IRELAND'S CRIMES BILL.

A last (Wednesday) night's London cable says: There was an unusually large attendance in the House of Commons to-day, as strong interest was felt in the Dillon libel question.

Mr. W. H. Smith announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the Government had resolved that the allegation that the statement by the London *Times* that Mr. Dillon told a falsehood while denying in the House of Commons that paper's utterances concerning his alleged relations with Sheridan, the Invincible, was not a breach of privilege and not sustained by precedent. It would be against the dignity of the House to summon the *Times* to the bar without previously inquiring into the circumstances. The gentlemen below the gangway, Mr. Smith added, asked that a select committee be constituted to inquire forthwith into the allegations of the *Times*. The practice of the House had been to divest itself as far as possible of judicial duty. The Government thought such a committee as was asked for would be unfitted to consider such grave questions as would have to be referred to it for decision. The Government, feeling it to be their duty to endeavor to solve the question, had instructed the Attorney-General and such others as he cared to associate with him to prosecute the *Times* for the libel on Mr. Dillon, who was at liberty to select such counsel as he saw fit. Mr. Smith urged the House to accept the course proposed.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor condemned the Government's proposal. He said he commiserated the Government on their humiliating and degrading position. Their proposal was really for a collusive action at law made by the valor of a libel. Mr. O'Connor here produced a copy of the *Times* containing the libel on Mr. Dillon, and flourishing it aloft he said: I purchased this copy of the *Times* at one of the bookstalls owned by the Right Honorable the First Lord of the Treasury. It is he speaking for the Government who says no breach of privilege was committed. (Irish cheers.) He is therefore deeply interested as a party in the case against the editor of the *Times*. The two men ought to be in the dock together. The Irish members reject his proposal as unfair, unjust and unprecedented. The House of Commons ought not to be taken in by a collusive action.

Mr. De Lisle, Conservative, rose to a point of order. He said he had heard Mr. Tanner (Home Rule member for Middle Cork) say the "Conservatives are a damned lot of cads."

Irish voices—"So you are."

Mr. Speaker Peel—The Clerk of the House will please see that the words are taken down.

Mr. Tanner denied that he had used the word "damned." He repeated, however, that the Conservatives were a lot of cads.

Mr. Speaker said Mr. Tanner must withdraw the expression and apologize.

Mr. Tanner said he would do so.

Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt denounced the Government's proposal.

Sir Edward Clarke, ex-Solicitor-General, moved an amendment to the Government's proposal, to the effect that the House did not consider the *Times* statement concerning Mr. Dillon a breach of privilege. Justifying his action in offering the amendment, Sir Edward declared that there was no record of Parliament having committed a man to custody for breach of privilege, such as the action of the *Times* was now alleged to be. He added that he and the Attorney-General were responsible for the advice on which the Government acted. He proposed to confine himself to the legal points of the case, regardless of party politics. He then quoted precedents to sh that the House was not the proper tribunal to deal with such matters. No corruption had been alleged of a member, nor had any contempt of the House been exhibited, such as had constituted the offence in previous cases where breach of privilege had been committed. The course of the prosecution would be left to such persons as the Irish members might nominate, both counsel and solicitors. If the Government were asked to appoint them they would interpose no objection. Sir Edward modified his amendment, making it read that the House declines to treat the *Times* publication as a breach of privilege.

Lord Randolph Churchill admitted that the case presented a *prima facie* breach of privilege, but he thought the House was not refusing a judicial inqury. The only difference was as to the form of inquiry to be adopted. He regarded a resort to the ordinary tribunals of the law one that would afford a better remedy than could be obtained from action by the House. He deprecated the attack made by Mr. O'Connor on the Government leader in the House. No one outside Mr. O'Connor's own circle could be expected to sympathize with him in such an assault. It was utterly unjustifiable. From the very language used, Mr. Smith could well afford to ignore the assault. (Cheers.) If the Government leader in the House was charged with not taking primary action on behalf of the House for a breach of privilege committed against one of its members, he could retort that it was the leader of the Opposition who ought to have been expected to protect his friends, having taken the lead outside the House in an agitation for the repeal of the Union. (Cheers.)

