

relation to the issue of notes, payable on demand, be suspended, subject to such conditions as may be provided by any act to be hereafter passed for that purpose; but as Parliament will, no doubt, adjourn on Monday next until the beginning of February, this motion can scarcely be brought forward, and it is plain that the committee, if it assembles at all, will only have one sitting, when the necessary papers will be ordered to be prepared; and this question, about which the country has been so long agitated to the highest pitch of excitement, will be thus postponed indefinitely, only to be revived, perhaps, when another crisis shall supervene.

The question of the removal of the still remaining disabilities of the Jews, by allowing them a seat in Parliament, was on Thursday evening brought forward by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. His lordship introduced the motion in a very temperate and eloquent speech, going over the ground which has been so often urged in favour of a large selection of our fellow subjects, who as they contribute to the exigencies of the state, are, it is contended, entitled to all the honours society has power to confer,—in fact to enjoy all the rights of citizenship. The mere respectability and private worth of Baron de Rothschild form but slender grounds for being admitted into Parliament, compared with the higher claims of equal citizenship; and it is urged on his behalf that, with the keen perception he has of the value of the right withheld, exclusion is more to him than mere political disability—it is punishment. The debate was opened by Lord John Russell in an able oration; and his lordship was seconded in a maiden speech by Mr. Fox, the popular and celebrated Unitarian preacher. Mr. Gladstone also supported the motion, as well as Mr. Romilly and Mr. Disraeli. It was of course opposed by the consistent champion of the church, Sir Robert Inglis, who was seconded by Lord Ashley, Mr. G. Bankes, Mr. Goulburn, and Thomas Acland. After an interesting debate, on the motion of Mr. Law, the Recorder of London, the debate was adjourned. It is the general impression out of doors, that a considerable majority in the Commons will be in favour of relaxing the laws so as to enable Jews to sit in Parliament; but the hitherto unsuccessful attempts to pass a similar bill through the House of Lords, make us still doubt whether that assembly will, as yet, consent to 'un-Christianize' the Parliament. In the present temper of a large number of the bishops, that powerful section of the peers will not feel very much disposed to favour any measure emanating from Lord John Russell; and accordingly, the eventual success of the bill, if it should pass the Commons, would be very problematical in the upper house. The vast majority of public writers in England seem to be greatly in favour of admitting the Jews to a seat in the Legislature; and, indeed, the main argument which is adduced against it is, the inevitable consequence, that Pagans and Mahomedans, of which creeds we have millions of fellow subjects in India, cannot afterwards consistently be excluded.

CONFESSION OF WILLIAM ALLNUTT—REMARKABLE DREAMS OF HEAVEN AND HELL.

On Tuesday considerable excitement was created by the production before the grand jury at the Old Bailey, of a written confession of the boy Allnut as the murderer of Mr. Nelme. The substance of it was to the effect that after hearing the chaplain of Newgate on Sunday preach on the subject of confession, he felt himself accused as the murderer of his grandfather. When he went to bed he dreamed that two angels were standing by him, who said, 'William, confess, and your sins will be forgiven.' He then awoke, and found it was a dream, and he was then in a dreadful fright. After a short sleep, he dreamt again; he then saw Satan, who said, 'William, if you tell the truth, you will be hanged.' He thought he saw the place that had been represented to him—a place of punishment and torture. He then awoke, and again it was but a dream. The epistle proceeds:—'Dear mother,—Had you known the state of my mind at that moment, you would have felt for me. I again went to sleep, and again I dreamt, dear mother. I dreamt I saw God sitting upon His throne. In my dream I saw the angels in glory standing around Him, when He said, 'Confess, and your sins will be forgiven you.' There were large numbers of sinners standing round him: those on the right hand had confessed, and were in Heaven; those on the left hand had not confessed, and were going to eternal torments. When I awoke, dear mother, it was light, and I then wrote that which you now see.' Other rambling sentences follow, and then he states, 'I thought then, dear mother, I would confess. On the 22d of October I saw grandfather go to the bureau where the arsenic was kept; I afterwards took one of the keys, got some of the arsenic, put it in a piece of paper, and afterwards placed some in the sugar-vase which was in the cupboard, and I also put a portion of it in a glass; and I now hope, after confessing, I shall go to Heaven, dear mother.'

IRELAND.

