

THE AMERICAN BLOCKADE.

The *Times* in a leader says that the capture of the Liverpool ship *Dolphin* by the Federals is a worse case than that of the *Peterhoff*, but she carried no permit from Mr. Adams, and she fell a prey to the Federal commander. The Americans, it is remarked, are now sacrificing everything to the blockade. It is the only operation of war on which they can rely. They are really pinching the Confederates at this point, but Admiral Wilkes and his flying squadron are employed against British merchant-men not against Confederate cruisers. The Alabama might have been captured long ago if all the best ships of the Federal navy had not been engaged in either actively blockading Southern ports or virtually blockading certain ports of ours. The Federal authorities rely, as they have always done, on the extreme reluctance of England to engage in hostilities.

THE ANTI-ENGLISH MEETING IN AMERICA.

Commercial letters from New York, quoted by the *Times*' city article, state that among well informed persons there seemed little fear that a Washington Cabinet will provoke a war either with England or France so long as the civil contest continues, since it is as much as can be done to keep the Southern out of Washington. The anti-English feeling, however, appeared to increase in exact proportion to the caution with which England stands upon a strict observance of neutrality. The congress committee of the war have recommended the President that if England builds any more vessels for the rebels to recall Mr. Adams and to send Lord Lyons his passport.

THE GUN-BOAT ALEXANDRIA—GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION.

(FROM THE TIMES).
This vessel has been exchequered, and Messrs. Fawcett, Preston, and Co., her owners, and Messrs. Miller, her builders, will probably in a few days be summoned before the local magistrates on the charge of designing to infringe the foreign enlistment act. Messrs. Fletcher and Hall, solicitors for the defendants, having applied to the Mayor of Liverpool for an inspection of the deposition, were informed by the town clerk that he was instructed by Mr. Waddington, of the Home-office, that the law officers of the Crown advised that the application ought not to be complied with.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The *Times* announces the successor of Lord De Grey in the Under Secretaryship for War to be the Marquis of Hartington, who will thus, after a very short apprenticeship at the Admiralty Board, have to represent the War Department in the Commons. The *Times* adds, that in finding a successor to Lord Hartington the Government will probably be anxious to invite the co-operation of one of the independent liberals.

THE VACANT SEAT IN THE CABINET.

The *Times* announces that Earl De Grey and Ripon is to be the new Secretary for War. It regrets that both the Secretary for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty should be in the House of Lords; but the importance of keeping at the war-office a minister who has made himself master of the works, and has four years' experience of its duties, has been felt to outweigh this inconvenience, and the government has determined to postpone parliamentary considerations to the exigencies of the public service. The *Times* is glad to see again a Secretary of State who has scarcely reached middle age. It was time that the ranks of the ministry were recruited from the generation which has arisen since the peace of 1815.

THE POST-OFFICE AND THE SEA QUEEN.

The proposal Earl Russell promised to consider of a post-office agent placed on board this vessel as a guarantee of the *bona fide* charter of her voyage to a Mexican port has been met, says the *Times*, by a courteous refusal on the part of the post-office, followed by an intimation which looks as if an idea had occurred to the Post-Master General, and been eagerly seized by which the government might get out of its responsibility with regard to the vessel altogether. The owners are informed that if they will land the mails already received on board the government will relieve them of the duty of carrying any.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

The *Herald* says Sir S. Northcote will, it is understood, not oppose Mr. Gladstone from personal reasons. A requisition either to Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., will probably be adopted, asking them to allow themselves to be put in nomination.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES.

Arrangements have been made for another exciting aquatic contest. This time Chambers, the champion of the Thames, is to contest with Green, a crack oarsman of Australia. The match will come off on the 16th of June.

NEWCASTLE RACES—THIS DAY.
2,000 GUINEAS.

48 hours imprisonment for stealing, or in the graphic language of the *Gamins*, with "pickerooning" hay from a farmers' dray, on its way to market; and Honora M'Mahon, an old dame of somewhere about 60 years, and whose age, the Mayor said, ought to have taught her sense, was sent to prison for the same period for a similar offence.

