The Leader.

"THE one Idea which History exhibits as ever more developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—HUMBOLDT'S COSMOS.

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ADDRESS.

WITH the new year we commence a Second Volume of the *Leader*. We do so with a feeling of grave satisfaction which rises above pride, and is more confident than hope. We are now able to substitute for mere promises an actual warrant. First Volume: it must speak for us. We know what better than the most critical of our readers—and some of the most friendly have been among the most critical—where the work has fallen short of our whole scheme; indeed, there needs no great demand upon our candour to proclaim that we have not yet presented our readers with such a paper as it is still our steadfast aim to produce. We will not plead the obstacles of various kinds which have had to be vanquished; but we do confidently appeal to the thoroughness and resolute spirit in which the enterprize has been pursued. We have had the great aid of writers whose contributions any journal might be proud to own—Landor, Mazzini, Harriet Martineau, Newman, Foxton, Froude, Kingsley, and other well-known names, no less than names which will make themselves conspicuous hereafter—and, with some allowance for details, we can say that the spirit of our promises has been faithfully kept.

Success has proved that the *Leader* had a large public ready to respond to its advocacy of unrestricted expression of thought. Many and grave were the doubts of friends as to the possibility of our finding a class numerous enough to establish a powerful organ. Those doubts have been silenced. Not only has our circulation surpassed the expectation of experienced men, but it has indicated a much wider and more mixed public than could have been anticipated. As in Religion, it is not the changing forms of human opinion so much as the eternal influence of reverent belief and active piety we appeal to, so, in Politics, the theories and measures of the changing hours are as nothing beside the spirit of earnest, hopeful, generous freedom which should actuate them. And this spirit finds so honest a welcome, that the *Leader*, which publishes, almost weekly, opinions that would have brought, a few years ago, fines, imprisonment, and bigoted wrath as consequences, has, up to this period, incurred not only no persecution, but even none of that virulent aspersion which formerly assailed free speech, and blackened characters when it could not answer arguments. The fact is significant. We boast also of another good achieved: our experiment has given increased boldness to popular journals; and if the *Leader* has done nothing more, it has done some service in proving the policy of plain speaking. We have done our utmost with the means at disposal, and have been generously met by the public, as became it.

Jules Janin wittily says there is nothing so successful as success. We have found it so. Obstacles have given way before our accelerated pace which we imagined it would take many months to overcome. Among those obstacles let us name Distrust. Some, doubting our courage, complained at first of our not being bold enough. Have they not seen that we have the courage of our own opinions? We cannot be asked to have the courage of *theirs*. Others again thought us too bold. Have we been more so than sincerity demanded? A third class doubted our [illegible] principles of fair play all round. The reception which against the Catholics tested that. While opposing the principles upon which Catholicism stands with a more uncompromising hostility than any other paper (except the *Dispatch*), we were the first, as we have been among the warmest, supporters of the rights belonging to Catholic conviction. A Catholic and a stranger writing to us on this subject says, "You uphold a cause, perhaps the most opposite of all to ours, but you do so in a fair and noble spirit; and I should be ungrateful and untrue to my own feelings if I did not warmly express how deeply I appreciate your genuine love of fair play and your generous abhorrence of persecution."

In Politics we know that we have won the confidence of classes that doubted the existence of any sincerity or zeal, and *most* proudly do we appeal to the amount of trust accorded to us by the working classes—most proudly, because, while their trust has so often been abused, their judgment has been sharpened, and their approval is backed by keen thought and a practical stake. We have more than once attacked their idols, and thereby incurred a distrust which only the admission of our sincerity as shown throughout, has been able to remove.

But our support has not come mainly from the class needing a forlorn hope: we have hearty support and encouragement from the prosperous and orthodox. It is with a pride *not* wholly selfish we say that the *Leader* is welcomed as warmly by numbers who oppose its opinions as by those who share them: indeed, while many "Liberals" flinch from our boldness, and are afraid to support us—or do so in private—we are cheered in our labours by men of eminent position in Church and State—by the unquestionably orthodox and by steady Conservatives—by men in short who, while rejecting our opinions, sympathize with the spirit of freedom and fair play which it is our constant aim to cherish and call forth. This forms for us, not merely a wider circulation than our own party could afford, but also a much wider sphere of influence and greater chance of ultimate *good*. Could we publish heaps of confidential letters which have been burnt offerings to Silence, we should astound the public: men would think they were living amid a general social conspiracy to promote the spirit and opinions of the *Leader*.

Thus, whether we look at the actual state of our circulation, which from the first has grown with steady increase, or to the state of public opinion and the position held in it by the *Leader*—and we beg earnestly to say that this is plain truth, not idle self-glorification—our prospects are inexpressibly cheering—they lighten toil and stimulate us to fresh endeavours.

Except a slight change in the structure of our materials, which will be observed in this number—a change meant to facilitate the details of editorial and typographical arrangement, and some fuller development of our scheme as we proceed—the Journal will remain what it has hitherto been. May we preserve the confidence of our friends and extend the sphere of usefulness in the cause of Free Thought.

[COUNTRY EDITION.]

News of the Week.

The great news of the week is that the year 1851 has succeeded to 1850, at least that is the announcement most prominently made by the daily journals. Also, the events of the last half century are duly reported in their natural order; not that they have happened over again, but that the standing in the middle of a century is taken to confer the privilege of reviewing men and events in a new light. We are also told, on the highest city authority in journalism, that the commercial year 1850 has proved peculiarly prosperous and satisfactory, which shows that at least the wealthiest classes of the wealthiest centres of trade have enjoyed a good time—though we have heard complaints from humbler dealers. The researches of the *Morning Chronicle* have disclosed a vast amount of want and wretchedness, unreached by this prosperity; landlords and farmers have grumbled pertinaciously; and although the field labourers have desisted within the last few months from incendiarism, they do not confess any great improvement in their condition. With these drawbacks—and, indeed, they do not obtain much attention east of Temple-bar—the commercial year has been very satisfactory. Even the dread of a glut of Californian gold, which a few weeks back was cultivated into a grievance, has died away,—a little drain of gold to the Continent acting as a set-off in the shape of a contrary fear.

The two most striking bequests which 1850 makes to 1851 are—the Exposition of Industry, which is to draw all the world and its wealth, by its representatives, into London; and the work of following up the anti-Catholic agitation. The Exposition is the far fairer bequest of the two, and the visible growth of its crystal abode is watched with the most obvious pleasure.

Independently of Lord John Russell's awkward task of contriving measures to follow up his letter, many embarrassing branch questions are showing themselves. Mr. Bennett's friends are pressing upon the Bishop of London an argument that Mr. Bennett, of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas, resigned conditionally; and although there is some inconsistency between the precise arguments of Sir John Harington, and the off-hand style of Mr. Bennett's apparent resignation, the Bishop himself had behaved throughout in so uncertain, wavering, and irresolute a manner, that he cannot say much in answer, and contents himself with a dogged demand for resignation. Mr. Bennett's case is felt to be peculiarly hard; because in the fulness of his zeal he not only advised the endowment of churches and schools, but himself set the example by a princely sacrifice of his own worldly means, trusting to his clerical income; and, abandoning the church, he abandons his property. Perhaps the churches cannot be disendowed, nor would such a process of making good the loss be just to the generous donor. But there does occur to us one way in which the Bishop might get out of his awkward scrape. His position is a remarkable contrast to that of Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett's connection with the Church has been signalized by his sacrifice of property; the Bishop's connection with the Church has been signalized by his receiving about a million of money: how easy it would be for him a little to redress the untoward balance of wealth, and to place in the hands of Sir John Harington the means of smoothing Mr. Bennett's secession from the Church. He would thus relieve the Establishment of the reproach, that it expelled Bennett, but kept his money.

London is not the only Bishop in difficulties: Oxford has also been accused of winking at Puseyite practices among his clergy, and he has made a difficulty for himself. He first tried to overawe the accuser, daring him to name the impugned clergymen; and, when his correspondent did name certain clergymen, the Bishop replies with a soothing manner, which confesses much, and recals Dr. Wilberforce's University nickname of "Silky Sam." Meanwhile, Church meetings are held in several places to put down Puseyite practices on the spot. It might be supposed that the Anti-Catholic agitation is likely to turn into Anti-Puseyite agitation, which would be at once less gratuitous and less interfering, more practical, and far more embarrassing for the superior authorities.

Meanwhile, common anti-Catholicism is not abandoned: stories of miracles, like the new one of St. Saturnin, which are circulated on the Continent to promote the faith, are not less diligently circulated in this country to promote sectarian enmities—circulated by the very people who will take part in Gorhamite discussions on a prævenient grace, or circulate fabricated stories about priestly attempts to seduce Protestant young ladies. One of these stories, going the round of the press, is self-convicted of forgery, by so gross a neglect as the use of Protestant and not Catholic phraseology in pretended letters. If the miracles are a pious fraud, what sort of fraud is this Protestant trick?

Among the events of the week has been the publication of various documents—the "Suggestions" of the Common Law Commissioners, the report of Mr. Simon, City Surveyor, on sanitary measures in the City, of Captain Maconochie on Birmingham gaol, &c. How much ability is displayed by the writers of documents like these—how little does their ability avail the public? What matters it that Captain Maconochie should for years have expounded the most simple, practical, and practicable plan of correctional discipline; that Mr. Simon should unanswerably make out the necessity and practicability of making the City wholesome; that the Common Law Commissioners should propose the mildest of improvements, and ask to abolish nothing more defensible than special demurrers or "colour"? These things it would be most good for the country to have, but between their authors and the public there is a "false medium": the statesmanlike measures of a Simon or a Maconochie have to be filtered though a Common Council or a Parliament, with a Whig Cabinet acting as damper over all. To be well connected and without positive purpose is the way to succeed in office nowadays. Anything like practical purpose has to pass through the mould of no-purpose before it can become an act of Parliament; leaving all its virtue behind.

The intelligence that Galway Union is added to the list of those now trying with striking earnest of success the plan of industrial employment for paupers, reminds us of another department, in which the responsible Ministers of the country are waiting for "pressure from without," while they are leaving the real debates of legislation to provincial town councils and poor-law boards.

The agitation for the abolition of the duty on paper begins to look formidable. Sir Charles Wood had better ask himself whether it would not be well for him to include this unpopular impost among those which he intends to surrender next session—under cover of the surplus which the forthcoming revenue tables are said to indicate so high as three millions. The meeting at the London Tavern went even further than the tax on paper—very properly adding the newspaper stamp and advertisement duty, as still more mischievous and odious.

In Foreign Affairs there is little progress to be reported. The Elector of Hesse Cassel has been reseated on his throne by Russian and Austrian troops. His people received him with sulky indifference, but as the military procession passed, the *native* troops were loudly cheered: in feeling, they are *known* to be with the people. The Conference at Dresden has not yet advanced much beyond preliminary bustle and formalities.

In France the grand incident is the exposure of the informer Allais, who accused certain persons of an intent to assassinate Monsieur Dupin and General Changarnier. Allais proves to be one of the blackest scoundrels and liars that have ever shown themselves on such occasions; he is consigned to historic immortality, as the very pink of spy fabricators. It was a question whether his rascality had not been shared by his patron, Monsieur Yon, Commissary of Police to the National Assembly; but the Commissary appears to have been a dupe, the "plus sot" who took Allais's lies for revelations. Rogue or goose, Monsieur Yon's unfitness for his situation was palpable; he has been dismissed, and is consigned to history as the yoke-fellow of Allais.

THE THREATENED RAILWAY STRIKE.

The projected strike of the engine-drivers on the London and North-Western Railway has been suddenly quashed by the unexpected course which the directors have taken. With a view to force the men to an instant decision a printed document, of which the following is a copy, was placed in the hands of the men when they received their wages on Friday evening:—

"London and North-Western Railway.
"Notice to the engine-drivers and firemen of the southern division.

"The present state of suspense as to a strike ought not longer to continue.

"If the men on the southern division, having no grievance of their own, elect to leave the company's service, the directors must at once carry out their plans of temporarily reducing the number of trains, and putting on the new hands whose services are now available.

"The directors must of course continue to reserve to themselves the right to make, from time to time, any regulations necessary for the sale and certain working of the line, though they have no intention whatever, unless the men force them to do so by these threatened strikes, to alter the regulations now in force as respects the southern division.

"Each man is, therefore, called upon to state whether he wishes to remain in the service of the company, under the existing regulations; if he does, the directors hope to be able to retain him; if not, notice must be given to him that his services will not be required after fourteen days.

"The directors did not wish to act harshly, but the requirements of the public and the government service will not allow them longer to be subjected to the present state of uncertainty.

"The directors recognize the manly and straightforward course taken by a large number of the men; and they hope to show them that they have consulted their true interests by the conduct they have exhibited.

"Thomas Smith,
Chairman of the Locomotive Committee, S. Division.
(By order)
"Mark Huish, General Manager.
"General Manager's-office, Euston Station,
Dec. 27, 1850."

As each engine-driver or fireman arrived he had to present himself to Mr. M'Connell and Mr. Watkin, the under-secretary of the company, at the Camden Station. A printed copy of the notice was then handed to him, and some men were called upon to give an immediate decision upon the question, others had a quarter of an hour's consideration allowed them, others half an hour, and some were allowed until Monday to consider the matter. Anything like concert among the men under such circumstances was out of the question, and, therefore, each felt himself involved in great difficulty. Notwithstanding this unexpected proceeding, it is stated that there was but one man who signed a document "to remain in the service of the company under the existing regulations," and that the man referred to subsequently requested that his name might be erased. This at once showed a determination on the part of the men which the authorities of the company could scarcely have been prepared for, and in way, it is presumed, of reprisal, on Saturday notices were given on the part of the directors to seven men, for which they were equally unprepared, of dismissal.

On Sunday evening a number of enginemen and firemen assembled at the Railway Tavern, Hampstead-road, but as the doors were closed against reporters nothing is known of the proceedings, but from what has taken place subsequently it would appear that the general opinion must have been opposed to a strike. By Monday evening it was ascertained that out of 210 of the drivers who were asked to state whether they would remain in the company's service, all answered in the affirmative but 20. At the Camden station, out of 53 drivers and stokers employed there, the question of "content" or "non-content" having been put to them, they all, without exception, expressed themselves satisfied with their present position. Upon the northern division of the line also the majority of the men have consented to the proposal for a three months' notice. The following statement relative to the men we take from the *Daily News*:—

"Had a strike suddenly taken place, the consequences to the company would no doubt have been of a serious character, but the men themselves must have been injured to a much greater extent, for there is now no longer that lack of good and efficient drivers which existed when railways first superseded the ancient highways of the kingdom.

"Upon the northern division of the line, applications for the situation of driver have been received from no fewer than 230 men, and 26 new hands have actually been engaged, and are now employed in the workshops of the company. Upon the southern division, applications have been received from 128 men, and 42 have been already engaged. It is stated that nearly the whole of these men have accompanied their applications with testimonials of a satisfactory character; but, of course, it would be idle to pretend that even the majority of them are fit persons to be entrusted with the responsible situation which they seek.

"Up to this period notices to quit have been given to 13 or 14 men only upon the southern division, and it is believed that it will not be necessary to extend them to beyond one or two more. These men, who are stated to be some of the most inefficient upon the line, have also received notice that they must give up their cottages in a week; but they have been informed that, should not that prove time enough to enable them to remove their furniture, a longer interval will, upon representation, be permitted them.

"Should the present drivers and firemen consent to remain in the company's employment, there will be no desire to dismiss them; and, although so many new hands have already been engaged, ample employment will be found for all in the shops and elsewhere, as it is calculated that about 80 additional drivers will be required in May next, in consequence of the Great Industrial Exhibition.

"The men upon the southern division would, indeed, appear to have no ground of just complaint; not one amongst them but admits the consideration with which, both individually and collectively, they are treated. A

reference to the pay-list of the past week shows that, out of 40 passenger-drivers from the Euston terminus, 11 of them have received upwards of £3 per week each in wages; and that, upon the Banbury branch—the work upon branches being notoriously easy—two men have received respectively £3 15s. 4d. and £3 16s. as wages for the past week.

"It is fair to add that this high amount of wages results from working overtime; but still it is a rate of pay which probably no other class of mechanics can hope to realize. It is customary, morecver, to make an annual gratuity to the men of £5 to the drivers, and £3 to the firemen, as good conduct premium.

"The matter thus happily rests *in statu quo*. The three months' notice upon the northern division has been generally assented to by the men, and the fortnight's notice upon the southern division has not been disturbed; for as the resolution of the men to agree to a month's notice extended to the whole of the line, and it has not been accepted upon the northern division, of course it falls to the ground as far the southern division is concerned; and although the directors would regard it as a grateful concession upon the part of the men south of Birmingham to suggest that a month's notice should henceforth be the rule, they themselves are not, at present at all events, about to propose it.

"In the north of England it is generally considered by employers that, owing to a variety of causes, a longer notice is required from workmen than in the south; and accordingly we find that upon the Liverpool and Manchester line, which is the oldest in the kingdom, the original custom was for the men to deposit £25 as a good-conduct guarantee, and to give three months' notice. If their conduct was grossly bad, the deposit was forfeited. Recent legislation has rendered the deposit system unnecessary, but the three months' notice still remains, and this was the precedent which Mr. Trevethick was no doubt anxious to adopt; the three months' notice, however, being given upon both sides, and not, as has been stated, being extorted from the men to the directors, whilst the directors gave only a fortnight to the men."

PROTESTANTISM, POPERY, AND PUSEYISM.

The preliminary proceedings for depriving Mr. Bennett of the incumbency of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and the chapelry of St. Barnabas, Pimlico, were commenced on behalf of the Bishop of London, on Saturday. It will be recollected that Mr. Bennett, in his letter to the Bishop of London, stated that "if his lordship would not allow him time to make the desired alterations in his mode of conducting the services at his churches, he had no alternative but to place his living into his lordship's hands." This part of his letter the Bishop considered as a formal resignation, and intimated to Mr. Bennett that he accepted the resignation. A few days afterwards the bishop made arrangements for the future performance of the services in the churches, and informed Mr. Bennett of the nature of them. The reverend gentleman then declared that he had not resigned at all, and, moreover, that it was not his intention to do so. The bishop informed him that he had resigned, and that he should, therefore, insist on his giving up the two churches. Mr. Bennett, however, stoutly refuses to do so, and the matter is now to be brought into the Ecclesiastical Court; and, from the nature of the evidence which will be brought forward, it is likely to be some years before it is finally settled, as Mr. Bennett and his friends are determined to appeal to every court open to them, should the bishop succeed in the first instance.

Several of the most eminent ecclesiastical lawyers who have been consulted on the matter maintain that Mr. Bennett cannot be said to have resigned until he executes the formal deed required in such cases, a course which he is not likely now to adopt.

Should the commissioners decide that there is ground for further proceedings, the bishop may, with the consent of Mr. Bennett, pronounce sentence at once, but as Mr. Bennett will not submit to this course, the matter will have to go before the Arches Court. In the mean time the services at St. Paul's and St. Barnabas will be performed by the curates. Both the churches of St. Paul and St. Barnabas were built and endowed by the Reverend Mr. Bennett, the former of which is worth £1000 a-year, and the latter £350. It is stated that the reverend gentleman has expended upwards of £100,000 in the building and endowing the churches and schools of the districts of St. Paul and St. Barnabas.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of Wallsend, convened by handbill, bearing the signatures of Messrs. Robert Weatherley and Thomas A. Cook, churchwardens, was held in the vestry, and, by adjournment, within the church, on Thursday week, "for the purpose of considering the general conduct of the incumbent as the minister of the parish, the manner in which the services of the church were conducted, and the propriety of interference with the ornaments or articles of the chancel, or with alms collected for the poor." The meeting was numerously attended. The chief speaker was Mr. W. Bainbridge, barrister-at-law, who accused the vicar of having openly derided Protestantism, of stigmatizing the Revolution of 1688 as a blunder and a crime. "His continual cry was 'Hear the Church,' meaning 'Hear the Priest.' He approved of absolution and auricular confession; and, in fact, were it not for the golden chain that bound him to his parish there could be no doubt that he would go over to Rome, as his daughter had already done." A letter from the vicar was read in which he appealed to the Prayer Book and the Rubric in justification. Resolutions were passed expressing the belief of the meeting that the incumbent was not attached to the Protestant faith, seeking the advice of the bishop on the subject, and directing the churchwardens to remove some of the candlesticks from the communion table.

The *Dublin Evening Mail* prints a petition by English Roman Catholic priests to the Propaganda at Rome against the establishment of the hierarchy in the manner in which it has been established. Referring to this complaint a distinguished Roman Catholic ecclesiastic says, "It was law in spirituals that we wanted, and not titles. The Bishops have been encroaching for above half a century. Their first step was to impose the oath at ordinations; a thing equally unknown to canon law and opposed to English, and which, when thus introduced, Dr. Lingard and several other priests refused to take. Their next step was to assume the power of removing parish priests at their own pleasure, but in which they never quite succeeded before Dr. Wiseman came. Their last usurpation was that of the universal right of nominating to livings and churches. The Monks and Jesuits were the first of their opponents in this instance, and their resistance was successful; but nothing but a strict law can prevent the ultimate success of the bishops. By means of the deathbed, they will by degrees get all these trusts into their own hands."

In pursuance of a requisition to the high-sheriff of Huntingdonshire, a crowded meeting was held in the Sessions Court at the Town-hall; J. Lawrance, Esq., under-sheriff, presided. The Earl of Sandwich, Earl Fitzwilliam, the Reverend W. M'Ghee, the Reverend Mr. Baines, and Mr. Brighty (a Dissenter), took part in the proceedings, which resulted in the adoption of an anti-Papal address to the Queen. Earl Fitzwilliam spoke strongly against Roman Catholicism. He viewed the present controversy as no mere contest between Papal Episcopacy and Anglican Episcopacy, but between the principles of the Reformation and the Papacy:—

"He believed that if this country were subject to the spiritual domination of the Church of Rome it would pave the way to the destruction of the civil liberties of the country. (*Applause.*) His opinion was that Roman Catholic bishops should not be allowed to continue the use of the titles they had assumed—(*hear, hear*)—and that some measure should be prepared for preventing them from using those titles. Beyond that, he doubted the wisdom of any legislation, because he did not think any legislation calculated to attain the required end."

The *Liverpool Courier* says, with reference to the recent riot in Cheshire:—"Priest Brown, of Birkenhead.—It is rumoured that this gentleman's superiors are not pleased with the result of the late proceedings at Birkenhead, and that, in consequence, he has received orders to quit his present situation."

A letter from the brother of Earl Grey, who is the Rector of Morpeth, to one of his churchwardens, is a curious specimen of Tractarian concession. To make the hour of morning service on Sundays at half-past ten o'clock instead of ten, and to have a "plain service," *except on great festivals*, for communicants, instead of a *choral* service, is the very maximum of Mr. Grey's concessions to the prejudices of the laity.

Father Ignatius (the Honourable and Reverend Mr. Spencer) was assaulted in Liverpool, yesterday week. Whilst passing from St. Patrick's Chapel, he was met by two men, one of whom cast his arms around his neck, whilst the other tripped him. One of the party subsequently attempted to kick the reverend gentleman whilst he lay on the ground, but was prevented by a female, who struck him a severe blow with a basket across the head. A few blows passed between the attacking party and some bystanders, but the arrival of the police put an end to the disgraceful scene.

The Reverend F. Oakeley makes an appeal to the readers of the *Tablet*, in its last number, for help "towards making up a little sum for the bare maintenance of a person, who, by the prospect of downright destitution, is tempted to renounce the faith."

The Liverpool Protestant Operative and Reform Association held a great meeting on Monday. The Reverend Dr. M'Neile, who presided, addressed the meeting at considerable length, and expressed a hope that England would not stultify herself in the eyes of the civilized world by allowing the talk of a bravo to end in the conduct of a ninny; for if her conduct were now hesitating or faltering—if she refused to take decisive measures in reference to the Popish hierarchy, she would give proof that all her late talk had been no better than blustering and bravado.

Lord Camoys, Roman Catholic nobleman, has written to the *Times*, intimating his dissent from the address presented recently to Cardinal Wiseman by his fellow-religionists. His lordship reserves his explicit statement of his views for "his place in Parliament."

A public meeting of the Congregationalists and Baptists of Leeds was held in the East Parade chapel, on Thursday week, for the purpose of considering the propriety of expressing their sentiments on the recent act of the Pope. Mr. Edward Baines was called to the chair. Resolutions were passed declaring attachment to the principles of the Reformation, and in favour of that civil and religious equality for which Nonconformists have been struggling for three centuries.

A letter from Naples says, "We have an unusual number of English travellers this winter; the Jesuits are active amongst them. I hear of several attempts at conversion; the proselytism, however, is chiefly directed towards the ladies."

The *Standard* says that Mr. Sergeant Bellasis has been received into the Roman Catholic church. The French papers announce likewise the conversion to that church of the Reverend Mr. Laprimandaye, who has made his profession at Marseilles.

ANOTHER CATHOLIC MIRACLE.

The late story of the miraculous picture of the Virgin, at Rimini, whose eyes moved in various directions, has been completely thrown into the shade during the last few weeks by a picture representing "The Descent of Christ from the Cross," at the Church of St. Saturnin, in the canton and arondissement of Apt, in the department of the Vaucluse. The alleged miracle consists in the *flowing of blood* from the picture. The *Pouvoir* publishes a letter, dated the 24th ultimo, from the sub-prefect of Apt, M. Grave, in which that gentleman gives a minute account of the miracle, with all its attendant circumstances. According to his statement, the first witness of it was a girl of Saignon, named Rosette Tamisier, long noted for her piety. While engaged in prayer in the Chapel of Saint Saturnin, martyr and archbishop of Toulouse, she, on three different occasions, saw blood flow from the wounds in Christ's body in the picture placed above the altar. The authorities having heard of the miracle, an investigation was made, when it was found to be perfectly correct. "The blood on the right side consisted," says a lieutenant of gendarmerie, who was called in to report, "of eight drops, in the form of pearls, of the size of a little pea; on the right it formed a line of six centimetres in length, ending in a drop; on the left hand and the left foot the blood was less abundant, but still sufficient to trace from the two points of two or three centimetres also terminating by a drop." That no doubt might exist as to the reality of the prodigy, the lieutenant caused the upper part of the altar and the painting to be removed, and ascertained that it was absolutely impossible that the least thing could have penetrated the interior of the altar or behind the painting; moreover, the wall behind the painting was covered with a cement perfectly intact in all parts. In consequence of this statement a still more strict investigation was made:—

"On the 20th the sub-prefect, accompanied by M. Gullibert, juge d'instruction, and M. Jacques, substitute of the Procureur of the Republic, went to Saint Saturnin; the Archbishop of Avignon had arrived on the previous evening. After paying his respects to the prelate, the sub-prefect went, in company with Dr. C. Bernard, an eminent physician of Apt, towards the church. As they were ascending the hill on which it is situated they heard the bell ring. 'This,' says the functionary, 'was the signal of the commencement of the manifestation of the prodigy.' He was much vexed at it, as he was desirous of being in the chapel 'before the appearance of the oozing of the blood.' But they hurried on: a number of persons were assembled around the church. The curé met him; he announced that the oozing of the blood had commenced, but that he could not open the church until the arrival of the Archbishop. However, the sub-prefect insisted, and, at last, the curé let him in: he took with him Drs. Bernard and Clément. The high altar was lighted with wax candles; at one corner was Rosette Tamisier, kneeling in prayer, with her hands crossed, and her head leaning on the altar: she appeared completely absorbed in devotion. 'I ascended the table of the altar,' says the sub-prefect, 'accompanied by Dr. Clément; I examined the wound by the light of a wax candle; I ascertained that from those of the right hand, the two feet, and heart blood oozed. The drop of blood which was on the right hand visibly encreased; it appeared to me like a drop of blood, such as arises on the end of the finger, on being pricked by a sharp instrument, when the lower part is lightly pressed; it was at the moment at which the drop of blood of the right hand was about to fall or flow, that I wiped it three several times with a piece of linen. The first two operations gave two very red stains of blood; in the third the stain was clearer. After this operation the wound remained perfectly dry. I also wiped several times the two wounds on the feet, and I remarked that the drops were clearer, and the oozing less sensible. I did the same to the wound on the right side; there were there a dozen drops of blood, which nearly formed the design of a heart. That of the middle presented the same phenomenon as that of the right hand, and it was of a darkish colour. Those that were around resembled, on the contrary, the drops of the feet. I took away the drop of the middle, and one or two on the right. At this moment the Archbishop entered the chapel. I accordingly left untouched the other drops of the wound on the side, and abstained from wiping the wound on the left hand, from which no blood had oozed. I descended from the altar. The Archbishop, followed by a numerous body of the clergy, knelt at the foot of the altar, and, after a short prayer, examined the drops of blood which I had left at the wound of the heart, and he wiped them with a piece of linen. This piece of linen and mine were covered in all with about thirty drops of blood; and they were exhibited to the curiosity of the population, who filled the church. The clergy and a body of young girls sang hymns; and we waited in expectation of a new oozing, but none came. The girl Rosette Tamisier, who still remained absorbed in prayer, was asked several times if the blood would flow again. A first time she did not answer; a second, she said she did not know; a third, that she did not believe it would. After this last reply, about an hour after the arrival of

the Archbishop, the curé (M. Grand) caused the picture to be displaced, and workmen turned it round. We examined it with a good deal of care, but I saw no particular mark. The canvass was perfectly dry; a thick coating of pitch covered all the back, and it was placed against a very thick wall. This was all the part I had in the event. The Archbishop then proceeded to celebrate mass, and I went away to draw up an account of what I had seen. I then visited Rosette Tamisier, who I found suffering and greatly discouraged. She announced to me that she believed the prodigy would be renewed. And, in fact, I have since received a report from the mayor of Saturnin, announcing that, at nine o'clock in the morning of Saturday, the 21st, there was again an abundant oozing of blood.'"

The *Courrier de Lyons* states that the blood which is said to have issued from the wounds in the side of our Saviour, as represented in the painting in the church of St. Saturnin, has been analyzed by two medical men, who have declared that its chemical composition exactly corresponds with that of human blood.

WESLEYAN RIOTS IN NORFOLK.

The Fifth-of-November mode of settling ecclesiastical disputes, by burning the effigy of your opponent, has been introduced into the Methodist body in Norfolk during the last few weeks, in imitation, no doubt, of the "No-Popery" Autos de Fé elsewhere. It appears that the tyrannical proceedings of Conference have caused, in Norfolk as in other places, a spirit of rebellion against the mandates of that despotic body, and that the people have even gone the length of excluding the regularly-appointed ministers from the pulpits of various chapels. At the village of Lenwade the chapel services have been stopped—the preachers stoned and burnt in effigy; but this has only been when all peaceful measures have failed. First of all, we are told, the people chose a minister of their own, and, on several occasions, when the obnoxious Conference minister arrived, he found the pulpit already occupied. This, of course, was deemed flat rebellion by Conference, and accordingly the superintending minister of the district interfered. He contrived to get early possession of the pulpit a few weeks ago, and, with slight interruptions, got through the service; but, as he did not like the aspect of the crowd who were assembling out of doors, he remained inside till the evening service. In the evening the riotous disposition of the people encreased. Stones and other missiles were thrown through the windows, and, although the constables were sent for, they did not interfere. The service was abruptly finished, and the minister on leaving the village was assailed with stones, by which the person driving the gig was injured. After he had left, his effigy and that of a friend were burnt by the mob. Several parties were brought before the magistrates last week on the charge of having taken part in the riot, but, after a good deal of evidence, the information was dismissed. The charge against the constables for neglect of duty was adjourned.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The news from the United States, by the Asia, though not unimportant, may be compressed into a brief narrative. The President has issued a proclamation declaring that the act of Congress fixing the Texas boundary is in full force and effect. This shows that Texas acquiesces in the slavery compromise of last session. On the contrary, the legislature of South Carolina has emitted a note of warlike preparation, the Senate having passed a bill for a convention, and giving 300,000 dollars for military purposes. It is not likely, however, that anything will come of this, for all the forts in the harbour of Charleston are fully manned with the troops of the central government, and 100,000 volunteers could be raised in the adjoining states in a few days to take possession of all the principal towns.

The legislature had set to business in good earnest. On the 16th ultimo Mr. Cass moved in the Senate that the correspondence between Government and the Austrian minister, relative to the agent sent by the United States to Hungary during the contest there, be laid on the table. The discussion was postponed. Mr. Benton, the same day introduced a bill for the construction of a railroad from St. Louis to San Francisco. In the House of Representatives the same day, the cheap postage bill was made the special order of the day for Wednesday, the 18th ultimo. A resolution to enquire into the propriety of requesting the President to give notice to Great Britain of the desire of his Government to withdraw the squadron stationed on the west coast of Africa, was referred to the committee on naval affairs; the New York branch Mint was made the order of the day for the second Tuesday in January; and the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in February were set apart for the consideration of the territorial business of Oregon, Minesota, Utah, and New Mexico.

