

the deceased formed part of the crowd of persons which followed the Orangemen who came from the Hillon Park meeting on the night in question. Some altercation occurred on the street between several drunken persons and those passing home through the town, and deceased being in company with his sister was observed by her to stagger forward and his cap to fall off. He explained of being struck by some person. It seems it was either by accident or mistake, and was not thought much of; though a wound was inflicted, so much so that deceased attended to his usual business, until ten days after, when he began to exhibit bad symptoms. These continued up to Friday night when death terminated his sufferings. A young man, named Long, was present, whose name was mentioned in connexion with the affair, but no charge was sustained against him. Verdict—'Deceased came by his death by a blow, inflicted by some person unknown.'

There is an evident want of a word in season on the subject of the reconstruction of the Irish Church, and, though those who lament the destruction of the Establishment may not possibly suspect the advantage of men who helped to pull it down, we cannot keep back what we believe may be useful to them. At present Irish laymen, if not the Irish clergy are manifestly much perplexed as to their future. Every one wishes to create the Church Body which shall hereafter represent the communion and as such receive the material gifts Parliament has placed at its disposal. But after what fashion shall this Body be created? Who shall take the first action towards its construction? In what proportion shall the lay and clerical elements of the Church be joined together to compose it? What, again, is the deficiency of a layman? Questions such as these are agitated from one end of Ireland to another, and as yet have received no solution. Synods and conferences assemble, and separate after having indulged in little but vague generalities which do not contribute in any appreciable degree to the attainment of the desired end. The meeting of laymen on Tuesday reflected the disorganization and confusion which everywhere exist. It was convened with one purpose but no sooner was the meeting constituted than that purpose was abandoned. It had been intended to invite the Dukes of Leinster and Abercorn to preside over the meeting, but an intimation having been received that the Archbishops were not unwilling to preside over a lay conference, the chiefs of the spirituality were at a moment's notice substituted for the chiefs of the laity.—Times.

THE LAND QUESTION.—There is a drift visible in the discussion of this Land question. It may arrive nowhere, for until Mr. Gladstone has spoken even the direction of the stream is uncertain; but still there is a drift and towards a Thirty Years' Settlement, as it is called in India, that is, compulsory leases for thirty years, with rents increasing slightly each year, by an increase arbitrarily fixed, or by an arrangement resembling the commutation of the title. Such a measure would pacify Ireland, and one at least of the objections is a little ridiculous. It is said that such a settlement only postpones the difficulty. Very possibly. A cure only postpones death. Besides, this particular dose can be repeated and thirty years of peace may change all Ireland.—At the same time experience proves that a thirty years' settlement is attended with one considerable evil. For the last seven years the leaseholder will rack the land all he can, so that at the next valuation he may get a low rent. If, however, we could get the system of *Hudostan Proper* in its entirety, a thirty years' Settlement, with right of re-entry on the new valuation, Ireland might get along, at least until the laborers grew very strong.

SCISSORS FOR SETTLING THE LAND QUESTION.—The Irish Times has proposed a 'revelation of Ireland on a letting basis,' and that so long as the tenant pays a fair rent, thus determined, the landlord shall not evict him without compensation for his tenant-right. This tenant-right might, the Irish Times thinks, be estimated at five years' purchase of the tenant's actual interest in the farm, that annual interest being one-third or some other fixed proportion of the rent. The sum paid for it should also, it is suggested, be supplemented by the value of the positive improvements he may leave behind him. The Irish Times also advises that absentee landlords should be 'submitted to a special tax or required, as an alternative, to sell their estates to the Government at twenty-two and a half years' purchase.—The proceeds of the absentee tax should be devoted to works of public utility. The estates purchased from absentees should be sold in lots of thirty or forty acres, to give tenants with small capitals an opportunity of becoming proprietors, and the purchase should be facilitated, as in Prussia, by a system of State loans. Every landlord should be considered an absentee who was unable to prove that he had resided altogether some fixed proportion of the preceding three or five years in Ireland. The London Companies, the Irish Times is likewise of opinion, should be immediately relieved of the duty of managing Irish estates. The Evening Mail opposes all these views, and considers that an organization of some special defensive measures by the land interest without delay is required. The Freeman's Journal mentions Lords Derby, Abercorn, Lurgan, Erne, and Downshire as nobleman on whose estates the tenants already practically enjoy fixity of tenure. The only question that remains (says the Freeman) is 'to determine whether or not an arrangement can be made by the law to enable the landlords of Ireland, after fixity of tenure shall have been decreed by law, to obtain any increment or rent; due to a continued average increase of prices without subjecting the tenants to the possibility of a capricious increase of rent being made based upon their own improvements.' 'If this latter be practicable,' adds the writer, in allusion to a remark of Lord Spencer in his recent speech at Tralee, 'the tenant question is solved, and all other improvements in land tenure, as peasant proprietorships and the breaking up of entails, if deemed advisable for other than tenant purposes, can be prosecuted without impediment.'

