

nate, but the coldness of a distant atmosphere has repeatedly blighted the hope of redress. In the last session of the English Parliament, a proposal was conveyed, half by insinuation, and half direct, by two distinguished Irish Members, that the nomination of Catholic Prelates should be vested in his Majesty. The sensation excited by this was very strong in the House of Commons, and in London. The triumph of party was great, and the victorious question, "What can now be objected to the Catholics? (that is, to us) burst from every lip! A little time has dissipated the delusion. The Catholics of Ireland had *not* authorised Mr. Grattan, or Mr. George Ponsonby, to concede the point in question. That certain overtures, without the sanction of the clergy at large, or the bulk of the laity, had been made, by a few individuals, to one or both of these gentlemen, and their party, is not doubted. But they were puny politicians, who caught at such a proposition, without weighing, and probing, and examining whether there was practicability, that is, sufficient authority on the side of it.

In truth the independence of the Catholic Church is a remnant, which Ireland holds as the last stripe of the banner of national honour, and in offering to yield it, to be hung as a tro-

phy in Westminster, it would be a completion of suicide. Besides, when just rights were demanded, the meanness of fresh concession, previous to obtaining them, was flagrant.

The point, as argued in England, was very insignificant; the influence of the Pope, and the authority of his name are very weak, and in that view there was no obstacle in the way of redress. But as the matter was felt in Ireland, it was quite otherwise, and therefore the concession was deemed impolitic, impracticable, and unpatriotic. The Pope was not contemplated as the dictator, but as the venerable arbiter in clerical affairs. The system of the Catholic Church, is, in fact, elective, and the reference to the Pope for approbation is rather deference to the antient head of the Catholic religion, in point of ceremony, than any thing of blind submission to his will. The late resolutions of the Catholic Prelates have probably set the thing to rest. They have decided that the wished concession ought not to be, and cannot be made, and they are entitled to the gratitude of their country. The obvious aim of the party was to make the Catholic question malleable enough to be worked up for narrow purposes. Ireland was forgotten, but she has vindicated herself.

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## PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

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### ULSTER.

**Antrim....**A melancholy accident happened on the 8th of September last, to J. M'Intyre, an industrious man, of Drumavaddy, parish of Loughgill, in this county, who had gone to the mountain between Clough and Cushendall to take his horse from grass; but, unfortunately, the day being wet and foggy, and night coming on, he missed his way, and perished by the brink of a little rivulet, where he was found eight days after. He has left five children, fatherless.

**Shocking relation.....**John Wilson, commonly called Whiskey Jack, from his remarkable intemperance, having returned from the funeral of his father, on Fri-

day the 23d of September, was that night murdered in his own house. He and his unmarried brother and sister had rendered themselves notorious in the neighbourhood of Antrim, by their contentions and quarrels about a small farm, the property of their father, to the great affliction of their parent, and the annoyance of the neighbourhood. The deceased has left a wife and six helpless children to lament his unhappy fate.

**Died.....**Near Glenavy, Mr. Nicholas Oakman, aged 77 years....Mr. Robert Cinnamond of Magheragill....At Snugville near Belfast, Mrs. Catharine M'Clathry aged 85 years.

**Married....**Mr. W. Hawkins, to Miss

Mary Anne Harrison of Ballycastle. Mr. J. Orr, Merchant of Randalstown, to Miss Stewart of Harphall.

Down....*Died.* At Dromore, Mrs. Margaret Burdy. At Culteavy, Francis Montgomery esq. aged 50. Mrs. Pinkerton, aged 27, relict of the late Mr. J. Pinkerton of this town, merchant. Mr. J. Townley aged 22 years, son of S. Townley esq. an eminent Merchant. At Holywood, Master J. Butler, aged 8 years,

*Married.* Mr. T. Trouten merchant, to Miss Creek of Downpatrick. On the 14th instant Mr. T. Stewart, esq. to Miss Thron, of Thronbrook. Mr. W. Clandinning, to Miss Marshall. Mr. R. Walker, of Ballyrickard, to Miss Mary Close. At Donaghadee, John Armstrong, aged 45, to Jane M'Auley (her fifth husband) aged 90, with a fortune of 500*l.* The bride cannot undress without an assistant.\*

\*After the ceremony, the Bride held up her left hand, and with much sang froid remarked, I have already got a wedding ring for each of these four fingers and now I have one for my thumb.

Mr. J. Bradshaw, Linen draper, to Miss Gardiner of Magherabeg. Mr. T. Sharrock of Downpatrick, to Miss Mary Bingham.

Londonderry....*Married.* Mr. J. Duncan, to Miss Jane Agnew of Rowansgift. Lieut. G. H. Nugent, of the Royal Dublin Militia, to Miss Ramage of this city. Mr. J. Ball to Miss Johnston of New-Walk.

LEINSTER.

Dublin....*Died.* In Grafton-street, the wife of Mr. Robert Richey.

