

and Honorary Member of the Societe des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles de Bordeaux, Bishop Law's Mathematical Prize...

While some workmen were recently employed in excavating part of the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, Galway, one of them found embedded in the soil at considerable depth, a massive signet ring of solid silver...

JUDICIAL REFORM IN IRELAND.—Mr. Mitchell Henry, M.P., writing to the Dublin Daily Express with reference to the appointment of the second judge in the Landed Estates Court...

The following sales were made in the Landed Estates Court, Dublin, on the 19th ult.—Estate of Catherine Keane...

quenched the fire, and went through some legal form of taking possession, winding up by pulling the corpse out of the bed, placing it on a car, and taking it to their own house in the neighborhood...

THE O'CONNELL CENTENARY COMMITTEE.—The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the Freeman. Professor Kavanagh will, of course, explain it:—

Belfast, Nov. 25, 1875. DEAR SIR,—In a recent issue of your paper it was stated in a letter under the signature of "J. W. Kavanagh" that the publication of a Centenary Record was approved or desired by me...

In reply to Dr. Dorrian's letter, Mr. J. W. Kavanagh, in a letter to the Freeman, says:—The Lord Mayor had been absent in London for some days, from which he returned only on the 3rd August...

"Professor Kavanagh read the list of subscriptions since the last meeting. The total amount, including £185 transmitted by the Most Rev. Dr. Dorrian Lord Bishop of Down and Connor, was £936 6s. 8d." (Applause.)

This subscription of £185 was thus publicly acknowledged in the metropolitan Press, 4th August. It was again publicly acknowledged, together with a second subscription of £59, in the same journal, 19th August, while in every case in which detailed parochial lists reached the committee they have been published.

GREAT BRITAIN.

SABBATHARIAN STRICTNESS.—A memorial signed by 129 clergy and 16 magistrates of the county of Derby has been forwarded to the Home Secretary...

A strange occurrence is reported from Inverness. A blacksmith named Murray ran into a house in Shore-street, with a deep cut across his throat. He stated that while proceeding home along the quay side a man whom he did not recognise, with the expression, "You, blackguard, I have got you now," caught hold of him, drew a knife or razor across his throat, and then made off. No trace has been obtained of the assailant.

BRUTAL ASSAULT UPON A WIFE.—John Grimshaw has been charged at the Town Hall, Blackburn, with attempting to murder his wife. The prosecutrix proved that she had been savagely kicked, knocked down, and rendered insensible for four hours. The Bench dealt with the case under the Aggravated Assaults Act, and sent the prisoner to goal for six months with hard labor, ordering him to find sureties at the close of his sentence.

"OUR" DIFFERENCES.—Mr. E. J. Reed, in a long letter to the Times, comments on the present condition of the English Navy, in a manner which will not tend to restore that confidence which the events of the past six months have done so much to shake. He charges the Government with never having given Parliament an opportunity of discussing naval matters, and poor Mr. Ward Hunt is blamed for having "deferred the interests of the Navy day after day, and week after week, to discussions on guano."

The question of calling Parliament together specially to sanction the purchase of the Khedive's shares is not quite definitely set at rest. It is said that there will be no difficulty in providing the first instalment, which must be paid immediately, even without the formal approval of the Legislature, and all turns on the necessity of making the second payment before the ordinary beginning of the Parliamentary session. In addressing a meeting in the Shoreditch Town Hall, Mr. Fawcett, M.P., said Parliament should at once be summoned to discuss the action of the Government with respect to the purchase of the Suez Canal shares.

DARING HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.—Two tough looking men, named Scadding, brothers, one of whom has only recently been set at liberty on a ticket-of-leave, were committed for trial by the magistrates at Canterbury, on two separate charges of highway robbery accompanied in each case with violence. The first case investigated was one in which a maid to a lady living in the neighbourhood of Canterbury was the prosecutrix. On Sunday afternoon, 21st ult, at dusk, she left church, and was on her way home, when the two prisoners rushed out from behind a hedge and, seizing her by the throat, demanded her money. She said she had not got any. On this the men almost strangled her, and fearing that they would murder her she then handed over her purse, which was emptied of its contents and returned to her. The other case, in which a woman was also the victim, occurred on Saturday night just outside the city, under precisely similar circumstances.