EXTRAORDINARY ABDUCTION.—Patrick's-Well, 231, August, 1869.—Our Patrick's-Well correspondent sends us the following; 'I have heard on this day that a young woman who resides in the county of Tipperary had a child about two years ago; the father was a young man named Patrick Looby, he having resided in the county Tipperary also at the time. Some time after the child was born it is alleged that he agreed to marry the young woman, and went to the Priest's house with her and her friends. He was to get £300 pounds fortune with her, and he was entitled to £800 as his portion from his brothers, who are living at Parkree near Friarstown, in the county Limerick, extensive and wealthy farmers. He stole away however, and did not carry out his agreement, and left her to bewail his absence. He was solicited several times since to marry her, and even by his own brothers, and always declined; and when she felt satisfied that all entreaty was vain, she, with eight young able Tipperary boys, drove on two side cars to his residence at Parkree, above mentioned, on yesterday (Sunday) morning, about 5 o'clock, a.m. One coming near the house, the man they were looking for was outside at the time; he made an attempt to run away, and one of the men, the brother of the deceived young woman, jumped of the car and pursued him, and soon came up with him; he gave him a 'hand and foot' and threw him to the ground; he got up again and made some resistance, and the brother struck him with his clenched fist and he fell again. The sister called out to take care not to hurt him. After that they tied his hands and feet and threw him into the well of one of the cars, and then drove off with their prize. It is also stated that they were going away they saw four of the R.I. Constabulary at no great distance, and when the captured individual

saw them he screamed and bowed to them to come to his rescue; he read did the same, in order that his complaints could not be understood by the constabulary. There was a cross road near, leading towards Ballinacree, and they turned on it and drove away at a very quick pace, so as that the Constabulary could not overtake them. They thus succeeded in carrying away the prizes.—Limerick Reporter.

The Irish Times has also a Lead Commissioner in France. A letter from that gentleman, published on Tuesday last, gives the writer's impressions of France generally. He says that from out of the bloodshed of the French revolution has sprung a state of things which leaves the French nation now the Lappier, and the richest, and most thriving people in Europe. This grand territory comprises nearly 140,000,000 of acres, and feeds nearly 40,000,000 of inhabitants. It grows beet for sugar manufacture, and its vineyards supply annually 1,000,000,000 of gallons of the best wines in the world. Coals, also, are found in 33 departments, which with 30,000,000 acres of forest, gives an inexhaustible supply of fuel. Iron, marble, granite, limestone, and the finest building stones abound. In manufactures the people excel in all the most luxurious fabrics. Game is plenty, the climate genial—in fact, France, in the writer's eyes, is an earthly paradise. And it is to good laws that he mainly attributes so happy a state of things. That is to say, France owes her present prosperity, in the first instance, to revolution, which gave the land to the people—it is known that three fourths of the farmers in France are owners in fee and then to just and equitable laws for preserving their undisturbed possession. In fact, the whole letter to which we allude affords irresistible arguments in favor of revolution as a remedy for oppressed people. Will even 'fixity of tenure' and 'unchangeable rents' render unhappy, desolate Ireland as happy and prosperous as France, which, at a bound, attained freedom and content by means of revolution? We doubt it very much. And yet France groaned under almost as intolerable a tyranny as Ireland does. The peasantry—as our own people are—were the abject serfs of a proud and cruel aristocracy. They were ground down to the earth, but they turned at length upon their tyrants, and baptized anew their country in patriotic blood. And France, purified by the process, became the earthly paradise that this writer paints her. It would be treason-felony, 'flat burglary,' or worse, to hint that the same wholesome remedy applied to Ireland would have similar good results; but candour obliges us to admit that there are some benighted people who really think so.—Flag of Ireland.

