

After Burn and Yellow, 184 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore 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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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1855.

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News of the Week.

HOSPITALITY seems to be the business of life at present for our public men. They have been down at their country seats, leaving the world apparently to wag as it may; though public men, especially at our day, have no real peace. The progress of improvement, with its railways, its post-office, and its telegraph, leaves no interval of blessed ignorance for them. Every day has its despatches to be received and sent, and the incessant passing and re-passing of diplomatic agents between all the capitals of Europe proves that instead of rest there is more action going on than ever. The rumours vary: we now hear that Russia will accept and that she will not accept; that the secondary German Governments are uniting in a representation as well as Austria; and that Prussia is considering finally whether she shall not abandon her neutrality, and take sides against her chief ally. This is the last phase of the peace rumours. On the whole, however, the expectation appears to be losing ground that Russia will really come in and accept the terms offered to her.

Naples, the great model Conservative state of the South, has been playing high "jinks" in finance. She has been teaching Austria, Russia, and other States which are hard up, how to make a short cut at a subsidy. It is by clipping the coin. Not literally—that is a wasteful process left to Jews and Greeks. Naples goes about it in a more scientific manner—she clips the coin before it is minted. A new rule has been adopted, by which the Mint price of silver is at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower than it was before, leaving the Mint profit on coin at $11\frac{1}{2}$; in other words, that is the depreciation of silver in Naples as compared with other States, and the Government thus embezzles a section of all the silver sent to it for coining. This looks like a great booty, but it is really cutting up the golden goose. Of course, all foreign merchants who have dealings with Naples will, in the first place, hesitate to send silver where it is at a discount. In the second place, for all the goods they send, they will charge in the nominal coin of Naples a sum equal to the real coin of other places, and thus

Naples will get no more for its debased silver than the silver is really worth. The Neapolitans will suffer, because they will have to fulfil existing engagements in the nominal coin, and they will see their silver driven away bodily, while trade sails past their ports without entering it; for they are discredited customers. So the KING thinks it a wise course to impoverish the very people from whom he is to draw taxes; and King BOMBA is the great ally of Russia in the South—the great sustainer of Rome in its latest vagaries.

Whatever may be our critical doubts of NAPOLEON the THIRD, an act of our Post-office shows increasing connection between the two peoples, which must, to a great extent, bind him to the better part of his measures. A new newspaper and book-rate has been adopted of which, it may be said, the single postage for newspapers is one penny, and for books threepence. This, to a certain extent, brings France within a uniform system of postage, and it indicates a tendency to extend that benefit, which must necessarily be accompanied by other extensions of commercial intercourse.

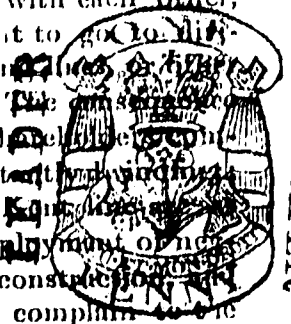
An English governor has just invented a stroke of state rather on the Neapolitan pattern. It is Governor DENISON, of New South Wales, who has been raising a tax as if for the very purpose of defeating revenue. There was a tax on spirits in New South Wales and in Victoria, but the rates differed, the Governments being independent of each other. The Victoria rate was higher, the New South Wales rate lower, and the consequence was, smuggling on the wild border between the two. It would be as easy for the Metropolitan police to prevent trespassing on the Great Sahara, as to prevent smuggling on the waste lands halfway between Sydney and Melbourne. It was necessary, therefore, if the smuggling was to be stopped, to adopt some other measure, and the natural step was equalisation of the duties. If the Victoria duties had been lowered, the object would be attained; but Sir CHARLES HOTHAM, who after his first good show on making acquaintance with the inhabitants has fallen from blunder to blunder, thinks to supply his want of cash by grasping at heavy taxes. He taxes the spirit-consumer of Victoria sufficiently to induce smug-

gling. Sir WILLIAM DENNISON has joined him, by raising the New South Wales duties to the Victoria level, which will probably prevent smuggling at the expense of introducing illicit distillation, so defeating the financial objects of both governors. Thus DENNISON and HOTHAM constitute a kind of twin Naples, imposing a tax that must cut off the sources of taxation, besides exasperating the people into contempt of Government, if not rebellion.

They report from the United States that Mr. CRAMPTON never intended to break the laws of the Union, and that the British Government declines to recall him. The British Government was never asked to recall him, and nobody thought he meant to break the law. The agents, whom he sanctioned, broke the law, and it is a question whether a gentleman implicated in the ludicrous intrigues of the agent, Strobel, can command the respect of the people to whom he is sent diplomatically.

At home, our administrative business does not get on so beautifully, however, that we can sneer at our diplomatic agents abroad, our governors, or foreign kings. Our Ministers rub on somehow in the war of diplomacy, and the patient people lets them tell us what they please, do as they please, and put up with the consequences when they come.

We treat public affairs, in fact, like railways. Shareholders appoint directors to manage for the shareholders, the directors appointed manage for the directors, and dividends and passengers are left to shift for themselves. This is Captain HURST's account, and he ought to know, as he is general manager of the North Western Railway Company. There is no real general government of the railways, so they fall to quarrelling with each other, and waste the capital which ought to go to improvements, in fighting the same old forms of Parliamentary warfare. The Eastern Counties shareholders complain that their dividends are constantly being cut off by accidents like that on the North Kent line, and frequently repeated from the employment of negligent servants, or from imperfect construction. Inventors like BRIDGES ADAMS, complain in the papers that they have approved means of prevent-



ing accidents in various ways, which have not only been rejected, but have in fact not been examined by the official authorities.

In the meanwhile, Mr. WADDINGTON has treated the shareholders as the priests in BOILEAU'S poem treated each other; he has hung a folk book at the head of his opponents—his answer to the report of the committee of investigation. His answer consists in telling the same story backwards. The committee state that his policy of spending the funds of the railway in extraneous enterprises, Tilbury branch, Hackney branch, Lowestoft Harbour, Ipswich boats, Harwich boats, Margate boats, and a dancing saloon at Woolwich, had eaten up the funds and threatened to reduce their progressively declining dividends to *nil*. No, he answers, strangers had projected a Tilbury Line which would have competed with your own; the Great Northern threatened to "tap" Cambridge and Colchester and Norwich; the East Anglian was assisting the Great Northern; the Eastern Union was competing with you by the aid of its boats; but I have drawn all these competitors to be parts of your own system, or allies who will not hurt you. I have improved Lowestoft Harbour, made the town rise with a traffic of its own, and brought through that port half of the German trade in cattle, giving you a more paying traffic on the line than the average rate of profit. You have, said the committee of investigation, neglected the permanent way; you have spent upon it only £3,200—a previous committee told you you should expend £23,000 a year; your own engineer said you should expend £150,000. No, says Mr. WADDINGTON, if we have spent only £3,200 out of the revenue, we have spent £22,000 within the year; and the engineer did not recommend an outlay of £150,000: £50,000 of that was to be in works and completions; the rest, if spent on the permanent way, spread over ten years. You have connived at the percentages with which Mr. GOOCH swelled out his modest salary of £600 a-year to thousands of pounds sterling. No, answers Mr. WADDINGTON, others, before I entered the railway in March, 1851, had agreed that Mr. GOOCH should have no salary until he saved £10,000 in the locomotive working, and five per cent. on any saving beyond that. It was I who objected to that arrangement, but Mr. GOOCH was paid five per cent. on Mr. ROBERT STEVENSON'S recommendation. You have connived, said the committee, at the fraudulent appropriation of stores to the unknown extent, perhaps of £10,000 or even £40,000. No, answers Mr. WADDINGTON, it was I who detected the peculation, and the loss is not £40,000, but under £5,000, perhaps not more than £1,823. You have cooked the accounts, and threatened us with a dividend of *nil*. The accounts are clear, answers the Chairman; your dividend was *nil* for the first half-year after I entered the railway; it is now rising, and is likely to be five per cent. But Mr. WADDINGTON finds a motive for these charges; he denounces Mr. BRUCE, the head of the East Anglian Company, which has been amalgamated, but which wishes to become the preponderant power in the system. According to Mr. WADDINGTON, BRUCE is the (Czar of the Eastern Counties). WADDINGTON himself, we suppose, is the NAPOLEON, dominating that commercial power, PETO, BETTS, and BRASSEY, and thus forming the Western Alliance which is destined to rule the territory.

Another form of anarchy has burst out in Northumberland, and this looks really serious. The Duke, who takes his title from the county, has issued an ukase to restrain his tenants as to their method of farming: besides his rent, the farmer is to pay a penal rent of £50 an acre if he break up grass-land without leave, £5 an acre for fallow not manured in a particular manner, £5 for every acre not cultivated in the four-course rotation, £10 for exceeding a certain potato acreage, £5 for not laying down certain acres in permanent grass, £5 for mowing without dressing the land in a particular manner, £5 for every ton of straw or hay sold, with other £5 penalties. The consequence is that the tenants mutiny. Mr. Wetherell, of Kirkbridge, to whom the Duke had spontaneously awarded a prize of £30 for the best cultivation on the estate, declared farming under such terms impossible, threw up his tenancy, and is hailed by his brother farmers in a public meeting as their leader in making a stand against the attempts to renew the principles of feudalism and serfdom. Now a vast number of farms in the country are held upon ab-

surd covenants; it is possible in some cases that the very title of the landlord might be affected by altering the local usage; but acting with their farmers and public opinion, the landlords could readily procure every legislative facility for improvement without damnification for themselves. Let them take their stand upon their rights after this Northumberland fashion, and we should soon have an agrarian insurrection spreading over the country, all the more formidable because it would be recruited by the respectable farmers. It really looks as if the agricultural constituencies, not without formidable alliance on the part of the boroughs, would soon be compelling their representatives in Parliament to put to the landlords the alarming question what their rights really are?

DISTRESS AT ARKLOW.—The Rev. W. G. Ormsby, rector of Arklow, diocese of Dublin, calls attention to the distressed condition of the poor fishermen in the town of Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, many of whom are almost reduced to famine by the failure of the herring-fishery, which has been gradually declining for the last four years. The neighbouring inhabitants are too poor to afford much relief; and appeal is therefore made to all Englishmen who have the means to succour their fellow creatures.

CLERK-ASSISTANT TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mr. May succeeds Mr. William Ley as first clerk-assistant to the House of Commons, on that gentleman's resignation. Mr. May is the author of a treatise on "Parliamentary Practice."

THE LATE WELLS ELECTION.—The following address has been issued by Mr. Serjeant Kinglake:—"To the Honest Electors of the City of Wells. Gentlemen,—I am anxious, without delay, to offer my earnest and sincere thanks to those electors who, with honest and unswerving independence, have given me their support at the recent election. I feel proud to have led you to the poll, and there publicly to have received the sanction of your free opinions. You need feel no disappointment at the result of the contest. That result has been effected by a combination of secret and irregular influences which cannot and will not prevail against the firm and unshaken demonstration you have just made. The success of your opponents will probably be very temporary. My thanks, my grateful thanks are due to you, one and all. Be steadfast in your purpose, be prepared to act as you have done, and the day of victory, be assured, is at hand."

OXFORD UNIVERSITY FOUNDATIONS.—The form of statute for regulating the university foundations of more than fifty years' date, which was promulgated in the term preceding the long vacation, having been amended by the Hebdomadal Council, will be promulgated afresh on Tuesday, January 29, at two o'clock. The principal changes which have been made are the substitution of a declaration of church membership, on the part of a Professor taking office, for the promise of conformity which it was proposed formerly to exact; the proviso that no Professor shall hold the office of Radcliffe Observer or of Public Lecturer in any college; and the embodiment of a proposition on the part of the Master and Fellows of Balliol College to attach to the Savilian Professorship of Astronomy, at the earliest opportunity, a Fellowship in their Society. In return for this, it is proposed to give the Master and one Fellow of Balliol a voice in the appointment of all future Savilian Professors of Astronomy.

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY.—Reform is slowly but surely making head in Trinity College. The Regius Professorship of Greek, remodelled as it has been by the recent statute, is now held by a junior fellow (the Rev. Thomas Stack) who, last week, by the unanimous vote of the Provost and senior fellows, was elected as the fittest person to discharge the duties of this now very responsible office. Hitherto, the Regius Professor was elected annually from among the senior fellows, and the office was little better than a mere sinecure, the smallness of the salary (£100 a-year Irish currency), contributing, perhaps, to the neglect of one of the most important branches of collegiate classical education. The new change will involve a complete revolution in the system of examination for scholarship—the highest reward held out to the classical student in Trinity College. By the old arrangement, a scholarship was far easier of attainment than an honour of the first class at the ordinary term examinations, and this was attributable to the fact that for the latter the examiners are presumed to be appointed on the score of superior fitness, while for the scholarship, according to official routine, senior fellows alone were eligible, or, in case of absence or illness, the junior fellows next in order of seniority, without regard to any other qualification for the office. All this will be put an end to by the appointment of a permanent Regius Professor of Greek, and henceforward young men of second or third-rate ability will hardly attain to the highest honours awarded to classical proficiency.—*Times*.

THE WAR.

THE greatest intelligence of interest in connexion with the war still continues to have reference to the lamentable fall of Kars. The terms of capitulation have now been given to the world in an interesting document, the greater part of which we reproduce below; and further particulars have reached England of the sad condition of affairs which rendered the capitulation an act of necessity, or at least of justice to the remnant of the brave garrison. The defenders of the place had plucked up fresh heart and hope from the defeat of the Russians on the occasion of their memorable assault on the 29th of September. They expected to see the besiegers retire; but they did not retire. On the contrary, they increased the strictness of their blockade. The besieged from day to day held on in the hope that aid would arrive from Erzeroum; but no aid came. Veli Pacha, in his endeavours to advance to the rescue, was continually baffled by the skirmishing parties of the Russians; the cold weather came on; snow lay thickly on the Soghanloug; the deaths from sheer want of food increased to eighty a day, though cats and horses were used as articles of consumption; desertions, it is said (on the authority of the Russians), took place; and General Williams felt that further resistance was in vain. Some interesting particulars of the result are contained in a letter from Constantinople:—

"On the 14th of November, General Mouravieff summoned the place, at the same time promising an honourable capitulation. The Russian General, admirably served by his spies, assured Vassif Pacha that he need not count on any succour, and that a longer resistance would only serve to prolong the effusion of blood, which henceforth was useless. On the following day, the Mushir presided at a council of war, composed of all the officers of the garrison. Their opinions were divided. Some advised a desperate attack on the Russians, and others a retreat on Erzeroum, cutting their way through the enemy's lines. Williams Pacha proposed prolonging the defence for some days more in the hope of Selim Pacha's arrival. This last opinion prevailed, and they forthwith sent to the Russian head-quarters Major Teesdale, accompanied by Mr. Churchill, the private secretary of General Williams, to demand of General Mouravieff a delay of ten days, and liberty to send a courier to Erzeroum. Captain Thompson left immediately; he met at Hassan Kaleh a Russian *corps d'armée*. The moment he became assured that Selim Pacha would attempt nothing, he returned to Kars as speedily as possible. Vassif Pacha and Williams Pacha, out of mere humanity, decided at last on capitulating. The Ottoman garrison and the English who were at Kars are prisoners of war. By a special article, which does great honour to the Mushir and to Williams Pacha, the Hungarians and Poles who were in the Ottoman army were allowed to retire on Erzeroum."

