

The Congress on prison discipline, held at Frankfort, has closed its first session. The following are the heads of the resolutions come to:—Solitary confinement ought to be applied to all prisoners before trial, to prevent their being corrupted by communication with the old offenders. Solitary confinement ought to be applied to all convicts in general, with such aggravations or ameliorations as are required or warranted by the nature of their offences, the degree of punishment adjudged, and the conduct of the prisoner while under sentence; so that each may be employed in some useful work, and have sufficient exercise daily in the open air; that he participates in religious, moral, and scholastic instruction; be duly visited by the minister of his religion, and by medical man.

At a recent meeting in Liverpool, Dr. Daly, Bishop of Cashel, stated that nine out of twelve prelates, and 1,700 out of 2,000 of the clergy of Ireland, had entered their protests against the national scheme of education.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.—At the annual meeting of the Ripon Diocesan Church Building Society, held on the 9th instant, the Bishop of Ripon announced that a gentleman, who will not permit his name to be announced, proposes to appropriate £10,000 towards the building of a church in Leeds; and in all probability, before he has completed the parsonage and the school, and provided for the endowment, he will spend £20,000, but he has pledged himself to the expenditure of £10,000.

HUDSON'S BAY PRODUCE.—The annual arrival of furs, skins, &c., from the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, has just taken place, by the vessel Prince Albert, which has arrived in the London Docks from the district named, extensively laden with furs and skins of the most valuable description, all of which are now free of duty, for the ensuing winter season, in addition to a large quantity of feathers, oil, sea-horse teeth, whalebone, and other productions of that northern region.

Our readers are aware that a vigorous struggle has for some time been maintained by the christian people of Scotland, led by Sir Andrew Agnew, against the growing Sabbath profanation by railways. We are happy to say that there is now some prospect of success, at least to a great extent, in that holy enterprise. This success is likely to be secured by means the most singular and unexpected, proving the vast importance of calm and believing perseverance in the cause of God, and that he can easily defeat the counsels of all his enemies.

The directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway made themselves singularly prominent, in trampling upon the divine commandment, and setting at defiance the christian feelings and remonstrances of the people. With a mixture of infidel bitterness and aristocratic pride, they contemptuously scorned every exposition, although proceeding from hundreds of thousands. And it is most singular, that in the holy providence of God, the very means by which they maintained themselves for a season in their heaven-defying position, have been turned against themselves, and been instrumental in thrusting them ignominiously from their places. It was by English proxies that they maintained themselves against the loud and indignant outcry of Scottish Christianity. They smiled contemptuously at Sir Andrew Agnew; for, lo! they could overwhelm him in a moment by English proxies. By-and-by, a singular change takes place. The English shareholders are dissatisfied, and the proxies come down in full force, declare the whole committee a body of "imbeciles," and drive them scornfully from their places, substituting in their stead such men as Mr. Hog, of Newliston, and Mr. Henry Dunlop. Coupled with this, Sir Andrew Agnew is assured that the Sabbath desecration shall be brought to an end;—and the names above mentioned are a sufficient guarantee for the fulfilment of this pledge. The whole result is most cheering. It would look like a dream, it is so singular, did one not know that the wise are often taken in their own craftiness, and that wicked men are often made to fall "into the pit which themselves have digged." The old committee have been driven from their places amidst the cordial congratulations of all christian men, and we trust that, in the seclusion of private life, they will have grace to repent of their public transgressions.

The advantage, however, must be energetically followed up, and another striking event in providence seems to call aloud for vigorous action. The directors of the North British Railway outdid the profanity of their Edinburgh and Glasgow instructors. Laying aside all shame, and only impelled by the naked spirit of covetousness, they deluged the neighbourhood of Edinburgh with a flood of Sabbath profanation. They also shut their ears to all remonstrances, and for a time seemed to prosper in their iniquity. The shares rapidly rose in the market, and all was joy and congratulation amongst the Sabbath-breakers. But the hand of God has been signally stretched out against them also. By a sudden visitation of Providence, a great proportion of their property, more than equal to all their ungodly gains, has been destroyed—their shares have sunk as in a moment in the market, and all their calculations are covered with confusion. Will this not make them think? It is striking that the whole damage done is to property—there is none to life. The blow is struck just where it might be expected to be most vitally felt. Let the friends of the Sabbath, therefore, strike in at this favourable moment, urge upon the seared consciences of the directors a sense of their guilt, and of the necessity of

a change of course, if they expect the blessing of God: and, after the success at Glasgow, let no one for a moment despair; nay, let the war be carried into England, and let us seek to arrest the stream at the fountain-head, by strengthening the hands of the friends of the Sabbath there.