A young man named James Lynch, was charged by Acting-constable O'Brien, of George's-quay station, with committing a wanton and serious assault upon a person named Bill Naughton, whose head was bandaged, and upon the bridge of whose nose there was a large patch of adhesive plaster.

The Constable stated that he conveyed the wounded man to Barrington's hospital, where his head and nose were dressed, and where he (the Constable) was told by Dr. M'Mahon that he could not pronounce the man's life out of danger, as erysipilus might set in.

Mr. Lynch (solicitor) who defended the accused, said that his client was a person of good character, and was incapable of committing the act with which he was accused; whilst, on the other hand, the police well knew the character of the prosecutor.

Alderman Mahony observed that the character of a man was no plea for splitting his head.

Mr. Lynch admitted the justness of the observation, but denied on the part of his client the act altogether.

A young lad was sworn, and he stated that the prosecutor and the accused had some words in a public-house, and that the former left and was descending his own cellar stairs when the latter ran after him and struck him on the head with a bar of iron.

The justices directed the prosecutor to go back to the hospital, and placed the accused under a rule of bail—himself in £30 and two sureties in £15 each to appear on Friday next at petty sessions.

James Burns, of Carey's-road, was charged by Constable Tynan with the unchristian-like act of beating his neighbour's wife on the Sabbath. The accused pleaded that he was drunk, and consequently did not know what he was doing. The magistrates fined this anti-christian 10s. and costs, or in default 14 days imprisonment.

Thomas Hayes and Walter Madden, two juvenile smokers were sent into confinement until the rising of the court for boxing about a pipe and creating a disturbance at the corner of Broad-street on the previous evening. The magistrates were determined to let such chaps know that their improper proceedings should not end in *smoke*, and if brought up again for a similar offence they would be made to chew the *quid* of bitter repentance in solitary confinement.

Maurice Power senr., and Maurice Power jun., were charged with an assault on Mrs. Mulcahy and her son, in their shop in Roche's-street, on Saturday morning last.

Mr. Ellard solicitor, appeared for the complainants, and Mr. Lynch, solicitor, for the defendants, and after some considerable waste of time in professional sparring between the learned solicitors the case was finally gone into by the examination of Mrs. Mulcahy, who deposed that being up stairs at breakfast with her son, in her house in Roche's-street, on Saturday morning last, and hearing a great noise below stairs she ran down to her shop, and seeing Power, senr., angrily disputing with her young men, she said to him, "friend, this is no place in which to create a disturbance—if you have any dispute with my people settle it somewhere else, but do not create a crowd about my door"—upon which he seized a 7lb. weight in his right hand, and gave her a box in the jaw with his left, and said, "you rip, I would split your skull." The blow he gave her cut her mouth inside. There were at the time thirty people in the shop.

Mr. Daniel Lyddy deposed that Power caught up a meat saw, and, seizing him by the neck, swore that he would cut his head off; upon which he (witness) went out, and, seeing Head-constable Moodie in the street, he had the accused arrested.

Mrs. Mulcahy also deposed that, on the preceding day a crowd was collected at her stores, in Upper William-street, and a party of men rushed into them and commenced throwing her bacon into the street.

Mr. Lynch said that this bacon was the property of a Mr. Dundon, who had entrusted it to Mrs. Mulcahy, and he wished to regain possession of it.

Mr. Ellard replied, by observing that this bacon would be brought into the Court of Chancery, where the Chancellor would have to discuss it. Mr. Dundon was recently returned from America, where he had imbibed strange notions of law and of the mode of asserting a right. If Mr. Dundon had a claim on Mrs. Mulcahy's bacon, it was no way to assert that claim by gathering mobs and committing assaults.

Mr. Doyle (solicitor)—That's not the way to "save his bacon."

Mr. Lynch—There is a partnership between the parties.

Mr. Ellard—The Chancellor will decide that question.

The defendant, in reply to the magistrates as to what defence he had to make against the charge, denied the assault altogether, and asked time to produce witnesses to disprove it; and, after further discussion, the case was adjourned to Friday's petty sessions, for a further hearing.

tence was applauded by a crowded court, and the prisoner had but 5s. in his pocket he was sent into jail.