RELICS OF SS. MOODY AND SANKEY.—Those distinguished gospel-adventurers, Messrs. Moody and Sankey, have left behind them a fine crop of "religious excitement" which is producing fruit in the shape of lunacy, suicide, and crime. The latest instance occurred in Glasgow, and is well worth notice. One of their "evangelists," named Robinson, went "to convert" the denizens of a house whose nature need not be for her specified, and during the process he called for a glass of water, and was drugged and robbed. That was Robinson's story, but as afterward appeared, he had not heard Moody's romance in vain, but had caught up the mantle of his departed "master" and was doing a little lying on his own account. For the case came before the police-courts, and there it appeared that

Mr. Robinson had gone to the house to procure drink; and that, not content with the drink and robbery of the first disreputable den, he had subsequently gone on to another, where he offered to sell his clothes for more liquor. The "converting" and "glass of water" theory was not accepted by the magistrates except with derision, but the woman who had robbed Mr. Robinson was punished all the same. It is a pity the "Evangelists" in chief, Moody and Sankey, did not take the interesting "convert" Robinson to America with them—they might have tried his hand on Beecher and Tilton and the other cleanly members of the "Church" in Brooklyn, and who knows but that he would have had as great a success as that achieved amongst the Glasgow ladies?—Catholic Times.

INFANANT NEGLECT OF A CHILD IN LIVERPOOL.—A DRUNKEN MOTHER.—At the Dale-street Police Court before Mr. Raffles, the stipendiary magistrate, Margaret Pinnall, a middle-aged woman, was brought up on a charge with having wilfully neglected her infant child. Mr. Hagger the clerk to the Select Vestry, prosecuted on behalf of the parish authorities. The evidence showed that on the night of the 25th Oct. Police-constable 862, from information he received, went to the house of the prisoner, No. 11, in Court, Rathbone-street. He found the prisoner's baby aged about three months, lying on some old bedclothes in a room, its only covering being a piece of dirty calico, over its shoulder. The prisoner, who during the hearing of the case cried bitterly, and loudly protested her innocence, when asked what she had to say, replied, "It was too much that I gave it to eat. (Laughter.) This will be a lesson to me while I live. I'll be a new mother and new housekeeper." Continuing, she said she had always been attentive to her children, and it "stood to reason" that her husband would not have given her money week by week if she were not. The prisoner, it was stated, had been four times before the court on charges of drunkenness.—Mr. Raffles: This is a most lamentable case. You are liable to be imprisoned for six months for this offence. You have, however, been one month in goal already; and the sentence that I, therefore, pass upon you is that you be imprisoned for five months. The prisoner was then removed.

EARLY SCOTTISH HISTORY.—LECTURE BY THE MARQUIS OF BUTE.—Last week the Marquis of Bute delivered the first of a series of lectures which are to be given in the Kingarth public school during the present winter. Kingarth, as our Glasgow correspondent writes to us, is not far from Mount Stewart house, Bute, the residence of the Marquis, one of whose titles is Viscount Kingarth. The school-room was crowded on the occasion, and the chair was taken by Mr. W. Barr, of Killyland.

In his preliminary remarks the Marquis said in the course of the Christian centuries, which now amount to 18, there were some which stood out as particularly distinguished. Although we lived in the nineteenth century without any parallel in mechanical works and discoveries. Probably it had done so much in that way as to make a mark upon the face of the world which would not be effaced as long as civilization existed. If they looked back for three centuries, they came to the 16th, marked, if not actually by the discovery, at any rate by the general dissemination of printing, which had changed the whole social order, and perhaps the moral order also, by the great commotion of which the chief outcome in this country was the Reformation. Again, if they took the same interval of three centuries they came upon the 13th, an age whose work and institutions had, as far as time had yet allowed of a comparison, been more enduring than those of any other country; particularly of that country, where we had escaped being swept by the storm of the great French Revolution; it might almost be said that in some matters which surrounded us most closely, we live in the work of the 13th century more than in our own. It was in that century that the first House of Commons was assembled at Westminster. It was in that century in which there was aroused throughout the whole of Europe the study of the Greek philosophy which was brought in by the extraordinary intellectual brilliance of that time. Even in mechanical matters, it was admitted that the thirteenth century was that which attained the very highest excellence in art which had ever existed in the West. Of the immense activity which was displayed, and the stronghold which both in Christian and non-Christian bodies it works still retained, it was unnecessary to speak further. That great age was marked in Scotland by an amount of prosperity, which, according to Burton, the latest of our historians, was probably never enjoyed from that time until the present century; and the close of the thirteenth century was characterized in the history of Scotland by the most stirring events which their history afforded. The death of Alexander III. in 1284 ushered in the period of the war of independence, which was closed by the battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The noble marquis then entered into a minute survey of the grounds upon which the various claimants to the throne—who came to the front on the death of Alexander III.—rested their cause, giving the genealogy of the chief competitors, and reading some interesting translations from a number of old documents which had never been previously translated; documents which, it came to be acknowledged more and more every day, constituted the true basis upon which all history rested. He described more particularly the competition which took place between John Balliol and Bruce for the Crown, and pointed out that there was one feature which was characteristic of all their claims—they were quite willing, if Edward declared in their favor to hold Scotland as fief from the King of England. He showed, however, that but little blame attached to the majority of the claimants on this ground, on account of the fact that they were either of French, English, or Irish extraction. Coming to the interesting scene which took place at Berwick-on-Tweed, at which the contest was decided in favor of Balliol, the noble lecturer read a translation of a document giving an official narrative of the proceedings, and an elaborate series of reasons for the preference which was given to Balliol's claims, as compared chiefly with the grounds on which Bruce urged his pretensions to the kingdom. This document brought out the fact that the chief objection to Bruce's claim was his application, made shortly previous to this occasion, for a third of the kingdom. As, however, the King of England considered that it would not be conducive to the prosperity of the people to apportion out the kingdom into three parts, Bruce's application was rejected, and Balliol was declared the successful competitor as the most direct heir to the throne. The Marquis then briefly alluded to the enthronement of Balliol, at Stone He concluded by describing the steps which Edward took to secure the dependency of Scotland, and the readiness which Balliol displayed to satisfy his aims in that respect.

