

The Examiner.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND NEWS.

EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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MOON'S PHASES.—MAY, 1856.
New Moon 4th day, 10h. 3m. morning. S. E.
First Quarter 11th day, 4h. 6m. evening. S. E.
Full Moon 19th day, 7h. 17m. evening. S. E.
Last Quarter 26th day, 0h. 54m. morning. E.

Poetry.

THE SONG OF THE CAMP.

A CRIMEAN INCIDENT.—BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

"Give us a song!" the soldiers cried,
The outer trenches guarding,
When the heated guns of the camps allied,
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan, in silent scoff,
Lay, grim and threatening under;
And the tawny mound of the Malakoff
No longer belched its thunder.

There was a pause. The guardman said—
"We storm the forts to-morrow;
Sing while we may, another day
Will bring enough of sorrow."

They lay along the battery's side,
Below the smoking cannon—
Brave hearts, from Severn and from Clyde,
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love, and not of fame;
Forgot was Britain's glory;
Each heart recalled a different name,
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

Voice after voice caught up the song,
Until its tender passion
Rose like an anthem, rich and strong—
Their battle-axe confession.

Dear girl, her name he dared not speak
Yet, as the song grew louder,
Something upon the soldier's cheek
Washed off the stains of powder.

Beyond the darkening ocean burned
The bloody sunset's embers,
While the Crimean valleys burned
How English love remembers.

And once again a fire of hell
Rained on the Russian quarters,
With scream of shot, and burst of shell
And bellowing of the mortars.

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim,
For a singer, dumb and glory;
And English Mary mourns for him
Who sang of "Annie Laurie."

Ah, soldiers! to your honored rest,
Your truth and valor bearing;
The bravest are the tenderest—
The loving are the darest.

Gleanings from late Papers.

(From the London "Saturday Review," April 13.)

A NIGHT WITH SPOONER.

To the curious in ethical phenomena, the conscience of a corporation, assembly, or crowd, is a fine study. For there is such a thing as an informing spirit in a noun of multitude—*mens agitat molem*, as a schoolboy would say. And a very curious fermentation sometimes comes of it, in the shape of panic terrors, popular delusions, sudden frenzies, and the like. This is only according to the common law of combustion. Particles in themselves harmless become hot on compression, and take fire. People are ill-tempered in a crowded omnibus—they are simply mad when it comes to a National Assembly, or a convention of the human race. Nor is this the only phenomena presented by the corporate or collective conscience. Whilst the crowd gets frantic, the individual gets unprincipled. As the mass swells, so the man shrinks—the unit growing infinitely small in his own eyes as the body to which he belongs grows infinitely large. As soon as a man becomes a railway director, he merges his conscience in the board. So it is with an M. P. He dares to do in St. Stephen's what he would be banished from all respectable society for doing in the ordinary intercourse of life. This annual craze about Maynooth furnishes a case in point. The whole thing is a real insult to the country, as well as a disgrace to the great assembly in which it is perpetrated. There is not a shred of earnestness or sincerity in the proceeding, from first to last—it is a vast hypocrisy and make-believe. It is, in the language of the ring, "a plant"—it is a mock duel, a sham fight, a mere playing at Parliament. It has as much real weight as a debate and division in the Union at Oxford or Cambridge. "For this night only," the Maynooth farce is acted by a company of amateur Senators. All the old women of Parliament have a clear stage, and certainly no favour in this Ecclesiastical; and for all practical purposes the jest might as well be played in the theatre of Bacchus as in the Chapel of St. Stephen's.

There are, doubtless, some fanatics, both in and out of the House, who rejoice in the great Maynooth night. It is the grain of salt which keeps Parliament from total corruption—the standing protest against national apostasy—the one oasis in the great desert of Anti-Christian infidelity. If this solitary bray satisfied Exeter Hall—did the noble animal content himself with his annual feat of absurdity and folly—we could afford to let Jeshurun wax fat for a single night, and kick to his heart's content. The medieval Feast of the Ass, if we remember rightly, was only an annual joke. All Fools' Day comes but once a year. We can endure a saturnalia once in the twelvemonth. We do not grudge Spooner his night—or Berkeley his night—or Muntz his night. Kean has a benefit—so has Grimaldi. But, unfortunately, the House of Commons cannot play the fool with closed doors. The Maynooth night is very funny; but it costs money. It endangers the tranquillity of a whole kingdom—it imperils the loyalty of six millions of men. It insults and wrongs, and exasperates those who are at present among the most peaceable, contented, prosperous, and promising sections of the community. Having but just succeeded in undoing the wrong of centuries—having at length, with infinite difficulty, made Ireland industrious, loyal, and united—it is rather hard for us to throw all this away for the great jest of seeing Spooner with his face ruddled and chalked, and Newdegate playfully performing a somerset with the

