FENIANS AND DEATH OF
ERAL O'NEILL.
MONTREAL, JUNE 2 (NOON).
f the *Montreal Herald* gives the
the transactions at St. Albans,
s:—The first of the Fenians, 400
the morning train without arms.
ent east to Fairfield, where there
ers. On Friday night about 50
turday morning about 400 more
unarmed. A number of cases of
rom Friday to Saturday morning
under the direction of the United
ded by United States regulars, to
arms, and more Fenians are ex-
nd will be dealt with accordingly,
e fully on the alert and are now
ient number of troops.
treal is anticipated; hence nearly
is concentrated at St. John's.
disabled by a fall from his horse
oped he will be in the field in a
er of suspected strangers are in
still fighting at Ridgway, seven
Erie and ten miles from Port
ral miles from any telegraph

THREE P.M.
e fallen back on Port Colborne.
h regulars, is moving towards the
a. The Fenians are endeavouring
American troops are preventing

SIX P.M.
and surrounded by 16th and 47th
nteers. It is stated that O'Neill,
ad been shot. It is reported that
fficers of the Toronto 10th Royals
action in which the Fenians were
nians fought desperately. 1,000
Lowry left Toronto to-day. The
ing in from the country. Medical
here to the scene of action.

OF THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

the most important passages of
to to the Austrian people, issued

n and southern frontiers of the
he armies of two allied enemies
e intention of shaking the foun-
ion as an European Power. To
s Austria given any cause for
tion of the blessings of peace to
ria has always been regarded by
st and most sacred of my duties
one I have always considered
fully to fulfil. But one of the
s no pretext necessary to justify
der of a portion of the Austrian
eyes of that Power a favourable
ient cause for war. Two years ago
Prussia, and a part of my beloved
drawn to the coast of the North
ith the Prussian troops (against
arrayed as enemies) to preserve
treaty, to protect a threatened
, to confine the misery of an un-
narrowest limits, and to obtain a
peace necessary for the welfare of
and Europe. Austria sought no
no part of the blame for the sad
mplications which, had Prussia's
ually disinterested, would never
hich have been brought about for
t of selfish objects, and are there-
le of a peaceful solution by my

en mentions the course of the ne-
preservation of peace, which were
Prussia and subsequently with the
and then enumerates the acts of
by Prussia—viz., the entry of her
n, the dissolution of the Estates
Imperial Governor of the Duchy,
by which the Prussian troops,
in numbers, forced the Austrians
her declares that Prussia tore
f German unity by declaring her
Confederation, and by proceeding
against the Sovereigns who re-
he Bund. The manifesto then

most fatal of wars, a war of Ger-
ans, has become unavoidable. For
h it will entail upon families, dis-
I make those who have provoked it
the tribunal of posterity and of the
al God. I advance to the conflict
which is afforded by a just cause,
ess of the power which exists in a
prince and people are penetrated
the same thought—namely, the
and with fresh and unfailing cour-
f my armed and valiant soldiers,
gainst which the power of Austria's
ttered, as well as at the sight of
s, who look up to me, united, self-
lved. The princes and peoples of
e of the danger which threatens
dependence, and not only ourselves
n brethren of the Confederation are
curity of those objects which all
o defend. We have been absolutely
arms. Since, then, in the midst of
which I had undertaken, with the
sis of a Constitution which should
y of the whole empire and its posi-
er, my Sovereign duties have com-
the entire army upon a war foot-
n up arms, and now we must not
hem down until we have secured
federate German States their free
nt and their rightful position in

tenced to Imprisonment for
f Assizes of the Hérault has con-
med Vitalis to perpetual imprison-
., and degradation from the Legion
g forged commercial bills and used
nts, knowing them to be so, when
st of judge in the Imperial Court

n Epsom Downs.—Mr. Hedg-
person convicted of stealing £7
at Epsom races, has just received
the Crown and been released from
lication to Sir George Grey was
nd that there was no intention to
Hodgson, believing he had a right
t his money back, did that which
trespass, instead of felony. This
memorial, signed by eleven of the
"it was and is our opinion that in
om the prosecutor, Thomas Hodg-
wn, believing he had a right to it,
intend feloniously to take it."
er, 60, a decent-looking woman,
Central Criminal Court for the
Helen Ann Venables. This case
m Friday, in consequence of the
dical man. The prisoner was a
appeared to be no doubt that the
married woman, advanced in life,
even children, being in the family
e prisoner with a view to procure
e infant. At the sitting of the court
Brown, the surgeon, was examined,
ed to show that the deceased at the
declaration was under the convic-
n a dying condition. Mr. Justice
n this evidence the statement was
rected an acquittal. The prisoner
Caroline Forester, who had been
en given in charge to the jury for
the deceased. Mr. Daly declined
e, and a verdict of "Not Guilty"
en.

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up, for children teething, is per-
produces natural, quiet sleep, by
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as a button." It cures wind colic,
bowels, gives rest to the mother,
ild. It has been 30 years in use
ow sold in this country by all the
dealers at 1s. 1½d. per bottle."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord Ebury moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty for the appointment of a commission to revise the lectionary of the Established Church, and also to consider what steps should be taken to obviate the evils complained of as arising from the compulsory and almost indiscriminate use of the burial service.

The Archbishop of Canterbury objected to the motion, on the ground that it would open a subject, the settlement of which was surrounded with difficulties scarcely capable of solution.

