

inundations. There has also been an unusually high flood in the Barrow, on each side of which the low grounds are inundated. The Queen's county side has suffered very considerably, the floods being the highest experienced during the last ten years.—*Times Dublin Correspondent.*

At the present time the River Shannon for miles above and below Banagher presents a spectacle of grandeur in this age of civil engineering. It could not have been worse in the pre-historic times when the bogs along its banks were in process of formation, than it is now, after Government Commissions have inquired, engineers reported on it, and much money been spent in improving it.

The Birr river has overflowed a great extent of land on the estate of the Earl of Rosse, and between Parsonstown and Roscrea a small river running through the meadows has extended into a lake, converting valuable pasture land into a swamp, to the great loss of farmers, but evidently much to the satisfaction of the flocks of willow, that play on the surface.

The recent inundations have done a great deal of damage to the grounds under tillage along the banks of the Suir. Kilganey, Two Mile Bridge, and other environs, are all under water. The overflowing of the Nore and Anner has been also productive of great loss to the farming classes: hay, turf, cattle and sheep having been swept away.

There is no doubt that this metropolis partakes of the general prosperity of the country, if we may judge from the increased demand for house; the bright, busy aspect of the shops in the leading streets, the throng in the thoroughfares, and the driving about of English cabs, which are fast superseding the old Irish cabs, especially the inconvenient "covered car," with the shafts pitched so high on the horse's back that the "fare" finds the greatest difficulty in keeping in an upright position, and apprehends that the breaking of a portion of the harness, which seems to be lifting the horse off his legs, may cause him to be flung at any moment upon the street, on which the chances are that he would be half covered with mud, especially during the present excessively wet season. Handsome villas rapidly increase in the suburbs, and along the coast towards Bray. The omnibuses and local railways do excellent business; the markets are well attended, butchers and bakers multiply and thrive, and there are many other signs of prosperity visible to the eye of the stranger, though it must be admitted that the shop-keepers complain that the season is a dull one, they, like the farmers, having a chronic habit of grumbling. This is the bright side of the picture. But there is a dark side. The mass of the working people live in the most wretched way that can be imagined. The Dublin Corporation have lately been extending their charity to the peasantry of Connought. It would be well if they remembered the maxim that charity begins at home, and attended to the wants of those whom it is their special duty to protect. Mr. Nugent Robinson, a gentleman in their employ, read a paper on the dwellings of the Dublin poor at the late meeting of the Social Science Association, which then, in the multitude of the matters brought forward, escaped attention. It has been now printed, and the disclosures it makes on the domestic life of our poor are perfectly appalling.—*Times Dublin Cor.*

FACTS AND FIGURES.—There is a party in this unhappy country of ours whose official duty it is to cry up our "prosperity" and "progress" whenever an opportunity is afforded for the pleasing, delusive, declaration. In the Castle, where authority must be beneficent, because it is radiant with smiles and smiles and from which happiness must emanate, because flowers of Poetry bloom within its precincts, the announcement is daily made, and the same dulcet tones are repeated wherever a plethoric ox, an adipose pig, or a monstrous turnip invokes their strains. What Viceroyal metaphors glorify, landlord pride substantiates—the ready subservience of the agent confirms, and the sycophancy of the bailiff places beyond the possibility of a doubt; and so savoury dinners are consumed, flowing bumpers are drained, conscience is relieved, and the satisfaction of duty done safely acquired at the small expense of fibs, flatteries, and hyperboles. And yet, whilst all this mockery is going on, the country is drifting to ruin as hopelessly as an abandoned wreck on the angry tide. Poverty is on the increase, industry is declining, wealth and the means of its production are diminishing, and, above all, the population is wasting away and disappearing from the land at a rate that threatens, in another decade or two, to leave our towns and cities desolate, and our hills and valleys silent and abandoned as the recesses of the desert, over which the breath of destruction hourly passes. This is no mere assertion, no heated exaggeration of slight and unimportant facts—it is a statement unfortunately too true, and borne out and substantiated by statistics whose stern array is beyond cavil or dispute. An able paper, entitled *Historical Statistics of Ireland*, which was read by Mr. D. C. Heron, Q. C., before the members of the Statistical Society, gives an alarming but faithful account of the present and prospective condition of the country as regards its population and general prosperity. In this document, compiled with all the care which industry and research could bestow upon it, and rendered doubly valuable by the enlarged philosophical views introduced into it, we have an accurate estimate of the population of the country from the year 1625 to the present, and of the causes which led to its successive increase and decay. With the statistics of remote periods we need not now trouble our readers; the historian, the political economist, and the philosopher may speculate on them; but for us, the real and tangible fact which it is necessary to contemplate at present is, that the population of our country, which in the year 1841 amounted to 8,175,124, has, in two successive decades suffered the fearful reduction of 2,410,697—a reduction which, in the words of Mr. Heron, is, considering the circumstances of the times and of the country, "unparalleled in ancient or modern history." 20 years ago the population of Ireland was less than a third of that of the United Kingdom—now it is only a fifth. During these 20 years the population of Great Britain and the islands in the British seas increased from 18,313,735 to 23,428,770, while that of Ireland not only did not increase at all, but diminished to the fearful amount of two millions and a-half.—*Nation.*

