

we scarcely remember ever to have experienced such a warm temperature in December.

Ireland remains in a state of profound tranquillity. The evictions, voluntary and involuntary, together with a vast emigration, continue upon an extensive scale. A frightful tragedy, involving the loss of life of about seventy poor emigrants, on the northern coast, has taken place since our last. Its melancholy and revolting details will be found in another column. Much as we deprecate the unnecessary interference of Government in meddling with passenger traffic, there seems no doubt whatever, from the present case, that some more effective control should be established over such coasting vessels, so as to provide against the repetition of such an awful catastrophe.

The Lord Lieutenant returned last week to Dublin, and seems to be addressing his attention to the expurgation of all useless sinecures; various offices in the coast-guard service, the Post-office, money order office, Board of Works, having been abolished or transferred to London. There was even a rumour of the transfer of the business of the Irish Court of Chancery to the English metropolis, but we altogether discredit it. Mr. Duffy is now the only remaining prisoner in Newgate; his trial commenced on Thursday, and notwithstanding the numerous trials, with which the Irish public have been lately surfeited, this last investigation seems to excite considerable interest. With its conclusion the Irish rebellion of 1848 will finally close. The rotary Parliament agitation makes no progress; the applications made by Lord W. Fitzgerald for support seem in many cases to be repulsed in unequivocal terms.

The Marquis of Westmeath, in one of these replies, inveighs bitterly against the new Poor-law, and ridicules John Bull for conferring constitutions on the inhabitants of countries who do not know how to use them, instancing Canada, Jamaica, Newfoundland, Sicily, &c.; and then his lordship goes on to say that Ireland, like those places, being unsuitable to untrained freedom, England deserves to pay for her folly. The Irish he says, "run riot when good Government is introduced; they love excitement, vague expectations, and gossip; and, therefore John Bull has no right to be inconsistent with his character for fairness to *smile* at the cost he chooses to undergo." Certainly after the millions we have expended since 1845 in endeavoring to save the Irish from the jaws of famine, it is not pleasant to hear these reproaches, conveyed in such terms from one of Ireland's sons, and he a marquis! a member of the Legislature!

The anomalous position of the Head of the Roman Catholic Church, now an exile in a foreign state, has naturally excited considerable interest in the Irish capital, and already a public meeting is announced to consider the best means of restoring the feelings of his spiritual subjects at beholding Pius IX. made the victim of such indignities. Dr. M'Hale, Archbishop of Tuam, has returned to Dublin "crowned with victory," in respect, we presume of his efforts to thwart the progress of sound education in Ireland. In the meantime the Pope himself is a wanderer in Italy, and the results of Dr. M'Hale's mission may not be, after all, exactly those which he contemplated. A public notice, we perceive, has been circulated in almost all the journals, signifying that the organization of the colleges is in active progress, and inviting the applications for the required professors in all branches of learning.

Lord Clarendon appears to have been warmly received on his return to the viceregal lodge. The usual addresses of confidence have been voted, coupled with a declaration that now that peace is happily restored, it is desirable to promote an inquiry into the causes which have stimulated the late discontent, and recommending a removal of the many grievances under which the country labors. An epitome of the reply of his excellency to the deputation and memorial respecting the late alleged jury packing will be found in our Irish news; it is temperate, eloquent and ratiocinative. His lordship disclaims in the most emphatic manner, any studied design on the part of the Government of excluding Roman Catholics, as such, from serving on juries; and pledges himself that on future occasions the Attorney-General shall not go beyond those legitimate grounds of objection which are absolutely necessary to be maintained for the impartial administration of justice. If a party does not "stand indifferent as he stands unsworn," no real justice can be dealt out one way or the other. Accord-

ingly, his excellency declines to make any alteration in the law as it stands. We need not point out what frightful misery would ensue if the just principle laid down by his lordship were disregarded.