THE DRESDEN CONFERENCES.

The members of the Conference met on Friday, the 27th, at two o'clock, but they were merely engaged in the preliminary business of arranging the order of proceedings, and deliberating upon the best mode of electing a President of Conferences. It is understood that beyond the verification of credentials and appointment of committees, no details have been entered upon. In the meantime speculation is busy, and anticipation varies according to the peculiar views and aspirations of each politician. It is confidently asserted that the Court of Saxony have declined taking any steps towards promoting their own Minister to the chair, and the probability is that the presidency will be assumed by Austria. The first duties to which the committee are to direct their attention are to revise the articles of the Alliance of 1815, with a view to their reform. The representative of Saxony has been unanimously chosen a member of each committee, and was also selected to act as President.

On Saturday Prince Schwarzenberg and Baron Manteuffel went to Berlin. They were received at the railway station by several general and superior officers. Prince Schwarzenberg repaired at once to the royal palace, where apartments had been prepared for him. At three o'clock all the Ministers dined with the King and his Austrian guest at Charlottenberg. On Sunday Baron Manteuffel gave a grand diplomatic banquet. It is said that the chief difficulties of the situation are by no means overcome. The Dresden correspondent of the *National Zeitung* writes:—

"Prussia requires such an enlargement of the right to form alliances as shall enable her to construct a narrower union within the limits of the Confederation, into which Austria is to enter with all her provinces. Austria refuses to permit such an extension of the right of union, declaring that such a right would cause the destruction of the wider Confederation, leaving a sonderbund (party league) in its stead. Negotiations are proceeding on this head at the present moment."

The King of Denmark, as Duke and Sovereign of the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg, and a member of the Germanic Confederation, has been officially invited to send a plenipotentiary to Dresden. Baron Pechlin, who has been selected by the King to this post, has left Copenhagen to take part in the conferences.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

On proroguing the Parliament, Sir Henry Ward, the Lord High Commissioner, delivered a speech directed mainly against political agitation. He contradicted the rumour that there was any intention on the part of the Queen "to abandon a position placed under the safeguard of the British Crown by the Treaty of Paris." The only effect of keeping up agitation, he adds, will be to divert the minds of the people from things that are practicable and easy of attainment. As for the people generally, he does not believe that they trouble themselves with political theories, or party contests. What they want is good government, roads, schools, impartial administration of justice, and internal improvements of every kind. In conclusion, he quotes the following advice from Lord Grey, who, in a recent despatch, reminds them:—

"That changes in the constitution of the Legislature, and in the distribution of political power, although from time to time they may be necessary in every country, contribute nothing directly to the improvement of the condition of the people. They are valuable only as affording the means by which improvements in the laws and in the system of administration and œconomy in the public expenditure may be secured. So far from being beneficial in themselves, it is notorious that, so long as the discussion of constitutional changes is going on, the consideration of those practical measures, which are the ultimate objects of such alterations, is suspended; while the frequency of such changes is in the highest degree injurious, by destroying that confidence in the stability of the constituted authorities which is one of the main elements of their strength. It will, therefore, be much to be desired that the attention of the Parliament, when it reassembles, should be directed more to the use of powers already granted to the people in the introduction of practical improvements, than to the consideration of new plans for further changes in the constitution so lately established."

CRIME IN INDIA.

The papers received by the last Overland Mail contain a frightful record of atrocious murders in Bombay. The following summary is from a Bombay paper:—

"At the July sessions, a Portuguese was found guilty of stabbing with a knife a young married woman; she died of the wound, and the murderer was hanged. At the next criminal session of October 2, two men were tried and condemned for murder; one was hanged—the other was reprieved on the evening preceding his intended execution. They had entered the house of a kept mistress, by connivance of a female friend—tied up her head with a sarree, and secured suffocation by sitting on her bosom. The wretches seem to have been from ten to fifteen minutes occupied in their murderous work, while the woman who admitted them lay, by her own account, bound on the floor. The proposed robbery was then committed. While the sessions were sitting, another murder, equally coldblooded, and atrocious, occurred. A poor old woman, an oil seller, possessed some jewels: she was enticed into a dwelling-house, and while measuring out oil was attacked by two Parsees, and strangled with a bucket rope. These three last murders, all of women, occurred within a fortnight of each other. We had now a little breathing space; amongst horrors such as these, the strangulation of an infant by its mother is scarcely worthy of notice, when three weeks since we find a Chinaman done to death by two European sailors. We have next a housekeeper poisoned; then four men butchered at Mahim in a fit of fury by members of another religious sect; next a courtezan poisoned, three others narrowly escaping a like fate, by a couple of men for the sake of plunder; in all, in four months, nine human lives cruelly destroyed by murderers, and nearly forty individuals charged with murder directly, or as accomplices. The death of the Chinaman and slaughter at Mahim were perpetrated in passion; the others were coldblooded atrocities, perpetrated by the most cruel means, for the most paltry motives. While recent acts of blood, such as those under investigation, some further light is promised us on the slaughter of the woman found a twelvemonth since, cut piecemeal, and strewed in fragments around on the flats,—so that in reality for months on end scarcely a week has passed where some matter connected with a murder has not been under investigation at the police-office."

THE ALLAIS-YON PLOT.

The French people have long been celebrated for the manufacture and opportune discovery of alarming plots. In that sort of ware they far surpass those very wise ancestors of ours who lived in the days of Titus Oates. Their last invention was brought before the public in the course of the trial of Allais, the police-agent of the Assembly, for calumniously accusing certain persons of a plot to assassinate General Changarnier and M. Dupin, the President of the National Assembly. The following account of the transaction we borrow from the columns of the *Times*:—

"Pierre Constant Allais is described in the report of the trial as being twenty-nine years of age, a pale, thin man, with a restless eye. The calumnious accusation appears to have been uttered in the shape of a report to M. Yon, the Commissary of Police of the Assembly. It was in effect that a knot of Bonapartist conspirators had met on the 29th of October last, at the shop of one Pichon, a grocer, in the Rue des Saussaies, and had there come to the resolution of assassinating General Changarnier and M. Dupin. The vivid imagination of the agent who fixed upon the *dramatis personæ* readily extemporized all melodramatic adjuncts which should accompany so solemn a resolution. Lots were duly cast, and it fell to the lot of an artist named Picot to give the fatal blow to General Changarnier. Allais himself was designed by fate to bring poor M. Dupin's days to an untimely conclusion. Twenty-six persons—so Allais reported the matter—were present in the grocer's back shop when the final resolution was taken. They did not separate until a late hour, and the next thing we hear of Allais is, that in the middle of the night he presented himself in a perfectly composed state of mind at the lodging of a Madame Raymond, a dressmaker, with whom he cohabited. The next morning he called upon M. Yon, his chief, and informed him of the plot. On the evening of that day M. Yon, in company with Allais, visited the Rue des Saussaies, and the very shop in which the awful conspiracy had been hatched was pointed out by the agent to his principal. This was something in the way of evidence, and, as if to make assurance doubly sure, Allais produced for the satisfaction of his chief forty francs which—so he informed him—he had received from the Elysée as his share of the subsidy bestowed by Louis Napoleon on the Secret Society. Of course it was impossible to resist direct proof of this kind, and, accordingly, M. Yon attached implicit belief to the revelations of his subordinate from that moment forward.

"What follows is still more curious. M. Yon, although possessed of a secret of such importance, kept the proper authorities in ignorance of it until the 9th of November. It was not until the 6th that he presented his report to the Questure of the Assembly. The interval appears to have been spent by M. Yon in making inquiries, the result of which convinced him more and more of the truth of the alleged conspiracy. When the necessity of producing Allais was urged upon him by the magistrate, M. Yon, who was perfectly aware of his whereabouts, kept him out of the way, and even concealed him for three days in his own lodgings at the Assembly. Meanwhile Allais did but little credit as a witness to his protector, for within the space of a few days he retracted his statement, and then retracted the retractation. During the progress of the trial he was in one of his affirmative fits, and insisted upon the truth of his story, with some few modifications with regard to the drawing of the lots. These points, he admitted, were fabrications. The evidence of the witnesses consisted in the main of indignant appeals to the court, and of violent denunciations of the prisoner as a 'gueux,' a 'calumniator,' a 'barefaced impostor,' an 'impudent liar,' and so forth. It is quite needless to dwell in detail upon the statements of the various persons accused of sharing in an imaginary plot. 'Are you not ashamed to look me in the face?' said M. Pillon, an innocent sign-painter, to the prisoner. The answer is, 'Take care, or I will tell all!' So on throughout; but if we take one man's evidence, as a specimen of the rest, naturally M. Pichon, the outraged grocer of the Rue des Saussaies, has the first claim upon our sympathies:—

"'M. Pichon, grocer, Rue des Saussaies, 2, said he had not formed part of the society of the "Amis de l'Ordre et de l'Humanité." No meeting had been held at his house on the 29th of October last. His back shop could not contain twenty-six persons (the number stated by Allais to have been present). It could not hold more than eight or ten. On reading in the newspaper an account of the alleged conspiracy at his house, he was greatly astonished, and went to the commissary of police of the district to ask him what he should do. That functionary recom-

mend him to cause all the grocers living in the street to sign a letter to the newspapers, declaring that, as far as they were concerned, there was no truth in the account. This was done.

"'Allais declared that it was possible for twenty-six persons, or even a greater number, to assemble in the back shop, provided the sacks of coffee and of rice were removed.

"'The public prosecutor observed that it was impossible for any one who had seen the shop to believe that it could contain twenty-six persons, and said that the prisoner had so admitted when taken there by the examining magistrate. He also said that Allais had stated that the grocer's wife and a female named Désirée Duranlot were present at the meeting of the 29th of October, but the fact was the grocer was not married, and the other woman denied having been present.

"'Allais admitted that he had been mistaken, but excused himself by saying that he was greatly agitated, and had taken several glasses of brandy.'

"Conceive the astonishment of some respectable grocer in a back street in the City on reading some morning in the newspapers that his premises had been made the nest of a Chartist conspiracy, and that it had been resolved in his back shop on a night named to assassinate Lord Gough and the Speaker of the House of Commons. That was the case of poor Pichon. It may be as well to state at once that the Court after a short deliberation found Allais guilty of the offence with which he had been charged. He was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, 300*l.* fine, and the costs."

The ridiculous manner in which M. Yon has allowed himself to be hoaxed in the affair has led to much discussion. Some believe that he is as much to blame as Allais. All consider him as having acted most foolishly in the transaction. The question of his dismissal has been discussed in the National Assembly, and has ended in the defeat of Ministers, they having insisted upon his removal from office.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The members of the Society of Arts were afforded an opportunity of viewing this building, on Tuesday, by the courtesy of Messrs. Fox and Henderson. It is now rapidly approaching completion, though we should say from appearances that two or three weeks more will be required before the contractors can hand it over to the Royal Commissioners. The delay has not been caused by the fault of the contractors, but in consequence of alterations which have been made to obtain additional space for exhibitors, and the delay which occurred in the first instance in giving them possession of the ground and permission to proceed with the works. The whole building covers somewhere about eighteen acres of ground, and was originally intended to have had a uniform appearance throughout; but in order to give it additional strength, and at the same time prevent the necessity of cutting down the magnificent elms opposite Prince's-gate, on the spot designed for the erection, Messrs. Fox and Henderson suggested the addition of the transept, which now forms one of the main and most attractive features of the building.

Immediately on entering the building from the park the scene is extremely impressive. The long lines of glittering galleries stretch into the distance, till they appear to meet at a point. The entire absence of scaffolding has been a remarkable feature of the operations. The system on which the contractors have performed their labours—all the materials having been prepared away from the site—accounts for this peculiarity. But the precision and extent of the operations are, perhaps, more forcibly shown in the distribution of upwards of two thousand workmen about the works. The vast number, far from crowding one another, is so scattered that the works appear to be but thinly populated, and a casual observer could not suppose that one-tenth of the number were employed, unless he saw them, as we did, leaving the works at dinner hour. But from the first gallery the best view of the works may be had. Looking from this point into the great central avenue below, the effect is very fine. The men, and horses, and wagons appear no bigger than toys; the whirr of the engines is hardly audible; and the details of the operations are lost, so that the long unbroken lines of galleries stretch away on both sides. Mounting still higher—to the leads which run on either side of the great transept—the view of the roof of the building can be seen. A vast sea of glass stretches so far on all sides that the view of the park is almost shut out. The great beauty of the design consists in this—that each section of the building is a multiple of the other. This arrangement has this effect—that galleries radiate from any point at which the spectator places himself. Thus the thousands of columns which support the building, and which else would appear like a confused forest, fall, viewed from any point, into regular avenues, each covering the other. Notwithstanding its extreme lightness of appearance, the building is stated to be in every part capable of bearing at least four times the weight that can by any possibility be placed upon it.

Professor Cowper, of King's College, delivered a lecture to the members of the Society of Arts, on the building, pointing out its different parts, and explaining the machinery employed in its construction. On coming to the transept he said:—

"No doubt, when the visitors from foreign countries came to the Exhibition they would be struck by the preposterous idea of trees being retained within the building; but he thought they might learn a lesson even from that fact. Some of their foreign neighbours had been very fond of planting trees of liberty, but they quickly died, rotted, and decayed, and had to be uprooted. Now, the British people were not very fond of emblems, but he looked at the trees left standing within that building as real trees of liberty. They showed that the people of this country did not live under a despotic Government—the people wished the trees to remain, and it was accordingly decided that they should do so. A few years since 1000 trees were felled in Kensington-gardens, and not a word was said on the subject; but John Bull had set his mind upon retaining the trees on the site of the Exhibition, whether they spoilt the building or not, and there they now stood within its walls, twenty feet below the transept, giving them sufficient room to grow, as a proof of the attention which the British Government paid to the wishes of the people."

Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, the members of the society mustered very strong, and appeared to be much delighted at the proceedings of the day.

CALUMNY AND INTRIGUE.

Under the above head the following story of real life has been furnished to the *Daily News* of Wednesday by a correspondent:—

"In the south of England there resides a family of very high rank. The lady is a baroness in her own right, and a marchioness by marriage. She was left a widow when young, and she married secondly an amiable and accomplished gentleman, a nephew of an Irish duke, and who on his marriage adopted the name of his wife's ancestors. The noble lady and her husband took up their residence where the former (who had been left an orphan when an infant) had resided in her youth. Here they have lived in a style suitable to their rank, and have been highly distinguished for their charity and hospitality. Passionately fond of music, they gave a series of musical soirées to the neighbouring nobility and gentry, at which musical amateurs, even of ducal rank, were performers. Although the family are liberal, almost ultra liberal, in politics, this was not, of course, thought of while dispensing hospitality, and the whole of the Tory families of suitable rank in the neighbourhood participated in that hospitality. From the influence which the family naturally acquired in the neighbouring town, by means of their kindness and wealth, the husband was solicited by the inhabitants a few months ago to become their representative in Parliament. This he declined, but he recommended an intimate friend professing similar politics as himself, who was, after a desperate contest, elected. In this contest both the noble lady and her husband took an active and conspicuous part. Now, the representation of this town had always been in the hands of the Tory families in the neighbourhood, and they were enraged beyond description to find it taken from them. They studied what insults and slights they could safely offer to the family that had supplanted them, so as to annoy and drive them from the neighbourhood. It appears that an *attaché* of one of the most distinguished foreign embassies in London, and who is intimately related to a princely family, had been introduced to the lady by her husband's uncle as an eminent musical amateur, and one who was competent and would be willing to assist her ladyship in getting up her musical parties. He was of course treated with the utmost kindness by the family, and became a constant guest. About two months since he, presuming on the noble lady's frank and unsuspecting disposition, offered her a gross and unmistakeable insult. Astonished at the outrage, she summoned her husband who was in a distant part of the house, to her protection, and he immediately knocked the scoundrel down and kicked him ignominiously from the mansion. The lady's political enemies have fabricated shameful insinuations from this circumstance, but with such cunning as proves that their cowardice equals their malignity, and they have just now had the audacity to exclude the lady's name from amongst the list of patronesses to a public ball. The great spite ball, as it is termed, was to come off last night. In the meantime the inhabitants of the neighbouring town have taken the matter up, and, one evening last week, when the noble lady (noble by birth and by many gifts and virtues) entered the Polytechnic Institution in the town, an institution of which she is a munificent patroness, the audience rose *en masse*, greeted her with the most enthusiastic cheering, and spoke unmistakebly what they thought of her enemies."

Another correspondent of the *Daily News* says that—

"After the husband of the noble lady had literally and physically kicked the fellow who had insulted the latter from his house, he posted to London and there through a friend (one of the most distinguished members of the House of Commons) he called him out. The challenged, although smarting from the effect of the ignominious punishment he had received, refused to fight. Some considerable time elapsed when he had the insolence to challenge the husband, but the second of the latter said in effect:—No; the offender refused to give satisfaction when called upon to do so, he has, therefore, been pronounced a coward, and degraded from the rank of a gentleman. He cannot regain that rank merely because he has been enabled now, by some means or other, to screw his courage to the sticking place. The political enemies of the noble and injured family have actually made this the ground of reproach, because the husband, competent and willing to defend his wife's good name and his own honour, cannot, while in the hands of his friend, degrade himself by inflicting further punishment on the recreant alien. Previous to the great 'spite ball' coming off in the south of England, the political clique went to a Tory lady of title, and requested her name as a lady patroness; she contented; but the terms were then stated to be, that she should not give a ticket to the Liberal marchioness. The lady of title objected, and she was struck off the list of patronesses."

CONDITION OF IRELAND.

The *Tipperary Guardian* contains a list of outrages perpetrated in the north riding of that county during the preceding few days. Three houses were entered by armed parties, who beat the inhabitants, and threatened them with death at their next visit if they did not give up the land, dismiss labourers, and cease to pay rent. Here is one of the list by way of a sample:—

On the night of the 20th instant two men, one armed with a pistol, entered the dwelling of a farmer named Cawley, residing at Beechwood, and ordered him on his knees. Cawley courageously faced the fellow having the pistol, and by a blow on the right side of the head knocked him down. His wife also struck him with a chair. Ultimately Cawley was prostrated in a state of insensibility on the ground, and the ruffians then ran away, firing a shot, and cautioning him to give up the land he had taken.

The herd of Mr. Aldwell, of Gleeson's-grove—who was shot in the arm by a Ribbon party a short time since—has suffered amputation of the limb—an operation deemed necessary in consequence of mortification having set in. On examining the amputated limb, the medical gentlemen found the slug lodged in the forearm. It weighed about the eighth of an ounce, and was composed of some metallic substance.

The rent-warner at the same time received several slugs in the body and one in the side of the head, from which apprehension was indulged, and which have been also removed.

On St. Stephen's night Head-constable Saunderson, of the Cappamore station, having searched several haystacks in a farmyard at Ballyvoreen, succeeded in arresting James Carey, who had been some time on the "run," charged with the murder of Patrick Ryan at Newport. The head-constable started the offender from his hiding place by calling aloud "to be off, as the police were coming."

Two murders were lately perpetrated at Clogher, near Ballinamore, in the county Leitrim, and the atrocious deeds arose from the taking of ground which the landlord, Mr. Latouche, got up from a defaulting tenant, who was not only in arrear, but enabled by his benefactor to bring his family to America. The land was reset, and the unfortunate new tenant, Thomas Gilheeny, became the victim of assassination. The other murder was that of Patrick Walshe, a neighbour of Gilheeny. Inquests were held on the bodies of the two men, and verdicts returned of "Wilful murder" against persons unknown.

On the night of Thursday week, the out-offices belonging to Mr. Hugh Kelly, of Woodmount, county of Galway, were maliciously destroyed by fire, and with them were consumed a milch cow in calf and a heifer, that were housed on the premises.

SELF-SUPPORTING WORKHOUSES.

The *Times* of Wednesday contains an interesting letter from "A Ratepayer" who has recently visited Galway, and been struck with the excellent manner in which the able-bodied poor of that union are made to work for their living. They have not only manufactured wearing apparel enough for their own use, but have a large stock in their store-rooms, with which they could supply any other union in the kingdom, if the absurd regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners did not stand in the way. They also raise large quantities of vegetables, with which they make most palatable and nutritious soup. Indeed, such is the spirit of industry exhibited by the inmates, the writer feels confident that, had the guardians "1000, or even 500, acres of good land, to be worked by the paupers, the workhouse would be self-supporting; and by encreasing the quantity of land, by taking at a cheap rate such land as would require much improvement, and reclaiming it, would provide useful employment for any surplus labour, and create property for the union."

NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION.

At a full attendance of the Executive Committee on Wednesday night, a resolution was agreed to in reprobation of the course pursued by the Manchester Council in calling a national delegation, and calling upon all good Democrats to abstain from participation in it, it being contrary to the principles of Democracy that a portion of a body should usurp the functions of the executive. Mr. Ernest Jones was appointed a delegate to Halifax; Mr. Davis having resigned from personal inability to attend, a new election was ordered for a member in his place. A minute was agreed to expressive of the indignation and disgust entertained by the undersigned members regarding the attack of the Manchester Council on Mr. Ernest Jones, and vindicating that gentleman against the charges affecting his character. We have not the minute before us, but this is the substance. This was signed by Messrs. Harley, Milne, Grassby, and Arnott. The minute bears the following affix:—

"Not being able to subscribe to the terms in which the foregoing minute is expressed, we still wish to signify our accordance with its intention, and to observe that the fact that the executive appointed Mr. Jones their delegate to the Halifax meeting, after reading the attack above referred to, indicates their confidence in his integrity.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

The following is the Memorial of the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to which we have elsewhere adverted:—

That your memorialists are anxious for the abolition of all taxes on knowledge, and in particular of the stamp duty on newspapers, for reasons which they have detailed in a petition to the House of Commons, and which were fully admitted in the debate of the 16th of April last by yourself and by the First Lord of the Treasury, who agreed with you in stating that the condition of the revenue was not such as to justify further remission of taxation.

That though the revenue argument is applicable to the paper duty, its applicability breaks down in the case of the stamp, inasmuch as the receipts amounted in 1849 to £350,289, while the expense of transmitting the newspapers by post was estimated by Mr. Rowland Hill n 1847 at £370,000; and though a part of the expense is incurred for the sake of the letters, so that it would be prejudicial to the revenue to lose the transmission of any part of the newspapers, yet that this loss would be insignificant, and that it might be easily made up by the transmission of printed papers at a low rate.

That in the course of their enquiries your memorialists have ascertained that great irregularities are connived at by the Board of Inland Revenue in a manner unfair and illegal, and with the effect of trampling on the poor and letting the rich break the law with impunity.

That according to a return made to the House of Commons on the 19th of February, 1850, fifty-one registered newspapers are in the habit of issuing a portion of their impression unstamped.

That your memorialists consider this practice to be illegal as the law requires every copy of a newspaper to be stamped; a doctrine which is supported by the following letter from the board to Mr. Scholefield, M.P. for Birmingham, in the matter of the *Freeholder*:—

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, May 30, 1850.

"Sir,—I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 21st instant, relative to a communication made by this department to the publisher of a paper called the *Freeholder*. In reply I am directed to inform you that the Board hold that a paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences, is a newspaper, without reference to the intervals of its publication, and they are so advised by the law officers of the crown. The *Freeholder* is registered at this office as a newspaper, an appropriate stamp is provided for it, and stamps are issued to the publisher as for a newspaper, which he would not be entitled to receive if it were not registered. A portion of each publication is printed on stamps, and another portion without stamps, to which latter proceeding the Board object, considering that both in respect of its registration and its contents, it is subject to the newspaper duty. With regard to this paper having been singled out for a peculiar application of the law, I am to observe that such a notion is entirely without foundation, and that the same rule will be observed with regard to any similar publication which shall come under the Board's notice. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, "Thomas Keogh."

That many of the aforesaid publications are to all intents newspapers, not only in virtue of their registration, but also in virtue of their contents, particularly Charles Dickens's *Household Narrative*, the *Athenæum*, the *Builder*, the *Freeholder*, and *Punch*, but that the Board connives at their illegal practices, and that the Board, when it has given notice to any London paper of the illegality of its conduct, has not enforced any penalty.

That on the contrary, the board occasionally act with great severity towards newspapers in the country. That in the case of the *Wakefield Examiner*, which not long ago published 2000 slips of an account of a trial that had previously appeared in its columns, the Board of Inland Revenue, threatened the proprietor with a fine of £40,000, a fine which they afterwards commuted to £10.

That the practice of publishing slips for newspapers is quite common in London, and has never been interfered with, and that though your memorialists admit it to be not strictly legal, the same may be said of parliamentary speeches and other publications which, coming under the head of news, require a stamp.

That your memorialists consider it unjust that while ordinary publishers are permitted in these cases to violate the law, yet newspaper proprietors, who pay stamp duty on every copy are sometimes severely treated for so trivial an offence. That the practice already alluded to, of allowing class publications to stamp for postal circulation alone, is not only illegal, but grossly unfair to the regular newspapers, for which alone the postal privilege was intended as a compensation for the obligation to stamp every copy.

That your memorialists, therefore, entreat that you will either enforce the law strictly by obliging all registered newspapers to stamp every copy according to law, or else permit to the whole newspaper press the privilege of stamping for postal circulation only.

Signed by order of the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee, and on their behalf:—

Francis Place, Treasurer, Brompton-square.

James Watson, Queen's Head-passage, Paternoster-row.

J. C. Dobson Collet, 15, Essex-street, Strand.

COMMITMENT OF MR. SLOANE.

Mr. Sloane was brought up at the Guildhall on Monday, for final examination, before Mr. Alderman Humphery, relative to the charge of ill-using and starving Jane Wilbred, his servant. In consequence of the great crowd that has hitherto attended every examination of Mr. Sloane, precautionary measures were taken to prevent a recurrence of the outrage committed on that gentleman while on his way to the Compter on Friday afternoon. Alderman Humphery, taking a lesson from what had happened last week, issued orders privately for every one whose presence would be required in the case to be in attendance at the court at ten o'clock precisely—two hours earlier than the ordinary time fixed for the sitting of this court. So secretly were these orders carried out that shortly before ten o'clock, Mr. Sloane left the Compter in company with Springate, the gaoler, and walked arm-in-arm with him to the corner of Newgate-street, where a cab was waiting to convey them to their destination. They got in, fortunately for Mr. Sloane, without being perceived or identified by any of the passers by, and proceeded along Newgate-street, round by the Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, into Gresham-street, and stopped at the end of Church-passage, where Mr. Sloane alighted, and, still accompanied by the gaoler, quickly entered the court by one of the private entrances.

In order that Mr. Sloane's presence at Guildhall should not get bruited about the City, the examination took place in the magistrate's private sitting-room. The final statement of Jane Wilbred having been read over to her, she confirmed it in every particular, and then affixed her name to the depositions in a clear and steady handwriting. The depositions having been completed as far as possible, Mr. Alderman Humphery asked Mr. Sloane if he had anything to say? Mr. Sloane, who had exhibited a great amount of nervous excitement from the commencement of the proceedings, answered, in a tone that was scarcely articulate, "I have nothing to say." He was then fully committed for trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court, but was admitted to bail, himself in £500, and two sureties in £250 each. Mr. Alderman Humphery having asked Roe, the officer, if he had done anything further to execute the warrant on Mrs. Sloane, Roe said he had been unable to obtain the slightest clue as to where she was, but he was assured that she would surrender on the day of trial.

Mr. Sloane then retired into an inner room, where he remained some short time, debating with his friends upon the safest mode of leaving the court. The defendant himself proposed that a barber should be sent for to shave him before leaving, and, the more effectually to defeat detection, he said he would have all his beard and whiskers shaved clean off; but he suddenly changed his determination, and said he would leave without shaving. At this time he was excessively nervous, and appeared as if he were afraid to trust himself into the hands of a stranger while the public mind was in such a state of excitement. Shortly after he left the court by a private entrance in Church-passage, and, accompanied by Mr. Philips, his solicitor, made his way rapidly into Gresham-street, where a cab had been previously stationed to receive him, and he was conveyed eastwards through the City, unobserved by many who were on their way to Guildhall to make enquiries respecting him. In fact, during the morning, the court was regularly besieged by applicants wishing to know when Mr. Sloane would be coming up again.

At a special general meeting of the board of guardians of the West London Union, on Tuesday, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

"1. That this board do offer a reward of £20 for the apprehension of Mrs. Sloane, and that application be made to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, requesting the Government to encrease the sum to £50.

"2. That the clerk be requested to consult with Mr. Huddlestone, the counsel for the prosecution, as to whether the board of guardians had better apply to the magistrate for a warrant for the apprehension of Miss Louisa Devaux."

ABOLITION OF THE PAPER DUTY.

A large meeting was held at the London Tavern, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of adopting measures to obtain the abolition of the duty on paper. Mr. Cowan, M.P., who was in the chair, said one of the worst features of the paper duty was that it was a tax on labour. In Paris 30,000 females found employment in the making of paper boxes, which could be imported into England on payment of an *ad valorem* ten per cent. duty, while the raw material of similar articles in England was burdened with a tax of from 100 to 200 per cent. The letter-press printers also suffered greatly from the pressure of the paper duty, as it very much lessened the market for their labour.

Mr. John Cassell moved the first resolution, declaring the tax on paper as a tax on skill and industry.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. P. Borthwick, who said that the repeal of the tax would give employment to 500,000 persons, not confined to the exclusive manufacture of paper, but in many useful and ornamental articles, in papier maché and other ways, for it was incalculable to what new uses paper might be employed.

The second resolution, which characterized the duty as a tax on knowledge, was moved by Mr. Pedder, and seconded by Mr. Ingram, proprietor of the *Illustrated News*. On the motion being put, Mr. Holyoake deprecated their confining the movement to the repeal of the paper duty alone. They ought to include the stamp and advertisement duties in their vote of condemnation:—

"He believed that the stamp on newspapers not only kept knowledge from the people, but it caused their political terms to be imported from France. There was no room for the free growth of their genuine national language. Some gentlemen said that this measure would give the people employment, but the fact was that the people had too much work to do. (*Cheers.*) If they looked well at the question, it would be found that, by proper combination, less work might be done for the same payment, and then the surplus might fairly fall to the share of the unemployed. There were certainly good cheap publications—as the *Household Words*—but what the people wanted was the political knowledge which would save them from degradation. (*Cheers.*) They were not refused their rights because they had not read the *Penny Cyclopædia*, or *Chambers's Journal*, but because they had not the necessary political information for legislation. They ought, therefore, to be given information in connection with the events of the day and hour. (*Hear.*) The gentlemen on the platform well knew that the poor man could not now obtain a newspaper. Only the rich man could have a newspaper; and was the working man, when he was condemned to feed upon garbage, to be blamed for the depravity of his taste? (*Cheers.*) Mr. Milner Gibson would put the whole question before the Government and the House of Commons, and it would be shown presently there was a chance of all three of these propositions being carried."

By taking the course he proposed they were much more likely to obtain the sympathy of the people. He proposed the following addition to the resolution:—

"That this meeting is further of opinion that the stamp duty on newspapers and the advertisement duty, by adding to the cost, and consequently encreasing the price and deteriorating the quality of books, newspapers, and periodicals, impedes the progress of knowledge and education of the people."

Mr. Collet seconded the amendment. The working classes of the country would meddle with politics. Rightly or wrongly, they would interfere with matters of law and government, and it depended upon the political education they had whether that interference would be good or evil.

Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., supported the amended resolution:—

"He brought forward the question as a whole because he saw something like a principle in it. (*Hear, hear.*) He knew from experience, also, that it was a good plan to ask for all you want, but to take what you can get, without giving a release in full. (*Laughter.*) He would not refuse an instalment, but he would not in consequence forego the right at all times to demand payment of the whole debt. (*Cheers.*) Those three questions—the paper duty, the newspaper stamp duty, and the advertisement duty—had usually been more or less linked together. (*Hear, hear.*) All these taxes were bad; but if he were to express an opinion as to which was the worst, he would say the stamp on newspapers was. (*Cheers.*) Powerful as the arguments were against the paper duty, he thought those against the stamp not less cogent. He was for cheap newspapers. (*Cheers.*) If competition was good for the farmer, if it was good for the trader, why should it not be good also for the newspaper proprietor? (*Loud cheers.*) Let them have the power to enter into the hitherto unexplored field of those to whom a record of facts has as yet been denied—with cheap newspapers, and communicate through them not only political, but social information. (*Cheers.*) Statesmen might put off the question on financial grounds; but the fact was not to be disguised, that there was amongst many of them a latent fear of the spread of the knowledge of facts amongst the working classes. (*Loud cheers*). Why should there be this fear? What was to be apprehended? The stamp was intended to prevent cheap periodicals from containing the current events of the day. That could be the only reason, for the cheapest publications were allowed to exist, to be circulated, and to give theories, fictions, and some sort of information."

The chairman said he believed that all concurred with him in the opinion that the proposition of Mr. Holyoake was an addition rather than an amendment. There could, therefore, be no objection to its being incorporated.

The amended resolution was then carried without opposition.