*Married.* T. Flood of Exeter, esq. to Miss Moore, daughter of the late Ross Moore of Carlingford, esq.

Meath....*Died.* aged 88 years, Mrs. Jones, relict of T. Jones of Vesington, esq. and mother of the Patentee and proprietor of the Theatre Royal Crow-street.

MUNSTER.

Cork....*Married.* At Doneraile, Henry Miller esq. of the 40th regiment, to Miss Jane Morphet of Mallow. Major Shilling of the 81st regiment to Miss Elizabeth Carrol of Askeen, county Tipperary. J. Milner Barry esq. to Miss Phair of Millview.

BRITISH.

At the late meeting of the Holderness Agricultural Society at Heden, the following question was proposed for discussion:—"As various kinds of birds, viz. rooks, pigeons, sparrows, &c. are denounced as mortal enemies to agriculturists, and their extermination is eagerly sought for; do not the benefits they bestow, by devouring insects, more than balance the injuries they commit by devouring corn? And would it not be to the advantage of agriculturists to promote the increase of those birds which destroy insects but do not destroy the corn, viz. lapwings, starlings, turshes, &c.?" A gentleman of the society, who has deservedly acquired considerable reputation in the agricultural world, for his well-contrived experiments as to the most effectual mode of destroying the grub or larva of the Tipula, or Tommy long Legs, detailed the result of a very curious experiment which he instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the number of these insects which a nest of rooks may probably consume annually. One of his servants was stationed a whole day, from one o'clock in the morning to eight at night, in the neighbourhood of a rookery, and kept an accurate account of the number of times which the old crows, during that interval, fed their young ones. The average result of his observations on five nests was, that the old crows made 70 journeys per day; and it having been

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ascertained by shooting one of them, just before its entry into the nest, that it had in the bag below its beak 33 grubs; it follows, that supposing them to feed on these insects through the year, a family of rooks would, in that time, destroy 1,445,500 grubs. And supposing, which is a very moderate calculation, that each grub, previous to its assuming the winged state, destroys the herbage of four square inches, this number would consume the herbage of three roods twenty-seven perches. Hence the ingenious contriver of this admirable experiment, inferred the immense advantage which the farmer derives from this species of bird alone, without whose benignant service, added to those of its congeners, the toil of the agriculturist would be in vain. Another member of the society produced the crap of a pigeon lately shot, in which were not more than a few grains of wheat and a bean or two, its principal contents being the seeds of ketlocks, and other noxious weeds. After an interesting discussion, the company agreed in the affirmative on both parts of the question. Several specimens of prepared whalebone, which it is proposed to apply in the manufacture of sieves, riddis and sheep-nets, were afterwards exhibited.

A correspondent of the Norfolk Chronicle offers the following preservative against the insects, termed by farmers,

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green lice, by which, the crops of peas have for several years, been greatly injured in this county. Take a chaldron of fresh burnt lime, unload it in the field where it is to be used, make a floor and spread alternately a layer of lime and a layer of moist sand, or fine earth; when the lime is expended, round up the whole in a heap, and in about sixteen hours it will be fit to turn over; and if the whole of the lime is found to be slackened, and in a fine powdered state, it is then proper for immediate use. The dressing the crop, is performed by two men, a boy, a cart, and a horse; when the cart is loaded, it is moved slowly in the furrows, (always against the wind) whilst the two men with corn shovels cast the lime right and left, much in the same manner as they cast corn, observing to take a small quantity in the shovel at a time. This operation should be performed early in the morning upon a heavy dew, or after a gentle shower of rain, taking care to powder or dust all the plants slightly over; when it will be found that the caustic quality of the lime will have destroyed the insects, without the smallest injury to the crop: on the contrary it will very much improve it.—A chaldron of lime the writer conceives will cover several acres. The same application is equally destructive to the slug and small white snail, on the young clovers, &c. in the spring, and infinitely more efficacious than Mr. Vagg's system of night rolling. This system might be properly applied on the smaller scale in gardens infected by these insects.

A surprising proof of the degree of perfection to which the staple manufacture of that country is brought, was lately afforded at Leicester. A gentleman, travelling for a house at Norwich, exhibited a pair of worsted stockings, of a texture so remarkably fine, that the pair together has been drawn through a wedding ring of an ordinary size. The idea of the singular delicacy of the manufacture will be assisted by the information, that an order was given by a respectable wholesale house in Leicester, for a dozen of pair, at the price of *a guinea and a half a pair*.

The committee of the Kennel and Avon Canal, met a few days since at Great Bedwin, and proceeded from thence to inspect the works under execution, through the tunnel at Bunbage to Devizes; the next morning they walked down Devizes-hill, (about two miles) to inspect the building of the locks to Foxhanger, where they again embarked, and were conveyed by Andras's packet-boat, to their wharf,

at Sydney garden. The committee were attended by a few of the very large proprietors; and they had all the highest satisfaction to find the wharfs already finished and in a state of great perfection, and those under execution, rapidly approaching to completion. It is confidently expected that in two years, the whole of this stupendous national concern will be accomplished, and thus afford a direct water communication between Bristol, Bath, and the Metropolis.