The Land question continues to be vigorously discussed in the Irish journals. The Earl of Glacard, in a letter to the Freeman, advocates the passing of an Act which would give the force of law to the custom of Ulster, extend its beneficial provisions to the whole of Ireland, and at the same time provide for a periodical Government valuation for letting purposes, with the power of appeal in cases of dispute to some inexpensive tribunal, such as the Court of Quarter Sessions. He firmly believes that this would speedily result in the southern and western counties, with their milder climate and fertile soil, equaling, if not outstripping, the prosperous condition of the North. He believes that to the custom prevailing in Ulster may be ascribed the prosperity and contentment of that province, and, however much it may be opposed to the principles of political economy, it has stood the test of experience, and on this ground he prefers it to any more theoretically perfect but untried system. The Freeman, commenting on the Marquis of Hartington's speech, calls on the people to declare its will promptly on the land question.—The avowed principle of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet is to govern Ireland according to the wants and wishes of Ireland. It is, therefore, for Ireland to speak and say what those wants are. The Marquis of Hartington said that it was not to be supposed that a measure can be passed without principles being enunciated hostile to the interests not only of landlords but of all capitalists. Such principles may be enunciated, and have been enunciated, but not as the sentiment of the Irish people. Far from being hostile to the interests of property, the measure of justice they demand must, like every act of justice, be beneficial to all alike, and protective, not destructive, of property. To an unjust settlement there should be a losing side—to a just and impartial one there will be none. We all know the dire forbodings and fearful warnings provoked by the impending downfall of ascendancy. Ireland was written upon the brow of Great Britain—her glory had departed, and the fall of the Established Church was to be the signal for the fall of her empire. The Established Church has fallen, and who is the sufferer?

The Daily Express objects to the Marquis of Hartington's suggestion that the question should be lifted out of the arena of party strife. It says:—'The problem is a hard one, but the Government which has promised to solve it must make the attempt, subject to all the penalties which are inflicted on Cabinets if they make a great effort and happen to fail.' The Evening Mail says:—'We have quite as little faith in Mr. Disraeli's settlement as in Mr. Bright's. We treat them equally as dangerous to the property of all kinds; and we solemnly warn the public that if they permit the competition of Conservative Bill against Ultramontane Bill; to be entered upon the result will be a worse fate for landlords than even that contemplated by the member for Birmingham and his Irish associates.'

The Nation suggests a Tenant Convention as necessary to guard against the 'backslidings of half-hearted Parliamentary representatives.' The Convention should consist of delegates nominated by the tenants. The Nation objects to mass meetings, as not being deliberative in the sense in which an elected representative assembly would be, and it equally objects to a conference of self-nominated individuals.

SELF GOVERNMENT.—We do not imagine that any improvement in the condition of Ireland would tend to denationalize her people or reconcile us to the provincial position which the absence of an Irish Parliament assigns to us. But our self-government in Ireland, under such improved circumstances as we supposed, would be entirely devoid of danger to England. We would look to her, rather than to America or any European power as our nearest friend or best customer, our natural ally. Intercourse between the two islands would be as full and frequent as at present, and many mischievous restrictions now kept up by the Trades' Union spirit of the learned professions would break down under the pressure of new and kindlier sentiments. Are all these advantages to be withheld from both peoples in order that a Mr. Scully may retain a legal right to torment his tenantry at Ballynoney, that a Mr. Hare may enjoy the luxury of proclaiming his contempt for merely Irish opinions, that London squiremen may disport themselves in the plumes of Irish proprietors, and that absentee proprietors may forget, amid the dissipations of foreign capitals, the duties they owe to the country which wastes her revenues upon them?—Irish Times.