After a discussion of some length, in the course of which Lord Russell objected to the commission, on the ground that matters of this kind had better be left to the ecclesiastical authorities, as they were only calculated to lead to irritating controversies if otherwise considered,

On a division, the motion was negatived by 66 to 20.

Several bills (amongst them the Exchequer and Audit Department Bill, which was read a third time and passed) were advanced a stage; and

The House adjourned at 20 minutes past nine o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Kinglake, in reference to the state of continental Europe, said that it was possible that war had already broken out; for it appeared that the Austrian commander had convoked the States of Holstein at Altona, and probably the Prussian commander would interfere to prevent the choice of the Duke of Augustenberg. There was an unveiled desire on the part of Prussia to obtain the Elbe Duchies, and of Italy to obtain Venetia. Watching her opportunity, Italy had entered into a treaty with Prussia against Austria, without there being a quarrel between her and Austria. He did not blame Italy for seizing this opportunity, but that was a very different thing from approving the conduct of other Powers which had tempted her to take a course likely to disturb the peace of Europe. He alleged that England had given indirect encouragement to Italy as to her claim on Venetia, and pointed out that the position now held by Austria was justifiable, and that it was not possible to encourage the notion of change of territory. He put a question as to the negotiations which had been going on, and the part that England had taken in them.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that as far as her Majesty's Government's information went, it was not easy to have settled the German question but for the Italian question, for the duchies were as much a matter in dispute as Italy. It was the revocation of the question of the duchies to the Diet and the convention of the State of Holstein were the immediate causes of quarrel. It was not easy to assume that Italy had adopted the position of a disturbing Power. As to encouragement to Italy by England, none had been given to her by her Majesty's Government, nor had the Government, as a Government, given any advice to Austria as to the cession of Venetia; and as to indirect influence used to that end, there was no doubt that that was the long-expressed opinion of successive Governments in this country, and especially of the present Government, and from that opinion they were not prepared to recede, however painful and undesirable it might be to express such an opinion at this moment. While refraining from going further into the questions raised, he would say that Italy could only be entitled to Venetia on the ground of the wishes and feelings of that province itself. He feared there was no hope that peace would be secured. After the preliminary objections of Austria there could have been no practical benefit in pressing on a conference, and as to advice to the disputing Powers, it was given generally, if not altogether, in conjunction with other Powers.

After some remarks by Mr. D. Griffith, Mr. B. Cochrane, and Mr. Sandford,

Sir G. Bowyer wished to know if her Majesty's Government, besides expressing an opinion to Austria as to the advisability of ceding Venetia, had given any advice on that point to the Court of Florence. The King of Sardinia (he still called him so) had no more right to Venetia than he had to Middlesex; and he should be advised to give up the kingdom of the Two Sicilies which he had usurped.

Sir R. Peel said the point of advice having been given to Austria to cede Venetia had been evaded by Mr. Gladstone; and he was mistaken when he said that any right of Italy to Venetia was founded on traditions of the past; for there was no tradition which connected that province with the King of Sardinia.

After some observations from Lord R. Montagu, Mr. Laing, Mr. D. Seymour, Major Walker, and Lord Cranborne,

Mr. Layard said no advice had been given by her Majesty's Government to Italy to go to war with Austria, but exactly the contrary. He contended that the greatest improvement had taken place in Italy, and expressions of discontent which were publicly uttered proved the freedom of that country.

The debate was continued by Colonel Percy Herbert, Mr. C. Bentinck, Mr. Powell, Lord C. Hamilton, and several other hon. members, and the subject then dropped.

The House went into committee on the Representation of the People Bill, resuming at clause 4.

Mr. Hunt moved an amendment, the effect of which was that the county franchise should be estimated at the rateable and not the rental value.

After some discussion,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said before the Government was fully informed they were inclined to a rating franchise, but it was found that a rental possessed all the advantages and none of the disadvantages of a rating franchise. If the system was established in counties it must be adopted in towns, and the effect would be that, owing to the inequality of rating in unions, there might be actually different franchises in one borough. The true test was the capacity of the occupier to pay a certain rent, while the rateable value was the value as it had to do with the landlord.

After debate for some time,

Colonel Gilpin moved that the chairman report progress.

On a division the motion was rejected by 303 to 254, being 49 for the Government.

Colonel S. Knox moved that "the chairman do leave the chair."

An animated conversational debate followed.

On a division the motion was negatived by 254 to 212.

A motion was then made to "report progress," which was not resented, and the House resumed.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at a quarter to two o'clock.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Lord Chancellor laid on the table a bill to provide for a revision of the statutes from 1668 to 1770, the period at which a measure of Lord Campbell's had taken up the task.

Several other bills were advanced a stage.

The Marquis of Westmeath presented petitions complaining of Romish ceremonials in the Church of England; called attention to certain novel and superstitious ceremonials in several dioceses; and inquired of the right rev. the bishops of those dioceses why these unauthorised ceremonials had been permitted to take place contrary to the solemn declarations of the clergy not to use any other forms than those prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer in the public services of the church; and called the attention of the Lord Chancellor to an advertisement in certain papers, that on Thursday, the 14th inst., the offertories in St. Alban's, Holborn, and twenty other churches in London were to be devoted to what is called "The English Church Union Defence Fund," that is, a fund for defending clergymen, if cited before the courts of law on account of adopting practices considered by the ecclesiastical authorities to be illegal; and inquired of his lordship whether such an application of the offerings would not be a misappropriation of church funds.

