

NEWS SUMMARY.

The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a visit to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of which the prince is president. It is understood that the princess had long wished to see the institution, and especially since the reception there of the most of the unfortunate persons who were injured by the Clerkenwell explosion.

The bishops of the province of Canterbury assembled in Convocation, have been debating the question of ritualism. The upshot is a resolution, which declares that the limits of ritual observance "ought to be defined by rightful authority," and that therefore "means should be provided for enforcing the due observance of the rule laid down at the end of the rubric concerning the services of the Church, with a view of duly interpreting diversely-taken common rules, and, if necessary, for removing ambiguities in the existing law."

Mr. Gladstone's interview with the trade unionists took place on the 18th, according to appointment. Mr. George Potter stated the workman's case at some length, and, as the Daily News well observes, Mr. Potter and his friends were, through Mr. Gladstone, able to address an audience which, except by such mediation, they could never have reached. They used a great statesman to carry their voice to quarters to which otherwise it could not penetrate. The legal right to "strike" was admitted on both sides; and the policy of its exercise was allowed to be dependent on the circumstance of each particular case.

Earl Russell's long-expected letter on the Irish question has at length been published. His scheme for settling the Church question is to endow all religions alike, after having dis-established the Protestant Episcopal Church, whose bishops should no longer have seats in the House of Lords. As regards the land difficulty, he is not prepared to enter into what he considers the confiscation scheme now so much favored; but he would meet the tenant with a compromise, which, without giving him the fee simple of the land, will protect him against any violation of the duties of the landlord, while securing to him a full compensation for improvements if ejected while still paying his rent. Lord Russell's proposals have not met with much support.

The "Declaration of the Catholic Laity" of Ireland against the Church Establishment has been published, with the list of names attached. It bears the signatures of four earls, two viscounts, five lords, and twenty-six members of Parliament. They say the dignity of the religion and of the people of Ireland demand religious equality; and we are convinced that without religious equality there cannot be generated and secured that respect for law, and those relations of mutual goodwill, which constitute the true foundation for national prosperity.

The "naturalisation question"—as it is called in the United States—was to be brought before the House of Commons on the 13th of March, by Mr. W. E. Forster, M. P. This question has arisen out of the well-known maxim of English law, that no subject of the Crown can divest himself of his allegiance. This doctrine caused a mixed jury to be refused to Irish-Americans who have been accused of complicity in the Fenian conspiracy, and the subject has been taken up with great energy on the other side of the Atlantic. The Americans insist upon the inviolability of American citizenship as required by naturalisation, and there has been a strong disposition shown in England in favor of at least a modification of the law.

Intelligence received from Japan, via San Francisco, and dated the 27th ult., announces that the Diamios, or great nobles, and made the Mikado prisoner. The Shogun had fled to Osaka, where he was organizing forces for the purpose of attacking the rebel Daimios. The great commercial city of Higo and two palaces at Yeddo had been burned. The European and American envoys had refused to interfere in this intestine quarrel.

Intelligence from Natal contains an announcement that judgment has been declared in the suit of Bishop Colenso against Deun Green.

The resignation of Lord Derby has been the engrossing topic of the week. His lordship is said to have written to the Queen expressing in the strongest terms the confidence he felt in Mr. Disraeli, and stating his conviction that he was the only possible Premier at this juncture. Her Majesty, acting on this advice, commissioned Mr. Disraeli to undertake the task of forming an Administration, which the right hon. gentleman has been busily engaged upon, and has received sincere and cordial support from his late colleagues.

Mr. John Bright presided on the 26th inst. at a lecture on the international relations between England and the United States, given by the Rev. Newman Hall at St. James's Hall, London. Mr. Bright, in the course of his introductory remarks, pointed out that a good deal of the asperity which existed in the relations of the two people arose from the ignorance which prevailed in England upon American affairs, and intimated that those who, like Mr. Hall, contributed to the removal of this ignorance, conferred a real benefit on the community. He said that when the great war broke out, members of Parliament and the Government gave their sympathies to the worst cause for which brave men ever took up arms. The artisan class, however, supported the cause of justice and freedom. If his advice had been taken at the time, the two countries would now be so closely bound that no Cabinet, no aristocracy, no press, however powerful, could disseminate them.