famous and familiar, *Here we are*. Charles Lamb's roast pig was unctuous eating; but even a roast pig would be dear at the price if one was obliged to burn a house for the crackling. Mr. Spooner's backers know this; and by this time he knows it himself. He cannot find a single statesman to stand by him. The chiefs of his party leave him to grimace to empty benches, and to march through Coventry with a ragged regiment of rank and file. Even the unfortunates who, true to their miserable hustings professions, and false to their own convictions, are forced to follow him into the lobby, shirk the terrible infliction of his arguments. They give him their votes, but not their ears. Mr. Spooner himself, on Tuesday night, had to pour forth an indignant lamentation to the deserted benches behind him and the snoring seats before him. He snatched up a chance majority; but the majority had no faith in their own votes. Not a man who has ever held office, or who ever can hold office, or who aspires to hold office, will undertake the responsibility of disendowing Maynooth. Not a notable voted in the majority. Bramley-Moore and Sir Andrew Agnew, Challis and Duke Pellatt and Tite—these gentlemen can afford to vote that the sun moves round the earth, or that it is severe religionist, Sir C. Napier, has of course his own private prickings of conscience, and, fresh from the study of the schoolmen and the Tridentine Decrees, votes with fervour and conviction against Lignori and Dens. But where are Disraeli and Pakington? They had too much sense to join Spooner's awkward squad, but too little straightforwardness and honourable feeling to vote according to their convictions, and against hypocrisy and wrong.

These are the things which inspire distrust in public men, and create contempt for the Legislature, Parliament grievously suffers by such unseemly exhibitions. The representative system is lowered in popular esteem—the friends of constitutional government begin to ask themselves how far this tyranny of bigotry and ignorance, this influence on Parliament of platform polemics and tea-table infallibility is to go. We can laugh at Spooner, but the absence, on such an occasion, of the heads of a great party ready and anxious to take office, is a more serious matter. If Conservative statesmen cannot hold out any hopes to Mr. Spooner that they will disendow Maynooth, they are bound in honour to discontinue his mischievous proceedings. Mr. Spooner has a right to this—those ill-advised constituencies which exact the Maynooth pledge have a right to it—Ireland, England, and constitutional government, all demand this straightforward course. The endowment of Maynooth was a great experiment. It was an instalment of justice, and at the same time a stroke of policy. It was, in one sense, a compact, but it was also an act of statesmanship. Justice was concerned in it, and so was the tranquillity of the Empire. It is, of course, conceivable that circumstances may arise which would justify the annulment of the bargain with Maynooth. Political contracts may be set aside on the score of breach of faith. But will Lord Derby and his followers say that Ireland and the authorities of the Church of Rome have so far violated the Maynooth compact as to entitle us to cancel it? The endowment of Maynooth found Ireland in chronic and barely suppressed rebellion. If that endowment is superseded, it will be because it has made Ireland loyal, peaceable, and united. There may be adequate inducements for a great political party to revise a great political act; but let them be ascertained. Instead of announcing any such intention, or disavowing it, the Tory leaders abstain from voting.