THE HARVEST IN DOWN.—Nothing can exceed the goodness of the weather for harvest operations. Reaping is progressing in all directions, and the portion of the wheat crop is already carted to the stackyard. Nearly all the grain in this district is ready for the sickle, so that harvest will be quite general next week. The sample of new oats which appeared in our market this week is very superior, and the yield is said to be good. A couple of weeks of such weather as the present will enable the farmer to celebrate his 'harvest home' with gratitude and joy. The present rate of wages is 3s per day for men, and 2s for women. Owing to so much grain being ripe all at once, harvest laborers are in considerable request, and every available hand in this district is employed.—Recorder.

Under the title 'The Message of Peace,' the Freeman's Journal publishes the following circular, which, it states, has been issued by Cardinal Cullen:—

'A solemn triduum will be celebrated in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Marlborough-street, on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of the present month of September, to thank the Almighty Giver of all good gifts for having given wisdom and strength to the Legislature, representing all classes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, convoked by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, guided by the most eloquent and provident statesmen of the day, to lay the solid foundation of union and peace for the country, by putting an end to an ascendancy which had its origin more than 300 years ago in the decree of a small Irish Parliament representing only a mere fraction of the inhabitants of the country, and acting against the declared will of the people. Even from its cradle that ascendancy was the fruitful source of innumerable evils; maintained by the sword, confiscation and penal laws during many long years, at an enormous expense, not for religious but for worldly purposes—not for the welfare of the people, but for the benefit of the few—it was at all times well calculated to keep up ill will and discord among the different classes, and to prevent them from ever concurring to promote the public good. As the united wisdom of this great Empire, with the applause of all that is liberal and enlightened of every creed, has determined that, for the future, ascendancy shall make way for religious equality, thus removing the great occasion of discord, and as we may now hope for better and more peaceful days, it is meet that all sincere lovers of religion and fatherland, whether Catholics or Protestants, should thank God, saying with the holy Zacharias, 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, because He hath visited and wrought the redemption of his people.'—Luke i. 68. The devotions of the triduum will be as follows:—

1. On Sunday, the 12th of September (Feast of the Sacred Name of Mary), a Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at 12 o'clock by the Right Rev. Dr. Whelan, after which a sermon will be preached by the Very Rev. Thomas Burke, O.S.D. Benediction will then be given, and the Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed until the end of Vespers, which will commence at 4 o'clock.

2. On Monday, the 13th, the Mass of the most Holy Trinity, as prescribed for public thanksgiving, will be celebrated by the Right Rev. Dr. McCabe Bishop of Ardagh, commencing at 11 o'clock. The sermon will be preached by the Very Rev. Monsignor M'Cauley, P.P., Vicar-General. First Vespers of following festival at 4 o'clock. A relic of the Holy Cross, the gift of His Holiness Pius IX., will be exposed for the veneration of the faithful during the afternoon and next day.

3. On Tuesday, 14th (Feast of the Holy Cross), Pontifical Mass at 11 o'clock, to be celebrated by the Cardinal Archbishop. The Right Rev. Dr. Leahy, Bishop of Down, will preach. After Mass the Te Deum will be sung and benediction given.

4. For the convenience of those who may be unable to attend in the morning, the Rosary will be said in the church each afternoon during the triduum at half past 7 o'clock. A short instruction will follow; then the Litany will be chanted, and benediction given with the Blessed Sacrament.

5. The Cardinal Archbishop grants 100 days' indulgence for each time that any one may devoutly assist at any of the above mentioned functions, thanking God for the benefits received, begging of him to complete his good work, to spread the blessings of religion, and to give true peace and prosperity to the country.

6. The Cardinal Archbishop also requests the priests of this diocese, secular and regular, to offer up in thanksgiving for the benefits received the holy sacrifice of the Mass once each day during the triduum, or at their convenience; and he exhorts all religious communities, the inmates of schools and colleges, and all pious Christians, to offer up a communion for the same purpose.

