KAFFIRS AND THE LADIES.

A few days ago, it is said, four ladies in the height (or rather in the extreme breadth) of the Crinoline fashion, paid a visit to the rebel chief Sandilli, at his residence in Drostdy; a well known gallant and witty colonel acting as cicerone to the party. With considerable address, and the aid of the energetic colonel, each fair votary of fashion managed to covey herself and portable wardrobe through the narrow doorway (only intended for a horse to enter at) of the chief's appartment without much damage, and the party stood fronting the group of wandering savages. Sandilli reclined on an iron hospital stretcher, in graceful attitude, with his regal tiger-skin kaross carelessly thrown over him. His brother, a splendid specimen of a rude Kaffir, stood on his left, in all the pride of native dignity, whose fine limbs and well developed muscles no thong or wrappage had helped to strangle in their growth—a beautiful, a perfect model for a sculptor and most strange contrast to the made-up figures of his grotesque milliner-made visitors. Around these two were lying, sitting, and standing the other councillors, about a dozen, in various attitudes and stages of Kaffir-no-fashion, some *au natural*, others blanketed and karossed. After a scrutinizing examination of the various figures composing this picturesque group of the *elite* of Kaffirland and much disquisition on the part of the ladies as to the relative merits of the ancient Greeian statues, &c., Sandilli was requested to stand up and show himself. The chief wished to know who the ladies were that he should stand in their presence. "Tell him," said the jocose colonel to the interpreter; "tell him they are my wives, and that I have another at home; and ask what he thinks of them." "Fie, Colonel," twittered one young lady, "how can you tell the chief such nonsense!" The interpreter explained, the chief laughed and whispered to his brother, who laughed also, and the laugh went around the circle, all staring at the four fashionable ladies, who began to laugh too at the hilarity they had occasioned amongst the natives. "Oh! do tell us what they are so merry about," said Miss ——; "they've found out something very funny, I'm sure, Sandilli is laughing so wickedly." "Oh, yes, Colonel," entreated Mrs. ——, "pray let the interpreter ask him." The interpreter did ask, but was seized with such an immoderate fit of laughing that he could not stop himself. The ladies joined again, and the scene became really quite exciting. The interpreter seemed bashful when pressed to give the merry chief's reply, and the curiosity of the ladies of course made them still more importunate for an explanation of the fun. "What does he say?" quoth the Colonel. "He says, Sir, you are likely to have a large family, for they all appear ——." Suddenly the room darkened, hustles are squeezing themselves frantically through the narrow doorway, helping to wedge each other through, &c., and the party is soon seen in rapid flight scampering home along the green, followed by the mischievous colonel.—*Cape Sly's African Journal.*

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON.

We have received a circumstantial description of an extraordinary appearance in the heavens which, on the morning of Saturday last, was witnessed by two men who were out in a fishing boat off Quigley's Point, in Lough Foyle. At a former period this strange phenomenon, for which the known laws of optics account only imperfectly, would have been regarded as prophetic of national destinies; but the *Fata Morgana* of Italy, and the singular appearances frequently witnessed in the high Arctic latitudes, as well as around some parts of the Antrim coast, demonstrate the essential reference of all these optical wonders to some natural law, which science has yet thoroughly to investigate. From the character of the men to whom, in the present case, we allude, not the slightest doubt can be ascertained in regard to the fidelity of their statement, which is, in substance, the following, namely:—That while on Saturday morning last, about 2 o'clock, they were in a boat fishing, off Quigley's Point, they observed a phenomenon of a very strange description.—At the hour we have mentioned the sky was of a more than ordinary dark and lurid aspect, so much so that the men were apprehensive that there would be a heavy fall of rain, when almost instantaneously the clouds to the westward parted, and an opening, as it were, of a reddish hue became visible, to which their attention was directed. Then there appeared a regiment of men in uniform; and so minute was the representation that the dresses of the officers could be easily distinguished from those of the men. This passed away in a panoramic manner, and was quickly succeeded by the view of two large three-masted vessels of war under full sail, which traversed the same space as their predecessors on the scene, and at length they faded from the sight. The mysterious vision was not, however, yet completed, for their wondering eyes now beheld the appearance of two human forms, male and female, standing with their faces towards each other, as if engaged in conversation; and so vivid was the outline of these figures that they distinguished the male from the female, the former being apparently clothed in a frock coat. This great personation of humanity occupied about the same space of time as the two first mentioned.—This most bewildering scene was closed by the forms of a swan and a peahen moving across and disappearing; after which the sky resumed the sombre hue which it wore previous to this strange illusion. Our informant stated that one of the men who witnessed this scene was filled with the greatest terror during its continuance.—*Derry Sentinel.*

THE ESTATE OF AN IRISH LANDLORD.—The first great example of the working of the Irish Encumbered Estates Bill is to be found in the following significant paragraph:

"A Galway paper states that the "most extensive estate in Ireland is about to change hands." This can only refer to the estate of Mr. Martin, of Galway, which in surface extent may be considered a principality, though otherwise of sufficiently limited value. The incumbrances thereon are said to be enormous, and the statement made, is that the owner is to have £50,000 for his interest, the purchaser assuming all liabilities."