Mr. Gladstone—I emphatically repudiate the assertion of His Lordship.

Lord Randolph Churchill responded—It is true, however. He then proceeded to argue that it would be unwise for the House to go beyond the action the Government had proposed. The action of the House, if the *Times* publisher should be brought before the bar, would in no wise curb or control the great power wielded by the press of the country.

Mr. Storey (Radical), a newspaper proprietor—You can try to suppress the press in Ireland. (Parnellite cheers.)

Lord Randolph Churchill—How would a committee of inquiry be constituted? Would it be proposed that members of the National League be put upon it? (Cries of "Certainly!") If so, there would be nothing in the whole history of jury-packing like it. (Cheers.) Besides, the powers of a committee would not be equal to those of a court of law. The committee, indeed, would be hopelessly incompetent to settle such questions of law as a court could. In a court the prosecution would proceed at the cost of the country, with the employment of any counsel the Irish members liked to name. In this way the truth would be arrived at and justice done the offenders.

Mr. Dillon said he did not consider the ordinary tribunals of England in the present state of political feeling on the Irish question fairly open to the members of the Irish party in the House of Commons. He therefore maintained that he had a right to be heard before a committee. For six years the Parnellites had been held up to public odium as criminals. Some of them in the meantime had been imprisoned. Enough had been done and said in these six years to prejudice the minds of any English jury possible to impannel. He must decline to take proceedings in a civil action against the *Times*, because he believed he had no chance of obtaining a verdict. If, on the other hand, a select committee of the members of the House should be appointed to hear his case, he would be contented that it should be so constituted as not to include a single Irish member. (Cheers.)

Mr. Gladstone intimated that in the event of the adoption of Sir Edward Clarke's motion, he would move an amendment to the main question to the effect that an inquiry be made by a committee into the charges of wilful falsehood, in a speech delivered in the House of Commons brought in an article by the *Times* against Mr. Dillon. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. H. Smith asked if Mr. Gladstone would make that motion at once.

Mr. Gladstone said he was surprised at the suggestion, coming as it did from the Government leader in the House. For him (Mr. Gladstone) to make such a motion at the present time would be only making confusion, and it would tend to obscure the issue if the course suggested by Mr. Smith were followed.

On motion of Mr. Bradlaugh the debate was adjourned.

A last (Thursday) night's London cable says: In the House of Commons this afternoon consideration of the question of breach of privilege in the *Times*-Dillon case was resumed. No member rising to speak on the motion of Mr. Lewis, that the conduct of the *Times* was a breach of privilege and the House take notice of it, Speaker Peel put before the House the amendment of Sir Edward Clarke, Solicitor-General, that the House decline to treat the *Times*' publication as a breach of privilege.

The Parnellites at once challenged a division. This resulted in a vote of 297 in favor of the amendment to 219 against it. The amendment then became a substantive motion, and Mr. Bradlaugh resumed the debate.

Mr. Gladstone, who on rising was loudly cheered, moved an amendment, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the charge of wilful falsehood made against Mr. Dillon in the *Times* on Monday. He said he did not intend to suggest that the inquiry go beyond the article referred to. He objected to Lord Randolph Churchill's calling him the leader of the party of separation. He perfectly understood why Lord Randolph did not call it the party of Home Rule. There was a future before Lord Randolph, in which Home Rule plans might figure as convenient to propose. (Cheers.) Turning to the question of privilege, he said it was unfortunate that the Government refused to inquire into the present charge against an Irish member, while inflicting upon the Irish people, by means of a permanent Coercion Bill, a brand of perpetual dishonor. Why take the case into a court of law? Was it certain that Mr. Dillon would get a verdict, whatever might be the proof, in a case where Parliament declared charges against a member no breach of privilege? Nearly thirty years ago he went as Commissioner to the Ionian Islands. The *Times* then said that the Ionian Assembly was committing treason and that the Commissioner was aiding and abetting the assembly. He thought these charges required redress, and he took the best advice on the subject, but all of his advisers said he could not depend upon securing a fair verdict. The Irish members would be in a still more unfavorable position in a jury trial, and it was no wonder they preferred the tribunal of the House. The House was a perfectly competent tribunal—indeed the only competent one. The precedents were all on the side of the appointment of a committee. There was the case of Mr. Butt in 1854, when it was held that the accusation that members were hungry for places to which were attached salaries and pensions deserved an inquiry. After citing a number of other precedents, in all of which the charges were less grave than those brought against Mr. Dillon, he challenged the Government to establish a single precedent where a prosecution had been ordered without the House having previously condemned the Act upon which the prosecution was based. He appealed to the Government to alter their determination, which otherwise might lead to a crisis of the most serious and momentous importance. The Irish members, who had been maligned to an enormous extent, asked for a particular course, which the majority refused, forgetting that they were acting against a minority representing a nation. (Parnellite cheers.) The Government could yet, on the grounds of reason, prudence and precedent accept his amendment, showing the country that they had determined at last to give even the Irish members full justice, even indulgent justice, seeing that their honor and character were at stake. (Cheers.)