Scarcely any of the bishops remained in the House, but a discussion ensued, in the course of which

The Earl of Longford said that the right rev. prelates had exercised a wise discretion in staying away, and he wished he had done so also.

The Lord Chancellor declined to answer a question on a subject on which he might have to decide judicially.

The subject then dropped.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock.

In the House of Commons, a long discussion took place on the consideration of the Gaslight and Coke Company Bill, by which it is proposed to erect gas works in the vicinity of Victoria-park.

On a division the bill was carried by 169 to 138.

Mr. H. Vivian moved for a commission to investigate the probable quantity of coal contained in the coal-fields of Great Britain, and to report on the quantity of such coal which may reasonably be expected to be available for use. The hon. gentleman at length, in detail, and with considerable statistical statement, argued out a proposition he laid down, that there was an ample supply of coal in this country for many generations to come.

Mr. Liddell seconded the motion.

Mr. M. Torrens moved as an amendment that a special report as to the extent, quality, and cost of working coal in the United Kingdom be directed to be made by the persons charged with the conduct of the geological survey, and that the same be laid before Parliament with the least possible delay. He advocated strongly an inquiry, which would have the effect of settling men's minds on this important subject.

Sir G. Grey said the Government were prepared to acknowledge the importance of the question by granting the inquiry which was sought. It would be inconvenient to withdraw a large number of the staff of the geological survey from their special pursuit in order to take up the proposed inquiry; and it was thought best to associate some of the members of that body with other scientific and practical men in a commission which would be issued.

Sir R. Peel, Sir G. Bowyer, and Mr. Samuelson spoke in approval of the commission.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said though he believed that no commission could lead up to certainty on the subject of the duration of our coal supply, yet it would inevitably furnish evidence which ought to be obtained, and this, he thought, could best be obtained by a mixture of the scientific and ordinary elements in the commission.

The motion was agreed to.

Sir C. O'Loghlen obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate and improve the tenure of land in Ireland between landlord and tenant, by introducing a system of leases in place of the existing tenancies from year to year.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, on going into committee on the Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill,

Mr. Neate moved that the terms of the royal commission on oaths, declarations, or subscriptions now required to be taken may be extended, so that it may include an inquiry into those taken in the universities either of Oxford or Cambridge, as a condition for admission to the governing bodies of either of such universities, or to the headships or fellowships of any of the colleges thereof, or that another commission may be appointed to make such inquiry.

Sir G. Grey said that it was not within the scope and intention of those who appointed the commission on oaths and declarations to include precisely the tests now under discussion; but it was, nevertheless, quite competent to inquire into the declarations taken in the universities, but not with a view to their abolition, for that would be too large a power in regard to a subject which ought to be dealt with by legislation. But on the whole he thought it undesirable to assent to the amendment.

It was withdrawn.

Mr. P. Wyndham, believing that the religious teaching of the university would not be interfered with by the operation of this bill, should support it.

The House then went into committee.

Sir W. Heathcote moved an amendment in the first clause, the object of which was to assimilate the practice in Oxford to that which exists in Cambridge, namely, that the degree of master of arts should not necessarily, and without the subscription of the usual declarations, create eligibility for membership of the convocation; but enabling such masters of arts to preside over private halls.

Mr. Coleridge opposed the amendment.

After observations from Mr. B. Hope,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the amendment, which proposed to assimilate the state of things in Oxford to that which existed now in Cambridge, could not be treated as an inconsiderable advance. In regard to interference on behalf of the proposal by the Government, he was unable to speak for the Government; but he would say that the settlement of the question involved was one worthy of being undertaken by a Government. It was desirable to do this by a comprehensive measure, which should extend to colleges as well as universities, for it was impossible to draw a distinction between the religious teaching of colleges and universities. Apart from the desire, in which he participated, to extend the benefits of university education as widely as possible it was indispensable to consider the feelings of the parents of England—of that class which send their sons to universities, and which is uniform in its religious feeling; and he deprecated the nibbling by Parliament at the principles on which university education is founded. All legislative change in regard to universities should be decided, but also as rare as possible. It was said that after giving the dissenter his degree, it was invidious to exclude him from convocation; but was it not more invidious, especially looking to the nature of the reward and its emoluments, to exclude him from a fellowship? and this distinction was not touched by the bill. He was of opinion that everything in the way of honour, emolument, and government should be given to the dissenter, so far as was consistent with the maintenance of the religious teaching of the university.

Mr. G. Duff should have wished to have heard the speech just delivered from the lips of any other person than the leader of the Liberal party. He stated that for some time past a feeling had sprung up in Oxford that it was desirable to remove some of the disabilities which narrowed the sphere of education in the university, and the present and similar bills had been the result.

Sir S. Northcote supported the amendment.

Mr. Evans expressed his disappointment at finding Mr Gladstone opposing this very moderate measure of university reform, though he was not altogether surprised at it.

After further debate,

Lord J. Manners made some vehement remarks on the course taken by Mr. Gladstone in temporarily taking the Wednesday leadership from the Home Secretary, in order to make a powerful speech against this bill, and then taking his departure with an intention not to vote at all.

Sir G. Grey said that the Home Secretary had no special commission to lead the House on Wednesdays; and, as regarded the subjects discussed on those days, they were of such a character that members of all political opinions differed upon them, and that difference extended to members of Government of both parties. He supported the bill.