We are not particularly sorry at Mr. Spooner's immediate success. It will bring things to an open issue. It will compel "the coming men" to declare themselves. The Bill for disendowing Maynooth, which now awaits its second reading, will unmask pretenders and waiters upon Providence. It will show whether there are men who will undertake to govern this great country on the principles of Foxe's Martyrs, and with no other text-book than the platform harangues of McGhee and O'Sullivan. It will show what is in reserve for us. Ignorant, stolid, unmeaning, uncalculating bigotry—the firm, relentless religionism of Cromwell, or Mahomet, or Calvin, who would sacrifice every social and political necessity for what it considers to be truth—the truth of proscription, exclusion, and persecution—this we can understand. And this is what Mr. Spooner means. He thinks that Catholic priests govern Ireland, and that Catholic priests are anti-Christ. An Armageddon and floods of blood are the natural and fitting results of this view. If we believed that the Devil was in Dublin Castle, and that we could get rid of him by a civil war in Ireland, then of course, we should have no greater objection to war against the Devil *in propria persona* in Ireland than against Nicholas in the Crimea. And, reduced to common sense, this is Mr. Spooner's view. Lord Bernard expresses it in so many words:—"This Sebastopol of the Church of Rome can no longer be allowed to exist as a standing menace to Protestantism, and it must be utterly razed." Remembering what bloodshed and slaughter Sebastopol cost, we understand Lord Bernard, and we fear that he understands himself. But if anything less than this is meant by the success of Mr. Spooner's motion, we must say that those who have permitted even its temporary success have a great deal to answer for. They have raked up the embers of polemical hatred, only to embitter both parties, and to satisfy neither. They have done something to stimulate ultra-Protestant expectations which they never mean to fulfil. They have awakened heartburnings which even subsequent liberality and honesty will fail to lay asleep; and they have provoked suspicions which will make the government of Ireland difficult to all public men, but impossible to any who are suspected of connivance at Mr. Spooner's bigotry and intolerance.

RESULTS OF THE PEACE.

Since the declaration of peace, the trade between Great Britain and Russia is resuming its wonted channels, and a more than usual degree of activity is manifested by the merchants of both countries to re-open those peaceful relations which had broken off by the war. A London journal, in noticing the eagerness manifested for the renewal of commercial transactions, says:

"The boom of the cannon announcing the signature of the preliminaries of peace in Paris had not ceased to echo along the shores of the Euxine, when the traders of Odessa re-opened their warehouses, and invited customers for enormous cargoes of grain. Rapid messages at the same time traversed the interior of Russia, summoning to the Danubian or Baltic frontiers the products of those harvests which had remained idly in the warehouses of the great landed proprietors. The Hamburg Post-office was surcharged with letters, in which the merchants of London, St. Petersburg and Riga, re-opened their intercourse with old correspondents, transmitting orders, or invoicing consignments. In Paris, the members of the Con-

ferences were beset with applications, urging them to hasten the moment when mercantile operations could be once more established. British commerce is far more impatient than the British Parliament. The House of Commons must wait until the ratifications are interchanged before honorable members may assume the existence of a treaty of peace. But trade could not stop so long and the allied powers have been obliged to withdraw their blockades, cancel their restrictive proclamations, and declare that intercourse with our late antagonist is once more safe and free.

It is much for Western Europe to be thus placed again in amicable relationship with an empire embracing a population of sixty-seven millions, and presenting an almost immeasurable area of the most productive soil in the world. Still more is it important to England, whose life-blood is commerce, to resume her intercourse with so many million customers belonging to a race by nature not less enterprising and industrious than her own, or to have at her command the productions of a domain comprising every range of climate between the temperate zones, and extending from the Vistula to the remote regions of Central Asia."

The Russian official journal published at Brussels, the *Nord*, contains the following letter from St. Petersburg, dated the 3d of April:—

The conclusion of peace has given animation to business, but it appears that some miscalculations as to the effect of that great event have been made. A telegraphic despatch from London has been received announcing that the prices of Russian produce had fallen in the London market, the English merchants doubtless fancying that in consequence of the war our warehouses are overstocked with produce, which the holders will be disposed to sell at half price. In this calculation they are likely to be much mistaken. In the first place, our produce has not been lying in our warehouses, as the accounts of the railways and the neutral ports can well testify, and the holders of what remains are in no way disposed to sell unless at a fair price. The Russian merchants have not in any respect been taken by surprise; they had for sometime past foreseen what would occur, and had not in consequence pressed sales, while the foreign purchasers have held back, hoping that concessions would eventually be made. The signature of peace has decided the matter in favour of the Russians. As soon as the signature was known in London the English houses, in order to kill two birds with one stone, lowered the price of Russian produce which they had on hand, and at the same time sent orders to St. Petersburg for purchases. The decline, therefore, had no other object than to get rid of stock which had been held for some time at exorbitant prices, and which it was hoped, thanks to the electric telegraph, could be replaced at former rates. A mistake is also made in regard to corn, if it be imagined that a large quantity can be delivered immediately. As far as regards the Baltic ports, only what is now there, which is not very considerable, can be available, and orders sent into the interior cannot be executed until near the end of the summer from want of conveyance. The southern ports may probably furnish more, but I am informed, on good authority, that the greater part has been already engaged for France. If England should, however, stand in need of corn, we shall be able, either this autumn or in the next spring, to furnish large quantities at a lower price than she can procure it from America. It will be thus seen that our merchants have no need to show themselves so eager to sell, and the proof of this is that prices have rather a tendency to advance than to decline.

