

to be bewitched, but in reality it is the banner of the most powerful chief of the country through which they may be passing, and protects the caravan through the medium of the 'hongo,' that is, the customary presents which must be offered beforehand. Then follow the slaves, bearing the provisions for the road; ivory, copal gum, and, in fact, all the property of the master of the caravan. This last-named personage, surrounded by his most devoted followers, brings up the rear.

At twelve o'clock the Arab stops for his midday prayer. During this time every one rests for two or three hours; then the march is resumed and continued till the evening's halt. The advance guard has taken the precaution to mark the road by laying down branches or grass wherever cross-roads might create a doubt or difficulty. Towards evening the drum is beaten to direct the caravan aright, and guide it safely to the encampment. On its arrival, they find all the huts ready. They are built of branches of trees, and wattled with dry grass. In the best of these huts a bed is prepared for the master, made of branches, but covered with the softest grass, to which are added the finest matting and counterpanes. The next business is to distribute the food to the different members of the caravan, the whole of which has been duly prepared beforehand. The ordinary meal consists of a thick soup made of the mtama flour and haricot beans. To this ration is added bananas or sweet potatoes. It is in the interest of the drivers to feed the slaves well during the journey, both for the sake of enabling them to bear the great weights they have to carry, and also to prevent their deserting. In this way the Arab caravans travel over many hundreds of leagues of country, under the burning tropical sun of the equator. And all this to make money of the lives and freedom of the poor blacks!

CAPTAIN PAUL BOYNTON IN THE THAMES.

THE London 'Telegraph' of the 7th of February gives the following account of the appearance of Captain Paul Boynton, the noted Irish-American swimmer, in the river Thames:—

"A novel and apparently dangerous experiment was tried last Saturday in the Thames by Captain Paul Boynton, and the crowds of people which thronged the bridges on Saturday were thoroughly astonished at his daring. It was originally intended that Captain Boynton should swim from Wapping Old Stairs to Putney and back, but the hour at which the start was made precluded the possibility of carrying out the design. There was a very large crowd at Wapping Old Stairs at half-past one o'clock, and Mr. Boynton was there, accompanied by his brother and several American gentlemen. The apparatus was viewed with much interest, and it may at once be described as a complete costume, made chiefly of india rubber. It is in two pieces, which, at the waist, are united. The pantaloons include covering for the feet, with strong soles, these being drawn over the wearer's ordinary dress, and kept in position by strong suspenders passed over the shoulders and buckled to the inside of the waist. A steel-ridged hoop fits round the waist, and furnishes a water-tight joint to the upper portion of the dress drawn down to meet it. The upper garment is at once a jacket and a head-piece, with gloves for the hands. At the waist the elastic material is strained tightly over the hoop of the pantaloons, so as to exclude the water and keep in the air. When Captain Boynton had adjusted his costume, he introduced by means of tubes, air into the different chambers, which are between the outer and inner skin of the dress; and at 2 o'clock he coolly walked down the 'old stairs,' and was immediately in the water, the depth being then about 15 feet, high tide being marked down for 3.20 p.m. He maintained an erect position, the waist-belt being the water-line, and lighted a cigar before the final arrangements for starting were made. Suddenly assuming an horizontal position, Captain Boynton lay upon the water with the buoyancy of a cork, his chest and legs being well above the tide. The buoyant powers of the apparatus were made manifest the moment Mr. Boynton got away from the steps, and cleared the numerous small boats by which he was surrounded. He was in the centre of the river in a couple of minutes, with the flag of the United States flying from a staff affixed to one of his boots. A double-bladed paddle of wood forms the means of propulsion, and the speed at which the floater went was, under all the circumstances—the wind being against him—considerable. It should be stated that the apparatus was but half inflated, and that when fully distended it would be able to sustain the weight of a man far heavier than Mr. Boynton, who is strong, muscular, and of no light weight. Away he went, while thousands of people looked on with amazement at the extraordinary progress which the captain made in the teeth of a strong south-westerly breeze. London Bridge presented an appearance seldom witnessed. It was literally covered with people, who cheered again and again as Captain Boynton made straight for the centre arch, and blew his horn in recognition of the greeting. After a while Mr. Boynton's brother passed some rockets to the captain, and these he began to fire off, lighting the fuse with his cigar, as he passed rapidly under the Cannon-street railway bridge. Captain Boynton refreshed himself with a glass of champagne between Southwark and Blackfriars Bridges, and 'shelled' the people on the parapets with his rockets. Again he held in either hand a sort of rocket torch, which sent up colored stars from time to time, and during this period he exhibited not the least sign of physical exhaustion. The Victoria Embankment was thronged with people, and the captain received a hearty ovation as he went ashore for a few minutes at the Temple Stairs, where he was welcomed and congratulated. Subsequently, when amid loud cheering, the captain 'shot' the middle arch of Westminster Bridge, it was ten minutes past three o'clock. From the Victoria Embankment the crowds rushed across Westminster Bridge and lined the Albert Embankment as far as the eastern side of Vauxhall Bridge, when it was deemed advisable, as the tide was now on the ebb and the evening was falling, to end the run up the river. Paddling back to Lambeth Pier, Captain Boynton and party went ashore in his amphibious dress, and was speedily surrounded by an immense crowd. The captain was soon in the river again, and with a good flowing ebb-tide ran rapidly back to the East-end cheered by thousands of people. The exhibition was a thorough success.