On the 23d March Mr. Gladstone introduced a resolution in the House of Commons on Church Reform in Ireland. The

resolutions were that the Irish Church should cease to exist as an establishment—that no new personal rights should be created, and the Commission on the Irish Church should limit its operations to matters of immediate necessity,—and that a petition should be presented to the Queen praying that the Church patronage of Ireland be placed at the disposal of Parliament.

The Fenians Thompson and Mullaney, sentenced to be hanged for the murder of Sergeant Brett, have been reprieved. In the case of Capt. McKay, the jury have brought in a verdict of guilty of treason. He has been sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for 12 years. On the 25th the House of Commons passed the Bill for the abolition of Church rates. The markets are reported dull in Great Britain.

Advices from Abyssinia are favorable at last accounts. Nearly all the troops of the Expedition had reached the high table lands; the roads were found to be very bad. The extreme advance had arrived in the vicinity of Lake Ashangee, and they had met, as yet, with no hostile opposition from the natives. The country yielded little to support an army, except meal and flour, but a great quantity of stores was accumulating at Antola, and large supplies were coming in from the surrounding districts. A report has been received from the interior that King Theodore had encamped, with his whole army, on the Tolanto plateau; the report came from two natives, and it is impossible to say whether it is true or not.

The second session of the Parliament of the North German Confederation commenced at Berlin on March 23d. King William of Prussia was present and opened the session in person, with a speech from the throne. He promised that his Government would introduce several measures to strengthen the Union at home and abroad. While enumerating various treaties which have been made with foreign powers, he particularly alluded to the important one just concluded with the United States, which, he said, was destined to define and regulate nationality and the constituent national obligations of emigrants from Germany and America. The Treaty would destroy all dissension between the two countries, and knit more closely together nations already allied by the strong bonds of commerce and peace. The King concluded his speech by expressing, with marked emphasis, his confidence in the permanence of peace, which he was glad to say, now prevailed among the nations of Europe.

The Pope gave a very grand reception to Admiral Farragut and suite on the 24th March. The Admiral will remain in Rome a month.

In Vienna the most enthusiastic demonstrations of joy are made over the recent action of the Reichrath on the civil marriage bill, which is regarded as practically annulling the Concordat.

Emetics are reported to have occurred at Bordeaux, and seditious placards have made their appearance in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, and Rouen, and the reforming of the Guard Mobile is assigned as the cause of these disturbances.

Advices from Australia state that the ship General Grant, which left Melbourne for London on the 31st of May, 1866, was wrecked at the Auckland Islands on the 14th of the same month. The current drew the vessel toward the rocks and then into a vast cave, where the masts struck against the roof and drove them through the vessels' bottom, causing her to sink. 15 persons only were saved in boats—68 drowned.

An Australian letter of January 30th says, the visit of Prince Alfred to Australia was characterized by scandalous behaviour on the part of the Prince himself and the fast young men who compose his suite. The Press scold him and his associates soundly.

The latest intelligence from Porto Rico is to the 17th inst. A fearful shock of earthquake had been felt, and the inhabitants were fleeing to vessels in the harbor for safety.

The American Consul at Zanzibar, under date of November 10th, states that the arrivals of cargoes there leave no doubt of the safety of Dr. Livingstone, he having been heard from in the interior.

UNITE STATES.

On the 24th President Johnson by his counsel made a lengthy reply to the charges of impeachment, and asked for forty days to prepare for trial. Arguments were heard on the proposition. The trial was assigned to commence on the 30th March.

The New York police made 1,526 arrests last week—Wages in the New York machine shops have been reduced from \$3.50 to \$3 per day.—Whiskey still sells in New York at \$1 per gallon, \$1 less than government tax. Many of the distilleries recently seized, are being illicitly run it is said, through the connivance of the Internal Revenue officials.—The New York Board of Health are testing liquors purchased at various drinking houses in that city. A chemist at head quarters is analyzing them, and the vendors of "ferry rods" are to be brought to grief. Of the numerous samples thus far analyzed, all, with about two exceptions, have proven to be fearfully bad liquor.

All the little villages on the Jersey shore of the Hudson river, opposite New York are to be brought under one municipal government, and in place of a dozen small communities there will stand a city of 120,000 inhabitants.

