

The usual half yearly examinations of the teachers in training at the Normal Schools of the National Board, numbering 205, were brought to a close on Monday, by a public examination before his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. At the conclusion his Excellency addressed the teachers, and expressed himself highly gratified with everything he saw and heard, and renewed his declaration of adherence to the principles of the National Board.

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY.

In re W. & A. Gihon.

The bankrupts were linen and commission merchants, carrying on business extensively at Ballymena, under the style and title of William Gihon and Sons, and in New York under that of John Gihon and Co. The meeting was for final examination.

Mr. Kernan, Q.C. (with whom was Mr. Harrison, Q.C.), appeared for the bankrupts, and said he hoped to be able to satisfy the Court that they had given the fullest account of their transactions that it was possible for them, under the circumstances, to give, and that they were entitled to pass their final examination. The failure of the firm was attributable to the losses sustained by the American branch. The course of business between the two houses was that the American branch rendered accounts to the Irish, which was the principal house, and on the last occasion in which accounts had been rendered it appeared that the American branch was indebted to the Irish in the sum of £97,000. All the Irish accounts of the firm had been laid before the creditors, and an offer made of 8s. in the pound, payable by instalments; and the offer was accepted by all the creditors except Messrs. Ferguson & Co., of Belfast. Of the 8s. in the pound, 5s. 6d. had been paid; and the bankrupts, finding it impossible to pay the remaining 2s. 6d. in the pound, came into the Bankrupt Court on their own petition. It appeared that, on behalf of the opposing creditors, an account of the transactions of the American branch was called for, but it was not in the power of the bankrupts, who were the responsible managers of the Irish branch, to furnish the accounts of the American branch, the books being in America, and not in the possession of the bankrupts. However, Mr. Weir, solicitor, of Belfast, had been sent out to America by the friends of the bankrupt to get the books, if possible. Mr. Weir found it impossible to procure the books, but having seen Mr. John Gihon, the responsible head of the New York branch, that gentleman had given him a statement of the particulars of the losses sustained by the American branch of the concern. From that statement it appeared that the New York branch was established for the sale of goods on commission, and also for the sale of goods sent out to New York by the Irish house; that from 1849 to 1857 the business of the house was fortunate and profitable, and during that period the firm had extensively invested in railway and other securities, and that in 1857, owing to the American crisis and other causes, the value of those securities became so much deteriorated that the firm found it impossible to meet their liabilities, and since that time neither the Irish nor American branch had carried on business. The following schedule of the losses sustained by the American branch was given by John Gihon:—Losses by bad debts, £12,572 dollars; loss on stock in the Reading Railroad, 78,191 dols.; loss on Godolphin and Susquehanna Railroad, 100,000 dols.; loss sustained by Enfield Company, a manufacturing corporation, 205,727 dols.; and, in addition to those losses, there was a loss by depreciation in the value of real property amounting to 50,000 dollars. It thus appeared that the failure of the firm was owing to the disastrous speculations of the New-York house, and it was, he believed, admitted that the bankrupts now before the Court—Messrs. William and Andrew Gihon—had done all in their power to satisfy their creditors. They were most anxious to give a full statement of the affairs of the American house to the creditors, and for that purpose Mr. Weir, a gentleman totally unconnected with the bankrupts, but a solicitor of great respectability residing in Belfast, and sent out to New York armed with a power of attorney to get the books of the American firm, but the person in whose possession they were declined to let Mr. Weir get them; and, according to the law of the United States, Mr. Weir had no power to enforce possession. Under the circumstances of the case, counsel contended that the Irish bankrupts, Messrs. William & Andrew Gihon, had done all in their power to satisfy the creditors, and that there was no ground for withholding the passing of their final examination.

Mr. Dowse, Q.C., who was instructed by Mr. Campbell, appeared on behalf Messrs. Ferguson, of Belfast, to oppose the passing of the final examination. The parties for whom he appeared were creditors to the amount of £14,300.

Mr. Kernan—Only £10,000.

Mr. Dowse—The bankrupts admit we are creditors to the extent of £10,000 but we have proved for £14,000. The debt is due to my clients for linen, which was sent out to New York to be sold there, and the proceeds of which, it appears, were expended in securities—railways and otherwise—for account of

Esq., County Inspector, marked its approval of his gallant conduct on that occasion by presenting Jacob Miller with the sum of £10.

