

**THE LATE ATTACK BY ORANGEMEN ON A CATHOLIC**  
**TENANT.**—There are at present in custody three men, named Robert Marks, Richard Hutchinson, and Robert Purdy, who belong to the Orange party, charged with having committed a despicable assault on a fine young man, a Catholic, named Daniel Murray, who lives in Tandragee. The attack on Murray, which, as I shall shew, was of a most brutal description, took place in Tandragee, on the night of last Friday, three weeks, October 1. You have already published in the *Irishman* the main facts relative to this painful case, but I think it right to lay before your readers and the public some additional information that may serve to throw light on the tragedy in which an innocent and unoffending person fell a victim to the unprovoked fury and insatiable hate of Orangemen, which is a curse to the age in which we live, and a scandal to Ireland, and whose social peace the Orange faction have long outraged, and whose political amelioration they have retarded for years. It appears that on the day of the 1st October poor Murray's mother died. Murray himself went in the evening from the wake of his partner to a neighboring house, kept by a person named McKee's house, and just as they had finished the 1st October party of Orangemen, to the number of thirty, or thereabouts, playing flutes and fiddles, marched past from a meeting at an Orange lodge. Evans went out, on hearing the procession pass, and conversed with the Orangemen, telling them it was a shame to conduct themselves in this manner, "and poor Murray's mother dead." Murray left McKee's house soon after, and proceeded down the street for the purpose of going to his own house, which is at the back of an entry near the corner of Mill-street; and at the locality I have just indicated he was set upon by the Orangemen who had collected there and beat and stabbed in a shocking manner, leaving him a mass of wounds and blood. Murray received ten or eleven stabs, and the wonder is, considering all he has suffered, that he is alive at this moment. He got a deep stab from a large knife on the side, and another in the arm. He received several wounds about the neck, and one of his ears was badly injured. One of the wounds extended from the lower part of Murray's forehead to back of his head. One of his ears was nearly cut off; the under part of his jaw was also cut. When he was taken up, bleeding, and almost dead, a large patch of flesh was found hanging off his arm. I visited the poor fellow on Saturday in his humble dwelling. He was in bed. He complained of getting weaker and weaker every day, though his wounds are nearly healed. He has been attended by Dr. Burns, Dr. Patterson, and Dr. McGowan. He was formerly a guard, as I could learn, in the employment of the Dublin and Belfast Railway Company. He was the only support of his mother, to whom he was much attached. It is asserted by the Orangemen that Murray was the aggressor, but all the facts are against such an idea. It is not likely that, unarmed as Murray was on the occasion, he would attack thirty Orangemen. And it is well known that Orangemen, generally, when they go out for party purposes, carry weapons of some kind, daggers or knives; and these, in many cases, have been tried on "Papists' ribs and sides. There was another motive to restrain Murray from any row on the night he got the wounds. Death, nearly in all cases, subdues the strongest feeling, except that of sorrow, which melts the heart. Murray saw before him the dead body of his mother, and it would be to conjecture something inhuman—something not natural—if one could suppose him capable, under such circumstances, of joining in any riotous demonstration. He speaks of his mother in feeling terms, and complains that he was obliged to leave the country and go to England to seek employment in consequence of the opposition he received at home from the Orangemen. At one of the late magisterial investigations into this extremely painful affair, before William Moore Miller, Esq., the resident magistrate of the district. Evans deposed, as I have been informed, that he caught Marks in the act of stabbing Murray. Another witness—an Orangeman—is reported to have stated that Murray was the actual aggressor, that he jumped in among the crowd of Orangemen, saying—"Hell to your souls, boys, I am sow at home—what can you do to me?" and that he drew a knife and stabbed Marks. I state this for the purpose showing how utterly improbable it is that one man, armed or unarmed, would attempt to assail thirty men who belong to a party who generally are not without arms when a party purpose is to be served. And, in addition, I may add that I have been informed, on what I consider good authority, that Mr. Miller, J.M., declined to take any information on the particular evidence I have been just referring to. The case, on the whole, has caused much excitement in Tandragee. The low Orange party exhibit no sign of regret for the suffering of poor Murray, but the respectable and well-minded Protestants and Presbyterians, who do not receive their inspirations from the drunken counsels of low, degraded, Orange lodges, held in public houses, abhor the atrocious crime from their inmost souls. This does their infinite credit, and it should be noted here in an especial manner.—*Cor. of Belfast Irishman.*