We see it stated in one of the Conservative morning papers that "the usual monthly meeting of the Duke of York Orange Lodge, will be held this evening, at 8 o'clock, in Gardiner's Row, when an address will be delivered by one of the brethren—subject, 'The Volunteer Movement.'" We believe that since King Wm. IV. addressed parliament against the secret and disloyal Orange confederacy, it was never more rampant in this city than at the present moment.—*Evening Post.*

A letter written by a soldier of the 1st battalion of the 15th Regiment to his mother at Parsonstown, King's County, gives a fearful account of the sufferings of the troops on board the *Adelaide*, which had to put in at Plymouth after 12 days' knocking about in the Atlantic. They left Dublin on the 3d inst. for Cork, and on the 4th they embarked for Canada. On the 8th it began to blow a strong breeze, which increased next day to a storm, which caused the sea to run mountains high. A lad of 16 or 17 years of age was washed overboard, and nothing could be done to save him. On the 11th it blew a hurricane, which washed away all the boats, and split the sail into pieces. The men were standing to their knees in water for four days without a morsel of food of any kind, with the exception of some raw pork and wet biscuit, served out to them on the morning of the fifth day's fast. The captain was ultimately obliged to return and make for the nearest port. They arrived at Plymouth on the 17th, where they wait till the ship is ready to go to sea again. The letter stating these facts has appeared in the *Dublin Express*.

The Irish papers contain a very painful expose of the affairs of Mr. William Smith O'Brien. After the Ballygarry affair, and before his conviction of High Treason, Mr. O'Brien executed a Deed of Trust by which he conveyed his property to Trustees (his brother, Lord Inchiquin, and Mr. Woronzow Greig, of the Temple, who had been his second in the duel fought with poor Tom Steele, some thirty years ago), for the use of his wife for her life, and after her death for the use of his seven children in equal proportions, as tenants in common, on their respectively attaining their majority. On returning to Ireland under Her Majesty's free pardon, by which the attainder was reversed, Mr. O'Brien resided at his old seat, Cahermoyle, where he managed the property for his wife. But her death, some months ago, altered circumstances immensely. The three or four children then of age, became by the Trust Deed entitled absolutely to their respective sevenths of the estate, with which they could deal as they might think proper; while the Trustees stepped in as owners on behalf of the minors, thus, in effect, ousting Mr. Smith O'Brien out of his property and all control over it. To remedy this flagrant hardship (for it was notorious that the conveyance to the Trustees was intended only as a bar to any claim of the Crown to the property in the too certain event of Mr. O'Brien's being convicted of High Treason), Mr. O'Brien requested the Trustees to re-convey the estates to him after his wife's death. They declined, on the ground, as we collect from Mr. Woronzow Greig's letter to Mr. O'Brien's Solicitor on the subject, that such an act on their part would be illegal and reversible by the Court of Chancery as fraudulent; but Mr. Greig, on the part of Lord Inchiquin and himself, proposed another course, by which it appeared to them that the same object could be achieved; for it is only fair to them to state that they do not appear at all averse to the rehabilitation of Mr. Smith O'Brien in his original proprietary rights, provided that it can be effected legally and without involving them in any future difficulty as regards the violation of their trust. As the parties could not come to terms, the Trustees petitioned the Lord Chancellor to order the Deed to be carried into effect by the partition of the estate in their rightful portions among the sons and daughters who are of age, and by making the minors wards in Chancery. This seems, under the circumstances, a harsh proceeding; and Mr. Smith O'Brien, with the concurrence and, indeed, at the solicitation of his affectionate children, has taken steps to defeat it, which we hope may be successful. The nature of these measures the reader can best gather from the following report of the proceedings at a late meeting of the Newcastle Board of Guardians, of which Mr. O'Brien has long been Chairman.—*Weekly Register*—