This enormous estate, which is larger than some English Counties, belonged to the late eccentric but humane Mr. Martin, M. P. who was the author of the Act against cruelty to animals. At his death, a few years since, the estate descended to his only daughter, who, about two years ago, married her cousin, a young gentleman of the name of Bell. The estate was mortgaged to the extent of £360,000; and last year some of the proprietor's sheep and cattle were distrained for poor rates. The entrance-gate and lodge are about 20 miles from the mansion house.

THE SMALL AGENTS OF GREAT MISCHIEFS.

The Irish rebel chiefs are now the laughing stock of the world; but, paradoxical as it may appear, who should have better hopes for the peace of the country if the characters of the men who have so misled a portion of the people were less paltry and contemptible. There is this satisfaction in having to do with potent agents of great mischiefs, that when they are crushed, successes of equal abilities are not to be found, and the bad course is abandoned in despair for want of leaders. The reasoning in such case is, the boldest and best-qualified chiefs have done their best and failed, and who can hope to succeed after them? for who can surpass them in skill, energy, and daring, and prudence to plan and combine, and in resource to repair disasters? But this discouraging argument has no application to the present case. There are hundreds of vain O'Briens, braggart Meaghers, and ruffian Talbots in Ireland—hundred of these asses in [illegible] and it is far from assuming to re[illegible] stores of this puny sort are able to [illegible] city, and to put the Govern[illegible], and the public to the ex[illegible] superior in force to that [illegible] Spain against all the [illegible] which made head [illegible] rebellion such powers of Napoleon. [illegible] material for the misfortune of a skim-[illegible] as we have witnessed is, that [illegible] lying.—No superstition is so easy, [illegible] so ready for it, no high courage, no [illegible] will, no genius for strategy, no [illegible] quality of leadership—nothing but one good quality and temporizing, bouncing and bluster[illegible] As is said in common parlance, "any fool could have done it,"—and how many fools are there left equal to the same sorry performance! The mountain in labour is good for fable; but if a mouse could really make and appalling roaring in a mountain, it would not be pleasant to the neighborhood to reflect that mice never could be wanting for the continuance of the clamorous nuisance.

There is generally something jarring and disatisfactory in the disproportionment of cause and effect. If we are to be troubled and disturbed, it is consoling that the agent equal to the molestation should not be of ordinary magnitude, nor of inferior power; for in that consists the security against the frequency of such annoyances, that the authors must possess qualities and attributes which are rare. On the other hand, it is most mortifying to find that the weakest of creatures in every respect except tantamount have yet been able to create alarm, to cause vast injury thereby to the country, and most inconvenient expense to the public. These considerations make us lament that the Irish rebels prove such wretched powder-puffs; and it seems to us that it were almost desirable to plump them out into some show of manly proportions if the thing could be done: but they have so ridiculously figured, that it is utterly impossible. The American reproach is fatally applicable to them, "they are cruel small."—It is doubly cruel to the country, that, being so small, they have cost it so much in alarm, and in reducing their insignificance to practical proof.

How large loomed the treason in the bubble, and what a wretched spot of work is it in the suds out of which it was blown! Still the vexation is in the reflection that the elements are so common and level, as the children's books say, to the meanest capacity. "Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius," but "ex quovis ligno" it seems can be made the Irish rebel chief, and the weeping willow is the wood of the present heroes.—*English Paper.*

A MANAGER'S EXPENSES.—M. Julien passed his last examination in the Bankruptcy Court on Thursday new night. The profit and loss account ("grand opera") has the following items:—advertisements in newspapers, &c., to give publicity to the amusements, £1,791; rent of the theatre, 1,165. The salaries of the principal singers amount on the whole to £6,081 2s. Amongst these are the following: Madame Doms Gras, £2,000; Mr. J. S. Reeves, £130; Chenor, £1,480 to Mr. Balfe, for the privilege of playing his *Maid of Honor*, £200; to Mdlle. Fusco, principal dancer £580; to the Arabs, for their performances, £30; scene painting, £501; armoures, £128; ladies' wardrobe &c., £1,477; gentlemen's ditto, 409; police constables for attendance in the house, 71; the salaries amount to £1,377, and amongst those salaried are three prompters, one apologist, and one singing prompter. The whole receipts at the doors of the theatre, inclusive of the boxes let by stationers, &c., amount to £9 825, during the "grand opera." The profit and loss account during the performance of the "opera" shows upon the whole a profit of 2,240. It is stated in the report that the official assignee entertains the most favorable opinion of the honesty and fair dealing of the Bankrupt, who will come up for his certificate on the 17th of August.

THE LATE POISONINGS IN ESSEX.

THORPE, Wednesday, Sept. 13.