A man in Illinois killed four gray eagles a few days ago, one of which measured eight feet from tip to tip of its wings.—The wife of the imprisoned editor of the Memphis Avalanche has assumed the editorial chair of that paper. We admire her spirit.—Jeff. Davis has been ordered to leave Louisiana by a vote of 56 to 5 in the Constitutional Convention, now in session in New Orleans.—The Iron Age, the organ of the iron trade of the United States, puts forth a new and brilliant plan for the Fenians to humble the pride of the hated Briton by making a solemn covenant against the use of British manufactures.

A number of crazy men in Connecticut are digging for gold on the banks of the Sebaste river, where a spiritualist medium announced there was a cave full of golden bars and chests of diamonds. They are drilling and blasting through solid rock, twenty feet below the surface of the earth, and expect soon to reach the precious cave.—The Erie quarrel remains the principal topic of interest in New York, almost eclipsing the impeachment trial. A petition is circulating among New York merchants asking them to combine and resist the efforts of Vanderbilt to gain control of the Erie.—The scene at the church of the Transfiguration in New York on Monday when Bishop Potter administered a public reprimand to Rev. Stephen H. Tyng was peculiarly interesting. Policemen were in attendance to keep persons from crowding on the altar. The delivery of the admonition occupied three quarters of an hour, at the end of which Rev. Mr. Tyng refused to read his protest. Bishop Potter proceeded to dis-

ten and ordered another clergyman to proceed, and protest from one gentleman and prayer from another, were heard at the same time, until Mr. Tyng found no attention was paid him, when he remained silent, afterwards handing his written protest to the Bishop.

NEW DOMINION.

Advices from Ottawa state that the Tariff will probably be revised as regards the duty on flour, meal, sugars and wines.—The House of Commons at Ottawa have before them a bill relating to Insurance Companies, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Tasse. It is thought that it will give that discontent and distrust by all nearly discarded.—The snow has all nearly disappeared, and the weather is very cold.—The Hon. Dr. Tupper left on the 16th March for New York, en route to England. He goes out at the request of the Imperial Government to represent the Union party of Nova Scotia, when the general election comes up.—Hon. Mr. Mitchell's bill on the fisheries is in a forward state of completion. It is understood that the bounty to fishermen will be renewed, also that the license fee to American fishermen will be increased from \$1 to \$2. The amount received from this source last year was about \$10,000.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

A St. John paper says:—"There is little doubt, we believe, that the portion of the rumor relating to Judge Wilmer is correct, and that he will speedily be gazetted as our Governor. His relations to the people are now very intimate. His elevation to the office of Governor would be an additional honor, though it could hardly add to Judge Wilmer's responsibility. He is well fitted to fill and adorn the high office which, it is believed, he is to receive in his native Province. It is an office which, in future, will generally be filled by Colonists."

The Local Legislature shows signs of a dissolution. Business is quiet, and the demand for money is not very active. There is not much change in breadstuffs.

House of Assembly.

MONDAY, MARCH 23.

House in Committee on Supply, appropriated £100 for Private Secretary; £400 for the Model Farm; £800 for County Industrial Exhibitions; £16 for the Caspescum Agricultural Society; £150 for the repair of Colonial Buildings; £200 for the erection of a new building; £1500 for Lighthouses; £15 for beacon lights at St. Andrew's Point, Rustico, Tracadie, and St. Peter's Harbor, and £20 for similar lights at Murray Harbor and New London; and £15 for light-keeper at Summerside. Messrs. Cameron, Sinclair and Howat advocated the necessity of a beacon light at Crapaud. The Government was disposed to favor the claim, if notice was first given on the chart. The Sabbath Observance Bill was read a second time. A bill to revise and regulate the size and the quality of fish barrels, and the regulation of imported fish, was read a second time. The following reports were submitted to the House:—

Of the School Visitors and minute of Board of Education; On the opening of a road from French River Road to South West River Road; Of Joint Committee on Road Improvements; Of Stock Farm Committee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24.

Hon. Mr. Laird, from Committee, reported bills to incorporate the Agricultural Societies recently formed at Summerside and St. Peter's Bay. Mr. Brocken introduced a bill to amend the law relating to jail limits. By this measure, if pressed, a creditor may summon a debtor before a Judge of the Supreme Court or Commissioners of Insolvency, for examination on oath, and if he has money or property in his hands to assign or pay over to the creditor, or to make the same, or to give Mr. McNeill introduced a bill to amend the law relating to the sale of land. This measure is, we think, badly called for. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from certain shareholders in the Summerside Bank praying to have the time for paying the last instalment extended. Several clauses of the Land Purchase Act Amendment Bill were gone through in Committee. It meets with no opposition. Mr. Howland submitted the plan and report of the survey of Tintinli Inn.