At the usual weekly meeting of the Newcastle Board of Guardians on Thursday last, Mr. William Smith O'Brien resigned the Chairmanship of the Board, which he has held almost every year since its formation in 1839, with the exception of the eight years of his exile. Mr. O'Brien read an address explaining the cause of his resignation—the course pursued by the trustees of his estate. Mr. O'Brien, in the course of his feeling and suitable address, said—"Acting under the advice of several very able lawyers, and of several experienced friends, whose advice has been reinforced by the earnest solicitude of my own children, I have met the petition of the trustees by a family settlement or sale for value of my life estate to my eldest son, to whom I have made over all my legal right, present and future, in my estate, upon condition, one of which is that an adequate annuity shall be placed at my disposal." (Hear, hear.) Should this family settlement be upheld by the Court of Chancery, to override the voluntary deeds of 1843, he will occupy my place in the county of Limerick. He will reside in Cahermoyle, and perform all the duties of a country gentleman. (Hear, hear.) I venture to bespeak for him the same kind indulgence—(hear)—the same favorable interpretation of his acts, which you have all ways accorded to his father. (Applause and emotion.) In such case I shall probably take a house in the vicinity of Dublin, and devote myself to literature and politics, and I hope to spend a few weeks occasionally, as a visitor, at Cahermoyle—(hear, hear)—so that I shall thus be able to keep up with the people of this neighbourhood the friendly relations which have always subsisted between us. (Applause.) On the other hand, in case the prayer of the trustees be granted, and that I be sent adrift on the world without any independent provision, I shall probably leave Ireland immediately—('No, no, no')—and seek a premature death in some honourable adventure in a foreign land—('No, no, no')—for I could not live here to witness the operation of a severable division of my property, and the intrusion of Lord Inchiquin's solicitor into the affairs of my family and of my estate. ('No, no, no') I could not live here without employment, without property, and without any control over my own children, except such as might be accorded by their sense of duty—even though they might be the most dutiful children on the face of the earth. (Hear, hear.) These are the prospects before me." The Board unanimously refused to accept the resignation; but Mr. O'Brien having strongly urged the necessity and propriety of the course he had adopted, the resignation was accepted with painful reluctance. During the proceedings Mr. O'Brien appeared deeply affected. He then shook hands with the chairman, the other members, and Mr. Moore, clerk of the union, every one of the guardians and officers being profoundly affected. Some there were who turned away to hide their tears, and others could not utter a word, owing to the emotions with which they struggled. We never witnessed a more truly painful separation.—*Munster News.*