A searching investigation has been set on foot by the authorities during the last few days amongst the inhabitants of Thorpe, Kirby, Ramsay, Wix, Mistley, Bradfield, Great Oakeley, and places adjacent, in consequence of suspicions which have been raised that the system of poisoning has been carried on to a much larger extent than originally supposed. There is every reason to fear, judging from the circumstances which have transpired, that the husbands and children of a great number of women who were on habits of intimacy with Mrs. May and Mrs. Southgate have been destroyed.

The case to which the authorities are now principally directing their attention is that of a person named Nathaniel Button, formerly a resident in the parish of Ramsay, who died on the 30th of September, 1846, a few days after the death of Mrs. May's husband, about whom some suspicion also exists. No suspicion was at the time attached to the death, and probably nothing would have been heard of it had it not been for the cases already reported, and from the fact that Mrs. Button had been "asked in church" for another marriage, with a man who had been lodging in her house, and who, after the disclosures had been made, wished the ceremony to be postponed, "to see whether they would pull Button up." It was also ascertained that Mrs. Button was on intimate terms of friendship with Mrs. May and Mrs. Southgate. These circumstances coming to the knowledge of the authorities, they (not having the power of exhuming the body) have transmitted to the coroner an immense quantity of evidence in order that he may take the necessary steps for fully investigating the matter. From this evidence it appears that Button was well until the day of his death. He was seized with sudden illness after partaking of some food which had been prepared for him by his wife. Soon afterwards he staggered towards the door, purged violently and threw up large quantities of matter of a greenish colour, and died in a few hours. He had frequently been heard to say he was afraid to take anything from his wife, as he was convinced she wanted to poison him. When informed that her husband's body was to be disinterred, for the purpose of being examined, she hastily exclaimed, "Well, if they find arsenic in his body, I am sure I did not put it there." During the life of Button his wife was criminally intimate with a man named "Bobby Peck," a circumstance which created much jealousy, and was productive of frequent altercations between the man and his wife. Almost immediately after the death of Button, Peck also died in a sudden and mysterious manner.

The case under investigation is that of a person named Palmer, resident in Ramsay who died shortly after Button under somewhat similar circumstances. Almost immediately after his death Mrs. Palmer left Ramsay accompanied by a paramour with whom she had long been intimate. Palmer, it appears, was a hard-working, industrious man, followed the occupation of a farm laborer.—He had been at his work until the day before his death, and up to that time had been in perfect health. After partaking of some food, which was cooked by his wife, he became sick. He retired to bed, and within a few hours died in the most frightful agony.—The fullest information on this case, with the case, with the names of the witnesses who can depose to these facts, have been sent to the coroner.

The case of Phœbe Reade, one of the witnesses against Mr. Southgate, is also under investigation. This person was in the service of Mrs. Southgate during the life of her former husband. The authorities were induced to make inquiry into the case of Reade in consequence of circumstances which transpired during the inquest on Ham. Reade deposed that Mrs. Ham (of Southgate) had had six children, but that only one of them was then alive. Mrs. Southgate then pointedly asked Reade how many child en she had. Reade admitted that she had had five (all illegitimate,) but that only one of them had lived. From the fact that none of the children had been ill more than a day or 30 hours at the most, the whole of these bodies are to be disinterred.

Mrs. Southgate's children, six in number, in the language of the neighbors, "dropped off short," and were supposed to have been "white powdered" (poisoned by arsenic.)—These cases are likewise undergoing enquiry.

The town of Great Holland in the Tendering Union, has also, it is suspected, been the scene of one, if not more, of these poisonings. A man named Brudger died some time since, suddenly and in great agony, having been well and at his work within a few hours before his death. In consequence of the discoveries made respecting Mrs. May and Mrs. Southgate, with both of whom Mrs. Brudger was intimate, the body of the husband and children are to be exhumed for the purpose of having the contents of the stomach analysed.

Two other cases are under consideration; one in the parish of Tendering, and the other in the parish of Bradfield.

In the investigation of these cases it has been ascertained that most, if not all, owe their origin to the existence of what are in this part of the country, called "death clubs." These clubs are composed chiefly of the class to which those alluded to belong, and the manner in which the business is managed may thus be describe:—A person, a man or woman, enters one of those clubs, agreeing to pay a sum of 7d. a-quarter, at the same time appointing a nominee, at whose death the subscribing party receives £10 or £8. Mrs. Southgate was a member of one of those clubs, and so were also the other persons whose names are implicated in these shocking affairs.

CANADIAN LOYALTY IMPUGNED.

The following article appeared in a late number of the *United Service Gazette*:

IRISH CONFEDERATES IN CANADA.