They have since arrived at that city, together with General Kmety. The English officers will remain prisoners of war; but General Mouravieff, in ordering the garrison to file off before him, dispensed with our countrymen taking part in the movement. The Russian Commander, in a despatch which he has transmitted to St. Petersburg, says that "the Turkish army of Anatolia has been annihilated, in consequence of the fall of Kars. Eight thousand Turks belonging to the Nizam or regular army have been made prisoners, and six thousand redifs (militia) have been sent to their homes." As far as the "annihilation" is concerned, there is probably some Muscovite exaggeration here. A hostile movement on the part of the Russian army (according to the *Military Gazette* of Vienna) is expected to take place against Erzeroum. General Mouravieff is reported to have sent a column to Akhaltzik.

Of the movements of Omar Pacha, there are contradictory accounts. One account says that, on hearing that Prince Bagration had received reinforcements, the Turkish Commander-in-Chief hastily recrossed the Ingour, and fell back on Souchem-Kaleh. Another states that, at the date of the last advices received at Trebizond, Omar was still near Kutais, the garrison of which, it is said, has gone to Gori, in order to defend the passes which command the entrance into Georgia. Selim Pacha, with 12,000 men, is still at Trebizond, waiting for the arrival of the Egyptian division. He has received orders to go to Erzeroum.

From the Crimea, there is little new. The weather has been very bad in the Black Sea and in the Mediterranean. Twelve merchant vessels of various nations have been lost at the Sulina mouth

of the Danube; and the Allied troops have had to brave the same rough tempests that they encountered last year. Happily, they are now better prepared to meet them. The Russians in the northern forts have contrived, by means of guns of long range, to throw projectiles as far as the Malakhoff; but these fall merely among ruins, and do no one any injury. We read as follows in the *Constantinople Journal* of December 10th:—

"Our Eupatoria correspondence states that the celebrated Jew, Karaim, so well known in that town by his servility towards the Czar, whom he regards as the natural protector of the Israelites in the East, and who had fanaticised all his co-religionists by making them believe that the Talmud contained a prophecy describing the Emperor of Russia as the future assertor of their rights in Judea, has not ceased to intrigue against the Allies since he sought refuge in Russia. He exhorted his countrymen to act as spies on the Allied armies in the Russian interest. Unfortunately, at the moment those treacherous machinations were discovered, their author escaped from Eupatoria to the Russian camp, and could not be arrested."

Marshal Pelissier has communicated to the French War Minister a detailed account of the Russian attack at the head of the Baidar valley on the 8th of December. A letter from a French officer, dated the following day, gives some particulars of the engagement, which we subjoin:—

"Yesterday morning at break of day, 2,500 Russians, hoping to surprise our 5th battalion of Foot Chasseurs, encamped at Ourkust, on the site we occupied previous to our last retrograde movement, descended from the positions of Kaden Otar and Kemer Tcherme into the plain. A patrol of the 4th Regiment of Chasseurs d'Afrique fortunately perceived their movement, and lost no time in apprising the nearest corps of the approach of the enemy. In a few moments, the whole of our first division was under arms and prepared to meet the Russians. The 5th battalion of Foot Chasseurs, under the orders of Commander Garnier, who received five dangerous wounds at the first attack upon the Malakhoff on June 18, assisted by a few companies of the 26th Regiment of the Line, commanded by M. Richebourg, bravely stood their ground, and the assailants, deceived in their expectations, precipitately retreated, leaving two hundred men on the field of battle, with twenty prisoners, among whom were two officers. It is to be regretted that the nature of the ground prevented us from pursuing the enemy in his retreat. Our loss does not exceed eighteen or twenty men, and an officer of the 26th Regiment, who was so dangerously wounded that he is not expected to survive. The recent surprise of a post of eight men we had at Kaden Otar, no doubt encouraged the Russians to make this attempt."

In other parts of our paper it will be seen that efforts are still being made for peace; but without much prospect of success. General La Marmora, to the great regret of all, returns from the Crimea to his own country. The war, however, will not halt. A council of war is to be held at Paris, at which Sir Edmund Lyons and the Duke of Cambridge, attended by General Airey, will be present. Marshal Pelissier is said to have given an opinion that no campaign is possible from the present base of operations.

The Russian loan will meet with all the difficulties we can throw in its way. Mr. Hodges, the *Chargé d'Affaires* of England at Hamburg, has caused to be published there the resolution of the Committee of the London Stock Exchange never to negotiate or quote the loan; and the Paris Bourse will act in the same spirit.

And so, with hostilities still before us, we enter the New Year.

THE SURRENDER OF KARS.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes the official account of the surrender of Kars. This is preceded by a letter from Vassif Pacha, Commander-in-Chief of the army of Anatolia, giving full power to General Williams to negotiate. The letter is addressed to the "most eminent, most worthy, most sagacious, and most noble General Mouravieff I." The document signed by General Williams and Colonel de Kauffmann, provides that the troops forming the garrison shall leave the town with drums beating and colours flying, having first discharged their muskets. "As a testimonial of the valorous resistance made by the garrison, the officers of all ranks are to keep their swords." The latter part of the agreement is as follows:—

"The Turkish troops mentioned in the subjoined articles as having permission to return to their homes will take the Tamra road, under an especial escort, and will halt for the night near the village of Kotanly; they bind themselves to respect the inhabitants of

that village, and not to commit any excess. The column will continue its march the following day in the same order, and halt for the night at the village of Tosanly. On the third day, when they shall have reached the foot of the Saghanlou, the Russian troops will stop, and the Turks continue their march across the chain of mountains. In the direction of Erzeroum, the Turks engage themselves not to enter the village of Bardours, occupied by Militiamen of the Russian camp. The Turkish stragglers who, within 24 hours of the last day's march, should not have crossed the Saghanlou will be considered as prisoners of war.

"In evacuating the town and fortress of Kars, the military authorities of the Turkish army engage themselves to leave there a sufficient number of medical men and nurses to take care of the sick left in the hospitals until their recovery.

"Art. 3. The private property of members of the army of every rank is respected.

"Each individual belonging to the *personnel* of the army is authorised to sell his property or take it away, at his own cost of carriage.

"Art. 4. The Militia (Rediffs, Bashi-Bazouks, and Lazes), their number having first been accurately ascertained, will be allowed to return to their homes.

"The Rediffs, Bashi-Bazouks, and Lazes in hospital will have the same right under the same conditions, as soon as well enough to leave.

"Art. 5. The non-combatants of the army, as scribes, interpreters, and nurses, are allowed to return to their homes as soon as their number has been accurately ascertained.

"Art. 6. To General Williams is reserved the right of designating at his choice in a list, which must be previously submitted for the approval of General Mouravieff, a certain number of persons, to whom permission will be given to return to their homes.

"Military men, subjects of one of the belligerent Powers, are excluded from this list.

"Art. 7. All persons indicated in Articles 4, 5, and 6, engage themselves by their word of honour not to bear arms against his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, during the whole duration of the present war.

"Art. 8. The inhabitants of the town throw themselves upon the generosity of the Russian Government, which takes them under its protection.

"Immediately the troops have given up their arms the inhabitants of the town are to send a deputation, consisting of the principal inhabitants of the place, to give the keys to the Russian Commander-in-Chief, and to trust themselves unreservedly to the generosity of the august sovereign of Russia.

"Art. 9. The public monuments and buildings of the town belonging to the Government are to be respected and left intact.

"It being the principle of the Russian Government to respect the customs and traditions of the people subjected to its Government, and especially the buildings devoted to worship, it will not allow any damage to be done to the religious monuments or historical souvenirs of Kars."

THE TURKISH ARMY IN MINGRELIA.

Nov. 14th.—I rode down to the old fortress of Ruchi a few days ago, to look at the ford by which Skender Pacha crossed the river, and to command which we had erected two small batteries two days before the battle of the Ingour. It was matter of congratulation that Omar Pacha did not attempt the passage here with his whole army. Although the ford was not commanded by any Russian artillery, the thick woods had been made available in every direction for riflemen, and an abatis had been thrown up at every angle of the narrow road which winds up a steep hill past the old castle. For more than a mile there was scarcely a point which was not swept from some stockade concealed in the woods, and which we only discovered in the course of our explorations. The castle itself is a picturesque old Genoese ruin, of great extent, and its ivy-grown towers, surrounded by massive loopholed walls, rise high above the surrounding forest, and form a charming feature in the landscape.

15th.—The whole camp was struck this morning at daylight, and we marched through an undulating well-wooded country to Chaita, where we found the still smouldering embers of the Russian barracks and storehouses.

16th.—Marched for three hours to the Chopi. The country became more beautiful as we advanced, and a lovely view burst upon us we reached the river and saw the Monastery of Chopi perched upon a bank about three hundred feet high, overhanging the stream. We ascended the steep hill, and, pitching our tents upon its summit, revelled in a glorious prospect. To the left, a richly wooded plain extended, without an undulation, to the Black Sea, too distant to be visible. On the right, we saw the broad fertile valley of the Chopi winding away to the base of the Caucasian range, where fields of yellow stubble bore testimony to its abundant cultivation; villages clustered among the woods which clothed the hill sides. These sometimes swelled gently back; at others, terminated abruptly with a precipitous bank,

which was reflected in the blue water at its base, until they gradually assumed a bolder character, and became at last lofty mountains, to be in their turn overtopped by the snowclad peak of Elbruz. Immediately below us, all is bustle and activity. The artillery is fording the river, and the opposite plain is alive with troops, pitching their tents or collecting round their camp fires. Having feasted our eyes with the view, we go to inspect the monastery, and find it enclosed by the crumbling wall of an old fortress, oval in shape, like the one before mentioned; but the tower here is surmounted by an octagonal belfry. The church is elaborately ornamented with rude frescoes; and marble columns, which at some former period seemed to have formed part of a Byzantine edifice, are built into the walls. It is evidently very old, but the venerable priest who showed us over it presumed somewhat too largely on our credulity when he assured us it was built 8,000 years ago.

With a good guide, I sometimes gallop some miles away from the camp up narrow dells, where the houses nestle amid thick foliage by the side of some brawling stream, or over the level country, where there is no underwood to impede my rapid progress, and beech and oak trees are only now beginning to drop their yellow leaves. As we get near a village, we see children and pigs basking in the sunshine, and pull up at the door of the largest house, considerably to the alarm of its inhabitants. This, however, is speedily dispelled by my companion, who tells them that I am a Christian, and will be delighted to prove it, by sharing their breakfast of pig's face, &c. After this, and a glass of wine too sour to have much taste in it, they open their hearts in proportion as I do my pocket, and tell me they hate Russians and abhor Turks, but love English and French; in proof of which, they give me a goose in return for three sixpences, and I return triumphantly to camp with my prize, the envy of the whole army, swinging from my saddle bow.—*Times Correspondent.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE DOCKS AT SEBASTOPOL.—The final determination with reference to these stupendous erections is thus mentioned in a letter from Kamiesch of the 5th inst.:—"I can announce to you a fact of considerable importance—the docks of Sebastopol are to be blown up. These docks were among the most remarkable maritime constructions not only of Russia but of the whole world. An idea of the expense which they have occasioned may be formed from the fact that their sides are constructed of square blocks, of which each side measures about five feet. Miners have for some time been engaged in sinking shafts to the bottom of the lowest foundations; these shafts were terminated recently, and preparations for the blowing up were then made. The destruction of these great works will be the signal for a war without mercy."

TREATY BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE ALLIES.—There is some talk of the probability of a treaty between Denmark and the Western Powers being concluded on the same basis as that which Sweden has just signed. Sweden, it is thought, may be induced in the ensuing year to enter into actual hostilities with Russia, in which case Denmark would probably follow.

THE WAR BUDGET of the kingdom of Sardinia, just presented to the Piedmontese Chambers, fixes the expenses of the Eastern war during 1855 and 1856 at 74,239,532 francs, including 11,376,401 francs for the navy. The Piedmontese Minister of Foreign Affairs has officially notified to the Chamber of Commerce of Genoa the capture of the brigantine *Amista*, off Leghorn, by the French steamer *Averno*. The *Amista* was a Tuscan vessel, but had been bought by the Genoese house of Pedemonte, at Odessa.

STATE OF RUSSIA.

FURTHER particulars relative to the internal condition of Russia are contained in a letter from St. Petersburg, dated December 12th. The writer says:—"Properly speaking, there are but three classes here—the nobility, the merchants of foreign origin, and the native Russian merchants. These last receive visits among each other, and never permit any member of the nobility to frequent their houses. The foreign merchants no longer receive; the greater part are ruined, or on the point of being so, by the war, the blockade of the Baltic, and the enormous imports they have to pay. The nobility receive in compliance with superior orders. The principal personages have been obliged to open their saloons if the term 'saloons' can be applied to apartments furnished with ostentatious luxury, the arrangement of which betrays the *parvenu*. A considerable number of persons saunter through these rooms, and no one dare absent himself not though he may have lost by death a member of his family. The men gather in groups of two or four around the card tables, but on which no longer glitter those heaps of gold exposed in other times to good or to bad chance. Since the war those heaps have grown smaller and smaller. The women chat

among themselves about indifferent subjects, fashions, or the character of their absent friends. But not the slightest allusion to the war is heard, and the young men, though burning with the desire to speak or get information, dare not open their lips for praise or blame. In spite of the powers of dissimulation attributed to these people, it is easy to see that they are not at their ease." Add to this, that the Finlanders are repining at the total stoppage of their trade, at the war levies made among them, and at the heaviness of the war imposts, and that the Mussulman populations of the Taurida and Astrachan have shown symptoms of malcontent, and it will be seen that the position of Russia is fraught with peril to herself.