**DOWNS WITH THE REAPERS.**—Are the farmers making preparations to have the rents of land reduced? Are they organizing, and making arrangements to seek an abatement in the rents of their farms in proportion to the reduction in the value of agricultural produce? The farmer who does not take such a step is not only unwise, but acting criminally. Better do it now, when he has a little means in his hands, than to wait till he is all but a pauper. And if the farmers are not wise now, after all they have gone through for the past twelve years, they will never arrive at the knowledge of wisdom. Never were more serious in our appeals to any community than we are on this occasion, in addressing those who till our fields and make them productive. We know that Ireland must depend for subsistence on agriculture, for some time, and when the farmers are oppressed, there is poverty amongst all classes. We are, therefore, advocating the interest of all classes when we take the part of the oppressed farmer. We again call upon them to look at the difficulties before them.—Three or four cheap years like the present will leave them bare and naked; and fit subjects for the bailiff to operate upon. Let them, then, be wise in time and call for large abatements. We are told to seek and we shall find; and the duty of the farmers is on all occasions to demand justice when they are overburthened. But now their cry should be in vigorous tones "Down with the rents."—*Dundalk Democrat.*

The *Waterford News* has the following article on the same subject:—

"About a year since we cautioned the farmers of this country against the ruinous competition for land in which many then seemed disposed to engage. We said that if they persisted they would find themselves committed to rents that they would be unable to pay. The course of events since has well justified that line of observation. Flour, wheat, and cereals generally have fallen to very moderate rates, without at present any appearance of an advance in prices. Foreign grain is being imported in large quantities. The potato is abundant and cheap. Meat also has a downward tendency. The late fair of Ballinasloe established that tendency very decidedly. Many persons, it seems, returned from that fair unable to realise the prices they paid for their stock last May. That the fall at Ballinasloe was not unwarranted, has since appeared plain by disclosures that have been made. The contracts for supplying the navy with beef, and much of the pork, have been given to Hamburg and American houses. The Irish, at the recent rates, were unable to compete with them. Butler is high, but it is difficult to say how soon it may receive a check. Labor, on the other hand, is more likely to be higher than lower in price. The more direct and rapid communication between Ireland, America, and California becomes, the more nearly it is plain the remuneration for labor in those islands will approach that in the new world. To that result the Lever line of packets from Galway will much conduce. All these matters seem to us pretty conclusive to shew that the present scale of rents can scarcely be maintained. That scale has been established under the influence of brighter prospects for the farmer than at present exist. With, however, moderated views on the part both of landlord and tenant, we would most earnestly advise, for the benefit of both parties, a general system of leases to be adopted. Some landowners have, of late years, been taking into their own hands their land, principally for grazing purposes. It is likely that some of them will find that, ere long, not to be a very profitable speculation. They may be disposed now to listen to reason, and accept rents that can be paid by industrious tenants. They cannot, however, expect tenants to become really improving without the protection of leases. Should they either improve the soil or build, they might be only giving an occasion for an advance in rents. Bitter experience has convinced many that it is no vain imagining. It is said that some of the farmers of this country, and others willing to engage in farming operations, have money available for, and the proper application of which would be, the improvement of the soil. This money, however, they prefer to keep idle and useless at their bankers to any such investment. It is undoubted that no rate of interest would be so remunerative as that which the soil would return, yet they dread increasing the rents by their own improvements.—*Waterford News.*

**MORE EVICTIONS IN DONEGAL.**—At the Quarter Sessions held at Letterkenny, before Jonathan Henn, Esq., Assistant Barrister, on Saturday, the 23rd ult., the vile spirit of extermination manifested itself in some of its most cruel characteristics. There appeared the agents, bailiffs, and underlings of the landlords; and there, too, appeared the despondent-looking tenants who suffered at their hands. There, also, made its appearance the deep, unshuffled feeling of antagonism between the Saxon and Celt, which has been smouldering in the heart of Ireland for centuries. Fenwick against Boyle, Sweeney, or Gallagher, and Leitrim against O'Donnell, Friel, Houston, or Sheils, gave evidence that there still exists an insatiable enmity between the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon invader and the unfortunate serfs who inherit all the virtues of their Celtic forefathers, without the power that made their name and country celebrated.