It is high time that the Government of this country should pay some little attentions to the proceedings of the Irish Confederates in Canada. Extracts which have appeared from the American papers show the outrageous delight which the fabricated report of the defeat of the British troops in Ireland occasioned throughout the States. The British Government could have a short and easy way of dealing with these sympathisers—they could treat them as pirates and robbers, and teach them that their Mexican and Texican marauding expeditions would not be tolerated by a great and powerful nation. But whilst we can afford to laugh at all their bombastic declarations, their collection of funds and purchase of arms, there is still this very serious evil connected with their proceedings. Their expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance keep the large hordes of Irish in Canada in a state of perpetual agitation. In fact, at the present moment, the Irish in Montreal and Quebec are proceeding to organize themselves in the most open and undisguised manner. In the latter city an "Emmet" club has been formed, which parades the streets in public, and also practice ball firing. If the matter rested merely here, one might not unreasonably expect that this parody of the now defunct clubs in Ireland, however amusing when supported by sympathy from without, would been no quite another thing when opposed to the wholesome rigor of the law. But these Irish confederates go a little further.—One night in the beginning of August they succeeded in spiking ten guns on Wolfe's Battery in the town of Quebec, near the citadel. A meeting was held in Montreal on the 14th August, at which the Irish Republican flag of green, orange, and white, with a bloody hand on the white ground, and "death before slavery," in characters above, and a pike, were exhibited; and at this night the most treasonable speeches were made, alluding to the contemplated invasion from the United States of those Irish and Mexican heroes who are to overthrow British rule in our North American provinces. In consequence of this state of affairs in the province, and the extensive and undisguised system of organization going on in the United States, Lord Elgin has been sent for from below Quebec, where he was on his way to enjoy a pleasure trip to Saguenay. The Commander of the forces, Sir Benjamin D'Urban, who was in Upper Canada, would shortly arrive at Montreal, and it was proposed to call out several regiments of volunteers in Upper Canada immediately. It is said that some of the present government are very anxious that measures of precaution should be taken, whilst others, who were more than suspected of a participation in the last rebellion, show a great lukewarmness on the subject, and pretend that there is no danger. It should be known that the Irish in Canada are all armed. In the Irish quarter of Montreal, the manufacture of pikes has been going on for month. They appear to be only waiting for the coming of sympathisers, who are to march as soon as they hear of a rising having taken place in Ireland.

It is *not true* that ten guns were spiked in Wolfe's battery in Quebec. It is *true* that some wicked person made an ineffectual attempt to knock a rusty nail through a gun [illegible] It is *not true* that large hordes of Irish are kept in a *perpetual* agitation in Canada; the Province is in a state of perfect peace. It is *true* that a man of the name of O'Connor, and one or two more, came from the United States and tried to get up an excitement in Montreal, and failed to do so; and is there a large town in the Mother country where some excitement could not be got among the least informed of the population, during a period of unexampled agitation over all the world? but was there any rioting or destruction of property in any part of Canada, such as occurred in many towns in the three kingdoms? It is *not true*, but a foul libel on the present Ministry of Canada to say that any part of them showed lukewarmness in taking precautionary measures against the agitators, under the *pretence that there was no danger.*—If they did not resort to hostile measures against them, it was from a conviction that *contempt* was the best course for such absurd demonstrations, and the result has shown the wisdom of that conduct. If such Hotspurs as the writer of the *United Service Gazette* had been at the head of affairs in Canada, there might have been disturbances and riots as in the Mother country. Serious rebellion there could not have been, for there is no general discontent with the British Government and connexion. Does the *United Service Gazette* wish to know the reason? It arises from the constitutional and just government of Lord Elgin and his administration.

There is not a grain of truth in the above bushel of falsehoods. It is true that a certain portion of the United States Press believed and rejoiced in the false accounts of victories said to be gained over the Queen's forces in Ireland. It is not true that the press of that country generally adopted such views. The largest and by far the most respectable part discountenanced all such reports, and all measures of sympathy with the rebels in Ireland. There was in the City of New York one paper of respectability which cast its influence into that side, and we believe this was owing to the absence of the principal editor, whose place was supplied by a sympathising Irishman. It is true that there was some excitement among a small part of the Irish population in Canada, but it is not true that it was general, and we are inclined to believe that the Irish who would have turned out to oppose any hostile attempt on the part of the disaffected, and those who felt no interest in the matter, greatly exceeded in number those who would have moved against the Government. An attempt was made on a small scale, in Toronto to get up subscriptions to aid the Irish rebellion, and to raise a popular clamor in its favor. It was a miserable failure, and died from sheer weakness and inanition.

The *Gazette* refers to the rebellion of 1837, and 1838. Did he never hear that the real rebels on that occasion were the High Churchmen of the Province, who, by their selfish and grasping conduct, irritated the people beyond all endurance. Did he never hear that the Governors of that day suppressed the dispatches of the Home Government, and defeated constitutional measures which they had devised for the benefit of the Province? Did he never hear that there was once in Upper Canada a governor called Sir Francis Bond Head, of absurd memory, the whole bent and object of whose administration was to prevent those who had the misfortune to live under his government, from attaining the benefits of the British Constitution? He and his clique of placemen, parasites, and high churchmen were the *great rebels.* They stood up in rebellion against the Majesty of that freedom which has proved the shield of British Empire in the hour of danger, and which will never fail her, when honestly and faithfully administered. What saved the Empire lately from revolution; while others were falling around her? The freedom of her Institutions—that was the true Conservative principle, which maintained her erect while all around were prostrate. The people were deeply convinced that the improvements they yet require can be got by constitutional means, and they know well that no imagination could fancy the amount of loss of life, of waste of property of misery and ruin, which would arise from a revolution in Britain. Already in possession of the best government in the world, they wait with patience for the last instalment, rather than cast the whole away, and embark on a dark and stormy and uncertain future. We condem with justice the wicked fabrication of Irish news, but this article of the *United Service Gazette*, contains as many misrepresentations of the People of Canada, as it seems possible to crowd into so small a space.