Another American view of the position of Russia as regards the war appears in the *New York Herald*, which publish the opinions and statements of Colonel Tal. P. Shaffner, an American who has been travelling over a large part of Russia (where we are told he was received with the utmost enthusiasm), and who now undertakes to enlighten the world as to the results of the war. His views are, of course, like most of Americans, in favour of the Czar; and everything, therefore, is placed in the most rose-coloured light. We append a few extracts:—

"It has been reported that the nobility are becoming tired of the war on account of the levies which are made upon them for men; and that they are beginning to display their opposition to the Government already, though in what way we have not been informed. So far, however, from this being the case, they are among its most strenuous and ready supporters, and have signified their willingness again and again to sacrifice all their wealth before they will consent to yield an inch. There is only one sentiment among them, and that is a determination to carry on the war so long as there is a rouble in the treasury, or a man to shoulder a musket.

The means of transportation, contrary to the statement of the allies, have not been cut off, nor have they suffered any interruption from the capture of Kertch and the destruction of the 'immense' quantities of grain in the Sea of Azof. The grain, it now appears, instead of belonging to Russia, was the property of Greek merchants, who had offered it for sale to the Russian Government at such an exorbitant price that they refused to purchase it.

While travelling through the wheat-producing districts, Colonel Shaffner saw crops which, he said, were as extensive as any that had been reaped for many years before; and so slight has been the draught on the agricultural population by the raising of new levies, that it will not in the least diminish the next year's produce.

The bombardment of Sweaborg, of which so much has been said by the English press, cost the allies 25,000,000 dollars, while the loss to the Russians did not exceed 150,000 dollars. In fact, from what Colonel Shaffner tells us, we think it has been rather more profitable than otherwise, so far as the Russians are concerned.

With the exception of the small loan which has been made since the commencement of the war, the whole expenses have been defrayed from the revenues of the country. There is no lack of means; and, as a proof of this, it is only necessary to state that the public works which were commenced last year are carried on with unabated vigour, and on the same extensive scale on which they were begun. The effects of the war are scarcely perceptible, and so little dread is entertained of the Allies, that the Government is making preparations for a ten years' war. The means of the Imperial family alone would be sufficient to carry it on at its present rate for several years, without calling upon the nobles to make the sacrifice of what they have half promised.

We were also informed that the reports which have been circulated as to a feeling of jealousy and dislike existing between the members of the Imperial family are entirely without foundation, and that they are bound to each other by the closest ties of affection."

We are also told that "the yield of the silver, gold, and platina mines this year has exceeded that of any former year by 3,000,000 dollars. In addition to this, the Government have forbid the exportation of the precious metals; the Mint is kept in constant operation night and day, and the paper rouble passes as current now as ever." The plains are better tilled than ever; and manufactures, especially of iron, are in a most flourishing condition. The Government is expending millions on stately ecclesiastical edifices, the like of which, for splendour of gold and jewels, were never yet beheld; and the war outlay, being all spent within the empire, is not lost to the state. An evacuation of South Sebastopol had been long contemplated by the Russians; they prepared three bridges, not one, as generally stated; and they passed to and fro over and over again, carrying away all their wounded.

An American lady has contributed some Sebastopol gossip, in which the only bit worth repeating is the assertion that "there is a great deal of ill-feeling between the soldiers of the English and French army, and, though the English permit the French to pass

through their part of Sebastopol, they will not return the compliment."

THE KING OF SARDINIA AND THE SCOTCH PROTESTANTS.

AN act of gross impropriety on the part of about three or four hundred persons in Edinburgh, assuming to represent the Protestant interest, has drawn forth a calm but severe rebuke from the King of Sardinia, with respect to whom the impropriety was committed. A thinly-attended meeting at Edinburgh of some rabidly fanatical "Anti-Papists"—a meeting over which the Lord Provost had the ill taste to preside—adopted, during the recent visit of Victor-Emmanuel, an address to that monarch, congratulating him upon his efforts in favour of civil and religious liberty. So far, so good; but the address went on by showering the strongest expressions of contempt and indignation against the present Pope and Papacy in general—expressions which may be perfectly justifiable in themselves, but which were singularly indecent when transmitted to a Roman Catholic monarch. To this document, the King has transmitted, through the Marquis d'Azeglio, the following reply:—

"I cannot conceal from you that it is with extreme regret that his Majesty has been informed of the expressions of contempt (*expressions de mepris*) by which your address stigmatises the Court of Rome. The King, as well as his predecessors, has considered it a duty to maintain the civil power in his hands intact. He may have deplored profoundly the line of conduct which the Holy See has thought it its duty to adopt towards him of late years. But, descended as he is from a long line of Catholic princes, and sovereign of subjects almost entirely Roman Catholics, he cannot admit of words of reprobation thus severe, and, above all, injurious toward the head of that Church on earth. He cannot share in these contemptuous thoughts, which not only could not enter into his heart, but, above all, could never find place in a reply such as I have the honour to address to you.

"Your address further expresses the hope that his Majesty may extend to his subjects of all creeds the same privileges which have been conceded to the Vaudois. I am happy in being able to inform you that your wishes are already accomplished. King Charles Albert, in emancipating the Vaudois, desired to extend this measure not only to the Protestants of all denominations, but even to the Israelites, who in his states enjoy in common the same rights, civil and religious.

"In thus indicating the well-known sentiments of the King, I have no doubt that I have secured for him an additional title to your esteem; for, as a Roman Catholic sovereign, he has proved that, in his eyes, religion is the symbol of tolerance, of union, and of liberty, and that one of the principles which form the basis of his government is liberty of conscience.

"Accept, gentlemen, the assurance of my high consideration,

"Marquis V. E. D'AZEGLIO."

We are happy to add that the majority of the citizens of Edinburgh protested at the time against the ill-felt address which has called forth this reply. The unchecked repetitions of such sectarian antics could have no other effect than to bring the good cause of genuine Protestantism into opprobrium and contempt.

THE TUNNEL QUESTION AND THE TURNIP TEST.

MR. F. O. WARD's turnip still swims gallantly on the troubled waters of controversy; and his engineering antagonists seem considerably dismayed at a test by which the public at large can try the value of their algebraic arcana. Mr. Burnell, an hydraulic engineer, has been put forward to pelt the turnip; which he does, to do him justice, with considerable adroitness. Mr. Ward points out, however, in a reply as brilliant in composition as it is cogent in reasoning (an analysis of which we shall give next week), an admission which seems fatal to Mr. Burnell's case—viz., that the turnip will swim down the Fleet at the rate of ten miles an hour assigned by Mr. Ward. If so, what becomes of the formula, which assigned as the true speed of the Fleet less than two miles an hour? Unless Mr. Burnell can explain this discrepancy, he virtually admits that Stephenson's colossal tunnels have been designed on an under-estimate of discharging power; and that the tunnels of Mr. Ward and his friend, "plain John Roe," will answer all the purpose at less than half the cost. We shall look out with interest for the reply of "Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, Heywood, and Bazalgette," who are at present, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the burning fiery furnace—with less chance, we fear, of escaping unscathed from the ordeal.

The rejection by the Metropolitan Board of Works

of Mr. Jebb's candidature for the chairmanship, and their election of Mr. Thwaites in his stead, is a significant fact. For Mr. Jebb, it is well known, backed the "eminent engineers," while Mr. Thwaites, siding with no parties whatever, supported Mr. Ward in demanding fair play for all. Mr. Ward concludes his letter with a song of triumph on "Richard Jebb's fall," and "John Thwaites' accession to power." Mr. Ward's supporters will no doubt heartily chorus this poem; of which his enemies will possibly question the taste. No one, however, will deny that Mr. Ward has fought for his principles gallantly, and settled, during his short term of office, a series of important questions; such as tubular drainage, Combined works, &c. The tunnel campaign, in which he is now engaged, opened with a numerical defeat in the Court of Sewers; a defeat which he has retrieved by transporting the battle ground to the columns of the press, and there beating his adversaries at every point. The late chairman's exclusion from office in the new metropolitan assembly is a practical ratification of Mr. Ward's success; and brings his brief Commissionership to a brilliant conclusion.

PUBLIC MEETING.

THE LORD ADVOCATE OF LEITH ON POLITICS AND THE WAR.

A soiree took place in the Assembly Rooms, Leith, in the course of last week, when the Lord Advocate (after prayer had been offered by the Rev. Dr. Stevenson) delivered a very long and rather discursive oration on various matters of public interest. His more direct theme was, "the responsibility of the British Parliament;" and, referring to the composition and character of our Legislative Assembly, he observed:—

"I have now been four years in Parliament, and I can assure you that it is a very remarkable and peculiar assemblage. It has many singular and curious characteristics which, I believe, no body of men that ever met have possessed in an equal degree. There is that one singular placid kind of atmosphere which pervades the whole place, before which meanness and hypocrisy cannot stand. There is a sense, there is an instinct, of honour in that place which withers at once anything like an attempt at double-dealing or falsehood. If there is a touchstone, one cannot say where it is, but as sure as the false metal rings, as surely is the response heard at once in that House. (*Hear, hear.*) It is a place where pretension, hollowiness, and the attempt to seem what you are not, or the pretension not to seem what you are, is more rapidly detected than in any other place. It is a place where comparatively ability is second to honesty; and where a man who is honest and earnest in his purpose, and who has taken the trouble to make himself master of the subject with which he deals, and who has a right to deal with the subject, is always certain of a hearing when your more flashy, more able, possibly more clever man, who intrudes himself into matters with which he is either superficially acquainted, or has nothing to do, let him speak with a tongue of untold eloquence, will not command an audience for a quarter of an hour. (*Cheers.*) And therein lies a great deal of the wonderful influence of that assembly, or rather it is the true reflex—the true reflection and reverberation of the principles of free government in the country. It shows how truly there percolates through the constituencies a true and genuine ore of free constitutional government, and as long as that temperament belongs to that House, we may fluctuate in men of talent—we may have an age of Pitt and Fox for one generation—we may have a comparative lull of ability for another—but as long as there is that true, honest, hearty interest in the representation of the people, so long, you may depend upon it, free institutions and free government will flourish in this land."

The Lord Advocate animadverted on the impropriety of a member of Parliament lying under continual fear of small sections of his constituency; but admitted that a regard should be had for the wishes of the total constituency, and that a fear of public opinion was at least a fault on the right side, being much better than a total disregard of it. With respect to the war, he dwelt on its justice and necessity, adding, however, that he had no ill-will to the Russian people, whom he believed susceptible of liberty. He then diverged into an attack on the press, more especially on the *Times*. While acknowledging that the freedom of the press is the life-blood of the nation, and while disavowing all desire to circumscribe that freedom, he charged the press with great fluctuations of opinion with regard to the management of the war, and with libelling many great and good men.

PROFESSOR OWEN, F.R.S.—This distinguished naturalist has just received the decoration of the French Legion of Honour, in which order he holds the rank of Chevalier.

AMERICA.

THE Washington Legislature had not, up to the last advices, decided upon its Speaker. Mr. Banks, Republican Know-nothing, had obtained the greatest number of votes—106; but the necessary number is 112; and, after forty-five ballots, the matter still remains open. Advices from Washington state that it has been ascertained, beyond the possibility of cavil, that a despatch has been received from Mr. Buchanan, relative to the Crampton difficulty, the tenor of which was, that the English Government, in a courteous but positive manner, declined giving such explanations as have been demanded by the United States' Government regarding the alleged violation of the neutrality laws by English agents.

The Boston *International Journal* has an article defending Mr. Crampton from the charges brought against him, in the course of which that gentleman's circular to his various agents is quoted, to show "how anxiously he sought to make all persons respect the law." In this document, Mr. Crampton says:—"The information to be given will be simply that, to those desiring to enlist in the British army, facilities will be afforded for so doing on their crossing the line into British territory, and the terms offered by the British Government may be stated as matter of information only, and not as implying any promise or engagement on the part of those supplying such information, so long at least as they remain within American jurisdiction."

Affairs at Kansas have assumed a serious aspect; and a demand made by the Governor of the country to the Federal Government for the assistance of troops has been refused. Under date of the 6th inst., it is stated that 400 or 500 men, accompanied by artillery and 1,000 muskets, had passed through the town of Independence for the purpose of maintaining order. The Indians on the frontiers continue their depredations. An action has taken place at Rouge River Valley between four hundred of the United States' troops, together with volunteers, and three hundred Indians, ending in the retreat of the former with a loss of eighteen men. The town called Canon City has been entirely destroyed by fire. It is reported that several fine diamonds have been found in the tunnels of the Table Mountain, California; and the accounts from the mines generally are highly satisfactory.

The Governments of San Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, have strongly protested to the United States' Government against the recognition of the present Nicaraguan Government, and declared themselves resolved to exterminate foreign adventurers who might invade their soil for revolutionary purposes. The United States' Government, however, having received information that an expedition against Nicaragua was being organised in New York, has taken steps to prevent it. In Nicaragua itself, the new Government is proceeding very successfully; trade and commerce are reviving; and several families have returned to their homes. Colonel Parker H. French has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States; and it is said that he is vested with extraordinary powers, to enable him to settle the difficulties existing between the United States, England, and Nicaragua.

From the New York commercial accounts we learn that symptoms of a returning stringency in the money market were apparent. The stock market was quiet and firm.

OUR CIVILISATION.

THE CUDHAM MURDER.—Robert Thomas Palin has been tried at Maidstone for the murder of Jane Beagley on the 25th of last August, and has been acquitted. Mr. Denman, who defended Palin, commented upon the absence of any appearance of blood upon the clothes of the prisoner, although, according to the case for the prosecution, he was seen a very short time after the murder had been committed. He also observed upon the discrepancy in the evidence of the witnesses who were called to prove that the prisoner was the man who was seen coming from the cottage after the murder, and said that, if they were really satisfied that he was the man they saw, it was very extraordinary that they did not say so upon their first examination, and that they should have waited until they were aware that the clothes had been found in the possession of the prisoner before they expressed themselves positive with regard to his identity.

A YOUTHFUL ABDUCTOR.—William England and Alfred England, father and son, were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of taking away a girl under thirteen years of age, from her mother. It appeared that the child, who looked at least seventeen, had been carried to a lodging where she lived with, the younger prisoner (who was nineteen) as his wife. The father of the youth had aided in the abduction of the girl. The girl's mother gave the following extraordinary particulars of the progress of the courtship:—"Upon one occasion, the younger prisoner and his sister stayed up in the bedroom with my two daughters all night. There was but one bed in the room. The younger prisoner had so

barred and bolted the bedroom door that I could not get in until the morning, when I fetched the younger prisoner's mother and a carpenter, and broke open the door and turned him out of the house. Upon another occasion I found him and his sister, my two daughters, and the servant, all upon the bed together. They used to play together as children would. I never let him into the house again after he bolted himself into the bedroom." The father was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and the son to six months'. Palin, is now in custody, and under remand, charged with the committal of a burglary.