Sir Richard Webster, Attorney-General, admitted that Mr. Gladstone had put the issue in the clearest possible way, but the opinion of the law officers of the Crown was unshaken. An examination for precedents showed that there never was a case parallel to the present, that there never was a case where the Government directed an inquiry into a charge where the authorship was admitted and the party accused of libel expressed willingness to justify. (Cheers.) The House had never dealt with a charge of falsehood as a matter in which it should interfere. Not a single case existed in modern times in which a similar libel upon a member of the House had been treated as a breach of privilege. If such a precedent should once be established there would probably be a breach of privilege every week. It was idle to suggest that commom justice should not be done in a case of gross libel. He appealed to the House to affirm that the course proposed by the Government was a most honorable and adequate one, and that a court of law was the proper place in which to deal with the charges.

An application for the release of Father Keller, the priest of Youghal, who was imprisoned in Kilmainham for refusing to testify regarding his connection with the Plan of Campaign, has been dismissed.

United Ireland says that only a fool or an enemy of the Irish party would recommend the Parnellites to legally prosecute their slanderers.

A last (Friday) night's London cable says: In the House of Commons last night Mr. Hugh Childers followed the Attorney-General. He taunted Mr. Webster with entirely ignoring Mr. Gladstone's powerful argument that Parliament had never ordered a prosecution without first declaring the offence. He hoped, on the ground of precedent and fairness, that the House would agree to the appointment of a committee.

The debate was resumed in the House Commons this evening on Mr. Gladstone's motion to appoint a committee to inquire into the *Times*' charges against Mr. Dillon.

Mr. Healy said every possible question seemed worthy of inquiry by the House except a question affecting the character of its members. The Parnellites did not care whether they got this inquiry or not, but if the Government majority refused this inquiry the names of British gentlemen would be placed on a level with that of the Indian Thug. The Parnellites challenged the Tories to combat at once on this question. They would stand on no technical reference, but would meet any charges brought against them. From the decision of the majority of the House the Parnellites would appeal to the people outside and to other nations. The Irish people never sent them there to beg favors, but to demand their rights.

Major Saunderson said he did not wonder that Mr. Gladstone tried to whitewash his Irish friends, who were now supplying his policy. He challenged Mr. Dillon to disprove the *Times* evidence.

Mr. Dillon—"I have offered to enter into the charges fully before a committee. I shall no longer exchange the lie with members of the House over them." (Cheers.)

WHIRLED TO DEATH.

Horrible Death by a Young Woman's Playful Carelessness.

A Jersey City despatch says: A horrible accident occurred in the smoking and fine cut department of Lorrillard's Tobacco Factory, this city, about 2 o'clock, which resulted in the death of Mrs. Honora Perrine, a widow, employed in the factory. At the time of the accident there were over 250 girls in the room, many of whom were eye-witnesses to the frightful tragedy. There are ten packing machines on the floor. All of these except two were shut down and the girls were standing about chatting, waiting for the paymaster to come along. While waiting for the paymaster Mrs. Perrine went over to the opposite end of the room to chat with her friend, Miss Cosgrove. Only two of the machines were running, and the two inch belts from all the others had been detached from the pulleys and were hanging loose on the revolving shaft. Despite the warnings of Miss Cosgrove, Mrs. Perrine sat in one of the loose beltings and began swinging as she would have done in a scup, holding fast to the belt with both hands a little way above her head. The girl's weight acted as a pressure upon the belt, which suddenly commenced to revolve, and she was borne upward with a crash to the ceiling, ten feet above, with a frightful crash. The girl's shoulders struck the ceiling and her hands and arms became entangled in a shaft revolving 350 times in a minute. The girl fell in almost the same spot in which she had stood. She lay in a mass upon the floor and a great stream of blood trickled out through her clothing upon the floor, and she died soon afterwards.