Before Norman foot had dared pollute Our independent shore. But never mind. We may be the beginning of the end; this goody system of extermination cannot last always. We give the following particulars—not that we believe the publicity of their wrongs will benefit the unfortunate objects of Lord Leitrim's benevolent regard, for we believe his lordship is little troubled by unnecessary feelings of shame or compassion, but because we consider that every instance of tyranny published at the present critical period must sow in the hearts of our countrymen some germs of healthy seed, which may, and must, result in a glorious harvest when the time for reaping really comes. As the unhappy creatures, against whom the noble earl prosecuted his ejections, were either unable or unwilling to offer a defence, we are acquainted with the full particulars of each case; and this much we can say that out of the fifteen families thus thrown by him adrift upon the world, not one of them refused to pay a fair rent, and that, in fact, some of them had consented to an increased demand when made upon them. Reasons are assigned, in some instances, for the arbitrary conduct of the Leitrim nobleman, which prove the fierce vengeance he is likely to visit upon all who thwart him in his clearance exploits. One poor fellow was so unfortunate as to express sympathy with the evicted Lavances of Milford, and he gets a week to quit in consequence. Another crossed the path of the bailiff in the same way, and the crowd-brigade will cross his threshold by way of retaliation. Another, but why proceed? Every one knows the vindictiveness of the Donegal autocrats, and every one knows that their tenants are reduced to slavery of the worst description.—*Cor. Belfast Irishman.*

**DONEGAL.**—On Sunday last, the Rev. A. Nixon, of landlory notoriety, whilst proceeding homewards from church, in company with Mrs. and Miss Nixon, in a covered car, was met by three persons in the garb of females, one of whom seized the horse by the bit, whilst another proceeding to the door of the car commenced to dance, and the third having made his way towards the rear of the vehicle, awaited until the Rev. Mr. Nixon, attracted by the fan-tango-like pranks of the dancer, protruded his head, when addressing him thus he said—"I have long been waiting for you, and aiming a pistol at him lodged his contents in his jaw, some slugs passing through the opposite side and severely injuring the tongue. Dr. Eames, of Dunfanaghy, and Dr. Brady, Falcagh, were in immediate attendance, and from what can be learned from public rumour, their opinion of his position, although not hopeless, is far from devoid of serious danger. The excitement in the district is immense. The magistrates and police have mustered in great numbers, and the whole country round has undergone the most minute search. Arrests have been made, but the charges are so groundless when laid at the door of the persons arrested, that any one at all acquainted with the state of the country must regard the annoyance to which they are subjected as more conducive to the escape of the guilty party than their punishment. The above is what I could glean from all those I met with who could give any information respecting this deplorable occurrence. Two causes are mentioned as having led to this attempt. The first, Mr. Nixon's conduct as a landlord. The public is well aware how the Rev. Mr. Nixon has acted towards his tenantry in Gweedore and Cloughaneely for years past. His exhibition before the *Committee of Inquiry* into the state of those districts, in London, during the summer, which brought down upon him the scathing denunciations of the entire Liberal Press of the country, far from deterring him from proceeding in his course, on the contrary, stimulated him to still more stringent steps. Last week, his bailiff, according to instructions, went round the tenantry 'warning' them that unless they came in and paid 20 per cent. of advance on their old rents, all those refusing to do so would be ejected, and large farms made of their holdings, which would be given to those who now submitted to their landlord's demand. This demand high drove the unfortunate tenants frantic. Some, sooner than face the dire alternative of ejection, consented, and affixed their mark to a document promising to pay the advance. The majority held aloof, and waited with sullen indignation for the worst. They had seen themselves deprived of thousands of acres of mountain commonage—400 acres of reclaimed bog land, whereon their landlord had erected a handsome mansion for his dwelling, and all this without receiving any remuneration or compensation whatever, the old rent remaining the same—subjected to taxation unheard of, poor rates, property tax, sea weed tax, bog money, and other systems of extortion scarcely credible. After seeing themselves reduced from a state of comparative comfort to the most dire poverty, it is to be wondered at the measure of their patience became exhausted and that temptation should drive them to such an illegal retribution. Notwithstanding all this I know of no one who believes any native of these districts had any connection with the deed—and the worst that can be said of them is that some at a distance who were beginning to feel the screw of their own landlords tightening upon them, tried to intimidate their own, by an attack on the model moppers-out of Gweedore and Cloughaneely. That the public will ascribe the act to the "hostile natives" I entertain not a doubt; but the second cause, which almost entirely gains precedence here, is also deserving of notice. It is generally believed here that family affairs have given rise to the unnatural act—but of all these rumours we can only be swayed by such as bear some