THE POISONING CASE AT RUGELEY.—It is stated that Mr. Palmer, the surgeon now in custody on the charge of poisoning Mr. Cook, and lying under strong suspicion of having caused the deaths of several other persons, possessed a horse some years ago which he called "Strychnine." This horse, it is added, figured rather mysteriously on the turf. The bodies of Mr. Palmer's wife and brother have been taken from their graves for the purpose of a post-mortem examination.

CRUELTY TO A BOY.—Thomas Weir, captain of the brig Bells, of Blyth, is now in custody at Sunderland, charged with ill-using Horatio Bere, a boy twelve years old, who was an apprentice on board his vessel. Besides severely beating and kicking him, the captain had deprived the lad of his food for a considerable time, had torn the hair from his head, and had taken away his clothes. The boy's life is considered in great danger.

DARING ROBBERY AT OXFORD.—A number of watches were taken from the window of Mr. Le'r, a silversmith at Oxford, while that gentleman was sitting in his back room. The window was broken, and the property snatched through the gap, the thieves escaping, though the street was crowded.

A DRUNKEN POLICEMAN WITH A PISTOL.—A policeman at Liverpool was found by his inspector drunk on his beat, on Christmas-eve, and was ordered to go to the station-house, which he did. There he pulled out a pistol, and threatened the life of the inspector. The weapon, it appears, he carried to protect himself from some ruffianly characters against whom he had formerly procured a conviction. The constable was remanded; but, considering his previous excellent condition, he will only be bound over to keep the peace.

A CHRISTMAS-DAY ROBBERY.—Henry Williams, James Turner, and James Terry were charged at Worship-street with robbery. Mr. William Gascoyne, is a master butcher, having a private residence at Dalston, and business premises in Curtain-road, Shore-ditch, at which place the business was carried on by his sister's husband, a Mr. Rawson, who with his family went to spend Christmas-day with another relative in Tower-street, City. There, between seven and eight in the evening, they were alarmed by a sudden intimation that their house had been broken into and plundered, and, on getting back to the house, they found it in a state of confusion. Observing marks of blood on some of the bed clothes, and searching under them, they discovered beneath the counterpane a watch, rings, brooches, and other articles of jewellery, mingled with a quantity of silent matches, loosely thrown there by the thieves. The discovery of the robbery and the prisoner's connexion with it were as follows:—Goss and Eastman, two cabinet-makers, were standing, one in the front and the other in the rear of Mr. Gascoyne's premises, when the former saw five men, the prisoners and two others, watching the house. One did something to the street door, but went back to his confederates, and the three prisoners entered the house, shutting the door after them. Goss fetched a neighbour, as he knew the family were out, and Turner was then seen at the front window, with a light in his hand, pulling down the blind. Eastman at the same time saw lights in the second-floor back room, and accordingly fetched the police, the consequence of which was that the house was completely surrounded by constables. Williams dropped from a wall, full twenty feet high, in the rear, and was secured by an officer. He was followed by Turner, who dropped the same height, and was immediately seized by Eastman. A police sergeant, in the meantime, scaled a wall belonging to the next house, and, breaking open the first floor window, got in, and made his way to one of the top rooms, where he saw Terry standing in the centre of the floor, and seized him, the man offering no resistance. Three skeleton keys were found in his pocket. On the road to the station, his coat was found to be ripped up, and his left arm was bleeding most profusely. On the police asking the cause, Terry replied that he was making his way up through the slaughterhouse to gain admission to some other part, when his foot slipped, he fell, and remained some time suspended on a large meat hook, which had struck into his arm. Having lodged the prisoner in the station and returned to the house, the police found property strewn in all directions, while inside the slaughterhouse were a silver butter-knife and finger-ring. The marks upon the doors, drawers, and closets had evidently been made by a powerful screwdriver, which for some time could not

be found anywhere, but was at length discovered at the bottom of the waterbutt.—All the prisoners were remanded.

ANOTHER BURGLARY.—A burglary was committed as far back as the 11th of November, on the premises of a jeweller in Holloway. Some policemen having received intimation of the fact shortly after its commission, went to the shop, which projects from the front of the house, and found three men on the roof. One of the officers climbed up, when he was seized by a man named Horne, who flung him down on to the pathway, breaking his arm, and otherwise severely hurting him. The burglar then got down himself, seized the constable by the hair, and beat his head against the pavement and some railings. In connexion with this robbery and assault, three men were examined last Monday at the Clerkenwell Police Court; one of whom was discharged for want of sufficient evidence. Another, named Impey, was committed for trial, and Horne was sentenced to hard labour for six months.

SUSPECTED MURDER AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mrs. Beardmore, wife of the landlord of a railway hotel at Newcastle-on-Tyne, has died from the effects of a fall from her bedroom window through the glass roof of an arcade beneath. Previous to her death, she several times accused her husband of flinging her out in a fit of jealousy; but Mr. Beardmore has endeavoured to show that his wife threw herself out of the window in a frenzy of drunken passion. He has been admitted to bail.

CRUELTY TO HORSES.—Three cases of working horses while they were suffering from sores and wounds were heard at the Marylebone police office on Wednesday. Fines varying in amount were imposed.

A HARD CASE.—A sailor, nineteen years of age, who only arrived from the Crimea on Saturdaylast, entered the Lambeth police court with his two sisters and little brother, the three latter being scantily dressed, while two of them were without shoes or stockings. He said that eighteen months ago he got appointed as ordinary seaman on board a transport and sailed for the Crimea. After discharging her cargo, his ship was sold to the Turkish Government, and, on leaving her, he got a situation as servant to an officer, and lived with him for some time. Having heard that his mother was in a very delicate state of health, he felt master kindly procured him a passage. On Saturday, at mid-day, he reached home from Portsmouth, and found his mother dead and in her coffin, and the three children who accompanied him in a state of great destitution. On Sunday, his mother was buried at the expense of a gentleman for whom his father, who died six years ago, used to work; and, on Monday, a broker was put in by the landlord who swept everything in the place away. The children were removed to the house of an aunt, and she, being a very poor woman herself and totally unable to support them, took them to the workhouse of Newington parish; but the relieving officer, Bowman, refused either to relieve or receive them, alleging as his reason that they slept out of the parish of Newington and in that of Lambeth, and they must, therefore, be passed in the regular way. In reply to the questions of the magistrate, the applicant said that his father and mother had for upwards of twenty years rented a house at £30 a-year, and paid taxes all that time to the parish of Newington. The magistrate directed that inquiries should be made; and on the following day the summoning officer stated that, after a great deal of trouble, and having overcome the objections of the parochial authorities, by causing the children to sleep a night in the parish of Newington, he induced the former to take the destitute outcasts into the workhouse.

MYSTERIOUS CASE OF SWINDLING.—Several months ago, Messrs. Barton and Gnestier of Bordeaux were defrauded of £200 by a man unknown to them who presented a letter of credit which was stolen last February from Dr. A. R. Sutherland, while travelling from Malaga to Seville. Having heard that two Spaniards, named Masip and Cortaza, had been tried and convicted in this country for attempting to defraud several Spanish merchants, Messrs. Barton and Gnestier wrote to Alderman Finnis, giving a description of the person and dress of the man who had swindled them, and inquiring if the appearance of either of the Spaniards at all corresponded with that description. Neither of them, however, in any way resembled the person described in Messrs. Barton and Gnestier's letter, and it was therefore evident that they were not guilty of the fraud. Further steps were then taken to discover the culprit, and Messrs. Barton and Gnestier shortly afterwards learned that in Algiers, during the winter of 1853-54, a gentleman named Lambert, owning large smelting works in Swansea, South Wales, was unceremoniously visited by a stranger, whose name does not appear. It seems, however, that Mr. Lambert and his family liked this mysterious gentleman's room better than his company, since he greatly annoyed and disgusted them by his behaviour. In the winter following, the same individual went to Malaga, where he took up his abode

at the Victoria Hotel. Although he had no letters of introduction, and was not known to any one, he managed to work his way into the society of a Mr. Kirby, whom he insisted on accompanying on some pretext to the British Consul. Having succeeded in obtaining an introduction in that quarter, he lived some time in the Consul's family, but his manners were so singular and ungentleman-like that the Consul was obliged to dismiss him. This illustrious unknown next introduced himself into the house of Mr. Baillie Cochran, who was passing the winter at Malaga, with his brother-in-law, Dr. Sutherland, and his sister, Mrs. Sutherland. The stranger soon formed an intimate acquaintanceship with the party, and Mr. Cochran repeatedly endeavoured to discover who the extraordinary person was, but without success. After some time, however, they all went to Seville, and, meeting with an accident on their return, they were compelled to leave their luggage where their carriage was upset. Dr. Sutherland took with him to the inn where they passed the night a leathern bag, containing, among other things, two letters of credit, of £500 each, on Messrs. Drummond of London. This bag was missed directly after breakfast the following morning, and, though strict search was made, it could not be found anywhere. Soon afterwards, Mr. Cochran and Dr. and Mrs. Sutherland, accompanied by the unknown, went by route of Valencia and Madrid to Paris, stopping on their way, for a short time, at Bayonne; and during this period it is supposed that their anonymous visitor must have proceeded to Bordeaux, and presented one of the letters of credit at the house of Messrs. Barton and Gnestier, who immediately advanced him £200. When the party arrived at Paris, the stranger took leave of his friends, telling them that he was going to America. A description of his dress and personal appearance has been published at Malaga. It is exactly similar to that given by Messrs. Barton and Gnestier of the man who had swindled them; and it is hoped that this will ultimately lead to the apprehension of the offender.

THE FORGERY OF PRUSSIAN NOTES.—Edmund Schehl and Louis Schehl have been committed for trial on the charge of forging a Prussian note, under circumstances already detailed in these columns.

RAILWAY ROBBERIES.—The robberies at railway termini, more especially at the Waterloo Station of the South Western line, continue with singular audacity; and upwards of a dozen men and women are now in the Wandsworth House of Correction on these charges. A well dressed old man, described as a commercial traveller, has been committed for trial for the same offence.

"BOXING NIGHT."—Thursday morning, at the Police offices, brought with it the usual number of charges of drunkenness and rioting, arising out of the rejoicings common on the 26th of December. One of these cases was very serious. Michael Donovan, Mary, his wife, and James Kennedy, the latter a ticket-of-leave man and a private in the militia, were drinking at a public-house in Great Russell-street, Covent-garden, when a quarrel ensued, the police were called in, and Kennedy, attacking one of the officers with his belt and buckle, knocked him down, and bit two pieces of flesh from the calf of one of his legs. He was taken into custody, together with the other two, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Donovan received a month's imprisonment, and the woman was discharged.

MURDER IN THE MINORIES.—A Mrs. Colligan was murdered by her husband on Wednesday evening while staying at the house of Mr. Burton, an optician in Church-street, Minories. Mr. Burton, and his wife and sister, on running to the assistance of the woman were attacked with the same knife which had already dealt Mrs. Colligan her death wounds, and considerably hurt—to such an extent, indeed, in the case of Mr. Burton and his sister, as to render it necessary that they should be conveyed to the hospital. Corrigan is in custody, and under remand at the Thames police-courthouse. The evidence of Mr. Burton makes it appear highly probable that the murderer was under the influence of *delirium tremens*. He had been very silent on Christmas-day, and looked "curious." Mrs. Fearon, Mr. Burton's sister, though suffering greatly from her wounds, gave evidence on Thursday, and described the fatal attack. The magistrate asked her to turn round and look at the prisoner for the purpose of identifying him, but her terror was so great that she was afraid to do so. At length she was raised from her chair and was being led out of court, when she rushed wildly towards the dock, and stretched out the arm that was not wounded to shake hands with Corrigan, who eagerly leant forward, caught her hand in his, and exclaimed "God bless you!" He then gave way to a paroxysm of grief, and again leant over the edge of the dock in a stooping position and buried his face in his hands. As Mrs. Fearon was being led into the clerk's room, she exclaimed "Oh, my arm—my arm!" and fainted.

THE NEW SURGEON-EXTRAORDINARY TO THE QUEEN.—Mr. William Ferguson, F.R.S., has been appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to the Queen.

THE LATE COUNT KRASINSKI

[The annexed details have been communicated by M. Szulczewski.]

COUNT VALERIAN KRASINSKI, who died in Edinburgh on the morning of the 22nd inst., was a native of the ancient Polish province of White Russia, and issued from an old and illustrious family, the branch to which he belonged having at an early period embraced the Protestant faith, of which the late Count also was an adherent. Having been appointed chief of the department of Public Instruction in Poland, he promoted the establishment of a college at Warsaw for the education of Jewish Rabbis. Count Valerian Krasinski was also the first to introduce stereotype printing in Poland, and in this instance the benefits bestowed upon the community considerably impaired his own fortune.

On the breaking out of the Polish insurrection in 1830, Count Valerian Krasinski was sent by the then chief of the national government, Prince Adam Czartoryski, to England, as a member of the diplomatic mission despatched from Poland to this country, and he continued here, in this capacity until the fatal catastrophe of 1831, when he became a penniless exile from his country. Deprived of every other means of subsistence, he thenceforward devoted himself exclusively to literary pursuits; and, though still making every effort for his country, he soon worked out for himself a distinguished place among the *literati* of England, in the language of which he wrote. His first venture in the English language was the translation of a Polish novel, "Sigismund Augustus; or Poland in the Sixteenth Century," which, having met with a very favourable reception from the British public, was followed by an original work of greater pretensions. This was the "History of the Reformation in Poland," which at once established Count Krasinski's reputation as one of the most eminent historical writers of the day, and which having subsequently been translated into German and French, acquired for him European renown, and procured him a gold medal and a letter with his autograph signature from the King of Prussia. But Count Krasinski's literary labours failed to secure for him anything like competence; yet, though often subjected to great privations, he resolutely rejected the most brilliant offers made to him by Russia, and even declined the more flattering and honourable overtures of the King of Prussia.

The next historical work that issued from the pen of the deceased nobleman, after an interval of several years, during which he was a constant contributor to the periodical literature of this country, was the "Sketch of the Religious History of the Slavonic Nations." He has also published a series of pamphlets on the Polish and the Russian question, such as "Panslavism and Germanism;" "Russia and Europe;" "Russia, Poland, and Europe;" "Opinions of Napoleon the first regarding Poland." The three last of these bear upon the subject of the present war.