CZAR AND NIHILIST.

He Will Commute their Sentences—Determination of the Prisoners.

A St. Peterburg despatch says: It is reported that the Czar has decided that the sentences of death pronounced against the Nihilists, convicted of complicity in the recent attempt to assassinate him, shall be commuted to imprisonment at hard labor for life in the cases of all but two of the condemned. Polianoksky, one of the condemned, said he and his accomplices acted from firm conviction that what they set out to do it was their duty to perform. Another of the prisoners is a young student. He had just finished his studies with brilliant success, having taken the gold medal of the university which graduated him. The youth was so ardent in the cause of Nihilism that he sold his gold graduation medal to obtain funds to enable an accomplice to leave the Empire. All the prisoners pleaded guilty, and every one refused under threat or promise to betray any accomplice. The evidence indicated the existence of four widely ramifying Nihilist organizations, having head centres at St. Peterburg, Kief, Vilna and in Siberia. One of the witnesses was a woman. She admitted that she was the wife of one of the accused, although she said she had never been joined in wedlock to him by "unnecessary religious formalities." She was, on this admission, arrested and conducted to prison.

Stabbed to Death.

A New Westminster (B.C.) despatch says: Between 9 and 10 o'clock yesterday morning J. E. Muir, who has been engaged for many years logging at Semiahmoo, was murdered on the railway wharf in this city by a man named Wm. Shearer. The cause of the trouble between them is supposed to be of long standing. Shearer, who was discharging lumber from a scow, deliberately walked upon the wharf to where Muir was standing, and without any words stabbed him repeatedly. On Muir attempting to get away Shearer caught him by his coat-collar and forcibly held him until the murder was accomplished. The murderer then threw his knife into the water and quickly gave himself up. Muir died in a few minutes, and on examination eleven stabs were found between the neck and the lower part of his body.

The coat-tail flirtation is the latest. A wrinkled coat-tail, bearing dusty toe marks, means: "I have spoken to your father."

During the next three days three thousand more immigrants are expected to arrive in Montreal.

Two hundred houses have been destroyed by fire in the town of Nagy Karoly, Transylvania. The castle of Count Karolyi narrowly escaped destruction.

BELLIGERENT COLONISTS.

Colonial Delegates Get Mad Over Britain's Policy in the New Hebrides—Quite a Scene Raised—The Queen's Title to be Further Lengthened.

A last (Friday) night's London cable says: A meeting of the Colonial Conference was held to-day, with Sir Henry Holland presiding, when the draft scheme for the increase of the Australian squadron was agreed to, as were the resolutions relative to laying a sub-marine cable between Vancouver and Australia. A discussion was invited by the President as to the proposal to extend the title of the Queen so as to include distinct reference to the colonies. The delegates were unanimously in favor of the extension of the title, subject to the Queen's pleasure, and suggested that the terms of the proclamation of 1858 should be adopted, viz., Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof. At the close of the Conference an address was presented to Sir Henry Holland, expressing a sense of the manner in which he had presided. Sir Henry Holland thanked the delegates for their kindness and courtesy.

The Conference will visit Cambridge to-morrow. The final sitting of the Conference will be held on Monday.

