

# THE GLEANER:

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*Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

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## European News.

From *Wilmot & Smith's EUROPEAN TIMES.*

November 16.

### IRELAND.

**The Queen's Colleges.**—As a matter of undoubted fact, we assert that the great Majority of the Roman Catholic laity of the middle classes are in favor of the colleges as affording what they believe to be a cheap and valuable education. They are besides, in favor of that principle upon which those institutions are prominently based—that of mixed education, or the association of Catholic and Protestant at an early period of life. We also assert that a large proportion of the clergy within the city are of a similar way of thinking.—*Cork Examiner.*

**The Encumbered Estates Commissioners** were to sell at the Rotunda in Dublin, on the 8th Nov., 50,000 acres of prime land belonging to the Earl of Mountcashell. The produce of the sale was expected to amount to nearly £450,000.

**The Flax Movement.**—A really rational movement, and one of the most vital consequence to the agriculture of this country, is now in progress, embracing the resident gentry and many of the farmers, who have taken up the subject of flax cultivation in an earnest and determined spirit, from which the best results may be anticipated. The gentry of the county of Carlow assembled yesterday week in the County Court House, Sir Thomas Butler, Bart., presiding, when arrangements were made to establish a "Flax Society in the County of Carlow." A landed proprietor and extensive miller, Mr Alexander, announced at the meeting that he and his brother were about to establish mills for the preparation of flax, and they guaranteed on their own part, to open a market for the farmers, for the disposal of the raw material. A similar meeting took place in the county of Kilkenny on Saturday, promoted by the Marquis of Ormonde, Mr Tighe, of Woodstock, and other extensive proprietors. Mr Carleton, who has established mills in Waterford, has undertaken to purchase any quantity of flax grown in the county of Kilkenny.

### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

**Prussia.**—The intelligence from Berlin, of the 6th instant, announcing the death of the Count Brandenburg, was speedily followed by the important news that, at a council held at noon of that day, the Cabinet decided on issuing the order it negatived when proposed by M. Von Radowitz, for placing on a war footing the whole of the Prussian army and calling out the landwehr. The cause of this order is stated to be the fact that Prussia has been called on by Austria, in the name of the Confederation, to withdraw her troops from Hesse.

In consequence of this resolution to proceed with the measures commenced, Prussia has determined to put her whole army on a war footing, and to make the landwehr mobile.

**Turkey, Constantinople, Nov. 2.**—A riot against the Christian population has broken out at Aleppo. A multitude of Franks were killed, and their houses sacked and burnt.—The Turkish soldiers remained quiet spectators of these outrages.

### THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851.

The great exhibition has already had one good effect—it has stimulated the ingenuity of the mechanics of this country. From all quarters accounts are received of the co-operation of the artisan classes; and the commissioners will be glad to find that, in the inventive department, the workmen of this country can maintain a proud position beside the products of the competitive skill of other manufacturing countries. There is a wonderful variety observable in the articles upon which individuals in various parts of the coun-

try are employed. While a lady is fabricating an article of silk, grown under her own superintendance, an ingenious mechanic is fashioning a pair of bellows by which lovers of music will be enabled to revive their fire to the air of "God save the Queen." In India Gholab Singh is collecting specimens of every kind of Cashmerian product; and from Wales an eccentric fellow is travelling with a glass tube full of insects, which he calls "A Happy Family." The Queen, it is rumoured has designed a carpet, which is now being manufactured at Axminster for exhibition; and the glasshouse will, it is reported, contain specimens of Prince Albert's talent as a sculptor. Mr Wild, M. P., is contently strolling about inside his monster globe; while a Yarmouth mechanic is filing at a beamer machine of lilliputian proportions; and Messrs. T. E. Smith and Co., of Lawrence-lane, Cheapside, are preparing a shirt of marvellous workmanship, with the rose, shamrock, and thistle, severally encompassing each button of the front—thus the patriotic will be enabled to press the national emblems to their bosom. From the city we hear of an engine constructed on a new system of propulsion, which has attracted particular attention.—What with the activity of the Executive Committee, and the labors of the Local Committees, popular excitement is fast rising to an extraordinary pitch.