A TALE OF MYSTERY.

The Welsh papers relate a strange story of a lady who left a child at an inn under mysterious circumstances. The scene of the affair was at Swansea. On Tuesday week the omnibus arrived at the Pelican Inn, Swansea, with its usual heavy load of passengers, amongst whom was a genteelly-dressed female, who carried an infant, apparently a fortnight old, in her arms. During the time occupied in changing horses, this female proceeded to the Castle Inn, and sat for some minutes before the fire, assiduously warming the infant. She entered into conversation with Mrs. Thomas, and finally asked her to

hold the child while she proceeded to fetch her box from the vehicle. Mrs. Thomas readily complied, and held the sleeping babe until the omnibus had started, and until long after the last sound of the bugle had "melted into echo" far away on the Carmarthen-road. Enquiries were then made for the child's mother, and it was elicited that she had proceeded onwards to Carmarthen. Mrs. Thomas humanely engaged a nurse, and agreed to pay 2s. per week towards the future nourishment of the unexpected legacy which had been consigned to her. To her astonishment, however, on Christmas-day a box arrived, directed to "Mrs. Thomas, Castle Inn, Kidwelly," containing a large quantity of baby-linen and twenty sovereigns. Before the wonder excited by this singular arrival had subsided, a new source of curious speculation developed itself, for on Sunday a woman from Carmarthen called upon Mrs. Thomas, and presented a note, which directed her to give up the child and its clothes, which was accordingly done, although it is not stated whether the £20 was also surrendered. At present the whole affair in enveloped in complete mystery.

A HEBREW TUTOR.

At Guildhall, on Tuesday, James Thomas Newland, a youth of sixteen, was charged with robbing his employer, Mr. Wellington Williams, warehouseman, of 34, Gutter-lane; and Henry Hart and Lewis Levy, both Jews, were charged with receiving the stolen property. On Monday afternoon the officer Webb examined a quantity of woollen and linen goods that had been left at a tobacconist's shop in St. Martin's-le-grand, and suspecting that they were stolen he marked them, and when the prisoner Newland called for them, he watched him up to Widegate-street, and there lost sight of him. The following morning Newland was apprehended in Old 'Change, and examined at Guildhall, when he expressed great contrition for his offence, saying he had been led astray by some Jews. He made a lengthened statement on oath, from which it appeared that he made the acquaintance of Hart about two months since, when he sold him an old jacket. Hart asked him where he worked, and persuaded him to steal some children's dresses, from his master's: and by threats and persuasions he ultimately induced Newland to carry on a regular system of robbery. It also appeared that Levy was present on one occasion when the stolen goods were disposed of to Hart. Levy said he had been in the employ of Mr. Lawrence Levy for the last eight years, and he was in a position to prove that he was not in company with Hart at all on Monday. Hart said he knew no more of the prisoner Newland, who had just given evidence against him, or the charge, than the child unborn; and he thought it very hard that a lad should have the power and be allowed to swear away the life of an innocent and an honest man. The magistrate allowed Levy the whole day to produce some person who could prove that he was not with Hart on Monday. No one appearing to establish the *alibi* Levy set up, all three prisoners were remanded.

POACHING AND INCENDIARISM.

Poaching appears to be very prevalent at present in the agricultural districts throughout Scotland. On Monday four persons were committed for trial by the Procurator of Cupar, for having been concerned, on the evening of Saturday, the 14th ultimo, in a poaching affray on the farm of Middle Balbeggie, on the estate of the Earl of Rosslyn. The poaching party consisted of eighteen persons, all armed with guns; and two policemen and the gamekeeper and the noble earl, who tracked them, having endeavoured to apprehend them, the poachers threatened to shoot them, which made his lordship sound a retreat. In England several poaching affrays have taken place lately. One of a very serious affair happened on Christmas-day, at Eastwell-park, the seat of the Earl of Winchelsea. Peach, the gamekeeper, with his son and another young man, attacked a band of nine poachers, all armed, and captured one of them, after a short skirmish.

Several cases of incendiarism have also taken place last week.

At Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, on Wednesday week, two young men were caught immediately after having set fire to a stackyard. They have since confessed their guilt. On the previous evening an incendiary fire took place at Truckett's Hall Farm, Boxted, near Hartest, in the occupation of Mrs. Henry Cross. The buildings of an extensive homestead, including three barns, granary, cart-stables, lodges, &c., were destroyed, together with between 400 and 500 coombs of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peas, a large quantity of straw, a stack of seed, clover and some stover, and the greater part of the implements. The loss on the building is probably not less than £1000, and on the stock between £700 and £800.

Edward Amos, charged originally, on his own confession, with having set fire to the property of Captain Ross, at Clapham, was examined at Wandsworth on Monday. The prisoner read a rambling sort of defence, in which he set forth his extreme destitution at the moment when, being at Clapham, he heard of the fire, and alleged that his miserable lot suggested to him to take the crime upon himself, in order to obtain temporary relief. He was formally committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

A fire, supposed to be the act of an incendiary, broke out on Lower Whitley Farm, in the parish of Cumnor, the property of Lord Abingdon, occupied by Mr. Haines, and consumed three large wheat ricks, a hay rick, a stack of straw, a barn with its contents, about thirty quarters of beans, and another barn filled with wheat straw. This is the third fire, supposed to be the act of an incendiary, that has taken place in the neighbourhood of Abingdon within the last month.

A fire took place on Thursday morning on the premises of Mr. Jacob Bell, the newly-elected member of Parliament for St. Albans, at West-hill, Wandsworth. Fortunately, the residence of Mr. Bell is nearly half a mile away, so that it escaped any injury. There being no water near, the firemen were obliged to stand and see the premises burnt down. Respecting the cause of the fire no doubt is entertained that it was the work of an incendiary.

SUICIDES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Thomas Booker, aged forty-four, a gentleman of independent property, residing in Penton-street, Walworth-road, hanged himself last week, during a fit of temporary insanity. He is said to have been eccentric in his manners for some time.

Christian Schmidt, aged fifty, a German merchant, who was charged at the Marlborough-street Police-court, on Tuesday week, with obtaining valuable property from Mr. A. Marks, silversmith and jeweller, of Fargate, Sheffield, to the amount of £200, by means of forged Austrian coupons, committed suicide, on Christmas-day, by hanging himself in his cell.

The policeman on duty, on Tuesday night, near London-bridge, observed a woman run down the steps on the Surrey side, and, suspecting that her intention was to throw herself into the river, he followed and prevented her, just as she was about to make a plunge into the water. The woman, a Mrs. Matilda Lane, the wife of a tavern-keeper in Southwark, was brought before Mr. A'Becket, on Wednesday, and ordered to find sureties that she would not repeat the attempt. Her husband stated that her distress of mind was mainly attributable to her love of drink.

David Spikesley, aged thirty-six, who was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital in October last, suffering from paralysis of the spine, cut his throat on Monday morning, during a fit of depression, and died in about ten minutes. He had been previously going on well, and his wife, who resides at Hatfield, came up by railway on Tuesday to take her husband home, thinking he was cured. On her arrival at the hospital she was made acquainted with his frightful death.

A man named William Marshall, a butler out of place, but who had obtained temporary employment in Brighton, attempted to murder his wife on Monday morning, during a fit of insanity. At three o'clock in the morning she was alarmed by a knocking at the door, and having descended the stairs and ascertained that her husband was at the door, she admitted him into the house. On opening the door she observed that he was almost in a state of nudity. "What did he return home for in that state?" she enquired. He replied, "To kill you!" and seized her by the shoulders. Nearly naked as she was, she rushed into the street, followed by her husband, who caught her in the middle of the road. They there struggled together till she fell, and he upon her. She raised the cry of "Police!" and a lodger that of "Murder and thieves!" and the wife then effected her escape. As she ran off she saw a razor in his hand, and he having raised himself, again fell. She then returned to him, and found the blood gushing from a large gash in his throat, and a razor lying beside him. By this time some people came to her assistance; the surgeon was sent for, and soon arrived, but death speedily followed the infliction of the wound.

A man, named Obadiah Tunicliffe, aged twenty-one years, who had been committed to Manchester New Prison in default of bail which he had been required to find on the 18th December for assaulting his wife, committed suicide by hanging himself last week. In the course of the inquest the governor of the gaol having been questioned by the coroner and jury as to how long the prisoner was out of his cell each day for recreation, replied that each prisoner was out of his cell three quarters of an hour at chapel, and one for exercise, in the twenty-four hours of each day; but he was not allowed to communicate with other prisoners during those periods. He had since ascertained that the prisoner had not the use of a Bible or other book in his cell. The jury, after being left alone to consult upon their verdict, handed a written paper to the coroner, in the following words:—"Self-destruction. As to the state of the prisoner's mind, as to sanity, no evidence to show; and the jury wish to express an opinion that solitary confinement seems unjust when a man is waiting bail for a common assault."

STABBING CASES.

No fewer than four stabbing cases were brought before the magistrate at Bow-street, on Tuesday, all of which had been caused by drink. The first was Charles Durden, a beershop keeper in John-street, Tottenham-court-road, who was charged with stabbing police-constable Davis, in Holborn, about half-past one in the morning. Davis was so severely wounded that he could not appear to give evidence, and Durden was remanded till Saturday.

Mary Walsh was charged with stabbing her niece, on Monday afternoon. She had called at the house of her daughter, who keeps a cigar-shop at 24, Brydges-street, Covent-garden, and behaved in a violent manner towards both the niece and the daughter, with whom she was not on friendly terms. A quarrel and a fight occurred, during which she seized a clasp-knife and aimed a blow at her daughter's head. The niece raised her arms to keep off the blow, and received several severe wounds in her hands, from which there was a great flow of blood in consequence. Inspector Dodd informed the magistrate that the house was a very disorderly one. Miss Walsh denied this statement. The prisoner was remanded to Friday.

Duncan M'Carthy, charged with stabbing James Clark, a solicitor's clerk, at 12, Great Earl-street, Seven-dials, about a week ago, was committed for trial.

John M'Mahon, charged with stabbing his wife, on Friday night, in a fit of drunken insanity, was discharged on account of his wife refusing to appear against him.

At Worship-street, on Tuesday, John Conway, an Irish labourer, was charged with wounding Anne Connor, a single woman, with whom he lived at No. 4, Garden-court, Hoxton. The poor woman, who appeared to be very weak, stated that from Christmas-day up to Saturday night he had been intoxicated, and in the course of that time he had repeatedly beaten and struck her. On Sunday morning, about two o'clock, he knocked her down on the floor, and kicked her severely about the body. About ten o'clock on Sunday morning he commenced breaking her chairs, bedstead, cups and saucers, &c. She endeavoured to prevent him, upon which he laid hold of her by the hair, and cut her on the side of her head with some instrument. The man was fined £5, and, in default, two months' imprisonment in the House of Correction. He was also held to bail to keep the peace towards the complainant for twelve months.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A serenade, in honour of the new year, was performed at seven o'clock on Wednesday morning beneath the windows of the royal apartments, at Windsor, by the band of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards. The Queen's new year's gifts to the aged, infirm, and deserving poor of Windsor, Eton, and Clewer, were distributed in the morning, about ten o'clock, in the Riding-school, in the presence of her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness the Prince Albert. Her Majesty and the Prince were accompanied by the Royal children, the Chevalier and Madame Bunsen, and Sir Francis and Lady Arabella Baring. Directly after the entrance of her Majesty and the royal party, the distribution commenced. Blankets, calico, and flannel were distributed, and also the following provisions:—Meat, bread, potatoes, and pudding. Coals were also dispensed. Her Majesty and the Prince, with the Royal children and their distinguished visitors, then took their departure, and the recipients also quitted the Riding-school.

Lord and Lady John Russell intended to leave the Duke of Bedford's, Woburn Abbey, on Thursday last, for Pembroke Lodge. The Premier will give his first parliamentary dinner for the season on the 16th instant.

Some weeks since the *Globe* stated that the Earl of Chichester was to be proposed for the vacant office of chairman of committees in the House of Lords next session. Since then, however, it has been found that his lordship could not possibly discharge the duties of that office along with those which devolve on him as head of the Ecclesiastical Commission, and all intention of putting him forward has been reluctantly abandoned. It is now stated that Lord Wharncliffe will be proposed to fill the vacant office with every likelihood of success.

An Edinburgh paper says that "Lord Brougham's eye is now considered to be quite safe by the most experienced of London oculists. Lord Brougham has, during his sojourn at his château near Cannes, been engaged in some difficult experimental researches on the diffraction of light; and we have no doubt that his sight was injured by the length and continuity of researches carried on in a dark apartment. His lordship, in passing through Paris, communicated an account of his experiments to the National Institute, and is at present at Brougham-hall, where, we trust, he will soon recover from the indisposition under which he has been suffering."

The Queen has conferred the dignity of Baronet of the United Kingdom upon Major-General Sir W. R. Gilbert, G.C.B., James Matheson, Esq., F.R.S., and Thomas Tufton, Esq. The services of General Gilbert in India are well known—he was one of the heroes of the Punjaub, Chilianwallah, &c. Mr. Matheson is member for Ross and Cromarty, and was formerly partner in the eminent house of Matheson, Jardine, and Co., in which his cousin, A. Matheson, Esq. (M.P. for Inverness), is now the leading partner. Mr. Matheson resided for many years in India and China, and on his return to England received an address and a service of plate, worth £1500, from the merchants of Bombay. Mr. Tufton has succeeded to the vast estates of the late Earl of Thanet.

The *Madras Advertiser* states that Sir George Berkeley, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Presidency, has tendered his resignation of that appointment, and that the reason for his having taken this decisive step is his disappointment at being superseded in the chief command by Sir William Gomm, who is his junior in army rank.

Lord Macdonald has executed a trust deed in favour of James Brown, Esq., accountant, in Edinburgh. It is understood that his lordship's debts, secured over his properties in Skye and Uist, amount to upwards of £200,000. North Uist will not bring more than £80,000 of that sum.

Sir James Emerson Tennent, Colonial Secretary at Ceylon, will succeed the late Sir Patrick Ross, K.G.H., as Governor of St. Helena.

Colonel Hugh Rose, Consul-General for Syria, has been appointed Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople. By this appointment a saving of £1000 a-year will be effected, as it is said the vacancy in Syria will not be again filled up.

Dr. Buist, the able editor of the *Bombay Times*, has been appointed Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year. The berth is said to be worth £1000 a-year, and this year it is believed it will be something nearer £2000 than £1000. It has been conferred on him as a reward for his exertions in bringing the School of Industry—now prospering under his charge—into existence.

Colonel Lascelles, the senior officer in the Grenadier Guards, is, it is said, about to retire from the service by the sale of his commissions. The regulation value of these commissions is £9000, but it is notorious amongst military circles, that much more is given in similar cases. Colonel Lascelles served with the Guards, both in the Peninsula and at Waterloo.

An address, expressive of the sense entertained of the ability and discretion with which Mr. Dowdeswell discharged the important duties of Master in Chancery during a period of thirty years, has just been presented

to him, signed by the principal members of the legal profession.

The late member for St. Albans died without signing the deed transferring the new churches at Kingston and St. Albans, as well as Prior-park, near Bath, to the Cardinal. The delay is said to have been caused by the Cardinal's objecting to Mr. Raphael naming the clergyman, and the result is that he has lost about £70,000 worth of property. Mr. Raphael's sister died on Sunday, so that his nephew comes in for all. The personal property has been sworn at £250,000, and the landed property is estimated at a larger figure.

Accounts from East Cape, Behring's Straits, of the 10th of August, received *vid* the United States, do not communicate any tidings of Sir J. Franklin, or her Majesty's ships Enterprize and Investigator.

Accounts from the Sandwich Islands, dated October 19, announce the arrival of her Majesty's ship Herald, Captain Kellett, on the 16th, from Behring's Straits, after a vain search for the expedition under Captain Collinson. Unhappily, the Herald brings no tidings of Sir John Franklin; and, as the season was fast closing, it is to be apprehended that for some time to come we must look to the northern coast of the North American continent in the Canadian route, and to Dr. Rae's and Lieutenant Noulens's exertions, for further tidings of the lost expedition.

The case of Major Bartleman, of the Forty-fourth Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, who was recently tried by a court-martial, on charges arising out of his disgraceful conduct toward Lieutenant and Mrs. Shelton, has ended in his being cashiered.

A vacancy is occasioned among the elder brethren of the corporation of the Trinity-house by the demise of Captain Aaron Chapman, the senior of the brethren, having been elected as far back as 1809. Captain Chapman died on Saturday last, at his residence at Highbury-park, in his eightieth year. The deceased gentleman was long known and highly esteemed in the city of London, and in four successive Parliaments since the Reform Bill represented the borough of Whitby in the House of Commons.

Mr. J. W. Gilbart, the general manager of the London and Westminster Bank, has offered a prize of one hundred guineas to the author of the best essay showing in what way any of the articles collected at the Industrial Exhibition can be rendered especially serviceable to the interests of practical banking, whether in the shape of office improvements, fittings, or otherwise.

The death of Mr. David Webster Osbaldiston, the well-known theatrical manager, took place on Sunday morning, at twenty minutes after one, at his residence, Acre-lane, Brixton. He was fifty-six or fifty-seven years of age—and besides sustaining the leading characters at most of the principal London and provincial theatres, he has held the reins of management of the Surrey, Sadler's Wells, Covent Garden, and City of London Theatres. At the time of his decease he was lessee of the Victoria Theatre, which he opened on Easter Monday, 1841.

The proprietor of the Star and Garter, at Richmond, contradicts the statement that that hotel has been taken by the Emperor of Russia. He is wise to do so. Such a rumour would not add much to the popularity of the Star and Garter.

Mr. Alfred Graham, one of the surgeons of the Cunard line of steamers, arrived in Liverpool on Saturday evening, in the Europa, from Boston, being the seventeenth trip across the Atlantic which that gentleman has made during the current year. The total distance sailed is more than 50,000 miles, equal to twice round the globe. This, we believe has never been surpassed; if it has ever been accomplished before is doubtful.

The Duchess of Angouleme arrived at Venice on the 22nd ultimo. She has travelled under the name of the Countess de Marnes, and is to pass the winter in that city, in the hotel of the Duke de Bordeaux.

The young wife of the Spanish King Consort's brother (Don Henry) has arrived in Madrid, and has been very kindly received by the royal family. The object of her coming is to induce the government to permit her husband's return to Madrid, now that all political difficulties concerning him are at an end. Don Henry is residing at Toulouse, where he is acting the Lothario in public with a "fair mischief," a native of that city. It is with a view of getting her faithless husband out of French temptations that his wife has applied to the ministry to authorize his return.

The artists and artisans of Munich have made a present to King Louis of Bavaria, as a lasting sign of their gratitude and acknowledgment of his merits in the cultivation of the fine and industrial arts. The present of the artists is an Album, twenty-six inches wide, twenty inches high, and seven and a half inches thick; it is bound in dark red velvet, and decorated with clasps, ornaments, and basso-relievos, in gilded bronze, in the Gothic style of the fifteenth century. In the middle of the cover is a large medallion, encircled with brilliants, and filled with a basso-relievo, representing the King surrounded by his artists. The interior contains a collection of 177 drawings, water colours, and oil paintings, executed by artists in Munich, Dresden, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Stuttgardt, &c., so that the Album, indeed, appears as a present of all the German artists.

The Elector of Hesse Cassel returned to his capital on the 26th ultimo, with all the pomp and circumstance of military ceremony. The transaction, to quote the words of the *Deutsche Zeitung*, "was pervaded by an indescribable gloom and discomfort. The populace was silent and indifferent; the troops were discontented and moody, for they had been marched to the Friedrichs Platz at a very early hour in the morning, where they were kept drawn up in columns and exposed to all the inclemency of a snow storm mixed with drizzling rain." Most of the higher functionaries were assembled in the Palace to receive the Elector, by whom they "were greeted with great condescension." A decree of Count Leiningen, obliging all citizens to keep within their houses after nine o'clock, and shutting up all the public houses at that hour, had given great offence. He has since incurred still more opprobrium by prohibiting every meeting, and all further action of the provincial assemblies, under the threat of proclaiming martial law.

The *Journal des Débats* reports that Norway has lost the most distinguished of her philologists in the person of M. Christian Lauritz Sverdrup, who had died in his seventy-ninth year. M. Sverdrup has occupied the chair of philology at the University of Christiana since the foundation of that establishment by Frederick VI., King of Denmark, in 1808.

The celebrated Prussian sculptor, Wolff, who is well known in England from having executed, besides many classic groups, some busts of the Royal Family, and a statue of Prince Albert as a Greek warrior, has just completed an exquisite figure of Paris. His four statues, personifying the seasons, have been purchased by an English amateur. Mr. Gibson is commencing the models of two very important works—Queen Victoria on her throne between two allegorical figures, representing Justice and Clemency, for the House of Lords; and the colossal statue of Sir Robert Peel.

The American journals have set up a claim for the *honour* of the authorship of *Junius*, on behalf of General Lee, and assert that he had privately avowed himself to be the author.

Jenny Lind has reached Washington, and given her first concert, which was crowded to excess, and attended by the President and all the notabilities. She visited the Senate Chamber for about five minutes, but withdrew in consequence of the excitement which arose on her appearance. Jenny was eminently successful at Baltimore, the enthusiasm of the public in no wise abating. Large preparations have been made for her at Havanna, where a very sumptuous residence has been taken for her.

A French paper states that the University of Heidelberg is about to confer the degree of Doctor of Theology on Mr. J. W. Pennington, a black Catholic priest at New York. Mr. Pennington is said to be the first negro who has ever received scholastic honours at a European university. He is reported to be the author of several works on theology.

The Paris correspondent of the *New York Herald*, gives the following description of an English lady:—"Among the most distinguished ladies who have their season box at the Italian Opera, I will mention in the first rank Lady Aylesbury, an eccentric person, who is renowned for the luxury of her style of dressing all over the city among the milliners, dressmakers, &c. This lady is about forty-five or fifty years old, but still bien conservée for her age, and her monomania is to buy a dozen of every article she desires for her toilet. Thus, for instance, she buys at once twelve dresses of satin, twelve velvet bonnets, twelve Cashmere shawls, and so forth. She renews her wardrobe at the beginning of every season. A week ago, having remarked that the Marchioness of Las Marismas wore a mantilla of a new fashion, short as a gentleman's waistcoat, made of white watered silk, and trimmed with gold, she sent for her dressmaker, and ordered of her the 'usual' dozen."

The *Courrier de Lyons* states that between midnight and one a.m. of the 25th ultimo, at the time the mass of Christmas was being celebrated in the churches, in the presence of a great number of people, about thirty police agents surrounded a café, penetrated into the interior, and arrested about twenty persons who were just sitting down to enjoy a copious banquet, which is customary on that night, and known by the name of *réveillon*, but which on this occasion, according to the information received by the police, was to serve as an excuse for a meeting of a very different character.

Although certain roads in the Cantal, the Dordogne, the Haute Garonne, and the Hautes Pyrénées, and in the neighbourhood of Limoges, are interrupted in consequence of heavy falls of snow, the department of the north enjoys a mild temperature singularly in contrast with that of ordinary winters.

The statue of Liberty, which gained the first prize in 1848, and which is the work of M. Sortoux, was placed by the jury in the centre of the great room of the Exhibition of the Works of Living Artists previous to its opening. On Saturday the police entered and carried away the statue. The jury of artists have drawn up a formal protest.

A letter from Rome in the *Messagere Modenese*, states that the Papal government has determined to order all naked statues in the churches to be covered, including the little marble angels that have for ages been exposed to the public gaze, and the Genius at the tomb of Clement, by Canova. By the same account, paintings are likely to undergo the same ordeal.

The Neapolitan government is in a state of great alarm, on account of a considerable number of "addresses," which are supposed to emanate from Mazzini, having entered the kingdom. Some arrests have taken place on this account, and the activity of the police is greater than ever.

Letters from Bologna state that, on the 18th ultimo, a party of Austrian soldiers had a skirmish with nine banditti, headed by Il Passatore himself. A soldier was killed and another wounded in the contest; the banditti were, however, put to flight after the loss of one man, on whose body articles of value were found.

A Leghorn letter of the 21th ultimo, announces the arrival there of a large number of Swiss recruits, on their way to Naples. Upwards of 2000 are said to have passed in the course of the last month,

The Austrian Ambassador at Frankfort has announced to the Electoral Minister that a Hessian named Becker is acting as chief of a revolutionary association in Switzerland with 3000 members, the committee of which furnishes them with passports, which are not only recognized by the police of Geneva, Freiburg, and Neufchatel, but receive the official *visa* in order to give them authority in other cantons.

Letters from Vienna of the 29th ultimo state that Austria and Prussia had resolved to march against Holstein, and that the Federal troops would immediately pass through the Prussian territories for that purpose. The accounts from Berlin of the 30th ultimo confirm this fact.

American visitors to the Great Exhibition are about to be conveyed to our shores at a very commodious and economical rate. Merchant vessels, which have accommodation for sixty passengers, are to take them the entire journey from America and back, with first-class accommodation while on board, for £20, allowing them six weeks to remain in England. Another project, of a private kind, has been the engagement of a first-rate vessel by 100 gentlemen, who have subscribed among themselves the sum of 25,000 dollars (£5000) for its expenses, and who propose visiting London, and making the vessel their home, in which to receive visits, give parties, &c., during their stay among us.

The *Stutgardt Anzeiger* contains a royal ordinance against the press. The chief clauses of this ordinance are:—Every paper or publication must be signed by the editor, who must be a citizen, of twenty-five years of age at least, and have his permanent residence in the country. Any one who has been condemned to any punishment cannot be an editor. After any penal sentence has been passed on an editor as such, he cannot again assume editorial functions before the expiration of six months.

M. George Marius Heyn, a merchant of Nuremburg, appeared on the 21st ultimo, before the Court of Assize of that city, to take his trial, on a charge of having raised and equipped a corps of sixty men, and sent them to Schleswig Holstein, to assist in the insurrection against the King of Denmark. The facts were proved, and even admitted by the prisoner, who declared that he had been actuated by a desire to incorporate two rich and fertile countries with Germany. The court unanimously returned a verdict of guilty, and, in virtue of the law of 1697, which awards the penalty of death against any Bavarian giving assistance to a foreign power or authority without the permission of his Government, sentenced him to decapitation.

The Austrian General, Mensdorf-Pouilly, as federal commissary, has been charged to proceed with General Thurmer, the commissary appointed for Prussia, to Holstein, in order to endeavour to persuade the Staathalterschaft to disarm, before recurring to coercive measures. On the other hand, the news from Holstein is of a decidedly hostile character. A new and extensive series of promotions has been announced in the army. A considerable quantity of war material, with numbers of pontoons and wagons, are daily sent towards head-quarters at Rendsburg, and it is affirmed that from 1500 to 2000 of the Prussian sub-officers and privates, recently called home in consequence of the order of mobilization, are reëntering the Holstein army.

A sad story of the disasters of war is told in the German papers. A Holstein peasant, hearing that his son lay wounded in the military hospital, sought him out, and found that one of his arms had been amputated. Though grieved at the discovery, he sought consolation in saying, "Well, my boy, it is a sad loss, but not so hard for you as for one who depended on his hands for subsistence." "Ah, father," replied the son, "that's not the worst of it!" whereupon, lifting the coverlet, he showed that both his legs were gone, at which sight the old man fell down dead, and the younger one only survived the shock a few minutes.

At the meeting of the Spanish deputies, on the 23rd ultimo, Puiz, one of the Catalonian deputies, enquired why the new theatre was called the Royal Theatre, and whether the Government had anything to do with the management of it. The Minister of the Home Department said that everything relative to the theatre would be explained when the estimates for the Home department were examined. The Queen is said to have put 40,000 dollars of her private property at the disposal of the Home department for the expenses of the opera, at which the King Consort and Queen Christina are very much displeased.

Mr. Lovi, an English engineer, inventor of a diving machine, by which a person can remain several hours under water, at a great depth, has been called from Scio, in order to try his machine in the port of Constantinople, at the place where the Nèiri-Chevket sunk. He found the vessel at the depth of about twenty fathoms, deeply embedded in the sand. The fore part lay split open, and her boats overturned on the deck, which was covered with remnants of the rigging. It is expected that he will be appointed to raise as much of the vessel and stores as can be recovered.

An Indian officer who has recently come home states that Cairo is extremely full of Italian emigrants, many men of high rank, who are obliged to perform the most menial offices for the means of living. They were recently watching the negotiations of Austria and Prussia with a good deal of interest, and had decided on returning to Italy the instant a war should be declared.

The educational cause is making rapid progress both at Bombay and Calcutta. Schools are rising in all directions, and under the most influential auspices, for the improvement of the poorer classes.

The reports from China relating to the rebellion are very contradictory; nothing seems certain concerning the acts or intentions of the rebels, except that they levy a tax on the tea-boats and other produce of the interior on its way to the customs. It is, however, stated, and generally believed, that the Commissioner Seu had attempted to effect a pacification, by distributing money (100,000 dollars) amongst them, and that 3000 troops he had sent against the insurgents had fraternized with them.

A spirited meeting has been held in New York by the friends of cheap postage. Resolutions were adopted urging an immediate and general action in Congress in favour of the bill reported at the last session, providing for a uniform rate of two cents. pre-paid on letters, and one cent. on newspapers.

Arrangements have been concluded for conveying 10,000 passengers in May next, from Vienna and its neighbourhood to Calais, on their road to England; and a proposition is about to be, or has been, submitted to the South-Eastern Railway Company, to complete the chain of communication to London. The agreement is for not less than 10,000 persons, and this from one metropolis nearly 1000 miles off. The arrangement which has been made with the continental railway companies by the Austrian Government is liberal on both sides.

A number of lives were lost on the Mississippi, near New Orleans, on the 13th ultimo, by the explosion of the boiler of a steamboat. She was on a pleasure excursion, with a party of over 100 persons on board, including several ladies and many of the most respectable citizens of New Orleans. Among the sufferers are several members of the New Orleans press.

The Panama Railroad Company are collecting materials and labourers, with a view to commence operations as soon as the dry season sets in; 400 men, exclusive of officers and engineers, have gone out from the United States, and vessels laden with timber and other materials are leaving almost daily. No less than twenty-eight sail, comprising vessels of all classes, have left for the general depôt of the company at Navy Bay, and six steam pile-drivers.

Advices from Jamaica, of the 12th of December, inform us that the cholera had most singularly declined in Port Royal and St. Catherine's. In Kingston a few cases only remained, but in the provinces the disease was spreading, and with very many fatal results.

The latest intelligence from California is sad enough. The cholera had been making fearful ravages in the interior. The deaths at Sacramento city for six weeks, previous to the 14th of November, were about eighty a-day. Four men were daily employed in digging graves, and at night thirteen corpses remained unburied. The population, in consequence of the deaths and flight of the inhabitants, was reduced from 15,000 to 1500.

The Ministerial papers say that the quarter's revenue will show a very trifling decrease—if any—when compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, notwithstanding the reductions made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The brick duties—£700,000 a-year—were abandoned, and yet the Excise is said to be so prosperous in the other items, as scarcely to miss the total loss in this. The stamps, although greatly reduced, will not exhibit the signs of that reduction in full in the present quarter, since a great encrease of business, which was kept back for the change, will probably show its effect upon the present quarter, which to its full extent cannot be hoped for again. The Customs fluctuate, but are said to show well in spite of the great reductions that have taken place.

It was stated some time since that Government had directed the grounds and gardens at Chelsea Hospital, which had hitherto been kept exclusively for the use of the officers of the College, to be thrown open for the benefit of the public. Accordingly, on the first of January, the gardens, including those with the terrace fronting the River Thames, were opened for the recreation of all visitors. It is to be hoped that, in addition to this privilege, arrangements will be made for admitting the public to view the royal chapel and pensioners' dining-hall, in which are deposited the flags captured in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, without continuing the practice of exacting fees.

A number of workmen commenced pulling down the railings and the lodge at Cumberland-gate, the entrance to Hyde-park from the top of Oxford-street, last week. At the same time they began building a smith's forge and workshop, together with sheds for the accommodation of bricklayers and masons. It is stated to be the intention to erect the marble arch which had been taken from the front of Buckingham Palace upon this site.

The British Museum closed on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of cleansing, &c., and will be reopened to the public on Wednesday next.

During the recess the workmen have been actively engaged in constructing a permanent roof to the new House of Commons. When the new house was first occupied by members, neither the members nor reporters could hear distinctly what was said, and in consequence Mr. Barry constructed several temporary roofs to overcome the difficulty, the last of which was found to answer very well. Before the prorogation of Parliament, Mr. Barry had determined on making a permanent roof, after the temporary model which had been found to answer, and that permanent roof is now almost finished. It rises from the middle of the windows with a high pitch to nearly the height which the first permanent roof was, and presents a light and elegant appearance, in perfect keeping with the other portions of the building. On each side of the house new galleries and division lobbies are preparing, and a handsome and elegant waiting-room is fitting up in the cloisters. The new house is permanently to be taken possession of when the house meets after the Easter recess, and will, it is affirmed, be found to answer satisfactorily. Several important alterations are being made in the approaches to the house, which, when finished, will contribute to the comfort and convenience of members, and give a pleasing and finished appearance to the Commons portion of the New Palace.