Sir Henry Holland, Secretary of State for the Colonies, announced in the Colonial Conference here on the 27th ult. that the Government hoped to arrange with France for a joint naval commission for the government of the New Hebrides. The Commission, it was stated, would have power to protect the settlers, traders and missionaries, and would also be empowered to land marines to punish the natives for committing outrages and to maintain order, the marines, however, to be withdrawn when the special work for which they landed was accomplished. If the scheme proposed was accepted by France it was to be arranged that the French garrisons now occupying the chief harbors of the New Hebrides should retire. The publication of the details is attributed to the indignation which the proposal has aroused among the Colonial representatives here, many of whom are said to be unable to conceal their anger at what they deem the surrender of their claims to France. It is said that Sir Henry Holland's statement amazed the members of the Conference and almost led to a scene. The Australians all without exception deprecated any policy which even seemed to recognize French pretensions in the New Hebrides. Lord Salisbury, who was present, supported the speech made by Sir Henry Holland in justification of the Government's proposal. The Premier's argument, however, instead of mollifying the incensed delegates, served but to intensify their wrath. His remarks implied that the Australian demands hampered England in her negotiations with France. He maintained that the colonists made a grave mistake in not accepting the compromise which the Earl of Rosebery proposed, and which, the Premier said, would have prevented the extension of the evils complained of by the Australians, or arising from the sending of French convicts to the South Pacific, and the rejection of which made it difficult for the English Government to approach France with any request that she curtail her liberty of action as to the uses to which she should put her own territory. "Surely," exclaimed the Marquis, "the Colonies do not desire to make the recidivist agitation a *casus belli*." The Premier's speech increased the dissatisfaction of the delegates to such an extent that Sir Graham Berry, the Agent-General of Victoria, twitted the Prime Minister with having made a speech that would have been excellent coming from the mouth of the French Premier.

M. Chauvat has been installed as French resident at Walles Island, the capital of the Walles Islands group in the South Pacific, in view of a possible British or German occupation.

RAILWAY DISASTER.

An Intercolonial Express Wrecked by an Enormous Snowslide—Two Men Killed.

A Moncton, N. B., despatch says: Yesterday's express from Quebec was five hours behind time. The delay was caused by a fatal snowslide three miles west of Trois Pistoles. The west-bound accommodation struck an avalanche which had dropped on the track from a high bank in a clay cutting, and both engines and the four first-class cars ran off the track and piled in a heap of ruin. The fireman of one of the engines named Pierre Levasgeur was killed, and a brakeman named Alfred Lavard was so badly scalded that he died in a short time. The two engine drivers and one of the firemen crawled out from the wreck with scarcely any injury. Their escape is simply miraculous. Mr. McDonald, the superintendent, was on board, and immediately sent for medical aid and for the auxiliary cars of St. Flavie and River du Loup. Owing to the awkward position of the wreck between two banks fifty or sixty feet high, leaving no place to dump the *debris*, the clearing of the line was a difficult matter. The accident was one which it was difficult to foresee, nothing of the kind having been known to happen before. The bank that fell is an enormous one, and is composed of snow as hard and heavy as clay.

A Level Headed Father.

First Man—Umph! The idea of spending $200 for a bicycle for your boy! You'll ruin him.

Second Man—On the contrary, I desire to keep him out of bad company.

"What good will that new fangled contrivance do any one, I'd like to know? He can go where he pleases with it."

"Did you ever hear of a young man coming home drunk on a bicycle?"

—A certain current slang phrase has been traced to no less a person than John Bunyan. In "The Pilgrim's Progress" occurs the passage: "When it is a cold day for them in a nation, then they lurk in the hedges, though their ordnance lie there, as leaves that are dry and fallen down from the tree."

—In front of a grocery store in Bleecker street, New York city, is a sign on a basket of eggs which reads as follows: "Fresh eggs guaranteed. Every egg dated."

—"Define a monstrosity," said the teacher, and the children all replied in ringing chorus: "An insurance agent with the mumps."

A METEOR AT SEA.

The Narrow Escape From Destruction of a Vessel—Peculiar Experiences.