At a meeting of the Hertfordshire Agricultural Society, woollen yarn was produced, spun by Mary Bowdely, aged sixty, living in that county. It was considered by competent judges to exceed any thing before known in that country, as a specimen of skill and industry. She had spun a pound of Merina Wool into yarn so fine, that it measured in length twenty-nine miles, and two hundred yards. It was greatly admired for the beauty and silky softness of its texture.

ANTIQUITIES....A curious piece of antiquity has lately been discovered in the church-yard of Hemel-Hempsted, Hertfordshire.—In digging a vault for a young lady of the name of Warren, the sexton, when he had excavated the earth about four feet below the surface of the ground, found his spade to strike against something solid, which, upon inspection he found to be a large wrought stone, which proved to be the lid of a coffin, and under it the coffin entire, which was afterwards taken up in perfect condition; but the bones contained therein, on being exposed to the air, crumbled to dust. On the lid of the coffin is an inscription, partly effaced by time, but still sufficiently legible, decidedly to prove it contained the ashes of the celebrated Offa, King of the Mercians, who rebuilt the abbey of St. Alban's, and died in the eighth century.

The coffin is about six and a half feet long, containing a niche, or resting place for the head, and also a groove on each side for the arms, likewise for the legs; it is curiously carved, and altogether *unique* of the kind. The curate of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Bingham, has deposited it in a house adjacent to the church-yard, where the curious are flocking daily and hourly to see it, on whom he levies a contribution of one shilling each for such indulgence. The church was built in the seventh century. The Watling-street road runs within a mile of this place, and many Roman coins have lately been found in the vicinity, particularly while digging for the Grand Junction Canal.

## FIRE OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

On the 20th, at about four o'clock in the morning the Theatre at Covent Garden was discovered to be on fire. Before any assistance could be afforded, the flames had broken out in all parts, more than an hour having elapsed before a supply of water could be procured, although the fire engines attended at the first alarm. Even when they could be brought to act, the violence of the flames rendered all their efforts useless. The flames extended to several adjoining streets; but in consequence of the unremitting exertions of the firemen, and volunteers who had assembled at the first alarm, the devastation did not extend so far as might have been feared.

Several lives were lost on this occasion. Among others, a number of firemen and labourers who were serving an engine in the interior of the building, were overwhelmed by part of the roof. Two females also who were viewing the progress

of the conflagration from the roof of a neighbouring house, unconscious that the fire was at that very time raging in the lower parts of it, were destroyed by its sudden fall.

The number of lives lost is not yet ascertained, but is supposed to have been upwards of fifty. The loss is very great; upwards of £150,000 of which not a third part was insured; several of the performers and persons employed about the house have also suffered in their properties.

A subscription has been set on foot for the relief of the families of those who fell victims to their zeal on this melancholy occasion.

The cause of this catastrophe has not been fully ascertained; but it is generally supposed to have originated from the wadding of a gun discharged behind the scenes during the performance of Pizarro, which had been acted the preceding evening.

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 MONTHLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT.
 

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*Finding it impossible to finish our Reports, if delayed to the last day of the month, we have thought it better, after the example of some other publications, that in future, they should terminate on the 20th of each month.*

THE fine weather that set in so seasonably in the latter part of the month of August, was soon succeeded by a good deal of rain accompanied with high winds, which beat down the strong crops of grain and considerably increased the injury they had sustained by the former wet weather; a favourable change has enabled the farmers to cut down their crops in pretty good time, and the harvest is now generally over and the grain secured.

It is now pretty fully ascertained that the wheat has been generally injured by mildew, and is much inferior in quality, as well as quantity, to the average of other years, and in all probability will bring a high price.

The oat crops seldom appeared more abundant when standing in the stook, and yet it is generally believed the produce will prove far short of what might have been expected from so great a bulk. Although the quality is certainly inferior to last year's produce, there seems no reason to apprehend such a deficiency as to occasion the price to be unusually high.

Barley turns out a good average crop in most places.

The potatoe crop is much improved in quality since last report, and as it is likely to be very productive, we trust there will be an abundant supply of that valuable and nutritious root, which forms so considerable a part of the sustenance of the inhabitants of this country.

From the trials that have been made of the flax of this year, there is much reason to fear that there will be a great deficiency of the usual quantity; in many districts it is thought there will not be more than one-half of the produce of other years, and the price has risen considerably in consequence of the apprehended scarcity. The failure of this crop may be principally attributed to its being pulled before it had attained a proper degree of ripeness, and its afterwards remaining too long on the grass for want of dry weather to take it up.

The turnip crops that were not cut off at an early stage of their growth, continue to root well, and will probably furnish a large supply of winter food. It would be a favourable circumstance for the country if they were more generally cultivated; the extensive culture of that valuable root by the English and Scotch farmers, holds out an example highly deserving our imitation.