

The distinguished President of the Catholic University, in whom Europe recognises a man of genius, has approved of, and will contribute largely to, a new cheap Review, to be printed and published in Dublin. It will aim, we believe, to be a teacher and guide, in ethics, history, and theology, and not neglect the fields of literature. It cannot be in safer or stronger hands.—*Nation*.

Mr. John O'Connell has been elected, without opposition, to represent the borough of Clonmel. He was proposed by the Very Rev. Dr. Burke, who "knew he would follow in the policy by which his great father had obtained such mighty results for the Catholics of this country." Alderman Hackett, in seconding the nomination, denounced the conduct of the Aberdeen Cabinet which had been the first English ministry to impose an Income Tax upon Ireland. On being declared duly elected, Mr. John O'Connell declared that "His principal object in again entering St. Stephen's would be, by endeavoring to reconcile all parties, Protestant, Presbyterian, and Catholic, in the country, to attempt to make Ireland once more a nation." He again denied having taken the pledge of the Independent Party, and declared that he would be always governed by "the principles of his father."—*Id.*

It is rumored in town (says the *Galway Packet*) that one of our county members, Sir T. Burke, is about to resign his seat in the British parliament.

It is said that Lord Clarendon is watching intently the proceedings of the Irish patriots across the Atlantic. It is very questionable whether the rules which regulate international relations between friendly powers have been adhered to by the Yankee authorities in their reception of John Mitchell. The Governor of one American province presided over, and the Governor of another was guest at, a dinner to the unfortunate gentleman, at which he spoke of the Queen as a "fellow," and lost sight of all manhood and decency so far that he loaded her with abuse, denouncing her, among other things, as a "she tyrant"—poor lady?—and exceeding in virulence and hatred of England his past diatribes, which ended so disastrously for him, and the men he misgoverned and carried away to raise.—*Correspondent of Dublin Express*.

The new Reform Bill contemplates a very handsome sweep among the Irish boroughs. We know not whether to receive as authentic a list that appears in the *Morning Herald*; but if this be correct, the following boroughs are to be disfranchised—Cashel, Dungarvan, Mallow, New Ross, Sligo, Bandon, Coleraine, Ennis, Kinsale, Lisburn, Portlinton, Wexford, Youghal, Athlone, Carlow, Armagh, Clonmel, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Tralee—in all 22. The rule of extinction is founded on their having less than 500 electors.—*Cork Examiner*.

The resignation of Palmerston is the luckiest event that has happened for Ireland since Mr. John Sadleir was inducted to the red board of the Treasury. Its value to us at the present juncture is inestimable. It restores once more the balance of parties, in which alone the weight of Ireland can kick the beam of Imperial statesmanship. It cripples the strongest and, therefore, the most dangerous Government that the present political elements of England could afford.—*Nation*.

The Harbor Commissioners are now about to take active measures for commencing the long talked of improvements in Galway Bay. The causeway through Cladagh, and the breakwater, the estimated cost of which is about £26,000, inclusive of sums to be awarded proprietors for compensation, are first to be commenced.—*Galway Vindicator*.

MINING ENTERPRISE IN DONEGAL.—The Northern papers give some flattering information with respect to mining operations in progress throughout the county of Donegal. According to these statements one speculation is realising as much as 100 per cent.; and a Derry journal is quite confident that silver and lead mines will be found and turned to good account in that part of Ulster. In addition to this bright prospect, there is said to be a mineral production there much more valuable to Derry than the richest lodes of the precious metals, and that is coal, which, it is confidently asserted by competent judges, may be found in ample quantities within a short distance of the "maiden city."

The Irish temple of Industry was opened on Thursday as a winter garden and promenade. The experiment promises to be successful, for, notwithstanding the inclemency of the day, more than 7,000 persons were present, and the hall and passages once more resumed their busy and life-like appearance. The Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of St. Germans were present, and the receipts at the door were highly satisfactory.

The *Limerick Chronicle*, an authority upon military affairs, states that the number of troops in Ireland is to be greatly diminished, and several regiments will be sent to the Mediterranean.