The custom of passing the last hour of the expiring year in congregational devotion was observed on Tuesday evening at all the principal Wesleyan chapels in London, which were filled to overflowing. The superintendent ministers of the circuits, who generally conducted the devotions, delivered addresses on the occurrences of the last year; and just before twelve the assembled congregations knelt in prayer, until the stroke of a clock announced that a new period of life and hope had commenced, when all, rising, joined in a hymn of praise. This practice has of late years been adopted by other denominations, and was observed on Tuesday night in some of the metropolitan churches.

On New Year's-eve the Society of Fraternal Democrats held their annual festival in John-street, Fitzroy-square, Mr. Harney in the chair. "The Sovereignty of the People and the Fraternity of Nations" was spoken to by G. J. Holyoake; "Our Democratic Brethren of all Countries," by W. D. Ruffey; "The Martyrs of Democracy," by John Pattie; and "The Democratic Journals," by J. D. Collet. The tea party and speeches were followed by a ball in the hall and a concert in the coffee-room. Explanations of absence were received from Louis Blanc, Ledru Rollin, and Thornton Hunt.

The Turnmill-street Refugees received a hamper from the Southampton Democrats the other day, containing a supply of clothing, coffee, sugar, and tobacco, which was immediately divided among fifty-seven of their number with the greatest fairness, and with a warm expression of thanks to those of their brethren who at this festive season have sympathized with their distressed position.

The Income-Tax Commissioners for the Yeovil division having applied to the Board of Inland Revenue, to ascertain whether they ought to make any reduction in the amount of income-tax assessed on tenant-farmers in cases where their rents had been reduced, the Board replies that, in all cases where there had been a *boná fide* reduction of rent, there ought to be a reduction of the income-tax in the same relative proportion. The tax must be assessed on the net amount of rent for which the tenant is really liable, and not on the nominal amount at which the farm is rented.

The last trip of the Royal Mail steam-ship Asia was the quickest one ever made between New York and Liverpool. Her run of last summer to the Mersey, on which occasion she steamed past the Rock Lighthouse at midnight on the Saturday, had previously stood unrivalled, being one hour and twenty minutes less than the finest passage of the United States' mail-steamer Atlantic. Her passage, according to mean time, and deducting forty-five minutes lost off New York repairing floats, may be recorded as ten days four hours and five minutes, or two hours and fifty-five minutes less than her fastest summer passage, four hours and fifteen minutes less than the United States' mail-steamer's fastest passage eastward, and about five hours and twenty minutes less than the remarkable summer run of the Pacific out to New York.

The *Manchester Examiner* contains an interesting article upon the Chevalier Clausen's experiments, with a view to substitute flax for cotton. Messrs. Bright and Brothers, of Rochdale, having placed as much of their machinery at his disposal as was requisite to give his plans a fair trial, the result is that a mixture of flax and cotton in equal proportions can be spun into yarn of very good quality. As regards comparative cost, that depends upon the future price of cotton. If it remain at its present price, the difference in favour of flax is great enough to make it worth while to use it extensively.

Mr. Cobden, in a speech he made at the Athenæum soirée last week, urged the members to petition for the repeal of the taxes on knowledge, which he represented as a very serious deduction from the educational resources of such institutions. "I believe," said he, "it has been said that one copy of the *Times* contains more useful information than the whole of the historical works of Thucydides; and I am very much inclined to think that to an Englishman or an American of the present day that is strictly true."

Colonial prizes of £200 are offered to the working men of Great Britain and Ireland for essays on the following question:—

"Whether does a policy of centralizing the manufacturing arts in Great Britain, or one of diffusing them through the colonies, offer the greater advantages to the working people of the British Isles; and is such diffusion more likely to be attained by a system of Colonial Protection or by one of Free Trade?—meaning by 'Colonial Protection' that the colony should protect its infant manufactures, whether or not Protection, as a principle, is found to suit the circumstances of the mother country."

The prizes are eight in number, viz.:—£75 for the best essay on the above subject, £50 for the second best, and for the next six in order of merit, £30, £20, £10, £5, £5, £5—in all, £200. This sum has been lodged in the Bank of Scotland for the purpose, and Hugh Tennent, Esq., of Wellpark, William Campbell, Esq., of Tillichewan, and Bailie Mitchell, of Glasgow, have undertaken to act as judges.

A young lady took a ticket by a railway train from Brentwood to town the other day, and on seating herself in that compartment of a carriage where, as the panel proclaims, there is no entry for man, she discovered opposite her a singular looking personage arrayed in paletot, with sleeves of extra length and width, through which had been thrust a pair of rather ponderous hands, concealed beneath good cashmere. A cloth cloak beërmined within covered the knees of the mysterious being, and was shared with a female friend in front, indeed, a corner was politely proffered the young lady, but refused; and meditating much on her strange companion, she journeyed on her way. One lurking suspicion in her mind was, that the owner of the cloak and of the large hands in cashmere gloves was of the gender forbidden in that coupé—a suspicion which was not at all weakened when she afterwards found her purse, with all its Christmas cash, had flown from the pocket of her dress about the period she parted with the strangers.

The *Carlisle Patriot* states that Messrs. Dixon, of that town, have reduced the wages of their handloom weavers ten per cent. The same paper also states that the Glasgow manufacturers have reduced the wages of their workpeople one halfpenny per ell. In Carlisle a weaver must work very hard, it is said, in order to realize 6s. a-week.

The family of Mr. John Bobby, the proprietor of the Cock Tavern, in Leadenhall-street, City, was greatly terrified on Sunday owing to a loud explosion caused by an escape of gas on the premises, which was attended with considerable damage. Fortunately no one was hurt.

An old man, named John Bicknall, residing in White Lion-street, who has been out of work for some time, died of starvation last week. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, when the jury returned a verdict that he died from exhaustion caused by the want of the common necessaries of life, and censured the parish surgeon, who had been called in when the man was dying, for not acting with sufficient promptitude.

A shocking accident occurred at the erection for the Grand Exhibition of 1851 on Saturday morning. One of the men, named Smith, while at work at one of the gutters by some misfortune fell to the ground, between fifty and sixty feet below. He was picked up in a senseless state, and conveyed to St. George's Hospital, where it was discovered that both his legs were fractured; and his head having come in contact with a projection of the iron work, the ball of his eye was smashed; but notwithstanding these and other injuries, great hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Ephraim and George Godbolt, builders and carpenters, College-walk, Chelsea, were made bankrupts on Thursday week, for a debt due to Mr. Joseph Lambert, merchant, of Pimlico-wharf. Notices of adjudication were served upon the bankrupts on Friday evening. The bankrupt, Ephraim Godbolt, had previously laboured under ill health; and the fact of having been made a bankrupt, produced such a shock upon the nervous system, that he expired in a state of raving madness on Saturday morning.

A young chimney-sweep, aged eleven years, named Stephen Radcliffe, was suffocated in a boiler flue, at Manchester, last week, owing to the carelessness on the part of the engineer, who shut the damper, and thus prevented sufficient ventilation.

A lad named William Wren was charged, before the magistrates, at Southampton, on Saturday, with attempting to murder the family of Mr. Clarrage, a gentleman residing at Millbrook, by mixing poison in some milk, which he was entrusted to take round. It appeared that the milk was observed to be of a bluer cast than usual, which induced Mrs. Clarrage to send it back by Wren, and she told him to enquire whether skim milk had not been sent instead of new. He returned soon afterwards, and said the milk was quite fresh. Something was found floating on the surface, and the lad appearing confused, he was given into custody. On the way he dropped a piece of paper, on which was written the word "Poison." The poison, it was subsequently found, had been mixed in the milk; and, from the fact of its being required to make a pudding, the whole family had evidently had a narrow escape. The prisoner was remanded.

At the weekly meeting of the Repeal Association on Monday, Mr. John O'Connell said that, if, on the assembling of Parliament in February, the Queen's speech should contain any indication on the part of the Government to propose any penal enactments affecting Roman Catholics, either in England or Ireland, he should feel it his duty, if he stood alone, to move an amendment to the address. The Reverend Father Gilligan said that, if matters came to be decided by blows, he could count to his own share of combatants 150,000 Catholics from the ranks of the British army, besides the various phalanxes he could call to his aid from Spain, Portugal, France, Austria, Belgium, and America; but, be this as it might, there was one thing he was resolved upon, and no mistake—never to pull bridle for stop or stay until he tumbled to the ground "that horrible and crushing tyranny—the Protestant Church of England." Mr. O'Connell announced the week's rent to be £8 6s. 5d., and said that it would be necessary to change the day of the association meeting, in consequence of his resolve to attend Parliament.

It is understood that thirty-nine of the Irish members have already signed the declaration pledging themselves to resist any legislative enactment for limiting the privileges at present enjoyed by the Roman Catholics, and it is expected that that number will, before the meeting of Parliament, be very considerably encreased.

The Castle "season" for the year commences on Wednesday, the 29th instant, when the first levee will be held. The drawing-room will follow on the ensuing evening. These arrangements negative a report current for several weeks past, to the effect that, Lord Clarendon meant to take his departure from Dublin to London early in January, previous to which his Excellency would hold an "undress" levee, which was to be regarded as the last act of the Irish Vice-royalty.

The Cork saw-mills, which were the scene of the murder of one of the original proprietors, Dr. Quarry, and the cause of a conspiracy between the timber sawyers of Cork, that resulted in the maiming with vitriol of the other proprietor, Mr. Wilson, were completely destroyed by fire on Tuesday week. It is understood the premises, machinery, and stock are insured in the offices of the National and Patriotic to the amount of £3000.

A serious affray took place on Monday morning week, at a place in the county of Tyrone, where the revenue police had gone to make a seizure of an illicit still. When returning to their station with three prisoners, whom they had taken on the occasion, the police were fired upon by a number of persons who lay in ambush on the road. After about twenty shots had been exchanged, the police were allowed to proceed on their way, one of their number having been dangerously wounded by a rifle ball in the leg.

Whilst the Reverend Mr. Lyons, of Dunmore, was engaged in the celebration of divine service, on Sunday, Mr. Barrett (between whom and Mr. Lyons a dispute lately arose concerning the occupancy of certain pews, and which is still pending until the next quarter sessions of Tuam) came into the church, and forced his way, with the aid of a "pincers" into the forbidden pew; whereupon the officiating minister, in great excitement, divested himself of his sacred vestures, descended from the pulpit, and adjourned to his own house, to which the congregation, the cause of the disturbance excepted, immediately proceeded.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it encreases the difficulty of finding space for them.

[*The following appeared in our Second Edition of last week.*]

POSTSCRIPT.

Saturday, Dec. 28.

The further hearing of Mr. Sloane's case having been appointed for yesterday, the whole of the neighbourhood of Guildhall was, from an early hour in the morning, a scene of great excitement. From the vast crowds of people that kept flowing in from all parts of the City, Guildhall-yard presented more the appearance of the pit of a theatre on Boxing-night than the exterior of a court of justice. As the time drew near for the commencement of the proceedings, the excitement became so great that not a vehicle drove up to the court but the passengers were saluted with shouts and groans from the mob, who were so anxious that Mr. Sloane should not escape witnessing the effect his barbarous behaviour to the unfortunate girl, Jane Wilbred, had produced in the minds of the people, that they were resolved he should know which way public feeling went with regard to this horrible affair. The doors were all crowded with persons applying for admission under various pretexts, and we believe that on no occasion has a police court ever had so many representatives from each of the daily journals as yesterday; in fact, if all had been admitted, the audience would have been composed entirely of reporters. About a few minutes before twelve a cab drove up to the aldermen's entrance, followed by the mob, hallooing in a most frightful manner; but their behaviour changed instantaneously when they saw Jane Wilbred alight, and she was simultaneously cheered by every one present. The shock, however, her nerves had sustained by the first outburst of indignation was so severe that it was some time before she recovered from the state of trepidation into which she was thrown. The defendant's counsel was saluted in like manner at first, but when it was seen who he was the feeling became more intense, and he was obliged to hurry into the magistrates' private room, to avoid experiencing the inconvenience that might arise from his acting professionally for Mr. Sloane.

Mr. Alderman Humphery having taken his seat on the bench, some conversation took place relative to the prosecution, in the course of which it was stated that the warrant had not yet been executed against Mrs. Sloane. Mr. Clarkson, who appeared for Mr. Sloane, stated that he should not put the girl to a cross-examination in the present state of public feeling, but would reserve to his client the right of making his defence when called upon to answer the charge before a higher tribunal. Mr. Sloane, who had arrived amidst loud execrations from the people outside the police-room, having received an intimation that his presence was required in the court, here made his appearance, greeted by the whole of the audience with hisses, cries of "Shame," and other marks of disapprobation and disgust. He sat down with his back to the people, and hung his head to avoid the eager looks of the crowd. He maintained his seat throughout the proceedings with a sullen demeanour, and, for the first time, appeared to feel the serious position in which he was placed.

Several witnesses were examined regarding the condition in which Jane Wilbred was when she was taken to the Royal Free Hospital. Mr. W. T. Robertson, surgeon, stated that when he weighed her on the 12th of December, her weight was only 59½lb.; on Thursday last he again weighed her, and her weight was 73½lb.—showing an increase of 14lb. The girl's dangerous illness proceeded entirely from want of food. When brought into court she is described as having quite a healthy appearance. "Her face," it is said, "has now assumed its natural colour, and her features have changed from the sickly hue and cadaverous expression of a woman about thirty years of age, bordering on death, to the plump and interesting appearance of a pretty young girl of fifteen." The following is the evidence she gave yesterday:—

Jane Wilbred: When I went into my master's sitting-room he used to say I frightened the bird if I took a candle in. It was a linnet that he was afraid I should kill. He said it would frighten the bird to take a candle with me when I took coals through the room for the kitchen fire. The bird died some time after, and my mistress struck me with a shoe, and my master hit me on the back with his hand and nearly knocked me down. They both said it was because the bird died. I had less food after the bird died than I had before, but they said nothing about giving me less food. Mr. and Mrs. Sloane told me they would torment me as long as I was with them, because the bird died. When they gave me mustard my mistress used to put it on my bread. I sometimes had it mixed with water, and sometimes sprinkled dry on my bread. I used to go about the chambers rubbing my feet to keep them warm, because they were so cold. My mistress would not allow me to go to the fire, although there was one in the kitchen. Mr. Sloane beat me for walking about the house and not lifting my feet. I tried to do so, but could not, and then my master always beat me. When I did not get enough to eat I was weak and slow in my work, and whenever I did anything they complained of me for being slow, and beat me on the back with a shoe. I was slow because I was ill. I never went out for errands but once, and then my mistress went with me. I told Mrs. Bell the way in which I was treated, but never any one else. I told her I had not mentioned it to any one before that. I never attempted to run away, because I did not know where to go to. I have often been awoke from my sleep by all three, Mr and Mrs. Sloane and the young lady (Louisa Devaux). They used to wake me and ask me if I was cold, and, on my telling them I was, they made me get out of bed in the middle of the night, to go and clean the stairs down. (*Great sensation.*) This was in the winter time; and they would not let me put all my clothes on, because Mrs. Sloane said she could not wait for me to do so. This occurred more than once."

In the course of the afternoon, the depositions having been signed by those witnesses who were present, the alderman was about formally to commit Mr. Sloane to Newgate, when, in accordance with that gentleman's request, he said he would remand him to the Compter, in order that he might be brought up next week, and the case perfected in every respect, as well as to afford the defendant an opportunity of giving bail for his appearance at the trial.

Great difficulty was experienced as to how Mr. Sloane should be removed in safety, as the mob seemed rather to be encreasing, Various expedients were suggested, and a person was despatched to obtain a cab in some part remote from Guildhall, and to drive round by Moorgate-street and Fore-street into Basinghall-street, and then wait at the church, and in the mean time it was arranged that several policemen were to guard the magistrates' entrance and keep back the crowd from the hall, while Mr. Sloane made a rush into the hall, and effected his escape by the back way to where the cab was waiting for him. An officer was sent down to the Compter with instructions to the governor to have the door open, and everything prepared to afford defendant a ready reception on arriving there, The cab door was opened, and Mr. Sloane (who had only about three yards to go), accompanied by Springate, the gaoler, suddenly rushed out and was endeavouring to force his way into the cab,-when the mob closed upon them, and had it not been for the able exertions of Mr. Superintendent Hodgson, Mr. Roe, and about a dozen constables, Mr. Sloane would have been torn to pieces by the exasperated mob. One old woman, in particular, was making most furious lunges at him with an immense umbrella. With great difficulty Mr. Sloane got into the cab, but the crowd all pressed forward, and with such violence, that both the windows of the vehicle were smashed to atoms, and mud, and all kinds of filth were showered upon him through both windows. Constables escorted the cab, and the driver lashed his horse to try and escape the rabble, but they impeded his way so much that he was unable to proceed at any but a rapid walking pace. Two policemen endeavoured to block up the windows by standing on the steps of the cab, but in spite of their exertions the gaoler received a smart blow on the face intended for Mr. Sloane. Shouts and every imaginable expression of disgust and horror were reiterated by the crowd on the way from the court to the Compter; and, even when Sloane was safely inside, they lingered outside, hissing and hooting, and calling upon the turnkeys to turn Sloane out among them, and they would give him what he deserved. Six policemen remained in front of the door for some time, as it was feared that it would not be safe to leave the front door guarded only by the gaoler.

The election of a member for Aylesbury took place yesterday. From the commencement it was evident that Houghton had no chance against Calvert. The Protestantism of the latter was too strong for his opponent's financial reform. At the close of the poll the numbers were:—Calvert, 499; Houghton, 197: Majority, 302.

The *Times* of this morning says, with reference to the threatened strike on the London and North-Western Railway, "It appears that the directors of this company have determined not to give way in any respect to the engine-drivers and firemen on the line. The recent agitation with regard to the apprehended 'strike' will be suppressed as speedily as possible, by giving notice to those men who are not disposed to conform to the regulations of the company to quit the service. It is stated on good authority that the directors have had more than ample assistance offered them from the locomotive departments of several railway companies to carry on the traffic in case the strike should be carried into effect.

The latest advices from Frankfort are of the 24th instant. Violent measures of compulsion are still being executed in Hesse. It is stated that General Peucker, the Prussian Commissioner, has protested against these measures.

Advices from Berlin, of the 5th instant, state that the Cabinets of Prussia and Austria have agreed to propose a permanent executive power for the Confederation. Austria and Prussia will jointly undertake the functions of that office. No mention has been made of territorial changes.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1851.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—Dr. Arnold.

1801—1815—1851.

Progress of the People.

The Jubilee of the half century is celebrated with immeasurable exultation by the journals; and not entirely without reason. We enter upon the second half of the century better provided in every respect than we were when we entered upon the commencement. The youngest tyro in history can contrast our present state with the traditions of 1801—the revolution consummated, but not crushed, in France—John Bull in a paroxysm of reactionary loyalty, and rejoicing in the Toryism rampant over him—the feeblest efforts at maintaining liberty of discussion, like that of the Corresponding Society, trampled upon by the iron heel of power—National Debt in full swing under the Heaven-born Minister—Orthodoxy triumphant in Church and State—Dissent scarcely tolerated, abashed before the dominant faith—free thought scouted, skulking in corners, and only hinting its existence, or flaring forth in the unmeasured coarseness of men whose freedom lay solely in their recklessness. Socially, the people were labouring with a crisis of dearth. We all remember the bread at two shillings a loaf; and if war prices lent a fallacious activity to trade, a fallacious prosperity to those dependent upon trade, that solace of the hard time was afterwards paid in a desperate price on the reaction of peace. In our daily life respectable society is enormously improved since that day, both in conveniences and manners. We have food cheap and abundant, every part of the country shows better lodging; raiment is plentiful and better. We have steam, railways, electric telegraph, penny postage, "and," says the solemn *Post*, "chloroform and mesmerism!" In short, we have escaped by half a century from the régime embodied in the genius of Pitt.

1815 brought to Europe and to England the blessings of peace. To Europe the blessings of peace were principally recorded and immortalized in the treaties of 1815, which partitioned the continent of civilization among a small class of men called royal, which is very unequally divided between a few respectables, some rogues and some zanies. The scourge of Europe, indeed, Bonaparte, who had betrayed the cause of Republicanism and disgraced it by setting up in its name a spurious empire, was crushed and disposed of for ever; that was one embarrassment out of the way of future progress. As to the rogues and zanies royal, even if we cannot convert the class and make it respectable, which seems almost a hopeless task, though we have had some promising nibbles in the Cobourg and Dutch families, we shall certainly be able to deal with them as we proceed. The period personated by Bonaparte had passed away, and 1815 left us with a ruling spirit represented on the Connent by the Holy Alliance and the treaties of 1815 in this country by Wellington and Waterloo,—the decent honest Tory, with laurels round his regulation cocked hat, who never mistrusted himself, and whose object in life was to see that the king's Government should be carried on.

An eventful and revolutionary period this peace of thirty-five years, ending with 1850! Europe has never ceased to quiver with clenched teeth and fists under the settlement of the Holy Alliance. Italy has never ceased to warn off the "Foreigner," who will be driven out at last; Germany has studied in its books until it has found the problem of free thought in politics as well as metaphysics; Belgium has parted from Holland to be a continental England; and Holland with wisdom unusual is bettered by the change, and emulates the freedom of its revolted province. France has seen a succession of rulers, First, a restoration of monarchy trying to be a revival of absolutism, and exiled in Charles X. Next a long spell of Louis-Philippism, an enthroned humbug of the respectability class. To that succeeds the elected humbug,

and France rejoicing under Louis-Napoleonism, "Nephew-of-my-Uncleism." At home we have seen all the great standards of faith, the great bulwarks of the nation, broken to pieces, and swept away for ever. Whig constitutionalism, restored to power, achieved its zenith in the heyday of Lord John Russell, whose party abolished the domination of orthodoxy by the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts and the Catholic Emancipation Act. The Manchester massacre paved the way for the Reform Bill, which Lord Durham and his friends composed, and Lord John Russell carried in Parliament, neither acknowledging the author who gave it birth nor the great mass of the people who supplied the power for forcing it on the aristocracy. The reign of Russell was succeeded by the reign of Peel, whose greatest achievement was, not the enactment of Free Trade, but the final sanction given to freedom of discussion, and, therefore, to freedom of thought. Peel has gone; but the time may still be said to take its character from his genius. We now look back with self-congratulation at the contrast presented by the earlier years of the century, when religion, political action, food, and thought itself, were cramped by the iron grasp of Tory absolutism.

There is solid ground for congratulation. Although, when we look a little deeper, and ask what is the relative condition of the *People*, not only must we say that the condition of the industrial class has not relatively improved so much as that of the classes who stand forward in front, wealthy and "respectable," but that the improvements of the century, though in some respects they have reached all, in other respects have not reached the real body of the People, and in some even have rendered that condition worse. Bread was dear, the People were poor, and there were handloom weavers in those days. But the handloom weavers have since become more numerous and more abject; and in those days of dearth we do not read of any social phænomenon so strange and so shocking as that of the needlewomen who belong to this day, the Jubilee of the century. In those days the factory towns had not begun to rise; and in the harder times of later years, still those districts were rising: are they any longer so? In those days the country people were poor; but a Poor Law had not been devised with the special intent of repelling them from asking aid. Landlords had not devised plans for sending the labourers off the fields; and, what is more, the ill-used working man, whether in field, factory, or workshop, did not then know that he was ill-used—did not then know that he might have political power, certainty of labour, and immunity from the pressure of taxation, if it were not withheld from him by the deliberate action of the State. Those things were so then, but he did not know them, and the contentment of ignorance was a substitute for the contentment of comfort. Even now the rural labourers do not know all what is withheld from them, but, by the blessing of God, *they too shall be told.*

The political progress which has so much benefited the middle class in this country has done little more for the People, whether in England or in many parts of the Continent, than supply them with experience and larger ideas. The People helped to win the Reform Bill for the middle class, but have not yet obtained the suffrage for themselves. Hence the Chartist experiment; an experiment which, as it was conducted, necessarily led to the failure in which it has virtually expired. That Chartist agitation expired; but as the rights of the People are still unsatisfied, as the Chartist convictions still hold together the élite of the People, it follows that the *thing* which was visibly embodied in the charter still survives, still possesses the affections of the People, and remains to be strengthened with new experience and new councils. The Chartist experiment was a necessary experiment for the People, and of course it has been lost upon them even less than it has been lost upon any other class. Government, indeed, may think that it has crushed Chartism; but the People have only gone through a severe experience to find out where lies the true life of Chartism. The Chartism of Ireland, the Repeal movement, which had far less solid ground of policy or practicability, was a less instructive experiment to *that* People. The cause, too, was complicated with the poverty which came to a climax with the famine of '47-9, and it depended so much upon the personal exertions of O'Connell that the remedial measures which the famine forced upon the rulers of Ireland, and the death of O'Connell, have smothered the Repeal movement without allowing its true meaning to appear. But even prosperity—that is, full fare after famine, has not smothered the spirit of the Irish People, and the English People know that they may count upon their fiery brethren across St. George's Channel—at a proper day.

A NEW "NO POPERY!" CRY.

We are neither friends nor slaves of the Pope, though we decline the amusement of burning him in effigy, and protest against the injustice of mobbing the Bishop of Birmingham or slandering the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. True, we do not, so clearly as our more Protestant contemporaries, see the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee; ignoring, so far as we are personally concerned, the Queen's supremacy in matters of religion, we do not think the Catholics guilty of treason for doing the same; nay, we confess that in some important particulars we prefer the Archbishop of Westminster to the Bishop of London. Dr. Wiseman does not pick our pockets, *he* does not sit in the House of Lords to help to enforce church-rates and burial fees against Dissenters; *he* has not received a million or so of the public money, nor does *he* conspire to put down every place of meeting where any attempt is made to combine religion with freedom of thought.

But we hate Popery as much as anybody, whether it be Roman or Anglican, or Russian or Colonial. We wish to put it down, not only in England, but all the world over, not excepting Rome itself, where it is supported by French bayonets and fostered by English sympathy.

But we do not fear it; we would not take an unfair advantage of it, for we believe the only way to vanquish it is to give it a fair field. In this country the weapons of Popery are purely spiritual; they address themselves to the mind, not to the purse or the person; it is of no use to remind us that it is otherwise where Popery is in power—it is not in power here. Unless the new Bishops are cowards, of which no sign has yet appeared, the proposed attempt to make their assumption of titles a misdemeanour will enlist in their defence every lover of fair play and of religious liberty.

The true policy is not to shackle Roman Catholics, but to set Protestantism wholly free and then abide the issue. But the laws of this free Protestant country forbid it. He who wishes to enlighten his countrymen as to the absurdity of the Romish doctrine, that the sun is only six yards in diameter, must first pay a tax for his paper, a tax which practically doubles the price of the article, for it not only causes restrictions on the manner in which paper is made and brought into the market, but it has to be paid before the paper leaves the mill, and, if thousands of reams lie printed but unsold, no drawback is allowed. Contrast this with spirituous liquors, which may be kept in bond till wanted for sale.

The paper duty being paid, a duty of 18d. is laid on every advertisement of the work in a periodical publication; but this is not all, should an author desire to make his work at once attractive and useful by inserting news, and by adapting his remarks to the current topics of the day, he must get it stamped, or he is liable to a penalty of £20 on every copy, and all his printing materials may be confiscated to the use of her Majesty the Queen, who will scarcely, even in these Protestant days, set up a printing press in Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle to defend the "faith of our fathers."

It is true that this last law is not enforced to the letter; but it is not the less mischievous: the uncertainty of the consequences of publication makes it impossible for any one to bring out such a penny weekly sheet as would be most instructive and interesting to the working classes. Half the No-Popery pamphlets now circulated are liable to prosecution under the letter of the Newspaper Act; but the Board of Inland Revenue (a board more powerful in supporting darkness in England than the board of Cardinals) sanctions in pamphlets that which if reprinted in slips from newspapers it would consider a flagrant breach of the law.

Against this system we raise our voice and cry No Popery with hearty good will. Somerset House is the English Vatican. The Excise is our Inquisition. The Secretary of Stamps is to us worse than the Pope. We know of no evil greater than the suppression of intelligence of which our Government are guilty, and we intend for the future to devote a portion of our columns to attack it. For the present we content ourselves with drawing the attention of our readers to some of the anomalies in the present working of the law as set forth in another part of our paper in an address to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by our friends the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee. To this address, and to other documents about to be issued by the same body, which will shortly appear in our columns, we bespeak the earnest consideration of all who have at heart the spread of knowledge and the progress of truth.

A FRENCH BLOODMAN.

Few political scandals have exploded so completely and so disgracefully to the originators as the affair of Allais. The story may stand in history as a striking illustration of our day, its manners and spirit. Not that lying spies like Allais have been unknown in other days—but because in this case the highest authorities are more or less implicated.

President Bonaparte trifles with the National Assembly; the National Assembly is jealous of the President; both are playing a game of which General Changarnier is one object, popular influence being the stake. The President has his Prefect of Police, M. Carlier; the Assembly has its Commissary of Police, M. Yon; and there is a rivalry between the two, especially on the side of M. Yon, whose position is the less established. M. Yon reports to the Assembly a plot to assassinate M. Dupin, its President, and M. Changarnier, its pet; and as informer he produces Pierre Constant Allais. The trial is a ludicrous burlesque: Allais breaks down in every particular; he had not even taken the common pains to verify the accessories of his fiction—for instance, he reports to seeing twenty-six people in a place too small to hold them; and his examination is a mere exposure.

The *Times* notices this very curious trial as one that "presents a striking contrast with our own customs in matters of police, and at the same time affords many striking illustrations of French character." We do not see the striking contrast, nor the strikingly *French* character of the affair in its essentials. It is not so long since Dobbyn was brought forward to give his nonsensical evidence against the Irish Leaguers, or Powell against the Chartists. The practice of opening letters intercepted in the Post-office has not long ceased to be among the stated duties of our highest officials; and to this day those who witnessed the trials of the Cato-street conspirators are still amongst us—nay, all the fellow-servants of Oliver and Edwards have not yet departed. Many would suppose that the use of blooodmen and such police manœuvres are a peculiar growth of France, perhaps a Republican innovation; but Englishmen who are not yet old can testify that the practice has declined with the decline of Absolute power. France, with all its backslidings, is leagues beyond the rule of the lettre de cachet; and in England we owe the new purity which makes the *Times* so boastful, to the Reform Bill and other freedoms which the working classes won for the middle classes.

We are less inclined to trace this bad police activity in Paris to the old practices of the Monarchy, than to a cause which is in some respects even more deplorable, since it can less be removed by combating it — we mean, a certain pettiness of spirit which seems to govern all society. It not only animates the miserable sort who are born base and mean, but it rises even to public men on all sides. We ascribe it to the trading spirit which has given birth to the Utilitarian bigotry of the day. Society can scarcely value anything that will not *pay;* it is jealous of anything that is peculiarly noble or high-spirited; it has learned to sneer at the chivalrous as "Quixotic." It is blinded to that purer half of the satire in *Don Quixote,* which places nobleness, high faith, and generous purpose in the madman. In France we have the opposite extreme to Don Quixote's: if we see a public minister dabbling in the business of the bloodman, do we not see also the leading statesmen of every party making patriotism worse than a trade, a gambling trade; while the President over all, manœuvres to keep his post by truckling to all. It is an aggravation of this curse, that nobleness itself has learned to abate its pride and to mistrust its own precedency; owning a sort of mauvais honte in presence of the moral scepticism. Thus, we note such men as Cavaignac waiving their own influence, and suffering their country to fall rather than brave the criticism of political blacklegs and petit maîtres. But neither is *this* foible peculiarly "French": in our own country, also, it is the rule to let petty feelings have precedency over the higher. If France can exhibit a Yon, can we not also show a Hawes, who has so contrived to conduct his parliamentary duties as to create an im-

pression that an Under Secretary cannot understand straightforward questions, since he gives answers the reverse of straightforward? If France must confess to a President and head of a republic who pursues his own objects by pandering to the weaknesses of his countrymen, must not England also acknowledge a Russell, head of a "constitutional" Government, who connives at the betrayal of constitutionalism in Sicily, and himself fosters the most discreditable outburst of public bigotry since the days of Lord George Gordon? The difficulty of finding a parallel is when we try to think of a public man who has given, like Cavaignac, earnest of being a grave and patriotic statesman, even though abashed before the reigning meanness: there are many worthy men in our Parliament, but which of them has thrown the whole force of convictions, faculties, and influence into acts; which of them has stedfastly set his face against the established custom that teaches men to act, not according to their own conscience and will, but according to the conscience and will of those beneath them in faculties and spirit? This dominant pettiness in France exhibits a public Minister dabbling with pretended assassination plots; and in England it displays "the First Minister of the Crown" tampering with sectarian civil war, in order to divert public attention, and prevent the discussion of measures which would *not* be trivial or petty.