His latest days were employed in correcting the proofs of a pamphlet, entitled "The Polish Question," which he has not lived to see published. A "History of Poland," which he had commenced publishing in monthly numbers, also remains unfinished. On subjects not connected with his own country, Count Krasinski has contributed to English literature a translation of Calvin's "Treatise on Relics," and several small works on religious subjects, which, though published anonymously, had a very extensive circulation.

His loss will be felt by the Polish emigration, and the more so as following immediately after that of M. Adam Mickiewicz, the celebrated Polish poet, who died a few weeks ago at Constantinople, whither he had been sent by the French Government on an important mission. A very short time before his death, Count Krasinski received a letter from the Chief of the Polish emigration, Prince Adam Czartoryski, expressing his thanks and satisfaction at the services which the late Count did not cease to render to the cause of his country.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

PEACE PROSPECTS.

THE neutralization of the Black Sea, according to the writer of a letter from Munich, is the proposition which Austria has made to Russia in the hope of bringing the present war to a conclusion. "Adopting this form as a basis, the Austrian Government sounded the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, and that such a solution was not rejected by M. de Nesselrode. It is true that the Russian Government does not appear desirous of understanding the application in the same sense as the Western Powers and Austria. But I am informed that Russia would admit the principle of the neutralization of the Black Sea in the sense of the pure and simple freedom of that sea for all flags and for all navies in the world. I even believe that she would admit the establishment of consular agents in the principal ports of the Euxine; but when her views are sounded on this point there her concessions stop. The system of neutralization of the Euxine, such as

the Western Powers proposed at first—that is to say the transformation of that internal sea into a vast commercial lake—free on the side of Turkey, as on that of Russia, from fleets of war, and from fortified ports which would incessantly make it the theatre of a disastrous conflict, watched by the European consuls—such a system, I repeat, pleases Germany much, for it prepares an immense progress in the history of nations. A demand has also been made to Russia to abandon at the mouths of the Danube an unimportant portion of the territory of Bessarabia, in order that the collective syndicate charged with securing the free navigation of the river may be able to act on a completely neutral territory. I think I may affirm that the initiative of the demand has proceeded from the German States, to which the freedom of the Danube is so important; and this circumstance may even render easier than is supposed the adhesion of Russia to that condition. The German Cabinets have favoured these terms, and those who will support them most earnestly are Bavaria and Saxony. I have just learned that M. Seebach is summoned to Dresden, when he will be charged with a mission to St. Petersburg. M. Seebach is one of the eminent diplomatists of Bavaria, and is capable of exercising a salutary influence on the Emperor Alexander. It is certain that the Emperor of Austria has accompanied his propositions with an autograph letter to the Czar to induce him to adhere to the conditions which Count Esterhazy is charged with proposing to him. I do not think they are in the form of an ultimatum; but the Emperor Francis Joseph makes a strong appeal to the good sense of the Czar before coming to an open rupture."

A pamphlet has been published in Paris, advocating the idea of a general Congress for the pacification of Europe. It is said that the production is favourably received by the Emperor; and some even hint that it is from his pen, or at least produced under his inspiration. The author is anonymous; but it is put forward as the composition of *un Homme d'Etat*. The *Times* correspondent, speaking of this pamphlet, says:—"The author seeks to prove that what is called the policy of Peter the Great was, perhaps, a generous one at the epoch it was conceived, but that the progress of Europe since then has rendered it unnecessary. He also thinks that Russia can no more consider herself humiliated by the acceptance of propositions of peace than England is by the recognition of the independence of her American colonies, or than France by the loss of the conquests she made under the Republic and the Empire; and he dwells on the fact that France, which contributed to the loss of America, and that England, which was a party to the separation of Belgium and the Rhenish provinces from France, are at this moment firmly united. His inference is that, notwithstanding the present state of affairs in Europe, a complete reconciliation may be obtained, but that it can only be by means of a Congress of Sovereigns."

Austria has communicated to Prussia the preliminaries agreed upon by the Western Powers, and called upon her to advocate their acceptance at St. Petersburg, which he has consented to do. It is said that both the King and the statesmen of Prussia have urged the Czar to make peace. Nevertheless Prussia will not abandon her system of neutrality, even should the enemies of Russia increase. The *Dresden Journal* states that Russia has declared her willingness to concede the neutrality of the Black Sea, under certain conditions compatible with the interests of Europe.

Rumours still prevail in Paris of a greater disposition towards peace on the part of the French Emperor than on that of the English Government; but there is some doubt as to their correctness. It is said that the King of Prussia has reserved to himself the right of making representations to Austria on "the excessive rigour" of the conditions proposed, and that this has had a modifying effect on the Court of Vienna. However this may be, the propositions, whatever their nature, have already arrived at St. Petersburg, with their bearer, Count Esterhazy.

Foreigners travelling into Finland must remain there, by virtue of a recent regulation, until the end of the war.

It is now stated that the Austrian army, instead of being reduced, will be augmented, especially in the Danubian Principalities.

The remittance to the Ottoman Minister of War of the money realised by the Turkish loan in France and England has caused a rapid rise in the value of piastres at Constantinople. The capitulation of the town of Kara was not officially known at Constantinople at the last advices. The Sultan objects to the establishment of a police force organised by the consuls of foreign Powers. Advices from Smyrna of the 12th of December state that the English squadron under the orders of Rear-Admiral Stewart was preparing to leave for Malta.

The Prince de Pless, President of the Berlin Chamber of Peers, is dead. Count Munster has not brought either an autograph letter or any propositions whatever from St. Petersburg.

A conference on the Sound Dues will shortly be

opened at Constantinople. The only special representatives will be those of Russia and Sweden; all the other States will instruct their ordinary diplomatic agents. The idea of getting the revenue derivable from the Sound dues capitalised and paid off by the various States interested, has been given up by Denmark, and the retention of the dues under conditions less onerous to commerce is to be the object of the coming conferences, which, it is expected, will be opened next month.

The Athenian Journal, the *Hope*, publishes an elaborate article, defending Greece from the charges recently brought against her of being Russian at heart. The writer contends that Greece is neither Russian, nor French, nor English, in her policy, but that she has a policy of her own; that the facts of her political institutions being English in their spirit, and of her military organisation being French, would be sufficient to show that her sympathies are not purely Muscovite; and that in her national library of 50,000 volumes not one Russian work exists. The insurrection and invasion of the Turkish territory in 1854 is said to have been simply for the purpose of recovering that part of the Ottoman empire which the Greeks will always look upon as being their rightful inheritance; though it is added that the Hellenes would never have made that attempt could they have foreseen that the Western Powers would have abandoned them. They seized the opportunity presented by Turkey being engaged in repelling Russia to effect a rising with a view to the further emancipation of their race; but, in doing so, they did no more than in their first struggle for liberty. They have since given a promise of neutrality, and will keep to it; yet they never can, and never will, recognise the integrity of the Turkish empire. Far from desiring that Russia should absorb European Turkey, the Greeks would oppose such a step, as being a robbery of their own inheritance. Still they entertain feelings of gratitude to Russia, together with France and England, for aid afforded in the war of independence. With respect to the cause of civilisation, the writer points to the efforts in the way of education made by Greece as evidence that her tendencies are not towards barbarism.

The state of trade in France still shows great depression in the provinces; but the retail businesses of Paris have recovered some activity, in consequence of the approaching New Year. Great preparations have been made during the present week for the triumphal reception of the troops from the Crimea, which takes place to-day (Saturday). Arches, trophies, flagstuffs, &c., have been erected; and it is stated that each soldier of the army of Paris will receive extra pay, in order that he may be able to treat a comrade among the new arrivals.

Herr Von Bismarck-Schönhausen has recently paid a visit to the Court of Bavaria, at Munich, and subsequently to that of Wurtemberg, at Stuttgart. The object of the former visit was to confer with the Bavarian cabinet on the subject of the reforms which Bavaria desires to see introduced into the Bund—reforms to which Saxony and Hanover have signified their entire assent. Bavaria proposes to make a motion of its own at Frankfurt with a view to a change of system: but Herr Von Bismarck has endeavoured to dissuade her from his independent course; and indeed on business of importance can be transacted in the diet without the previous consent of Austria and Prussia.

The result of the general elections which have taken place in Hanover is now known. Thirty-eight members of the old Chamber have been re-elected; the ex-minister Lehzen has been named eight times. The Chamber is composed of ninety members, of whom only eighty-six are elected. Of the thirty-eight members re-elected, four only are Ministerial; the others belong to the Stuve party and to the Left.

The new Russian Loan, issued at 82, has been done at Hamburg at 81, without having been quoted at the Bourse. That of 1854 is now at 79.

A camp of 40,000 men will be formed this winter at Cherbourg.

General La Marmora is expected at Turin from the Crimea.

The budget of Prussia for 1856, which has just been submitted to the Chambers, estimates the receipts at 118,864,071 thalers, the ordinary expenses at 113,308,218 thalers, and the extraordinary expenses at 5,555,853 thalers. The Communal Bill, which the Prussian Government has just presented to the Chambers, proposes that mayors and other municipal functionaries shall be elected for life instead of for six or twelve years as heretofore.

The health of Prince Paskiewitch is improving, and he is now able to attend to business.

Piedmont has just lost one of her most distinguished statesmen in the person of Count Charles Berando de Pralormo, Knight of the Order of the Annunziado, ex-Minister, &c., who recently expired at Turin after a short illness. He was a consistent liberal.

The Spanish Infante, Don Enrique, has addressed a letter to the Queen, denying the charges of disloyalty that have been brought against him. It is thought

that this will lead to a restoration of his rank, title, and honours.

The Tariff question is still occupying great attention in Spain. The budget of the Finance Minister, Senor Bruil, is under the consideration of the Cortes, and it is thought will pass. It is conceived in the spirit of free trade; but the Catalan deputation which has waited on Senor Bruil looks with great favour on the preservation of monopoly, and one of its members even hinted at an insurrection in case of the reforms being proceeded with.

Some English labourers sent out to Spain to work on a railway have been thrown into great distress by the suspension of the enterprise. Mr. Otway, the English Chargé d'Affaires, having brought their case before the notice of Lord Clarendon, our Government has given orders that they should be sent home at the national expense.

Father Lothar, the Franciscan monk, who escaped from his convent in Prussian Silesia, and joined the Protestant Church, has just published "a formal recantation of his errors."

Mr. Edward Murray, an English gentleman who, about three years ago, was arrested at Rome on a charge of being concerned in the murder of Count Severino, has been liberated, and sent secretly to Civita Vecchia, escorted by gendarmes, thence to be embarked on board a French steamer for Malta.

An ukase of the Emperor Alexander II. grants an indemnity to the civil and military functionaries of Poland who, in 1830, were dismissed by the Insurrectional Government, or refused to serve it. This ukase, moreover, authorises all individuals compromised in political affairs to re-enter the service of the State.

The accouchement of the Empress of the French is expected to take place between the 15th and the 25th of March. "This," says the *Morning Post*, "is authentic." Her Majesty's health is excellent.

Our readers will recollect the case of M. Ranc, jun., which we mentioned last week. "Britannicus," the *Daily News* correspondent, now reports that "M. Collet-Meygret, Director General of Public Safety, informed M. Ranc, sen., that in consideration of his eminent judicial services, the government granted him a great favour, viz., that his son should be transported, not to Cayenne, but to Lambessa, in Africa. M. Collet-Meygret at the same time requested M. Ranc to thank his Imperial Majesty for this gracious act of condescension. A father must thus, forsooth, thank the man who condemns unheard his guiltless son to the galleys of Africa! Insult to injury!" Such acts of wanton abuse of power will have their sure but deadly effect on the foundations of the Imperial throne.

The English Ambassador at Teheran has broken off all relations with the Persian Government in consequence of some personal offence. It is thought that the affair will be terminated by a reparation on the part of the latter.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

EXPLOSION OF A MORTAR AT SHOEBOURNESS.—The iron mortar-raft No. 1, which was towed down to Shoeboyness on the 21st inst., with a second mortar, for the purpose of testing the efficiency of the new principle on which these boats are built, was again brought back to the Arsenal-wharf, Woolwich, on Monday evening. On her return to Shoeboyness, preparations were immediately made to recommence the trials. Two rounds were fired successfully, but at the third discharge the mortar (loaded with an ordinary charge of 20lb. of powder, &c.) was shattered in pieces, scattering its fragments over the sides of the boat, and shivering the framework of the bed. The commander of the Lizard, who was commanding, was struck by one of the fragments of the metal, and was severely injured. The gunner escaped serious injury, but one of the pieces, ejected with great force, grazed and slightly excoriated his throat.

HARDSHIPS OF THE CLARE MILITIA.—The *Dublin Mail* calls attention to the two following instances of official mismanagement:—"The Clare Militia, under orders for Newport, South Wales, left the Curragh at half-past eight o'clock a.m. on Saturday, the 22nd inst., and upon their arrival in Dublin at half-past twelve were marched from the railway terminus to the Royal Barracks, where they remained all day in the open barrack square, exposed to the weather. At about twenty minutes past four o'clock, they received orders to march to Beggar's-bush. On arriving at Beggar's-bush Barracks, they found that no sort of preparation had been made for them—no food of any kind, not even bread. The colonel sent one of his officers out, who succeeded in purchasing about two hundred loaves of bread, which were distributed among the men. The men were obliged to lie on the floor, wrapped up in their blankets, unless they chose to lie on the hard iron bedsteads, as no straw had been provided for them. This was a severe trial for young militia soldiers. Up to six o'clock on Sunday, no bedding had been provided. The regiment was to embark for Birkenhead next morning. The Roscommon Militia was sent, via Liverpool, to Leeds on Thursday. They were ordered and counter-ordered to embark on the same day, and were sent out of

Kingstown in a heavy gale at last. At Liverpool, the weather was so bad as to cause great difficulty in disembarking; and when the regiment arrived at Leeds they were kept under arms in the streets for three hours before it was settled where they were to be quartered."

A GALE ON THE COASTS.

THE coasts of Scotland and Ireland have been afflicted with a very severe gale, which has lasted almost a week. The wind blew from the south-east, and a heavy sea ran in the Irish channel. Vessels traversing that sea were exposed to great peril; several, it is feared, have been lost with all hands. Among these are mentioned the American ship Canvassack (crew saved); a brig, about three hundred tons' burden; the schooner Robert Boyle, of Donaghadee (about four hands lost); the schooner Isabella, of Cork (one man killed); two boats on the Dagger Bank (with the loss of all the crew); a fine ship which perished near the Saltees, apparently with every soul on board; and a schooner (as it is supposed to have been from the pieces of wreck), lost on the strand of Ballytigue. Of the ships wrecked near the Saltees, we are told that, with wonderful daring and skill, she ran through the dangers of the Sound between the islands, a passage never attempted even in fine weather by ships of such size, and brought up to her anchors inside the Great Saltee. But even here it would seem that she perished.