The Bank of England returns continue to exhibit increasing reserves of bullion, with a diminishing circulation. Parcels of bullion still flow in from the more distant parts of Europe, apparently denote the transmission of capital for investment in our funds for safety, which is still further confirmed by the upward movement of all public securities in good repute. Continental securities, of the middle and north of Europe, have also experienced a considerable improvement, in consequence of the progress made towards a more settled state of politics. Money continues about 2½ for the best paper, but there are somewhat better facilities for placing it more advantageously upon call with the money brokers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has seized the present favorable moment to sell some of the loan of two millions authorised last session. The payments on account of the Revenue are understood to be satisfactory; it will be, however, during the next and succeeding quarters, when the corn duties shall have entirely ceased, that the temper of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be tried. The par of Exchange, both with the continent of Europe and with the United States, do not vary to such an amount as to offer the least inducement for the exportation of bullion. The state of the Bank of France so far as the institution is concerned, continues satisfactory. The stock of bullion continues ample. The French treasury account attracts just now but little notice; there seems to be provision made for the January dividends.

AWFUL AND FATAL DISASTER ON BOARD AN IRISH STEAMER.

On Tuesday se'nnight reports reached Liverpool of a terrible loss of life which had occurred on board of the steamer Londonderry, plying between Sligo and this port, and though the first accounts were strangely incorrect and horrible, yet when the truth became known, it was shown that the loss of life had been rather understated; while, though no actual crime had been committed, the details of the true relation were not a whit the less harrowing and distressing than those of the fabricated story first transmitted.

It appears that about four o'clock on the evening of the 1st December, the steam-boat Londonderry left the harbour of Sligo. There were on board her three cabin passengers, a number of sheep and oxen, and about 150 emigrants. The vessel was crossing over to Liverpool, whence the majority of the unfortunate passengers intended to proceed as emigrants to America. Towards midnight a heavy gale came on, and at last blew with so much violence, that shortly after midnight, or rather towards one o'clock on Saturday morning, the decks were cleared of all except the seamen. The steerage passengers, perhaps 150 in number, were crowded into the fore-cabin, men, women, and children, all were driven below—driven, we say, because several struggled against those who forced them down the companion ladder.

After some difficulty, however, many remonstrances, and much opposition, the poor emigrants were crammed into the narrow compass of the fore-cabin, a compartment little more than eighteen feet long by eleven feet wide, and seven feet high. The space was capable only of accommodating about forty passengers, and here were nearly one hundred and fifty, of both sexes, huddled together indiscriminately, the old and the young, the robust and the sickly, the adult and the infant. Meanwhile the sea was running high in the channel, so that the waves repeatedly broke over the steamer. Then it was that, through the negligence of those who were responsible for the lives of the people on board, a measure of momentary convenience was adopted which led to a catastrophe, the like of which has only occurred before in the notorious prison of Calcutta. The companion, the only aperture by which the fore-cabin received ventilation, was closed, and over the companion was nailed down a piece of tarpaulin!

This was about midnight between Friday and Saturday. The result proved to be only such as common sense would tell every one was inevitable. The dizziness and qualms of sea-sickness were very soon forgotten in the unadurable sensation of suffocation. Efforts were made to force a way out of the confinement: they were found to be unavailing. Shouts were raised to attract attention; they were drowned in the roaring noise of the storm. And then, according to the description of the few survivors, ensued a spectacle such as sets the imagination of even the most morbid at defiance. The steamer drove bravely through the tempest, while those who directed her remained wholly unconscious of the frightful conflict for life and death which was then raging in her very entrails.

The tramping and boating sounds within the cabin were rendered inaudible by the trobbing of the pistons, and the shrieks and groans of the sufferers only died away with the gale towards morning. Not until then were the sea-

men aware of the tragedy which had been enacted under their feet. Out of the 150 passengers who had been driven down the companion ladder a few hours before, 72 were found to have perished! Men, and women, and little children, husbands and wives, sons and mothers, were heaped about the floor of the cabin in disorder, some with their clothes torn from their backs in tatters; some with their hands and faces lacerated, some with their features trodden into a mummy by the iron-shod brogues of their fellow-sufferers; here a father locked in the arms of his daughter; there a sister clinging to the corpse of her brother, their countenances black and distorted with the convulsions produced by suffocation.