After observations in reply to the speeches delivered from Sir W. Heathcote and Mr. Coleridge,

On a division the amendment was negatived—245 to 172.

The clause was agreed to, as were the others, and the House resumed.

Mr. C. Barry moved the second reading of the Poor-law Relief (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to alter the system of rating for the relief of the poor, by substituting assessment by unions for that by electoral districts.

Mr. Gregory moved the rejection of the bill, contending that the circumstances of the two countries were so different, that it was not politic or expedient to apply the same principle of rating to Ireland as that which prevailed in England.

Lord C. Hamilton was speaking at a quarter to six, when the debate was perforce adjourned.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned shortly before six o'clock.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the second reading of the Right of Dramatising Works of Fiction Bill was negatived by 89 to 11.

The Ecclesiastical Commission Bill was taken in committee.

The Labouring Classes Dwellings (Ireland) Bill and the Fishery Piers and Harbours (Ireland) Bill passed through committee.

The Drainage Maintenance (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Grand Juries Presentment (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at five minutes past eight o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Lord Proby, Treasurer of the Household, brought up the answer of her Majesty to the joint addresses of both Houses, praying for commissions to inquire into corrupt practices at elections in certain boroughs—Lancaster, Reigate, Totnes, and Yarmouth—signifying her Majesty's assent thereto.

In committee on the Reform Bill, the discussion on Mr. Hunt's amendment on clause 4, to make the £14 county franchise a rating instead of a rental franchise, was resumed by

Colonel L. Lindsay, who argued in favour of the justice and convenience of a rating franchise, especially in regard to registration, the rate-book practically forming the registry.

Mr. Du Cane argued that a rating franchise was a more constitutional suffrage than a rental one; while the payment of rates was a guarantee of the respectability of the tenant.

Mr. Ayrton taunted the Opposition with not confining themselves to the propositions before them in committee, but endeavouring to talk out Reform altogether. He protested against the amendment, as an attempt to reverse the decision to which the House had come adopting the £14 franchise.

Mr. Goschen said it had been alleged that the new electoral statistics showed that the number of occupiers between £50 and £14 was much larger than was supposed. But the calculation on which the amendment was based was erroneous by 70,000 voters; the occupiers who were also owners not having been deducted. He also argued that too great a distinction had been taken between what was called the urban county voters living in small towns and the county voters proper, for the feelings and interests of the so-called urban voters were more rural than really urban.

After some observations from Mr. Henley, the Solicitor-General, and Sir P. Burrell,

On a division, the amendment was negatived by 280 to 273.

Mr. B. Stanhope moved to omit section 3 of clause 4, which makes the qualifying premises a house or other building which, either alone or with land held by the occupier, is of the value of £14, provided, when the premises consist partly of a house or other building, and partly of land, it must either be the dwelling-house of the occupier, or must itself be of the clear yearly value of £6. He contended that this was an alteration of the county franchise so as to make it consist in the main of a house, instead of land alone being the qualification.

After some debate,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the object which was had in view in proposing this portion of the clause was to prevent, as in the case of boroughs, fictitious votes, by insisting that any building upon any land which contributed to give a vote should be of an actual annual value. Though he was of opinion that there was value in this part of the clause it was not so great as to render it necessary to insist on it; he was prepared to give it up on condition that some provision should be made for bona fide occupation.

Lord J. Manners, nevertheless, argued against the proposition which had been ceded.

Some discussion ensued, in the course of which,

Mr. White signified his intention of bringing on a division against the amendment, and he hoped that the Government would be put into a minority.

Mr. Osborne counselled the giving up of crotchets by those who desired to carry the bill, and urged that no division should be taken on the amendment.

Mr. Disraeli said as to preventing fictitious votes he would fully co-operate with the Government.

An animated discussion followed, a number of members speaking very briefly, but with some heat, Mr. Bright and Mr. Bouverie in particular protesting against the withdrawal of the paragraph in dispute.

On a division the amendment was carried by 361 to 74.

Mr. Hunt moved the omission of paragraph 4 of the clause which provides that where the occupier is tenant of the qualifying premises, the whole must be held under the same landlord.

After discussion the amendment was negatived.

Sir S. Northcote moved to add that in any case in which the occupier of any premises has sublet any portion thereof, he shall not be entitled to vote in respect of such premises, unless the portion of them remaining in his own occupation be of the clear yearly value of £14.

Sir. G. Grey said that the effect of the proposal would be to alter the legal definition of occupation, and disfranchise a large number of voters.

The amendment was not pressed.

Clause 4 was then agreed to, and the House resumed.

The other business was gone through, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to one o'clock.

In the House of Lords, on Friday, the Capital Punishment Bill was taken in committee.

Lord St. Leonards moved the omission of the clause causing executions to be conducted within the walls of prisons.

The amendment was opposed by the Duke of Richmond, the Lord Chancellor, and the Bishop of Oxford.

Eventually the clause was retained by 75 to 25.

The bill passed through committee.

The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Grant asked whether, if the Bank of England were to reduce their rate of discount below 10 per cent. per annum, the power granted to them by the Government letter of issuing a larger amount of notes than fixed by law would cease.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that no power, strictly so called, was conveyed by the letter; it was only an engagement to make a certain application to Parliament in certain circumstances. It was plain that the letter applied only to operations which were carried on when the rate of interest was not below 10 per cent.; and if the Bank reduced their rate before that, the engagement in the letter would determine.