Sir John Young, M.P., county Cavan, has agreed to introduce a measure early in the coming season, for the allocation of the sum of £10,000 at present at the disposal of the Commissioners of Public Works, to enable the counties Fermanagh and Cavan to present at any assizes sums not exceeding £300 for the removal of obstructions to the navigation, &c., of Lough Erne.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The Census Commissioners' return of Irish agricultural produce in the year 1852 shows a decrease of 15,925 or nearly 2½ per cent. in the number of holdings, as compared with the previous year, and confined to classes not exceeding fifty acres; holdings above fifty and not exceeding 100 acres exhibiting the principal increase, so that the increase is exclusively in the larger classes of tenements. The extent of land under crop in 1852 was 119,737 acres less than in 1851. There was a large diminution in the cultivation of wheat, as was to be expected from the operation of Free Trade. There was also a reduction in green crops, as compared with 1851 of 16,832 acres. The produce, however, notwithstanding the smaller area of cultivation, increased on the year by 15,882 tons, a proof of advancing agricultural skill, and this increase is chiefly apparent in oats. The greatest decrease of holdings is in Westmeath, King's County, Tipperary and Mayo; in these it exceeds four per cent. Of the eight counties which still maintain an increasing extent of cultivation, six are maritime, and four of these, viz., Donegal, Mayo, Galway, and Clare, are amongst the poorest districts in Ireland. The total increase in the produce of oats, was 1,505,971 barrels. The gross produce of wheat was 570,122 barrels less in 1852 than in 1851; barley, 2,130,221 barrels; bere, 85,214 barrels; beans, 125,

355 bushels; and peas, 180,637 bushels. The greatest amount of cereal crops to each inhabitant was produced in the counties Meath, Wexford, Kildare, Louth, Queen's and Kilkenny. The counties of Kerry, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, and Clare, exhibit the lowest averages. In 1852 the value of stock in Munster was £8,485,956; in Ulster £8,224,502; in Leinster £7,610,926; and in Connaught £4,833,842. Of all the counties Cork stood highest; and next in order, Tipperary, Galway, Kerry, Donegal, Mayo, Tyrone, Antrim Limerick, Down, Clare, and Meath.

POTATO RIOTS.—We regret to state that the organised system of resistance to the shipment of potatoes still continues, and that the convolutions which took place before the magistrates at the Sligo Petty Sessions on Thursday week, have had no effect. The consequences of this conspiracy are most injurious to the town, as the country people have determined not to send any potatoes to Sligo market for the future. We are enabled to announce, on the best authority, that government have resolved to take prompt measures for the suppression of mob violence and lawless interference with the freedom of commerce.—*Sligo Constitution*.

GRAIN FROM IRELAND.—In the first six months of the present year there were 31,488 quarters of wheat imported from Ireland, out of 2,268,976 quarters imported into the united kingdom.—*Times*.

Heavy poor-rates continue to be needed in Clare. In one electoral division of the Tulla Union, the rate is as high as 7s. in the pound; in another, 6s.; in four others, the average is 5s. 8d.; in five more, the average is 4s. 7d.; in three, about 3s. 4d.; while in two only the rate is a few pence below the last-mentioned figure.

THE FATE OF SCOTCH SETTLERS IN IRELAND.—Who has not heard of all the good things that would accrue to Ireland from the introduction of Scotch and English settlers into the country. Who has not read the glowing pictures painted by imaginative English journalists of the future prosperity and thrift which these men were to create among us? Who has not listened to enthusiastic Irish worshippers of British genius discarding on our golden prospects? Scottish husbandry, English enterprise, were to work a marvellous transformation in this poverty-stricken land; and by their contact the poor degraded Celt was to be thoroughly regenerated. The *Times* congratulated the empire on the Celtic flight westward over the broad ocean, and boasted how, as the natives departed and new blood was infused into the country, Saxonised Ireland would rapidly rise from the slough of despond, and cease for ever to be a shame and an eye-sore to the British empire. Some were caught by this idle and insolent declamation. They swallowed it as the sublimest wisdom; and as the papers daily chronicled how some long-headed Sawney, or some bluff member of the Bull family, had just transferred his household-gods to Ireland, to contribute his share to our regeneration, they rubbed their hands and were wondrously gratified. For our own humble part, we dared to look on the whole thing as a sham: a paltry, hollow, clap-trap, like the 'evangelical reformation,' and all the other senseless projects that are daily conceived in the misty brains of our self-conceited neighbors for the improvement of the Irishry. We had some experience of what English and Scotch speculators, hampered and shackled by preconceived notions and incurable prejudices, had vainly attempted; and we knew too well the character of Irish landlords, as a class, to hope that any great good would result from the new speculations. Well nigh a year ago, we chronicled in our columns the failures and disappointment of more than one of these landlords. They had failed because they were ignorant of the nature of the soil and the customs of the country, because they came with expectations that could not be fulfilled, and because they counted on treatment with Irish landlords, which, had they known that class of men better, they would not have hoped for. The result was failure and disappointment, the chagrin of the landlord who cursed the day he had forced his old tenants off to America, and the helpless confusion of the tenant who regretted that he had ever left his own lands to speculate in Irish farms under the greedy hands of the Irish proprietor. Such has, in too many instances, been the result of the speculations of the Scotch and English settlers who were to build up the agricultural prosperity of Ireland.—*Ulsterman*.