FUEL FUND.—The collectors of the Glentworth Ward beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following further subscriptions:—Rev. R. Dickson, per the Mayor, £5; Mr. Samuel Fitzgerald, £2; Dr. Gelston, £1; Mr. Edward Mahony, £1.

The collectors of the Dock Ward also acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions:—Robert Hunt, Esq., £10; E. J. Synan, Esq., £5; the Hon. Judge O'Brien, per Captain Gavin, £5; Henry Maunsell, Esq., £2; Lieut.-General Maunsell, £2; W. P. Maunsell, Esq., £1; J. Ward, Esq., £1; Captain Peacocke, £1; Miss Lucy Peacocke, £1.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.

The Rev. R. Dickson presents his compliments to Mr. McMahon, and shall enclose in this a cheque for £5, to be applied by him towards the supply of fuel for the poor of Limerick, which he takes so kind an interest in providing for them.—Vermont, Dec. 19.

Ambrrose Hall, Esq., has paid through the Mayor £1 towards the Fuel Fund.

Our obituary of this evening records the death of Mr. John Goggin, confectioner, George's-street, which unexpected event occurred on Sunday morning, after a brief illness, resulting from the bite of a pet monkey, on the joints of the two last fingers of the right hand. Mr. Goggin was well known and highly esteemed in the first circles, where, as a public caterer of repute and standing, his professional capabilities afforded the greatest satisfaction; whilst in the domestic and social ranks of life he was much respected for his affable and enlivening disposition and kind manner.

At the late Degree examination in T.C.D., four young gentlemen, former pupils of J. M. Weir, Esq., M.A., Head Master of the Limerick Collegiate Academy, obtained the degree of A.B. on most respectable answering, having been all placed among the *classed* candidates. Their names are—Henry Jones Alcock, 1st class; James N. Atkinson, George Atkinson, William A. Paxton, 3rd class.

LIMERICK ATHENÆUM.—Names of persons to whom premiums have been awarded by the Committee of Lectures, for good answering in Electricity and Magnetism, at the examination held in the Limerick Athenæum on the 28th November, 1863:—1st Class—M. J. Malone, J. Joyce, J. Quin, T. Malone; 2nd class—W. C. Blundell, Wm. Hanlon, J. Browne, W. F. Madden, P. Fitzgerald, W. MacNamara; Honorable Mention—J. O'Grady, D. L. Meany, J. R. Lyddy, A. Civil, J. Hayes. Number of persons examined, 30.

CIVIL SERVICE.—We understand that Mr. Hanlon, the head master of the Limerick Model School, has passed his examination for the office of Inspector of National Schools. The examination was held at Dublin Castle, under the Civil Service Commissioners, on the 10th of November and following days. There was but one vacancy, and six persons competed, two of whom were distinguished men of Trinity College, Dublin. The examination, which was a very severe one, lasted for ten days, and embraced one of the most extended courses under the Civil Service Commission. In Mr. Hanlon the public of Limerick will lose a zealous and efficient officer, and one who at all times discharged the duties of his position with care and strict impartiality. He has gained for himself the respect and confidence of all parties with whom he was connected in Limerick, who sincerely wish him success and happiness in his new career. Mr. Hanlon will, we understand, leave Limerick at once to enter on his new duties.

Two young lads named Patrick Moran and John Elms received severe injuries in their hands, which were severely cut by glass which they broke with the view of extinguishing a fire which broke out in a room in a house in John's-square on last night. They were brought to Barrington's Hospital, where they were at once attended to and their wounds dressed.

The Irish Fisheries Commission resumed its investigation on Monday at Waterford. The subject of inquiry was the Lighthouse weir, and evidence was given to prove that the weir was an obstruction to the navigation of the river, and fell within the ruling of the Commissioners condemning such fixtures.

THE BARRY TESTIMONIAL.

The Committee will feel obliged if those parties who have already given their names would kindly send in the amount of their subscriptions to either of the treasurers. They would also feel thankful to those of their fellow-citizens who intend subscribing, if they would save the committee the trouble of calling personally upon them by giving in their names at once.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.—R. F. Croker, Corbally; John Ryan, M.D., Ballincally; M. J. Cleary, Cruise's Hotel; Mathew O'Flaherty, Dunnaman, Croom; Wm. R. Croker, Alstone, Kilpeacon.

