

THE New York *World* describes the Irish census as having exposed the frightful effects of eviction. Numerous villages are found deserted. The village of Knock, the scene of the apparitions, which in '71 contained 600 settled inhabitants, to-day owns 30 only. The young men and women of the West and South are nearly all in America. The American Consuls have been instructed to send accurate reports of the Irish movement to Washington. The New York *Herald* proposes, as a solution of all difficulties, a grand Imperial Parliament with representatives from all the colonies, as well as from England, Scotland and Ireland; considering, however, the degree in which business is impeded in the Parliament that at present exists the proposal does not recommend itself at first sight.

GUIREAU, who wounded the President, is a half-insane lawyer; for some time he professed "conversion" and delivered lectures to "Christian young men."

THE general condition of Ireland is illustrated by a resolution passed by the Dublin *Guardians* to send 37 able-bodied paupers, some of whom had been in the workhouse for twenty years, to America. A country whose workhouses can be suffered to contain such a population must, indeed, be in a miserable condition.

THE ill-feeling between the French and the Italians continues to spread. The *Liberté* accuses France of a desire to pick a quarrel with Italy by way of atoning for some of her defeats in the German war. A Berlin paper, again, attributes to her the idea of financially starving Germany. England, meantime, is perfectly content with the aspect of affairs in Tunis, does not in the least believe that there are any designs on Tripoli; and, in short, welcomes France to her greatly increased power in the Mediterranean. England grows guileless and unsuspecting—a very model of Christian charity.

SPAIN has invited the tormented Jews of Germany to take refuge within her boundaries. Sixty thousand of them are expected to accept the invitation.

THE unfortunate apostate Loyson goes to America to raise funds in aid of the "Gallican Church." His preaching having failed to touch the French heart, and his prayers to Heaven for its softening influence having remained unanswered, he now looks for the aid of American money to accomplish all that he desires. This, however, is known to be a most powerful means of "conversion," and he is wise to have recourse to it.

THE harvest in Ireland is reported to promise great abundance; the potato crop being particularly good. Immense quantities of fish are being taken on the coast; and last, but not least, the landlords in many instances have grown tired of eviction and are accepting Griffith's valuation. Mr. Parnell intends to go to the United States in the Autumn, and Mr. Gladstone is reported to have forgotten himself so far as to twit him with an intention of avoiding the danger of imprisonment by the means in question. Is Mr. Gladstone afraid of Mr. Parnell's influence in the United States? It looks like it, since he seizes upon such a petty method of trying to prevent its exercise. Mr. Parnell's moral courage, however, is proof against much more than this. A new instance of American sympathy with Ireland has been shown in the refusal of the United States cable company to receive payment for messages forwarded by the secretary of the Land League to the *Irish World*.

THERE is a great fuss in England over the discovery of six infernal machines seized in Liverpool among the cargo of the ship *Malta* from America. They were hidden in barrels of cement, and nothing can be discovered concerning whence they came and whither they were bound. There is, of course, a suspicion of Fenianism, and a panic throughout England will be the consequence, but there most probably the matter will rest. The effect on the aspect of Irish affairs will, however, be adverse, and it is not impossible that some good friends to the cause may have planned the importation and its discovery for just such an end.

IT is rumoured that a hitch has occurred in winding up affairs with the Boers, and that probably so satisfactory a settlement may after all be interfered with.

SMALL-POX continues to gain ground in Sydney, and three children have been attacked by it in Brisbane. Fortunately the hot season has not as yet set in, and it is to be hoped the disease will have disappeared before its arrival.

THE Minister of Education also recommends a more strict enforcement of the compulsory clauses of the Act, and desires to see them made more easy of working. But, on the contrary, it seems that there is some chance of an imperative necessity arising for their complete repeal. It is not to be supposed that, in the event of the Bible-in-Schools movement meeting with success, Catholic children can be forcibly driven into the schools, which will then be distinctly Protestant. If this be done, we may all begin to prepare ourselves to have the Bible crammed down our throats at the end of the policeman's baton.

THE spirited sympathisers with Ireland in Southbridge, Leeston, and Lincoln have forwarded to us, through their like-minded pastor, the Rev. Father Chervier, £100 10s. 6d. for transmission to the Treasurer of the Land League.

A TAX upon foreign coal is proposed as an aid to the development of the New Zealand mines. The superiority of Greymouth coal over that brought from New South Wales has had a proof in Dunedin, where the gas made from the former article is vastly superior to that yielded by the latter. The tax would not be likely to weigh heavily upon the country.