Several wrecks have come ashore on the east coast of Scotland. A small sloop was wrecked near Montrose and all hands perished. A boat on taking the harbour was swamped and four men drowned, supposed to be the crew of some vessel foundered at sea. In the Moray Frith, a good deal of timber has drifted ashore, indicating wrecks at sea.

A correspondent of the *Times* relates the following instance of heroism in connexion with the gale:—"On the night of the 18th inst., the brig Phillip, of Belfast, was driven by stress of weather on the bar at the mouth of the Dee, Kirkcubright, and stove in her bottom; the crew, consisting of five men and a boy, took to the rigging, a very heavy sea washing over the vessel. On the morning of the 19th, the men were seen from the shore on the rigging, and several attempts were made to rescue them, but failed by the violence of the storm, when a young man named Walter Mure, accompanied by his two brothers (young boys), and another man named Beattie, made a final attempt, the sea at the time running mountains high; they succeeded in picking off the captain, three men, and a boy; one man in the interval being washed off and drowned. The poor fellows were quite benumbed, having been ten hours in their perilous position. It is deserving of being known that Mure has been the sole support of his widowed mother and a large family of brothers and sisters for the last five years; but he positively refuses assistance of any kind."

MISCELLANEOUS.

EXTRAORDINARY METEOR.—MR. E. J. Lowe writes as follows to the *Times*, dating from the Observatory, Beeston, near Nottingham, Dec. 20th:—"I beg to call your attention to one of the most extraordinary meteors which has ever come under my notice, and which was seen here yesterday morning at 6h. 13m. Its apparent size was nearly equal to that of the moon, and during the moment that it was visible the light produced was equal to that of daylight. The head of the meteor was rounded, and from it proceeded a long flame-looking tail of the same width as the meteor itself, and of a yellowish colour. It started in N.N.W. and moved to N.W. Its position when first seen would be somewhere about the star H. 17, Camelo-pardi, and when it vanished about midway between Capella and μ Persci. After the meteor had vanished, a bright comet-like band of light (of about the width of the moon) remained, covering the whole of its path, the lower part of which gradually curled round towards the east, while the upper remained stationary; before it had disappeared, the lower part almost touched the upper, forming a circular band enclosing a large clear space. This gradually faded in about a quarter of an hour. No noise of explosion was heard. A falling star crossed over it at 6h. 14m., moving from Capella towards α Cassiopeiæ."

ANOTHER ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENON. "CIVIS" writes to the *Times*: "I was returning on foot from Deal to Dover, on the 23rd inst., when, about a mile beyond Ringswood, I felt an unusually oppressive sensation in the air. It was then about a quarter to eight o'clock in the evening. On ascending the hill and getting clear of the fir trees, a vivid flash of lightning, followed by one heavy peal of thunder, flashed across me. The air then became quite clear again, I mentioned the circumstance to several people whom I met on the road, and learnt that several of them had observed the phenomenon."

THE NEW VARIABLE STAR.—MR. J. R. Hind states that the object which he has recently observed in the heavens continues to occupy the same position; and

s, therefore, in all probability, an addition to our list of telescopic variable star.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.—The chairman of the new Metropolitan Board of Works was elected at a meeting last Saturday, when several candidates were proposed. The following is the original list:—"Mr. James Baker, Mr. G. R. Booth, C.E.; Mr. G. H. Buckton, Mr. William Burch, Mr. G. F. Carden, Sir C. De Crespigny, Bart., Mr. William Corrie, Mr. Deputy Harrison, Mr. T. Hawes, Mr. R. Jebb, Mr. W. J. Neale, Mr. G. Ofor, Hon. Josceline Percy, M.P., Mr. J. A. Roebuck, M.P., Mr. Arthur Rose, Mr. Arthur Symonds, Mr. John Thwaites, Mr. Thomas Turner." From this list, the names of Mr. Baker, Mr. Booth, Mr. Buckton, Mr. Burch, Sir C. De Crespigny, Mr. Neale, Mr. Ofor, and Mr. Symonds, were afterwards expunged, for want of proposers, or on account of their proposers and seconders not being prepared to support them with their votes. Sir John Shelley was liberal in his offers of proposing and seconding, being ready in any case where the accommodation was wanted; a course which was more than once objected to by Mr. Hows, as making a burlesque of the whole affair. Mr. Roebuck, in addressing the meeting, made a species of defence of himself for doing that which he had never done in his life before—soliciting a paid office; but he said he had been asked to come forward, and added that he regarded his experience, first of the law and then of legislation (more especially with reference to the Sebastopol Committee), as peculiarly fitting him for an office which would demand the reception and the nice balancing of apparently opposing facts and arguments. Upon the names being put to the vote, it was agreed that those having the smallest number of votes on each of the seven shows of hands which were to be taken should be struck out of the list. The final result was the election of Mr. Thwaites by thirty votes. In the same meeting, Sir John Shelley intimated his intention of resigning his seat as member of the board. He had felt bound, in consequence of certain circumstances which had transpired with reference to his election in the parish of St. James, to maintain the decision of the vestry, which he believed to be legal and right; but now he thought it better to tender his resignation, as the circumstances to which he had referred rendered the matter doubtful. The board, having determined to hold its first legal meeting on the 1st of January, adjourned after a sitting of nearly five hours.

AUSTRALIA.—The Legislative Council has assented to acts granting duties of customs and altering the duties on colonial spirits. By the former, all goods imported for the use of her Majesty's service are to be exempt from duties and imposts of every description. The act to alter the duty on colonial spirits, enacts that, in lieu of the duties now payable upon spirits distilled in the colony, there shall be paid upon such spirits, when made or distilled from sugar which shall have paid Customs' duties, for every gallon, 6s. 5d. Upon such spirits, when made or distilled wholly, or in any proportion exceeding ten per cent. of the whole, from materials which are not subject to any duty of Customs, for every gallon, 7s.—A great increase of briskness is noticeable in the wool-market.

SERFDOM IN SCOTLAND.—The Duke of Argyll—generally known as "the model Duke of Scotland"—has recently been guilty of a most outrageous piece of despotism over the poorer inhabitants of the island of Tiree. The *Glasgow Times* indignantly calls attention to this act of slave-driving, and quotes the following placard, posted on the church-doors of Tiree, as evidence of the truth of what it states:—"Notice is hereby given, that, after this date, no tenant paying under £30 of rent is to be allowed to use whisky, or any other spirits, at weddings, balls, funerals, or any other gatherings; and all offenders against the terms of this notice will be dispossessed of their lands at the next term. By order. (Signed) Lachlan Macquarie (factor's clerk).—Island House, Nov. 16, 1855." The darkest of the dark ages could hardly surpass the unblushing tyranny of this order. And the worst of it is, that it indicates a general condition of things in the island of Tiree, which is at once startling and humiliating. The islanders are evidently regarded in the light of mere goods and chattels.

SERFDOM IN ENGLAND.—Considerable indignation has been excited in the North Riding of Yorkshire by the Duke of Northumberland having lately introduced very stringent articles of agreement for the cultivation of his farms—articles which he requires his tenants (who are mostly yearly tenants) to sign, on pain of quitting their holdings. This proceeding has already led to the discharge from his farm of Mr. William Wetherell, of Kirkbridge, a leading agriculturist in the north of England, who very recently received the Duke's own prize for the best cultivated farm in the district, the prize being accompanied by special commendation from the Duke. A meeting has been held at Richmond, Yorkshire, for the purpose of denouncing the Duke's return to "the principles of feudalism and serfdom."

THE WESTERN FISHERIES.—The pilchard fishery is

now drawing to a close. At New-quay, on the Cornish coast, the boats have been taking from 500 to 2,000 fine herrings each during the past week, which have sold at 2s. 6d. and 3s. per hundred of six score. At Love, the herring fishery during the last three weeks has been very successful. Upwards of 100,000 have been taken, a larger number than has been known for forty years. They have been sold at 2s. and 2s. 6d. per hundred. At St. Ives, the drift-boats have captured from 500 to 27,000 per boat per night, which have been disposed of at 2s. per hundred of six score. There have also been large catches on the Devonshire coast.

THE POPE AND THE IRISH PRIESTS.—According to the competent authority of the *Nation*, the perilous principle (as it is called) which the Ossory (Bishop Walsh) discipline had introduced, and against which the late Mr. Lucas had vainly contended, has completely gained the mastery in the court of Rome. This information has reached to such a state now that the disheartened organ of the malcontents can no longer hesitate to declare that a positive prohibition of Monsignor Barnabo forbids nine or ten of the best (?) priests of Meath from attending political meetings in Dublin. Dr. Cullen is, of course, the party suspected of this overt act of treachery, and by the introduction of the sharp end of the wedge the *Nation* recognises the initiative of a principle which destroys Dublin as the political capital, which it always has been to the popular party since the Catholics first began to agitate.—*Times*.

DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE OF DURHAM.—The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, it is said, have reported in favour of a division of the extensive diocese of Durham, but have left for further consideration whether the new see shall be established at Newcastle or Hexham.

LOSS OF LIFE IN THE MEDWAY.—Lieutenant M'Donald, Lieutenant Eden, Lieutenant Battine, and his brother, of the Engineer barracks at Brompton, Chatham, went out rowing in the course of the week before last, and it is supposed, from the fact of the boat having been found driven on the bank of the Marshland, near Kit's Hole, and from the gentlemen having been since missed, that they have perished. They were last seen alive at an inn, which they left a little before six o'clock in the evening, saying they would row back to the barracks, though requested by the landlady to return by the omnibus.

THE STOCKTON POISONING CASE.—Mr. Jackson, one of the physicians attending on the late Mrs. Wooler, conceiving that suspicion might attach to him in consequence of the observation imputed to Baron Martin at the close of his summing up, has written to that Judge, advancing several arguments to prove that he could not accidentally have poisoned the deceased lady, and praying for some explanation of the remark said to have been made from the judicial seat. To this request, Baron Martin, thinking that the case is one in which he ought to depart from the rule of silence usually observed by judges, has replied by a letter, in which he writes:—"The substance of what I mean to say, and believe did say, was this—that, in a case of presumptive evidence imputing the guilt of murder, the law required the presumptions to be the plain and natural consequences following from the facts proved, and that it was not to be made out by fancy or surmise or suspicion, but by facts that amounted to proof; that I had endeavoured in my own mind to arrive at some conclusion on the subject, and that it appeared to me there was no proof against any one; but that if I were to indulge in mere surmise and fancy, not the prisoner, but some other person, would first occur to my mind. If the entire of what I said upon this subject had been reported, I cannot but think it would have been obvious to any one that I did express what I intended to express, viz., no imputation of guilt upon any one, but a strong illustration of the extreme danger of convicting Mr. Wooler upon any fancy or surmise from the facts and circumstances proved, by suggesting that a fancy or surmise, more plausible than could be entertained against Mr. Wooler, though equally insufficient to bring home guilt or the suspicion of it, might be directed against another." It is difficult to see how this explanation differs, except in a more diffusive mode of statement from the observation originally reported, which the Judge now says he did not utter, "nor anything tantamount to it." Besides, how can a surmise of guilt, directed against a specific person, be said to be insufficient to bring home a suspicion of guilt? What is the distinction between a "surmise" and a "suspicion"?

MR. BATES.—The jurymen who tried Strahan, Paul, and Bates, have addressed a petition to the Queen, praying for the liberation of the last-named prisoner, on the ground that, had the facts stated in his recent petition been known to them on the trial, they should have acquitted him.

GREAT BEACON FIRE ON MALVERN HILLS.—It is intended to light up a monster fire on the summit of the "Worcestershire Beacon," the highest point of the Malvern range of hills, on or about the 10th of January next; the object being twofold—viz., the

celebration of the introduction of gas into Malvern, and to test the distance at which the reflection of a large fire on so great an elevation (1,444 feet above the sea) would be visible. The beacon fire is to be forty feet in diameter at the base, and as high as may be conveniently carried, being kept together by poplar poles and bound round with chains. Mr. Edwin Lees, the naturalist, with the view of furthering the object in hand in a scientific way, has pointed out some of the best places for observation in different parts of the kingdom, and he suggests that, if distant observers are on the look-out, "some interesting points may turn up, and some facts as to very far mountains made out which at present are involved in obscurity." He proposes that a flight of signal rockets should announce the lighting of the fire, and that a deputation might reply with other rockets—say from the Brecon beacons or the Long Mountain in Montgomeryshire, though perhaps the fire itself, on a calm night, might be seen from Cader-Idris or Snowdon. Mr. Lees indicates the following elevated spots (within the horizon, from the top of the Malverns) as advantageous for observation on the night of the lighting of the beacon fire:—Burdon-hill, Leicestershire (about sixty miles as the crow flies); Edge-hill, near Kington, Warwickshire; hills near Banbury, Oxfordshire; the whole range of the Cotswold, from Broadway, Worcestershire, to Stroud, in Gloucestershire, including Clewe, Cloud, and Lechampton hills, Robinswood-hill, near Gloucester, &c.; White Horse-hill, Berkshire, seen over the Cotswold (another step takes to hill near London); Alfred's Tower, at Stourhead, Wilts; Mendip-hills, Somerset, thirty miles below Bristol; heights in Glamorganshire; Sugar Loaf and Skerid Vawr, near Abergavenny; the Kymin, near Monmouth; Great Doward, Monmouthshire; the Bloreng and Talgarth Beacon, and part of the Black Forest, Breconshire; the Black Mountains, stretching from Lantony to Hay; Blackbury-hill, Lady-left, and Dynevor, Herefordshire; Radnor Forest, Radnorshire; Moel-y-Goffa, near Welchpool, Montgomeryshire; hills in Shropshire, Clie-hills, near Ludlow; Caer Caradoc, the Long Mynd, and the Wrekin; and Cannock Chase, Enville, Dudley-castle, and Rowlie basaltic hills, in Staffordshire.

THE CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION FUND.—A correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—"If I mistake not, about the year 1802 or 1803, the then Prime Minister appropriated a fund which had accumulated for the payment of the pensions of the retired servants of the Crown to other purposes, and from that time until 1823 these pensions were paid out of the consolidated fund. About the latter period, an act was passed, in order that all the civil servants of the Crown should provide, by means of a percentage on their salaries, a fund for the payment of their respective pensions or 'retired allowance.' This percentage was, I believe, two and a half per cent. per annum upon all salaries under £100 per annum, and five per cent. upon all that were above that amount. From that time I believe this percentage has always been paid or deducted from the salaries to the present. About six or seven years since, it was found, not only that a sufficient fund for the purpose was raised, but that a million and a-half beyond the required amount had accumulated. This surplus at the present time has increased to nearly or quite £2,000,000 sterling. Without inquiring into the justice of the act of Parliament to which I have alluded, have we not a perfect right now to inquire what has become of this enormous accumulated 'excess fund,' which I conceive, under the circumstances, to be private property, although in the hands of the Crown?"