THE DRESDEN CONFERENCES.

This vaunted Congress, which is to settle, as the diplomatists hope, the position and the constitution of Germany for another half century, is as yet only at the beginning of its labours. To facilitate the progress of its great work it has broken itself up into five sections or committees. The first committee, which consists of the plenipotentiaries of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemburg, Hanover, the Grand Duchy and Electorate of Hesse, Frankfort, and Saxe-Weimar, is to be presided over by Austria, and is "to deliberate on the organization of the chief Federal Board, and the extent of the Federal territory." In the second committee, which consists of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemburg, Baden, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Holstein, and Anhalt-Bernburg, Prussia is to have the Presidency; and the business of this committee is "to trace out the sphere of action of the chief Federal organ, and to establish the relations between the Confederation and the individual states." The third committee is "to sit on commercial affairs, such as trade, customs, navigation, and internal communication;" Bavaria is here to have the Presidency; and besides the great powers of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, &c., a few minor states are included in it. The fourth committee is to be under the Presidency of Saxony, and is "to debate on the Federal Court of Arbitration, and on the practice of the Austre-regal Court." The fifth committee "will be occupied with the protocols." When the five committees have severally gone through their tasks and prepared reports, the results of their labours will be lumped together; and the grand constitution under which the German people is in future to live will be forthcoming.

What that constitution is to be our readers already know. It is to be a *Dualismus*, or balance between two clusters of states, in one of which the dominant power is to be Austria, in the other Prussia. The problem to be solved by the Conferences is, in fact, a problem in mechanics:—Given thirty-eight states of such and such dimensions respectively, to find their common centre of gravity. And the method of procedure will be the same as in such a mechanical problem. First, the Austrian cluster of states will be considered, and their common centre of gravity found, which, in virtue of the overwhelming preponderance of the Austrian member, will doubtless turn out to be wonderfully near Vienna. Then the Prussian cluster will be treated in the same way, their common centre of gravity, for similar reasons, turning out, in all probability, to be wonderfully near Berlin. Then the two centres will be joined; and the last calculation of the *Dualismus* gone through. Strangely enough, notwithstanding all the noise that Prussia has been making about her superior weight in the German Confederation, this last calculation will exhibit the required point as still lying within the walls of Vienna, precisely as the common centre of gravity of a ball of lead and a cork fastened at opposite ends of a stick will be found to be, after all, somewhere within the ball of lead. The explanation is simple—Russia, Russia, Russia!

Austria has already anticipated the solution of the question by behaving as the mistress of the Conferences. While poor Prussia, as represented by her minister Manteuffel, showed her consciousness of being a mere cipher, by making a beggarly little meaningless speech, and then sitting down again with her handkerchief at her eyes; Austria, as represented by *her* minister Schwarzenburg, gets up like a blunt bully, and speaks forth at full length what she thinks. The following is the most significant passage of Prince Schwarzenburg's speech at the opening of the Conferences:—

"Experience has shown that the foundations on which the Confederation reclines are not only good and serviceable, but that they are the only ones which are suitable for a fabric in which a community of states—such as Germany includes—can be expected to live in harmony and in a state of general prosperity. But that experience has likewise shown the shortcomings of the Federal Constitution such as it hitherto has been; and it has pointed out the spots where remedies ought to be applied. Among these I mention the strengthening of the chief organ of the Confederation by arrangements which will enable it for the future to stem the tide of revolution, and to protect the principle of monarchy."

The precise meaning of which is clearly this:—"Men of Germany, we of the Dresden Conferences, are just going to give you your old Federal Constitution over again; only we will give it you a good deal tighter than it was—tighter over all Democratic tendencies, all attempted movements of reform, and all efforts of Peoples to oppose tyrannic acts of idiotic princes." Yes: "to stem the tide of revolution, and to protect the principle of monarchy"—these are the words. "The principle of monarchy"! What in the name of all that is fossil and obsolete *is* "the principle of monarchy"? Is there a single sane human being in civilized Europe that believes in the "principle"; or that cares a button in reality for the rights of any Francis-Joseph, Frederick-William, or Elector of Hesse-Cassel, that walks or eats dinners, on the face of the earth? At the very utmost, does attachment to monarchy mean anything more anywhere than "We get on very well as we are; don't plague us"? Then, why talk such gibberish? Why not speak the plain truth and say, "We, Kings, Princes, and diplomatists, are masters in Germany just now, and treat the People as we like, because we have the command of the armies; and this is the state of things we wish to perpetuate." That would be intelligible. But "the principle of Monarchy!" Bah! the principle of a Fiddlestick!

It is bad policy in the continental diplomatists to be so constantly suggesting the opposition between Revolution and the Monarchical principle as forming the real question of the day. In this country the Monarchical principle is little talked of; Royalty is not represented as an *a priori*, or necessary and logical, prohibition of any movement for reform that the People may originate, but only as a venerable and traditional fact with which it is deemed necessary for order that all movements should endeavour to accord; and hence, in this country, it is not against Royalty in itself that even the hottest Democrats direct their enmity, but rather against the general incubus of aristocratic rule under which the country feels itself crushed. Here discontent does not take the form of disloyalty; there are, of course, speculative Republicans, but there are no personal enemies of the Crown. But abroad it is different. There the opposition between Revolution and the Monarchical principle is studiously kept up; and the Monarchical principle is the unpopular policeman put on duty on every occasion of collision with the People. Hence the probability is that all over the Continent the unpopular policeman will one day get himself finally knocked on the head. At least, as all aspiration after even moderate change is there driven to assume the name of Republicanism, it seems inevitable that, when a new battle shall take place and the diplomatists shall be defeated, the Republican flag must be allowed to remain the sole symbol on the field. This is the growing opinion even of men like Professor Newman, who do not personally incline to Republicanism.

AN IRISH FREEHOLD-LAND SOCIETY.

Attempts are making to establish an Irish Freehold-Land Investment Society, with a view to promote the creation of a class of small proprietary farmers in Ireland. This is a movement which ought to obtain the aid and encouragement of all Social Reformers. The projectors of the society wisely judge that the present opportunity is highly favourable for such a step. The sales which are continually taking place under the operation of the Encumbered Estates Act afford invaluable facilities for obtaining land, with a good title, at a moderate price: a thing unheard of in Ireland, for the last century at least. They propose, "by weekly or monthly subscriptions not exceeding 20s. per month nor £150 for each share, to raise a fund which shall enable every member to purchase or receive an allotment of land, with freehold title, equivalent in value to the amount of his share, and sufficient to qualify him for the electoral franchise."

We have not heard what success the project has met. The *Nation* has taken it up warmly. If the people would only follow its advice, Ireland might soon have some real weight in Parliament, by obtaining "a stake in the country."

MR. MUNTZ AND THE "TIMES."

The member for Birmingham, whose currency notions are those in favour with the men of that borough, has been carrying on a controversy with the *Times* for the last fortnight, as to the best mode of relieving agricultural distress. Mr. Muntz's plan is "to encrease the circulation of the country, so that the average value of the quarter of wheat should be 50s. or more, if more were necessary to enable the agriculturists to pay a *reasonable* rent, *fair* wages, and obtain *something* for themselves." He does not pretend to say what reduction this would make in the value of the currency, but he should say that "it would not be more than 2s. 6d. in the pound." What a conjuror Mr. Muntz must be; At present, he says, the farmer is not able to pay a farthing of rent, and yet by merely encreasing the paper circulation to an extent that would only depreciate the pound sterling one-eighth, he would enable the farmers to pay a "a *fair* rent!" Who is to be the judge of its fairness? "*Reasonable* wages!" What are they? At present the Lancashire labourer obtains 15s. a week, while the Bucks labourer starves on 6s. or 7s. Has Mr. Muntz any scheme for compelling the Buckinghamshire farmer to pay *reasonable* wages to his men, even if wheat were 100s. a quarter? Before he attempts to discuss the currency question he should look a little deeper into the question. How can he explain, by any currency theory, the startling fact that the landlords of England obtain above £30,000,000 a-year more for the use of their land than they did a century ago, while in several counties the wages of the labourer are no higher than they were in 1750? Is that either fair or reasonable? Were he to try to explain how this has come about he would do more good than by trying to raise the price of wheat in order that farmers might be able to pay "a fair rent."

SOCIAL REFORM.

EPISTOLÆ OBSCURORUM VIRORUM.

No. XXIII.—The Truth about Malthus.

To Erasmus.

Dec. 31, 1850

My dear Erasmus,—A consideration of the Malthusian difficulty I owe no less to you than to W. E. Forster, and, indeed, to other friends, who await some Charon to ferry them over that last impediment in their passage towards the field of Communism. Practically, Malthus's difficulty amounts to this—that population has a tendency to crowd together on particular parts of the globe long inhabited in greater numbers than can derive subsistence from the land on which they dwell. That is true; there *is* that tendency: the question is, whether Malthus accurately appreciates the predisposing causes; whether the fatal result is inevitable without artificial counteractives; and, if it were so, whether he or his followers indicate the best counteractives? Certainly, this triple proposition has not yet been made out. I ascribe the influence which Malthus has snatched to the facts that there is a kernel of truth in his proposition, when stated in the very simple terms I have used above; that he wrote a very engaging style, with a very free command of illustration; and that his proposition fitted well into the doctrines of that political œconomy whose most distinguished professors have recently, by their more enlarged views, pronounced it to be so very imperfect.

Malthus, however, put his proposition much more sweepingly, thus,—that population encreases in a geometrical ratio, while the means of subsistence encrease in an arithmetical ratio. A transparent fallacy in the proposition thus stated was noticed not long since—that the means of subsistence, namely, the animals and vegetables which serve as food for man, not only encrease in a geometrical ratio, as well as man, but that the ratio is in all cases considerably more rapid. The most distinguished writer on political œconomy since Adam Smith, whose extraordinary endowments induce him to look down upon his fellow-labourers in the investigation of truth with a sort of intellectual purse-pride, has treated this detection of Malthus's over-

sight as a triviality; but it is far more important than that very high authority allows, and even the recognized master of logic ought to have been more ready in seizing the force of William Edward Hickson's essay in the *Westminster Review*. According to John Stuart Mill, Malthus *meant* that, as land is limited in space, the eatable production of land only encreases in an arithmetical rate. This is a nearer resemblance to truth, but even thus stated it is not accurate. We are to consider the question as starting from the primitive commencement—a state of nature; and then we find, not only that the natural products upon which man feeds encrease geometrically as well as he does, but also that he is able to make the space originally filled go further, by substituting special breeds of vegetables and animals for those which he finds in primitive nature; by enriching the soil with manures; by rotations; by taking depth into the account as well as superficies: and by other devices which very greatly modify the original proposition. Supposing, however, that with extensive emendations and corrections, Malthus's proposition is substantially true: we have to consider whether his conclusions necessarily, or properly, follow from his premises.

In brief, his whole doctrine amounts to this. Population has a tendency to encrease faster than food can be produced; when that encrease is unchecked, the result is seen, on the occurrence of adverse seasons, in endemic starvation or famines; but under ordinary circumstances the fatal check is felt, before it reaches that naked catastrophe, in the shape of wars, and the depopulating influences of the vice and misery attendant on a state of over population. His practical conclusion is, that the way to render the further progress of civilization at once safe and practicable, is to check the tendency to over-population "by moral restraint"—by abstinence from marriage until the middle age. Malthus's theory has been reprobated for its tendency to justify vice, war, and the causes of want; reconciling men to discord, immorality, and the state of things which inflicts suffering on their fellow-creatures. I must not only insist, however, on Malthus's absolute right to expound what he unquestionably believed to be true, but also, on the only sound principle of investigation, that no appearance of consequences in the vista should make us halt in pursuing enquiry, or weaken our faith in that truth which has never yet failed us, however changeful its aspect in a partial view, however formidable at first sight. There is, indeed, a strong primâ facie case against any presumption that contradicts the natural instincts; but, if Malthus's theory were *true*, further investigation would reconcile it to every other form of truth. Meanwhile, amply recognizing the fulness and distinctness with which he set forth his proposition, it must be admitted that he did not reduce it to absolute proof. He was justly criticized for a sort of judicial blindness, which, if we were to speculate on motives, might be called dishonest. From the general disposition which he showed to sit down in an optimist mood of content with the actual state of the world, it was inferred by many that his "moral restraint" was a kind of respectable juggle, which implied connivance at the most demoralizing practices, especially prostitution. Or, if his counsel was given bonâ fide, and he intended an actual postponement of the impulses and solaces of life, for all born human beings, until the middle age—then critics possessing a better knowledge of human nature, were less astonished at the man who could recommend celibacy for all the young, and for all poor persons without a certain provision in the savings bank, than at the "greenness" of the closet statesman who could suppose such an arrangement to be within the bounds of possibility. There were few who did not consider Malthus's notion as far more calamitous, absurd, and even immoral, than the barbarous checks of fire, famine, and slaughter.

Malthus left the question in this most unsatisfactory state:—his premises not established; his presumption accepted by theorists, and rejected by the outraged instincts of human nature; political economists and poor-law commissioners looking solemn at thoughtless people with large families and small incomes; prudent patriarchs apologizing to society in general, with a guilty bashfulness, for the growth of their olive branches; and well-informed society conscious of an uneasy doubt whether some of its members had any right to be there, to sit down at "the board of nature," where the covers had been calculated on exclusive principles. It was almost wished that some person in authority would point out which of us it was that laboured under the Malthusian ban, and ought to "be gone"—while none of us felt inclined to go, or to send away our children as "surplus population."

John Mill's *Principles of Political Economy* is not only the most recent book, but the best that has yet appeared, and may be considered to bring the science up to the highest mark that it has yet attained. In dealing with the sections, therefore, that bear upon the Malthusian point, we are dealing with the proposition in its most improved form. It *is* greatly improved since its necessarily crude enunciation by Malthus: its premises are corrected, and its conclusions are elevated by a higher form of expression; but I do not think the case is really strengthened: the principle is still the same, professedly without alteration; in the process of amendment, however, so many qualifications and abatements are introduced, that the imposing effect of the oracle of doom is very much shattered. In the endeavour to surround Malthus's doctrine with props, rather than to extract the kernel of truth which lay loosely inside, it seems to me that Mill has rendered it less practicably available than it was before; and in giving a moral and intellectual elevation to the counsel which he implies, he does suggest something less odious and shocking than Malthus's moral restraint, but the reverse of being less extravagant. I cannot resist a conviction which is gaining ground upon me, that the class of which Mill is so distinguished a type and ornament, are even *more* misled than other classes by their own condition, in taking the survey of actual life and in suggesting counsel,—I mean the literary or highly intellectualized class. One presumption to which they are prone is the general possibility and advantage of an excessive or even exclusive elevation of the intellectual over the "animal" part of human nature. I do not know that there is, in truth, any such distinction—that you can thus split human nature into antagonistic halves, and set up one to be viceroy over the other. I do not observe that nature has taken less pains with the instincts than she has with the reason; or, to speak more in accordance with my own comprehension, that there is any part of the creation which man can pronounce to be "inferior" to another. I do not know which is "up" or "down" when my head at midnight is lower than my heels, according to the standard of noon; I do not know which is "higher" or "lower" while I have no conception where to look for the *top* of the universe. My own belief is, that the very height of human wisdom consists in studying the laws of God as they are working around us in every part of the universe; not to alter them, to improve upon them, or "elevate" them, but to understand them with a simple heart, equally for all faculties; to obey them implicitly and to carry them out, straightforward. But, as the hand of the dyer is coloured to his trade, so the philosopher, dealing incessantly with intellectuals, acquires a kind of ignorance, a dimness as to the working wisdom of physicals, less concealed from the practical artist like yourself, or the man of active life like W. E. Forster.

It is, I think, through an acquired ignorance of this kind, that a philosopher like Mill can speak in disparagement respecting instinctive impulses, which are in their very nature a mystery to us who undergo them; which are inextricably bound up with the continuance of the human race—its healthy existence—its sacred affections—its highest arts—and, probably, with all those social energies that accomplish what we call greatness. I say that it is not safe to disparage those instincts, or to slide into that acquired ignorance under which the best men have so frequently and so rashly undertaken to tamper with the very sources of vitality.

Society is not quite so rash as the philosophers. Mill confesses that hitherto no other motives have been found strong enough, in the generality of mankind, to counteract the tendency to encrease than a prudential regard to the future maintenance of offspring, and a desire to rise in the social scale of comfort and consideration.

As these have been the checks hitherto—let us see their operation. The greatest encrease of numbers, that which perceptibly affects the encrease of the population, takes place in the poorer classes, since they are immensely the largest numbers. Now Mill confesses that—

> "It has been the practice of a great majority of the middle and poorer classes, whenever free from external control, to marry as early, and, in most countries, to have as many children as was consistent with maintaining themselves in the condition of life which they were born to, or were accustomed to consider as theirs. Among the middle classes, in many individual instances, there is an additional restraint exercised from the desire of doing more than maintaining their circumstances—of improving them; but such a desire is rarely found, or rarely has that effect, in the labouring classes. If they can bring up a family as they were themselves brought up, even the prudent among them are usually satisfied. Too often they do not think even of that, but rely on fortune, or on the resources to be found in legal or voluntary charity."

This last sentence is a true description of our agricultural labouring classes; in Ireland there is no check, external or internal. "The influence of prudence," says Mill, "in keeping down multiplication is seen by the diminished number of marriages in the manufacturing districts in years when trade is bad": if Mill had lived in manufacturing districts, he would know that "prudence" has scarcely anything to do with it: in those districts, with vast numbers, marriage is a triviality; it is lightly entered, more lightly left; it is checked, not by "prudence," but by sheer want of immediate means among the very numerous classes who are thrown out of employment in bad years; and where marriage is not formally observed, there is always "the substitute." I use the expression of a most intelligent working man in Glasgow, who told me that (in 1840) working men were more and more inclined to avoid marriage and resort to "the substitute"—by which I understood him to mean concubinage. The two checks, therefore, recognized by Mill, as practically existing down to this time, are practically of none effect with the great bulk of the population; so that from the past, we are not to presume that they are very facile or available.

It is confessed that we do see them in operation among the middle class. Mill enumerates many circumstances which give "peculiar force to the accumulating propensity in England;" and he tells us that it is "greatly aided by that extreme indifference of the people to personal enjoyment, which is a characteristic of all countries over which Puritanism has passed." This is true; but if we look at the state of the middle classes, in their personal relations, or relations with other classes—if we see the sacrifice of almost any consideration, to interest and money-getting—the sacrifice of the enjoyment of life, of the end to the means—the habitual condemnation of a vast female class to celibacy, and of a numerous male youth to a correlative bachelorhood with a handmaid cohort of prostitution drawn from a humbler rank if we see the domestic conduct of the middle class man to his servant—his parish treatment of the parish poor—his political gratitude for the Reform Bill—if we compare him with his fellow on the Continent in his æsthetical conditions—we shall not be very confident as to the moral influence of these checks in the only class where they do have a calculable effect.

The two checks hitherto existing, therefore, as seen in this country have proved inoperative to prevent the encrease where any important encrease takes place, and where they have had a limited operation, their moral effect has not been very felicitous. We do not forget that a third check of a spontaneous kind is prophesied, not only in the extreme refinement of man, but also in the intellectual elevation of woman, to so wide an extent, that if the inferior functions of maternity are left to volunteers who prefer such "vocations," the number will still be not inconveniently large. I do not quite understand what is meant by this prophetic vision; I do not know how far those who rely upon it, fairly grapple in their own minds with the reserved questions of prostitution and other incidents of celibacy as a social custom; if they do not do so, not a tithe of their work is done, and they are not honest in pretending that it is. At all events they are not explicit, and this is a subject which we cannot deal with in part. Nor do I know how far their prophetic vision involves the stipulation which is so general a custom in France, and which at once relieves celibacy of its privations, and matrimony of its burdens. I think very few who deal in this prophetic vision of women unsexed, escaping from the nursery to the library, really intend anything in the nature of a wedded monachism: if they do, they should say so; if they do not, they should say so.

The checks, then, hitherto prevailing, or preached, are inoperative, vitiating, and visionary—a description which might be translated into one word—they are unnatural. We have yet to see whether checks are necessary; and, if they are so, whether the true check have been discovered.

I have already said that Mill admits very great qualifications on Malthus's data, but he insists that the limit of food-producing must some day be

attained; and that the idea of postponing the question is "not only an error, but the most serious one to be found in the whole field of political economy." I infer from his context that, if checks were in abeyance, population would double itself in twenty years, and we should incur a practical retribution for slighting Malthus. Now, the whole practical importance of the question turns upon this matter of time; and the question of time involves some ulterior considerations, not included in the common view. We might take it for granted that there is such a ratio between the encrease of population and of food, that *some* day the fatal limit would be attained, and yet the theoretical fact would have no more importance for us than the supposititious meeting of two parallel lines. But the proximity or remoteness of the fatal juncture bears upon the still obscure and almost unexplored question—the *nature* of the two counteractives.

"The law of the production of land," says Mill, "is that, in any given state of agricultural skill and knowledge, by encreasing the labour, the produce is not encreased in an equal degree; doubling the labour does not double the produce; or, to express the same thing in other words, every encrease of produce is obtained by a more than proportional encrease in the application of labour to the land."

He admits, however, that laws, usages, and tenures, are such as to check the flow of capital on the land, although "if capital were forthcoming to execute within the next year, all known and recognized improvements in the land of the United Kingdom which would 'pay' at the existing prices, inferior land would not for a long time" be needed for cultivation. Probably the spread of high tillage might be conteracted. He also admits that probably the worst land now in cultivation produces as much as the richest soil yielded to our ancestors: the disuse of fallows virtually added a fourth to the extent of land; rotation of crops, manures, stock feeding, mechanical inventions, œconomies of labour, good roads, &c., have done the rest. He admits that farther manufacturing refinements may at once disengage manufacturing labour for better division of employments and reinforcements of agricultural labour; also that education might encrease the efficiency of labour; finally, that importations of food and emigration are counteractives of redundant population.

Now let us enumerate the elements with which we are supplied by Mill towards postponing the practical pressure of the population question. The discontinuance of fallows has virtually added to the extent of the land; the produce per acre has about doubled, even on the worst soils; importation of food has added to our store, and emigration is an outlet for living surplus: with these auxiliaries we have made a shift thus far, and, upon the whole, œconomists generally tell us we are *better* off than we were with a scantier population. As to the future, Mill promises new access of capital to land, on improvement of laws, tenures, and usages; further improvements, which in a single year would actually have the effect of throwing land out of cultivation, as not needed; reinforcements of labour, applicable to land; and encreased efficiency of the labourer. We believe it would be very difficult to calculate the aggregate effect of all these beneficial changes. It is notorious that absurd covenants keep a great deal of land in a state of half cultivation: the abrogation of such covenants, permitting whole cultivation, would virtually double the land under them. It is a general charge against tenant-farmers that they have not half capital enough: admit two capitals where one is, and you have two farms where one is—land doubled. Investigations as to the true ratio of superficial space, depth of culture, quantity of manure, and produce, are wholly in their infancy: thus, while it is impossible even to make a random guess at the total results of the advance in agricultural science, we can, at least, perceive that it must virtually and largely multiply the extent of land. Without going into any gigantic operations, emigrant colonization has had so marked an effect in some counties that the farmers have conspired to check it, and yet, hitherto, it has been imperfectly used.

It is to be observed that Mill naturally speaks, throughout, on the presumption that *trade* is the only medium for obtaining concert of labour in the division of employments; and it is curious to see the length to which that presumption carries him, when he can make the remarkable assertion that, "however dear labour may be, when food is wanted, labour will always be applied to producing it in preference to anything else"—an assertion made in the teeth of the facts, that we see capital idle, land idle, and men idle, while capital is wasted on the endless production of nicknacks, and food is wanted for immense numbers. He appears to me, in common with the œconomists of our day, to be misled by the fact that certain employments do not *pay* in any trading process—that is, do not subserve with immediate profit the process of exchange—which yet would amply pay the community or the actual workers. I will give two instances. It is well known that the formation of roads in many rural districts would be a powerful auxiliary of agriculture, but that roads are unmade, or ill made, because there is no sufficient disengageable money-profit for individuals, or because the incidence of the burden is a disputable point. Again, on the moorlands beyond the Union farm near Sheffield, certain persons have been permitted to squat, to build residences, and to cultivate the land for themselves; as a trading transaction it would not "pay" them to rent the land, neither would it pay the owner to reclaim the land: but while these persons obtain a subsistence out of it they are withdrawn from the surplus population; withdrawn from being a charge on their quota of the land under ordinary trading culture; withdrawn from any of those waste occupations that delude so many of our townspeople with the mockery of employment. If, besides other improvements that we have indicated, there were to be a real advance towards extending the principle of concert in division of employments, beyond the very imperfect concert, or rather *dis*-concert of competitive trade, we may be sure that the pressure of the population question has no practical bearing upon our day. When œconomists attached to old ideas speak of it, you can always convert their proposition into a more practical and matter-of-fact statement: when they speak of surplus labour they mean labour exiled from land—land which is as if it were in chancery, under absurd tenures, or half occupancy; they mean, labour misdirected by "the higgling of the market," to making Paisley shawls when no Paisley shawls are wanted, while it might be tilling the idle land, making roads, or at the worst squatting on some moorland or on the desolated sheep-walks of Scotland. It is, to invert Mill's words, "not the niggardliness of nature but the injustice of society, that is the cause of the penalty attached to over population." An engine for commencing the extension of concert, I have already pointed out in a genuine Poor Law.

Meanwhile, the book of Malthus is not a gospel. We have not yet attained that wisdom which shall justify us in repealing the instinct that God has given us for our guidance in harmony with our other faculties. And meanwhile the acquisition of time is in itself of substantive importance; for, if checks should ultimately be needed, time gained affords the only hope of discovering that which we certainly have *not* yet discovered, towards which we have not yet obtained even the smallest clue, a thing as yet to us wholly unimaginable, and mocked only by the ghastly nightmares of political œconomy in its dreams—the *true* principle of a check according to our nature and our destiny. Hitherto the improvements invented for us by œconomists have not pointed to any practicable or exalted millennium. Rather than a blue-stocking millennium, or a thousand years of the Kingdom of a hypocritical "Moral Restraint," let me, for one, having a choice to express, go back to the check of the Middle Ages, adventurous war; or forward, to the euthanasia of our race—to a repose in divine obedience within this present stratum of alluvial deposit, beneath the footsteps of some newer and higher race, which then shall walk the earth where we have sunned ourselves. Let high motives uphold our life even unto the portal of that death which has no terrors for a stedfast and simple faith. With all the warmth of life upon me, in the full light of hope and love, I say that I face with less dismay, the idea that our kind may follow in the flesh to the tomb of extinct races, than the attempt to palter with the general laws of nature and of the God of nature. Let those laws be our guide—let us labour to extinguish the only evils which have a real existence, the contradictions to those laws which cannot contradict themselves; and to set up the only stable laws for society, laws based upon the laws of God as revealed in his creation. So, my dear Erasmus, shall we work together for the happiness of our kind; and in that faith I say—*not* "Malthus meanwhile"—not Malthus even for a day.

Ever your affectionate,

Thornton Hunt.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review.*

Among the changes which every successive generation brings with it into Literature, we may notice a constant encrease of familiarity accompanying a constant decrease of indelicacy—thus, in our time, we are tolerant of slang, but intolerant of anything resembling indecency. The purists of former days were sensitive enough to all departures from the true "elevated" style, yet they threw words into their pages which our decent generation dare not even hint at; and many an ancient aunt of our day uses, without misgiving, terms which astound their nephews. Then, again, what is decorous enough in Paris, Stockholm, or Vienna, would be outrageous in London. We have heard things uttered at dinner-tables by highborn, highbred women abroad, which, if spoken at home, would have blanched the faces of the guests with a horror almost as great as that which disturbed the feast of Belshazzar. While, if the reports of travellers are to be trusted, we are as outrageous to American susceptibility as the French and Germans are to ours. Roscommon says:—

"Immodest words admit of no defence:
A want of decency 's a want of sense."

But then comes the question, *What* is decency? Is a *leg* decent, or must one only disclose the ankle? Can a bosom be mentioned, or must it be muffled up to the *neck?* Are French or Americans to settle our code? There are critics thrown into a tremor if you write the word "voluptuous," and as for "sensuality," one would imagine the thing only existed in the most brutal natures by the manner in which the word is used.

Such being the state of public purism, we scarcely know what significance to give to the report that Lord Holland's *Memoirs* are found "too improper" for publication, and must be suppressed; or, at any rate, severely castigated. One would like to know who is to be the delicate arbiter! Taking Swift's admirable definition of "a *nice* man—a man with nasty ideas," we should suggest that some very prurient mind, with a proper reverence for "respectablity," should be the man chosen. There is nothing like your hog for discovering filth.

A Bishop can quote Scripture for his purposes. None better than Charles James. In a Charge delivered at the Royal Chapel Whitehall, on Sunday week, to the candidates for holy orders, the *Church and State Gazette* informs the world, that he said "Of the highest office in the Church, the Apostle said, 'He that desireth the office of a Bishop, *desireth a good thing.*'" We have not the slightest difference with Charles James of London in his belief that it is a good thing—a very good thing—to be a Bishop. Six thousand a-year is a comfortable independence, and stimulates desires. But the Bishop, in his intense conviction of the excellence of his office, appears to have substituted that conviction for the very different notion of St. Paul, whom he misquotes; the Apostle did not regard it at all in the light of a "good thing"; but said, "He that desireth the office of a Bishop, he desireth a *good work.*" Is it the *work* which our modern Bishops desire, or might one suppose it to be the *wages?*

This is Magazine week. We have not dutifully read all that lies inviting us, so that we must leave you to discover for yourselves whatever may be readable. *Fraser* we have read, and it is a charmingly varied number of fiction, criticism, poetry, and politics. In the *Freeman* we welcome a Glasgow adherent to spiritualism, though it needs more definite statement of principles to find its audience. In the *Westminster Review* (a more varied and literary number than usual) there is an eloquent paper on the *Battle of the Churches*, wherein the writer forcibly states the real conflict now going on.

His appre iation of Catholicism is high and independent but we do not share his antagonism to it because it is a Polity—we oppose it because it is a Falsehood. If the doctrine were *true*, its incarnation in a Polity would be admirable. The writer says that the spread of Catholicism is not to be feared among the ignorant so much as among the highly cultivated, and among the Socialist working classes! That betrays an entire ignorance of the mental condition of the working classes. If he enquire he will find there is no danger *there*.

We are sorry to observe in so thoughtful a writer the strange misunderstanding of AUGUSTE COMTE's law of human development (which, by the way, was *not* applauded in Paris—to this day COMTE is better known in England, Germany, and Holland than in France); and it strikes us as curious that the writer should imagine his illustration of the recent no-Popery cry is a refutation of the law. When COMTE said that we had outlived the theological era he never meant that there were no longer theologians—*that* would have been denying the sun at noon; but he said that whereas the *theological explanation of phenomena* was once the only explanation offered, and theology was science, now, for many years theology has been slowly driven out of the field of science, and lingers only in the crypts and dark places. Positive science claims as its own the material world. In politics and morals theology still rules; but positive methods are slowly and surely encroaching even on that domain, and must finally reign there undisputed. The writer says that "COMTE's law stands aghast" because in 1850 Englishmen have fretted about the trivialities of baptism, and the "aggression" of the Pope. Not so. The law is quite patent in 1850, as the writer may see if he take a survey of our intellectual condition, and especially if he count the thousands who have abjured theology *altogether*—not only in science, not only in politics, but even in the more restricted sphere of religion itself.

The fact of such a writer so misunderstanding COMTE's meaning presses upon us the intention we have had ever since this Journal was established, of commencing a series of articles upon COMTE's philosophy, with a view of rendering the study of his works facile and instructive. When some other matters are cleared off we will undertake this task.

Not long ago LAMARTINE was in London: what he *saw* here our readers remember with a smile; but his object in coming here was not the philosophic idea of contemplating the vastness and grandeur of that England which his ancient colleague, LEDRU ROLLIN, discovered to be in a decline; he came to raise money. *Perfide Albion* jingles loose silver in its insolent pockets; why should not French genius put its hand also into those pockets? To a poet in want of cash the idea was an "inspiration." LAMARTINE came—he saw—he did *not* conquer. But that may be explained—the man he saw was a bookseller!

He came with a modest proposition to one of our notabilities in the trade. He wanted to make the publisher's fortune. Nothing simpler than his plan. He would write a work into which his whole soul was to be put:—*palpitant d'actualité* it would astonish Europe—and he would content himself with a poor five thousand pounds as *honorarium*. The publisher would issue it simultaneously in England, France, and Germany, and thus secure an enormous profit. The reason why LAMARTINE preferred an English publisher being that no French publisher was solvent!