PUBLIC WORKS.—THE FAMINE.—The Board of Works has now 20,000 men employed in the most distressed baronies in the south and west of Ireland, and every day this number will be augmented until—if the demands upon it continue—300,000 shall be engaged over the face of the country. The Board actually contemplates this huge demand for public labour and public money.

THE LIVERPOOL CUSTOMS' REVENUE.—Amidst the complaints of declining commerce which reach us from every quarter, it is gratifying to find that the Port of Liverpool still keeps on the even tenor of her way, improving her position. The accounts for the present quarter, ended the 10th instant, give an increase over the corresponding three months of 1845, of £118,295.—*Liverpool Mail.*

THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY.—In consequence of representations having been made to the Commander in Chief that obstructions were at times occasioned, and that accidents were likely to occur, from the circumstance of the Household Cavalry, owing to military regulation and practice, not invariably marching on the near side of the road, his grace has very considerably ordered that in future they shall uniformly march on their proper side. This will prevent the inconvenience which from the number of vehicles constantly moving at different rates of speed on the roads about London, it is impossible otherwise to obviate.

WELLINGTON STATUE.—The upper portion of the scaffolding around the statue is now so far removed, that it can be plainly seen from Grosvenor-place. The body of the statue to the horse is quite free from all scaffolding, while the intricate portions have been taken away from the lower, so that a fair view of the horse may be had.

REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—On Wednesday the metropolitan bakers reduced the price of bread respectively from 10d. to 9½d. and from 8½d. to 8d. per four pound loaf.—*Globe.*

CURIOUS HOAX.—THE FACULTY AT FAULT.—Last week the utmost excitement was created at Stratford le-Bow, by the trick of a wag well known for his successful practical jokes in that vicinity. Before the formation of railroads, Stratford was a place famous for fattening geese, the tongues of which are considered a great delicacy by those who have tried them as a culinary article. To the extent of about three inches towards the point, the tongue of the goose has a most perfect resemblance to the finger of a delicate human hand, with a nail most beautifully marked and defined. Our wag observing this, by a little paring and dressing, took two tongues of unequal size, which he folded up in paper, and dropped into a cheese-monger's shop, where they were shortly afterwards discovered, and information was given to the police, that two human fingers, apparently belonging to a young woman not accustomed to labour, and about 15 or 16 years old, had been found under circumstances of strong suspicion. Almost all the medical men between Stratford and Bow being consulted on the subject, decided that the tongues were the fingers of a young woman, and information to that effect being conveyed to the head office, the police were employed to unravel the mystery. Inquiries were made at the various railway stations in the neighbourhood, and also at a large silk factory in the vicinity of Stratford, to ascertain whether any recent accident had occurred which could lead to a conclusion as to the mutilated members, but no information could be had. At length one of the constables questioned a postman on the subject, and exhibited the supposed human members, when the latter instantly pronounced them to be nothing but the tongues of geese. The constable was incredulous, but on seeing another veritable specimen produced he became a believer. At first, the force were much offended at having their ingenuity and activity put to such a ridiculous test, but on remembering that the doctors, who should be the best judges of the matter, were all at fault, they joined in the laugh which the joke occasioned. The proprietor of the King's Arms was the greatest gainer by the jest, as thousands flocked to his house to see the "mutilated members."

The celebrated blind traveller, Lieutenant Holman, returned to this country on Thursday evening, after an absence of upwards of six years, during which time he visited Portugal and Spain, Algeria and all the places in the Mediterranean, penetrated Egypt and Syria, crossed the desert to Jerusalem, and finally made an extensive tour through the least frequented parts of the north-east of Europe including Hungary, Transylvania, Servia, Bosnia, &c. As on all former occasions this extraordinary man travelled perfectly alone. We are happy to say that he has returned in excellent health and spirits.

Joseph Hume is now 70 years old, Sir W. Molesworth 36, Lord Morpeth 44, Daniel O'Connell 72, Sir Robert Peel 58, Lord Stanley 46, Colonel T. P. Thompson 63, Dr. Bowring 54, Sir James Graham 54, Earl Grey 44, Lord Brougham 67, the Duke of Devonshire 56, Earl Fitzwilliam 60, Lord Lyndhurst 74, Lord George Bentinck 44, Duke of Richmond 53, the Duke of Rutland 68, the Duke of Wellington 77.