

Mr. Cleveland's proposed reduction of the tariff has been examined, as explained by the official reports of the imports and exports for the ten months ending April 30, with most unfavourable results. It seems that the imports for the period had increased by a sum of 28,011,414 dols., while the exports had decreased by a sum of 19,811,496 dols. This, say the advocates of Protection, gives a very decided contradiction to the theories of Free-trade, and vividly illustrates the mischief of the President's message. But what makes the matter worse is that the greatest falling off in American manufactures is shown in iron and steel and woollen goods, which the supporters of Mr. Cleveland's proposals condemn as especially giving American manufacturers an advantage over American consumers. The imports of iron and steel have advanced during the period mentioned by 3,184,173 dols., and those of woollen goods by 1,777,508 dols. All this, claim the Protectionists, should give the supporters of Mr. Cleveland's policy grounds to pause and reconsider their position.

The attempt made in the Massachusetts Legislature by a bigoted party, the Know-nothings of the day, to cripple the Catholic schools on pretence of a State inspection of private schools generally has signally failed. The result has been, not only to confound the bigots by the rejection of their proposals, but to advance the interests of Catholic and religious education by the publicity given to the cause, and the testimony borne to the efficiency of the Catholic system. To many enlightened Protestants, especially President Eliot, of Harvard, and Colonel T. W. Higgins, are the thanks of the Catholic body due.

The death has occurred at Somerset, Ohio, of Mrs. Sheridan, mother of the gallant General now so dangerously ill. The deceased lady, who was in her eighty-eighth year has succumbed to the effects of a cold, probably aggravated by anxiety arising from the illness of her son, to whom she was tenderly attached and by whom her affection was warmly reciprocated. Mrs. Sheridan was born in the county Cavan in 1801, and in 1824 was married to the father of the General, who died in 1875. She emigrated with her family in 1829, going at first to Canada and afterwards removing to the States. She was, as the mothers of great men often are, a woman of noble character, an honour to the land of her birth as well as to that of her adoption, which she well repaid for its hospitality by the gift of her glorious son. Why have such mothers been prevented from devoting such sons to the service of their native land?—*R.I.P.*

The latest distinctively American report current comes from Findlay, Ohio, where they say a hand of fire has been seen in the sky. The phenomenon appeared first in "plumes" of light which afterwards concentrated and formed a perfect band, with the forefinger pointing downward at the city. The whole town, except those who were asleep in bed, watched the portent for half-an-hour in terror. Since the days of Belshazzar nothing of the kind has been reported, but as yet, Findlay stands unharmed.

A spiritualist lady, calling herself Madame Dis Debar, has been convicted in New York for swindling a lawyer named Marsh by means of her attendant spirits. She cheated the unfortunate victim, who, nevertheless, in all other respects, is reputed a shrewd man, by a pretence of having pictures painted to his order by masters long since dead. It is said that the lady who is in more than one regard disreputable, once occupied the anti-Catholic platform. Finding it did not pay, and, doubtless, falling short of the eloquence of a Biddy O'Gorman, she took to the particular courses which have now led to her conviction.

The Legislature of New York have just passed a law for the execution of criminals by electricity. The agony of the punishment will consist in the preparations for it, death by this means taking place quicker than instantaneously, in some immeasurable fraction of a second. A doubt exists, however, as to whether the new law can be carried into force as it is said to be at variance with the Constitution of the Republic, which forbids cruel and unusual punishments, the method proposed being certainly unusual.

At the laying of the foundation stone of a Confederate monument, the other day, at Jackson, Miss., a letter has read from Jefferson Davis in which he displays an impenitent spirit. He speaks of the defeated cause as that of righteousness, and of the men who fell in it as owning the mingled attributes of the hero and the saint. Fortunately Jeff Davis and his comrades, even though heroes and saints, were hindered in carrying out their dream of patriotism—which, indeed, partook of the nature of a night-mare.

Representative Belmont of New York has given notice in Congress of a resolution to the effect that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be instructed to inquire into the case of John Curran Kent, a naturalized citizen of the United States, serving a penal sentence in Millbank prison, London, on a charge of complicity with Dr. Gallagher in a dynamite plot. It is alleged that Kent was deceived by a lawyer who represented himself as an American, and that believing his case had been taken up by the American Government he said nothing on his trial about his citizenship. An appeal made by him afterwards to the American Minister at London received no attention. The matter is now to be brought before Congress—as it is hoped with better results.

Lightning struck a country school house in Delaware county, O., recently. Jown Bowers, aged twelve years, was at a blackboard explaining an example in arithmetic and was instantly killed. The teacher and twenty scholars were thrown from their chairs, remaining unconscious nearly half an hour.

France has just slapped England squarely in the face by depriving Gen. Willoughby of the concessions granted him in Madagascar and expelling him from that country. The queen, or rather her consort, having control of internal affairs, had given Willoughby trade rights, of which the French have compelled the government to deprive him.

