

## MINIATURE WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

AUGUSTUS (for that was the Christian name by which the boy Pugin preferred to be called) created great amusement by illustrating the ups-and-downs of the pupils on "a wheel of fortune." Every week the rotatory machine was sketched with great spirit, each pupil being represented standing upon a projecting bracket attached to the wheel. The favourite was always at the top, capering and laughing with pencil in hand, while the one least fortunate was seen hurled to the ground by the revolution of the wheel. Others were planted on the ascent or descent, according to the degree of favour in which they stood with their master, their doleful or joyous faces being cleverly expressed by a few spirited touches. Great amusement was produced by this humorous device; and the publication of a new wheel of fortune every week was eagerly looked for by his fellow pupils.—*Ferrey's Recollections of Pugin.*

## THE BUILDERS' STRIKE AT LIVERPOOL.

THE following circular, with reference to this unfortunate circumstance, has been recently issued:—

The associated master builders of Liverpool beg to inform the public that their workmen have, with a few exceptions, struck, and left the works of their respective employers; and that the building operations in the neighbourhood are, therefore, comparatively at a stand.

The changes and reductions lately made by the workmen in the hours of labour, and the consequent unequal value of the labour worked on the different days of the week, have rendered the payment of wages by the day no longer just or applicable.

With a view to rectifying the difficulties and confusion which had arisen under these circumstances, the master builders issued a signed declaration, in the form of a printed notice, to the effect that on and after the 2nd of September next they would pay wages by the hour instead of by the day.

On the 20th instant, the bricklayers and plasterers in the employ of the parties who signed the declaration struck, and left their work; and on the 27th instant the carpenters and joiners also struck, and left their work, the reason assigned for the striking being, the refusal of the masters to withdraw their names from the declaration.

The master builders declare that their only object in the proposed change is to place the remuneration of labour on a fair and just basis; they do not wish to reduce wages or interfere with any existing privilege or custom enjoyed by their workmen; and they have no ulterior object in view beyond the change in the mere detail of paying wages by the hour instead of by the day.

In consequence of the strike, the masters have determined to adopt the new system of payment on the 1st August instead of the 2nd September, so that their shops are now open for workmen who are willing to work under the terms proposed.

Committee-room, Clarendon-buildings, July 31, 1861.

## BUILDING ACTIONS.

(BELFAST ASSIZES.)

*Stewart v. Girdwood. Girdwood v. Stewart and Others.*—These were actions arising out of a building contract. Mr. Girdwood, defendant in first case, and plaintiff in second, is the proprietor of extensive print works at Old Park, near Belfast, which were burned down in 1859. Early in the following year Mr. Girdwood commenced rebuilding them with Mr. Young, of Belfast, as his architect, and Mr. Stewart, of Belfast, as the contractor and builder. An agreement was entered into between the parties incorporating the specifications and plans, and limiting the time for the completion of the works, with various clauses usual in similar contracts. The works were completed and certified for by the architect in September last, but upon the balance of this account, amounting to £406, being claimed by the builder, Mr. Girdwood declined to pay it, alleging that there were various defects and departures from the specifications, which rendered the works less perfect than the contract required. The builder brought his action for the above balance, and also for an alleged assault committed by Mr. Girdwood, in turning the builder and his men out of the works, which was stated to have happened in September last. Mr. Girdwood, after being served with the plaint in the first case, brought an action on the bond which had been given by the builder and two sureties, conditioned for the faithful performance of the works. The pleadings in each action were of considerable length, and involved questions of great intricacy. The first case having been called on, and the pleadings opened, while senior counsel was proceeding with his statement, the learned judge suggested that the cases should both be referred to three out of six of the jury who had viewed the premises, and after some discussion, this was arranged. The award in each case to be taken as the verdict.

## CARLISLE BRIDGE.

At a recent meeting of the Corporation, Alderman Reynolds gave notice that, "in September, he would move the re-appointment of a committee to report on the practicability and probable expense of rebuilding Carlisle-bridge, and stated that an attested copy of the new Westminster-bridge could be erected for £40,000.

Mr. Whelan said he would object to an iron bridge. He called attention to the memorial of the inhabitants of Merchant's-quay and Bridge-street, complaining of the narrowness of the flagways.

Mr. Bonsall observed that the memorial was before No. 1 committee. When the city engineer returned from London directions were given to have the prayer of the memorial complied with as far as possible.

Mr. Kelch said when he was a member of the South Dublin Union Board he found that £33,000, belonging to the old police authorities, were in the hands of the government. The reply to an application about that money was that when it was required it would be given. Now, in his opinion, a new bridge across the Liffey at the Custom-house was much required; and the large sum to which he alluded would defray the cost of that much-needed work.

## Notes of New Works.

It is proposed to erect a new town hall at Bandon, and the Duke of Devonshire has contributed £100 towards the expense.

The Cork Waterworks Committee have received tenders for certain works to be done at No. 1 reservoir.

Ground has been taken at Bushfield-avenue by Mr. Thos. Connolly, stucco plasterer, Rathmines, for the erection of four houses, two of which are nearly completed, and have red brick fronts, granite cornice and blocking, &c. Immediately opposite are three pair of semi-detached houses in progress, one pair belonging to Mr. Carson, architect, and the others to Messrs. Woods.

A new church is to be erected in Ballinlanders, county Limerick, according to drawings by the architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Sundry works are to be executed under same direction at Armoyn, county Antrim, and Crossmolina, county Mayo.

The first sod of the Newcastle and Rathkeale Junction Railway was turned on 10th inst. by the Earl of Devon, in presence of a vast concourse of people, and with all the circumstance and eclat which generally attach to such interesting proceedings.

Two semi-detached dwelling-houses at Avoca-avenue, Blackrock, and of architectural character, are being completed for Mr. M'Nally, under the direction of Mr. Carson, architect; Mr. Hugh Kelly, builder, who is also completing two other houses at Oaklands, Rathgar, for Mr. Henry Todd; Mr. Ferguson, architect.

The new convent of Letterkenny has been inaugurated. It has been erected from designs by Mr. Goldie, architect, and has an elegant and spacious façade, comprising extensive and lofty halls, dormitories, for the accommodation of boarders, refectory, cells for the nuns, basement offices, chapel, with the western elevation flanked and supported by a tower surmounted by a cross. All the apartments are cheery and well ventilated, and everything has been done to consult the health and comfort of the inmates. The little chapel is exceedingly well designed and beautiful, with its stained glass window over the altar, containing the representations of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, from Messrs. Barff and Co., Dublin.

The water supply to, and drainage at, Island-bridge Barracks is to be improved. This would seem to be a result of the recent inspection by the commissioner appointed for that purpose.

A new palm house is to be erected at the Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, according to plans by the architect to Board of Public Works.

A new national school-house is to be erected at the cross roads near Clonsilla, Athlone, and Mr. Wm. N. Holton, has granted a free site.

Messrs. Patrick Kerr and George Carolin, builders, have been declared joint contractors for the additional buildings at Maynooth College, and for the new model school to be erected at Lurgan under the Board of Public Works.

A contemporary has the following:—As a proof of the interest manifested by the Countess of Glengall for the welfare and prosperity of Caher, we may mention that her ladyship has decided upon receiving no tenders for the building of her new mansion save those furnished by builders resident in that town.

EXTENSIVE SALES OF TIMBER.—We beg to direct the attention of purchasers of timber to the extensive sale by Mr. Edwd. Chaloner, of Liverpool, advertised in this number.

WATER SUPPLY TO RATHMINES.—The Commissioners met on the 21st inst. to receive tenders from parties willing to supply the township with water. The present population of the township is 12,874.