7. To make the thanksgiving general, all the parish priests and heads of religious houses will be pleased to have a Te Deum chanted or said in their respective churches on Sunday, the 19th inst., and to exhort their flocks to show their gratitude to God by returning Him sincere thanks, by avoiding sin, by cultivating a spirit of charity, and by the performance of good works.

8. Finally, the Cardinal Archbishop recommends all the faithful to attend, each day during the coming year, three Holy Masses to their family prayers, begging of God, through the intercession of the Holy Virgin, to bring back all those who are in error to the paths of truth, and to bless the labours of the approaching General Council, so that all may be one body and one of God, under one shepherd, united in the bonds of faith and charity, according to the supplication of Our Lord after the Last Supper. Recollect that prayer is always most efficacious, and that our Divine Lord will not reject our petitions if they be presented to Him by his Holy Mother. Therefore, let us make the days of the triduum, and the coming year, a period of prayer, mindful of the words of Christ: 'If you ask the Father anything in my name, He will give it you.'—John xvi. 23.

† PAUL CARD. CULLEN.

'Dublin, September 2.'

GREAT BRITAIN.

Some strong minded women contemplate a 'husband show' at the Agricultural Hall, Islington the prizes to be distributed by Mr. Bradlaugh of London, and Miss Becker, of Manchester. [Query—What does she know about the matter?] It is said that Mr. J. Stuart Mill was invited to preside, but declined having anything more to do with men than he could help, preferring alike the society and the Government of ladies. So the title-tattle goes.

The Pall Mall Gazette maintains that the argument against granting pardon to Fenians, on the ground of prudence, is as strong as the argument upon the ground of justice. There can be only two constructions put upon such an act both mischievous; one class will regard it as an act of cowardice and the other as the inauguration of a career of revolution.

CHURCH AND STATE.—The English Churchman, in an article upon the present crisis, and advising 'Churchmen, whose cause is the defence of what is holiest and ought to be dearest to them, to ignore all political and sectional differences of opinion, and by an united effort of clergy and laity, maintain what is left to them of the heritage of their fathers,' adds, that 'unless a vigorous effort be made during the coming autumn to stir up public feeling in England, it is, humbly speaking, impossible to suppose that the Union of Church and State in England can continue above three years longer.'

HOUSE OF LORDS.—It is not a little singular that the Earl of Lovelace and his son, Lord Wentworth, both hold seats at the same time in the House of Peers. The only other similar instance in modern times (if we except the cases of eldest sons 'called to the Upper House in their fathers' baronies' in their fathers' lifetime) is to be found in the late Lord Howard de Walden, who, having inherited that title from his mother, sat for several years in the House of Peers before his father was created Lord Seaford. Lord Wentworth, in like manner, inherited the barony of Wentworth in right of his mother, Ada, the only child of Lord Byron by his unfortunate wife, who, late in life, succeeded to the title of Baroness Wentworth.

HOW TO COOK A MAN.—If any one of us looks forward to being eaten by cannibals, he may wish to be informed how he is likely to be cooked. It is a comfort to know that the savages who may devour him are by no means devoid of refinement in their culinary disposition. Some French soldiers were lately taken prisoners by the Canaks, and one of them was killed and eaten. His comrades describe the process. The Canaks first decapitate their victim, a matter of no small difficulty considering the bluntness of their hatchets. Ten or fifteen blows are necessary. The body is then hung up to a tree by the feet, and the

blood allowed to run out for an hour. Meanwhile a hole a yard and a half deep and a yard wide is dug in the ground. The hole is lined with stones, and then in the midst of them a great fire is lit. When the wood is burnt down a little and glows with heat, it is covered over with more stones. The man is then cleaned out and divided into pieces about a foot long, the hands and feet being thrown away as worthless. The pieces of the man are placed on the leaves of a large rose tree peculiar to the tropics. The meat is surrounded with coconuts, bananas, and some other plants noted for their delicate flavour. The whole is then tied together firmly the fire is removed from the pit, the meat is placed among the hot stones, and thus, carefully covered, is left to cook for an hour. Women do not partake of this warriors' feast. Men alone are permitted to enjoy so great an honour and so rare a delicacy.—Daily News.