Our countryman, with an indifference to Mammon worthy of a philosopher, declined the magnificent proposal; and LAMARTINE returned to France and sold his work (*L'Histoire du Directoire*) to an association of publishers for 12,000f., which he hopes to get; He has also sold his new novel (mentioned by us as completed some weeks ago), *Le Tailleur de Pierre de Saint Point*, to the *Siècle* newspaper, wherein it will shortly appear (a hint for which translators may thank us).

The mention of LAMARTINE and his History of the Directory reminds us that GRANIER DE CASSAGNAC, author of the paradoxical, but lively work on the Causes of the French Revolution, has entered the field against him, and intends publishing his *Histoire du Directoire* in a feuilleton. CASSAGNAC is a type of the French journalist—a species of the *genre humain*, curious to the philosopher. By the way, some of our readers may be glad to hear that a journalist, EDMOND TEXIER, has just written a little work, *L'Histoire des Journaux, ou Biographie des Journalistes*, which appears to be piquant; but, now the writers sign all their articles, the book loses half its attractiveness.

Signing your name seems no sufficient guarantee to the honourable Attorney-General of France. Last week we all read in the papers how the *Vote Universel* had been fined for an article bearing the signature of a certain GILLAND, but written, said the Attorney-General, by GEORGE SAND. We knew at the time this was a falsehood. We knew that GEORGE SAND was the last person to disguise her opinions—to write under the responsibility of another—but we awaited her own contradiction of the gratuitous insult. This week she has done so. Her letter will make the Attorney-General blush—if he can blush—it is so calm. She explicitly denies having written a line, or seen a line, of the article; and, as to the faults of spelling, which the Attorney-General referred to in GILLAND's private letters as a proof that he could not have written the article, SAND declares that she herself commits mistakes in orthography owing to the difficult and capricious rules of the French language, and adds, moreover, that, in an autograph letter from ROUSSEAU, which she possesses, there are three mistakes in spelling in ten lines.

Who shall count upon a public? *King René's Daughter*, of which two translations have been played here with great success, with MRS. CHARLES KEAN and MRS. STIRLING as representatives of the heroine, has met with such utter condemnation in Paris, that the curtain was forced to descend in the middle of the second act—and this too with ROSE CHERI, the darling of the public, and the most enchanting of actresses, playing the heroine!

"MERKLAND" AND "EASTBURY."

Merkland. A story of Scottish Life. By the Author of "Mrs. Margaret Maitland." 3 vols. Colburn.

Eastbury. A Tale. By Anna Harriet Drury, authoress of "Friends and Fortune." 1 vol. Wm. Pickering.

VARIOUS reasons induce us to place these two works together, although in point of merit they are wide asunder. Both are written by women; both contain sketches of female life in sequestered spots; both err on the side of melodramatic incident; and both have a stronger tincture of religion than is usual in novels. But the advantage is in all points on the side of *Merkland*. There we have free bright sketches of Scottish life, broad, yet full of detail; and, at least, one character which reveals a masterly hand; while with respect to religion, although the authoress is a Calvinist and defends Calvinism—a creed which our readers know is extremely repulsive to us—yet a genuine religious tone, solemn without cant, pious in the piety of the heart and not in the arrogance of the intellect, gives to its pages a charm which no one will resist. We cannot say the same of *Eastbury*. There is a great deal of religious talk and religious rhapsody in it. We will not question the writer's sincerity, but we cannot disguise the fact that it jarred upon our minds like a discordant note. There is a nasal accent in its piety. Instead of the softening pathos which we felt in *Merkland*, it rouses us to indignant opposition. This cannot be right. A religious tone which brings religion into contempt is fit only for the conventicle. Yet what feeling short of contempt will be inspired in the mind of any but a Methodist or an "advanced Christian," by hearing so constantly that all human worth is worthless unless it be done for the Lord, unless the heart turn hypocrite to its own best instincts and say, "I do not love thee, my brother, out of tenderness; I do not sacrifice my comforts or welfare because my heart overflows with love for thee, but because it is pleasing in the sight of the Lord will I do it." This is making Heaven a savings bank; and Earth a place not far removed from Hell. If Miss Drury wishes to see a truly religious character—one that throws her Lionel Revis into the shade even as a religious being—let her look at Mrs. Catherine Douglas, the central figure, and a grand one, of *Merkland*.

We regret this tone the more because *Eastbury* is in some respects truly able. There are touches about her model parson which redeem the unreality of the whole; and the unscrupulous Mrs. Barnard is a real bit of country life which thousands will recognize in their own acquaintance: a woman always foraging; always dropping in upon you, or sending her girls to do it, just at meal time; coming to your house to write notes; slack in payment of bills, and adroit in extorting unwilling presents. Sir John Seymour is also happily sketched. As for the melodramatic Mrs. Hargrave and the incomprehensible Lord Eustace—as for Julia Seymour and Beatrice they belong to the regular "stock" of Circulating Libraries, and are perfectly wearisome. In Lady Lovel we expected to find a character from the portrait thus painted:—

"Very different was the disposition of Lady Lovel, her mother; in whose benignant face the struggler might read sympathy, and the penitent might look for comfort. Hers was the true religion of long and early growth, which, cherished and watered year after year, had taken root too deeply and spread too widely to leave room for the weeds of uncharitableness and satire. The suns and shadows of a long and chequered life had left many a line on her placid brow: but they were all as things gone by; she was near her rest, and she knew it; and the light of the city on whose borders she was waiting was reflected in the serenity of her smile. Feeble were her steps and dim her eye; her hand had wellnigh lost its cunning, and her voice was low and tremulous; but her work had been done in her hour of strength, and her weakness gave her now no trouble. Her hoary head was indeed a crown of glory, and every one acknowledged its sway: there was not a house in the neighbourhood, from the highest to the lowest, that did not esteem itself honoured by her acceptance of any services they could render."

But nothing came of it; the description stands in lieu of dramatic action. Miss Lloyd is very truthfully touched, and we give an extract from a scene with her:—

"The church clock striking at this moment reminded them how time was speeding on, and one of their calls still unperformed; and by mutual consent they rose and turned into the lane that led back to the village, to the comfortable dwelling of Miss Lloyd.

"'My dear Miss Julia! my dear Miss Jane! well, this is a double pleasure, indeed;' was their first greeting at the old lady's garden-gate, where they found her with basket, scissors, and trowel, performing some of the mysterious agricultural operations wherein she took delight: 'My dear Miss Julia, I must have a kiss after such a long absence—there's a hearty one! I am so glad to see you. David told me about you yesterday, and he said you were looking so well: prettier than ever, and quite a woman. Ha! ha! I have made her blush, haven't I, Miss Jane? And how does your good papa do, and Mrs. Barnard, and Miss Letty, and Miss Hetty? All well? *So* glad to hear it: and dear kind Sir John, and her ladyship, and Lady Lovel, and Mr. Henry, and the dear children? I saw them all yesterday: quite well? That is good hearing. Come in, pray come in.'

"They did so, as soon as she would let them pass, and begged they might not interrupt what she was doing.

"'Thank you, my dears; you're very considerate: suppose I just clear up a bit here, to leave the place tidy, against Davy comes in: he's so particular, you know, more of an old maid even than I am, and that is saying a great deal, isn't it? Well, then, I'll go on, as I was saying: I was getting in my little crop of camomile: it is about time; such a sweet season it has been for camomile; I never saw it finer: and I am rather proud of mine—all my own rearing: such a fine thing, a little camomile tea is, the first thing in the morning: I wish you would try my receipt. You don't fancy it, perhaps? Well, young people are apt to prefer the sweets to the bitters in everything; you'll think differently by-and-bye, all in good time: but as I was saying about the camomile tea, if you would only persuade your good papa, Miss Julia, to try it instead of all that bitter ale: it would do him a great deal more good; twice as wholesome, and not at all unpleasant; rather refreshing than otherwise. Will you promise to try?'

"'I would, Miss Lloyd, certainly,' said Julia, 'if I thought there was any chance of success. I do not like wasting my good advice.'

"'My dear, his own sense will tell him: now there's Mr. Revis, our Mr. Greatheart, as I call him, ha! ha! he complained of such a headache one day after walking in the sun, and I sent him a comfortable jug of camomile tea, all nicely ready; and I have never heard him complain since; it is an infallible cure.'

"'Did he drink it?' asked Julia, gravely.

"'Of course he did, my dear; at least, I never heard to the contrary: but I am sure he must, he has been so well ever since. There, now that must do for the present, and we'll go in doors; I have so much to say to you, I don't know how to begin.'

"'Never mind,' said Julia, 'we will go on talking;

and we shall come to the beginning sooner than we shall to the end.'

"Miss Lloyd laughed good-humouredly: indeed, she never got through half a dozen sentences without a laugh: it had been her chief amusement all her life long, and had kept her in health and spirits under a variety of circumstances which would have crushed a less buoyant nature. She had the kindest heart in the world, and the most notable fingers; with a real genius for receipts and remedies, that delighted in nothing so much as to give illnesses with good things, and cure them with detestable ones. Before her guests could remonstrate, she had dived into a cupboard, full to the brim with old china and preserves, and covered the little table with home-made cakes and marmalade, and fruit, and raspberry vinegar, and currant wine, and pressed these luxuries on them with such earnestness and anxiety, they were forced to accept, whether agreeable or not, the stream of conversation flowing on the while.

"'Well, my dears, only to think about this terrible fire! Shocking, wasn't it? And so unexpectedly too,' added she (as if fires ever came by appointment); 'and yet I won't say that, for it was somehow expected—you'll laugh, Miss Julia, when I tell you—but the moment they began to meddle with that fire-engine said I to David, "Take my word for it, Davy," I said, "we shall hear of somebody burnt to-night" These were my identical words, as he'll tell you—I was sure of it: the engine had been left quiet all this time, and not a stick caught fire; but directly it was pulled about we had half a dozen cottages blazing at once.'"

But, although *Eastbury* gives evidence of talent, it also gives evidence of insufficient culture. In a second attempt, we counsel Miss Drury to restrain her religious tendencies within a healthier, truer sphere, and to confine herself to the observation and pourtrayal of country life as it is. A little rigour also should be exercised upon her style; such words as "visioning" may be tolerated in what Disraeli wittily calls *the American language*, and "talented" will do for those "geniussed" gentlemen who write with ease, and are read with extreme difficulty; but they do not greatly adorn English composition.

In all respects, as we said, *Merkland* is very superior to the tale we have placed beside it—superior, indeed, to the vast majority of novels. It seems to us many a long day since we read a work of such unmistakeable power and eloquence; and we scarcely know where to point, out of Scott, to such a portrait as that of the descendant of the "Black Douglas": a fine, stern, prejudiced, loving, independent old woman, with such strength of character that her prejudices and failings only seem to give her the extra charm of being thoroughly human. For it is perfectly true what Quintilian says about our delighting in the very faults of some people, while the virtues of others are distasteful to us; and Mrs. Catherine Douglas, with her national feelings, her scorn of the Southron and foreigner, and her stern, peremptory manner, only becomes more delightful the more we know of her.

There is a slowness in the movement of the story, and a want of novelty and verisimilitude in the story itself, which will prevent this work achieving the success it deserves; but the hand which drew Mrs. Catherine and, in a lower order, Marjory Falconer, Christian Lilie, and Mrs. Ross will surely one day redeem its noble promise. The style is admirable; full of vigour, breadth, and poetic grace. Some of the scene-paintings show a faculty of expression which belongs only to poetic minds. To tell you the story would be to create a false impression of the book. The story is the least attractive part; but it is the vehicle of fine things, which is what Bayes, in the *Rehearsal*, declares to be the true aim and purpose of a plot.

HOLIDAY BOOKS.

For some years there has been a decided and healthy reaction in favour of those fairy tales and imaginative works for children which had been banished for "useful information" and "moral" tales. Mr. Cundall the publisher has been active in this cause, and has produced a great variety of charming works—old and new—for the inexhaustible delight of Young England. The love of "facts" is less encouraged than the exercise of the imagination and emotions,—and are not *they* "facts"? Knowledge—"useful" or otherwise—is as nothing in the culture of the mind compared with the active development of the faculties. In some exquisite verses Voltaire has pleaded for fairy tales:—

"On a banni les démons et les fées;
Sous la raison les graces étouffées
Livrent nos cœurs à l'insipidité;
Le raisonner tristement s'accrédite;
On court, hélas, après la vérité:
Ah! croyez-moi l'erreur a son mérite!"

Error has its merits when the error is the wandering of capricious fancy, and not the wandering of reason. Besides, imagination has its truths and its logic as well as reason. Who shall say, for example, that Mr. Ruskin's new fairy tale, *The King of the Golden River* (Smith and Elder), is not as *true* as a cyclopædia? Quite a dainty book it is, with many illustrations by Richard Doyle (not among his best, by the way), and as delightful to us "elders" as to the young. The scene is laid in Styria—wild and enchanting. The actors are three brothers, and two gentlemen of a supernatural order. The brothers, Hans and Schwartz, are griping, brutal, avaricious fellows, who treat their cadet Gluck like a juvenile Cinderella; but his kindness and tenderness meet with the reward, while his brothers reap what they sow. There is a true legendary tone sounding through the whole. The South-West Wind is capital; and the description of the three perilous ascents up the mountains to the Golden River is written with a fairy quill. The story itself, the beautiful writing, and the pleasant unforced moral will make this book an universal favourite. If Richard Doyle has not equalled himself in the illustrations, he has surpassed all forerunners in his *Jack and the Giants* (Cundall and Addey) the most imaginative and artistic representation of those giants who thrilled our youth. Not in mere size—though that is well indicated—but in the heavy limbs and lumpish faces do we recognize the veritable bulky brutes whom Jack destroyed. Look at that monster with two heads, or look at that grand and gloomy figure reclining on the rock, dwarfing the trees, and ask yourself whether Richard Doyle must not be lineally descended from the very youth that slew the giants, and has had handed down to him the very awe and thrill which first shook the nerves of his ancestor.

In a very different style is Mrs. Myrtle's *Pleasures of the Country* (Cundall and Addey), a series of pleasant simple stories, relating to rural delights, with eight illustrations by Gilbert. The stories are charmingly told, and we observe that they please "mama" almost as much as the children. *The Professor's Wife* (J. W. Parker) is one of Berthold Auerbach's felicitous tales which depict German life more truthfully than those of any other writer. What a dear simple soul is Lorlie, the landlord's daughter! And how well matched with that young artist whom she marries and follows to court! No, not well matched; for now her trials begin, and she reads a bitter chapter in the book of life. Her ignorance, which was a charm in the Black Forest, becomes a disgrace in a city. She is out of her element among her husband's friends. He perceives it; his love declines; he runs into dissipation; leaves his wife to her lonely sorrow, and finally obliges her to quit him for ever, and carry her wounded heart back again to her quiet village home. Truth, simplicity, and pathos give this little book a rare excellence.

Let us also recommend for its pleasant writing and healthy moral Miss Maceroni's *Magic Words* (Cundall and Addey), with capital lithographs by Wehnert. For younger children the two volumes of prose and verse, *Christmas Berries*, and *Silver Blossoms* (Dean and Son), may also be recommended; while our young ladies, fluent in their French, will be pleased with the pretty *Almanach des Dames et des Demoiselles* (W. Jeffs), and its varied illustrations, and with the *Almanach des Fleurs* (W. Jeffs), and its instructions in the language of flowers.

But, for a real treasury of amusement, to be thumbed by incessant relays of devouring readers, *Merry Tales for Little Folk* (Cundall and Addey) is the best. It is a collection the most various, from "This is the House that Jack Built," to the wonders of Perrault, Madame D'Aulnoy, and Grimm. The story of the "Three Bears" is taken from the *Doctor;* the story of the "Ugly Duck and the Eleven Wild Swans" from Andersen; while "Jack and the Bean Stalk," "Beauty and the Beast," *et id omne genus*, are always welcome. More than a hundred illustrations enrich this glorious little book, which, by the way, we have the greatest difficulty in borrowing from its readers in the nursery for the purpose of this notice!

Having disposed of amusement, let us now say a word on Mr. Gleig's *School Series* (Longman and Co.), the first book of which is a "History of England," and which will be followed by others if the present succeed. It is, in many respects, an excellent child's history, written so as to engage attention, and fix the subject in the memory. The plan is this: the first fifty pages are written in words of one syllable; throughout the next fifty the longest word comprises only two syllables; and so on at a progressive rate till, in the closing chapters, the language is such as it usually is in popular works. This is somewhat needlessly executed—what is the use, for example, of dividing such words as "into," "other," "seven," and so on, to make them monosyllables; thus—"in-to," "oth-er," "sev-en"? But there is one point in Mr. Gleig's book which involves far more serious charges. At page 306 there is a table, illustrating the Descent of Henry IV., with the reference (*see page* 56). On referring to page 56, we find nothing whatever about Henry IV. Is it a misprint? By no means. For on turning to the little *Outlines of History*, published by J. W. Parker, under the Direction of the Committee of General Literature and Education for Promoting Christian Knowledge, we find this very table, and *that* bears the reference to page 56! The six tables printed at the end of Mr. Gleig's History are taken verbatim from this *Outlines of History*, and taken without a word of acknowledgment! What the etiquette of Literature may have to say to such appropriations is one thing; but we cannot help noticing the suspicion which Mr. Gleig thus draws upon his book by so *careless* a procedure, as not even to alter the reference so as to make it available to his own pages. For school-books accuracy is the first of qualities.

BENNETT'S POEMS.

Poems. By W. C. Bennett. Chapman and Hall

How is a man to know that he is not a poet born? In these days, when thousands have the "accomplishment of verse," and write better poems than two-thirds of what finds its place amidst those dreary volumes of British Poets "which no gentleman's library should be without,"—when reasonable versification, pretty images, and quaint conceits come at bidding, and men write poems really not unreadable nor uncommendable,—how is the ambitious youth to know whether he is one *of* the thousand, or one *in* a thousand? He writes, and admires what he writes; nay, more—he gets admiration from others; for, as Boileau said of his day,

"Ainsi qu'en sots auteurs
Notre siècle est fertile en sots admirateurs!"

and a select circle of friends, with here and there an obliging critic, crown the aspirant with bays. How, we repeat, is the self-interrogating author to decide upon his own claims, if he happen to be modest enough to suspect them?

The question is not easy to answer; but nothing is much more certain to our minds than that, in the present day, no poet could pass unperceived, and that, unless he speedily produce an effect; unless his verses live in the memory,

"Et par le prompt effet d'un sel réjouissant
Devenir quelquefois proverbes en naissant;"

unless he is quoted and talked of when not actually in court, so to speak (and there is no such compliment as quotation—it outweighs tons of eulogy), he may rest assured that he is either behind or before his age—the latter a most unlikely case!

The volume of verse before us has suggested these remarks. Mr. Bennett has a very respectable talent for writing verse; but he is unquestionably one *of* the thousand. He writes well enough to make it an elegant amusement for himself, but his lines will never live in the memory of his contemporaries. There is one poem in the collection which is worth volumes of the rest, simply because it is the expression of real feeling and real observation. We have so often insisted on the idleness of men's "snatching their subjects out of the air," instead of re-shaping their experience in forms of beauty, that we need not again recur to it; but we may point to the following poem in confirmation:—

"BABY MAY.

"Cheeks as soft as July peaches;
Lips whose dewy scarlet teaches
Poppies paleness; *round large eyes*
Ever great with new surprise;
Minutes filled with shadeless gladness;
Minutes just as brimmed with sadness;
Happy smiles and wailing cries;
Crows and laughs and tearful eyes;
Lights and shadows, swifter borne
Than on windswept Autumn corn;
Ever some new tiny notion,
Making every limb all motion;
Catchings up of legs and arms;
Throwings back and small alarms;
Clutching fingers; straightening jerks;
Twining feet whose each toe works;
Kickings up and straining risings;
Mother's ever-new surprisings;
Hands all wants and looks all wonder
At all things the heavens under;

Tiny scorns of smiled reprovings
That have more of love than lovings;
Mischiefs done with such a winning
Archness that we prize such sinning;
Breakings dire of plates and glasses;
Graspings small at all that passes;
Pullings off of all that 's able
To be caught from tray or table;
Silences—small meditations
Deep as thoughts of cares for nations;
Breaking into wisest speeches
In a tongue that nothing teaches;
All the thoughts of whose possessing
Must be wooed to light by guessing;
Slumbers—such sweet angel-seemings
That we 'd ever have such dreamings;
Till from sleep we see thee breaking,
And we 'd always have thee waking;
Wealth for which we know no measure;
Pleasure high above all pleasure;
Gladness brimming over gladness;
Joy in care; delight in sadness;
Loveliness beyond completeness;
Sweetness distancing all sweetness:
Beauty all that beauty may be;—
That 's May Bennett; that 's my baby."

Now here, though there is much to be desired in the way of form, the sentiment is real, universal, yet particular, and the lines in italics are quite admirable. Had the volume been filled with thoughts and observations as direct from life, instead of coming from books and mere fancy, and had a little more care been bestowed in *winnowing* the expressions and images, it might have made a name. As it is, it can be reckoned only among the verses of the day—to be forgotten on the morrow. This may sound harsh to him, but we mean it in all kindness; there is greater unkindness in flattery, and, as Sydney Smith well says, "Among the smaller duties of life I hardly know of one more important than that of not praising where praise is not due."

For the sake of the subject, and illustrating, at the same time, the mild mediocrity of the volume, we will quote this satire:—

"THE CRY OF THE LAWFUL LANTERNS.

DEDICATED TO CERTAIN OPPONENTS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

"A people dwelt in darkness,
In gloom and blinding night,
Till some grew tired of candles,
And dared to long for light,
When straight the established lanterns
Were stirred with hate of day,
And loud the lawful rushlights
In wrath were heard to say,
'Oh, have you not your lanterns,
Your little shining lanterns!
Why need have you of sunshine?
What do you want with day?'

"Then loud the people murmured,
And vowed it was n't right
For men who could get daylight,
To grope about in night;
Why should they lose the gladness,
The pleasant sights of day!
But still the established lanterns
Continued all to say,
'Oh, have you not your lanterns,
Your nice old glimmering lanterns!
What need have you of sunshine?
What do you want with day?'

"But people loathed the darkness,
And dared at last to say,
'You old-established rushlights
Are good things in your way;
But are you, candles, sunlight,—
You lanterns,—are you day?'
Still loud the lawful lanterns
Did answer make and say,
'Oh, be content with lanterns,
Your good old-fashioned lanterns!
You really want too much light;
Don't ask again for day.'

"At last the crowd's deep murmur
Grew, gathering to a roar,
And that they would have daylight,
In lanterns' spite, they swore;
And fear was on all rushlights,
And trembling and dismay;
'Alas, alas for lanterns!'
The people heard them say;
'Oh, woe—oh, woe for lanterns!
What will become of lanterns!
Alack, they will have sunshine:
Alas, there will be day!'

"And, as the tempest thickened,
Aloud they shrieked in fright,
'Oh, once let in the sunshine,
And what will be our light!
We, shining lights in darkness,
Shall nothing be in day;
Oh, don't admit the sunshine!
Keep out the daylight, pray!
Oh, don't put out your lanterns!
Your own old little lanterns!
Oh, do without the sunshine!
Oh, don't let in the day!'

"The day came in; but prophets
Do say, 't is certain, quite,
That long, through coming ages,
Will lanterns hate the light,
That to our children's children,
In sorrow still they 'll say,
'Oh, for the times of darkness,
Ere lanterns passed away!
Why laid they by us lanterns,
Their fine, their good old lanterns!
We 're sure it 's bad, this sunshine,
This horrid glare of day.'"

The spirit of this is good, the conception satirical, though not very striking; but how facile and lax the execution! how deficient in the vigour, vehemence, terseness, and eloquence of satire! They are the sort of verses dashed off at a sitting; and the whole volume seems little more elaborate.

FRIENDS IN COUNCIL.

Friends in Council; a Series of Readings and Discourses thereon. 2 vols. Pickering.

It would ill express our admiration of the author of "Friends in Council" to say, that he is incomparably the best of living essayists, or that few of the essayists who have gone before can take precedence of him; he strikes us as being more of an essayist than any of his rivals—they are humourists, egotists, or *bow-wow* bigwigs: he has many a touch of quiet humour; but no egotism, no bow-wow. He *essays* each topic with his meditative, subtle, independent-thinking mind, and in his grave, animated, suggestive style; the result is a few pages full of well-thought matter, exquisitely expressed. He is decidedly an original thinker in the sense of thinking for himself the thoughts he publishes: and there is scarcely a subject, however old, but he will say something new and noteworthy on it when it comes before him. He has no affectations, plays with no paradoxes; yet the page is incessantly bright and varied.

This new edition—whether the third or fourth is not stated—of a book known to most cultivated readers, calls for little remark from us beyond the fact of a new and welcome addition in the shape of an index. Yet, in turning over the well-known pages, we were again struck with the singular felicity of thought and expression which arrests the wandering attention. Not simply in pointed epigrams and weighty γνωμαι, but also in the easy windings of dialogue, in which he is a master, we see examples of classic excellence. What can be finer than this, for instance: "*Vague injurious reports are no men's lies, but all men's carelessness*"? It is an essay in an epigram. Again: "Perhaps the greatest charm of books is, that we see in them that other men have suffered what we have. Some souls we ever find who would have responded to all our agony, be it what it may. This, at least, robs misery of its loneliness." Vanity, one would think, had been so analysed, as to leave nothing new to be said; yet note this: "It takes away much of the savour of life to live amongst those with whom one has not anything like one's fair value. *It may not be mortified vanity, but unsatisfied sympathy* which causes this discomfort." There is a species of vanity which manifests itself in humility, by no means the least disagreeable of its manifestations, because, while prostrating itself upon the ground before you, it calls clamorously upon your good-nature for the admiration it deprecates; and this vanity is thus sketched:—

"There is a class of dreadfully humble people who make immense claims at the very time that they are explaining that they have no claims. They say they know they cannot be esteemed: they are well aware they are not wanted, and so on: all the while making it a sort of grievance and a claim that they are not what they know themselves not to be: whereas, if they did not fall back upon their humility, and keep themselves quiet about their demerits, they would be strong then, and in their place, and happy, and doing what they could."

The peculiarity in construction of these volumes is a novel and happy one. Essays are first read upon some topic or other, and then a sort of critical conversation follows between three men who suggest doubts, modifications, and amplifications; not as men do in books, but very much as they do in real life—digressing, enlarging, jesting, disputing, and returning to the point with all the variety and all the flavour of good conversation.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

General History of the Christian Religion and Church. Translated from the German of Dr. Augustus Neander. By Joseph Torrey. New edition, carefully revised by the Reverend A. J. Morrison, B.A. Vol. I. (Bohn's Standard Library.) H. G. Bohn.

At all times a most welcome book, this is peculiarly welcome just now when England is discussing with more or less eagerness the position of the Christian Churches. Neander was a man renowned among Germans for his solid pains-taking qualities—a learning which disdained reliance on second-hand authorities, and a power of generalizing and grouping his materials, which forms the true historical compliment to learning. His style is not graphic, but it is intelligible—which is something. The present version seems to us both accurate and readable. In this, the first volume, Neander takes a survey of the religious condition of the world, Jewish, Greek, and Roman, on the advent of Christianity; he then traces the history of the diffusion of Christianity, its sufferings, and struggles. This is followed by an instructive history of the constitution of the Church and its discipline, an account of the heresies and schisms, and a programme of Christian Life and Worship.

The book is an admirable book; but it is written by a theologian, and is vitiated as a history by the one great fundamental assumption, that Christianity is not a power that has sprung up out of the hidden depths of man's nature, but has descended from above when heaven opened itself anew to man's long alienated race. This *we* call a profound historical blunder; but to the theologian it is a fundamental truth.

Some Account of the Life and Adventures of Sir Reginald Mohun, Baronet. Done into verse. By George Cayley. Cantos II. and III. W. Pickering.

Gay and easy verses, with more pleasantry than wit, done in a style which *Beppo* and *Don Juan* have tempted many to follow, as if on purpose to exemplify

"L'art difficile d'écrire des vers faciles;"

Precisely because this style admits of the greatest licence, it requires the greatest talent to elevate it into excellence.

The Freethinker's Magazine, Review of Theology, Politics, and Literature. No. 8. (Enlarged.) J. Watson.

Tracts on Christian Socialism. No. 7.

The Case of the Authors as regards the Paper Duty. By Charles Knight. Charles Knight.

Hebrew Records. An Historical Inquiry concerning the Age, Authorship, and Authenticity of the Old Testament. By the Reverend Dr. Giles. John Chapman.

Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, for Schools and Private Instruction; with Lessons on Diet, Intoxicating Drinks, Tobacco, and Disease. By William Lovett. Illustrated with Ten Coloured Plates. Darton and Co.

The Professor's Wife. From the German of Berthold Auerbach. J. W. Parker.

A Christmas Offering. Original Poems. By Richard Friend. John Johnson.

Political Opinions on the Roman Catholic Question, expressed in Parliament and in Public. By the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, M.P., compiled from the most authentic sources. By a Barrister. Richardson and Son.

Gleanings from the Blue Book in favour of a better system than the present "Prolix, Expensive, and Vexatious" one of the Laws relating to Land. By J. G. J. Greene, Esq., M.A. Charles Whittingham.

The British Journal of Homœopathy. Part XXXV. Samuel Highley.

The English Republic. God and the People. Edited by W. J. Linton. No. I. J. Watson.

PERIODICALS.

Fraser's Magazine.
The Rambler.
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine.
Leigh Hunt's Journal. Part I.
The Journal of Industry. No. 6.
Household Words.
Household Narrative.
Mirror of the Time. No. 23. S. G. Walker
Penny Maps. (Part VI.) Chapman and Hall

MISERABLE SINNERS.—Expressions of the deepest contrition and remorse doubtless abound in Scripture, and assuredly they still meet but too often with a responsive groan in the bosom of most of us; but why should Evangelic Christians harp only upon one string of dismal note, when the theme of scriptural song so often swells into a glad anthem, awakening responsive melody in our own hearts? It is easy to gather from the penitential psalms or the apostrophes of an indignant Prophet, burthens of lamentation, and mourning, and woe; but it is no less easy to find odes and lyrics of joy and pride in the honour and glory of Manhood. To quote would be endless, but we all know that the same sweet singer of Israel, whose spirit sinks within him at the thought of wild crimes of passion and worse sins of treachery, rises again with elastic spring from the level of a crushed worm to the rank of a righteous and a royal man. Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? he that worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth, he that neither injures nor slanders his neighbour, in whose eyes vile things are despised, but things honourable are honoured—he who thus lives shall never die. Such is the substance of one psalm among many similar, then why is it ignored in favour of such fearful effusions of remorse as are poured forth by the Jewish King after the betrayal and murder of Uriah the Hittite, a tragedy deep and dark as a drama of the Greeks? Let us but exercise judgment in the study of Scripture, reading it in a free spirit of religion, not a servile idolatry of superstition, and we shall fulfil the condition on which it presents itself as a providential *boon* to Christendom; we shall avoid among other perils the gloomy exaggeration of evil which would make man a little lower than the beasts rather than the angels—his life a burden and a curse rather than an honour and a blessing. The Bible urges us to try its spirit by our own; the written inspiration of the past by the living inspiration of the present—trying all things and holding fast to what is good. There neither is nor can be good in seeking to glorify God by professing to degrade ourselves, the best of his earthly creatures, and there is danger moreover in giving ourselves a bad name, lest we grow resigned to be the "grovelling worms" we call ourselves.—*Wilson's Catholicity, Spiritual and Intellectual.*

Portfolio.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—Goethe.

HESPERIA.

Beyond the mountains of the West arose
A giant forest in a dread repose,
Uplifting its enormous walls on high,
Roofed by the cloudy marble of the sky,
Toucht with the vast religion of old days,
A church by Nature built for prayer and praise.
Tall trees for pillars stood, that drew their birth
From the large crust of unexhausted earth;
In wreaths of gorgeous foliage they had bound
Their convoluted branches round and round;
And now they swayed their open arms aloft,
Or shook out tangled tresses long and soft;
Or, half expectant, half in mute surprise,
Watcht as some great event were coming from the skies.
Birds of sweet voice as ever God had given
Sang to the royal sun and laughing heaven;
And, when he fell into the awful sea,
Thankt Him who made the sun with wild harmonious glee.
The virgin Earth, all fresh with singing showers,
Wooed to her fragrant breast the firstborn flowers;
In kingly purple clothed and turban'd pride;
They in a cool green silence lived and died.
Each as it fell, more beautiful in death,
Gave to a lovelier heir both bloom and breath,
That bud and leaf more richly might unfold,
Arrayed in cloth of crimson, blue, and gold.
Quick thro' the unmeasured forest's emerald night
Glanced the free insects' waving wings of light,
Or piloted themselves, like rainbow gleams,
On the broad bosom of the crystal streams,
In which the portraiture of the blue sky
Was mirrored, and in sweet inconstancy
Shone violet cloud and silver mist afar,
Round the pale crescent moon and one deep distant star.

M.

THE CONSERVATIVE ASPECT OF SOCIALISM.