On the motion of Mr. J. McDougall, farmer, Kerytonia, a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the Marquis for his lecture. A similar compliment having been awarded to the chairman, the proceedings terminated.—Catholic Times, Nov. 26.

THE RUGBY POISONER.—Lord Selborne has addressed the following letter to the Editor of the Liverpool Courier:—"Sir,—My attention has been directed to a paragraph in your paper of the 22nd inst. headed 'The Walworth Trial,' and purporting to be supplied by your 'London' correspondent, in which reference is made to 'Palmer, the Rugby poisoner, and brother of an ex-Lord Chancellor.' As I am the only person named Palmer who had the honour to fill the office of Lord Chancellor, I am compelled—indeed, as it would have seemed if the point had not been actually under

my eyes—to suppose that your correspondent believes the Rugeley (not Rugby) poisoner to have been my brother, for which supposition there is I can assure you, no foundation whatever. The name Palmer is not a very uncommon one, and it no more implies relationship between all who bear it than does 'Smith' or 'Jones.' I had not the misfortune of being even remotely related to that notorious criminal. Will you excuse the liberty I take in suggesting that even the authority of a London correspondent ought not to be accepted without inquiry for statements of this nature, especially when correct information as to the family of the person affected by them might have been most easily obtained.—Yours, &c, SELBORNE, London, Nov. 24."

FOREIGN OPINIONS OF THE SUEZ CANAL PURCHASE.—The London Standard of Dec. 1st has the following:—All sorts of rumors and speculations continue to prevail in the continental capitals respecting what led to the purchase by England of the Kedive's shares in the Suez Canal, and the ultimate object of the purchase. Our Paris correspondent telegraphs that England has incurred the displeasure of Edmond About, and that the French papers approve of the opinion he has expressed, which may be summed up in the assertion that if France had been in her normal condition England would never have dared to purchase the Kedive's shares. From our Berlin correspondent come the principal points in an article published in the National Zeitung, which accuses England of an immediate design against the independence of Egypt, but indulges in gloomy prospects as to the result of the purchase. At last, some of the Hungarian papers have commenced to discuss the subject, and so far all of them display unfriendliness towards Russia. Our Vienna correspondent's surmise that the Austrian Foreign Office was disagreeably surprised at the purchase has been confirmed by a statement from Count Beust to the effect that down to the last moment the transaction was kept a profound secret, and that it even surprised every body in London. In most of the Austrian journals pleasure is expressed at Russia's discomfiture, and a few speak unfavourably of France. Our Vienna correspondent also mentions that so great has been the consternation in Constantinople caused by the news of the purchase, that a committee has been appointed to make great defensive preparations in case of war.

UNITED STATES.

The value of the stock which passed through the East Buffalo cattle yards last year is estimated at \$3,613,790.

A valuable deposit of fine red and white granite has been developed in Stearns Co., Minnesota. It is considered a bonanza.

The Grangers of California are circulating a petition asking the State Legislature to fix the fees of attorneys in all cases where no special contract is made.

The Gold Hill, Cal., News of the 20th ult., announces the development of another producing mine. The mining estimate is "not less than \$50 to the ton."

The Arkansas Legislature has passed a Bill creating the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; hitherto the Secretary of the State has been ex-officio Superintendent.