For ourselves, while we quite approve of the conduct of the trustees, we readily admit that Mr. O'Brien's position is hard and painful. In the first place, the legal right to confiscate the property of a man convicted of high treason is an absurd and barbarous power. Let a man pay the penalty of his own deeds with his own life or liberty; but for the government of the country to step in, and strip his wife and children of their means of support, is surely an act of the most monstrous vindictiveness and oppression. In the case of Mr. Smith O'Brien, we can hardly think that his precaution, even if efficacious, was necessary. We do not believe that any English Government would have proceeded, in 1845, to rob Mrs. O'Brien and her children of their estate and turn them adrift on the world. But since the legal conveyance was executed for a distinct object, and with a clear understanding, it certainly seems an extraordinary condition of law that the parties who adopted the precautionary measure cannot annul their own act when it becomes no longer necessary. Mr. O'Brien is clearly the rightful owner of the estates in a moral point of view. Every one of the parties to the conveyance is anxious that he should be acknowledged the legal owner as well. But the secret spring has snapped; the lid has shut down; and they who closed it cannot open it again. Who can? Ours the Irish Court of Chancery restore Mr. O'Brien to the full ownership of his estates, or will it need an act of parliament to do so? We really think Mr. O'Brien entitled to claim that whatever is needful to be done shall be done to restore him to the rights which no one ever intended that under such circumstances as the present he should be compelled to forfeit. We have little sympathy with Mr. Smith O'Brien as a politician. We believe him a man of the highest personal honour, but weak, vain, and precipitate. We admire neither his actions in 1845 nor his political letter-writing in 1861. But we sadly mistake the temper of our countrymen if any considerations of Mr. O'Brien's political views, prejudices, or follies, could induce them to withhold their sympathy from a man of honour and character placed in so embarrassing a position. Writers who have just made Mr. O'Brien's unhappy career and present difficulty a theme for vulgar jeering and coarse banter are surely not

representatives of English feeling towards a man who, whatever his political errors, has suffered deeply and now verging upon old age, suffers still the consequences of his rashness." Mr. O'Brien paid the penalty of some ten or a dozen years exile for his treason of 1845; and it should be remembered to his honour that he refused to escape, as his companions did, but held to his parole in the spirit as well as in the letter. Mr. O'Brien has laid his case open to the verdict of public opinion; and it is even possible that public judgment may hereafter be brought to bear more directly upon the solution of the difficulty. We feel, therefore, justified in expressing our own opinion that if Mr. O'Brien can be restored to the full possession of his property, the restoration ought to be effected; that common sense cannot but recognise the fairness of his demand; and that the public of England will not refuse their sympathy to a man so circumstanced, no matter how unwise may be his political creed—no matter how wasted, misguided, even mischievous, may have been his political career.—*Morning Star.*

The Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven has written to the *Freeman*, to authorize the addition of his lordship's name to the list of those placed on record against Sir Robert Peel's College Endowment project.

THE EVICTED TENANTS OF DERRYVEAGH AND GREEDMORE.—On the 25th ult. one hundred and forty-four young men and women, who have been evicted from their holdings at Derryveagh, county Donegal, arrived at the Amlen-street Terminus of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway, on their way for Plymouth, whence they are to sail for Sydney on the 27th. They were accompanied by the Rev. James M'Fadden, of Ballacarragh. Amongst those who were present at the railroad station to receive the emigrants on their arrival in Dublin were the Rev. Mr. M'Devitt, Dean of St. Patrick's House, Catholic University; Mr. B. Smithwick, Kilkenny; Mr. A. M. Sullivan, Mr. A. J. McKenna, &c. All the young men and women were comfortably clad, and presented as noble specimens as could be found of the rural population of any country. They were conducted to Mr. Fleming's restaurant, Mary's Abbey, where a substantial dinner was prepared for them. After dinner the assemblage of emigrants was addressed by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden in the native language of Ireland, and the touching and heart-melting speech of the Reverend gentleman elicited feelings of deep emotion amongst all present. After leaving the hotel the emigrants were conveyed to the North-wall, where they embarked on board the screw steamer *Lady Eglinton*. At the same time and place one hundred and thirty persons, male and female, who had been evicted from Greedmore, embarked on board the same fine ship, which soon after left her moorings, and proceeded on her voyage to Plymouth, whence this crowd of noble peasantry, remarkable for physical proportions and stalwart health, but downcast and half-broken-hearted at quitting their native land, will embark on their voyage to Australia.—*Freeman's Journal.*

MR. O'HARA DENIES.—The name of the explorer of New Holland shows that he was an Irishman, and we now find that he was a citizen of Galway. It is a curious coincidence that the discoverer of the North West passage, and the explorer and almost the discoverer of the mainland of Australia, should be Irishmen.