SOUTH Australian apples are brought to England with success, and sell for 5s. per stone of 14lbs.

THE accidents reported for the week are a child at Auckland drowned in a pool of water; eight horses burned at Invercargill; a boy in Dunedin severely injured by an explosion of gunpowder with which he was playing; a boy at Auckland kicked on the head by a horse; a man at Gisborne, whose horses had bolted, killed by a fall from a dray.

WHITELAW, the late Superintendent of the Wellington Lunatic Asylum, has been fined £50 with the alternative of six weeks imprisonment, for assault on a lunatic. It is said that a subscription is to be made at Wellington to pay the fine. Charity there must indeed be overflowing.

THE division on the no-confidence motion has not as yet taken place. It is believed that the Ministry will have a majority.

HEAVY rains have fallen in Wellington and Canterbury with mischievous results.

AGITATION in connection with the proposed taxation of Native lands continues among the Maoris, and not without reason. It will be a pity if anything occurs to rouse them again from the peaceful attitude now shown by them, but to tax them for improvements which they do not desire, which they regard with suspicion, and whose benefits cannot possibly affect them, in most instances, many years, is manifestly unjust and unwise.

WE have received a paper on the "Employment of Females and Children in Factories and Workshops," by the late Sir John Richardson. We shall notice it at greater length in our next issue.

## A FORGOTTEN ASSASSINATION.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*.)

TO-DAY "the Czar sleeps!" It has been said that since the day when Henry IV. fell under the knife of Ravalleac, no assassin has been successful in his attacks on royalty. This is not true. Gustavus Adolphus III., King of Sweden, fell mortally wounded by a masked assassin at a ball given in this King's honour on March 18, 1792. Gustavus had made himself absolute, and overthrown the aristocracy. Ankarstrom, then a "fedrikar" in the Blue Guards, was the avenger, but the plot was widespread. He escaped for a time—a very short time. Pistols found in the ball-room were declared by a gunsmith to have been ordered by him from England. Ankarstrom was asleep in bed when the lieutenant of the police took him. This man, Jiljensparre, then proceeded to arrest others, who, since the ball at the opera house, had been going about talking loudly, and asserting that the king's assassination was only the work of some French Revolutionist. One had the audacity to come to court; but as the presumptuous lie passed his lips, "It is among the French we should seek the culprit," a heavy hand was laid on his shoulder, and the Baron d'Armfelt replied, "To the shame of my country, it is a Swedish noble who has done the deed—one of the Blue Guards!" "Is he discovered?" said the man, after a pause. "Yes," replied M. de Jiljensparre, fixing his eye on him, "I arrest you, Count Ribang, as his accomplice." Other arrests followed. One man hanged himself as the soldiers surrounded his house; Baron Bjelke was found poisoned in his room. Gustavus was so deeply hurt at the treachery displayed by some whom he had known that he declared he wished to know no names. Mortally wounded, he lingered for many hours, displayed great firmness, and the utmost self-possession. He passed away early in the morning of March 29, 1792—that month which now thrice has witnessed the violent death of sovereigns—Julius Cæsar, Gustavus Adolphus III., and Alexander II.

By the 18th April the trials were over. Three nobles were banished, some were acquitted, others pronounced "not proved guilty;" but Ankarstrom, the strange assassin, heard his fearful sentence with the most astonishing sangfroid. "I wished to kill the king, but not to torment him," he said, and turned to his psalmbook, believing himself to be a martyr sure of an eternal reward. When the salvos of artillery announced the king's death, he threw himself on his knees—"Thank God, he suffers no more, and my task has been accomplished!"

The punishment of Ankarstrom lasted for four days; three times he endured fifteen blows at different places in the city on three consecutive days; the sufferings caused were described as great, yet he maintained his composure. On the fourth day, first his hand, then his head was cut off, his remains were quartered and left exposed on four wheels. As he considered himself a martyr his party made this his shrine, till at last the Government had the bones removed. It is added by the biographer that the sound party of the once affronted nobility forgave Gustavus for the abolition of the Senate in 1772, for the triple reason that his administration had been glorious abroad, firm at home, and that he had been chivalrous and honorable in most of his dealings. A melancholy halo surrounded his end, and a sufferer must always meet with the sympathies of his fellow-men.

It has been thought that this short account of the end of a conspiracy might be of interest to the public now, as it seems to have been entirely forgotten just at present.