Sir G. Bowyer asked whether her Majesty's Government were prepared to cause an inquiry to be made, with a view to affording adequate accommodation to members in the House, and prevent thereby the serious inconvenience which members have suffered, especially during this session, for want of a sufficient number of seats, there being only accommodation for 400 out of 658 members. In fact, it was a misnomer to say that a member had a seat in the House of Commons.

After some discussion,

The Chanceller of the Exchequer said the subject was discussed on a former evening, and there was no objection to have it discussed, so that it was brought on formally, and without an irregular interference with other business. The right hon. gentleman then stated that morning sittings would begin on Tuesday next.

On going into committee of supply,

Mr. Barclay called attention to the effect of the differential duties on sugar; contending that the classification now in existence had prevented the free importation of first quality sugars from the colonies, and tended to keep that quality from general use amongst the less wealthy in this country.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the difficulties of a uniform duty on sugar were such that it was not easy to deal with them. There being so great a variety of qualities of sugar, it had been thought best by the legislature to classify the duties, with a view to adjust them to those different qualities; nor was this to be taken as inconsistent with free trade. The right hon. gentleman then entered at length into the whole history of the sugar duties, bringing it up to its present position, and stating that a series of experiments were being made internationally by representatives of sugar-producing countries, with a view hereafter to adjust the duties internationally; and when the result was obtained it would be the duty of the Government to come to a decision, and to ask the opinion of the House upon it.

Mr. Bright thought the best solution of the difficulty of the sugar duty would be to look forward at no distant day—by increase of revenue from other sources, reduction of expenditure, and letting the national debt alone—to the abolition of the impost, and this might be done by a reduction of a million a year until it was extinguished.

Mr. Ewart moved an address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to cause to be placed within the precincts of the house a bust, offered by his widow, of the late Joseph Hume, who for nearly forty years ably, laboriously, and disinterestedly served his country in the House of Commons.

Colonel Sykes, Mr. M'Laren, and Mr. Kinnaird having eulogised the late Mr. Hume, and Mr. D. Griffith having suggested that it was desirable not to create a precedent for accepting memorials to members of the House from their own families,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the acceptance of a memorial of this kind ought not to pass as a matter of course; but this was perhaps an exceptional case, and he, on the part of the Government, gave a cheerful assent to the proposition. The right hon. gentleman passed a high eulogium on the character and public conduct of Mr. Hume.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Synan called attention to the treatment of prisoners in the gaol of Limerick under the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act, and moved that that treatment has been unnecessarily severe, and that it is the duty of the Government to prevent the continuance of the same.

Mr. Blake seconded the motion.

Mr. C. Fortescue stated that the Irish Government were not responsible for any acts done by any superintending authorities of particular gaols; but inquiry had been made into the case now in question by the executive in Ireland, and the facts as stated by Mr. Synan being found to be substantially correct, directions were given to modify the treatment of the prisoners.

Mr. Maguire urged that a similar treatment was adopted towards prisoners in other gaols in Ireland, in Belfast especially, and demanded the interference of the Government.

The Attorney-General said that intimation had been given to the authorities of every gaol in Ireland for the mitigation of the treatment of the prisoners; and that not one of those prisoners would be detained a moment longer than was necessary for the public safety.

The House was counted out at ten minutes to eight o'clock.

THE CANNON-STREET MURDER.

At the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, on Wednesday, William Smith, *alias* William Denton, was brought up for trial, before Mr. Baron Bramwell, charged with the wilful murder of Sarah Milsom, housekeeper to Messrs. Bevington, Cannon-street, on Wednesday, the 11th of April last.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Straight, and the defence by Mr. Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. Montague Williams.

The prisoner, who was respectably dressed in black clothes, entered the dock in a very self-possessed manner, and on the charge being read to him he answered, in a clear steady voice, "Not Guilty."

Mr. Metcalfe then addressed the jury, and laid before them the circumstances of the case. After adverting to the prisoner's acquaintanceship with the man named Terry, his having written to Mrs. Milsom, and afterwards receiving several sums of money from her, and signing Terry's name in the receipts, the learned counsel alluded to the movements of the prisoner on the night of the murder, and said that if the proof was conclusive to show that he was the man who left Messrs. Bevington's at ten minutes after ten on that evening, there could be very little doubt as to who committed the deed.

Evidence was then adduced.

Edward Kipps said he was in the service of Messrs. Bevington, of Cannon-street. It was his duty to see the place locked up every evening, and to see everybody off the premises. On Wednesday, 11th April, everything was locked up, and the keys were, as usual, given to Mrs. Milsom, who, with the cook, were the only persons on the premises. Inside the front door there were a couple of swing doors, between which there was a light. There were four bolts and a latch and chain to the outer door.

By Mr. Ballantine: Mrs. Milsom very rarely went out. From her appearance he would take her to be between 40 and 50 years of age.

Mrs. Lowes said she was cook at Messrs. Bevington's, and had been there between nine and ten years. The first floor and part of the second were used as counting-houses. On Wednesday, April 11th, about ten minutes to nine, there was a ring at the bell. Mrs. Millsom answered it. She was then in perfect health. I never saw her again alive. About a quarter past ten, as she did not return, witness went downstairs and found deceased lying at the door. Under the impression that she was in a fit, witness took hold of her hand. She waited till a police-constable came. He told her to wait till he came back from the station. It was then found that Mrs. Milsom was dead. The bell was rung frequently in the evening. On two occasions deceased borrowed £1 from witness—the first time on a Friday, and the next on the following day, Saturday. On the Saturday that the sovereign was borrowed a ring came to the door. Mrs. Milsom answered the door, and it was after doing so that she came and asked for the sovereign. Witness looked out at the window and saw a man leaving.

