

LIVERPOOL, MARCH 31.

DREADFUL EXPLOSION.—On Friday afternoon, about three o'clock, as the Commerce, Haddock, was lying off the Pile of Foudrey, between Ulverstone and Lancaster, with a cargo of general goods, chiefly consigned to persons at Liverpool, and among other things, 400 half barrels of gunpowder to Messrs. Dawson and Sutton. Some of the men on board discovered that owing to some cause at present unknown, part of the vessel had taken fire. At this period the master was not on board, but every exertion was used by the crew to extinguish the fire. Upon opening the hatches, however, the flames were discovered so near to the place, where the gunpowder was stowed, that it was considered impossible to save it. The only step left to the crew was to make their escape from the vessel as fast as possible. Providentially they were enabled to effect this in safety; but they had not left her more than five or six minutes when the vessel blew up with a tremendous explosion. At this time there were about twenty or thirty vessels lying not far from the Commerce, of these, fortunately, none sustained any damage, with the exception of one, which had the bottom of her boat broken to pieces by some of the falling fragments of timber. The Commerce was literally shivered to pieces, there not being a piece of timber left more than nine feet long. The cargo was also blown in almost every direction; and an anchor and part of a chain cable were blown over another vessel to the distance of 200 yards. In the place where the Commerce was lying, a cavity was sunk in the sand, to the depth of 12 or 14 feet. The above accident will probably account for what the inhabitants of Lancaster, Preston, and their neighbourhoods, supposed to be the shock of an earthquake, which occurred about a quarter past three o'clock on the same day. "We derive the following particulars (says the Preston Pilot) from a gentleman who happened to be going up the hill near Walton Church at the time:—He says, that he very plainly felt the earth move under him, and at the same time heard a hissing sort of noise in the air; or, as he describes it, a similar sound to that made of steam when escaping from one of the large boilers. A cottager near the church ran out of the house much alarmed in consequence of the violent shaking of various articles of furniture; and a man delving in one of the gardens near there, describes his having visibly felt the ground shake under him, accompanied by a similar kind of noise to that heard by an informant. The doors, windows, &c. of various houses in the town were very much shook; the inmates, in a great number of instances, running out in expectation of some calamity happening. This was the case more particularly in Fishergate, Winckley square, &c., and we have just learnt that the shock was plainly felt in Penwortham Lodge and the neighbourhood. The governor of the work-house, which lies to the north east of the town, says that it was felt there, and caused considerable alarm amongst those in the house. We have made inquiry from the driver of the return-chaise from Garstang, whether any thing of the kind had been felt there, and he informs us that it had, about the time mentioned above.

The men say that in a few seconds after they left her, the unfortunate ship seemed lifted by her knees out of the water, and blew up momentarily afterwards with a most terrific explosion. The shock they experienced they described as dreadful: their boat was lifted out of the water, and but for the circumstance of the ship being to windward, they must have perished. They made for the shore, which was lined

by hundreds who had witnessed the accident from the land, and many of whom were seriously bruised from being dashed to the ground by the force of the concussion produced by the explosion. The vessel has blown almost to atoms, scarcely a vesige of her timbers or cargo being recovered; and it appears, from the circumstance of there being but one explosion, that the powder must have ignited in several places at once.

The noise at Peel is described as most appalling, and to have exceeded any thing ever imagined. In detailing this account it is gratifying to have to state that no lives were lost, and it was indeed a providential circumstance that the fire was discovered so early in the day; had it been in the night, in all human probability every soul on board would have perished.

The damage done to the houses at Peel Castle Beckborough, and along the immediate vicinity of the coast, is very great; several were blown down, and the mischief is generally experienced.

By the arrivals from the south, the shock it is said, was felt very forcibly at Liverpool, and other places adjacent. It is there also attributed to the partial shock of an earthquake.

THE REFORMATION IN DUBLIN.

(From the Dublin evening Mail.)

DUBLIN, MONDAY, March 19.—The glorious work which has been in progress through the Provinces, and which has been some time working its silent way in the metropolis, has been now openly and publicly commenced. It being generally understood, that his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin was to preach in the Cathedral of Christ Church yesterday, and that the subject selected for the occasion was the doctrine of Popery, public anxiety was excited in no ordinary degree. At an early hour yesterday morning all the avenues leading to the great entrance of the Cathedral were crowded; and in a few minutes after the doors were opened, that portion of the sacred edifice appropriated to the public was filled almost to suffocation. At 20 minutes after 11, the Archbishop left the Chapter-room, a procession having been formed by the Dignitaries of the Church and Prebendaries of the Cathedral, accompanied by a vast number of Clergymen in their gowns, and in a few minutes after his Grace ascended the throne, divine service commenced. The body of the Cathedral at this time presented a frightful appearance. The whole aisle was a close wedged mass of living matter. An occasional complaint was uttered in a tone sufficiently loud to be heard throughout the building; and sometimes the shriek of a female suffering from heat and pressure broke upon the ear; but, all things considered, it was truly wonderful to behold the patient endurance with which this immense congregation bore the annoyance they must have suffered. At five minutes after one the Archbishop ascended the pulpit, and so intensely wound up were the feelings of the congregation, that not a breath was heard during the delivery of his discourse, which lasted for an hour and seventeen minutes. His Grace took his text from the 1st of Paul to the Corinthians, chap. iii. v. 11.—"Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

After sermon had been concluded, his Grace, accompanied by several Clergymen, approached the Communion Table. In a pew to the left were seated the Rev. Mr. Murphy, late a Roman Catholic Priest of the Order of St. Augustine, residing at New Ross, County of Wexford, accompanied by his father, mother, and other members of his family, who expressed a wish to abjure the errors of Popery, and to conform to the Protestant religion.

having been communicated to the Archbishop and attending Clergy, Archdeacon Torrens advanced to the rails of the Communion Table. The following formula was pronounced by him in an audible and distinct voice, and responded to with firmness and evident sincerity by those to whom it was addressed.