It is proposed to unite the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The proximal lines of the two cities are about 4 miles apart, and their extreme boundaries about twelve miles long.

Joyce, the convicted whiskey ring conspirator, is writing in his cell a story in imitation of "David Copperfield," entitled "Life and Adventures of David Copperfield." The last chapters are to be devoted to the whiskey ring war. It will be published this winter.

A "high-toned" elopement at Oil City was managed in the following luxurious manner—it is said: "An engine with a single car attached was run down the track to a point near the young lady's house. She was quickly taken aboard and the train proceeded to Titusville, where the marriage ceremony was performed, after which the young couple left on their wedding tour."

A young man named Patrick Wheelahan was murdered in a low saloon and sailors' boarding-house in Detroit last Friday afternoon. The murderer, who is known as "Black" or "Plug" Campbell, deliberately walked up to his victim, striking him two blows with the fist, the first being from behind. The second blow knocked Wheelahan down, after which Campbell kicked him once in the stomach, then walked quietly to the door and escaped. Wheelahan died within fifteen minutes.

The Anderson (S.C.) Sun says: From all we can gather, it is estimated that the cotton crop of this country will be one-fourth short. Some portions have made full crops, while in others the drought has cut it off considerably. We have the consolation that the farmers have made enough corn for their own use and to spare, and we anticipate very little of the article will be imported into the country this fiscal year.

Governor Garland, of Arkansas, in a proclamation appointing Thursday, the 23rd of December, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, refers gratefully to the fact that during the last year the State has "passed from under a Constitution that has caused dissatisfaction and dissemination into the light of a new Constitution, which promises to harmonize the conflicting elements of population and to maintain civil and religious liberty."

An embarrassing incident happened to a Whitehall, N.Y., clergyman recently. He married a couple, and when he examined the fee found it was a \$100 bill. The next day the bridegroom telegraphed that it was a mistake—he meant to have handed him a \$10 bill. The clergyman replied that it was too late to rectify the mistake, as he had joyfully used the money to liquidate a long-standing debt.

The following notice is conspicuously posted in the reading room of the Young Men's Christian Association in San Francisco:—Notice.—Gentlemen will do well to keep an eye on their hats while in this room, as some visitors are afflicted with shortsightedness which often results in their leaving the room with a better hat than they brought.

The lawyers say that Tweed's property has been so skillfully transferred from his control that it is impossible through any process of law for the prosecution to get hold of it. The police of Brooklyn have been actively searching for Tweed, and the house of a prominent official in Henry street has been under close surveillance in the belief that Tweed was concealed there. It is said the house to be a arched to-day, but the police refuse any information on the subject.

Rabbits are so abundant in Kentucky as to be a positive nuisance, and the fashionable amusement is hunting them down on horse-back. Ten or dozen horsemen form in line and beat the fields, uttering fearful cries and blowing horns the while. The rabbits start up, run hither and thither in confusion, and finally just down in terror and allow themselves to be taken alive, by hand. From fifty to seventy a day have been captured by some parties.

A grey horse, which in a lifetime of twenty-eight years had travelled with a circus, had been mortgaged four times, served in the rebellion, and been less gloriously useful in his old age: at farm work, died recently at Oconto, Wisconsin. His name was Robinson Crusoe, and he was called Bob for short by familiar acquaintances. His owner had a coffin made of black walnut, handsomely finished, and bearing a plate inscribed with the name and age.

The funeral was attended by two hundred villagers. This CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.—From the last monthly report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture we learn that the corn crop of 1875 has been one of the largest ever grown in the country—a general increase on last year's crop all over the country of from 10 to 60 per cent. The quality of the crop was not so good as that of 1874. The potato crop has been extraordinary, both in quality and quantity—fully 25 per cent. above that of last year, in some cases nearly 400 bushels to the acre; selling in many places at from 15 to 20 cents a bushel. Cotton—About 4,000,000 bales. Tobacco.—Seventy-four per cent. over that of last year. Fruits—Generally a poor year, especially in apples. Hay—A small percentage above last year over the whole country. Generally the return is very satisfactory.

On Tuesday, 6th inst., a family named Walker moved into a house in Rochester, N. Y., which house had been unoccupied for ten months. Next morning, at five o'clock, city physician Baker was called to the place and found the premises full of gas, and the family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Walker, their child, another lady and her child, in a state of insensibility. An examination revealed the fact that the sewer had been left open, as well as all the gas jets. Proper remedies were applied and the family brought around. It seems that Mrs. Walker was awakened early in the morning with an aching sensation and an alarming smell of gas. She had strength and presence of mind to crawl to the window and knock on it until she attracted the attention of some passer by, whom she requested to call Dr. Baker. She then became insensible. Had she not been able to attract attention the probabilities are that the whole family would have died.