IRELAND.—The belief entertained that a positive rebellion has broken out in Ireland, is to a certain extent without foundation; but it is nevertheless true, that predatory bands of armed men had turned out in hostile array, encamped in almost inaccessible positions, and openly defying the military authorities. Numerous attacks had been made upon the police, and non-sympathizing residents.

These demonstrations, however purposeless in themselves, and so well calculated to inspire alarm, particularly in England, have in a considerable degree subsided, though the insurgents are far from being dispersed.

The last accounts from Ireland state that the neighborhood of Carrick-on-Lair is still much disturbed; that the insurgents occupy formidable localities upon the mountains; that signal fires are lighted every night, and that utmost vigilance of the military and police failed to crush the display. Search is kept up after Doheny and other leaders who are known to be with the insurgents, but as yet without the slightest effect.

The Hobart Town papers lately received, furnish a return of the census of Van Diemen's Land, for the year 1847, from which it appears that the total population last year was 70,164, being an increase of 2,251 persons over the population of 1846. Of this number there were 9,059 married males, and 8,511 married females; 33,263 single males and 13,511 single females. Military and children, 1,765 males against 481 females. The number of male convicts employed on the public work was 3,739. It will be perceived by these returns that the disproportion between the sexes is very considerable, there being a fraction less than one female to two males, the respective totals of both being 22,335 females to 47,828 males. In order to maintain the economy of the colony it is therefore necessary that a large amount of female emigration should take place. The number of persons who arrived free, or were born in the colony, was 16,514 males and 15,667 females. The number of other free persons was 8,8[illegible] males and 2,687 females. The number of convicts in Government employment was 4,[illegible] males and 1,098 females; convicts under private assignment, 7,278 males and 1,438 females; male convicts holding tickets of leave, 1,719, and 965 females. With respect to the religion of the colonists, 44,490 persons professed the doctrines of the Church of England, 1,552 those of the church of Scotland, 2,766 were Wesleyan Methodists, and 2,186 other protestant dissenters, 9,904 Roman Catholics, 452 Jews, and 29 Mahommedans and Pagans. The respective occupations of the colonists were—landed proprietors, merchants, bankers, &c., to the number of 1,592; shopkeepers and other retail dealers, 1,172; mechanics and artificers, 5,581; shepherds and [illegible] in charge of sheep, 1,098; gardeners, st[illegible] and persons employed in agriculture, [illegible] domestic servants, 4,839; and all other persons not included in any of the [illegible] classes, 38,291, exclusive of military and children, and male convicts on public works, of whom the latter comprised 3,739 [illegible] The number of houses erected in the colony was 9,614 of which 4,163 were built of brick, and 5,224 of wood. Of the number, 9,614 were in a finished state, 573 unfinished, 9,519 were inhabited, and 68 uninhabited.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL SUMMONED TO SWITZERLAND.—Lord John Russell has been summoned as a witness on the part of Mr. Smith O'Brien, and his lordship must attend the special commission which opens at Clonmel on the [illegible] but his attendance in all probability, will not be necessary before the 28th, as an interval of a week will elapse between the [illegible] the bills and the arraignment of the prisoners.

One of the Dublin papers contains the following very curious account of the service of the Crown summons on the Premier:—

"The Prime Minister will have to pay a second visit to Switzerland in consequence of an invitation for that purpose was sent to him in the afternoon of the 9th, bearing the signature of Messrs. Peter Carmichael, clerks of the Crown for the county of Tipperary—or, to express our meaning with less ambiguity, we may simply state that Lord John Russell, almost the moment of his departure from our shores, was served with a Crown summons requiring him to attend and give evidence at the ensuing special commission in Clonmel, on the part of William Smith O'Brien. The delivery of the document took place in the drawing-room of the Bonegal Lodge, and after a brief interview Lord John Russell was handed the legal document in due form, which he read over carefully. Mr. Potter then observed that, in order to comply with the requisite formalities of law, it was his duty to tender to his lordship a viaticum, accompanying the summons, which required his attendance, at the same time handing him ten sovereigns. Lord John Russell declined to receive the money, saying, that though such might be the form of law, Mr. Potter might consider the service of the summons complete without his acceptance of the viaticum. His lordship then stated, that he was going to Scotland, by special order, to wait upon her Majesty, and that he did not know for what purpose his attendance could be required at the trial. Mr. Potter stated that the legal advisers of Mr. Smith O'Brien considered his lordship's attendance and evidence absolutely requisite.