THE IRISHMAN IN POLITICS.

(From the *Westminster Review*.)

It is asked: Has the Irishman the same capacity for self-government as the citizen of an American State? Many Englishmen seem inclined to answer the question negatively, and to regard this answer as a fatal bar to Home Rule. But an American of 1887 can scarcely understand your asking this question. He has constantly before his eyes the strongest proof of the Irish aptitude for political discussion. Nothing, he would assure you, from his own experience, suits the Irishman's temperament better than the constant exercise of the faculties which are best adapted for local politics. A political sphere suits the Irishman's versatile genius, and employs his "gift of the gab." What your Irishman wants most of all is some outlet for his political steam, and this he finds in the profusion of the small details of local government.

Strange as it may seem, this race, which is at present denied Home Rule at home, actually controls, partly by its power of numbers, but still more by dint of its capacity for political debate and by electoral organisation, the government of most of the great American cities from New York to San Francisco. At this moment the living experiment of Irish Home Rule is visible across the ocean under the most free and democratic of all Governments. New York is said to be the largest Irish city in the world. Even learned and elegant Boston has its Irish Roman Catholic mayor. The first daily newspaper which appeared in America, the *Pennsylvania Packet*, was published by an Irishman, and from that day to this the Irish have exercised enormous influence through the American Press. As senators, representatives, State governors, mayors, they have taken their full share in carrying on the government of the Republic. It would be superfluous to multiply instances in every department of life in which Irishmen in America have come to the front rank. The important part which the "Irish vote" has played in the presidential elections from the time of Andrew Jackson, the first Irish President, till to-day, is known to all. And looking, in a general way, to the quality of the Irish immigrants, almost any fair-minded American would tell you that the Irish compare favourably at the present moment with the immigrants from other countries with regard to their fitness for being entrusted with the political rights which America gives to her citizens. If not immediately upon landing at Castle Garden, as an effect of the ocean, at all events in a generation, the wild Kerry immigrant is transformed into the most law-abiding citizen in the Union. From the statistics of the last census (1880) in America, it appears that the total number of citizens of the United States who were born in Ireland is 1,850,571, as against 745,978 born in Great Britain, and 1,996,742 born in Germany. But while Germany only contributes 4,369 German-born persons to the staff of officials and civil employes of the Government, and Great Britain 3,039, Ireland is represented by 8,231 Irish-born persons in the civil service of the State. Statistics of other occupations in the voluminous reports of the last census are equally striking. Samuel Lover wrote of the Irish peasant that "his enemies representing him as a fiend stimulate his friends to paint him as an angel." The truth is that the Irishman at home is a failure, and abroad, speaking generally, a success; an indication, one would say, that his crimes at home are the results of political circumstances peculiar to Ireland.

It has always seemed to us that a strong argument exists for Mr. Gladstone's original proposal to allow Ireland, if she so wills it, when Home Rule is given her, to remain unrepresented in the Imperial Parliament for a time. Ireland will have enough to do, and more than enough, to set her own house in order to begin with. She is not keenly interested in Imperial matters at this juncture. She might well afford to take time to settle her proper relations to the Imperial Government.

We do not mean to contend that the American cities are always model communities. They are too well known, after scandals like the recent disgraceful disclosures in New York, to be occasionally the scenes of jobbery and municipal corruption. But, in the first place, it is certain that the municipal constitutions of the American cities are often to blame for their bad government, and that these will in time right themselves. And secondly, particular attention is due to the fact that American cities are not noted for any acts of tyranny of the many over the few, such as we are told to anticipate from Home Rule in Ireland; but, on the contrary, their losses from bad government are usually a dishonest transfer of money from the many into the pockets of the few.

At Boksmeer, in Holland, a large packet of letters, containing the correspondence that passed between Napoleon I. and his brother, King Louis of Holland, has been discovered. The letters had been deposited by the King with his private secretary, whose grandson is the present owner of them.

I do not know which is the more remarkable about the Anglican females who advertise for governesses and servants, and offer them "Church privileges," instead of a proper emolument—their caunting, hypocrisy or their miserable meanness. Here is a lady who requires an accomplished governess, but she can give no salary, because all her reverend husband's vestments are very costly, so she offers "a comfortable home, washing, and Church privileges." Another audacious flea-skinner requires a finishing governess, who is thorough mistress of French, German, music, singing, and drawing, and she has the inconceivable effrontery to offer £12 a year, as she "cannot afford more, having a son at college," but she can promise "full Church privileges." Another wants a lady help, who is to be a proficient in all work and in many accomplishments, and she is offered £10 a year, and the inevitable "Church privileges," which it is really too preposterous to hold out as a bait, as if they were analogous to Papal indulgence or letters of dispensation, as everybody who wishes for them can obtain them as a matter of course, whether living in town or in country, unless the requirements are very exorbitant.—*Truth*.