An instance of that gross ignorance of Catholic doctrine, for which in these days of cheap printing and varied reading there is no excuse, came before us in the West Sussex Journal. A writer, signing himself 'West Sussex,' complains that the Editor, in the report of the opening of the Church at Burton Park, mentioned that the Archbishop had granted forty days' indulgence; and then proceeds to enlighten the readers of the paper upon the import of this terrible sentence in the following words:—'Weep, ye shades and glades of Woolbeding, for him who pronounced these fearful words so near your sylvan precincts! For in reality, what is it which the Archbishop professed to grant? Neither more nor less than leave and license (for those who chose to accept) to indulge in sin for forty days, because they had for that one day (perhaps as much out of curiosity as otherwise) given their time and attendance at what he would call a meritorious act, simply the opening of a new church.'

TIGHT LACING.—The writer of a letter to The Times who signs herself 'Not a girl of the Period,' takes up the cudgels on behalf of the tight laces and impugns the accuracy of our opinion that the practice is as injurious to the health as its effects are mortifying to the eye. The latter point we would cheerfully leave to the decision of men of taste. We should have to take exception, however, to those who, from a lengthened residence in *Ohia* have become accustomed to the distorted form which the ladies of that country delight in producing by arts not very dissimilar from those employed by the seekers after a 'good figure' in Europe. They are prejudiced observers, and their judgment would doubtless be biased. The inquiry to health is a less complicated question. Its occurrence is explained by a very few elementary facts in physiology. Our fairer sex is not probably aware that the human body is so constituted that very free movement of the chest-walls—by alternate elevation and depression of the ribs—is just as necessary for the supply of air to the lungs as are the movements of the bellows by which the blacksmith blows his furnace. If the blacksmith sits upon his bellows he spoils the working of the instrument, and his fire goes out. If a lady encases herself in a stiff pair of stays, and laces them tightly, she would speedily die but for the action of the diaphragm. By this she is saved but her safety is purchased at a ruinous expense. Breathing, as it is thus carried on, produces downward pressure instead of lateral expansion, increasing the difficulties under which the digestive organs, compressed out of shape by the constriction of the waist, do their work and causing displacements and derangements which create, perhaps, more domestic unhappiness than any other circumstance in life. Need was pointed to the gloom of the household where the wife is always ailing, compelled to keep her sofa day by day, and presenting a face which is scarcely less pined and careworn than that of her husband. Doubly embarrassed as he is by the loss of her help, and anxiety for her personal safety? And who do not hesitate to say that to the practice of tight lacing is due a very large number of distressing female ailments, over and beyond those derangements of digestion and circulation to which we have already referred in our former article. The writer in The Times refers us to 'Fairholt's Costumes' for proof that in spite of denunciation, the fashion has flourished throughout Europe for a thousand years at least, and her inference is evident that the continuance of the practice under these circumstances proves its innocuousness—a style of argument by which, we need scarcely remark, the harmfulness of theft, murder, drunkenness, and a few other 'fashions' might equally well be substantiated.—The Lancet.