It is said among persons likely to be engaged in the approaching trials, that the objection in view in summoning Lord John Russell as a witness, is to examine him as to his own proceedings upon the occasion the Reform bill, and letters from his lordship counseling a march of the Birmingham political Union upon London at that period, as reported to be in existence and producible. What effect such a course would have upon the jury it is not easy to say; but, if permitted by the Judges, this resuscitation of the past is hardly fair to be very disagreeable to the Prime Minister."

ADVENTURE OF A LETTER.—The Stamford *Mercury* says—"Some time since a letter containing bills of exchange amounting to £5000, was posted in London, addressed to a banking firm at Boston. The Lincolnshire being omitted from the addresse the letter was put into an American bag, and crossed the Atlantic to Boston in Massachusetts. No owner being found, brother Jonathan then honestly returned the letter, and on Tuesday morning last, it reached its proper destination, Messrs. Gee & Co's, Boston, Lincolnshire, after twice traversing the Atlantic and having caused a journey to London, and a long and anxious correspondence."

MITCHEL THE CONVICT.—Enquiries have recently been made in the House of Commons by Lord George Bentinck, relative to the alleged civilities received by Mitchel on board the *Scourge*, when it was officially dined that Com. Wingrove had treated the convict committed to his charge with any unnecessary consideration than the humanity of a British officer would award to an unfortunate individual, suffering from severe illness. It would appear from Sir George Grey's statements that whatever had been done bearing the appearance of kindness, was only the result of negligence, or thoughtlessness on the part of Com. Wingrove and the officers of the *Scourge*. The refutation of these reports cannot be other than highly satisfactory; for the law could not recognize superiority of one class of felons over another, and to be just must be fairly and impartially carried into effect. The state of Mitchel's health has so far exempted him from being placed to labour on public works.

CAPTURE OF SLAVERS.—During the present summer more slavers have been captured by the British Squadron on the coast of Africa, than any previous period, and by the latest advices from St. Helena the slavers were tumbling in briskly. The *Pandjer*, Commodore Sir C. Hotham, K. C. B., had captured on the 22nd June the *Theresa*, Steam Slaver, and as the weather was foggy at the time, the latter had not even the opportunity to attempt an escape. The *Theresa* had no slaves on board, but her well known occupation sent her to St. Helena as a prize. Among the several other captures the *Cutlas*, 12, sloop, had taken a vessel with 497 slaves on board, and destroyed another of 700 tons.—The latter vessel had also chased a steamer having 1500 slaves on board, which unfortunately escaped capture.

Legal Intelligence.

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Upper Canada vs. MACDONALD.

(This suit being the first of the kind instituted in Upper Canada, and being somewhat interesting in its circumstances, a fuller report of it is given than we usually furnish of decisions.)

