offences against the currency. The only item of decrease is in the case of malicious offences against property (32-9113 per cent.). Offences against the person increased 9-9866 per cent., and offences against property, aggravated by violence, 7-3684 per cent.; 557 males and 316 females were wholly illiterate; 1,625 males and 697 females could make a show of reading and writing; 467 males and 75 females could do both well; and 82 males with seven females were of superior education. The number of illiterate offenders was increased by 21-9273 per cent. The sentences were,—to death, three; to transportation 28; to penal servitude, 230; to imprisonment, 2,337; to flagellation, seven; and to fines, seven. Sixteen persons were 'outlawed.'"

We (*Weekly Register*) learn from the *Manchester Guardian* that on Tuesday evening a serious disturbance took place at Wigan owing to the disgraceful conduct of several Protestant ministers and their abettors who attended a lecture delivered in St. John's Catholic School-room by Dr. Kutner, evidently with the intention of creating confusion and interrupting the lecture. The excitement was very great, but no person sustained serious injury.

UNITED STATES.

BAPTISM OF AN INTERESTING CONVERT.—On Sunday the 15th ult., at St. Peter's Church, Barclay-street, the Pastor, Rev. Wm. Quinn, received the abjuration of Miss Margaret Fox, and administered to her Baptism. Miss Fox is one of the family so singularly visited, years ago, by the rapping-spirits, and which has played so conspicuous a part since in those forbidden manifestations. For many years past, Miss Margaret Fox has refused to hold any communication with these spirits, from a conviction of its dangers and its unlawful character. Such right-minded resolutions, with the grace of God, have brought her at length to that faith to which, alone, the deceiving wonders of spiritualism present nothing inexplicable. Miss Fox's profession of the Catholic faith is far enough from casting any suspicion of collusion or imposture on her former life, or on that of the members of her family, who still, unfortunately, engage in those occult practices. She renounces, for herself, all such communications, having been for months carefully preparing under the instructions of Mr. Quinn. The *Tribune* is grievously mistaken in saying that Hume, the noted sorcerer, is recognized as a Catholic. When he reverted to the forbidden practices of the black art, he did so in the face of the known censure of the Church.—*New York Freeman*.

CATHOLICITY IN PENNSYLVANIA.—It is very remarkable that whenever England has provided, by any clause in provincial or state charters, that security of the church by law established should be maintained, that the very clause universally implies insecurity, and even violent opposition, to Catholicity. Nothing was more natural, when the sage son of Admiral Penn came into the Delaware, and established his little colony in Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, than that Irish Catholics should feel that they could look with confidence for religious independence; but, alas! the clause inserted in the charter by the Bishop of London, was an tacitious upon the development of good feeling towards Catholics, even in the tolerant colony of William Penn. In the year 1678, James Logan of Philadelphia, suspected of an attachment to James, received a letter from England, to the following effect:—"There is a complaint against your government that you suffer public Mass in a scandalous manner. Pray send us the matter of fact, for if it be made it against us here." In another letter:—"It has become a reproach to me here, among the officers of the crown, that you suffer the scandal of the Mass to be publicly celebrated." In the life and times of Archbishop Carroll, it is stated that the first Catholic chapel in Philadelphia, was a frame building near Front and Walnut streets. A second one, corner of Chestnut and Second streets, was built before 1731.—Miss Elizabeth McGowan, built another between Nicetown and Frankford, 1729. The Rev. Fathers Joshua Greston and Henry Neale, administered the rights of religion to the Catholics of Philadelphia, in 1731. They came to Pennsylvania from Baltimore, and the missions which they founded were filled by immediate successors, esteemed by the Protestant population for the "prudence and toleration, and unfeigned pious labors among the people to whom they officiated." To form some idea of the feeling entertained at this period, of Catholics, by the inhabitants of New Jersey, the Reverend Father Schneider, in his apostolic journeyings to the interior of New Jersey, was several times shot at; but these attempts to shorten his days diminished nothing of his zeal, and he at last made his visits, with infinite charity, he fulfilled the functions of his office, when he could not become the physician of their souls." During these times, the Catholics of Pennsylvania experienced many trials and difficulties, but the testimony of Fathers Carroll, Neale, Corby, &c., proves that they lead a most praiseworthy life. They were much indebted to their more affluent friends the Catholics of Baltimore.—*Catholic Herald*.

Eight million four hundred thousand boxes of strawberries were sold in New York during the past spring. These berries at three cents a box, produced two hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars.

SPIRITUALISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—According to the *Spiritual Register*, the number of persons professing Spiritualism of kindred doctrines in the United States is upwards of a million.

The State Legislature of California, doubtless influenced by the religious fervor of the last Winter and Spring, passed an act prescribing a decent external observance of Sunday as a day of rest from traffic and ordinary labor. The Supreme Court of that State, we regret to see, has, by a majority of the judges composing it, declared that law unconstitutional, on the assumption that it discriminates in favor of the Christian as against other religions;—also as restricting a man's natural right to acquire property.

A POOR REFUGER FOR THE OPPRESSED.—A runaway slave was discovered in the attic of a Methodist church, at Washington, D. C., on a recent Sunday morning. He had lived there for four or five months unsuspected, had used for the communion wine, and picked up his food by nightly sorties into the neighboring pantries. His taking refuge at the altar did not save him from a whipping, or from being sold to the slave traders.

A BOLD, BUT BRAVE, FIGHT.—During the delivery of a sermon, last Sunday, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in this city, the eyes of the congregation were suddenly riveted upon the speaker, Rev. Francis X. Boyle, by what, for the moment, seemed to be a digression to the all absorbing topic of conversation and conjecture throughout the civilized world—the Atlantic telegraph. The eloquent divine spoke in terms of glowing paenegyric of this wonderful triumph of human science, and dilated upon the revolutions which the grand achievement will accomplish in the commercial, political, and social condition of the two hemispheres thus successfully united by means of the electric wire. What is it after all, exclaimed the speaker, when compared with the instantaneous communication between the Throne of Divine Grace and the heart of man? Offer up your silent petition for grace. It is transmitted through realms of unmeasured space more rapidly than the lightning's flash, and the answer reaches the soul ere the prayer has died away on the singer's lips. Yet this telegraph, performing its swiftness over since Christ died for us on Calvary, fills not the world with exultation and shouts of gladness—with illuminations and b'fires and the booming of cannon. The reason is, one is the telegraph of this world, and may produce wonderful revolutions on earth; the other is the sweet communion between Christ and the Christian's soul, and will secure a glorious immortality in Heaven.—*Washington Union*.

A writer in the *Kilncker Beacon* says it rains twenty six hours in the day, in Oregon, and for seventeen months in the year. A shower commenced on the 3d of last November, and continued until the 16th of March, when it set in for a long storm, which is not finished yet. Moisture must abound in that country.