AN IRISH HORSE-LEECH.—The Church Establishment is a great institution. We may guess at its power and influence, especially over the money of Ireland, when we find that it can (setting tithes, glebes, and all other such trifles aside) come down upon the Grand Juries themselves, to support its occasional expenses. Wonderful things are done under the Grand Jury Laws in Ireland—marvellous jobs are perpetrated in the most legal manner. We all know the story of that liberal Irish gentleman who, wanting to improve the approach to his own house did

"Out of his bounty
Build a bridge at the expense of the County."

But enterprising as that Grand Juror was, he never thought of building the house itself at the county's expense. So delightful a privilege as this, it appears reserved for the happy dignitaries of the Established Church. That interesting establishment pockets about a million every year of the people's money. Yet it would seem that when any dignitary of it wants a few hundreds extra to build what he calls a school, or anything of that kind—say a gable to his house—he has only to "go upon the county," and demand the money at once. We are not jesting.—Here is the case in point furnished by a Protestant newspaper in Belfast. The clerical superintendent of a thing called the Diocesan School in the county Antrim has presented before the rate-payers' session for Seven Hundred Pounds, to repair said school; and the money has been actually voted to him. Our contemporary describes the case thus:—"In 1829, it appears, a Diocesan School was established at Ballymena, at a cost of £1,000. An application is now made for a grant from the county of £700 more, for the repair and enlargement of the school. Twenty-two young gentlemen receive their education in this institution, eleven of whom are boarders, and eleven of whom are day-scholars. The boarders pay about £50 a year, the day scholars ten guineas; so that they can scarcely be said to belong to the indigent classes, for whose training the county ought to provide. But the pupils' fees are not the only resources of the Diocesan School. It receives £70 a year from the clergy of Armagh, and £50 a year from the diocese. That under these circumstances, the master should have asked, and magistrates should have been found to present to the Grand Jury for, a sum of £700, strikes us as morally creditable in the very highest degree, to all concerned. To present it, in a certain sense, to recommend; and in this case the act recommended is one in every sense unwarrantable and wrong. To all intents and purposes the school in question is a private school, with aids and resources which the majority of private schools do not possess. It is, moreover, a sectarian school; for it is under the superintendence, not of the National Board, as was understood from the first examination of the Commissioners of Education, Kildare-street, Dublin." Nevertheless, it appears, the lucky proprietor of the school has the legal right to demand this money at the cost of the poor Catholic ratepayers of Antrim. The school has only twenty-two scholars, who contribute the handsome sum of about six hundred pounds a year.—Some one hundred and twelve pounds extra is also contributed. And thus upwards of seven hundred pounds sterling per annum are received for the labour of teaching less than two dozen boys. Yet, with such a revenue, the proprietor is empowered to go openly before the court, and demand seven hundred pounds extra, levied from the poor ratepayers, to touch up and ornament his establishment. Comment upon a thing of this kind is unnecessary; it could only occur in Ireland. But it proves two things; how admirable in its workings is the Irish Grand Jury system, and what an invaluable institution is the Irish Church Establishment.

NAVAL PREPARATIONS.—No cessation of activity is observable in the proceedings of government at the principal Irish naval station, Queenstown. It is now being formed into something like a naval reserve depot of steam gunboats, six of which lie moored in a line from the Hawk flagstaff towards Haulbowline. Two of them, the *Rose* and the *Blazer*, were conveyed into the harbour on Thursday by her Majesty's steamship *Virago*, a large and powerful war steamer, heavily armed, and equipped with a strong body of Royal Marines. On Sunday morning the fine steamship *Brenda*, belonging to Messrs Malcomson, of Waterford, lately employed in the Mediterranean trade, arrived in Queenstown from London, to take in military stores and supplies for the troops in Canada. Having taken in these, and filled up with coal at Haulbowline, she will sail for Halifax on Wednesday morning.—*Cork Herald.*