This suit was instituted by information in the month of August, 1843, on the part of Her Majesty's Attorney-General, being then the Hon. Robert Baldwin, against the defendants, John Scadding Macdonald and Guy C. Wood, to rescind a patent issued in the month of October, 1842, to the first named defendant for Lots No. 10 and 11, on the south side of Water Street, in the Town of Cornwall, in the Eastern District, commonly known in that town as the "Market Lot," which had immediately after the passing of the act 58, Geo. III, c. 4, and under its authority been appropriated to the use of the town for market purposes, and a market house erected on it by the Magistrates of the Eastern District. A market not being looked upon with favor, it would seem, by the inhabitants of the Town or Country, the Market House fell into disuse, and on the establishment of a "Board of Police" for Cornwall, in 1821, various portions of the lots surrounding the Market House were let out to individuals at a rental ranging from £10 or thereabouts to £18 10s. per annum, which continued to be paid and appropriated to the use of the Town up to and at the time of the issuing of the Patent to the defendant, Macdonald, in October, 1842. It appears to have been always considered, up to the time last mentioned, that under the appropriations aforesaid, the title of the town to the Lots was secure, although no patent from the Crown had been previously issued for the Lots; and they were always returned by the agent of the Commissioner of Lands in Cornwall, as public property, at a nominal valuation of £25 each, as in the case of a Lot upon which stands the Gaol and Court House of the District. The defendant, Macdonald, having been President of the Board of Police, for the year ending in April 1842, subsequently applied to the Agent for Crown Lands at Cornwall, (without acquainting him with his object,) for a copy of his last return to the Government in relation to the Market Lots. This was furnished to him unsuspectingly by the Agent, who, in his examination in the cause, swore that he supposed Macdonald required it for some purpose connected with the town—and that had he conceived that it was intended to be used as it was used, he would never have given it, as the return was not to guide the Government in a case of sale. Macdonald, as was sworn to by Mr. Davis's, the late Commissioner of Crown Lands, was previously to this well aware that according to the practice in the office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, when a sale was applied for, reference was immediately made from the head department to the local agent to ascertain the value, position, &c., of the property. Macdonald's whole course of conduct in reference to these lots shews that he considered it important to keep secret his attempts to get a patent for them; and hence his application to the local agent for the document referred to—the presentation of which he conjectured, and rightly, as it turned out, would get rid of the usual reference to the agent, which, had it been made, would have given publicity to Macdonald's application, and thus, probably, been the means of defeating it. Macdonald enclosed this document in a letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, wherein he stated "that he was in search of a location on which to erect a private dwelling for himself and family—that he found that Lots 10 and 11 would suit, and that having discovered that they had never been appropriated for any particular object or otherwise disposed of by the Crown he forged [illegible] at the price fixed by the local agent whose report he begged leave to enclose for the information of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He would add that the Lots were never sought by individuals for purchase at the times when other lots were sold, for the reason that the inhabitants at one time regarded them as suitable for a market place, and in fact a frame building, intended for a market, had been erected, but had never been used. That the inhabitants of the town at a general meeting, a few weeks previously, had abandoned the Lots in question, and had fixed the site for the market in a more central position. That there were two or three small houses on the ground, erected at the time the Canal began, and the buildings belonged to the persons named by Mr. Pringle and who, if they desired, would be allowed to remain there for some time to come, or until they could conveniently remove their buildings to an adjacent lot." The Commissioner of Crown Lands thereupon reported that he saw no objection to Mr. Macdonald's application for a sale being complied with, "with the understanding that he should make equitable arrangements with the parties occupying the Lots." The Executive Council, to whom that report, with Macdonald's letter and the paper received by him from the local agent, was referred, thereupon recommended "*a sale to Macdonald at a valuation, on his producing* an acquittance from the persons in occupation of the Lots according to the Report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands." No further valuation of the Lots appears to have been made—but with unusual haste, and gross negligence on the part of those charged with the preparation of such documents, Macdonald on paying £50, the price of the Lots, managed to get the patent through the different offices, and into his possession, without having made any arrangement whatever with the tenants of having produced from them any acquittance. This conduct of the defendant was charged to have arisen from a desire to keep secret his application for the patent—which would have become known had he attempted, before getting it, to arrange with the tenants and procure their acquittances. Shortly after he had procured the patent, it was sworn to by the tenants on the Lots that Macdonald visited them—exhibited to them the patent—claimed their houses as his—and required them forthwith to sign each a document, acknowledging that they had no title to the Lots and that they accepted him as their landlord—which they though fear did; one witness, Brown swearing that upon his hesitating so to do, Macdonald threathened to turn him out through the Sheriff in twelve hours. These documents so signed were, in a laconic note, forwarded to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the acquittance referred to in the order of Council. It was stated in argument, and not denied, that shortly afterwards Macdonald brought actions of ejectment against these tenants to turn them out of possession. A petion, numerously signed by inhabitants of the town of Cornwall, protesting against the grant to Macdonald, and stating the position and true value of the Lots, and the situation as the tenants. Thereof having been presented His Excellency, Malcolm Cameron, Esq., then in the employ of the Government, was sent as Commissioner to Cornwall to inquire into the facts—which upon ascertaining, he stated in a lengthy report to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and afterwards corroborated in his examination as a witness to this cause; and, therein pronounced the Lots to have been worth £100 at the time of the grant to Macdonald; that there were eleven tenements in all upon the Lots—of which he considered one particularly referred to, to be the only insignificant building on the Lots. That he considered the value of all the buildings equal to £300, but of much greater value than that to the owners. Under the authority of an order in Council made thereupon, the Attorney General directed this suit to be instituted.

Much of the evidence in the cause was documentary, and furnished from the office of the Executive Council. A great deal of testimony was given as to the value of the Lots—the uses made of them by the town—and the question of abandonment. On the first point the evidence was conflicting,—some witnesses placing the value of the Lots, at the time of sale to Macdonald, as high as £400, and others as low as £100, exclusive of buildings—but the witnesses on both sides established that the Lots had always been considered and dealt with as the public property; and as such had never been abandoned—though, at a public meeting, held in the summer of 1842, it had been resolved to select, by purchase, from a private individual, another site for a market house, which would be paid for out of the rent to be derived from the lots in question. It was proved that in November, 1842, Macdonald had executed to Guy C. Wood, Esqr. (who was, therefore, a party defendant to the suit) a mortgage upon the Lots in question, for the sum of $350, which the defendants alleged, was made up of a sum of £151, borrowed by Macdonald from Wood—and a sum of £200, the purchase money of a Lot in Cornwall, shortly before purchased by Macdonald from Wood. There was no clear evidence that any money had been borrowed by Macdonald from Wood, though there appeared no reason to doubt the fact being so. Mr. Wood swore that he had never delivered to Macdonald the deed of the Lot purchased from him by the latter, but that he still held it, awaiting the result of the present suit. It was charged in the information that this mortgage was colorable, and executed by and between the defendants in the hope of securing to Macdonald the lots. Both defendants swore that at the time of the execution of the mortgage they had no knowledge that any objection had been made to the patent to Macdonald. Macdonald, in a letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, dated 21st November, 1842, two days after the execution of the mortgage stated "that being desirous that Government should be satisfied with respect to the Lots North of Water Street, and that he should not continue to be charged with having obtained them at too low a price, he was willing—notwithstanding the pecuniary inconvenience to which the proposal would subject him; besides, that the Lots were then beyond his control to submit to a second valuation, to be made irrespective of the buildings on the Lots, and which, if not too extravagant, he would pay to the Government." A witness for the defendant Macdonald, (his brother) that after the execution of the mortgage, the defendant, Macdonald, had said to him "that he had heard defendant, Macdonald, say—since the mortgage was given—that he thought the Government could not get over the mortgage; thinks that he assigned the existence of the mortgage and the Patent by the Government as a reason why the Government could not take away the Lots. Does not remember his having ever stated that he had secured the Lots to himself by giving the mortgage."