The House in Committee then resumed consideration of Supply, and voted £1500 for the Militia Service; £700 for Steam and Packet Communication to Kings Cove; £100 for Packet between Caspescum, Summerside and Shediac; £500 for dredging the Sandbar near Southport wharf; £300 for repairs and floats for Charlottetown Ferry; £100 for repairs of Georgetown Court House, and new fence; £50 for City Fire Department; £50 for repairs of Georgetown Grammar School; £15 for Belfast Grammar School; £75 for a school for the Indians of Lennox Island; £20 for Daily Telegraphs; £20 to the contractor of East Point Lighthouse, and £40 to Mr. Doyle for extra work on the Summerside Drift Shed. The Civil Service on the 24th inst. Mr. Boyd's report on the wharf at West Point, and the Breakwater at Wood Islands. To complete the former work (which has since been carried away by the ice) would cost about £1250. Mr. Ramsay explained the principle on which the unfinished part had been built, and advocated the importance and necessity of a wharf at West Point. In order to make the Breakwater at Wood Islands available for the purposes intended, Mr. Boyd considers it should be extended 750 feet further out, and estimates the cost at £2475. Mr. Davies was pleased to have the opinion of a competent engineer in favor of Victoria Harbor, an undertaking commenced by the late Government. It was the only feasible shipping place from Placette to Murray Harbor, and when finished would be a great advantage to the people in that section of his District. Mr. Howland wondered why the usual grant to the Infant School at Georgetown, was not in the Estimates. This School was numerously attended by children of all classes and creeds, and for twenty years enjoyed the fostering care of the Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.

Limit Bill read a second time to-day. It meets with considerable opposition. The Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act was passed through Committee, and ordered to be engrossed. A Bill to consolidate the Laws relating to the Savings Bank also went to the second reading. The Limit Bill received the three months' notice. The Wilderness Land Bill was sent to Committee, and agreed to. Under this law a settler can, by paying 5s. for a survey, and 5s. for a Deed, obtain a grant of 100 acres of wilderness land, on condition that he pay the taxes, clear one acre a year for the first eight years, and after the second year's occupation erect thereon a house 20 feet square, and 8 feet post. Mr. Prowse moved that a clause be added to the Bill, giving those who settled on the wilderness lands of the Canada Estate, within the last eight years, the same privileges and indulgences as are provided for settlers under this Act;—an amendment after some discussion was withdrawn, it appearing to conflict with other provisions of the Bill, and the Government having expressed their willingness to deal leniently with parties in circumstances similar to those described by Mr. Prowse.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26.

Mr. McLennan asked the Government for the Report of the Commissioners appointed to investigate certain charges against the late

keeper of the Sea Cow Head Lighthouse, and also for the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into a case of alleged abstraction from the Mail Bag. These reports cost the country over £31. The Bill to incorporate the Prince County Agricultural Society was read a second time and ordered to be engrossed. The Colonial Secretary submitted, as a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, papers relating to the removal of the troops, and their expenses while on the Island.

Letter from Charlottetown.

DEAR SIR,—

On the 17th inst. in company with a friend, I visited the Steam Furniture Establishment of Mark Butcher, Esquire, which like that of Mr. Douglas's, is situated on Kings Square. When I was present there were four turning lathes in operation, one of which was made to order in Glasgow, (Scotland) and which cost one hundred and fifty pounds, besides freight and duty, and with which work of almost every description, in wood and iron, in the turning department can be executed. With this lathe Mr. Butcher executes ornamental turning, which for beauty, fineness of finish, and exactness in the proportion of the parts, far exceeds that of the chiselized, mathematical perfection visited in a lake of snow, a lump of hail, or in a speck of the hoar frost of heaven when viewed through a powerful magnifying glass, and from which I am inclined to believe, some of the designs were taken which were shown to us. In this lathe there is the concentration of a good deal of thought, of labor, and of energy. In it is to be found the culmination of one of the noble triumphs of princely thought and labor,—although princely is a beggarly word to express what is grander, more enduring, and more useful, than the evanescent pomp of any Prince!