"GOMBEEN" MEN.—The system of borrowing money from loan offices and "gombeen" men, as they are called, is universally practised in this country, and as the rate of interest charged is enormously high, the unfortunate people who resort to this mode of obtaining money are constantly in a state of embarrassment which an unfavorable season develops into one of great distress. A "gombeen" man is one of the peasant class who has contrived to accumulate some money, which he turns to account by lending to his poorer neighbors at usurious interest. For instance, suppose a loan of £1 is asked, the borrower only receives 17s 7d—is being stopped for interest, 3d for the price of the card, 2d for the 100; and 1s for the first instalment. Nineteen shillings must then be paid back to the lender in weekly instalments of one shilling each, and there is besides a fine of one penny in the pound imposed for every default in the weekly payment. Shopkeepers are also in the habit of selling meal and guano to the country people on credit, and charging high prices. The giving out of guano in this way is practised by some land agents, who sell quantities of it to the tenants in spring, the debt thus incurred to be paid at Christmas, and the price charged being seventeen and eighteen shillings per cwt for what is selling in the market for cash at fourteen shillings per cwt. When the tenants come to pay their rent this private debt is first demanded, and the landlord's rent must afterwards be forthcoming. The result of this practice is injurious in many ways. Heretofore the farmers did not know what artificial manures were. They used seaweed, mud and lime mixed, and farm-yard manure which they collected throughout the year. Now, however, the facility of obtaining artificial manures engenders laziness and idleness. The small farmers will say—"What is the use of killing ourselves collecting manure? Sure won't we get a cwt of guano for sixteen or seventeen shillings, and no carting or working or trouble at all?" Accordingly, instead of consuming their own straw, as formerly, in turning it into manure, they sell it to the large farmers for that purpose, and buy guano, which, with the imperfect mode of tillage that they pursue, is most injurious to the land.—*Sanders Correspondent.*

A curious instance of the manner in which serious charges are made in this country, and of the slender evidence upon which men's liberties are sacrificed, is offered by the Ribbon case in Donegal. Ten men were arrested about ten days since, in their own dwelling houses, upon a charge of being connected with a Ribbon lodge, and were cast into Lifford goal. It appears that there was no shadow of evidence against them, but the oath of a fellow named John M'Gowan, who, at the time he made his information, was in Lifford goal himself, on the charge of attempting to murder two people. The men arrested were ready to make oath that the charges brought against them by this would be murderer were untrue. According to the ordinary rule of law, the testimony of an approver, such as M'Gowan stated himself to be, required some independent corroboration; and the magistrates in their ministerial capacity were bound only to commit upon such evidence as, *prima facie*, would be sufficient to convict before a petty jury. Clearly the Donegal magistrates did not act upon that rule, and violated their duty. Unless corroborated, they were bound to assume that the statements of an admitted approver, and a person resting under the accusation of enormous crime, were insufficient grounds to deprive men of their liberties. Instead of this, however, the magistrates not only received information, and committed the men inculcated by the swearing of M'Gowan, but they actually refused to admit them to bail. Application has accordingly been made to the Court of Queen's Bench to reserve the decision of the Donegal sages. The organization of Secret Societies, now so much spoken of, would be just the harvest for men of the M'Gowan stamp. Men with a natural inclination for blood, and false swearing, and treachery would have fine times of it, such associations took any root amongst the people. We hope our young men will take to their heart the warning offered by this affair, and, should they ever offered the secret oath, to regard the tenderer as a possible—nay, as a probable M'Gowan.—*Cork Examiner.*

GREAT BRITAIN.
Earl Russell has replied to Mr. Seward's long-winded despatch, announcing the surrender of Messrs. Sillidell and Mason. His Lordship replies to all the points raised by Mr. Seward, contends that neutrals, sailing from one neutral port to another neutral port cannot carry "contraband of war," no matter what their cargo; and thus summarily disposes of the impetuous bluster of Mr. Seward—that the prisoners would not have been given up, if the interests of the Northern States had demanded their retention:—