degree of plausibility—and therefore as this latter cause is so revolting to contemplate, notwithstanding the general opinion to the contrary, I merely touch upon it without daring to say a word *pro* or *con*.—*Correspondent of Nation.*

**SECRET SOCIETIES.**—The utter failure of the Government to cope with that curious and wonderful organisation commonly known as "Ribonism," is one of the most remarkable facts in Irish affairs of the present day. With innumerable acts of Parliament, savage and arbitrary, at their back; with new acts in their favour to be had merely for the asking; with, as they allege, great experience of the organisation gained by the disclosures of spy and informer; with fifty thousand soldiers, thirty thousand gendarmes, and ten times thirty thousand co-operating supporters throughout the country, the great British Government have failed to overthrow this mysterious Society. Now bursting forth in the North, now in the South; now appearing in Manchester, now in Birkenhead; now in Fernagh, now in Glasgow; it is like some enchanted fire that defies all effort to quench it, or discover its source. Batches of victims have, indeed, been seized, and passwords discovered; now and then a "Lodge" is "sold" by a "sawg," and a great sputter takes place. A Sub-inspector of Constabulary is promoted "for putting down Ribonism in his district;" a half-a-dozen culprits dangle from gibbets; a score or two are sent to penal servitude; and then—the "Lodge" is merely reconstructed. More dupes are found to fill up the feeding ground of the gibbet and the hulk, and "business is resumed." The peasantry, alas, are victimised; but all efforts on the part of the executive to grapple with the Organisation as a whole—or even to gain upon its growth by piecemeal destruction—are miserable failures! The fact is, and the Government know it, the Ribonism patronize scientific discoveries and adopt Anglo-Saxon ideas. That new and admirable system of shipbuilding now being used in England, is in full practice by the builders of the Ribbon Organisation. They build in waterlight—or "informer light"—compartments. The smash of one does not injure the other. Occasionally the Government staves in a compartment—or Lodge—but the staving in of ten, or ten times ten, has no effect upon the whole. In a little while the damaged compartment is set to rights, and save the temporary loss no injury has been inflicted. In most secret organisations a blow at the head destroys the body. Here however there is no head, or rather there are as many heads as "Lodges." While a single Lodge remains, the system is practically untouched, so wondrous is its vitality. This much knowledge is precisely the result of fifteen years effort on the part of the Government. Our readers have in these few sentences as much information as has cost the executive a couple of hundred thousand pounds to obtain. Much more wonderful to us, however, is the fact that the organisation, while professing—like its still more nefarious prototype, Orangism—to be rigidly confined to the members of one creed, resists all the efforts of the ministers of that creed to uproot it. The Ribonism, we are told, must be a "Catholic;" yet no one can be more than a nominal or merely professing Catholic, and belong to the society. It has been denounced over and over again from the altar and in episcopal pastoral; the sacraments are refused to its members; yet it holds its ground. It is a strange fact that a Ribonism has little, if any, greater love or regard than an Orangeman has for a Catholic Priest! What are the objects of the association?—Here every one is at fault. Even the "members" cannot clearly tell, save that the land system is vaguely but preponderantly a part if not the whole of it.—What the fruits are, we all know; and that is enough for us. The corpse of poor Richard Connell still stank on the bloody bier at Killybegs; the walls of his aged mother and young sister; the altar course of the grey haired, patriot priest upon his Ribbon murderers; the savage joy of the territorial law administrators at finding the hated peasant class beginning to stay each other; these are the fruits of Ribonism; of secret association where once a man is in the net, he has no power to withhold from any bloody and infamous wrong cut out for him by "superiors" whom he knows nothing of, and never sees. And herein is the virulent and murderous mischief of the whole affair. Dupes bind themselves to obey—they know not whom; to perform—they know not what. Most probably they are angled for by mention of such names and hints at such plans