ITALY.

We hear of presents made by the Sultan to the King of Sardinia, and of the good understanding subsisting between the two Governments; but harmony has less chance of being established in the same degree between Sardinia and Austria, if we may judge by the occupation by Austrian troops of positions in the Duchy of Parma, contiguous to the Piedmontese frontier. Pontremoli, a place of considerable importance, in particular, is one of those to which the imperial troops are advancing, at the request, it is added, of the Duchess of Parma. It is concluded that this is done in the evident intention of putting a check on Sardinia, which is supposed to entertain views on the Duchy of Parma, its frontier neighbour. In that case, the Duchess would be compensated by the Molensio States, the latter prince receiving pecuniary indemnity; but Austria is reported to keep in the background some right of reversion to Parma, which she would then bring forward. The importance of the news come to hand from those quarters is perhaps exaggerated, but it has revived reminiscences, and probably presages fresh difficulties.

We understand that neither England nor France is disposed to tolerate any menace against Sardinia on the part of Austria. We rejoice to hear that, in the event of any hostile demonstration by Austria on the frontiers of Parma, a fleet of English and French men-of-war will probably immediately appear in the Gulf of Spezzia. The moral effect of such a demonstration would seriously compromise the safety of the Austrian domination.

FIRST ENGLISH BALL IN THE CRIMEA.—Last night (March 31), commencing at eight and terminating at two, a capital dance was given on board H. M. S. *Braiser*, lying in Balaklava harbor, to commemorate the wedding-day of the Captain and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Comyn. It likewise so happens that Mr. Comyn was married on his birthday. During the last week great difference of opinion had been lying about, as to whether an "evening party" could have been got up on account of the scarcity of ladies, and the distances on horseback that these few would have to come, in addition to which the weather was by no means warm, and during the day snow fell. The *Braiser* is a companion screw steamer to the *Abundance*. Both lying at the head of the harbor, and both being commissariat vessels, the former crushed the wheat, and the latter baked the bread. Between them they can turn out 18,000 lbs. of bread, daily, or 6000 3-lb. loaves. Among the company present at this dance, which numbered about eighty, I noticed Lady Frederick Fitzroy, Mrs. White, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Brine, Major De Moleyns, Cap. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Marzelli, Captain and Mrs. Handyside, &c. The 82d band was in attendance. At twelve o'clock the company sat down to a first-rate supper on the upper deck, which was beautifully arranged for the purpose. After the health of the Queen had been given, with all the honors, that of the Emperor, Empress, and the Imperial heir followed, and was duly responded to by Col. Louis, 97th Regiment. Commissary-General-in-Chief, Mr. Brako, C. B., proposed Mr. and Mrs. Comyn's health in a most happy speech.

Florence Nightingale, the woman beloved of all men and all nations, for her noble humanity, has been gazetted officially as Directress-General of all hospitals in the British dominions. No nurses can for the future be appointed in any public hospitals without her sanction. She has been ill from a fall, but is quite recovered.

The city of Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and one of the richest cities of the East, contains 400 mosques, 140 schools, 11 lazarettos, 300 public cisterns, 46 squares, 240 streets, from 500 to 600 alleys, as many passages, 1265 houses of refreshment, 1 hospital, 65 baths, and from 25,000 to 30,000 donkeys, which are let out for hire. These animals are the only means of conveyance which it is possible to make use of in going from one part of the city to another, or in paying visits.

Colonial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, March 29.

INCREASE OF REPRESENTATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE ELECTION LAWS.

(Concluded.)