The case was argued by Counsel and heard on the 25th, 28th and 29th July last. Esten, Vankoughnet, and Turner appeared for the Attorney General. Burns and Brough for the defendant, Macdonald. Mowat and Cooper for the defendant, Wood. On the the 15th August last, the Court was asked for Judgment, when His Honor said, that he had given a great deal of consideration to the case, as well because it was a novel as because of the serious charges made in it against the defendant, Macdonald. That it was quite evident, to say the least—and it would be unnecessary to go further—that there had been a suppression, by Macdonald, of the truth in his dealing with the Government; and a design to mislead. That the patent had been issued improvidently in ignorance of the facts, and through mistake on the part of the Government, who, on representation against it being made, had acted with great promptness in sending to Cornwall an officer to enquire into the truth, and in instituting this suit. That although there might be no great moral fraud in a man, under ordinary circumstances making the best bargain he could, and whatever would be the case in a transaction between private individuals, when the maxim "Caveat Emptor" might apply, yet that, in dealing with the public authorities in respect of public rights or property, parties were bound to observe the strictest good faith. His Honor thought that it would be improper to allow the patent to stand—and that his decree would be to order it to be cancelled; but he would wait a few days longer, and then hand his decision to the Registrar.

The long vacation having immediately after followed, nothing further was done. And on Tuesday last, the 3rd instant, His Honor, after expressing the same opinions as he had done in the former occasion, and observing that the case was much more clear against the defendant, Macdonald, than it had appeared to him at the hearing, when some positions were taken for that defendant which had startled him; and he then thought that there were in his favor some counterposing equities, which upon examination he found did not exist—was pleased formally to pronounce a decree, "That the Patent be repealed, with costs to be paid by the defendant, Macdonald." His Honor would make no order in favor of the defendant, Wood, who, he said, had got into questionable company, and must take care of himself.

A BOLD ROBBERY.—The *Canadien* of last night gives the following particulars of a robbery said to have been committed on board the steamer John Munn, on Thursday morning last, the particulars of which were furnished by L. G. Duval, Esq., of Three Rivers. Mr. Duval went on board at Three Rivers, and when going to bed placed his trowsers, in the pockets of which were £22 10 s. in bank notes under his pillow. About three in the morning he awoke, with a feeling of having been disturbed, and missed his trowsers, but after a search he found them near the table, but the money was gone. He immediately applied to the captain, who, he says instituted a search among the crew only, not wishing to disturb the passengers; several passengers got up, however, and discovered that they had been robbed. The captain was requested to examine the passengers, at six o'clock, when they arose, but it is not known why he did not, and allowed them to disembark. Subsequently a portion of the money stolen was found concealed beneath one of the planks. Mr. Duval and several others got back theirs. A gentleman from New Brunswick did not recover £1, which had been abstracted from him. The total sum stolen was about $100. A young man of the crew was suspected, and taken by the police, but discharged for want of proof.

Such is the Canadien's statement.

FORM OF TRIAL AND PENALTY FOR HIGH TREASON.—The following sketch of the form of proceedings in the trials for high treason appears in the Dublin papers:

"Upon application, each prisoner is allowed two counsel, who are assigned at his nomination by the Court, and both counsels are permitted to speak for him; the senior counsel of the two addresses the Jury at the close of the case for the Crown, and the junior after the examination of the prisoner's witnesses.—Counsel for the Crown then replies upon the entire case. As to the evidence required to sustain a prosecution for high treason, it has been ruled that the overt acts of treason must be proved to have taken place in the county where the indictment is laid.

"The nature of the sentence consequent upon a conviction for high treason is calculated to fill the mind of every man with horror. That sentence formerly was, that persons so convicted should be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck, not until they were dead, but that they should be taken down again alive, and their bowels taken out and burned before their faces, and then their heads should be severed from their bodies, and their bodies be cut into quarters, and their heads and quarters be at the King's disposal. But the sentence now is