I have no doubt but that there are many men who, when reclining upon a sofa, when sitting in an easy chair, or while luxuriating in all the enjoyments of life in the departments of a nicely created and well finished piece of furniture, have but a faint idea of the obligations they owe to those men who have devoted the powers of their minds to mechanical and architectural study. As the trees, the shrubs, the blades of grass, the drops of water, and flakes of snow, that wondrously display the wisdom and glory of the Great Architect of the universe in various ways; while they also contribute to the comfort and happiness of man. So there are many industrious men who till the ground, and brave ones who navigate the ocean, and others who to some extent soar into the firmament, or dive into the abyss, to be the sources of knowledge, there are those who invent implements, which add human effort in all its departments of labor. Again there are others who in the higher walks of mechanism, are constantly improving and perfecting machinery, that assist lightening and perfecting works of men's hands, while it aids also, in rendering our food, our clothing, and our dwellings much more wholesome, pleasant, and comfortable, than they could otherwise possibly be. And thus it is, that while trade has many departments, they are all (I mean those which relate to the arts of peace) devoted to some one common end,—the comfort and happiness of man; and this too is doubtless the grand design also, of the great author of all the joys and comforts of man. Too much honor cannot therefore be paid to the men of thought, and effort, in all useful departments of human industry.

Mr. Butcher has also a planing machine in his establishment, with which he can plane boards from one half inch to two and a half inches in thickness. The cylinder which contains the plain planes revolves with a velocity of 2,400 in the minute, and can be increased or decreased to suit the work. The machinery for ornamental turning, that can be attached to his turning lathe, revolves with a greater velocity. Some of the perpendicular saws used in the execution of ornamental work, and which are driven with a velocity of 500 to the minute, are but a trifle larger than a horse hair; and the work done with them would surprise some who never seen them in operation. Mr. Butcher gave me very useful information on many subjects connected with the machinery in operation on his premises, but as I had not much time for taking notes at the time, I cannot trust my memory to enlarge further.

The furniture manufactured here, is similar to that of Mr. Douglas's. I noticed some very neat work tables for ladies, which would be a nice article for gentlemen from the country to call and buy as a present for their wives or their daughters.

Ascertaining that the Wesleyan Chapel in this city, was heated by steam, and on mentioning it to Mr. Butcher, he very kindly came with us to see the building, and took with me, I believe, all the arrangements, which were, I think, placed at my disposal. The water on the roof of this building is conveyed through pipes into a tank in one corner of the basement floor. In the opposite corner a steam boiler is nicely placed within a wall of brick, and by means of a force pump it is supplied with water from the tank, which is conveyed through a pipe. This boiler is not large, and I think the fuel used for heating it does not come up to the quantity that is consumed in some churches not half the size. To this boiler is attached the apparatus usually found in an engine, and which is adapted to the steam boiler for the purpose of performing. When the water in the boiler a few feet are turned, when a minute the steam flies through over 6,000 feet of pipe, which are arranged around the walls and through the centre of the building, and in this way, this chapel which will comfortably seat 1,500 persons, is uniformly heated to any temperature required. This mode of heating a public building has cheapness and cleanliness to recommend it, and is, I believe, healthier and safer than stoves. Mr. Butcher in this way heats his factory and dwelling house, and by the steam used for turning the engine, he heats the steam also into the bottom of the well, when it is a temperature of 100°; in this arrangement there is not much economy? It is said that a man is known by his company, and also by his books. I thought of this as I noticed in Mr. Butcher's office a fine collection of works treating on mechanism in so many of its various departments, and have no doubt but that in their perusal he has spent some of his happiest hours, and drawn from them many of those practical ideas which he has made a good use of.

Your readers will notice in Mr. McNeill's "Legislative Summary" how the House of Assembly is progressing with their business. Yesterday Hon. Mr. Davies introduced a resolution to the effect that a Committee be appointed to enquire if Mr. T. W. Dodd was justified in making certain statements contained in his letter to the Executive Government, which called for a long debate 15th Aug. 1865, he was only sustained by his own words. Mr. McNeill, Mr. Davies is a truly sincere friend of the people, and any course which he should stand alone among ten thousand. I do not pretend to say whether his resolution was constitutionally right or otherwise. I merely say that in so far as I am aware, no one doubts the motives of the hon. member in this matter. The most objectionable words in Mr. Dodd's letter I believe are these:—"While their system of terrorism by which threats of burning their premises and taking their lives, is so complete that it is utterly impossible to look for any assistance outside the town." One hon. member, Mr. West (Mr. Bell) has been held aside from active duty by a sprained ankle. His friends will perceive that the most temperate are, like the intemperate, liable to accidents.