as are deemed most likely to attract them. Nods, and winks, and innuendoes, are eloquent in these cases. "Of course it would not do for him to appear;" he must pretend to know nothing of us; he may be made to convince simpletons that Louis Napoleon, the Czar, and the Editor of the *Evening Mail*, are the leaders. In fact we really do believe that representations quite as absurd, varying with each locality, are used by the apostles of the Secret Societies. The latest and ablest mode of this style of subornation, is one which comes under our especial province to expose and denounce; having ascertained to a certainty that it is in operation. The name and guise of *Nationality*, we find, have been impressed into the service of this Secret Association. Possibly some individual known in the locality in connection with the events of '48 has been got to take a "distress"—possibly he has persuaded himself that he might turn the thing to account, and has made merely a sort of "alliance" with the Ribbon party. Certain it is, that English well-meaning men have had the web of the organisation thrown around them, believing it to be of national texture. Very clumsily and very observably, however, do they wear it. In one district in the South of Ireland, the most public topic, next to the comet, is the "Secret" Society. It seems to be "joined" for the mere fun of the thing; not to be "in," is such an error as not to have seen Barney Williams. Possibly, like Freemasonry, the "secret" is that there is nothing as yet to conceal. It is no joke, however, that oaths are tendered and taken; and this fact alone, no matter how harmless all beyond it, is just so empty of fun and common sense; that the men who think they are thus qualifying themselves for an enterprise, are disqualifying themselves, by enabling their opponents to pick them up quietly some morning as a gambler would pick up and pocket the pence he had won. We caution our readers against these secret (so called) National or Ribbon Societies. Those with whom our words may have influence, shall never have it to say that we recommended or connived at their joining in any movement the duties and dangers of which we were not ready ourselves to share. We trust that no enterprise aimed at giving to our country the blessings of self-government—no matter how glorious the enterprise—may be, no matter how large the stake and great the sacrifice—freedom, fortune, life—will ever be made in Ireland in our time, with honorable means of action and rational prospect of success, that will not find us in its ranks, claiming as much of duty in the spirit of danger as they who have gone before us here, struck not from in time of trial. But there is one thing we will never do—become members of a secret society. The life which one desires to devote in the effort supposed to be about to be made, is alienated from the struggle by such an act; because by that act a man authorises the enemy to take him off before the moment arrives for action. He has not the same chances of being in a position to take part in any effort, as the man who does not thus place himself at the mercy of his foil or kenave in the enterprise. A man owes it to his country, likely to require his aid, not to enable any traitor amongst the party to deprive that country of his services when most they are required.—*Nation.*

On Saturday a riot of a serious character occurred near Dromara, County Down, in which upwards of thirty persons were engaged. There is no doubt but it arose from a party spirit, which has been less or more evident in that district for months past. A number of the principals were brought up at Dromara Petty Sessions on Friday at the suit of the police.—Several of the party have sustained serious injury.—*Belfast Irishman.*

We are glad to learn, says the *Mercantile Advertiser*, that the company formed under such encouraging auspices, for supplying the great want of railway communication with the County of Wexford, has been received with general gratification and support in the whole course of the line. It is certainly an extraordinary fact that Wexford—one of the best circumstanced counties in Ireland—should have been one of the very last to take any effective step to obtain railway accommodation. At length, however, the invaluable co-operation of Mr. Dargan having been secured, we may look with confidence for prompt and energetic measures by the new company. Several of the principal landowners in the districts through which the railway is to pass are directors, and they are ready to give the most liberal assistance to the good work.