The police deposed to the finding of the body when they were called in, and Dr. May gave evidence as to the nature of the wounds inflicted; after which John Moss, a detective officer, witnessed to the apprehension of the prisoner at Windsor. The evidence given was the same as has already been at length before the public.

The Clerk of the Court then read the letter written by the prisoner to Mrs. Milsom, on the back of which was the receipt signed, "Wm. Denton, for George Terry."

In cross-examination by Mr. Ballantine, the last witness, Moss, said, I wrote down his answers to my questions at Windsor Police-station half an hour afterwards. The blood was not on the coat that he had on when in custody. The spots turned out not to be blood. I suggested that two police-constables should walk by his side to convey him to the Mansion-house. I had heard that he was to be taken by Cannon-street, so as to give Mrs. Robbins and the servant maid next door a fair chance of identifying him. I did not know that Mrs. Robbins was to be looking out of the window. He was put among some of the prisoners afterwards for the purpose of seeing whether the women could point out the prisoner.

Inspector Foulger said that after the death of Mrs. Milsom Mrs. Robbins came to the police-station and gave him some information. When the prisoner was taken from Bow-lane to the Mansion-house he was taken through Cannon-street. There were no indications to show that he was a prisoner. A policeman was manacled and put into a cab. There was a great crowd, and this was done to deceive them, and make them believe that he was the prisoner. Mrs. Robbins was told to be in Cannon-street to see if they could recognise the prisoner. The girl did so, but Mrs. Robbins said she had not seen any one whom she knew.

Isabella Cox, residing at New Kent-road, said she had been in the habit of calling on Mrs. Milsom, and had sometimes slept with her. While at Cannon-street she had heard the bell ring. On such occasions the deceased got agitated. She sometimes stayed at the door half an hour or three-quarters of an hour. Deceased had spoken to her about the person who called.

Amelia Frances Long, Rose-street, Shoreditch, deposed that she did washing for Mrs. Milsom. On one occasion a man called at Cannon-street while witness was there. Mrs. Milsom started back, and made an exclamation. Witness followed the man some distance. She took the prisoner whom she had seen at Newgate to be the man by his walk, but, judging by his features, she did not think he was the same.

Catherine Collins was a servant next door to Messrs. Bevington's. Had seen a man call frequently there. To the best of her belief the prisoner was the man. I was told to stand in Messrs. Bevington's door on the day the prisoner was taken to the Mansion-house, for the purpose of seeing whether I could recognise the man who had called on Mrs. Milsom. I did recognise the man. I think he was between two men. Foulger was about the length of the jury-box (four or five yards) before them. There were other passers by. I did not see the policemen who were with the prisoner, or that they were policemen. I asked Mrs. Robbins if she knew any of those who passed. She said no; she was so confused that she did not recognise any one.

Mrs. Arabella Collins: I am housekeeper at No. 1, Cannon-street, City. On Wednesday, April 11th, I went out at eight o'clock, and returned about ten minutes past ten. On my return my attention was attracted by a man leaving Mrs. Bevington's door. When he passed me he gave me a side look. He walked in a very hurried manner towards London-bridge. I then went in. His legs were very thin, his feet broad, and he walked flat-footed. At Newgate I pointed out the prisoner and said I believed him to be the man. On the day that he was taken to the Mansion-house I did not recognise him in Cannon-street, I was so confused. The man who passed me on the night of the murder wore a high hat and black clothes.

George Terry: I am at present an inmate of St. Olave's Workhouse. While Mrs. Milsom's husband was living we lived next door to them. Mrs. Milsom borrowed some money from my wife—not quite £35. I got into difficulties after that. About the end of last year I got acquainted with Smith. We went into a public-house and wrote a note to Mrs. Milsom. I pointed out Messrs. Bevington's warehouse to him. He went and delivered the note. He asked me how much he thought he had got. I said £2. He said no—£1. He gave it to me and I gave him 5s. I did not know that he had gone and got money after that.

By Mr. Ballantine: The money was lent by my wife. I call her my wife, but I mean the woman I lived with. Her proper name is Hinton. She is not with me now.

Mrs. Webber said she resided at Rotherhithe. She believed her husband was alive (laughter). He was in Australia. She knew Terry. Witness gave Terry's wife £33 to lend to Mrs. Milsom. It was to be paid back at the rate of 10s. a week, but payment was stopped. In all she received about £8. She never authorised Terry or the prisoner to receive any money for her. She called on Mrs. Milsom some time this year, and was told that a man had called twice and got some money. She told deceased not to give him any more.

Henry Hunt, a police-constable, deposed to the deceased having called on him and shown him the letter and receipt. She was very much agitated.

Henry Giles, Crocus-lane, Eton, deposed to the fact that the prisoner lived with his mother in Eton-square in April last. He continued: I was with him on the night of the 11th or 12th April last, about seven in the evening. I asked him to come with me to a meeting. He said, No; he had to go 40 miles that night. He had to go to London. I said that was not 40 miles. He persisted that it was. This conversation took place at Beanfield's beershop.

Henry Blackman, lamplighter, Eton: Saw prisoner near the fifteen-arched bridge on Wednesday, April 11th. This was a little over a mile from Slough station. He wore a black coat and hat. It was about half-past seven.