The following is a description of the scene which met the eye of the mate when a steerage passenger who had, at last, forced his way out communicated to him the terrible intelligence:

"The mate instantly became alarmed, and obtaining a lantern, went down to render assistance. Such, however, was the foul state of the air in the cabin, that the light was immediately extinguished. A second was obtained, and it too, was extinguished. At length, on the tarpaulin being completely removed, and a free access of air admitted, the real nature of the catastrophe exhibited itself. There lay in heaps, the living, the dying, and the dead, one frightful mass of mingled agony and death, a spectacle enough to appal the stoutest heart. Men, women, and children were huddled together, blackened with suffocation, distorted by convulsions, bruised and bleeding from the desperate struggle for existence which preceded the moment when exhausted nature resigned the strife. After some time the living were separated from the dead, and it was then found that the latter amounted to nearly one half of the entire number."

Captain Johnstone appears at length to have been made aware that he had become a main actor in a scene of the most horrid calamity. But he was uncertain what to do. He put his steamer into Lough Foyle, but it was twelve hours before he could make up his mind to pass up to the quay at Derry.

Let it should be supposed that the above extract might convey but an impression received amidst horror and confusion, here is how we find the condition of the steerage cabin described when entered on Sunday morning by the Mayor and Magistrates of Derry:

"The scene on entering the steerage of the steamer was perhaps as awful a spectacle as could be witnessed. Seventy-two dead bodies of men, women, and children, lay piled indiscriminately over each other, four deep, all presenting the ghastly appearance of persons who had died in the agonies of suffocation; very many of them covered with the blood which had gushed from the mouth and nose, or had flowed from the wounds inflicted by the trampling of nail-sudded brogues, and by the frantic violence of those who struggled for escape. For it was too evident that, in that struggle, the poor creatures had torn the clothes from off each other's backs, and even the flesh from each other's limbs."

We have nothing to add to this brief but tragical tale, save that the coroner's jury have found Alexander Johnstone, captain, Richard Hughes, first mate, and Ninian Crawford, second mate of the Londonderry, guilty of manslaughter, and have expressed in the strongest terms their abhorrence of the inhuman conduct of the other seamen on board throughout this unhappy transaction.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANKFORT.—The proceedings of the Frankfort Assembly since our last, are in themselves important, but are denuded of much of that importance by the complicated and unstable character of the Assembly, resulting from the late and present proceedings in Vienna and Berlin. On the 7th instant the Assembly was occupied in considering the fundamental rights of the German people, when, amongst others, the following articles were definitely adopted:

Every German has the right of citizenship of the German Empire. He may exercise in every German land the rights according to him by means of this right. The right of electing into the Imperial Assembly is defined by an imperial law of election.

Every German has the right of sojourning or dwelling in any part of the Imperial territory; the right of acquiring and disposing of landed property of every kind; of pursuing any calling that tends to a livelihood, and acquiring the right of local citizenship.

The penalty of loss of citizenship shall not exist; and in cases where it has already been declared, its effects shall cease, provided acquired private rights are not impaired by its annulment.

Liberty of Emigration is not restricted by the state. Emigration flows may not be levied. The matter of emigration is under the protection, as it is the care of the Empire.

The law makes no difference between the various orders (of the people); all privileges attaching to particular orders are abolished. All Germans are equal in the eye of the law.

All titles, so far as they are not connected with an office, are abolished, and may never again be introduced. Ayes, 253; noes, 270.

No member of a German state can accept an order from a foreign state. The obligation to serve in the armed forces is the same for all; the sending a substitute is not allowed.

The penalty of death, except when proscribed by martial law, or were admitted by naval law in cases of mutiny, as also the punishment of the pillory, of branding, and of bodily chastisement, are abolished.

Every German has the right of expressing

his opinion freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, and pictorial representation.

The freedom of the press may not be limited, suspended, or annulled, under any circumstances, or in any way whatsoever, by preventive measures, either by censorship, concessions, payment of caution, state imposts, restrictions imposed on printing offices, or the book trade, or by postal prohibitions, or any other impediments, thrown in the way of free intercourse.