The *Belfast Mercury* makes a startling statement as to abuses in the Irish law offices.—"It is well known that the most audacious and defiant corruption prevails; and, if any doubt exists on the subject, let an inquiry be made into the appointments made of late years in the Court of Exchequer. We state what is perfectly well known among the profession—what every attorney's clerk in Dublin is familiar with—that there is a graduated scale of prices for certain offices in the Four Courts. They are, as they fall vacant, offered to the highest and best bidder; and this scandal flourishes unchecked. Now, if the Lord Chancellor sincerely desires the pure, and honorable, and dignified administration of justice, let him extend the commission of inquiry into all the offices connected with the law courts."

The *Roscommon Messenger* says that the Cootehall estate, valued at £4,000 a-year, has been purchased by Lord de Freyne, from Thomas Johnston Burton, Esq., at £90,000. This considerable accession to the French-park estates leaves them now by far the largest in this country.

THE EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.—We are happy to say that the arrangements for the emigration of a large number of the Donegal sufferers are proceeding favourably, under the enlightened management and affectionate care of Mr. Durbin. We are in receipt of advices from that gentleman, from which we learn that he is in a position to forward 300 statute adults by the first ship, and will probably on receipt of the next mail from Australia be able to forward 200 more. The Donegal emigrants have on their lists no fewer than 1,200 applications, but, of course, the emigrants will be selected from these, and will be the very poorest and most miserable that can be found in this mass of misery. One thousand two hundred people, be it remarked, ready to fly from Nixon's Paradise, and Mill's Arcadia, to an unknown land, half round the world; one thousand two hundred people anxious, eager, to put the diameter of the globe between them and their beneficent landlords! Good God! what times we live in—what a rule we live under!—*Nation.*

CAPTAIN M'BRIE.—The expulsion of Irish poor from England and Scotland goes on without cessation. The newspapers do not chronicle the cases as they occur, they only give a report now and then when the number reaches a hundred or so, but scarcely a week passes by in which some of our poor countrymen or women are not turned out of England and Scotland, and cast on the quays of some Irish sea-port. Belfast seems to be the great point selected by England for the discharge of her Irish rubbish. Terrible are the scenes of want and sorrow that are there seen on the arrival of the steamers from the "sister country." We need not ask our countrymen to work well and to remember these things, for we know they do so; but we wish now to direct their attention to the noble efforts which are being made by a good man to relieve the distress of those unhappy victims of English hate and wrong. That man is Captain M'Brice, deputy Harbour-master of Belfast. For years we have been seeing his name in connection with this good work. For years he has been taken these poor castaways—punished for no crime but that of being poor and being Irish—by the hand and procuring shelter for them, forwarding them to other parts of Ireland where they may have friends or relatives, or when, as it often happens, they have lived so long away and have toiled so long for English masters that they are almost forgotten and would be strangers in their native parts then enabling them to get back to their homes and families in England. This humane and noble work Captain M'Brice, has been doing, reaping no reward but the blessings of the poor and the approval of his own heart, seeking no notoriety, and appealing only to the charitable about his own locality when in want of funds to carry out his charitable objects. Last week, however, as will be seen from the following pithy paragraph, which we take from one of the *Belfast papers*, he went inland a little to ask for help—"Captain M'Brice, Deputy Harbour-master of Belfast, visited Armagh last week, to collect funds for relieving paupers landed at Belfast, after being deported from Scotland and England." Of the result of this mission we are not informed. Now why should not Dublin contribute something to this fund? Why should not every part of Ireland contribute to it? It is, indeed, sad, as we have said before, that we should be requiring these perpetual relief funds, but as long as England rules this country, absconds our revenues and makes our laws, as long as we remain without a native government—so long will our people be wanderers and beggars, so long will there be such appeals for sympathy and charity. And we must attend to them, for humanity's sake, and for our own honour. Let us, then, much as we have lately done, do yet more; let us then the collection for the relief of the poor Irish, deported from England and Scotland, which is being made and administered by a gentleman who deserves the gratitude and the public thanks of the whole Irish race—the good and generous-hearted Captain M'Brice.—*Nation.*

LUACATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.—Two blue books have been published, which comprise the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and the evidence upon which that report was founded. The evidence occupies about 500 pages, and refers minutely to all the arrangements adopted at the various institutions in Ireland for the custody of the insane. Several medical men were examined in regard to the sanitary regulations adopted. The committee state that from various returns which they have received it appears that the number of insane poor of Ireland maintained at the public cost, or at large, on the 1st of January, 1857, was 9,289. Various suggestions are made in the report to improve the general treatment of the insane. The commissioners also suggest certain alterations in the law with reference to lunatics under the Lord Chancellor's jurisdiction.

LOANS ON LANDED SECURITY.—The *Dublin Mercantile Advertiser* contains the following statement:—"In consequence of the great abundance of money, and the difficulty of finding desirable investments, loans on the security of real estates with title from the Encumbered Estates Court, can be had upon easier terms than heretofore. Any amount can be obtained, for first charge, at 4½ per cent. and loans have recently been contracted upon still lower terms. There seems to be an impression that the rate of interest will be permanently reduced. Possibly this may occur, but it should be remembered that the dullness of trade has caused a considerable augmentation of unemployed capital; and that this, with other causes now affecting the value of money, may prove more temporary."

Under the caption "*An American Invasion*" the Dublin correspondent of the *Times* writes as under:—"BANTRY, Oct. 26.—I am glad to see that the *Evening Mail* has directed the attention of the Government to the proposed landing in this country of a regiment of armed men from America, commanded by Colonel Ryan. There are just grounds for the exercise of caution in this matter, as I am sorry to inform you that seditious societies have been dis-

covered in this neighbourhood as well as in other places in the west of the county of Cork. They are also creeping inland, and have made some progress in the neighbouring county of Kerry. A strange peculiarity pervades this movement. The members of the society bind themselves not to divulge their plans to the priests, and where spoken against from the altar they denounce the priests as despots, as bad as the rest of their tyrants. They are supposed to derive inspirations from America and money also. They declare their intention to rise in arms whenever there may be any difference with France or America. The Government is, I believe, aware of these facts. At present the whole thing is very contemptible, but it affords fair grounds for preventing the gallant 69th from marching through this country in arms, and encamping in military fashion, to keep up the hopes of Irish rebels. The strange point in the matter is excluding the priests, and without them they can do nothing beyond producing another cabbage-garden campaign."

GREAT BRITAIN.

His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman purposed giving a lecture on behalf of the Irish Catholic Poor Schools at Islington, on the subject of his late visit to Ireland.

The Prince of Wales, we are told this week, is about to enter the army, and Prince Alfred has already taken his position as cadet on board her Majesty's ship *Euryalus*, at Spithead. We are told by one of the morning journals, in the confidence of the court, that the young sailor will enjoy no privileges beyond those of the other cadets attached to the *Euryalus*, except that his servant has a cabin allotted to him; but his "kit" is of the usual character.—The chest and outfit, devoid of all superfluities, have been duly inspected by the Queen and the Prince Consort, at Buckingham Palace. These youths are certainly entering on the business of life under circumstances more favorable than those which attended the sons of George the Third, and it is to be hoped that they will make better men and citizens than some of their grandmothers. They need not be models of perfection to do this.

As the session of Parliament draws nearer, the subject of church-vests is becoming of greater importance. All parties are active—the vesting by means of the Liberator of Religion Society, Churchmen by meetings, sermons, and public exercises, the Government by the collection of statistical information from the parishes of England and Wales—but we fear the greatest activity by facts got up by the enemy, and that too little is being done to counteract its efforts. It appears, however, that the "Evangelical" section of the Church is more earnest in maintaining church-rates than the High-church.—*Critical Journal.*

THE COMING REFORM BILL.—It may be predicted that the franchise intended to be bestowed in the new Reform Bill will reach even to that neglected and hitherto discarded class, the agricultural labourer.—*Times.*

The *Times* is requested to state that there is no truth in the report that the Government intend to create three new Protestant Indian Bishops.