Good people, his grace the Archbishop has given his approbation to the receiving those Converts into the communion of our church; nevertheless, if there be any of you who know any impediment or notable crime on account of which the profession they are about to make should not be looked upon as sincere, let him come forth, in the name of God, and shew what is the crime or impediment.

The Archdeacon said to the Converts— I require and charge you, as you shall answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if you be not convinced in your conscience of the corruption and false worship of the Church of Rome, and if you be not firmly persuaded that the doctrine, communion, and worship of the Protestant Church is the true and safe way to salvation, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, you declare the same, and go not on to mock the Almighty by pretending to a persuasion which in truth you have not.

The Converts answered— We solemnly profess, in the presence of God, that we come here in sincerity and truth.

Archdeacon—That this congregation here present may be fully satisfied that you are well acquainted with the doctrines which you renounce, and also with those which you come to profess, I ask you—Do you utterly renounce the sacrifice of the Mass, as offered up to God in the Church of Rome, and do trust only in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, made upon the Cross, once for all, and do you own no other merits whereby man is saved but his only?—Converts—We do.

Archdeacon—Do you reject the doctrine of Purgatory and the practice of praying to the Virgin Mary, or to Saints, or Angels, or to Images and relics?—Converts—We do.

Archdeacon—Do you believe that in the Holy Communion there is no Transubstantiation of Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?—Converts—We do not believe that any such change is made.

Archdeacon—Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ?—Converts—We are so persuaded.

A fervent prayer was then addressed to Almighty God to strengthen the parties with his holy Spirit; preserve and continue them faithful members of his Church, to the glory of his holy name, and to their everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Archbishop then stood up, and laying his hand upon the head of the convert, said—In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we receive thee into the communion of the true Catholic Church established in this realm.—Amen.—Now unto God's grace and mercy we commit thee—the Lord bless thee and keep thee—the Lord be gracious unto thee—the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace, both now and evermore.

The Converts then received the Holy Communion.

The crowd outside the Cathedral was tremendous; and from the savage yells and diabolical threats of some of the mob, serious apprehensions were entertained for the lives of the Rev. Mr. Murphy, and his family, had they ventured out. His

amid the enthusiastic cheers of the loyal Protestants by whom it was surrounded, accompanied by the more distant shouts of disapprobation uttered by those set on by the Priests.

SPREAD OF THE REFORMATION.—The Dublin Evening Mail of Monday gives the following statement of the number of persons who recanted in Dublin and places within 50 miles, in the course of Sunday last:—In Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, seven persons—in St. James's Church, four persons; two others were rejected on account of the lateness of the application—in St. George's Church, Dublin, two persons.—in Arya Church, county Cavan, six persons—in Killishandra Church, same County, four persons—in Cavan Church, one woman—in the Church of Ahasara, County of Galway, twelve persons—in the Church of Naraghmore, County Kildare, two persons—in the Parish Church of Lucan, one man—in Ballybay Church, County Monaghan, one man—in Powers-Court Church, County Wicklow, one man.

The Catholics have their list of conversions too. A letter, published by Dr. Doyle, states, that in the returns from 37 (out of 45) unions of parishes, he finds the number of converts from the Protestant to the Catholic faith to be 248 within the last twelve months. He adds, that this rather exceeds the average number of such converts for preceding years.

NEW-YORK, April, 1.

Deaths by the bursting of a Steam Boiler. On Thursday evening, the 22d March, the boiler of the Steam Boat Oliver Ellsworth exploded, while on the passage from Hartford to this city, and we have to lament that Mr. Stephen Lockwood, merchant, of this city, and one of the firemen named Andros, were so dreadfully injured, that they have since died of their wounds. The Engineer, Mr. Penfield, was also so badly wounded that it is feared he will not recover. Messrs. Erastus Goodwin, and Ashel Hinckly, of Hartford, Stephen B. Goodwin of Weathersfield—and two other passengers who came on board at East Haddam, were injured, and were taken on board the steam boat Macdonough then bound up to Hartford.

Three other passengers, and Mr. Wilcox, steward of the boat, who were slightly injured, together with most of the other passengers, arrived here on Saturday forenoon, by the New-London steam boat Long Branch. The Macdonough arrived here yesterday morning with intelligence that Mr. Lockwood, of whose recovery some faint hopes were entertained, had expired the preceding evening, and having his body on board.—An unusual degree of sympathy and commiseration is manifested for the melancholy fate of this much respected citizen.

The accident happened about half past 7 in the evening, when the boat was about 8 miles from Saybrook, steering for the Long Island shore to avoid a heavy sea and head wind. The engine was in full motion, when the main flue of the boiler collapsed and burst out the furnace head.

We learn that the unfortunate Mr. Lockwood was on deck passing the engineer's room at the time of the explosion, and was not only badly scalded, but inhaled some of the steam.

Some of the persons injured were in the cabin, and suffered in attempting to come out through the companion way, by coming in contact with the hot steam.

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