In a former article we endeavoured to define the creed of the Communists, which creed constitutes the *Radical Aspect of Socialism*. We propose now to give some outlines of the *Conservative* Creed of Socialism—that which maintains the "rights of the Capitalist."

There is something about Communism which is wonderfully fascinating to the imagination, even in cases where the reason cannot accept it. We must all admit that such a condition of society has been recommended to us, as social perfection, for ages; and that those who have so recommended it have been amongst the noblest specimens of mankind. But when, after having examined the principles of Communism, we look at the sort of world in which it is proposed to carry them out, we smile at such a visionary enterprize, and have no doubt of the immediate impracticability, whatever opinion we may have as to the desirability. We see a world made up of poor, trained in all the degrading, coarse, and selfish notions of poverty; and of rich, trained in all the conventional, distorting, and thrice-selfish notions of wealth. We see these poor and rich victims of an imperfect social system constrained to hate, despise, and repel each other: each order burning to oppress the other order, and each member of either order struggling to supplant in some petty desire his fellow-member. We see that slight difference in artificial station, in education, and refinement of manner, has come to be considered, by a habit the growth of ages, as an insuperable barrier to familiar social intercourse. Above all, we see that the present possessors of property are determined to hold it to the last, and are prepared to withstand, with all their power, every attempt to appropriate it to the State.

A compromise is, therefore, inevitable. Scarcely any Communists hope to reduce the principle to practice at once. They contemplate a series of "transition" measures which shall gradually prepare the whole population, by equal training, for the Communist life; and during which "transition" period the present holders of property shall be remunerated for its absorption by the present unpropertied classes.

The Communists, then, recognize, for some considerable period, the existence of the individual capitalist. Under their system there would be, for years to come, labourers working for their living, and capitalists living in idleness on the incomes derived from property. This brings us to the consideration of another form of Socialism, according to which the individual capitalist is accepted, not as a temporary, but as an eternal, fact.

This more aristocratic system of Social Reform is best worked out by Charles Fourier, whose doctrine is now very extensively diffused in France and America. It affirms the necessity of private property as a law of human nature. In answer to the argument of the Communists, the Fourierists say that, as it is allowed by all that society could only have started in the career of civilization by permitting individuals to appropriate certain portions of land, these individuals have a continued right to the fruits of the original cultivation, and to all the varied wealth produced in after times by the application, as a motive power, of the wealth produced by such cultivation. This wealth may be accumulated, without interference, into the hands of few individuals by the gifts or bequests of other proprietors. Those born into the world without property must be viewed as the representatives of human beings from whom the common land might have been originally taken by individuals. They can only claim from the existing proprietors so much as will make up to them for the absence of unappropriated waste land on which their labour might have been exerted to raise produce for their subsistence. Every citizen of the state, therefore, has a right to be provided with such employment as will give him as comfortable a subsistence as he could have secured by his labour on unappropriated land in the primal savage condition.

But ingenuity, as well as mere labour, must be taken into consideration. And the degrees of both skill and industry must also be estimated, and the remuneration must be accordingly; for it would be absurd and unjust to reward equally the idle and the industrious—the skilled and the unskilled. It would be as bad as to pay equally the capitalist who had invested little in the undertaking and the capitalist who had invested much.

Remuneration is, therefore, awarded severally to Capital, to Labour, and to Talent—and to each individual citizen in proportion as he may possess one, or two, or all three of those attributes. By a scientifically organized system of Association, in suitable establishments, every member of society, rich or poor, would enjoy luxuries which, in our present isolated, "morselled," incoherent civilization, he is totally debarred from. Labour would not only be rendered attractive by the adoption of the most enlightened and agreeable methods of conducting it, but it would be attractive by the force of direct money recompense: as people without capital would be rich or poor in proportion as they displayed skill and industry. Arrangements, moreover, would exist, as a part of the social organization, for educating, gratuitously and equally, all the children of the establishment, and for the suitable support of the aged and the invalided who were without means of their own.

This is Fourierism—the best-defined form of the New Conservatism. The question of Private Property, as we before said, is that on which the debates of Radicals and Conservatives will really turn in future. The Radicals affirm that private property has become an evil; that its days of usefulness, in the most advanced nations, are past; and that the great duty of earnest and far-seeing Reformers is so to organize society that the institution of individual property shall gradually die out. The Conservatives, on the other hand, affirm that the evils which the Communists complain of do not in fact arise from the *principle* of private property itself, but from the abuse of it, in consequence of the defective organization of society. Communism, they say, is contrary to the nature of man; and, if such a system were tried, the operations of industry would languish, and ultimately fall into complete confusion, in consequence of the absence of sufficient self-interest on the part of each individual.

As far as we are aware, Fourier's is the only completely organized system of Socialism in which the capitalist is looked upon as otherwise than a *temporary evil*. From the Fourierist armoury, weapons have been drawn by many Reformers to combat old society; which weapons are warranted to wound, but not wound too deeply. Philanthropic masters have allowed their workmen to participate in trade-profits *à la Fourier;* bodies of workmen have combined to work on their own accounts, Fourieristically abstaining from equality of payment, as something too "extreme." In fact, whoever has inclined to Socialism with "a prudent mind" has remained suspended between earth and heaven at the Fourierist point.

The grand demolisher of Fourierism is Proudhon. He has "shown up" its trick of perpetually "begging the question" most convincingly and amusingly. The "bon homme Fourier" by no means thought it necessary to demonstrate the justice of property, but accepted it as unquestionable. Proudhon has set Fourier's disciples right on this little matter, and cut the ground from under their feet.

Such, rapidly sketched, is, we conceive, the state of the Socialist case. Fourierism is the only regular system which is Conservative, or pro-capitalist; and this has been logically annihilated. Every other system is Radical, or anti-capitalist; and this view seems to be annihilation-proof.

W.

The Arts.

WHICH THEATRE SHALL I GO TO?

As I am looked up to by a numerous circle kind enough to repose their critical trust in me, this question assails me every day. My answer is brief, and, let me add, judicious—"Go to *all*." Whereupon insinuating voices hint at "orders," but I am incorruptible, and sternly bid them "pay."

To be asked which is the *best* pantomime or burlesque becomes rather puzzling before you have seen them all, and still more puzzling after you have seen them. At this present moment my brain is a chaos of tumblings, tricks, and transformations; Madame Vestris burns like a gorgeous jewel before my eye, but the next moment Henry Farren's prodigious nose casts its shadow between us, while in a twinkling that giant *Robbin the Bobbin* (that *very ventripotent Ben*) waltzes before me with *Alonzo the Brave;* and Louisa Howard, with her roguish drooping eyes, is a phantom chased away by *Humpty Dumpty* tumbling out of his egg. With Figaro I shout

"Aimè, aimè!
Uno alla volta,
Per carità."

I try to think of one performance, and I see half a dozen; my opera glass becomes a kaleidoscope!

Now that, you will own, is not the mood for a critic who has to give several columns of narrative "all about" the theatres. I won't give them. I'll resign my office rather. Moreover, what benefit would you, my beloved and admiring reader, derive from dull cold "accounts" of pieces which depend upon practical jokes, grotesque dresses, splendid scenery, and hilarious audiences to become endurable? A pantomime or a burlesque is not a thing to be grave or critical upon. What you want to know is, "Will it amuse me?" I answer, "Yes; if you go in the right mood—not otherwise."

If you are juvenile, Drury Lane will make you roar; so will the Princess's with Flexmore the Great. Both pantomimes are open to some critical objection on high æsthetic grounds: they are not perfect exponents of some Divine Idea: Humanity is not profoundly symbolized in them! But if you enjoy pantomime you will enjoy them. I hear severe gentlemen with high foreheads pronounce them deficient in novelty and point. But I laughed at the fun—above all, the youngsters laughed—and they are the best critics of such matters.

At the Lyceum the Lyceum itself is surpassed in magnificence, but the burlesque is less humorous than usual. At the Olympic, Tom Taylor has given us a humorous spectacle with a "moral" in it. At the Haymarket and Adelphi, the Brothers Brough and Albert Smith have furnished jokes and parodies in their usual style. If you want to know more—*go and see them.*

Vivian.

Baths in Paris.—There are at present 125 establishments of baths in Paris, not counting those on the river. The number taken in them in each year is 1,818,500, to which, if 297,800 be added for the establishments on the river, a total will be found of 2,116,300, or 2.23 baths per annum for each inhabitant. The establishments of baths are principally in the wealthier quarters of the capital; the price being on an average 60c. the bath. The lowest price is 40c., and the highest 80c.

Emigration.—A return has just been published, giving an account of the persons and vessels employed by the Emigration Commissioners, and of the receipts and disbursements for the last three years. The funds at the disposal of the commissioners have been £96,254, voted by Parliament; £517,011, contributed by the colonies; £27,050, deposits made with the commissioners for the purchase of land; £76,580, contributed on behalf of emigrants; and £8298, miscellaneous, including profits by investment—total, £725,194. The disbursements balanced against these amount to £677,459.

European Democracy,
AND ITS OFFICIAL ACTS.

As there is no special intelligence from the Democratic party, nor any document of urgent importance, this week, there is no necessity to occupy the space usually devoted to this head.

Associative Progress.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, JOHN-STREET, FITZROY-SQUARE.—At a meeting of the London Coöperative Building Society, which erected the institution, held in February, 1846, it was found that the building debt then due was £1200, with an annuity of £10 per annum payable to W. D. Saull, Esq. Active steps were shortly afterwards taken to pay the debts of the building society, viz., to satisfy the claim of £424 due to Mr, Braby's executors, secured by the guarantee of the principal creditor of the institution, and also to buy up Mr. Saull's annuity. Since that time, a period of four years and a half, the institution committee have paid off £742 7s. 3d. of their liabilities. The present position of the institution is exemplified by the fact that the debt is now reduced to £506. The good offices and active exertions of the friends of the institution are still necessary to pay off this sum. The substantial support accorded to the committee has enabled them to preserve this institution for the purposes of "Free discussion and free expression of opinion on all subjects of public interest." This distinction—of so much importance in a country confessed by its ministers to be "governed by opinion"—this institution has always been proud to preserve; and had the committee no other claim on public support they would deem this sufficient. In that exciting period through which the country recently passed they opened their doors to the Political Conventions of the Working Classes, and afforded accommodations to their Chartist brethren, when all places of similar conveniences were closed against them. But besides promoting freedom of opinion, the institution labours to diffuse popular knowledge, without which opinion must be inefficient. To this end the weekly lectures at the institution are maintained, in which a greater variety of literary, political, and speculative information is communicated than in any other institution in London. The committee are now labouring to extend its scientific and educational classes, which they hope to put upon a footing of unquestionable efficiency. They desire the institution to possess as much instructional, as they believe it has of moral utility, and on this account they bespeak for it the continuous interest of its friends, and the coöperation of the district. (Signed) J. G. HOLYOAKE, President; J. REED, Vice-President; E. TRUELOVE, Secretary.—Literary and Scientific Institution, 23, John-street, Fitzroy-square, October, 1850.

THE REDEMPTION SOCIETY.—Meetings, as previously announced, were held in Horsforth and Huddersfield. The one at Horsforth was the first, and will do much good. The Huddersfield meeting was good and highly satisfactory. Indications of a large gathering are now beginning to appear for the 13th of January, We are receiving letters from various gentlemen of eminence who intend being present. The late soirée in Halifax has resulted in more than fifty candidates putting down their names. Halifax is a proof of what a few good workers can do in a cause. We had reason to be glad at its activity before Mr. Dennis went, but since then it has surpassed our expectations. The secretary, Mr. Chaffer, and Mr. Sturzaker deserve public acknowledgment for their zeal. Newcastle-on-Tyne, we are told, is about to hold a public meeting on this subject; and we have no doubt but Manchester, Hyde, Rochdale, Padiham, Burnley, and Liverpool will do their share in the coming labour. Mr. Denton, our secretary in Wales, is on a visit to Leeds, and is in favour of communal life, after having experienced it. The prospects of the society are highly gratifying. The first cargo of shoes and boots has arrived from the community, and has been sold to the members for cash, who are much pleased with the price and quality of the goods. Moneys received for the week ending December 23, 1850:—Leeds, £2 5s. 10d.; London, Mr. Charles Paul, 15s.; Huddersfield, 2s.; Glasgow, J. Henderson, 1s.; Newcastle-on-Tyne, T. Woodruff, 1s. Moneys received for the week ending December 30, 1850:—Leeds, £2 12s. 10d.; Hyde, Mr. J. Bradley, 8s. 6d.; Plymouth, Mr. J. Bottomley, 8s. 8d.; Worcester, F. C. Jones, 5s. 2d. Communal Building Fund:—Leeds, £1 4s.; Glasgow, J. Henderson, 2s.; Newcastle-on-Tyne, T. Woodruff, 1s.; Rowell, Northamptonshire, J. Bull, 1s.; Coventry,* Mr. Shufflebotham, 10s.; Leeds, £1 17s. 6d.; Hyde, per J. Bradley, £1 18s. 10d.; Worcester, per Mr. F. C. Jones, 6s. 9d.; Plymouth, per Mr. Bottomley, 3s. 4d.

SOCIAL INSTITUTION, MANCHESTER.—On Sunday last, December 29, Mr. Walter Cooper, who is on a tour of the manufacturing districts, delivered two lectures in the hall of the institution, Garratt-road, on "*Alton Locke*, and the Socialism of Literature." After showing the influence of the associative idea on the press and literature of this country, the lecturer quoted largely from *Alton Locke*, and commented on various passages. Mr. Cooper will lecture again at the institution on Sunday next, January 5; and during the week will visit Bury, Heywood, and the surrounding towns.—T. LINDSAY.

* This, but for accident, would have been acknowledged before further accounts.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

December 20, 1850.

SIR,—The restoration of the Western empire by Charlemagne forms an important epoch in the annals of the Church, and the fetters of ecclesiastical authority, then firmly rivetted on an uneducated laity, were only burst asunder by the convulsive movement of Europe at the Reformation. The Carlovingian princes had accepted the royal unction of the kings of Israel at the hands of the successors of St. Peter; and the head of the Apostolic Church of the West, in imitation of the Jewish priesthood, assumed the character of a spiritual ambassador of divine appointment. The reverence of Charlemagne for the clergy induced him to entrust that aspiring order with temporal power and civil jurisdiction; and he was the first to enforce the payment of tithes. "Such obligations have country gentlemen to his memory," as Gibbon sarcastically observes.

Under Gregory VII. the Papal pretensions to ecclesiastical supremacy, as yet but partially developed, were first matured; and it was not till the sixteenth century that the secular power began vigorously to resist the encroachments of the clergy.

The ecclesiastical laws of this country have been, for the most part, derived originally from the authority exercised by the Roman Pontiffs in the different states and kingdoms of Europe, under the title of the Canon Law; but in England its authority has always been much restricted as incompatible with the jurisdiction of the courts of Common Law. In the eleventh century, however, episcopal courts of unique authority were established in England. The Conqueror separated the ecclesiastical from the civil courts, and constituted them by charter.

For several centuries these courts have been the subject of attempted legislative correction. Henry VIII. commenced the work of reform in earnest, which was continued by Edward. But the House of Commons, in the reign of Elizabeth, declined to undertake the task initiated by the meek "Defender of the Faith." At length a commission was issued by George IV., in 1830, among other things, "to enquire into the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts of England and Wales, and whether such jurisdiction may be taken away or altered."

Few of the recommendations, however, contained in the report of these commissioners have been adopted; and as Mr. Muscutt says, in an able pamphlet on the "Ecclesiastical Courts,"* the main point, that "of altering or taking away the jurisdiction of these courts," remains unaccomplished not unattempted. The efforts to reform or amend the system have failed by reason of the enormous wealth, patronage, and parliamentary influence (especially in the House of Lords) of the Anglican clergy.

Before the Reformation the bishops issued process in their own names; but by a statute of Edward VI. all ecclesiastical jurisdiction was declared to be from the crown. This was repealed under Mary, but her act was itself repealed by James; and the spiritual courts continued to issue process in the bishop's name. On some difficulty being made concerning this, it was referred by the star-chamber to the twelve judges, who decided that the practice of the courts was agreeable to law. Lord Brougham, however, has stated that in his opinion the original jurisdictions of the bishops are an anomaly. The organ of the High Church party, on the other hand, asserts that "the great mischief and injustice of Lord Cottenham's bill is the attempt to withdraw the right of issuing original writs from the bench of bishops": that, if "the Government insist on making the Bishop's Court the Queen's Court, ... it will be a formal and legal retractation of those powers hitherto recognized in the episcopal clergy as Christ's ambassador." It is "declaring the violation of the supremacy of the priesthood, ... which strikes at the very root of that power which makes their office effective, and independent of man's jurisdiction"; and that, "if her Majesty put forth her hand to issue that writ, which should come only from the altar, she ought to find the spirit of the Man of God that withered the hand of Jeroboam at the altar of Bethel."

Such is the nature of the pretensions again revived by the Anglican clergy who boast their lineal succession from the only Apostolic Church of the West.

Our Ecclesiastical Laws have been described in the language of our statutes as "Laws which the people have taken at their free liberty, by their own consent." It is for the PEOPLE, therefore, "to inquire into the jurisdiction of these courts"—"whether such jurisdiction may be taken away or altered."

With your permission I will again return to the subject. I remain your obedient servant,

W. C.

* *The History and Power of the Ecclesiastical Courts.* By Edward Muscutt. C. Gilpin, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without, London.

PAPAL AGGRESSION.

London, Nov. 24, 1850.

SIR,—I will give you some of my ideas on the "Papal aggression." I shall probably horrify you by declaring that, after the first feeling of irritation at the "insolence" of the Pope, I have had but one strong impression of the absurd spirit in which this crusade against Popery has been carried on.

That the excitement will have a good effect in calling general attention to the errors and dangers of Popery I doubt not; but that is no reason for those who, like myself, utterly reject the domination of all priesthoods whatever, but at the same time desire perfect toleration for all religions, to join a crowd of High Church, Low Church, and Dissenters in crying out against the Court of Rome, and praying for pains and penalties against my fellow-countrymen, the Catholics.

And why is this outcry? Because the Roman Catholics have petitioned for, and the Pope has granted them, a form of hierarchy more suited to their government in things spiritual than that which they have had since the Reformation.

Will it be said that, as the *minority* in this country, they have no right to Bishops? Then, how will the members of the Church of England justify the appointment of their Bishops in Ireland, where the Catholics are nearly seven times more numerous than all the sects of Protestants put together? Or, how will they justify the right assumed by the Queen, who is the Pope of the English Church,* of nominating her Bishops in foreign countries, though the majority of the inhabitants may be Roman Catholic, Mahommedan, or of any other religion?

The only real foundation, therefore, for this outcry must be the *manner* in which the Pope has made the appointment, not in the appointment itself. This, I will admit, has been insolent and domineering. It is certainly very disagreeable to find the Pope ignoring all the Protestants of this country as heathen (as our Bishops would the Mahommedans in India), and pretending to assume a spiritual jurisdiction over, not only those of his faith, but over those of every other faith.

How can Lord John Russell, however, "agree" with the Bishop of Durham in calling the "aggression" "insidious?" It is the most open act ever perpetrated by a Pope; and, so far from being "insidious" in an attempt to propagate Romish doctrines, it is founded, as Lord John himself so forcibly points out, in a great measure, on the backslidings of the clergy of the Church of England.

Now, this insult offered to Protestants by the Pope should, in my humble opinion, be treated with dignified and silent contempt; but, as I know that, in their present temper, this will not suit my fellow-Protestants, let me advise them not to try to conceal their fears of the spreading disaffection among their own ranks under a cry that the Queen's Crown and Supremacy are endangered by the act of a Sovereign so insignificant as the Pope of Rome, nor (as they value their own title to religious freedom) to attempt to fetter other men in the freest exercise of their religion.

But, say my zealous friends, it is the Queen's spiritual supremacy that is in danger. Let us look this question boldly in the face. Is the Queen the spiritual head of her Roman Catholic subjects? No. Would the clergy or the members of the Established Church wish her to become such? No; they would not hear of it for an instant. On the other hand, it is vain to deny that the Pope does exercise spiritual jurisdiction over the Catholics; that is, over all who choose in this country to submit to it, and *over no others*. Can the Queen prevent her subjects

* As evidence of this I would refer you to the Act of 5 Victoria, cap. 6, which, after empowering the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to consecrate British or foreign subjects to be Bishops in any foreign country, enacts that such Bishops "may exercise, within such limits as may from time to time be assigned for that purpose in such foreign countries *by her Majesty*, spiritual jurisdiction over the ministers of British congregations of the united Church of England and Ireland, and over *such other Protestant congregations* as may be desirous of placing themselves under their authority."

submitting to the spiritual authority of the Pope? No. Then, how absurd is it for us to talk of the Pope's aggression on the Queen as the spiritual head of the Church of England, over the members of which he can exercise no authority against their free-will.

In concluding this letter, I am sorry to confess that, of the two Churches, *as at present constituted*, I look upon the Church of Rome as the one most likely to last in *sæcula sæculorum;* firstly, because of the hold that Church has over ill-regulated, but religious, minds, which, from early life, are transmitted by creeds, and taught rather to fear than to love their Creator; and over those who, as is so frequently the case with the fairer sex, have never had full scope given to their reasoning faculties, and are constantly swayed and guided by their feelings and affections; and, secondly, on account of the opposition offered by the clergy of the Church of England to the secular education of the people, unless accompanied by their own dogmatic theology.

Again, the Church of Rome relieves the doubting soul of all responsibility by the impudent assumption of infallibility. The Church of England, on the contrary, *professes* perfect liberty of private judgment; and then, dreading to give real effect to her own profession, immediately fetters the conscience of her ministers by stipulating that thirty-nine mystic articles shall be signed and adhered to as the condition upon which they are to remain members of the Protestant Church.*

Is this the liberty of conscience so much boasted of by Protestants? Until the Church of England has found sufficient strength to make itself really free, by the abolition of all theological creeds, to which few men have ever agreed in the same sense, and merely limits itself to an acknowledgment of one God, the universal Creator, and to an injunction to its ministers and members to walk diligently in obedience to the moral precepts so divinely inculcated by Christ, the zealous Protestants of England must never expect to have a real National Church, but must live in dread of perpetual "perversions" to that Church which boldly declares itself the only true Church, and still more boldly seeks to deprive the human race of its individuality and the keeping of its own conscience.—Yours sincerely, W. H. D.

POINTS FOR "PROTESTANT" CONSIDERATION.

Dec. 23, 1850.

Sir,—If any "Protestant" will be kind enough to clear away the difficulties involved in the following main points relative to the "fabled aggression," I shall be more inclined to join the "Anti-Popery" party than I am at present:—

1. It is asserted that Queen Victoria's prerogative has been invaded by the Pope's recent bishop-making bull; but as her Majesty never possessed, or claimed to possess, the power of creating Roman Catholic bishops, how can that assertion be maintained?

2. It is asserted that the Pope has usurped the power which properly belongs to Parliament by his creation of bishopries in this country, but as Parliament only claims and exercises the power of creating Protestant bishopries of the Established Church, how can that assertion be maintained?

3. What is the definition of a bishopric according to the English constitution? Might it not be defined as a division of territory for ecclesiastical purposes of the Established Church, governed by a Protestant bishop, who, in virtue of his office, possesses certain privileges, rights, and revenues? If so, are the new Popish bishopries included in this definition? Do the governors of these new Popish bishopries in any way encroach upon the privileges, rights, and revenues of the Protestant bishops? And are they not as unconnected with the spiritual prerogatives of the Queen as the superiors of the Wesleyan body? I cannot see, then, how the English constitution has been invaded by the erection of Roman Catholic bishopries which in no respect interfere with the full working and lawful rights of the Protestant episcopacy.

4. The Popish hierarchy has not added to the arguments in favour of Popery, nor have the "bishops" encreased their efficiency for "conversion" purposes; their liberty of teaching, preaching, and cajoling is not greater than it was before the Papal Bull. Where, then, is the "aggression" on the Protestant faith? In what respect is it a religious "aggression" for a man to call himself bishop of an English town, everybody knowing that his jurisdiction is only spiritual over those who are willing to submit to it?

5. The Popish bishops have not a jot more civil power or authority in relation to the laws and constitution of this kingdom than they previously possessed as Vicars-Apostolic. Their additional elevation is merely nominal and fictitious in its relation to the ecclesiastical and general laws of the land; its reality is exclusively Sectarian. Where, then, is the political "aggression" so noisily denounced?

6. It is asserted that the Pope ignores the Queen's spiritual supremacy; but so does every Protestant Dissenter. The Queen is not head of the Roman Catholic Church any more than she is head of the Jewish faith. The Pope does not, cannot deny Victoria to be head of the Church of England, which is as much a political fact as that Louis Napoleon is President of the French Republic. To accuse "his Holiness" of insulting her Majesty on this score is a fanatical absurdity.

7. It is also asserted that as the Queen is the fountain of all title of honour, for an Englishman to accept an English title from a foreign power is an infringement of the royal prerogative. I reply that the title of bishop is not in the same category with the title of duke or earl. "Bishop" is a name of office—a spiritual not a temporal title to which the Papists have a right as an Apostolic Church. To quarrel with them for annexing the name of a British locality to that title is in truth to fight out a *vox et preterea nihil*.

8. A dignified and self-reliant Protestantism would not have been so disturbed at a power it refuses to recognise, and always identifies with Antichrist. To object to the Popish bishops is to admit that the Pope has civil and spiritual jurisdiction in these realms. F. G.

* That this want of true freedom of opinion in the Church of England is the real cause of the encreasing number of the Roman Catholics, is proved by all the "perverts" having come from the bosom of the Church, and not from among Dissenters.

Mr. DAWSON and the MAYOR of GRANTHAM.

Birmingham, Jan. 1, 1851.

Sir,—Some time back the vicar of Grantham honoured me with two furious pastorals, in which he employed the usual epithets applied by ignorant and irascible clergymen to the teachers of what they think unsound doctrines.

These pastorals had the usual effect, they greatly enlarged the audiences. This year the mayor, a worthy, but weak man, has taken up the vicar's unsuccessful task; he refuses the room because *he* thinks "the principles held by me would, if carried out, be prejudicial to the best interests of society."

I send you a copy of the bill issued on the occasion; it is a curiosity. The chapel was filled and the poor mayor disappointed. I am, yours, right truly,

George Dawson.

Public Literary Institution, Market-place, Grantham.—A requisition signed by more than one hundred inhabitants of the Borough having been presented to the mayor, requesting the use of the Town-hall, for a lecture to be delivered by Mr. George Dawson, on "Circumstances," and the mayor having refused to comply with their request; the public are informed, that the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Commercial-road, has been kindly lent for the occasion, it being the most eligible building of sufficient extent that could be obtained. On Friday, December 20, 1850, George Dawson, Esq., M.A, will deliver a lecture on "Circumstances" at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Commercial-road.—Admittance, 6d.; reserved seats, 1s. To commence at Eight o'clock. Arrangements have been made that persons taking reserved seat tickets, may be conveyed by omnibuses to the lecture, without further charge, on expressing their desire to avail themselves of such accommodation on or before Thursday, the 19th instant.

CORRUPTION IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Dec. 26, 1850.

Sir,—While the so-called Papal aggression is frightening the nation, and much of the press, from their propriety, it is a relief to find that the *Leader* can afford to set a juster value on such a matter.

It is impossible not to think that this subject has proved a perfect godsend to most of those who are loudest in their declamations and alarms; the sincerity of which one may well be inclined to question, when we see the triumphant applause which greets the most exciting speeches, especially when pointed at the so-called "*traitors* within" the church. Now, granting that such are the most dangerous enemies, we may ask if there is not a class of persons within the Church that come under this description as well as the much-abused Tractarians? These last, like the Papists themselves, whom they are supposed to imitate, seem to me utterly impotent for good or evil in the present age.

One may say of these, Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in them?" But if we look into the conduct of some of the higher clergy, as occasionally exposed by the press, we shall see that the church has more reason to say "Deliver me from my friends!"

Witness Mr. Whiston in his pamphlet on the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, and their treatment of the boys in their school, as well as of the inferior members of their own order. Nor is this a solitary case; for it is shown that in several similar institutions a system of the most barefaced fraud and robbery has been long practised by these "reverend," "very reverend," and even "right reverend" personages, in direct contravention of their own laws and statutes which they have sworn to obey. The clergy may well blush for their own order, and the laity for theirs too, when neither church nor Parliament take any cognizance of such things. One may well exclaim, "O tempora! O mores!" when we see such apathy with regard to such corruptions, and such rampant zeal and indignation against a few ceremonies.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A Clergyman.

Matters of Fact.

Demand for Labour in Paris.—"The following statistics, which date from the year 1836, showing the number of operatives living in lodging-houses in Paris who found employment in that and the following year, proves that political excitement always tends to diminish the demand for labour. In the beginning of the year 1836 there were two attempts made to assassinate King Louis Philippe, and a violent opposition was raised in the Chamber of Deputies against the Government. In the month of January of that year the number of operatives living in lodging-houses, who were employed, amounted to 26,443; in February, to 26,035; in March, to 26,529; in April, when the political excitement had abated, they encreased to 30,025; in May, to 31,712; in June, to 32,425; in July, after the attempt of Alibaud to shoot the King, they decreased to 31,231, but they encreased again in August to 32,196, in September they were 31,957; in October, 32,638; in November, 33,007; in December, 32,678. In the year 1837 there was much political excitement caused by the rivalry of MM. Guizot and Thiers; but royalty was in the ascendant—the Duke of Orleans was married, and the young Duchess was received with enthusiasm; the King inaugurated the Museum of Versailles, and French power was consolidated in Africa by the capture of Constantine. The number of operatives living in lodging-houses, employed in the month of February, amounted to 26,555; in March, to 29,419; in April, to 30,939; in May, to 31,555; in June, to 33,757; in July, to 32,383; in August, to 32,928; in September, to 32,586; in October, to 33,710; in November, to 33,631; in December, to 33,103."

East India Statistics.—The *Bengal Commercial Annual* for 1849-50, prepared by Mr. E. Wilkinson, of the Calcutta Customhouse, and containing a tabular statement of the external commerce of that presidency, has just been received. From this it appears that the aggregate exports of Bengal during the past year have exceeded those of 1848-9 by £1,078,203, while the imports show an encrease of only £791,138. The revived industry, coupled with economy, which was strongly evidenced in the preceding returns, appear, therefore, to be still in operation. The imports from England, which in 1848-9 had become reduced from 66 per cent. of the whole to 54 per cent., have now again recovered to 62 per cent. The proportion of the commerce of Bengal enjoyed by each country is given as follows:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per centage.	Value.	Per centage.
United Kingdom	£4,057,275	62.5	£4,768,074	43.6
France	123,380	1.9	629,021	5.8
Hamburg	13,227	0.2	13,551	0.1
Other countries of Europe	12,763	0.1	9,272	0.1
Coromandel coast	163,824	2.5	191,881	1.8
Malabar coast	268,924	4.1	356,440	3.3
China	988,072	15.2	3,219,696	29.5
Singapore	348,899	5.4	408,205	3.7
Other countries of Asia	339,986	5.2	469,974	4.3
Africa (Mauritius, Bourbon, Cape)	67,877	1.1	316,110	2.8
North America	112,887	1.8	548,356	5.0
South America	..	..	2,132	—
	£6,497,114	100.	£10,932,712	100.

The Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain.—The forthcoming "Roman Catholic Directory" for 1851 contains the following in its "Statistics of the Catholic Church in Great Britain;"—Total of churches and chapels in England and Wales, 597; ditto in Scotland, 97, besides 26 stations where divine service is performed. Colleges—England, 10; Scotland, 1. Religious houses of men in England, 17; convents in ditto, 53. Priests in England and Wales, 826; in Scotland, 118. Total priests in Great Britain, including bishops, 972. Total increase of priests, as compared with last year, 43. The "Directory" also gives the names of 45 Roman Catholic bishops and vicars apostolic in the British colonies and possessions.

Steam Power in France.—The latest returns of the number of steam-engines employed in France in factories, steamers, and on railways, give the following results:—There are in France 5607 establishments of various kinds at which steam-engines are used. This machinery is worked by means of 9288 boilers, of which 8776 have been made in France. The whole represent 65,120 horse-power. The number of boilers employed the preceding year was 8023; the number of establishments at which steam-engines were employed being then 4033. The length of the railways now open is 2171 kilometres (1357 English miles), and the number of locomotives on them is 725, or 58 more than the preceding year. The number of steam-vessels is 279, set in movement by machinery of 22,823 horse-power. The quantity of goods carried in them during the year was 730,948 tons, whilst that of the year before was 696,666 tons. It is calculated that all the steam machinery now at work in France represents 110,178 horse-power.—*Galignani.*

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

The return for the week ending last Saturday shows that 1196 deaths were registered in the metropolitan districts; in the first three weeks of December they were 1004, 1090, and 1166. This encrease is considerable, and must be attributed in part to the character o the weather, which has been unfavourable to the public health; but, as in the previous week, it is also due to some coroners' returns, which were not completed, as regards registration, when the inquests were held, but have been accumulating till the end of the quarter. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1840-9, the

returns varied from 910 deaths in 1845, at a period of rather higher than average temperature, to 1403 in 1848, when scarlatina and typhus were rife, and cholera had begun, these epidemics having succeeded to the influenza of the former year. Amongst children, however, hooping-cough, diarrhœa, and smallpox appear on the encrease. With reference to a death from smallpox, without vaccination, which occurred to a boy in High-street, Shadwell, Mr. Ross observes that "four other children are suffering from the same complaint in the family; the father refuses to give his children the protection of cowpox, and such is the result; but the mischief does not end here, for the deadly poison is disseminated through the neighbourhood." Another death from smallpox without vaccination is recorded by the same registrar in a house at Elm-row, Shadwell, and here also "four other children are suffering under smallpox, the father entertaining objections to vaccination." Three deaths are ascribed to privation of food or clothing. The births of 658 boys and 712 girls, in all 1370 children, were registered in the week. The average of five corresponding weeks in 1845-9 was 1228.