A New York despatch says: The *Mail and Express* says: It has often been thought by mariners and those intimate with astronomical phenomena that many of the sudden and mysterious disappearances of vessels lost at sea could be accounted for by their being struck by meteors and meteoric stones. The theory appears to have some foundation by the following statement by Captain Swart, of the Dutch barque J. P. A., bound for Quebec, and one of the first statements of the kind ever made public: On March 19th the ship, while in lat. 37 degrees 39 minutes north, and long. 57 degrees west, experienced a severe storm. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon a meteor was observed flying through the air. It presented the appearance of two balls. One was very black and the other very brightly illuminated. The latter appeared as if ready to drop on board amidships. The vessel was hove to under storm sails and the meteor dropped into the sea close alongside, making in its flight a tremendous roaring noise. Before falling into the water the upper atmosphere was suddenly darkened, while below on board everything appeared like a sea of fire. The force of the meteor on striking the water caused the latter to form heavy breakers, which swept over the vessel, rocking her fearfully. At the same time such a suffocating atmosphere was caused as to force perspiration to run down the faces of all on board, and greatly oppressed the breathing from the amount of sulphur in the air. Immediately after solid lumps of ice fell on the deck, and the decks and rigging became covered with an icy crust, caused by the immense evaporation, notwithstanding the fact that the thermometer registered 66 degrees. The barometer during the phenomena oscillated violently, so that no reading could be taken. After close examination of the vessel and rigging no damage was found on deck, but on the side where the meteor fell into the water the vessel appeared all black and some of the copper sheathing was terribly blistered. The affair was followed by an increase of the wind to hurricane force.

SHOT AND ROBBED.

Plucky Fight of an Old Sandwich Hotelkeeper.

A Windsor despatch says: Captain John Horn, sen., of Detroit, has for the past two years conducted the Road House at Sandwich, a short distance above the mineral springs. Captain John is frequently the only person on the premises. Last night he was alone, his bedroom being just in rear of the bar, with an entrance to it from the dance hall. Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning he was aroused by burglars moving in the front part of the building. Jumping and grabbing his cash-box, which he kept at the head of his bed, he opened the door and found himself face to face with one of the burglars. The fellow had a cocked revolver in his hand and poking it into the landlord's face demanded his money or his life. "I'll be —— if you get my money," retorted the Captain, who, in spite of his 67 years, is able-bodied. He made a lunge at the burglar; the latter lowered his revolver in a twinkle and fired a bullet which passed through the fleshy part of his left thigh. "You've done it now," roared the stalwart old veteran, "but I'll fix you yet," and he snatched a lather's hatchet that was close at hand. The burglars retreated and darted out of the front door, which had been left open in case of surprise. Capt. Horn followed, and in the dim light of the moon saw four men running down the road. With nothing on but his nightshirt he chased them with the hatchet about 40 rods and then lost sight of them. On returning he sized up his loss, which amounted to about $200 worth of cigars, dressed himself and walked half a mile to the nearest doctor. This morning, although suffering considerable pain, he walked to Windsor and crossed to his home in Detroit.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The Delegates Present an Address to the Queen—Handsome Gifts and Congratulations.

A London cablegram says: The Colonial delegates visited the Queen at Windsor today to present their address. Several valuable presentations were made from the colonies, among them being a gold casket studded with Cape diamonds, which was presented by the Cape representatives, and a casque of native woods, mounted in silver and jewels, from Natal. Both Sir Alexander Campbell and Mr. Sandford Fleming were present. The address stated that the Queen's subjects from distant parts of the Empire, assembled in London to confer on questions affecting the Imperial possessions throughout the world, desire to avail themselves of the opportunity of approaching Her Majesty with humble, united and earnest congratulations on the approaching completion of the fiftieth year of her reign. Mention was made of the growth of the population of India and the colonies, and that the increase of trade and the shipping revenue had been proportionate to the population. No one in the Queen's wide dominion is subject to any other sway than that of even and impartial law. The address congratulated Her Majesty that after half a century's reign, amidst changes of dynasties and systems of government in other countries, the principles of law, which have their foundations in the past, still afford her subjects safety and prosperty, and the Empire that stability which claims the admiration of the world. The delegates assured the Queen of the continued loyalty and devotion of her colonial subjects, and prayed that her happy reign would still be prolonged, and the throne remain established in the land in justice and righteousness for generations to come.

—"There is something in this little fellow I like," said an appreciative visitor to a young hopeful he was trotting on his knees. "Now," said the boy, "how did you know I had swallowed a penny?"

You can't judge an artist from the way he writes his name, nor a woman's disposition by the size of her bustle.

The Bishop of Ontario will not return from England until the middle of September. In consequence the Synod, which is usually held in June, will not be convened until after his return.