WILTSHIRE REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.—Active steps are being taken to establish a reformatory school for this county. The result of the meeting held some time since at Devizes, under the presidency of the Marquis of Lansdowne, has been that the sum of £1,000 has been subscribed, and very great interest has been evinced in the matter by most of the leading persons of the county. A site for the proposed building has been selected, which is within an hour's journey of Salisbury, Bradford, Trowbridge, Chippenham, Melksham, Devizes, Westbury, and Warminster.

HUMAN WILD BEASTS.—Two men belonging to the town of Acerrington, near Preston, recently went to a common, stripped themselves stark naked, and commenced wrestling. For rather more than an hour, they continued worrying each other like wild animals, and at the end of that time gave in, neither being vanquished. On the body of one, the torn flesh hung from his bones, says a local paper, like meat from butchers' hooks; and the blood poured down in streams. A large crowd kept urging on the combatants, who wrestled for a wager.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—It was shown in the last report that London had suffered an increase of mortality, the effect of cold weather. In the week that ended last Saturday, though the rigour of the weather was not mitigated, but augmented, the number of deaths registered was not quite equal to that of the preceding week, the numbers in the two periods having been 1,271 and 1,257. It is agreeable to expe-

rience, as well as reasonable in itself to believe, that some time will elapse before the effects of a change of temperature are fully manifested in the registration. This return includes the deaths of 634 males and 623 females. Forty-four men and women died whose lives had been prolonged to 80 years or upwards. The deaths produced by bronchitis received a considerable accession; for, having been 119 in each of the two previous weeks, they rose last week to 161, of which 45 occurred to persons under 20 years of age, and almost exclusively infants; 9 between the ages of 20 and 40; 39 in the period of 40-60; 60 at the ages 60 to 80; and 8 were deaths of octogenarians. The deaths from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, amounting to 80, and, falling principally among children, are not so numerous as in some previous weeks. Against 60 from bronchitis in the period of life 60-80 years, are to be set 60 from phthisis (or consumption), which occurred in that period of greater vigour, 20 to 40 years, being about half the total number from this disease. Fatal cases of typhus rose from 45 to 65, of which there were 10 in Shoreditch; of these 10 four occurred in Haggerstone West. Typhus, measles, whooping-cough, and scarlatina prevail now more in the East districts than in the other divisions of London. Four deaths from scarlatina occurred in Hoxton Old Town. Three deaths were registered as caused by intemperance, 4 by delirium tremens, 3 by carbuncle, 1 by want of the necessaries of life. Last week, the births of 759 boys and 763 girls, in all 1,522 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1,434.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

NOVEL SUBJECTS OF TAXATION.—A bill has been presented to the Legislature of Tennessee, levying a tax of five dollars on every gentleman who wears a moustache, and a fine of five dollars upon bachelors over thirty years of age, for the purpose of raising money to increase the school fund.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

THE LATE SAMUEL ROGERS.—"We have, within the last dozen years," says the *Athenæum*, "heard Mr. Rogers describe how he had seen Marie-Antoinette dance, and illustrate the same by himself walking a minuet. There is also an anecdote of his having left an early poem at Dr. Johnson's door only a day or two before the Doctor's death. Till an accident confined him to his chair, Mr. Rogers continued to be an attendant at the Opera, the Ancient Concerts, and, when these died out, at the Exeter Hall Oratorios. Till a very late period he might be seen at midnight feebly hurrying home from these on foot—no matter what the weather—thinly dressed, and as resentful of the slightest offer of attendance as was 'the Duke' when he was scarcely able to mount his horse. The passion for pleasure did not forsake him till a very late period. Only a few years since a street accident caused by this imprudent manner of wandering home alone, sentenced him to a chair for the rest of his days." Mr. Rogers has bequeathed to the nation three well known pictures from his collection—the Titian "Noli me Tangere;" the Giorgione, a "Small Picture of a Knight in Armour;" and the Guido, "Head of Christ crowned with Thorns." The remainder of the collection will, it is presumed, be sold in the course of the ensuing spring.

STRANGE PRESENT TO AN OFFICER IN THE CRIMEA.—Mr. W. Thomas, of Ratton, Sussex, has despatched to his brother, Major Thomas, of the Royal Horse Artillery, now in the Crimea, a pack of fox-hounds, for the purpose of hunting the Russian foxes.

BAKING COMPANIES—Two joint-stock bread associations have existed in Birmingham for several years. A correspondent of a contemporary says that, fifty or sixty years ago, the elder of the two companies embarked £8,400 in the trade, divided into as many shares. They have saved a surplus capital of between £40,000 and £50,000. They sell their bread at the market price, and yet divide cent. per cent. per annum on their subscribed capital. So much for the commercial stability of this concern, tested by the experience of more than half a century. The junior company is also prosperous, its shares selling for more than twice their original value. The Birmingham poor thus obtain genuine bread made of good flour, and their loaves are of full weight. No sinister interest exists, furnishing motives to fraud in these particulars; and, with regard to price, competition is all powerful to bring that to the lowest point.

A CRIPPLE BURNED TO DEATH.—A widow with several children has been burned to death at Preston. The poor creature was a cripple; and there were evidences that, being quite alone at the time, she had wandered over the greater part of the house (probably in search of assistance) while her clothes were on fire.

FIRE AT THE DUKE OF LEINSTER'S MANSION.—An extensive conflagration, resulting in the destruction of one wing of the Duke of Leinster's mansion at Carton, Ireland, broke out on Friday week, but was got under in time to save the rest of the building. It is supposed to have originated in a hot-air flue in one of the upper rooms of the wing, and to have smouldered for some days.

DEATH FROM FIRE.—Mrs Mary Brown, who was recently injured in a fire which occurred at Bristol, and whose legs and ribs were broken in endeavouring to escape, has died in the Infirmary. She was in her sixty-fourth year.

FIRE IN A PRISON.—The following shocking particulars of a fire in a prison at Baden are from the *Cologne Gazette*:—"The fire broke out on the ground floor, and, having immediately after caught the wooden staircase, cut off all communication with the upper floors. The gaolers had gone their usual rounds at nine o'clock and at eleven, but saw nothing wrong; and they were themselves roused from their sleep by the flames. The prisoners on the first floor succeeded in escaping, some of them by tearing away the iron bars from the window of the water-closet, but many of them were severely hurt in their attempt. Those on the second floor were not so fortunate, as the flooring being burnt through gave way beneath them. In consequence of the severe frost, the engines could work but very imperfectly, and the fire continued burning during the whole day. Fifteen carbonized bodies have already been got out from the ruins, and the body of one unfortunate man was found jammed in the pipe of the water-closet through which he had endeavoured to force a passage."

THE FIRE IN MINT-STREET.—An inquest has been held on the bodies of Lydia Robins and her children, who were burnt to death in the fire in Mint-street, Southwark, on Tuesday week. The circumstances were peculiarly tragic, inasmuch as the poor woman was approaching her confinement at the time of the disaster, and it would seem that the infant was actually born during the conflagration, perhaps prematurely from the agony and terror of the mother. The fire appears to have originated from a beam of wood having ignited owing to the bad setting of a copper. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the man who set the copper. He was taken into custody, but admitted to bail.

CHRISTMAS-DAY.—Last Tuesday was the second Christmas-day since the commencement of the war; and of necessity there were many households, from the highest to the lowest, where mournful recollections of the absent and the dead precluded the accustomed festivity. The weather, also, though mild, was gloomy; the streets were encumbered with mud and dirty puddle, from the recent thaw and heavy falls of rain; and London, consequently, did not present the most holiday aspect. But it may be safely stated that, as usual, a vast amount of eating and drinking, laughing and toast-pledging, went on as usual, and in the workhouses the really Christian custom of looking after the comforts of the poor was not forgotten. We are sorry to add, however, that the returns with respect to the pauper inmates, and to those receiving out-door relief, show a lamentable increase of poverty as compared with last year.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—The mail train on the Eastern Counties line which was proceeding on Monday night, from Peterborough to Ely, struck down two men, named Thomas Motts and David Knight, who died almost immediately from the injuries they received. The train was on the down line—an arrangement which is adopted while a bridge is being repaired—about eight miles from Ely. The driver of the engine whistled, and it was a moonlight night, but the men had been drinking and were heedless of the signal. The bodies of both men were much injured. The wife of Mott, who lives close by the spot where the occurrence took place, is a young woman with four little children, and the other man had a wife and family.—Owing to the negligence of a switchman on the North Kent Railway, a train from London on Christmas-day ran into a siding at the Strood Station and dashed against several empty carriages, in consequence of which the engine and a portion of the train were thrown off the line, and several of the passengers were severely bruised. One of these, a widow who was going to spend her Christmas at Sheerness, was so seriously injured in the spine that few hopes are entertained of her recovery. Edward Kingston, the switchman, is in custody. It is stated that he had neglected to turn the points from the direction of the siding.—A catastrophe of a very fearful nature, but happily not attended by loss of life, has occurred on one of the branch lines belonging to the St. Helen's Railway Company, a short distance from Liverpool. The line is a single line, and there is a swing-bridge over a canal. An engine with a train of empty coal trucks was passing along the rail, and, having cleared the swing-bridge, observed another locomotive coming down the line. The former engine was reversed, to avoid a collision; but the swing-bridge had been raised for the passage of a boat on the canal, and the engine-driver, not seeing this, allowed the engine to go through the aperture and fall on the boat beneath. The coupling-chains snapped, so that the trucks did not follow. The driver and stoker saved themselves, and no serious injury resulted.

ALLEGED FORGING OF A CERTIFICATE OF LUNACY.—Mr. W. R. Wilkinson, assistant to Mr. R. G. Horton, surgeon of Leeds, has been committed for trial on a charge of signing the name of his employer (without the leave or knowledge of that gentleman)

to a document stating that a young woman named Ann Ash was insane; in virtue of which certificate, the woman has been placed in a lunatic asylum. There seemed to be no doubt about Ann Ash's insanity; and in defence it was stated that Mr. Horton, being too ill to attend to business, had given Mr. Wilkinson a general permission to sign for him, though it was not contended that he had any knowledge of the present act. The accused was admitted to bail.

POSTAL CONVENTION WITH FRANCE.—A Convention with France, dated General Post-office, December, 1855, has been published. It contains the following notification:—"The entire postage, British and French, chargeable upon newspapers and other printed papers posted in the United Kingdom addressed to France or Algeria, or, when they are conveyed by the French Mediterranean packets, to any of the places in Turkey, Syria, and Egypt at which France maintains post-offices, must, on the 1st of January next and thenceforward be paid in advance, and no further charge of any kind will be levied upon their delivery. Under the new arrangement, many kinds of books and other printed matter, which have hitherto been liable to the letter rate of postage, will be forwarded at a greatly reduced charge; and, as the charges on newspapers and other periodical literature levied on delivery in France have, in most instances, been much greater than that now to be paid in advance, a considerable reduction of postage will be made in their case also."

GOLDSMITH ON RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.—A correspondent of the *Times* has pointed out the annexed passages in Goldsmith's "Citizen of the World," as an interesting evidence of the long-standing apprehensions of Russia as an encroaching power:—"I cannot avoid beholding the Russian empire as the natural enemy of the more western parts of Europe—as an enemy already possessed of great strength, and, from the nature of the government, every day threatening to become more powerful. It was long the wish of Peter, their great monarch, to have a foot in some of the Western parts of Europe: many of his schemes and treaties were directed to this end; but, happily for Europe, he failed in them all. A fort in the power of this people would be like the possession of a floodgate: and whenever ambition entered, or necessity prompted, they might then be able to deluge the whole western world with a barbarous inundation. Believe me, my friend, I cannot sufficiently condemn the politics of Europe, who thus make this powerful people arbitrators in their quarrel."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 29.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE EAST.

News from Constantinople up to the 17th inst. has been received, and contains some facts of interest. The Crimean submarine telegraph is broken.—Several English gun-boats are cruising in the Sea of Azof, destroying, where the ice does not hinder them, all the Russian fisheries.—General Williams and the prisoner of Kars have been sent to Tiflis.—Colonel Schwartzberg has succeeded in reaching Erzeroum.—Count Prokesch has arrived at Constantinople.—The conferences on the settlement of the Danubian Principalities will soon open.—A note of Lord Stratford proposes the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, to be governed by an Hereditary Prince, with a national army.—Advices from Trebizonde, of the 11th of December, state that Omar Pacha has established his headquarters at Redout-Kaleh.

STREET ROBBERY NEAR LONDON BRIDGE.—A rufianly looking man, named Edward Channer, was examined yesterday at Southwark on a charge of snatching a watch with great violence from the master of a vessel in the port of London. The time was between seven and eight in the evening, and the scene the crowded thoroughfare of Wellington-street, Southwark. The man is committed for trial.

OUTRAGE ON THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKRUPTCY.—A strange scene occurred in the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday morning between twelve and one o'clock. A respectably-dressed man went into the Court, uttered some words in an incoherent manner, and threw two oranges at his Honour, but, fortunately, did not do any injury. The man was at once secured, taken out of Court, and detained, in order that inquiry may be made as to who and what he is. There is every appearance of his being disordered in his intellect.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. 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.

"MR. F. O. WARD and the Engineers;" "What shall we gain by the War?" and several literary notices, are unavoidably omitted this week.

INQUIRY.—We cannot undertake to account for discrepancies between the criticisms of the *Leader* and those of any of our contemporaries.

G. B.—"Le Roman d'une Femme" was noticed in the *Leader* some months ago.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1855.

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.**

CHRISTMAS-DAY IN THE PRISON.

ON Christmas-day some of us spent no "merry Christmas." Not that merriness is all in all, even for Christmas. You see that careworn man, with grey hair and time-scarred face on a young body: he is an untutored man who has had to labour his way through a hard world, where "cleverness" and commercial tact rule; he has seven children to feed out of fifteen shillings a-week, in these days of bread tenpence a loaf; and if his "mis'ess" can earn a trifle, it is not much that they have, even with the scanty honorarium for cheerful service called Christmas-box, to make merry withal at this festive season. He had an accident some months since, and he knows that he shall not be out of debt "for the next six months." The "honourable" young gentleman whose cab dashes round the corner, splashes worthy JOHN with mud, and, taking no heed if he himself be in wanton debt for six months, or six years, holds JOHN in all things his inferior. And honest JOHN, grateful to any one who will but acknowledge him as a fellow-man, almost thinks so too, when he compares the small, hard home allotted to him with the blessings heaped on the "honourable." JOHN has not seen a merry Christmas; but he is fond of his home, and it is not for him that the season is *bad*. You "disapprove of Christmas-boxes on principle"—and they *have* been corrupted; yet the breach of your too-sweeping principle has added a little to JOHN's Christmas dinner, and not a little to his consoling sense that the fellow-men whom he so cheerfully serves for so small a return, do think of him, and wish him comfort though they give so little. Some of us, perhaps, might not altogether refuse to exchange with JOHN.