[The insertion of the words "by preventive measures" was carried by 338 against 67; and the word "suspended" by 263 against 181.]

On offences committed by the press, which are officially prosecuted, verdict shall be returned by jury. A law in relation to the press will be enacted by imperial authority.

Every German has full liberty of faith and conscience.

No one is compelled to reveal his religious convictions.

No one is bound to attach himself to any religious community. (This last clause was carried by 227 against 189.)

The fears which were entertained lest a serious breach should occur between the German central power and the Swiss confederation, in consequence of the attempts of German republican refugees in Switzerland to excite disturbances in Germany, have been allayed by a promise of the Swiss federal council to remove all obnoxious political refugees. The Imperial Troops, meanwhile, will continue to maintain a strict surveillance on the frontiers, so as to prevent any further violation of this engagement on the part of the Vorort.

The section of the Constitutional Committee to which the question respecting the head of the German Empire was referred, has declared in favor of a hereditary Emperor with a civil list; the right of succession to be determined by primogeniture.

SWITZERLAND.—In the Canton of Lucerne enrolments of troops for Naples are actively continued.

A strict surveillance has been organised on the side of the Rhine, which will have three objects:—First, no further favor will be accorded to the English, as regards customs duties; secondly, differential duties will be imposed on Swiss articles; thirdly, the exportation of corn will be prohibited.

WALLACHIA AND MOLDAVIA.—A letter from Bucharest, of the 7th, quoted by the Journal de Constantinople of the 19th, states that during two days the Russian military authorities had made numerous arrests, among which was that of an English subject, who was taken from his own house to prison outside the town. Mr. Colquhoun, her Britannic Majesty's consul-general, had protested against this violation, and demanded an immediate release of the party arrested. He, however, could obtain no redress from the Turkish authorities, and the matter has been referred to the British Minister at Constantinople.

RUSSIA.—A few weeks ago it was rumored that a treaty had been concluded between the Emperor of Russia and Schamyl, the Circassian chief, and thereupon it was conjectured the Emperor must have done so with an ulterior design on some other power. A correspondent, however, gives us the following information on the subject:—

"In the German papers the news has gone abroad that Russia had concluded a treaty with the Caucasian people, by which their freedom and independence is acknowledged. I can, on the contrary, assure you that these reports require strong confirmation. The last letters from Tiflis, at least, say that the position of the contending parties remained entirely unaltered. The above report may have arisen from the fact that some of the Daghestan tribes, who had succumbed to the power of Russia, had made a proposal for a treaty to Prince Woronzow, and also from the fact that a body of troops, some 500 strong, formerly stationed in the Caucasus, had received orders to march to Poland."

We also learn that Schamyl, on the 10th of September, with an imposing force, had repaired, during the feast of Achi, to the Kamurschen border, where he had attacked General Roth, and had driven him back, and being subsequently attacked himself by a heavy body of troops, a severe action took place. The Russians give their loss in this action at 15 killed and 152 wounded, and estimate the loss of the enemy at 300 in killed alone.

ITALY.—Flight of the Pope.—Feeling himself stripped of all power, and forced to assent to the measures of a ministry forced upon him at the point of the bayonet, Pope Pius IX. has escaped from Rome, and is now at Gaeta, the guest of the King of Naples. According to the latest accounts from Rome the Pope did not leave his apartments in the Quirinal palace after the murder of Count Rossi, and was actually treated by the government as a state prisoner. All his own guards were removed, and he was surrounded by persons supposed to be favorable to the new administration. His chief associates were the foreign ambassadors, and one of these, Count Spohr, the Bavarian Envoy, planned and effected the escape of the venerable Pontiff. The Pope left the Quirinal on the evening of the 24th, disguised as a servant of Count Spohr, and wearing the livery of the Bavarian legation. Dressed in the character of a footman, he mounted the box of the Ambassador's carriage, seated himself by the coachman, and thus absconded from the Quirinal palace, and was carried off to Gaeta. The Count had previously obtained passports for Naples, whither the Pope accompanied him, not in his first disguise, but in that of the Envoy's chaplain. No one in Rome recognized him, and the illustrious fugitive arrived in