

then the work began in earnest. The stewards counted 1,700 reapers and 800 binders engaged in the frolic; amongst the latter were farmers and their wives and daughters who had never worked a day for themselves. One of the greatest and busiest personages in the field was Cummins, the Ballyhale bag-piper, a band in himself. Under his inspiring influence (and some barrels of Smithwick's and little beer, the forty acres of wheat were neatly cut, bound, and stacked in 80 minutes! after which he was borne round the field in triumph, kissed Mrs. Hunt, and finally played "Patrick's Day," crowned "in honour and glory" on the top of the last stack. While Mr. Hunt invited about sixty of his friends, who acted as stewards, to dine with him at Jerpoint, the Carrickschaugh boys invited the rest to cut down the wheat of Mr. Conway, of Ballyhale, now ripe also. About 700 reapers volunteered, and by the time Mr. Conway returned home from Mr. Hunt's dinner party, he found all his wheat cut, bound, and stacked!

"The boys" were further anxious to know if their friend Mr. Smithwick of Kilkenny, had any wheat ripe, declaring they would go forty miles to cut it for nothing, and that they would drink no beer but his during the harvest.

### LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Yesterday there was a numerous meeting of the friends of the liberty of the press, at the Corn Exchange. "to arrange measures to defeat the attempt of the Attorney General to set aside trial by jury in cases of alleged libel, and the notion of a court of error." The chair was taken by Stephen Egge, Esq. of Roscrea, and animated appeals were made to the public in favour of Messrs. Brown and Sheehan, proprietors of the *Comet*, who had been selected by the Attorney General as the first victims of the law according to his exposition, and had consequently been fined 50*l.* each last Tuesday, by Judges Burton and Van-leuler, in their Court of Commission. Messrs. Laifan, Walsh, Redmond, Marcus and Patrick Costello, and William O'Reilly, spoke strongly in support of the good policy of establishing a fund to defeat this arbitrary attempt to place the freedom of the press at the mercy of the Attorney General, and to employ it in procuring the best assistance to appeal to the Court of King's Bench and the Exchequer against the fine. A subscription was instantly entered into, which amounted to about 200*l.* The National Trades' Union is to meet on Wednesday, the same purpose; it is expected that amongst its 5,000 members another 100*l.* will be raised. The musical and theatrical amateurs of the city have also announced their intention of getting up a concert carnival in the course of the week, for the purpose of augmenting the fund for the defence of the press.

In fact, a great feeling in favor of the *Comet* has been created by its appeal to the citizens in yesterday's publication, in which it declares its motive for the very strong and apparently uncalculated-for address to the jurymen who might have to act on the libel-trials (and in which it reminded them of the omnipotence of public opinion) to be the necessity of contracting the exertions of the Attorney-General to procure "packed" juries; for the Right Hon. Gentleman had, for some days previous to the trials about to take place at the late commission, been seen walking arm and arm with Mr. Nicholas Murray Mansfield, the former notorious Under Sheriff of the city of Dublin, who had been convicted (under a Parliamentary inquiry in Lord Wellesley's time) of the most corrupt

practices, in packing juries for the Orange and corporate interests.

This hint turned the tide of public opinion at once against Mr. Blackburne, and subscriptions poured in rapidly. Last night, Mr. N. M. Mansfield published a disclaimer in the *Evening Packet* of the fact asserted in the *Comet*, that he was seen walking with the Attorney-General. This, however, is not believed!—especially as the Attorney-General himself has not contradicted the statement.

The following method for extracting a blue colour for dyeing from buck-wheat straw, is from a late London periodical:

"The straw should be gathered before the grain is quite dry, and placed on the ground to the sun, until it becomes sufficiently dry to be taken from the husks with facility. The wheat having been removed, the straw is to be piled up, moistened and left to ferment till it is in a state of decomposition, when it will become a blue colour, this indicates the period when it should be threshed, and formed into cakes, which are to be dried in the sun, or in a stove. On these cakes being boiled in water, the water assumes a strong blue colour, which will not change either in vinegar or in sulphuric acid. It may however be turned into red with alkali, into a light black with bruised gall nuts, and into a beautiful green by evaporation. Stuffs dyed blue with the solution, which is to be used in the same way as the vegetable matters of a similar species employed in dyeing, become of a beautiful and durable color."