THE IRISH EXODUS.—The *Limerick Examiner* commenting upon the flight of the population from Ireland, expresses its opinion that this extraordinary social revolution "is clearly the work of God," and is destined to effect a great and mighty end." It is, in fact, a "new era in the history of mankind."—"If (continues the *Examiner*) we could but enter into the private life of this great event what a world of profoundly interesting history would it not reveal! we get a glimpse of it from circumstances which are from time to time brought to light; and, in noticing these, let us draw attention to the three great providential arrangements which seem to us to have preceded and attended the Irish famine and emigration of the last six years. The first is the bill of Sir Robert Peel endowing the College of Maynooth, which, without that endowment, must have been shut up for the last four years, from the total inability of the farming and trading classes to support it in the usual way, by the annual pensions paid for their children. The next is the existence of the workhouses, which, with all their faults, saved the land from appalling scenes during the years of famine. The third is the success which generally attended the emigrants in America, which is abundantly attested by the vast sums of money which they transmitted, either for the actual relief of their friends at home or to enable them to join themselves in America. The English Commissioners of Emigration have returned the following sums as having come under their own knowledge:—in 1848, £460,000; in 1849, £540,000; in 1850, £975,000; in 1851, £997,000; making a total of £2,972,000 in four years! If the remittances have continued at the same rate during the last two years, another million and a half may be added to this sum, which would give for the six years a grand total of £4,472,000, for the last six years. There is nothing in the history of the world that equals in interest the romance of Private Life revealed by this fact, attesting at once the heroism, the self denial, and the dull affection of the Irish Catholic people."

THE IRISH EMIGRANT.—Tossing about among the Atlantic wave thousands of Irish exiles spend the saddest and loneliest Christmas of all their lives this year. Pleasant be their dreams, when the long gusty night at last falls—of the old country, the midnight mass, the homely cheer that used to irradiate even the

humblest peasant's home under the holly and ivy of the first of Christmas festivals. Alas, their eyes only open upon misery and sickness—upon horrors and suffering that transcend Kilrush and Skull. We have been too long ignorant, or too long silent, of the horrors of the Emigration ships. We have waited until a cry has arisen from America at their approach, as if they were plague-ships which had burst quarantine, and flung their malarious cargo upon her shores. We have been unconscious while one half of the liners which left Liverpool might be tracked across the ocean by the corpses dropping at their stern and the shark hovering at their hull. Our blood curdles while we say that the estimated loss of passengers upon the Emigrant Ships which sailed from Liverpool to New York during the past season amounts to One-Tenth—one out of every ten men, women, and children tossed overboard in a canvass bag deal, or carted into the hospitals of New York dying. The principal agents in this destructive process have been ship fever, diarrhoea, and cholera; and they have been caused by the overcrowding of the vessels, the bad ventilation, the inadequate means of cooking, and the constant damp and diversified discomfort to which the passengers are obliged to submit from the moment they are outside the docks. We have read many declarations, and should be disposed to consider their statements exaggerated and monstrous, did not the Statistics of the Commissioners furnish us with sad irresistible proofs of their truth. Those who have perused the narratives which have, from time to time, appeared in the New York papers, will, perhaps, agree with us in asserting that the hold of an Emigrant Ship is often only of less startling horror than the Black Hole of Calcutta. The first reflection that occurs to us upon referring to the shipping returns of the last few years, and especially those of the last Autumn, is the enormous preponderance of deaths occurring in vessels which have sailed from the ports of London and Liverpool, compared with those of Irish or Continental ports. No other vessels are so recklessly overcrowded, so barbarously conducted, so utterly deficient in the commonest conveniences for so long a voyage. Instinct with the insatiable love of greed, which has converted the manufacturer, the coal and mine proprietors into tyrants, besides whom the slave-owner of America commonly presents a benevolent contrast, the Ship Broker is actuated by the sole motive of putting money in his purse, utterly regardless of the means by which he effects his object—utterly regardless of the misery to which he subjects his unfortunate passengers. And as in the manufacturing towns and mining districts of England—those hells of labor, vice, and misery—the cholera has counted its largest numbers of victims, so in the Emigrant vessels conducted upon the same principles, that terrible scourge has exercised its most rampant and resistless sway. It is full time that our peasantry, actuated as they have been by so strong an impulse to seek a field for their labor at the other side of the Atlantic, should be conscious of the risks of disease and death, they are certain to run in their transit thither. If some few have reasons to rejoice over the prosperity of their friends on American ground, many and many a family will recall, with tears and curses, the loss of husband and wife, son, daughter, and brother, who have perished in the pestilential atmosphere of the Emigrant Ship. For three years the English Government has looked with a callous eye upon this ghastly sequel of the Famine—this extermination of the Exodites. No step has been taken to arrest it. Such is the power of the merchant class, whose interest lies in the present state of things that an English Government will long pause before dealing with it. To empty Ireland of the Irish has been their darling and avowed object; and they who had no pity for the coffinless dead have none to spare for the pestilential hulk. We look rather to the American Government to interfere in this matter, and to ameliorate the conditions of the transit across the Atlantic. While ship after ship arrives at New York, spreading terror through that city, whose hospitals are already crammed to the roofs, and whose citizens tremble as each cargo of contagion sails up their river, no long period will elapse before some means are taken for remedying this crying evil.—*Nation*.