The Mayor directed that Constable Griffin should take care of the poor girl and see her off, and to direct the guard of the train to give her into the charge of the Dublin police on her arrival in the metropolis.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

Mr. Daly, coroner for the district, held an inquiry on Friday last to ascertain the cause of the death of a man aged about 55 years, whose body was found suspended from the branch of an oak tree of Shronepookeen Wood, near Milford. The neighbouring magistrates, W. Barry, H. E. Turner, R. Gibbings, R. E. C. Barry, and W. Sullivan, Esqrs., were present to assist in the investigation. A respectable jury having been sworn, several witnesses were examined, but no one knew the deceased—who he was, or from whence he came, though several hundreds of the people of the neighbourhood had seen the body, nor was there any document or token on his person which could suggest a clue. A considerable crowd had collected; some came from curiosity—many to ascertain the truth of the several rumours which went abroad, giving different names and locality to the deceased. Tumultuous discussions of chances took place; each gave his opinion, and each was alternately swayed by the opinions of the others. The inquiry lasted several hours, and was adjourned for a week, to give the police time to procure further evidence, if possible, to enable the jury to come to some satisfactory conclusion. I regret to say there is little doubt but a foul and deliberate murder has been committed. The idea of suicide which was first suggested has been entirely removed by the testimony of Dr. Ahern and others. I give you their depositions, abridged, in the hope that publicity may aid as well in procuring identification of deceased as leading to the detection of the perpetrators of the deed.

Thomas Walsh—Is the woodranger of Sir James Fitzgerald; on Tuesday last, about ten o'clock, he was going through the wood at Shronepookeen; passing by where deceased was found, he first thought he saw a man climbing one of the trees; he stood for a few minutes to watch; did not see him stir; went closer, then saw it was a body suspended from a branch; went to the police-station, which is within a few hundred yards of the wood; Constable O'Brien came with him; they took down the body—it was cold and rigid; the rope by which deceased was suspended was made of hay with three strands well twisted and firmly put together; it was twice put round the branch brought down to near the noose in which deceased's neck was, and then firmly interwoven in the way in which sailors splice a rope; the body was suspended about two feet from the ground; no other platform was under he was hanging; on the body being taken down a large wound was discovered across the throat; there was no blood on the body, or clothes or rope, but a few specks, nor were there any foot marks at or near the tree, or any weapons found on deceased's person or in the wood, which could have inflicted the wound; deceased appeared about 60 years of age; he had on a brown frock coat (frieze), corduroy breeches, long stockings, tightly gartered, old shoes well patched, black cloth waistcoat opened across the chest, with one button closed; the constable found on his person 2s 6d in silver and 2½d in coppers; there was no paper or anything else in his pockets; they were all searched; a hat lay with the crown downwards on the grass some perches from where deceased was hanging; I never saw the man before to my knowledge.

Thomas Ahern, Esq., M.D., deposed that he examined the remains; he found a deep-jagged incised wound across the throat, extending across the windpipe dividing it back to the vertebrae cutting through the carotid artery and jugular vein; that wound was sufficient to cause death from the nature and extent of the wound; it was impossible any one could have inflicted it on himself; he made a *postmortem* examination—all the symptoms of strangulation and hanging were absent; after inflicting such a wound deceased could not have climbed the tree to hang himself; if the wound was inflicted near where the deceased was found so large a quantity of blood must have flown that it could be easily seen; the deceased was even dry and clean.

From the evidence, there can be no doubt that deceased was murdered elsewhere and brought to where he was found and suspended there; some persons said they thought they saw him at Drumcolloher Fair a short time before purchasing calves. The prevailing opinion is that he was a cattle dealer. His description is—he was about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high; dark hair turning grey, small features, dark blue eyes, Roman nose rather thick towards the point, the body was healthy and did not appear as if deceased suffered from want; the shirt worn by deceased was finer in quality than worn by persons in his class and well made up.

160 emigrants left Tralee for Liverpool, by the *Holyrood* steamer last week, to embark for America. Hundreds from Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary, are daily leaving the country, notwithstanding the dreadful war which is still going on in the States.