MARCH 21, 1868. OBSERVER.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN BRITAIN.

Education is as essential to the liberty and prosperity of a people as to the happiness of an individual. This fact is so patent, that all enlightened governments have ever made it a subject of legislative enactment. And in this age of democratic tendencies, when title and wealth are being swept away as barriers to political privileges and preferment, its necessity becomes imperative as the only safeguard against licentiousness and anarchy.

Despite the babble of confusion kept up by our neighbors in praise of their political advancement, we almost instinctively look to Great Britain for examples of the highest legislation upon all matters which affect the welfare of a people. For some time past the statesmen of that country have been theorizing to a considerable extent as to the most efficient ways and means of educating all classes in the community, particularly that class who refuse to take advantage of the inducements held out to them to send their children to school. The result of all this speculating and theorizing has been the conception of the idea of Compulsory Education. And it is generally supposed that the present ministerial party will bring it up as a government measure this session. The necessity of positive legislation on the matter is argued mainly from the fact, that the government expends vast sums of money for the education of the people, sufficient probably, when taken in conjunction with what is made up by voluntary subscription, to place within the reach of every child in the land an opportunity of acquiring an elementary education; yet by the educational statistics of the country, it is found that there are about one million of children within the school age who never enter a school house for the purposes of instruction. The lamentable fact that such a number of human beings are being brought up in such a state of brutal ignorance, with scarcely any training except that which fits them for becoming inmates of jails and prisons, has forced the intelligent portion of the people to throw aside for a while their conservative prejudices, and look favorably on the expediency of compulsion in education. Dr. Guthrie, who may be taken as the exponent of an important class of the liberal of Great Britain, in a speech which he delivered in Edinburgh, in speaking on this subject said:—"At first many people thought we were all crazed fanatics who were in favor of a compulsory system of education. But I rejoice to see that the cause is making way every day; among our countrymen, among our legislators, among our statesmen, and our public men, a compulsory system of education is gaining more and more favor. You will observe that society may be divided into four classes. Class first includes those who are willing and able to educate their children; class second, those who are able but not willing; class third, those willing but not able; and class fourth, those who are neither willing nor able. Now in reference to the first class, those who are willing and able, the act of Parliament that says every child within the shores of Great Britain shall be educated, every parent, if able, shall be compelled to educate his own children, does not affect them, because they are already educating their children, they are willing and able. Then, in regard to the second, and this is a small number indeed—who are willing, but not able, let the public do the work for them, for if parents are willing and not able to educate their children, we shall be happy to do it. Then in regard to those who are able but not willing, down come your compulsion on them. What right has any man in this country to rear his children to be a nuisance and a danger to the community? The thing is perfectly monstrous, that a man should earn wages, and yet neglect to feed and clothe and educate his children, and shall be allowed to spend his wages on drink, to send his children to an early grave, to bring them up for the police office and prison, to be a nuisance, or dangerous to society. People say, 'What are we to do? Do! I would arrest the man's wages. If a man won't educate and feed his own children, I would take them and feed them for him, not at my own expense, not at the expense of any ragged school friends, but at the expense of the drunken scoundrel himself."

Another consideration which strongly urges its expediency is the extension of the right of suffrage. The Reform Bill of England which passed last year, and those which are promised to Scotland and Ireland this year, will invest the lower classes of the people with an influence in wielding the political destinies of the nation which has hitherto been unknown to Great Britain. And it is apparently but the insertion of the thin end of the wedge which will eventually effect the establishment of manhood suffrage. For every concession made by the Government in the extension of the right of suffrage, is not only a step in that direction, but it arms the people with a power to extort further concessions. Since then, the people have such a power in their hands, it is of the utmost importance that the most effective means should be employed to make them both intelligent and virtuous. They will be perpetually assailed by the machination of the artful and aspiring politician. Their ignorance and indigence will be made subservient to his ambition and selfishness through bribes, misrepresentations, and dazzling promises.