The County Limerick Hounds (Mr. Roche's) will

duke Maximilian considered as indispensable for the recognition by the Washington Government of the new Mexican monarchy. The proposal was formally made by the French Government to President Lincoln's Cabinet. A despatch from Washington in reply was to the effect that the American republic would never tolerate, much less recognise a monarchy established at their very door. It is reported that this will decide the Archduke to abandon the idea of accepting the throne of Mexico.

THE HOLSTEIN AFFAIR.

A telegram in the *Daily News* says the Prince of Augustenburgh is expected to enter Altona at the head of 36,000 volunteers, and if he do so, it is stated on the best authority, that the Austrians have orders to drive him out; and should the Austrians adopt this course, the Saxons and the Hanoverians will, it is said, take up arms in favour of Prince Augustenburgh.

Further correspondence is published between Mr. Cobden and Mr. Delane. The controversy is terminated.

FRANCE.

The *Times* has received the following telegram:—**PARIS, MONDAY, 21st, 6 P.M.**—The Emperor to-day received the deputation of the Senate with the address. He read his reply, which is very short and pacific, and in substance is as follows:—

The Emperor had proposed to introduce a system of arbitration to settle the differences of Europe and arrange difficulties between sovereigns and nations. He shares the opinion expressed by his uncle that all wars between the States of Europe are civil wars. The reply of the Emperor was much applauded.

REPLY OF THE EMPEROR TO THE ADDRESS OF THE SENATE.

PARIS, DEC. 22ND.—The Emperor made the following reply to the Address of the Senate presented by the deputation yesterday:—

Good is the sole motive power of my actions both at home and abroad. I desire the appeasing of passions with concord and union, I direct all my wishes to the moment the great questions which divides governments and peoples would be pacifically solved by European arbitration. This wish was that of Napoleon when he wrote from St. Helena that to fight in Europe is to make civil war. May not this great thought and utopia in the past shortly become a reality. It is always an honor to proclaim a principle, tending to remove the prejudices of another. Let us unite our efforts for this noble end, and let us only study obstacles to vanquish them, and incredulity to confound it.

The *Moniteur* of this morning publishes the circular of M. Drouyn De L'Huys dated 8th Dec., the sense of which agrees with the analysis already published by the journals.

THE DANISH CONSTITUTION.

ALTONA, DEC. 22ND.—The electoral law, comprised in the constitution of the 18th ult., has been promulgated in Schleswig, under the Royal sanction of the 4th inst.

THE CAPE MAIL.

PLYMOUTH, 21st DEC.—The mail steamship Britton arrived here this evening at 10 o'clock. She left the Cape on the 20th; St. Helena on 28th ult., and Ascension on the 2nd instant, and brings 39 passengers. Bishop Colenso's trial commenced at the Cape on the 17th ult., before the Metropolitan and the Bishop of Cape Town, and two Suffragans, the Bishop of Grahamstown and the Bishop of the Orange Free State. The accusing clergy, the Dean of Cape Town, and the Archdeacons of Grahamstown and Georgetown were present to support the charges they had preferred. Dr. Bleek, Curator of the Grey Library, attended on behalf of Bishop Colenso, and read a letter from the Bishop denying the jurisdiction of the Court, and handed in a formal protest against the proceedings. The Dean of Cape Town supported the charges in an eloquent and forcible speech, characterised by deep research and great ability. The trial was expected to extend over several days. The question at issue would finally pass into the hands of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

A civil action was pending against the Dutch Reformed Church for suspending from the Ministry the Rev. Mr. Jobse on a charge of heresy.

The Federal s.s. Vanderbilt returned to Cape Town from the Mauritius, and remained in Table Bay until October 27th. She then proceeded to Angra Pegni, the Confederate rendezvous, and carried away a quantity of coals stored on Penquin Island, which was annexed to Cape Colony two years since. The Vanderbilt also seized the British barque Saxon, of Cape Town, in British waters. It is said that the vessel was supposed to have been laden with part of the cargo of the Federal barque Conrad, captured by the Alabama, and converted by Captain Semmes into a tender to the Alabama, and renamed the Tuscaloosa. The Vanderbilt then put a prize crew on board the Saxon, and sent her to New-York for condemnation. The crew of the Saxon, with the exception of the mate, said to have been shot by a Federal officer, were transferred to a coasting vessel, and forwarded to Table Bay.

There had been destructive storms and heavy floods

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