*Mode of securing timber from decay*—Timber for buildings, especially for ships, bridges, cranes, galleys, and stables, may be effectually preserved from decay and particularly from the rot, by repeatedly impregnating the wood with a solution of common salt and green copperas. This simple process is attended with such decided advantage, that wood thus prepared will remain for ages, perfectly sound.

An instance of this fact occurred in the theatre at Copenhagen, where the lower part of the planks and joists formerly required to be replaced in a few years, till Mr. Volmeister, architect of that city, discovered and employed the process above stated. Twelve years after, the wood, on removing one of the boards, was found in such a state of preservation that he could not observe the least appearance of decay.—*English Publication.*

Wood impregnated with alum, salt or copperas is also rendered in a great degree incombustible as well as incorruptable. When thus prepared it may be charred or consumed in intense heat, but can scarcely be made to blaze, and of course would not readily communicate fire to other objects in its vicinity.

*Gallant Daughter*—Sir John Cochrane, who was engaged in Argyle's rebellion against James the Second, was taken prisoner, after a desperate resistance, and condemned to be hanged. His daughter, having obtained a death-warrant was expected from London, attired herself in men's clothes, and twice attacked and robbed the mails between Belvoir and Berwick. The execution was by this means delayed, till Sir John Cochrane's father, the Earl of Dundonald, succeeded in making interest with father Peter, a Jesuit, King James's Confessor, who, for the sum of five thousand pounds interceded with his royal master, in favor of Sir John Cochrane, and procured his pardon.

When Lord Erskine made his debut at the

bar, his agitation almost overcame him, and was just going to sit down. "At that moment," said he, "I thought I felt my little *de* tugging at my gown, and the idea came to me to an exertion of which I did not myself capable."

*Legal Pun.*—As several gentlemen of bar were few days since in conversation one of them, under favour of the wind, receiveth a portion of his neighbour's *salina* upon summer coat. "Mr R—," said the sufferer "if this is the way you treat other persons habits you cannot expect to rate as a gentleman."

*Truth.*—If a man be sincerely wedded to truth, he must make up his mind to find a portionless virgin; and he must take her for herself alone. The contract, too, must be to love, cherish, and obey her, not only unto death, but beyond it; for this is a union that must survive not only death, but time, the conqueror of death. The adoration of truth, therefore, is above all present things—firm in the midst of temptation, and frank in the midst of treachery, he will be attacked by those who have prejudices simply because he is without them, despised as a bad bargain by all who want purchase, because he alone is not to be bought and abused by all parties, because he is the advocate of none, like the dolphin which is always painted more crooked than a ram's horns, although every naturalist knows that it is the straightest fish that swims.—*Lacon.*

*What is Law Like?*—Law is like a court dance, people are led up and down in it they are fairly tired out. Law is like a bit of surgery—there are a great many terrible cases in it. It is like physic too, they take the least of it are best off. It is like homely gentleman, very well to follow *fa*. Law is like a new fashion, people are bewitched to get into it; and like bad weather; most people are glad to get out of it.

*Honey a Cure for the Gravel.*—A number years ago, says a correspondent, I was afflicted with the gravel, and twice in danger, from small stones lodged in the passage. I met with a gentleman who had been in my situation, and got rid of this disorder by sweetening his tea with half honey and half sugar. I adopted this remedy and found it effectual. After being fully clear of my disease about ten years, I declined taking honey and in about three months I had a violent fit of my old complaint. I then renewed my practice of taking honey in my tea, and am now more than three score, and have not for the last twenty-seven years, had the smallest symptoms of the gravel. I have recommended my prescription to many of my acquaintance, and have never known it to fail.—*Political Examiner.*

(From the *Dublin Comet*, August 28.)

*THE LABS AND THE PROFITS.*  
Blackbourne is still Attorney-General. Upwards of 70,000*l.* have been voted for Government prosecutions Ireland this year, being 15,000*l.* more than has been required since the days of his great prototype, Saurin, in 1830*l.* more than Saurin ever required. The Attorney-General is paid his enormous fee whether he succeeds or fails in a prosecution. But it is not considered creditable to be defeated, ergo the painstaking to select a "proper" jury and train evidence. For instance, he will get share of this 70,000*l.* for prosecuting next November, although we ought to defeat him. But we believe the man to be "right honourable" and immaculate.