John Whitehouse, road surveyor: Knew the prisoner. Met him between seven and half-past seven going towards Slough station. Witness was going to private-theatricals at the college, and it was this circumstance that fixed the time upon his mind.

William Clark, police-constable, Eton, deposed to seeing the prisoner in High-street, Eton, at six o'clock on the night of the murder. He had on a black coat and hat, and had a walking-stick in his hand. Met him the same night at 20 minutes to 12 o'clock. Had said to a man named Harris that he had seen him after 11 o'clock.

Some evidence as to the distance from Eton-square to Windsor and Slough stations closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine addressed the jury, and said anything more empty, more unsatisfactory, and more utterly inconclusive never was submitted to 12 men placed in their position. He was sure that after they heard the evidence which he (Serjeant Ballantine) had to bring forward, every one in the court and out of it would be convinced that the prisoner was innocent, and was placed in his present position by a blunder, he cared not by whom committed. The learned counsel, in the course of his remarks, pointed out that the Windsor station was close at hand, and that the prisoner might have gone to it instead of going to Slough station, which was further away.

The guard Eaves was at this juncture recalled, and deposed that three carriages left Windsor at 7.30 p.m., and joined the Slough train.

Mr. Ballantine then proceeded with his address at great length, and asserted that he would prove that the prisoner was never out of Windsor on the night of the 11th of April, and that the police were informed of this during the inquiry. It arose from this circumstance: The friends had sprung up with the view of having the prisoner defended, who was himself a pauper, and had no means of employing counsel on his own behalf.

At the close of the learned counsel's remarks the case stood adjourned till next morning.

Next morning, at ten o'clock, the proceedings were resumed. The prisoner exhibited the same self-possession and coolness that he did on the previous day.

Baron Bramwell having taken his seat on the bench, the witnesses for the defence were examined.

Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Streight again appeared for the prosecution, and Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. Montagu Williams for the defence.

The evidence for the defence was that of Henry Harris, a hatter's apprentice, of Eton; John Harris, his father; Henry Costin, a photographer; John Frailing, a brazier; Mrs. Goddard, the landlady of a beershop; and several other witnesses, whose evidence went to substantiate an *alibi*.

Jane Smith, the sister of the prisoner, was then examined. She said: The prisoner lives at home with my mother and another sister. My mother is laundress to a great many colleges. I was at home all day on Wednesday, the 11th of April, and I let the prisoner in when he came home. It was a little after twelve o'clock. He went to bed immediately, and I did not observe anything unusual in his appearance. I knew that he had only one shirt, and I am sure that nothing was done to any of the clothes he was wearing at this time.

Louisa Smith, another sister of the prisoner, said that she saw the prisoner at breakfast on the morning of the 12th of April, and observed nothing unusual about him. He was dressed in a dark coat and light trousers.

(This closed the case for the prisoner, and the court adjourned in order that the jury might take some refreshment.)

Mr. Ballantine then proceeded to sum up the case for the prisoner, and he said that unless his feelings and his judgment were completely warped, it appeared to him that there never was a case in which a prisoner had been able so conclusively to establish, not that there was any doubt of his guilt, but his complete and entire innocence. He then reminded the jury that the case did not rest entirely upon the evidence of those persons who were companions of the prisoner, but that one or two other witnesses, persons of the utmost respectability, and who could not have had the slightest motive for not speaking the truth, had deposed to seeing the prisoner at Windsor at an hour that would have rendered it utterly impossible for him to have committed the crime of which he was accused. The learned serjeant concluded by calling upon the jury to return a verdict that would have the effect of showing that a terrible mistake had been committed, and that the blood of the unhappy woman did not rest upon the prisoner at the bar.

There was a burst of applause at the conclusion of the address of the learned counsel.

Mr. Metcalfe replied.

The learned Judge having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

The prisoner was then discharged.

A SUCCESSFUL FIRE AND LIFE OFFICE.

It is something in these days of panic and mistrust to point to a successful company which can stand the test of a period like the present. Irrespective of the monetary panic, there was during the past year more fires and more heavy draws upon insurance companies than ever was known. We are pleased, however, to point to the twelfth annual meeting of the shareholders of the "Emperor" Fire and Life Insurance Society, which was held last week at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-street, E.C., at which Ebenezer Clarke, Esq., the chairman, presided, and the following is an extract from his opening speech:—

He said he could not but feel happy at the success which had attended the operations of the Emperor Insurance Company during the past year, the latter part of which had been attended with a great deal of trial and anxiety in the monetary world. Fortunately, however, that did not appear to have affected their success. The course he and his colleagues thought it their duty to adopt was that which prudent business men had felt it safe to follow, and not to undertake a speculative business, the result of which no one could foresee (hear, hear). It would not have been difficult to adopt the plan which some assurance offices had adopted, and made a great show as regarded premiums, while probably the profits would not have been at all proportionate. So far as human judgment could be brought to bear they had adopted those means generally which, on investigation, they thought it would be wise and proper to adopt, so that, in the event of any unforeseen misfortune, they could not be blamed for recklessness or want of care. The policy they had acted upon from the outset had proved a successful and prudent one, and though it was not right for any man to boast or divine, yet he had every reason to believe that in future years they would be as successful, if not more so, than they had been hitherto (hear, hear). It was well-known in assurance offices that when they got to a certain status the business increased in an accelerated ratio, inasmuch as the length of their standing and the position they attained served to increase public confidence in their operations.