### THE CLARET COUNTRY OF MEDOC.

About a couple of leagues north of Bordeaux commences the claret country *par excellence*—the district of Medoc. Its reputation is of comparatively recent growth. The early wines of Guienne, which were freely imported into England, were strong-bodied and rough-tasted products of the loamy banks of the Garonne. Until within a comparatively late period the land upon which the grapes of Chateau Margaux, Chateau Lafitte, and Chateau Latour now ripen, were deserts as arid and barren as the neighboring Landes. A work published at Bordeaux in 1593, and which is now unfortunately lost, professed to give "an historical description of the savage and solitary country of Medoc." Time rolled on, however; the demands of an increasing commerce planted with the precious shrub the wood and furze grown tract which separates the black loam of the Garonne from the hot sand of the Landes; and the marvellous properties of that gravelly region were soon tasted in the flavor of the wines which it produced. Vineyards multiplied rapidly: villages and hamlets rose thick over the green expanse; the rapidly enriched proprietors of the most favored tracts of land studded the country with their white trim chateau: and an active traffic in the soil soon parcelled out the greater portion of it into thousands of small interlacing and dovetailed estates. Numerous branches of subsidiary industry followed the march of the vineyards. Coopers poured into Medoc, establishing manufactories in every hamlet—while the cutting, shaping, and setting of the staves devoted to supporting the clusters of the precious fruit, furnished a distinct branch of industry. In the chalks cliffs by the rivers bank, cellars were dug—on the favorable points of the beach, piers and jetties were erected, from which to load the barges which carried rich freights to the wharfs of Bordeaux—and Medoc gradually became what it was—one of the most famous, industrious and populous districts of France.

### THE GLASS IN THE HYDE PARK BUILDING.

In the original design great care was taken in deciding on the material to be employed. In the first instance glass for the roof was specified, 24oz. to the foot; this, after due deliberation, not being deemed strong enough for ordinary contingencies, was increased to 30 oz. to the foot, the most competent judges being of opinion that thinner glass would not be safe. In adopting Mr Paxton's design one

would imagine the building committee considered that they were relieved from further responsibility, as the glass now specified for the structure is of the cheapest and commonest description, viz., sheet glass 16 oz. to the foot, or one-sixteenth of an inch thick—an article quite unfit for any roof, especially in sizes 49 inches by 10 inches such as are employed. There is not a similar instance of cheap glazing in any third class buildings to be found; the first respectable hail storm would demolish the whole, if not protected by the canvas outside, but which could not be permanently retained. The whole cost of the glass will be only £10,000. Surely out of £150,000 to be paid for the building, if it remain, something better could have been offered in the glass way.—*The Builder.*

### FEARFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

On Monday morning about half past six o'clock, a dreadful colliery explosion took place at Houghton Pit Colliery, near Sunderland the property of Lord Durham. At the time the melancholy catastrophe took place, there were in the mine 130 men and boys, about forty yards from the mouth of the shafts. Twenty six are killed, and many others very much burned. Mr Hunter, the foreman, was blown to pieces. It is not ascertained yet whether any more bodies are down in the mine, as the pits had fallen in in many places, and had it not been for one of these falls, every soul must have perished.

### ADVENTURE OF A SPANISH AERONAUT.

A Mr Orlandi made a balloon ascension at Barcelona on the 27th ult. As no news was obtained of him for two days, great uneasiness was felt lest he should have met with the same fate as Monsieur Urban. He had a very narrow escape of his life. The balloon was wafted over the snow covered mountains of Vallvidrera, where it was enveloped in a thick mist, now and then pierced by lightning. The intrepid aeronaut was covered with a thick coating of hail, that fell incessantly. Having ascended above the cloud he caught another glimpse of the sun, and seeing that the wind changed in a south-westerly direction, he resolved to descend to the earth, which he could not in the least distinguish. The wind drove the balloon with terrible velocity, and at last it fell into the sea, where M. Orlandi, holding fast by the ropes, managed to keep himself above the water during three hours, when he was washed on shore at ten at night, his balloon being carried out to sea again. After two hours spent on the cold sand he recovered his strength sufficiently to get up and look out for shelter. He was stopped by one of the coast guard, who had like to have shot him as a smuggler or bandit, but who recognised him as the man of the balloon, took him to a village, and put him to bed. A subscription has been set on foot for him, as with the loss of his balloon, he has been deprived of his only resource.