WRECK OF THE PACKET SHIP STAFFORDSHIRE, AND FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE.—The *N. Y. Tribune* gives the following account of the wreck of the above vessel, with the immense loss of 180 passengers:—"She left Liverpool on the 8th December, and struck on Blonder Rock, south of Cape Sable, at 1 o'clock on the morning of Friday last. The first and second mates and seventeen seamen reached Cape Sable in safety; the third mate, boatswain, and twelve others were picked up and landed at Shelburn, N.S. Captain Richardson and the remainder, about one hundred and eighty passengers went down in the wreck immediately after striking. The Staffordshire formed one of the Messrs. Train's Boston line of Packets. She was built by McKay in June, 1851, and was a first class ship of 1,817 tons. She had a valuable cargo, and is reported to have been insured for \$100,000, of which amount \$40,000 are in this city."

We learn from Boston papers, that the passengers were chiefly Irish emigrants, on their way to the United States, in search of a better lot in life; and thus in the wild waters, amidst the fury of the storm, the quest has been terminated. Her cargo was estimated to be worth \$300,000; a large portion of it is stated to be on Canadian account, and was probably insured in England.

ILLEGAL DISTILLATION IN BELFAST—EXTRAORDINARY SEIZURE.—On Tuesday evening, in consequence of information received, Mr. Sheils, supervisor of excise, accompanied by excise officers Segurs, Sessions, and Nixon, proceeded to the premises lately occupied by Mr. James Coey, jun., in Ballymacarrett, immediately adjoining the terminus of the Belfast and County Down Railway, where they discovered the process of illicit distillation going on in a somewhat extensive scale. The scene of the operations was underground, and a most ingenious provision against such contingencies as that which has now occurred consisted in a bell hung there, the handle of which was so placed at the entrance door above that the person opening it, in case the visitors were such as to excite apprehension, could easily and imperceptibly, by pulling this bell, signify that suspicion to their subterranean friends. Accordingly the excise officers on their arrival below found the hall utterly deserted, but bearing all the marks of very recent occupation. The birds had flown by another passage; and behind them they had left the machinery of their art and a large quantity of the manufactured article, both of which were ruthlessly destroyed by the intruders. The police were immediately sent for, and soon after Head Constable McInyre, accompanied by Head Constable McCoy,

arrived, and arrested a man named Hugh Stirling, in the Upper storey of the concern, and consequently had not enjoyed the benefit of the warning bell which had given the others an opportunity of escaping.—*Belfast News Letter*.

Thirty-one members of the constabulary at Castleblayney were dismissed for insubordination a few weeks ago.

At a meeting of the Cork guardians, it was stated that there had been up to that date 13 cholera cases in that city, of which eleven had proved fatal. Two further deaths and two new cases have been since reported.

One of the most extensive and destructive conflagrations that has occurred in Belfast for a number of years broke out on Sunday night in Messrs Francis Ritchie and Son's Patent Asphaltic Felt Manufactory, Ballymacarrett, and continued to rage during four hours, resulting in the total demolition of the valuable premises and of the property they contained.