But still, a compulsory system of education is not without its opponents and many obstacles in Britain. There are those who stamp it as amateur and inconsistent with the true province of legis-

lation. They affirm that it is an idea surreptitiously appropriated from that debatable land which lies between restraint and reason—a substituting of coercion for correction. Again, it has many deep-rooted political prejudices, and narrow sectarian jealousies to contend with. Whether or not it will surmount all these difficulties, and become embodied in an act of Parliament, is a question which we wait anxiously to see solved.

THE NEWS.

The American Cabinet seems at the present time to afford the *quintessence* of greater interest than the European. While all seems as yet comparatively quiet in a political point of view among the Europeans across the water, on this side among the Americans, the Republic and Democratic parties seem on the verge of open war. Andrew Johnson—against whom threats of impeachment have long been uttered—has precipitated the matter by the attempted removal of Stanton from the office of Secretary of war, and the appointment of that of Adjutant Gen. Lorenzo Thomas. Stanton refused forthwith to surrender the department, while Thomas saying that he regarded himself as the rightful Secretary, called for the war mails and attempted to take possession. A secret session of the Senate after sitting seven hours passed a resolution that the President had no power to make such appointments. Meanwhile despatches were arriving from all parts of the country, some calling for the impeachment of Johnson, and others offering him troops. Johnson has not, however, attempted anything like a *coup d'etat*, but has appealed to the laws for protection. He has a strong party at his back, and had he possessed the nerve and dash of Napoleon, he might have seized the military power, proclaimed his authority and willingly changed the Republic into an Empire. Then indeed might we say, as was already lately said, "what is the world coming to?"

In England public attention seems fully engaged with internal matters. "Ireland and the Irish," is again under consideration. Various are the plans of reform proposed. The dis-establishment of the Irish Protestant Church is regarded in some quarters as necessary. Again the acquirement of the land by State purchase, or Parliamentary confiscation for the purpose of re-distribution among the people is advocated. The priests of Limerick have surprised the nation by an attempt to revive the scheme which fell to the ground on O'Connell's death,—the repeal of the Union. While the Fenian project is a Republic, we may remark that the first of these measures—the dis-establishment of the Protestant Church—would hardly settle discontent, for this arises not only from religious but political reasons. Concession after concession has been made to the opposite party within the last century, but contentment in Ireland seems as distant as ever. The re-distribution of the Irish soil among small proprietors, while it might produce some good effects during the present generation, would be the means of untold misery in the future. Each little farm must necessarily be cut up among the owner's descendants until it would barely sustain life, and this state of things would forever banish all hope of competence and comfort among the farmers. In this country of "broad acres" and sparse population, the sons go out into the world with the assurance of room, but in Ireland where every foot of land is precious, division and subdivision must ensue, and bring still greater poverty in their train. As to a repeal of the Union, the idea is most chimerical. Whatever action the British Government may take in permitting repeal in the Provinces, it is absurdity itself, to suppose that the disintegration of the Empire would be thought of for a moment. As to the Fenian project—a Republic—if we may judge by the American, and every other Republic that ever existed, such an establishment, especially in Ireland, would be a jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

Notwithstanding the utterances of some whose leanings are evidently towards the Yankee land, and who seize upon every opportunity to cast a slur on the country of our forefathers, we believe that these colonies never stood more loyally to England than they do to-day. It may suit the purpose of American sympathisers here to decry our institutions and our British connection. Not having much to lose themselves, they may be willing to see this country saddled with the debt of the American war, and to have Annexation become the cry, but if we know any thing of the spirit of the sturdy British yeomen who form the main part of our colonial population, we are certain that the weak utterances of irresponsible individuals in the towns will not, by the weight of a feather, affect their opinions. Men of landed and other interests will take good care that so far as in them lies, our connection with Britain shall not be severed. We advise all sympathisers with the American Annexationists to take up their abode with these their especial friends, whose companionship will doubtless be much more to their taste than the society of loyal men and true. Meantime the eyes of the country should be on any one suspected of such sentiments.

We visited the other day, while up West, an old gentleman named Dennis O'Brien, who a short time since removed from the Tryon Road to Mimingash. When he located there he had to cut down the trees to obtain a place to build a house on. It is only about five or six years since that time, and he now has one of the handsomest pieces of clearance that we ever seen. He has somewhere about 60 acres cleared in beautiful square patches—has a very good house and stable—a large stock—and this winter he disposed of several tons of hay and straw. This proves what can be done. "Where there is a will there is a way." Mr. O'Brien is a fine, able, hearty man, has a large family, and is very kind and courteous to strangers.