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said that a personal attack had been made upon him by an hon. member from Queen's County (Mr. Laird) which he felt it his duty to notice. In bringing forward this measure, he had been told that he was influenced by private and selfish motives—that its main object was to secure his election by altering his own electoral district. Now this accusation was made in utter ignorance of the facts, and had not a particle of truth to rest upon. He had been about ten years in the House of Assembly, during which time he had run many elections, and was never once defeated. If the hon. member who made the attack could say as much for himself, he might speculate with some degree of assurance regarding the elections of others. To show that he had no personal interest in the proposed change in the Election Law, he contemplated detaching from his present district one of the best Townships it includes, viz. Lot Fifty five, where he had been always generously and almost unanimously supported—a township thickly settled, where he had many esteemed private as well as political friends, and whose support, in every contest, he was morally certain of obtaining. He did most sincerely regret that a necessity existed for detaching Lot 55 from the present Second District of King's County; but it would be impossible to make the fourth district, which the new arrangement would require, without adding Lot 55 to that which is commonly called the Murray Harbour District, and then splitting that district in two. No other consideration would induce him to sanction the alteration, and even as it was, he felt that his friends on Lot 55 would be apt to complain of his transferring them over to another district; but he trusted that when the whole facts of the case were brought to their knowledge, they would not condemn the conduct of one who would certainly regret the separation much more acutely than they themselves could. With regard to the St. Peter's portion of the district, he (Mr. W.) proposed to leave that as it was under the old law; so that it might be easily seen that instead of gaining by the new arrangement, he would be losing a very large number of his best supporters. There was some novelty, if no ingenuity, about the objections raised by the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer) to the proposed measure. He said it ought to have originated with the Government, but they being afraid to venture into deep water, did not like to incur the risk of bringing it forward; yet, the hon. member contended, it should be considered a Government measure, because it was brought in by a person who receives "a large salary" from the Government. Members on the other side were evidently very much distressed about his (Mr. W.'s) salary, as they were pleased to call it, when in fact there was no salary at all; he received, like any other person doing work for the Government, payment for any specific services that might be rendered; and because the services were numerous, expensive and laborious, the annual cost of them amounting to a considerable sum of money, the gentlemen in the opposition seemed to consider it necessary to remind the House of the fact at least once every day during the Session. As to the Government being afraid to venture "into deep water"—that is, afraid to bring forward this measure as a Cabinet question from fear of not being sustained, that was all nonsense. It would certainly be more likely to secure a majority in its favour than it could when introduced as an open question; and he (Mr. W.) would certainly not have brought it forward unless he knew there was a majority in its favor. Of course he was prepared for the opposition of the hon. member for Charlottetown. It would be a miracle if he did not oppose an extension of the people's liberties in the way proposed, when he tried, a few years ago, under Sir Donald Campbell, to destroy them altogether by the notorious Franchise Bill sent secretly to the British Parliament. That hon. member had reminded the House of the proportion of representation to population in Great Britain and Ireland, and also in Massachusetts, and other parts of the American Union, in order to show that the people of this Island were more fully represented than their fellow subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, or their neighbours in the States. But the comparison was absurd and untenable so far as the British Islands are concerned, because there they have a House of Commons of 650 members, and could not well increase their number—there a very high property qualification is required of the representative; and in short, the circumstances of an old country like Great Britain are so vastly different from what they are in an infant Colony, that comparisons, always said to be odious, become particularly so when instituted in reference to them. Why, if we were to assimilate our representation to that of Great Britain and Ireland, instead of 24 members, we would not have two in the Assembly of this Colony. And as for Massachusetts, which was also cited for their edification, there are some districts in this Island, such as the first and second districts of Queen's County, where there is a far greater number of inhabitants represented than can be found in any of the Massachusetts constituencies. That State, according to the hon. member, has one representative to every 3,000 inhabitants. Well, the first and second districts of Queen's County have over 11,000 each, while only two members are returned; thus showing that Massachusetts, an old, wealthy and populous State, has only about half the amount of population that we have. The third district of Queen's County has also a larger population to each representative than that assigned to Massachusetts; so the comparison, with regard to that State, is entirely against the argument of the hon. member. Viewing the matter in all its bearings, there could be no doubt that an increase of members was necessary. The population, wealth and resources of the country were greatly on the increase; and a House of thirty members could never be said to be too large: no Colony, he believed, had less; and it was obvious that with less no Government could be successfully conducted.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH moved to postpone the measure till that day six months. The hon. member, Mr. Whelan, had said the Bill would not come into operation for two years. Why not say at once, it is the law of the land, and let a dissolution take place? As to the argument about population, if that principle were adopted, Queen's County would be entitled to as many representatives as the other two Counties together. What Bills had the Government brought down? A magistrate's manual. All the hon. member cared for was £30 or £40 for printing. He