"Angelicum" complains in the *Edin.* that the new Dean of York was recently a lover of Dr. Estlin, residing at a north of England watering-place.

Retributive justice is about to overtake the directors of the Western Bank of Scotland, and the whole force of the law will be invoked against them. —Eminent Scotch and English jurists have been employed for this purpose by the liquidators, and we see it stated that "by the magnitude of the interests involved, there will be many new and important questions raised by the course of the litigation, and all minor actions connected in any way with the management of the bank, will, it is thought, be comprehended in the general action." The fact which the directors have committed upon many innocent people, by their reckless and unprincipled proceedings, leaves them no standing in the minds of the public; but we fear that what Macklin said about the uncertainty of the law more than a century back is as true now as it was then. The chances of a legal conflict of the kind are quite as likely to be in favour of the unscrupulous as against them, judging by the slight chance on which the most important adjudications are being made.

The prisoner Thomas Toke, 7th February, who is still under confinement at Outham gaol, and awaiting his trial for deserting to the Russians during the war in the Crimea, will be brought before a general court-martial as soon as the authorities at the Hero Guards have been furnished with the required particulars connected with the transaction. The statement which the prisoner is obliged to have made is that he was taken prisoner by the Russians, and that he did not desert. He states that when he was taken prisoner he was in the ravine under the heights of Inkermann, with a comrade of the same corps, named Moore, and that they were both captured by the Russians, where his comrade soon died. Toke states that he was afterwards sent prisoner to St. Petersburg, but that he refused to be exchanged with the other prisoners, remaining in Russia till the conclusion of the war.

The Essex Quarter Sessions closed yesterday (Friday). The chairman of the county gaol, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, in his report to the magistrates, made the following statement:—"To afford any idea of the mass of ignorance brought in contact with this humane provision it may suffice to adduce 459 cases of prisoners committed for felony during the past year, of whom only nine possessed a due acquaintance with the Christian religion; that in seventy-six of these cases, or sixteen per cent., there existed a total ignorance of the name of the Saviour; and that, from the conversation of one man on the subject, it came out that the knowledge of the fact of the crucifixion not only excluded all idea of atonement, but represented to his mind that our Blessed Lord died justly for a breach of human laws; that to this deplorable deficiency in religious knowledge must be added an equal proportion of ignorance of the most common things, even extending to the current month of the year. The chaplain would hope that, prison discipline being still a subject much canvassed, he may hereafter be able to give the solitary cell-sharer as regarded as the basis of all desired improvement in the prisoner's mind—that there the most illiterate will revolve the lessons of the pulpit, and the school, and the kind admonitions of the magisterial and official visitor; and he would adopt the words of a distinguished and honored foreigner on this subject: 'The separate system restores the culprit to a normal condition; he remains alone with God and his conscience.'"

A Turkey correspondent of the *Star* writes:—"On Thursday evening last the inhabitants of the fashionable town of Torquay were highly amused on hearing a report that the hon. member for South Devon, L. Palk, Esq., and his brother, Augustus Palk, Esq., (who is clerk in the House of Commons), had been presiding at a game of boxing. On inquiry it appeared that the hon. member (who had in the morning attended the conversation of a new church in town) was on horseback, in company with Mrs. Palk, in one of the principal streets, about five in the afternoon, and meeting his brother, with whom there appears to be some family dispute, very unparliamentary language was used on both sides, the result being that the younger brother retreated into the shop of Mr. Seeley, bookseller, Lawrence-place, the hon. member immediately slipping from his horse and immediately following in hot pursuit; here more hard words were used, followed by blows. The combatants were, however, soon parted, much to the disappointment of a large crowd who had assembled outside to witness the fight.

The famous crystal block and marble platform which have adorned the hall of audience to the Delhi Palace for so long a period have been removed, and are to be forwarded to England.