The moment a great empire fears to protect its colonies it is marked for ruin. It is not that the people who live at home may be less happy or prosperous in pounds, shillings, and pence, but that their greatness is gone. The epoch of their statesmen and warriors has passed away, or at most the divine fire lingers a little but to die out in the dark on the Altar of Freedom whereon Mammon sits in usurping insolence. Greece and Rome tell the story. Holland and Spain repeat it. Who argues that the Greek or Roman or the Dutchman or the Spaniard suffered because they lost vast possessions, and abandoned, or were forced to relinquish the appanages of their imperial state? No one—except some of those who believe that the consciousness of belonging to a great nation animates men to do great deeds, and inspires the masses of the people with a noble pride. But we must feel that the prestige of a State is not only the guarantee of its self respect, but that it is also the measure of the respect paid to it by other Powers. In the journal, above all things notable, it is said and believed for its appreciation of the popular sentiment, there appears, this week an ecstatic eulogium on the big-banded. The energy of the King of Prussia and of Count Bismarck in defying the Parliamentary party which seeks to reduce the national armaments, whilst in another place there is a taunting article on the complaints of the sea and into the far corners of the earth under the notion that they were but extending the dominions of the Crown, and adding to the soil of Great Britain. Russia can spread all over Asia, and menace Europe with fresh absorptions as she lists, but she cannot disown a spot in which she has ever planted her flag—'ubi visum, ubi imperium.' At the present moment Russia owns more land than would cover the surface of the Moon! France bound in iron chains by the fetters imposed on her by great armed confederacy, has little hope for expansion in Europe, and her 'rejoice' has to strike out in Algeria, South America, Cochinchina; but wherever they take root she protects them. We send forth, and repudiate, and lop off; at least, we are advised to do so. But will any one tell us how a line is to be drawn between a colony which we wish to let go and a possession we are determined to maintain? If Canada may go, why must India be held at any risk? Will foreign countries respect the doctrine of expediency, and permit us to disavow Australia and keep Gibraltar? This doctrine, if carried out, will, perhaps, spare the Army some disagreeable bursts of foreign service, and give it a good deal of hard fighting nearer home. That it can be safe, dignified, or successful in its results to the empire at large, is more than can be believed by any man who has read history and who can understand the signs of the time around us.—London Army and Navy Gazette.

PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY.—It is far easier to pronounce our Election Commissioners still inefficient than to say what machinery should be substituted for them. An attentive reader, indeed, of the pending proceedings at Beverley, Bridgewater, and Norwich would be rather perplexed to reconcile the frankness of the confessions made by the witnesses with the despair expressed by some of the Commissioners at the difficulties of the inquiry. At Norwich the Chief Commissioner is said to have exclaimed in his perplexity that he wished he had never or a dastardly investigation so unproductive, and yet he acknowledged at the same sitting that it was

palpable a number of persons had been bribed. The truth we take to be this—That a very cursory inquiry suffices to prove the practice of corruption more or less extensive, but that it is found exceedingly hard to bring the organisation of bribery to light, and to trace the system to its responsible authors. It is not enough to ascertain from a dozen deponents in succession that they got forty shillings apiece for their votes; the object is to discover, if possible, who provided the money and set the machinery of corruption in motion. For that important evidence we have yet to wait, but the testimony of the witnesses as already given confirms in all particulars the views which we have expressed upon the subject a few years ago. It is beyond all question that in almost every place where inquiries are instituted a considerable proportion of electors are found not only to have been in the receipt of bribes, but to have looked upon the practice as in no degree degrading or discreditable. Nor is that all. It is shown, also, that the money as a matter of fact, is usually taken without any sacrifice of principle, for the simple reason that there was no principle to be sacrificed. Instances of struggling honesty overpowered by temptation appear to be unknown, or, at any rate, untold. There is occasionally, a little allegiance acknowledged to party colors, that is, a 'Red' who has usually had his £5 and voted Red is half unwilling or ashamed to take his £6 for voting Blue, but even this amount of principle is comparatively rare. The majority of the witnesses, by no means few in number, who have divulged their ideas upon this question for the edification of the public have clearly no political opinions at all, and as they put, therefore, no force upon their consciences, and a few pounds would be very useful to them, they think no harm in pocketing the money, especially as 'other people' are doing so, and their own fathers and grandfathers have done so before them. The result is, not merely corruption, but corruption without shame—without even a pretence to public opinion.—Times.

London, Sept. 21.—The Pope has sent a communication to Cardinal Manning in reference to the proposal of Dr. Cumming to appear at the Ecumenical Council. The Pope refers the Doctor to the terms of the letter of invitation addressed to the Protestants, and says he will find that it is an invitation, not to discussion, but only to profit by the opportunity to return to the Church. The Pope says, in conclusion, that there is no room at the Council for a defence of opinions which have already been condemned. The Times, commenting on the above, says the decision of Rome on Dr. Cumming's application is pronounced with unexpected promptitude. The Pope must have acquainted himself with the purport of Dr. Cumming's letter through the newspapers, and replied before its reception. Dr. Cumming is to be congratulated on the authoritative reply elicited. The Pope speaks plainly. If the Doctor had considered the claims of the Church, he would have seen that there could be no room for him in the Council.