	Ten Weeks of 1839-49.	Week of 1850.
Zymotic Diseases	2336	232
Dropsy, Cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat	522	42
Tubercular Diseases	1740	173
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses	1318	98
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels	360	56
Diseases of the Lungs and of the other Organs of Respiration	2292	264
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion	632	64
Diseases of the Kidneys, &c.	116	14
Childbirth, diseases of the Uterus, &c.	149	10
Rheumatism, diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c.	60	13
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c.	14	2
Malformations	22	6
Premature Birth and Debility	242	32
Atrophy	144	18
Age	721	45
Sudden	280	25
Violence, Privation, Cold, and Intemperance	503	70
Total (including unspecified causes)	11555	1196

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY.

In the beginning of the week the market for English Funds was very flat, and an uneasy feeling prevailed among dealers on account of the late decision of the directors of the Bank of England, which is felt to be unfavourable to speculation. The closing price of Consols on Monday was 96⅜ to 96½, and no alteration took place on the following day. On Wednesday, although the amount of business done was small, prices rose ⅛, and the market ruled firm. The improvement was maintained yesterday, owing to the abundance of money, under the influence of which Consols advanced to 96¾, and, towards the close of business, some speculative purchases caused a further rise of ⅛. This morning the market was buoyant, and opening prices 96¾ to 96⅞.

The range of prices during the week has been as follows:—Consols, 96⅜ to 96⅞; Bank Stock, 213 to 214; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 98⅜ to 98⅝; Exchequer Bills, 56s. to 62s. premium.

In the market for Foreign Securities there has not been much animation during the week. Yesterday Foreign Stocks were steady, with a tendency to improvement. Granada Deferred were done at 3⅛; Mexican, for account, 35⅝, ¼, and ⅝; Peruvian Deferred, 34¾; Spanish Five per Cents., for account, 17¾; the Three per Cents., 38⅛ and ¼ ex. div.; Venezuela, 31¼ and ½; the Deferred, 11¼ and ⅛; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 58 and 57⅞ ex div.; and the Four per Cent. Certificates, 91 and 90¼.

MARK-LANE, FRIDAY, Jan. 3.

The commencement of the new year has not yet given any stimulus to the trade, and the same dulness as prevailed last week continues. At the country markets held during the week the tendency of prices has been rather downwards. The arrivals of foreign Wheat and Flour continue on a large scale; the supplies of English and foreign Barley are liberal, and we receive a sufficient quantity of Oats from Ireland, the Continent, and our own coast to keep prices stationary. Of all articles of grain it is difficult to effect large sales without submitting to a reduction, this, however, holders are unwilling to do, and we cannot therefore alter our quotations.

Arrivals from Dec. 3 to Jan 3:—

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.	Flour.
Wheat	2060	——	19850	1450
Barley	4540	——	5770	——
Oats	4730	9930	5140	——

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(Closing Prices.)

	Satur.	Mond.	Tues.	Wedn.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	——	213	213	——	213½	——
3 per Ct. Red.	97⅛	97	97⅛	97¼	97⅛	——
3 p. C. Con. Anns.	——	——	——	——	——	——
3 p. C. An. 1726.	——	——	——	——	——	——
3 p. Ct. Con., Ac.	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	——
3½ p. Cent. An.	98⅝	98⅝	98⅝	98⅝	98⅞	——
New 5 per Cts.	——	——	——	——	——	——
Long Ans., 1860.	7⅛	——	7⅛	——	7⅛	——
Ind. St. 10½ p. ct.	——	——	——	267	267½	——
Exchequer Bonds	77 p	73 p	75 p	73 p	73 p	——
Ex. Bills, 1000l.	61 p	58 p	60 p	60 p	60 p	——
Ditto, 500l.	59 p	58 p	——	60 p	——	——
Ditto, Small	62 p	58 p	62 p	60 p	60 p	——

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending on Saturday, the 14th of December, 1850.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued	29,182,490	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	15,136,823
		Silver Bullion	45,667
	£29,182,490		£29,182,490

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead-weight Annuity)	14,228,901
Rest	3,096,357	Other Securities	12,678,322
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings' Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	10,274,389	Notes	10,902,825
Other Deposits	9,275,629	Gold and Silver Coin	637,640
Seven-day and other Bills	1,248,313		
	£38,447,688		£38,447,688

Dated Dec. 19, 1850. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Thursday Evening.)

Austrian 5 per Cents.	—	Mexican 5 per Ct. Acc.	35⅝
Belgian Bds., 4½ p. Ct.	—	—— Small	—
Brazilian 5 per Cents.	—	Neapolitan 5 per Cents.	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cts.	—	Peruvian 4½ per Cents.	—
Chilian 6 per Cents.	—	Portuguese 5 per Cent.	—
Danish 5 per Cents.	—	—— 4 per Cts.	—
Dutch 2½ per Cents.	57⅞	—— Annuities	—
—— 4 per Cents.	90½	Russian, 1822, 5 p. Cts.	—
Ecuador Bonds	—	Span. Actives, 5 p. Cts.	17¾
French 5 p. C. An. at Paris	95.10	—— Passive	—
—— 3 p. Cts., Jan. 2,	57.00	—— Deferred	—

SHARES.

Last Official Quotation for the Week ending Thursday Evening.

RAILWAYS.		BANKS.	
Caledonian	10⅜	Australasian	30½
Eastern Counties	6⅛	British North American	—
Edinburgh and Glasgow	29	Colonial	—
Great Northern	18⅛	Commercial of London	—
Great North of England	—	London and Westminster	28¼
Great S. & W. (Ireland)	39	London Joint Stock	19½
Great Western	78¾	National of Ireland	—
Hull and Selby	101	National Provincial	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	58½	Provincial of Ireland	—
Lancaster and Carlisle	70	Union of Australia	—
Lond., Brighton, & S. Coast	88	Union of London	—
London and Blackwall	6⅜	MINES.	
London and N.-Western	124¾	Bolanos	—
Midland	47⅞	Brazilian Imperial	—
North British	8⅞	Ditto, St. John del Rey	14¼
South-Eastern and Dover	23¼	Cobre Copper	35¼
South-Western	79¼	MISCELLANEOUS.	
York, Newcas., & Berwick	19	Australian Agricultural	15½
York and North Midland	23	Canada	44
DOCKS.		General Steam	27¼
East and West India	143¾	Penins. & Oriental Steam	80
London	119¾	Royal Mail Steam	74
St. Katharine	78	South Australian	24

GRAIN, Mark-lane, Dec. 27.

Wheat, R. New	35s. to 37s.	Maple	30s. to 31s.
Fine	37 — 40	White	24 — 25
Old	38 — 40	Boilers	28 — 29
White	38 — 40	Beans, Ticks	25 — 26
Fine	40 — 42	Old	27 — 28
Superior New	42 — 46	Indian Corn	30 — 32
Rye	26 — 27	Oats, Feed	16 — 17
Barley	20 — 21	Fine	17 — 18
Malting	23 — 25	Poland	19 — 20
Malt, Ord	48 — 50	Fine	20 — 21
Fine	50 — 52	Potato	19 — 20
Peas, Hog	26 — 28	Fine	20 — 21

FLOUR.

Town-made	per sack	40s. to 43s.
Seconds		37 — 40
Essex and Suffolk, on board ship		32 — 34
Norfolk and Stockton		30 — 32
American	per barrel	22 — 23
Canadian		21 — 23

Wheaten Bread, 7d. the 4lb. loaf. Households, 6d.

GENERAL AVERAGE PRICE OF GRAIN.

WEEK ENDING Dec. 26.

Imperial General Weekly Average.

Wheat	38s. 10d.	Rye	22s. 8d.
Barley	23 5	Beans	27 5
Oats	16 6	Peas	28 1

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.

Wheat	39s. 11d.	Rye	25s. 1d.
Barley	24 3	Beans	28 7
Oats	17 3	Peas	29 4

BUTCHERS' MEAT.

	Newgate and Leadenhall.*	Smithfield.*
	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Beef	2 4 to 3 4	2 8 to 4 0
Mutton	2 8 — 3 10	3 0 — 4 4
Veal	3 0 — 4 0	2 10 — 3 10
Pork	2 6 — 4 0	3 0 — 3 10

* To sink the offal, per 8lb.

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Friday.	Monday.
Beasts	1625	3121
Sheep	5720	15,020
Calves	335	148
Pigs	392	350

PROVISIONS.

Butter	Best Fresh, 12s. 0d. to 14s. per doz.	
	Carlow, £3 10s. to £3 16s. per cwt.	
Bacon, Irish	per cwt.	44s. to 46s.
Cheese, Cheshire		42 — 69
Derby, Plain		44 — 54
Hams, York		60 — 70

Eggs, French, per 120, 4s. 9d. to 5s. 6d.

AVERAGE PRICE OF SUGAR.

The average price of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, computed from the returns made in the week ending the 17th day of December, 1850, is 28s. 10½d. per cwt.

HOPS.		POTATOES.	
Kent Pockets	73s. to 84s.	York Regents per ton	100s. to 120
Choice ditto	80 — 150	Wisbech Regents	85 — 95
Sussex ditto	63 — 73	Scotch Reds	90 — 95
Farnham do.	— .. —	French Whites	75 — 80

HAY AND STRAW. (Per load of 36 Trusses.)

	Cumberland.	Smithfield.	Whitechapel.
Hay, Good	70s. to 75s.	73s. to 75s.	66s. to 72s.
Inferior	50 — 63	48 — 60	60 — 65
New	0 — 0	0 — 0	0 — 0
Clover	75 — 80	80 — 82	70 — 75
Wheat Straw	24 — 28	20 — 27	18 — 21

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, December 27.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.—S. Banfill, Edward-street, Langham-place, cabinet-maker; first div. of 2s. 9d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—E. and J. Julian, New Buckenham, Norfolk, grocers; first div. of 1s., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—W. Holmes, Friday-street, silk gauze manufacturer; first div. of 1s. 6d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street — W. Gee, Murray-street, Hoxton, Tuscan hat manufacturer; first div. of 2s. Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street — J. Ward, Bishopsgate-street, chemist; second div. of 11d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—W. Willimot, jun., Brixton, clerk in the Customs; second div. of 1s. 2½d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—R. Dart and J. Brown, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, coach lace, manufacturers; first div. of 8s., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—W. Gootch, first div. of 8d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—W. Robarts, Burnham, Buckinghamshire, apothecary; first div. of 3s., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—T. Atterton, Rattlesden, Suffolk, maltster; first div. of 1s. 6½d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—Marsh and Son, Great Scotland-yard, navy agents; seventh div. of ⅜ths of a penny, Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. Webb, Hounslow-heath, retailer of beer; second div. of 3s. 5d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street — J. F. Everett, Holborn, hydraulic engineer; first div. of 7s. 6d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—C. Farmer, Edgeware-road, ironmonger; first div. of 4d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—T. Greenhill, Great Dover-street, flour dealer; second div. of 7d. and 13-16ths of a penny, Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. Fraser, Brighton, draper, first div. of 8s. 3d, Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street — E. Nairne, Warnford-court, stock broker; first div. of 5¾d., Dec. 31, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street — W. and A. Miller, Liverpool and Bootle, wine merchants; div. of 20s. on the separate estate of W. Miller, and div. of 6s. 8d. on separate estate of A. Miller, Jan. 1, or any subsequent Wednesday; Mr. Turner, Liverpool—T. Wheeler, Liverpool, fruit merchant; div. of 2d., Jan. 1, or any subsequent Wednesday; Mr. Turner, Liverpool—W. Norris, Cambridge-villas, Great College-street, Camden New-town, builder; first and final div. of ⅜ths of a penny, Dec. 28, and three subsequent Saturdays; Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane—F. Mountford, Greenwich, stationer; first div. of 4s. 9d., Dec. 28, and three subsequent Saturdays; Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane—E. Capstick, Greenwich, upholsterer; first div. of 1s. 6d., Dec. 28, and two subsequent Saturdays; Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall street—J. Jardine, Dartford, Kent, linendraper; first div. of 5s., Dec. 28, and two subsequent Satudays; Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street—C. Pulling, Tooley-street and Trinity-square, Southwark, potato salesman; first div. of 9d., Dec. 28, and two subsequent Saturdays; Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street—J. Easton, Somersham, Huntingdonshire, carrier; first div. of 3s. 3½d., Dec. 28, and two subsequent Saturdays; Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street—J. Storey, Monkwearmouth, Durham, rope manufacturer; second div. of 2¾d., Dec. 28, and any subsequent Saturday; Mr. Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BANKRUPTS.—F. YOUNG, North-place, Kingsland-road, and Silver-street, Golden-square, cheesemonger, to surrender Jan. 3, Feb. 7; solicitor, Mr. Wellborn, Tooley-street, Southwark; official assignee, Mr. Graham—W. MITCHELL and W. BINNS, Barnsley, Yorkshire, ironfounders, Jan. 13, Feb. 3; solicitors, Messrs. Shepherd and Marshall, Barnsley; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds; official assignee, Mr. Hope, Leeds—J. UNWIN, Bradford, Yorkshire, stuff manufacturer, Jan. 16, Feb. 7; solicitors, Messrs. Richardson and Gaunt, Leeds; official assignee, Mr. Freeman, Leeds—J. BARKER, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Shields, merchant, Jan. 7, Feb. 11; solicitors, Messrs. Crosby and Compton, Church-court, Old Jewry; and Mr. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; official assignee, Mr. Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.—Jan. 25, H. Donaldson, Buckingham-street, Strand, army agent—Jan. 25, H. Burton, York-square, Commercial-road East, clerk—Jan. 18, W. K. J. Wilson, Sidney-place, Stockwell, master mariner—Jan. 21, J. Richards, jun., Reading, banker—Jan. 22, H. M. Bowden, Lime-street, Leadenhall-street, export merchant—Jan. 21, J. Starkey, Old-street, St. Luke's, carpenter — Jan. 24, J. Savill, St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, draper—Jan. 22, R. W. A. Sleigh, Bedford-street, Strand, printer—Jan. 22, J. Jardine, Dartford, Kent, linendraper—Jan. 23, S. and W. E. Gundry, Bridport, Dorsetshire, bankers—Jan. 14, W. Lucan, Preston, Lancashire, innkeeper.

CERTIFICATES.—*To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.* Jan. 20, E. H. Kiddle, Valentine-place, Blackfriars-road, miller — Jan. 17, T. King, jun., East Greenwich, builder — Jan. 17, R. Westley, Greenwich, bootmaker—Jan. 17, R. Barker and H. Davey, Bicester, Oxfordshire, drapers — Jan. 21, J. Simpson, Manchester, grocer—Jan. 20, J. Smith, Liverpool, habardasher.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. Stewart, jun., Glasgow, flesher, Dec. 31, Jan. 21 — W. Kent, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, joiner, Jan. 1 and 22—G. Mac Leod, Glasgow, wholesale chemist, Jan. 2 and 23—D. Reekie, Ferry-Port-on-Craig, grocer, Jan. 2 and 21.

Tuesday, Dec. 31.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.—J. Clarke, Stourbridge grocer; first div. of 3½d., any Thursday; Mr. Whitmore, Bir-

mingham—B. Lawrence, Crown-court, Old Broad-street merchant; final div of 7½d., on separate estate, Jan. 7, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. and J. F. King, Wells-row, Islington, builders; second div. of 9d., Jan. 7, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—W. Freeman, Edgware-road, licensed victualler; first div. of 4d., Jan 7, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. S. Gowing, Swaffham, Norfolk, bookseller; second div. of 7½d., Jan 7, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. Hunter, King William-street, merchant; second div. of 1s. 7d., on Saturday next, and three subsequent Saturdays Mr. Groom, Abchurzh-lane—J. Burt and J. Burt, jun., and W. T. Watson, Manchester and Leeds, commission agents; second div. of 3d., and div. of 9½d. on new proofs, Jan. 14, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Fraser, Manchester—J. Pierce, Chorley, Lancashire, corn dealer; first div. of 1s. 3d., Jan. 14, or any subsequent Tuesday: Mr. Fraser, Manchester—R. Birrell, Blackburn, linendraper; first and final div. of 9s. 10¾d.. Jan. 7, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Fraser, Manchester—H. J. Hinxman, Bury, Lancashire, apothecary; first div. of 2s. 7d., Jan. 14, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Fraser, Manchester—C. L. Swainson and J. Birchwood, Manchester, manufacturers; first div. of 2s. 0¾d., on new proofs, Jan. 14, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Fraser, Manchester—J. Sim, Braithwaite, Cumberlandshire, woollen manufacturer; first and final div. of 10d., on separate estate, Jan. 4, or any subsequent Saturday; Mr. Wakley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—J. Forrester, Whitehaven, mercer; first and second div. of 9s. 4d., on new proofs, Jan. 4, or any subsequent Saturday; Mr. Wakley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Bankrupts.—F. Young, North-place, Kingsland-road, and Silver-street, Golden-square, cheesemonger, to surrender Jan. 3, Feb. 7; solicitor, Mr. Wellborn, Tooley-street, Southwark; official assignee, Mr. Graham—E. Trent, Sherborne and Yeovil, draper, Jan. 9, Feb. 14; solicitors, Messrs. Hardwick, Davidson, and Bradbury, Weavers'-hall, Basinghall-street: official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—J. Ginn, Sudbury, Suffolk, builder, Jan. 15, Feb. 11; solicitors, Mr. Marston, Carey-street, Lincoln's-inn; and Messrs. Stedman, Sudbury; official assignee, Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street—J. Hughes, Hacconby, Lincolnshire, beast jobber, Jan. 10, Feb. 7; solicitors, Mr. Dibben, Leicester; and Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; official assignee, Mr. Bittleston, Nottingham—J. Simons, Wibtoft, Warwickshire, horse dealer, Jan. 14, Feb. 11; solicitor, Mr. Gregory, Leicester; official assignee, Mr. Christie, Birmingham—J. Haley and W. Thomason, Manchester, cotton manufacturers, Jan. 10 and 31; solicitors, Messrs. Atkinson, Saunders, and Atkinson, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Mackenzie, Manchester—W. Atkinson, jun., Goole, shipwright, Jan. 14, Feb. 10; solicitors, Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds; and Mr. Stamp, Hull; official assignee, Mr. Hope, Leeds—E. Lake, Okehampton, druggist, Jan. 14, Feb. 5; solicitors, Messrs. Bishop and Pitts, Exeter; official assignee, Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter.

Dividends.—Jan. 22, J. Smith, Liverpool, haberdasher—Jan. 23, J. Wilkinson, Stockton-upon-Tees, wharfinger—Jan. 24. J. Wallace, Carlisle, grocer—Jan. 23, R. Fairley, Sunderland, chemist—Jan. 23, G. Hornsby, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, builders—Jan. 23, J. G. Thomson, Manchester, agent—Jan. 24, J. Mellor, Manchester, haberdasher.

Certificates.—*To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.*—Jan. 22, J. Savill, St. Neots, draper—Jan. 22, J. Whittaker, Swansea, druggist.

Scotch Sequestration.—A. L. Cameron, Lonsdale and Glasgow, bleacher, Jan. 6 and 28.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 2nd ult., at Montreal, Canada, the wife of Captain Kirkland, aide-de-camp to his excellency the lieutenant-general commanding the forces in North America, of a son.

On the 24th ult., at Bath, the wife of the Reverend T. S. Nelson, of a son.

On the 26th ult., at Wyke, Surrey, the wife of the Reverend H. F. Cheshire, of a son.

On the 28th ult., at Hillfield, Hampstead, the wife of the Reverend W. D. Fox, of Delamere, of a daughter.

On the 28th ult., the wife of the Reverend H. G. Liddell, head master of Westminster School, of a son.

On the 28th ult., at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, the wife of John Rogers, Esq., of a daughter.

On the 28th ult., at Stanmer, the Countess of Chichester, of a son.

On the 28th ult., at Worcester, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel St. John, Bombay army, of a son.

On the 29th ult., at the Philanthropic Farm School, Redhill, Surrey, the wife of the Reverend Sydney Turner, of a son.

On the 31st ult., in Wilton-crescent, the wife of the Right Honourable T. Milner Gibson, M.P., of a son.

MARRIAGES

On the 28th ult, at St. George's, Hanover-square, Captain A. Pack, Seventh Royal Fusiliers, to Frederica Katharine, second daughter of Colonel the Honourable Hely Hutchinson.

On the 28th ult., at St. Mary's, Bryanston-square (by the bride's brother, the Reverend Robert Crosse), Thos. Campbell Foster, Esq., barrister, of the Middle Temple, to Isabella, only daughter of Andrew Crosse, Esq., of Broomfield, Somersetshire, and niece to Colonel Hamilton, late of the Coldstream Guards.

On the 24th ult., at Upton, Torquay, W. C. Fell, eldest son of the late W. W. Fell, Esq., of Preston, Lancashire, barrister-at-law, to Eliza Jane, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Combe, R.M.

On the 2nd of October, at Benares, East Indies, H. C. Angelo, Esq., Sixteenth Grenadiers, to Helena, daughter of the Reverend P. M. Cumming, rector of Prior, county of Kerry, Ireland.

On the 15th of November, at Barrackpore, East Indies, Henry Brabazon Urmston, Esq., of the Sixty-second Regiment B.N.I., son of the late Sir James Brabazon Urmston, formerly President of the Affairs of the H.E.I.C. in China, to Harriet Elizabeth Hughes, daughter of William Hughes Hughes, Esq., formerly M.P. for Oxford.

On the 28th ult., at Ipsley, Warwickshire, the Reverend W. Pulling, fellow and tutor of Brazenose College, and rector of Eastnor, to Henrietta Anne, only daughter of the Reverend T. D. Dolben, rector of Ipsley and Speroall.

On the 28th ult., at Trinity Church, Bath, by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Rochester, the Reverend Walker King, eldest son of the Archdeacon, to Juliana, eldest daughter of the late Captain Henry Stuart, of the Sixty-ninth Regiment.

On the 30th ult., Horatio S. Samuel, Esq., the only surviving son of Simon Samuel, Esq., of Gloucester-place, Portman-square, to Henrietta Montefiore, third daughter of H. J. Montefiore, Esq., of Westbourne-terrace, Hyde-park.

On the 31st ult., at Warrington, the Reverend J. Cook, LL.B., of Magdalen College, Cambridge, eldest son of James Cook, Esq., of Blackheath, to Annabella, fourth daughter of the late John Alderson, Esq., and niece of Sir Richard Puleston, Bart., of Emral, Flintshire.

On the 31st ult., at St. Marylebone Church, the Reverend P. Henry Boissier, eldest son of the Reverend P. Edward Boissier, incumbent of St. Peter's, Malvern-wells, to Louisa Sophia, only daughter of the Reverend Edward Scobell, M.A., incumbent of St. Peter's, Vere-street, Marylebone.

On the 31st ult., at Salehurst, Sussex, A. St. John Richardson, Esq., of the Bombay Civil Service, to Mary Frances, eldest daughter of the Reverend Jacob George Wrench, D.C.L., vicar of Salehurst.

DEATHS.

On the 6th of November, at Ahmednugger, East Indies, in the Deccan, Mrs. Clara Tucker, widow of the late Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. Tucker, Bombay army.

On the 16th ult., at Lisbon, on board H.M.S. Retribution, Lieutenant J. S. Darell, R.N., fourth son of E. Darell, Esq., of Calehill, Kent.

On the 22nd ult., Mary Philippa Davies, widow of the late John Guillemard, Esq., of Clavering, Essex, and sister of the late D. Gilbert, Esq., many years M.P. for Bodmin, and president of the Royal Society.

On the 23rd ult., W. B. Sarsfield Taylor, Esq., aged 70, brother of the late J. Sydney Taylor, Esq., barrister-at-law.

On the 28th ult., in Highbury-park, Aaron Chapman, Esq., late M.P. for the borough of Whitby, aged 80.

On the 28th ult., in Gloucester-gardens, Penelope, wife of the Reverend James Eyre, aged 67.

On the 29th ult., at Upper Clapton, the Reverend A. Wells, aged 57.

Od 29th ult., at the Rectory, St. Peter's-du-Bois, Guernsey, aged 74, the Reverend T. Brock, M.A., commissary of Guernsey, and rector of St. Peter's-du-Bois.

On the 31st ult., at Chelsea, the Honourable and Reverend F. Powys, aged 69.

On the 27th ult., at Dorney Vicarage, Bucks, the Reverend I. Bull, rector of Fleet Marston, Bucks, aged 85.

On the 28th ult., at Dunstable, Staffordshire, C. Arkwright, Esq.

On the 28th ult., W. Parker, Esq., of Christ's College, Cambridge, aged 25, only son of W. Parker, late of Lichfield, a magistrate of the counties of Stafford and Warwick.

On the 29th ult., in Curzon-street, May-fair, W. H. Seguin, Esq., aged 36.

On the 30th ult., at Ryde, Isle of Wight, Adelaide, youngest daughter of the Reverend William and Mrs. Moore, aged 12 years.

On the 30th ult., at Stoke, Notts, R. Bromley, Esq., M.P., eldest son of Vice-Admiral Sir R. H. Bromley, Bart.

On the 30th ult., at Dover, Sarah, the wife of T. Baldock, commander R.N.

On the 30th ult., at Hackney, aged 91, Mr. E. Colebatch, formerly of the Minories, and for forty years a member of the corporation of London.

On the 31st ult., at the Vicarage, Northallerton, A. D. Mercer, Esq., R.N., aged 22, second son of the Reverend T. Mercer, vicar of Northallerton.

STAYS SUPERSEDED.—Stiff Stays destroy natural grace, produce deformity, and implant disease, curvature of the spine, and consumption; and a host of evils arise from their use. A substitute is provided by MARTIN'S ELASTIC BODICE, or Anti-Consumption Corset, which is perfectly elastic, is without whalebone, furnishes a good support, is easy and graceful in wear, will wash, is unaffected by heat or cold; has a simple fastening, obviating the trouble of lacing. Can be sent post-free for a small additional charge. A prospectus and engraving sent on receipt of a stamp for postage.—E. and E. H. MARTIN, Surgical Bandage Makers, 504, Oxford-street, London, near the British Museum.

PREVENTION of COUGHS and COLDS.—Persons liable to attacks of Coughs and Colds will entirely escape them by the occasional use of that celebrated remedy,

DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS,

which have a pleasant taste, and never fail to give instant and permanent freedom from all irritation of the Lungs. One of Dr. Locock's Pulmonic Wafers, allowed to dissolve in the mouth, immediately relieves the most violent Cough or Cold, and protects Weak Lungs from all the irritation of fogs and frosts. Upwards of 300 cures of Asthma, Consumption, Coughs, &c., have been performed by his medicine (and published) during the last twelve months.

To SINGERS and PUBLIC SPEAKERS they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice; they have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box.

Agents—Da Silva and Co., 1, Bride-lane, Fleet-street, London. Of whom also may be had,

DR. LOCOCK'S FEMALE WAFERS,

the only medicine recommended to be taken by Females, have no taste of medicine. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box.

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A NEW MEDICINE.

FRANKS'S SPECIFIC CAPSULE—A form of Medicine at once safe, sure, speedy, and pleasant to those who object to fluid medicines, and suited to the convenience of persons travelling, visiting, or engaged in business.

Each Capsule containing the Specific is made of the purest Gelatine, which, encased in tinfoil, may be conveniently carried in the pocket, and, being both elastic and pleasant to take, affords the greatest facility for repeating the doses without intermission—a desideratum essential to the proper development of the curative effects of any medicine, but more especially desirable in those used in the treatment of the diseases for which these Capsules are particularly recommended, and which so anxiously concern both the medical attendant and patient; the most delicate person may take them with perfect safety, and they are unobjectionable to the most susceptible stomach.

Prepared only by George Franks, Surgeon, at his Laboratory, Blackfriars-road, where they may be had, and of all Medicine Vendors, in boxes, at 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. each, or sent free by post at 3s. and 5s. each. Of whom, also, may be had, in bottles, at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each,

FRANKS'S SPECIFIC SOLUTION.

TESTIMONIALS.

From Joseph Henry Green, Esq., F.R.S., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital; and Professor of Surgery in King's College, London.

"I have made a trial of Mr. Franks's Solution of Copaiba, at St. Thomas's Hospital, in a variety of cases, and the results warrant my stating, that it is an efficacious remedy, and one which does not produce the usual unpleasant effects of Copaiba.

(Signed) "Joseph Henry Green.

"Lincoln's-inn Fields, April 15, 1835."

From Bransby Cooper, Esq., F.R.S., one of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Senior Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; and Lecturer on Anatomy, &c.

"Mr. Bransby Cooper presents his compliments to Mr. George Franks, and has great pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficacy of his Solution of Copaiba. Mr. Cooper has prescribed the Solution in ten or twelve cases with perfect success.

"New-street, April 13, 1835."

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Lieutenant Holroyd, R.N., writes: "Its effects are truly astonishing; it has thickened and darkened my hair very much."

Mrs. Buckley, Stapelford: "Your delightful Pomade has improved my hair wonderfully."

Mr. Yates, hair-dresser, Malton: "The young man has now a good pair of Whiskers; I want you to send me two pots for other customers of mine."

Mrs. Lello, Worthing: "I use your Pomade in my nursery, as I find it very useful for children's hair also."

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Also will be sent (free), on receipt of thirteen stamps, her only safe, speedy, and lasting cure for soft or hard corns, bunions, &c. It cures in three days, and is never failing.

Mrs. Hughes, Sunbury: "It cured four corns, and three bunions, amazingly quick, and is the best and safest thing I have ever met with."

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RUPTURES EFFECTUALLY CURED WITHOUT A TRUSS.

DR. BARKER still continues to supply the afflicted with the celebrated remedy for every variety of single or double rupture, the efficacy of which, in many thousands of cases, is too well known to need comment. It is applicable alike to male or female of any age, perfectly free from danger, causes no pain, inconvenience, or confinement; and will be sent free by post, with instructions, &c., on receipt of 7s. in postage stamps, or a Post-office Order, payable at the General Post-office.

Address, Alfred Barker, M.D., 48, Liverpool-street, King's-cross, London. At home for consultation daily from Ten till One, and Four till Eight (Sunday excepted.)

A great number of trusses have been left behind by patients cured, as trophies of the immense success of this remedy, which Dr. B. will be happy to give to any requiring them after a trial of it.

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"Your remedy has cured my rupture after everything else had failed. I have used violent exertions since, but there is no sign of its coming down."—Miss Symmonds, Bayswater.

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Extract of a Letter from Mr. J. H. Alliday, 209, High-street, Cheltenham, dated the 22nd of January, 1850.

"To Professor Holloway.

"Sir,—My eldest son, when about three years of age, was afflicted with a Glandular Swelling in the neck, which, after a short time, broke out into an Ulcer. An eminent medical man pronounced it as a very bad case of Scrofula, and prescribed for a considerable time without effect. The disease then for four years went on gradually increasing in virulence, when, besides the ulcer in the neck, another formed below the left knee, and a third under the eye, besides seven others on the left arm, with a tumour between the eyes, which was expected to break. During the whole of the time my suffering boy had received the constant advice of the most celebrated medical Gentlemen at Cheltenham, besides being for several months at the General Hospital, where one of the Surgeons said that he would amputate the left arm, but that the blood was so impure that, if that limb were taken off, it would be then even impossible to subdue the disease. In this desperate state I determined to give your Pills and Ointment a trial, and, after two months' perseverance in their use, the tumour gradually began to disappear, and the discharge from all the ulcers perceptibly decreased, and at the expiration of eight months they were perfectly healed, and the boy thoroughly restored to the blessings of health, to the astonishment of a large circle of acquaintances, who could testify to the truth of this miraculous case. Three years have now elapsed without any recurrence to the malady, and the boy is now as healthy as heart can wish. Under these circumstances I consider that I should be truly ungrateful were I not to make you acquainted with this wonderful cure, effected by your medicines, after every other means had failed.

(Signed) "J. H. Alliday."

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"THE PEOPLE."

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The Empire of the People—the Monarchy of Mind."

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