"I cannot conclude, however, without noticing one very singular passage in Mr. Seward's despatch. 'Mr. Seward asserts that if the safety of the Union required the detention of the captured persons it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them.' He proceeds to say that the waning proportions of the insurrection, and the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, forbid him from resorting to that defence. Mr. Seward does not here assert any right founded on international law, however inconvenient or irritating to neutral nations; he entirely loses sight of the vast difference which exists between the exercise of an extreme right and the commission of an unquestionable wrong. His frankness compels me to be equally open, and to inform him that Great Britain could not have submitted to the perpetration of that wrong, however flourishing might have been the insurrection in the South, and however important the persons captured might have been.

"Happily all danger of hostile collision on this subject has been avoided. It is the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that similar dangers, if they should arise, may be averted by peaceful negotiations conducted in the spirit which befits the organs of two great nations.

"I request you to read this despatch to Mr. Seward, and give him a copy of it.

"I am, &c., "RUSSELL."

It having been rumored that the wives and families of non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Engineers who are not to proceed with their husbands to Canada will not receive the Government allowance, we have authority to state that ample provision has been made by the Government for the wives and children of soldiers of all branches of the services embarked for British North America, the same liberal allowance having been granted to them as was done in the case of the families of soldiers ordered off to India at the outbreak of the mutiny of the native troops in that country.—*Globe.*

THE DIVORCE COURT.—The Divorce Court has astonished everyone. No one believed that there was such a mass of festering matrimonial misery floating under the surface of apparent social happiness. The act has been in operation for only four years, and from Parliamentary returns it would seem that nearly 1,200 petitions for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation have been filed. The impression entertained generally, when the first rush of business took place in the new court, that it was the arrears of past wrongs, has proved to be erroneous. The business of the court at the end of the fourth year of its existence, shows that, instead of diminishing, the number of cases increased. Sir G. Cresswell sat daily from the beginning of November until Christmas Eve, and yet at the commencement of the present year the list of causes ready for trial is considerably greater than before. At the beginning of Michaelmas term the number of cases for trial was 79; at the opening of the present term the

list, published on Friday, shows that there were 105 waiting to be disposed of. The labour of the judge during the last twelvemonth has been excessive. He has striven manfully to get through the long list of causes, but as yet without success. Now that it is found there need not be much delay between the filing of the petition and the hearing, many avail themselves of the opportunity thus given to release themselves from a load of misery. The list printed, even to a casual observer, shows that the marriage rows have been broken pretty equally by all classes in society, from peers and peeresses of the realm down to the poor wretch who is driven to sue in *forma pauperis*. Judging, however, from the reports of the causes already disposed of, it does not seem that the sweeping allegation formerly generally accepted, that the aristocracy as a class was more depraved than any other, is borne out by facts hitherto established. Cases certainly have been made public in which parties long in life have figured; but, taking an average of all the cases, it does not seem that there is greater licentiousness among the lofty than among the lowly. From the mass of business before the court, it would seem hardly possible for even the indefatigable Sir Cresswell Cresswell to get through it. It is contrary to human nature to expect any man can sit almost every day for nine consecutive months, hearing and disposing of cases, many of them, involving great thought and untiring research. None of the other judges have such intense labor thrown upon them, and it is very questionable, should anything happen to the present judge, whether another could be found who would undertake the whole of the matrimonial causes in the kingdom, as he does, unaided. The amended act will, however, shortly expire, and it is therefore quite possible that then the whole question of the constitution of the Divorce Court will be gone into. *Observer.*

There is prospect of another Yelverton trial. It seems that the Hon. W. H. Yelverton, of Whitland Abbey, Narberth, South Wales, uncle to the notorious Major, and next heir to the title of Avonmore in case the Major's second marriage should be declared void, has all along taken up Mrs. Longworth-Yelverton's side of the case; and at the end of last year invited her to stay at Whitland Abbey during Christmas. While she was staying there, Mr. Walker, of Dalry, a Scotch advocate, who is married to Major Yelverton's sister, wrote to the Hon. W. H. Yelverton, expressing indignation at his "publicly associating with this most degraded woman." In consequence, Mrs. Longworth-Yelverton, has entered an action for libel against Mr. Walker, claiming £3,000 damages.