Dr. Pearce, one of the directors, who seconded the resolution of the chairman, that the report and balance-sheet be received and adopted, observed that the shareholders were to receive a dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. He had from time to time been in communication with the secretary, and had heard with great pleasure of the success the society had met with in a commercial point of view. When they reviewed the past year, and particularly events of recent occurrence, they ought to be thankful they were in a position to declare a dividend of 6 per cent., and they ought to be well satisfied with it. He was quite certain there was no cooking of accounts in this office, and that everything was done in a perfectly straightforward way. The retiring directors, N. J Powell, Esq., Richard Harris, Esq., Rev. F. Trestrail, and F. Straker, Esq., were unanimously re-elected.

The following are some of the principal items of the report as read by the much-respected secretary, Mr. E. Clarke, jun.

Life Department.

During the past year 725 additional proposals had been received at the Emperor for the sum of £92,153 14s. 6d., and 647 new policies had been issued for assurances amounting to £70,373 18s. 10d., thus increasing the total number of proposals to 12,627 for £833,330 8s. 6d., and the policies to 10,742 for £647,778 8s. 6d. The bonus appropriated, as shown in a tabular statement appended to the report, from 22 to 48 per cent. on the premiums paid, had given general satisfaction, and several of the assured had in consequence increased the amount of their policies, and urged upon their friends to assure in order that they might also participate in the future profits of the society. The claims by death, endowments, and surrender of policies during the year amounted to £3,831. These had all been paid, in accordance with the practice of the society, within 14 days after the receipt of the necessary proofs. The plan adopted of accepting doubtful or second-class lives on a probationary term without extra premium had been attended with beneficial results to the assured as well as to the society. Many who could not otherwise have effected assurances had secured policies which each year became of more value. In consequence of the increase of business the directors had found it necessary to enlarge the present offices, and had also purchased the lease of their own and the adjoining premises, in order to retain a site which was daily becoming more valuable in consequence of the improvements in the immediate neighbourhood. Additional advances of the funds of the society had been profitably made on freehold and leasehold securities.

Fire Department.

In this branch the report stated that the Emperor during the year 1865-66, had received 852 proposals, for £265,548, and 755 policies had been issued for £247,199, increasing the total proposals to 6,913, for £2,352,019; and the policies issued to 6,125 for £2,002,006, whilst the claims for the year only amounted to £632. The reduction of duty on fire insurances from 3s. to 1s. 6d. per cent. had had a beneficial effect in extending the business, and the further reduction of the stamp duty had enabled the directors to issue all policies without charge for the policy stamp

Altogether, the Emperor Life and Fire Insurance Company may be reckoned amongst one of the successes of the day; progressing firmly and steadily, without incurring extra risk, to take rank with the oldest companies of the day.

THE ALLEGED CASE OF MURDER AT BLACKHEATH.

On Tuesday, at the Greenwich Police-court, Joseph Richards, aged 22, carpenter and joiner, of 1, Albert-place, Tottenham-road, Kingsland, was charged before Mr. Maude with causing the death of William John James Buchan, aged 23, engineer, by assaulting him and fracturing his jaw.

Mr. Warner Sleigh appeared to prosecute on behalf of the friends of the deceased, and Mr. Brookes, solicitor, appeared for the prisoner.

Charles Worth, butcher, of Deptford, said: Between six and seven on the evening of Whit-Tuesday, the deceased passed me near the railway arches. He was tipsy and singing. A short time afterwards I saw some boys wrangling with deceased. I went towards them and there saw the prisoner. The prisoner said to deceased, "If you hit the boys I will hit you." The prisoner called the deceased an offensive name, and the deceased retorted, and took off his hat and asked me to hold it for him. I did not take the hat, and he put it on his head. Then he got exasperated and knocked a cigar out of the prisoner's mouth. The prisoner then struck deceased four blows in the face, and deceased struck him. In turning round prisoner struck deceased on the head, causing him to reel and fall; and while falling, the prisoner struck him right and left with his fists under the jaw. I put my hand on the prisoner, and said it was not fair. The deceased was then lying on his side, with blood oozing from his mouth, and quite insensible. I afterwards lifted deceased, and placed his head between my knees, and bathed him with water and vinegar. An inspector of police and a constable came up in about half an hour, and they took deceased to the top of the arches and laid him down, and then took him to the station. After the occurrence the prisoner remained a quarter of an hour and then went away, saying he could not stop any longer. I told the police that the deceased had been knocked about.

By Mr. Brookes: There were four boys there. I did not see either of them throw stones. The deceased struck the prisoner about four times, but not enough to knock a fly off, as he was too drunk. The prisoner was not knocked down by any blow from the deceased.

Mr. Brookes said no one regretted the occurrence more than the prisoner, who had been led to the use of violence through the deceased having knocked his cigar out of his mouth, and asked that he might be admitted to bail.

Mr. Maude said the prisoner would be committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter, with bail in two sureties of £100 each, with 48 hours' notice to be given of such proposed bail.

The prisoner, who had been apprehended at the Green Dragon Tavern, Half Moon-street, City, was then removed in custody.

The reduced duty of one farthing per mile on stage coaches and omnibuses will take effect on and after the 2nd July.

The Ven. Henry Tattam, LL.D., Archdeacon of Bedford, in his charge just addressed to the clergy, announced to them that he had placed his resignation in the hands of the bishop of the diocese.