### THE MONSTER GLOBE.

We stated some time since that a monster globe was in course of construction by Mr Wyld, M. P., for the exhibition. We understand that considerable progress has been made in its preparation. The mountains will be in relief, the regions of ice will be shown in all their dazzling rainbow tints, and the eternal snow-line marked upon the giant mountain ranges. The courses of great rivers will be seen like threads of silver, the known volcanoes will be marked by bright red lights; the proportions of land to water, and population to territory, and the great trade districts and lines of commerce, the latter marked by moving ships will be observable at a glance. The globe will be 56 feet in diameter, made on ribs of zinc, each circle in four compartments, socketed together with copper. The expense of the globe, independent of the staircases and galleries, will not be less than from £4000 to £5000.

### BULLFIGHT EXTRAORDINARY.

A bullfight, worthy of the arena at Madrid or Seville, took place a short time ago near the Gruyere mountains, and is thus described by a Swiss journal:—Two fine herds, one of which belonged to the rich Commune of Montreaux (Vaud,) grazed upon neighboring pastures. For a long time the utmost harmony reigned between these two companies, which were only separated from each other by a low weak wall; when one day, being nearer together than usual, the two bulls, who played the part of sultans to the feminine followers, exhibited their jealousy of each other by foaming mouths and bellowing sounds bellicose. The herdsmen drove the cows to their stalls, and their lords soon followed. The next morning, however, when turned out again to graze, no sooner did the bulls perceive each other than the wall was cleared, and with a roar of defiance they rushed together. So great was the shock of their meeting, that they both staggered, and mutually paused; but for a moment, and they were engaged in a combat more fierce than the Alps had ever witnessed. The affrighted cows, uttering piteous cries, formed a capacious circle around the combatants. The herdsmen having sought in vain to separate them, stood spectators of the fight, and growing excited with the view of the fight, encouraged by their cries their favorites to renewed exertions. Blood flowed on both sides, and the sight but served to add greater fierceness to attack and repulse. For a long time the issue appeared doubtful, when the fight promised to come to a more terrible termination than had been anticipated. During the whole contest the animals had been momentarily approaching the edge of a precipice, and that they must be dashed to pieces seemed to be their inevitable fate. At length the bull of Montreaux was dragged to the edge of the rock, and by a desperate effort on the part of his adversary hurled over the side into the depth below: borne along by the violence of his effort the latter likewise fell over, but succeeded in getting a footing upon a ledge which jutted out a few feet down. By great efforts on the part of the herdsmen he was extricated from his novel position; but his opponent lay a mangled mass below.

### AN ELEPHANT TO THE RESCUE.

On the evening of Tuesday, during the Castle of Doningen feast, the keeper of Mr Batty's menagerie went into the area of the carriages in a state of intoxication, where he came in contact with one of the bears, and, after a considerable contest, the man and bear rolled down to the elephant, who seeing the danger of the keeper, immediately seized the bear by the chain with his trunk, by which the bear had been secured, and in a moment extricated the man from the rude grasp of brum and kept him suspended until the man had recovered himself from the struggle.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Sheldon, the Kenishtown miser, died last week, leaving £15,000. His room had not been cleaned for 20 years.

A French physician states that a vapor bath is an effectual cure for hydrophobia.

Parliament has been further prorogued from Thursday last to Tuesday the 17th December next.

An experiment just made for the purpose of ascertaining whether flax could be adapted to cotton machinery, has been perfectly successful.

Ministers intend, immediately after the re-assembling of parliament, to introduce a measure for the extension of the electoral qualification in cities boroughs, and counties.

The Emperor of Russia is about to have a tunnel bored under the Neva similar to that under the Thames.

The Bishop of Oxford has lately opened an establishment of Sisters of Mercy in his diocese.