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TERMS OF THE SEE

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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 1867.

It is again rumored that General Rousseau will supersede General Sheridan in command of this department.

This is St. Peter's Day, one of the greatest interest in the calendar and history of the Catholic Church. It is estimated that as many as twelve hundred bishops of the church will be assembled at Rome, and the ceremonies of the day are expected to be of more than usual importance.

REGISTRATION.—We next seriously complain of the neglect of a great majority of our Louisiana exchanges to furnish correct statements of the number each of white and colored persons registered as voters in their respective parishes. We should pronounce this worse than neglect—that is, judicial indifference to the general desire of information on the subject, but for the fact that the same papers devote much pains and space in their columns to articles urging the people to register. Will our exchanges please bear this complaint in mind and furnish the exact figures, instead of more approximate estimates, when practicable?

THE FENIAN TRIALS.

If any of our readers have attentively followed the Fenian trials in Ireland, we think they must agree with us when we say that they were the most remarkable trials on record. There was never a case where so much *farrago*—if we may use the word to express a general meaning—was shown to the prisoners at the bar, or where there was as much deference shown them by all parties concerned. The deportment of the counsel, the consideration of the Judge, the mode of examination, the courtesy of the Government solicitor, and of all persons connected with the court, were something remarkable when contrasted wit the details of a trial now going on in Washington. Taking the worst of the Fenian criminals—Burke and Mc Cafferty—as an extreme case, and one in which loyal subjects would be very apt to show strong feeling—and we find not one unpleasant incident to mar the perfect deportment of even a model court of justice. Only once during the trial of these men did the counsel for defence find it necessary to appeal to the court, and this was quickly withdrawn on explanation of the Queen's counsel, who spoke feelingly of the case. "I am here," said he, "to see that justice is done to the Government, and not to persecute these unfortunate and misguided men. God knows that I should rejoice to see them acquitted of every charge, and walk out of the dock free from the taint of treason." The Judge's manner was even cheering to the prisoners—every question from the bench being calculated to bring out replies favorable to them: and his manner throughout seemed to show great sympathy for the men, and to say that if ever a doubt arose they should surely have the benefit of it. Such a trial is one to be remarked—to be remembered, and to be held up as an exemplar to other courts of law, not always courts of justice.

But with all the leaning to the side of the prisoners, they were convicted. After the fairest trial on record, they were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. It was clearly seen that the court would have had the sentence reversed if it had been possible; but there were the most serious cases of all. No one could fail to see, however, that the sentence made a powerful impression upon all concerned, and that it was hoped the Government would fail to approve the extreme penalty. Still more painful was it to decide upon the case in London. Earl Derby is said to have passed sleepless nights in reflecting upon it—though a large personal sufferer by the Fenian uprising—but it was finally determined that the law must take its course, at least in these two cases. It was evident also that this decision was a painful one to those whose duty it was to discuss the question and decide upon it; but, after much hesitation and delay, the sentence was approved and sent to the Queen for her signature. After this, few persons, even those friendly to the prisoners and the cause, were prepared to say that the resolution finally arrived at was a wrong one. The entire British nation seemed to feel a sympathy for the condemned men when the final sentence had been given, and it was thought very hard that, after a reign of thirty years, during which no one had ever been executed for a political offence, it should at last have become necessary to resort to that measure. Even those who had, previous to the sentence, been the most bitter against the Fenians and who wished them all hanged, now confessed to a desire to have them spared. At the same time they were ready to admit that the Government was right, and that it was quite possible the necessity for capital punishment did exist; and if the Government had so decided, there was nothing more to be said upon the subject. This prompts, however, gave rise to several reflections, the chief of which are, first, that the British public is growing to dislike capital punishment; second, that despite John Bull's growls about Fenianism, political crimes are regarded with lenity; and, third, that public sentiment in the British Isles was shocked at the idea of these men being hanged, though individually it was acknowledged that the Government was right, and that nothing else, under the circumstances, could have been done.

Meantime the sentence was sent to the Queen, and pending its return public sympathy ran high in favor of the condemned. The Women of Oxford Tories regarded them with lenity, and with a singular non *sequitur* attributed their crime to the teachings of that odious Bright, who "is a disgrace to the country;" while all classes freely expressed the hope that the sentence might be changed to transportation. But this sympathy for the prisoners proceeds neither from sympathy with Fenianism, nor from personal sympathy like that so often seen in this country. Nor is it generally thought a mitigation of the offence that these men were misguided and acted upon impulse. The people believe that it was a cool, calculated crime; and the very type of "conscientious for evil" among a broad laugh of ridicule. No, the men committed a great crime—a crime which both the people can have no cry guilty; there is nothing about the prisoners themselves to invite it, and yet they have their sympathy of a nation. There was nothing romantic in the case of Burke and McCafferty, and when on trial the public was generally against them in feeling; and perhaps freely expressed the opinion that they ought to be hanged; but when there was a seeming certainty of their being hanged, this opinion was quickly reversed. The application of this is found in the groth of the Christian religion: in the enlarged views brought about by the highest civilization; and in a spirit of humanity that has been increasing in England for five and twenty years—indeed, during the thirty years reign of Victoria Guelph. We have had several examples of this in remote public sentiment, within the past two months, the most notable of which was the case where the British Government asked for clemency in the case of Mr. Davis and the defeated Confederates. After the sentence of these two Fenians, and before the Queen had commuted the punishment to transportation for life, the press of New York tried to make an issue with England, and advised England to pardon what she pressed; but my observer who meant to be fair, could see the humane feeling in every step of these Fenian trials. And the attempt to make out these two employees arson, was foolishly absurd. The Southern people, disposed to believe in Divine right, and the right of any State to withdraw from the Federal compact, had no excuse for their freebooting that would have been valid with any other nation on the face of the earth; but no such cause existed in the case of Ireland, nor could the Fenian uprising be dignified by the name of revolution. Since there has been disparity in the case, announced by her Majesty, in Northern press in silent; and this difference is eminently regardless of a bright red blank of terror at the contrast presented in the two cases in which they endeavored to draw a parallel. In the case of Dominion and of Kentucky, it must be remembered, that, [illegible] grievances are as much ours as any [illegible] the question of a [illegible] caused, that [illegible] the citizens [illegible] for violence [illegible] of the Ku Klux Conclave, [illegible] 5,000 pounds of gold [illegible] on motion of [illegible] Mr. Black, [illegible] Mr. Black, [illegible] Mr. Black,