Latest dates from Ireland give the following information:

The Rev. Mr. Sheehan, in a letter to the *Clare Journal*, gives a lamentable account of the state of the poor in parts in that country. He states particular instances of starvation, with names and dates. That there is great destitution along the sea-coast of Clare is very certain,

but it is equally certain that the law of relief is not worked there with the same effect as in other districts. What a vast difference between the condition of the people of this season and the corresponding season of last year! With all its heavy drawbacks, the poor law has immensely contributed to the preservation of human life. In fact, no well authenticated instance of starvation has appeared since its operation, however imperfect the mode of relief.

The country journals contain several copies of notices circulated in King's County, Westmeath, and Cavan, threatening with various sorts of vengeance, for various causes, the parties to whom they are addressed. It is seldom the loud bark is followed by the deep bite, and we may hope, therefore, that nothing will follow these billets of Lady Book and Mrs. Molly Maguire more hurtful than paper squibs.—Lord Clonbrock is one of the parties on whom a mission has been served: his fault is that he keeps an obnoxious steward. Mr. Cole Hamilton, of Fermanagh, is another noticed proprietor, and the Marquis of Drogheda has been also threatened.

Of all the Catholic clergy who have fallen under the popular displeasure of England, none has been more vigorously denounced than the Rev. Mr. M'Dermott, parish priest of Strokestown, where Major Mahon was murdered. The memorable words 'He is worse than Oliver Cromwell, and yet he lives,' were branded into the public mind even before Lord Franham impressed them still more deeply.—The language attributed to the Rev. gentleman left no doubt of the personality of the attack, whatever connexion there might have been between the denunciation and fatal consequence. Now, the Rev. Mr. M'Dermott denies in the most positive manner the heavy charge brought against him. His words are—'I have now to assure the public, by the most solemn asseverations a clergyman can utter, that the late Major Mahon was never denounced, nor even his name mentioned, from any Chapel altar in Strokestown, or within twenty miles of Strokestown, in any direction, on any Sunday before his death.' This is a decisive answer to the charge of personal denunciation.

As one proof of the depression of the times, the Limerick paper states that the attestation of the service of 16 writs on various gentlemen had been made before a single master extraordinary of that city during four days. The same paper records a more pleasing symptom of the times, however, in the fact that the Marquis of Waterford keeps constantly employed eight hundred men.

SCOTLAND.

The hurricane that visited London, has been north, and has done much damage, particularly on the east coast. The Frith of Forth has an exposure to the sea nearly north-east, and the wind, for the most part, was from that point. The first effect was on vessels riding in the Frith. Three sloops and a barge were driven on shore at Granton and Newhaven, a schooner at Port Seton, a sloop at Cockenzie, and two at Berwick. Crews all understood to have been saved. But at Newhaven alone, 60 boats were injured—three-fourths of the number, probably, being total wrecks. All along the coast a similar result took place. The strongest piers and breakwaters had more or less yielded to the fury of the storm. The railways in the neighbourhood have also been injured, but not to such an extent as to impede traffic or telegraph communication. And not the least remarkable consequence of the hurricane was the tearing up of an old grave-yard, near Trinity, by which teeth and grinning skulls of the olden time were mixed with the litter of broken oars and masts.

Trade is beginning to improve in Glasgow, one large factory employing 1,000 hands, which had been shut up for some weeks, has again commenced work, and is on full time. Others are soon expected to be in the same position. In Greenock, ship building and machinery are very dull.

Fever and death will soon supersede the cry of fever and filth unless some change speedily takes place. The usual mortality bill for November has not yet been issued, but the *Mail* states the mortality in the Edingburgh Infirmary to have been 170 during the past month, while during the corresponding month last year it was only 55. Since the beginning of December the deaths have been 75, nearly 11 per diem. The same authority states that about 60 privates and several officers of the 70th Regiment have died since the Regiment was stationed in Edingburgh Castle, and adds, that this mortality exceeds that experienced in the corps during its stay in the West Indies.

The mortality in Perth is rather decreasing, and not without need. Ninety-one deaths in sixteen days, in a town of sixteen thousand inhabitants, is a frightful mortality. The cholera did not devastate the fair city in anything like this proportion.

In Glasgow, the extensive mortality among poor-law officials has led to the idea of their lives being insured at the public expense; and as gratuities are almost always given to their widows and families the plan has economy in its favour.