The sewing and embroidery of muslin and cotton fabrics, recently introduced to this country, now employs, at least, 100,000 young girls in every county of Ireland.—*Galway Vindicator*.

The most visible and striking results of the enormous emigration, which has occurred in Ireland, is the diminution of pauperism. In the North the poor rate to many of the Unions is all but exclusively applied to the support of the officers, and keeping the workhouses in repair.—*Id.*

FABRICATED OUTRAGES.

(From the *Galway Vindicator*.)

The papers in the "Protestant interest" continue to furnish the public with circumstantial accounts of ribbon outrages. For those outrages no cause is assigned, or one so utterly absurd as to defy all power of credibility. If they do occur they are mysteries unsolvable by our reason; if they do not occur, why this extraordinary zeal in propagating falsehood and maligning the population? It would appear from those reports that ribbonism has deserted its former stronghold in the South, and betaken itself northwards into the bosom of model and moral Ulster. But even for this mysterious migration there is no alleged cause. The probability is that, on strict examination, those outrages will be found to be only mythical, and to have their origin in the poetic brains of the interested reporters. The following few contradictions, facts, will bear us out in what we say. The *Midland Counties Gazette*, says:—

"So far from believing that Ribbonism is on the increase in this county, we know the very reverse to be the case—that such illegal, most baneful, and most criminal combinations are rapidly dying out in Longford. We believe this to be the case, not only in Longford, but throughout the county generally; and, if the winter of 1853-54, be disgraced by the commission of agrarian crime, the guilt will not rest solely on the people, in whom, we assert, there is not at present any remarkable predisposition to crime."

We find the following in the *Times*:—

"To the Editor of the *Times*."

Sir—A report is going the round of the newspapers under Irish news, "More Ribbonism," that an attempt had been made to assassinate me on my property in the county of Roscommon. I cannot allow the report to pass without asking you to give it a contradiction, as being altogether unfounded. I have the honor to be your obedient humble servant,
DANIEL MATHER.

Mr. Thomas Miller, D'Olier street, Dublin, thus writes in *Saunders*:—

Mr. Daniel Mather, a Scotch gentleman, from Roxburghshire, some time ago, became the purchaser of a portion of the estate of Sir George St. George, Bart., in the county of Roscommon, situated at the confluence of the river Suck with the Shannon. Mr. Mather has effected considerable improvements upon this property, and has given a great deal of employment, not only to his own tenantry but also to many of the agricultural population in his neighborhood, by all of whom he is much respected and beloved. It was therefore with no little surprise that I noticed some time ago a paragraph giving the round of the Irish newspapers and from thence into the English and Scotch journals, that Mr. Mather had very narrowly escaped being made the victim of Ribbon conspiracy, it being stated that he had been shot at, but happily received no injury. As I am well acquainted with Mr. Mather, and as I have also been the means of purchasing many Irish properties for English and Scotch gentlemen, as well as inducing large numbers of Scotch and English farmers to take leases of farms in Ireland, I felt it to be an imperative duty to communicate directly with Mr. Mather, and to ask him to state to me the real facts of the alleged attempt which was stated to have been made on his life. In reply to my letter Mr. Mather writes as follows:—

"I am glad to say that no threats or attempts, such as the paragraph you allude to, have come my way, and I trust by fair and just dealing with the poor people, I will be preserved from such violence."

Being in the daily habit of meeting or corresponding with many of the Scotch and English farmers who are settled in Ireland, I have much pleasure in stating that without exception they concur in bearing testimony to the kindness which they have received from all classes of the community since they settled in this country.

And we find the following in the *Evening Post*:—

A Tory contemporary, the *Monaghan Standard*, in reference to a report of a "Ribbon Riot" published in an Armagh journal, says:—

No such affair as a Ribbon riot occurred on our last fair day, or any other fair for the last fifteen years.—we do believe there is no people in Ireland more peaceably inclined than those of Monaghan and its surrounding districts.

In a letter to the *Newry Telegraph*, the Rev. William Rossborough, of Springfield, in reference to a paragraph about "Ribbon Ramifications" near Rathfriland, ascribing the firing of a gun at his house "not only to the Roman Catholic party, but to one of these combinations," makes the following most gratifying statement:—

I beg to say, that this neighborhood is one of the most peaceful in Ulster, and that the Protestants and Roman Catholics live on terms of good feelings towards each other. The clergymen of all denominations inculcate peace on their people, and I believe that the laity of all classes reciprocate the same feeling.—*Galway Vindicator*.