London, Sept. 22.—The Ritualists, both clerical and lay, are just now deeply and very generally excited over the contents of the letter or report of Pope Pius IX. in which he repudiates the idea of non-Catholics or persons not in full communication with the Catholic Church attending the Ecumenical Council at Rome and taking part in the proceedings. Puseyism or Ritualism will not do. Delegates must belong to the holy mother by profession. Rev. Dr. Cumming will not, consequently, have an opportunity of an oral discussion with the assembled prelates. He had prepared himself for this, for in a letter recently published he says: 'I wrote to Archbishop Manning, the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, begging of him, as the Chief minister of the Church in England, such information as he might feel it proper or expedient to furnish on these points, namely: Shall I be allowed to show my views of speech within the limits prescribed by the nature of the Council? Shall I be allowed to show my views Protestants stand aloof from the Roman Church; what we should require of her in order to enable us to resume communion with her as a branch of the church universal? The Archbishop sent me a long and courteous reply, assuring me we should meet with all clarity and respect in making any grave and earnest communication to the Council, at the same time he expresses his inability to give any information as to the 'modus agendi' at the said Council. This, he added, depended on the highest authority of all.

UNITED STATES.

The following is from the New York Times:—The shipbuilding interest, once so flourishing in this city, when New York was famous for turning out ships of superior model and speed, is now almost ruined. Our great shipyards formerly the scene of bustle and industry, are now almost deserted, or are devoted to other purposes. At this moment there is on the stocks only one vessel while in the month of September, 1863, there were 33 large ships in process of construction in the yards of New York and Brooklyn, each of which was upwards of 1,000 tons burden. The advance in the price of almost every article that enters into the construction of a vessel is among the primary causes of our builders being unable to compete with the proprietors of English yards. Iron, which before the war would be purchased for \$45 per ton cannot now be obtained for less than \$85.—Hemp, for caulking and other purposes, could then be bought for 4¢ per pound; it now brings 12 cents. Copper, then 22 cents, is now 34 cents per pound. Hackmatack knees, which came from Canada and from St. John, N.B., once sold for \$1 25 and \$1 50 apiece; they now command \$2 50, \$3 25 and \$3. Oak timber was once bought for 28 and 30 cents per foot; now the ruling price is 60 cents.—White pine timber now sells for 45 cents, which in 1860 sold for 22 cents per foot. So great, indeed, is the advance in the price of old timber, that the shipping of it from Ohio and Illinois to Europe, has become a most profitable business, and English agents are buying it up here in large quantities for shipment especially as there is no export duty on timber leaving the United States. The abolition of a high duty on Canadian and other provincial products, having put it out of the power of the New York builders to obtain Hackmatack knees, as they once could, at cheap rates; while the agent of the English yard owner is continually sending them in England at an expense very little higher than the cost in St. John. Added to this increase in the cost of building material is the fact that during the war, almost any kind of craft that could float was bought by the Government for transport purposes. Many of these were old; but the owners managed to get good prices for them, by reason of the great demand for vessels which then existed. When the war ended, the Government having no further use for them, sold the worthless hulks for almost nothing. They were bought up by speculators and now comprise the portion of the vessels engaged in our coasting trade. While everything else has advanced about 100 per cent in price, however, wages have not been increased in like proportion. Before the war shipcarpenters received \$2 25 and \$3 50 per day. Now, when there is anything to do, they get only 3 25 and \$3 50. The large shipyards pay out for wages alone, in a 'ante-bellum' time, on an average, 6,000 per week; now they can liquidate all their claims of this character with \$5,000,000 yearly being distributed among shipbuilders, shipjoiners, caulkers, shipsmiths, shipwrights and laborers in the yards of New York and Brooklyn, as was formerly the followers of those trades are compelled to seek a livelihood in other vocations, assailed to their tastes in many instances, and the country has sustained a positive loss in consequence of there being no longer a field in which they might display their excellence of mechanical skill.