The Scotch iron trade, lately so flourishing and lucrative, is now greatly depressed—particularly as regards the affairs of companies formed for carrying on this branch of business.

Crime in Edingburgh is increasing greatly. During the past week the police cases were 235—46 for theft, fraud, reset, &c., 33 for assault, 90 breaches of the peace, 48 begging, &c. They involved the examination

of 331 witnesses for the prosecution alone. The number of drunken persons in the streets unable to take care of themselves, and detained temporarily, were 112, of which 46 were females.

WALES.

Another Colliery Explosion took place lately at the pits of Messrs. J. and C. Bailey, Nant-y-Glo. Seven men were killed on the spot, and the lives of eight others are despaired of. The circumstances attending some of the cases are truly affecting; in one instance a father and his two sons were carried back dead to the house they had left in health and strength a few hours before. An inquest has since been opened, but, on the facts above stated having been proved in evidence, the inquiry was adjourned, to await the fate of the other sufferers.

SWITZERLAND.

The fall of Lucerne has put an end to military proceedings in this quarter. The King of Prussia insisted upon the neutrality of Neuchâtel during the civil war, and that province was respected. Sir Stratford Canning arrived at Berne on the 8th, and immediately had an interview with the federal authorities. The only news from that town is, that a note from the Prussian Government has been presented to the President of the Diet, and that the Provisional Government of Lucerne had, after the example of that of Friburg, sequestered the property of the members of the former Government. A letter from Vienna states that the dissolution of the Sonderbund had produced a profound impression amongst the higher circles of that capital. It is added that if the Diet oppose the proposed mediation of the five great powers, more serious measures will be adopted, of which the execution will be intrusted to Austria and France.

From the state of the chest of the canton of Lucerne, recovered from the fugitive authorities of the Sonderbund, it appears that the treasury of the League derived its chief resources from loans supplied by Austria, and from an examination of the arms and artillery captured or surrendered, it appears that the League, derived its arms from France—the cypher of Louis Philippe was found upon the artillery. The cantons of the defunct League were proceeding with the elections of their respective grand councils and other cantonal authorities. The popular assemblies of these cantons respectively had passed resolutions in substance similar to those of Friburg and Lucerne, renouncing the League, acknowledging the authority of the Diet, and re-organising their governments.

The general assembly of the people of the canton of Zug adopted on the 5th resolutions similar to those adopted by the other cantons of the Sonderbund, renouncing the League, acknowledging the authority of the Diet, and appointing a Provisional Government.

The Provisional Government of Lucerne has effected a loan of 180,000 francs in Austria, 100,000 at Bale, and 36,000 at the convent of St. Urban.

From official returns made to General Dufour, the commander-in-chief of the federal army, it appears that the loss of the federal troops during the late operations has not been very great, as the total only amounts to about 50 killed, 200 wounded, and 50 missing.

SICILY.

The Daily News, of the 15th ult., gives the following:

The Vesavio sailed on the morning of Wednesday the 1st inst. Then, and for several days previously, the greatest agitation prevailed throughout Sicily. The organisation of a civic guard was called for at Messina, Catania, Syracuse, and other towns. The government, fearing the consequences of leading the troops against the people, had withdrawn them within their barracks, where they were retained. According to some accounts the government was unwilling to incur the odium of a popular massacre, and according to others, it feared that the troops would refuse to act, or perhaps join the people.

On the 27th ult. a scene of extraordinary enthusiasm was exhibited in Palermo. In Theatre Carolino the audience rose and uttered various patriotic exclamations. The popular demonstrations of the 27th were repeated on the 28th, 29th, and 30th. The theatre rang with shouts in favour of Pius IX. and the Italian Union. The population of Palermo, including the most respectable classes, demanded the immediate formation of the national guard, the surest means of maintaining order. Several of the most influential inhabitants of the town, including the professors of the university, had written to Naples on this subject; but the answers received were unfavourable, and a revolution, according to some, had become inevitable. Besides the letters received directly from Sicily, other advices have been received from various parts of Italy, which all tend to corroborate the reports already given. Letters from Leghorn of the 4th say that a steam-frigate had arrived from the British squadron lying off Sicily, which brought despatches to Admiral Parker, informing him that Sicily was in full revolt, and that the insurgents had declared themselves independent of the Neapolitan government, and had placed themselves under the protection of England.