The following is a statement, compiled by the clergy and parochial authorities, after a house-to-house visitation, of the bereaved families left destitute by the awful calamity at Hartley Colliery:—

Widows	103
Children	257
Sisters supported by brothers	27
Orphans	2
Parents supported by sons	15
Aunt supported by nephew	1
Grandmother supported by grandson	1
Total	407

The exact number of men and lads killed in the mine is 219. Of the male population employed at this colliery, only 27 remain alive.

One of the facts which have most struck the English public since our eyes have been fixed upon New York and Washington has been the very general contempt into which the House of Representatives has so unquestionably fallen. The accounts long since published in Europe as to the prevalence of "practices known as 'lobbying' and 'log-rolling,'" and the assertions made by conspicuous public men that measures might be passed through Congress for money, have been received with little credence, and were thought to be either the hasty assertions of partisans or the results of a too hasty generalization. We have, however, recently had reason to see in the rash proceedings and the absurd speeches of the House of Representatives how little that Assembly itself thinks of its own dignity and importance. We have seen also the contemptuous disregard of its votes by both Government and people, and the general refusal to admit that foreign countries had any right to attach any importance to what their speakers might say on any question. To what a low ebb has the authority of this Assembly fallen, and how general is the sentiment of contempt in which it is involved. Nothing but a belief in its corruption could have so debased it. Let us, if we can, imagine our own House of Commons in such a position as that held by the Federal House of Representatives, who have formally rendered thanks to an officer for a most important public act, which has since been disavowed and apologised for by the Government. Such a circumstance could never happen in any free country until the props of Parliamentary Government had rotted away, and the nation was prepared to welcome its fall.—*Times.*

SENTENCE OF DEGRADATION AGAINST THE SECESSION STATES.—It is now evident that a party at least in the United States intend to set to work to consolidate the government of the United States. Long ago it was hinted that the seceding States which had seceded would, as a punishment be degraded to the rank of territories, to be governed directly from Washington. But Senator Sumner is the first, we believe, to lay down the manner in which this is to be done. He proposes in a series of nine resolutions having four preambles, to effect this degradation from the rank of States to that of dependent territories. We subjoin the last two of these preambles and the first of the resolutions, (the first two preambles merely declaring the insurrection to exist in certain States):—

"Whereas, The extensive territory thus usurped by these pretended governments and organized into a hostile confederacy, belongs to the United States, as an inseparable part thereof, under the sanctions of the Constitution, to be held in trust for the inhabitants of the present and future generations, and is so completely interlinked with the Union that it is forever dependent thereon; and

"Whereas, The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, cannot be displaced in its rightful operation within this territory, but must ever continue the supreme law thereof, notwithstanding the doings of any pretended governments, acting singly or in confederation, in order to put an end to its supremacy; therefore

"I. Resolved, That any vote of secession or other act by which any State may undertake to put an end to the supremacy of the constitution within its territory is insipiente and void against the Constitution, and when sustained by force it becomes a practical abdication by the state of all rights under the Constitution, while the treason which it involves still further works an instant forfeiture of all those functions and powers essential to the continued existence of the state as a body politic; so that from that time forward the territory falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress as other territory, and the State being, according to the language of the law, *felô de se*, ceases to exist.

The motto on the shield of the United States is *E pluribus unum*; the theory of government universally accepted that the State Legislatures possessed no powers but those conferred upon them by the people in their conventions, the President and Congress of the United States possessing no powers but what was expressly conceded by the conventions of the several States in like manner. "Whereas, Congress derives the right to degrade the 'Dixie Dominion,' mother of many States from a rank which enjoyed by Congress and the Constitution existed, will it require no little ingenuity to explain." The corollary from Mr. Sumner's proposition, as laid down by himself in the subsequent resolutions, is that slavery has ceased constitutionally to exist.—*Montreal Gazette.*