A CHRISTMAS REVERIE.

Three score and ten—could I miss the years? Three score and ten, and I not dead; Well, God is good, and perhaps he spares My helpless frame and my old grey hairs, That prayers for the children may still be said.

Forty long years this blessed night, Forty long years since we left the strand; Mother of God! if my aching sight— But no, 'twas a start; sure my head is light— I must die like the rest in the stranger's land.

No, never again shall I see your shore, Home of my heart! and God's will be done; But sometimes I think—I was told before 'Twas an old man's fancy, and they knew more Than one with a lease of a long life run—

But sometimes I think, as I'm thinking now, Sitting alone by the Christmas fire, That there in the light of the embers' glow— There where the tall shadows come and go— I see them again till my eyeballs tire.

I see the faces I know are dead— I see the friends that are far away; I see the field I shall never tread— The old grey church, where we two were wed, Mary and I, on that happy day.

And there, far away from the smoky town, With its warm thatched roof and its earthen floor, And its ivied walls, and its chimneys brown— Your heart broke, again, when they tore it down— But the law was hard on the weak and poor—

There, in that nook, the old homestead stands; But it fades, and the grave my dim vision fills, Where we laid you, love, with despairing hands, When your poor soul left for the happier lands, Where no roof-tree place and no faintest kills.

And Willy and Pat, they, too, are dead; And Eddy, the fearless, his mother's pride; And golden-haired Katie, her spirit fled On the day that, for her, the Saxon red, They murdered her boy on the green hill side.

But I see them again in the flickering light— And many a scene from the buried past Steals dimly back on my falling sight, And the old man's prayer this Christmas night— Heaven, O God! to that prayer at last!

Is, that I who came upon earth to save— Who died on the Cross to set mortals free— May smile on you, Ireland, beyond the wave, And gladden the hearts of the true and brave With plenty and peace and liberty.

Journalistic rivalries are sharp and decisive in Chicago. A young man acting as a reporter of the Chicago Journal called to see Mr. Story, of the Times the other day, and asked him if he had shot Dr. Johnson, as was rumored. The old man immediately pulled off his spectacles, squinted round to the reporter, and replied: "Young man, do you think I am fool enough to do it in time for the evening papers?"

"Well, doctor," said a chap just from the dentist's chair, "how much do you ask for the job? Guy! but you did it quick, though!" "My terms," replied the dentist, "are one dollar." "A dollar for a half minute's work! One dollar—thunder! Why a doctor down 'er place drew a tooth for me two year ago, and it took him two hours. He dragged me all around the room, and lost his grip half a dozen times. I never seed such hard work. And he only charged me twenty-five cents. A dollar for a minute's work! You must be jokin'."

A gentleman in a conservatory with a lady picked up a blue bell, and taking out his pencil, wrote the following lines, which, with the flower, he presented to the lady:

"This pretty flowers of heavenly hue Must surely be allied to you, For you, dear girl, are heavenly too."

To which the lady replied, thinking of the cold weather and the snow all around: "If, sir, your compliment be true, I'm sorry that I look so blue."

THE MEX OF THE PAST.—The Bulletin Francaise publishes some rather interesting information concerning the various predilections of eminent persons and the tastes of the last epoch in reference to the subject. We learn that the Great Frederick affected particularly the Imperial growth of Tokay; Napoleon the First preferred Chambertin to all others; Peter the Great held Madeira in the first esteem; Cardinal Richelieu, admitted no other wine in his glass but Roman wine; his nephew the Marshal Richelieu was partial to Medoc; Rubens loved above all others the wine of Marsala; while Jean Bart considered the wines of Beauvois the best of all; Rabelais thought no pleasures on earth more enjoyable than a full bottle of old Chablis; but the victor of Fontenoy was an enthusiast about Champagne; Cromwell loved Malvoisie better than the charity which becometh a Christian; Talleyrand affected Chateau Margaux; Humboldt, Sueterne; Balzac, wine of Vouvray; Goethe nourished his genius in Johannesberg; Lord Byron drank Port; Charles V. wine of Alicante; Francis I., Sherry; Henry IV., wine of Surannes. The predilection of the Bernais for the Surannes was shared by all gourmets at that time. This was the aristocratic wine, in fact, the drink of nobles and financiers, of the wealthy and the fashionable. Though society in that day knew and used the produce of the best growth of Burgundy and Champagne, they preferred the wines of Surannes which in those days had no rival save in the neighborhood of that of Argenteuil.