HOME RULE AND UNCONDITIONAL ALLEGIANCE.

MR. GLADSTONE ON HOME RULE.

MR. GLADSTONE, in his new pamphlet, entitled "Vaticanism," has made a declaration on the subject of Home Rule, says the 'Nation,' which will have deep interest for the Irish people. It is in the following terms:—

"As a rule, the real independence of states and nations depends upon the exclusion of foreign influence proper from their civil affairs. *Wherever the spirit of freedom, even if ever so faintly, breathes, it resents and reacts against any intrusion of another people or power into the circle of its interior concerns, as alike dangerous and disgraceful.*"

Quite true says the 'Nation,' and therefore so long as the spirit of freedom is able to draw a single breath, or heave a sigh, in Ireland, it will resent and react against any intrusion of the English people or government into the circle of its interior concerns, as alike dangerous and disgraceful. We thank Mr. Gladstone for the words; they are very apt and forcible, and they will be useful to the Irish people.

UNCONDITIONAL ALLEGIANCE.

A ruling has been made in the House of Commons which is likely to cause some commotion, having in view Mr. Gladstone's recent attacks on Catholics about conditional allegiance. Mr. John Martin delivered one of the most remarkable speeches ever heard in the House of Commons on the Mitchell trial and the national struggle between Ireland and England. The House listened throughout with marked respect and attention. Mr. Lewis, member for Derry, replied in a rather strong speech, denouncing Mr. Martin and Home Rulers for holding "only a conditional allegiance." Mr. Sullivan, member for Louth, sprang to his feet, and called to the Speaker to uphold the precedents of the House; whereby men, who had propounded, even out of doors, the doctrine of unconditional loyalty, were by order of that House sent to the Tower. A scene of intense sensation followed, when the Speaker ruled with Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Lewis was obliged to withdraw the doctrine of "unconditional allegiance." The ruling was hailed with vociferous cheering by the Catholic members, some of whom audibly exclaimed, "Where is Mr. Gladstone now?"

GEORGE IV.: AND THE EMANCIPATION BILL.

In reviewing the recently published "Greville Memoirs," the 'Times' remarks that:—"As is well known, George IV., instead of laying his head on the block for the Protestant religion, had, like other kings before and after him, to accept the inevitable, and to give his assent to a Bill brought in for Roman Catholic relief. It caused great disgust among the old Tory party, most of whom voted against it, while others sulked and would not vote at all. Sir Robert Peel resigned his seat for the University of Oxford on the question, and was defeated by Sir Robert Inglis, whom many of us remember at Oxford for so many years. Sitting for Westbury, Peel brought on the Catholic question on the 6th March, 1829, and in the debates which followed a speech was delivered by Lord Palmerston which astonished everybody." In the Lords the question was put for the first reading of the Bill on the 4th of April, and was carried by a greater majority than was expected—105, the numbers being 217 to 112. On the 14th of May, after the Bill had been read a third time in the House of Lords, the King came to town and held a levee, at which he was 'remarkably civil to all the peers who had distinguished themselves in opposition to Government in the late debates, and he turned his back on the bishops who had voted for the bill.' O'Connell and Shiel were both at the levee; the former had been presented in Ireland, so had not to be presented again; but the King took no notice of him, and when he went, he said to somebody near him, "the fellow what does he come here for?" The 'Times' adds, with a comprehensible sneer—"It was evident, however, that the days of this dignified Sovereign were drawing to a close!"

THE Roman correspondent of the 'Catholic Times' writes:—"A diabolical attempt to assassinate the Bishop of Leghorn was made in his cathedral on the 28th of January, during the singing of the Salve Regina, which is solemnly chanted in a special votive service held every year to commemorate the deliverance of the city from the earthquakes that so desolated it in the last century. Just as the Bishop, having left his throne, had knelt down before the altar, a massive Orsini bomb of zinc was thrown into the centre of the sanctuary, close to where the Bishop knelt. The Church was thronged with worshippers, but by God's providence, no one was hurt but an acolyte, who received a splinter of the shell in his knee. He is not, however, permanently injured. What the bomb failed to do, panic might have accomplished, if the Bishop, with heroic calmness, had not turned round and addressed them, bidding them to be at ease. With this interruption of only a few minutes the service went on. A piece of the shell was projected right across the cathedral into the orchestra, but no one there was hurt. The author of this hellish intention has not yet been discovered."

DEATH OF THE "IRISH GIANT."—James Murphy, jun., aged thirty-six years, the Irish Giant, died in Baltimore, on February 26, of bronchial affection. He was about eight feet high, and weighed 350 pounds.

The Canadian Cabinet are unanimous in recommending that an amnesty be granted to all persons connected with the North-west troubles, except Riel, Lepine, and O'Donohue, who are to be banished for five years.