It is not either that grey-headed, sad-faced man: he has not long since learned the death of his son in the Crimea—just long enough to have learned what his loss really is; so many occasions have happened since to make him think, "Ah! GEORGE would have done that"—"GEORGE would have liked this"—or "GEORGE would never have suffered such wrong;" for GEORGE was a noble fellow every inch of him. Which makes the grey-headed gentleman sad to face the first Christmas without GEORGE; yet makes him also think with pride how many fathers would envy him that son, dead though he is, but worthy to fill a father's

thoughts at a time when others are thinking either of the One sacrificed to teach the lesson of devoted love, or of their own love-warmed homes.

It is not that young girl of grave countenance, whose pale face and wasted form betray cares that should be alien to youth. She is "opposed" by her family; the brother—of whose home she is the very soul—whose "difficulties" her care conceals—whose labours she smoothes—whose troubles she consoles—is severe and hard: those whose gaieties she joins, guess not the cares concealed, although her thoughtful countenance is a mystery. Still Christmas is not sad to her. She trusts, and is trusted; loves, and is loved; and [who can take "him" from her?

The season comes as a mockery to the hundreds of thousands of whom "the houseless beggar old" is the father. Christmas-day amongst the mudlarks, or in the low lodging-houses—in the hundreds of haunts where penury steals a passing stimulant from debauchery, is a scene which few of us would like to explore; but even there, perhaps, the anniversary is not without some kind of cheering association—some rough luxury, hideous out of that hell, but called "pleasure" within it.

The greatest blank must at present be to those who are absolutely excluded from all communication with the society to which they have belonged. It so happens that some of them have been rendered familiar to us, in name at least, if not in person. The anniversary must bring strange recollections to them. How different this Christmas-day from the last to the Baronet, that eminent banker, Sir JOHN DEAN PAUL, whose word was as good as his bond—and his bond as good as his word. He was not a man to miss any festival of the Church; he has attended divine service as regularly as the day came round; he could give you chapter and verse for all the allusions with which every sermon would abound; and he can compare this sermon, which he has listened to this year at Millbank, with that of any church from St. Clement's to the newest fane in the newest watering-place. But with what a commentary in his own reflections! How different all the circumstances; how changed the pew; how absent the fashionable dresses and the fashionable faces which were so familiar; how different even the demeanour of the clergyman—how altered from the passing bow, which could recognise the altar on one side, and the banker on the other, from the abrupt commencement of the discourse in a silent building where many are together but still isolated! The same comparison will be observed, with the same changes, in STRAHAN, the person who ends the banking line of SNOW.

Before that day of social gathering, too, PALMER was running his horses, as PAUL was running his bills; was booking his bets as PAUL was calculating his operation to raise money; was watching his associate COOK, as PAUL was watching his customer GRIFFITH. Everything prospered—even the bankruptcy of the bankers prospered; they got along; they raised their money; they made both ends meet year after year, and had succeeded in erecting an established insolvency with a current income from the very source of deficiency. So PALMER may look back, and ask himself, sitting there during the dull parts of the sermon, how it came that he, who was afterwards to be accused of poisoning COOK, should prophetically confer upon one of the horses that was to win for him the name of Strychnine? Murder, they say, will out; and strange thinking will seize equally upon the

guilty mind and the mind innocently accused. The man who has done a crime cannot refrain from talking about it, because he thinks about it; he has a morbid desire to test his own safety, by continually tampering with proofs of his guilt, and almost hinting at them. On the other hand, the weak mind, earnestly accused and crushed by forged proofs of guilt, will, at last, as if at the mercy of a technical logic, disbelieve itself and assist at its own condemnation. Either way PALMER has passed the Christmas-day, eating nothing, it is said, comparing his present restraint with his past freedom, his amusements, his companionships, and their result. What a day!

MARCUS BERESFORD desperately wanted a few pounds; he could have had the money by giving a piece of paper into a bank, if a pedantic banker had not refused to take the cheque without another man's signature. Most ill-naturedly the other man refused to execute the signature; so BERESFORD was driven to the expedient of putting his obstinate friend's name upon the cheque without his obstinate friend's leave. The malignant banker discovers the expedient, rudely calls it "forgery," brings BERESFORD before the Criminal Court, and he now, for that single act of penmanship, lies in prison under sentence of transportation for fifteen years. MARCUS, however, had undergone various ups and downs in life, and the comfortless Christmas-day will be no novelty for him. He has been in the Church, and no doubt will have criticised the sermon: still it must have been a variety, even in his experience, to hear the sermon of the condemned.

And ABRAHAM BAKER, who last Christmas-day was still alive; still hoping to marry NAOMI KINGSWELL; still ready to enjoy, grace said, his roast-beef and plum-pudding. To him, perhaps, least of all will this Christmas-day make real difference. His worst happened at the moment when, as he expresses it, he "used that fatal weapon." Nothing so bad can happen to him after that. His sole, as it had been then almost his chief purpose, is now to fulfil the offices of the Church; and to him the sermon is a sermon. Yet the day will have been a dream jarring with the dream of the past. And Christianity sees its anniversary go by yearly, with so few rescued from the purgatory of brick walls—"the Jug;" so great a number fantastically elected by detection to expiate the undetected crimes of society!

A YEAR'S CAMPAIGN.

TWELVE months ago there were rumours of peace, similar to those which are now occupying attention. The treaty of the 2nd December was to produce astonishing results, and the mediator in the strife of nations, then as now, was Austria. That treaty, so loudly bruted, was followed by no act on the part of Austria stepping beyond the bounds of neutrality; that mediator, so much exalted, entirely failed. It may well be that the effort to procure a peace in December, 1855-6, may share the fate of the effort made in 1854-5. In the meantime, except in Mingrelia and Immeritia, there is a lull in the storm of war; and we may be allowed to note how we stand in case Count ESTERHAZY brings peace from St. Petersburg.

It is impossible to look back and not be struck with the truly stupendous character of the contest. Within twelve months we have seen two armies of not less than 200,000 men each contending in the Crimea for the possession of a fortress, chiefly improvised on the spur of a moment. We have seen a steam fleet of nearly a hundred sail in the Baltic; and a second fleet, scarcely inferior in number, in the Black Sea. And more numerous still

were the countless transport-ships, some of them the finest ever called forth by a stimulating commerce, which, ceaselessly plying between the Crimea and the French, English, and Italian ports, entirely sustained the vast fleets and armies engaged in actual warfare. The theatre of the contest, viewed from end to end, was on a scale corresponding with the magnitude of the contending forces. It involved points in a territory—itsself one-seventh of the globe—stretching from Archangel to Petropaulovski, from Constradt to the Crimea, from the Sea of Azof to Lake Van.

The central figure in the group of separate operations which go to make up the whole of the year's campaign is undoubtedly Sebastopol. Here we find the troops supplied by the Allies rising from barely 50,000, twelve months ago, to nearly 200,000; we find the guns used in the siege gradually augmenting as difficulties arose, from two to eight hundred; we find an amazing quantity of work executed on both sides, miles of trenches, batteries and forts, colossal in magnitude; mines and galleries sunk; in the Russian works a chaos of underground habitations; and all this in addition to the constant and dangerous watch in the trenches, relieved by midnight encounters, and midnight onsets. We see a railway made and locomotive engines at work. Gradually, as the army increases, the troops cover more ground, until Balaklava is defended by a triple line of works and soldiers in position, Baidar is occupied by French and English, and an offset from the army seizes Kertch. The Russian external army augments, but it dares not fight. Week after week, the circle of attack contracts, and rises up closer and closer to the fortress; each bombardment is more redoubtable than the last; each day the slaughter of the enemy becomes more terrible; and, as his situation grows insupportable, he ventures to assail the covering army of the Allies on the Tchernaya, only to be beaten with great loss. Then the Russian General begins to build a bridge for the retreat of his army; the final bombardment, unexampled in the history of sieges, precedes the assault and capture of the Malakhoff, and leads to the evacuation of the city.

Properly speaking, the attack upon Sebastopol was not a siege—it was an attack upon an entrenched camp. Surrounded on the south by positions, naturally very strong, Sebastopol in the hands of TODTLEBEN became almost impregnable. But it was throughout a battle of lines against lines, and cannon against cannon, the Russians having an overwhelming number of guns in reserve. The issue even of the last day showed the soundness of the maxim that holds entrenched camps open in the rear to be inaccessible; for on every point but one, notwithstanding the searching fire of the Allies, their storming columns were repulsed, and in the instance where they succeeded the entrenched works were closed to the rear. We doubt whether there is on record any operation similar to the so-called siege of Sebastopol, either in magnitude, duration, or necessities.

When Sebastopol was abandoned it was anticipated that the Russian army would be driven from the Crimea by skilful and rapid operations on their flank and rear. Such an anticipation has proved incorrect. It has been found that the rear of the Russians is covered by desert, waterless steppes, and 60,000 men in position; and that the front and left flank are secure behind inaccessible rocks and defiles, manned by above a hundred thousand troops. The two armies have, therefore, practically gone into winter quarters, and some persons speculate that there will be no more campaigning in the Crimea.

What has been gained by the campaign in the Crimea? For more than a year the Allies have compelled the Russian Government to send men, money, and stores of all kinds to a remote point in its dominions—a process of exhaustion far greater than can be conceived. The Allies have captured the "standing menace" to Constantinople, and destroyed that fleet of nearly a hundred ships prepared to follow up the threat by a blow. As a consequence of the operations in the Crimea, the enemy has been forced to abandon the mouth of the Danube, to surrender Kertch, and lose his supremacy in the Sea of Azof; to abandon Anapa, and retire across the Kouban, and to surrender Kinburn. In other words, the fruits of fifty years' toil have been snatched from him in a single year by the military and naval operations of the Allies.

On the other hand, the enemy has gained some compensation for his losses by the capture of Kars. The Russian army was only fifteen or twenty miles from Gumri—its base of operations; the Turkish army was shut out from the world. For six months this isolated garrison sustained itself against twice its numbers; and at length capitulated, not to force of arms, but force of hunger. In the meantime, OMAR PACHA had won a battle on the Ingour, and passing southward, had gained the high road running from Redout Kaleh to Tiflis by Kutais. What will he do when he hears of the fall of Kars? The balance of a year's warfare, alone with Turkey in Asia, is greatly in favour of Russia; the fruits of her patience are Kars and the road to Erzeroum, Bayazced, and the road to Persia; and against that we have only the fruitless battle on the Ingour, and the probably fruitless, but able march on Kutais.

Except in the Baltic and the Sea of Azof, the naval campaign has been made in conjunction with troops. In the Baltic our success has been negative—keeping down the commerce of the enemy; compelling him to maintain large forces around St. Petersburg; and forcing his war fleet to rot ingloriously in harbour. The positive services have been the destruction of the smaller forts east of Sweaborg, and the bombardment of that fortress. Undoubtedly this was a smart, although an imperfect operation; and highly useful inasmuch as it demonstrated the value of the gun and mortar boats. In the Sea of Azof the services of the flotilla have been positive, inasmuch as they have consisted in the destruction of vast stores of food and forage for the enemy, and the closing of one of his lines of communication, not only with the Crimea, but with Transcaucasia. In all these proceedings there has been no lack of gallantry and daring; it is evident that the pluck of the navy is as great as ever; and that prudent and daring leaders and adequate means have been wanting to complete success.

On the whole, we have cause to be satisfied with the campaign of this year, except in the Baltic and Asia. In the former, great success was impossible, because inadequate means had been provided; in the latter, success was impossible, because for some reason or other the war was starved, and a brave, enduring garrison sacrificed to the laches of the Allies. If peace be not made, it is in the Baltic and in Asia that we shall have to make up for lost time; and let us hope that no political jealousies in either quarter will cause the enemy to be spared.

POLITICAL SYMPTOMS.

The deplorable infatuation that has induced some of the middle and industrious classes to give up the idea of political reform has not proceeded far. We have received the strongest

testimony on this point. The inattention of the mass of people to domestic politics may be ascribed to two causes. First, they are pre-occupied by the war; they understand little of foreign affairs, and dare not assume any initiative, lest they should fall into blunders. Consequently, diplomatists and Parliamentary leaders have a clear field before them; the only question on which the popular voice is prepared to decide being that of Peace or War.

Before the War began, however, the same inactivity, amounting almost to apathy, was displayed. The reason was, that the political organisations of the country had been dissolved. There was a confusion of parties in the Legislature, an extinction of parties in the nation. The old leaders were either dead, or had deserted their ranks, or stood aloof in cynicism and disgust. Exhausted by the Chartist agitators and by the Anti-Corn-law League, the people fainted at the close of the first epoch of Reform. The Second Bill, Lord John Russell's Appendix to the Act of 1852, is now a curiosity, and was never more than a piece of paper. It alarmed the Tories, it disgusted the Liberals; no one believed in it, and had not the War come to supersede all home questions, it must either have been stifled ignominiously, or so modified that its author might have become its opponent.

As matters stand, the question is not dead, but sleeps. It would be unseasonable to disturb it, were it not that Englishmen have a tendency to ignore the future, and to blind themselves to the domestic struggles that must follow the Russian War. If, after the actual conflict is ended, a revolution in Europe, or a collision of governments in the war, do not prolong the succession of distracting events abroad, a great agitation is inevitable at home. How is the nation preparing for it? There are three "movements" in existence; the Administrative Reform Association, which is a degradation of Whiggery; the National and Constitutional Association, to which not a man of character, and scarcely a man of sense, belongs; and the hysterical Midland League, which melts down the fritterings of Chartism, the refuse of diplomacy, the enthusiasm of some men, the egotism of others, and the ignorant suspicions of a very small section of the middle and industrious classes. Clearly, none of these has any life or power. The first is a company formed to abolish corruption, yet based on the worst principles that uphold class and family government—narrow, exclusive, and totally destitute of intellectual stimulus. The second is so obscure, and has published such unreadable petitions, that it is only noticeable as a symptom of the little vitality remaining in English politics. The third, of course, is a chimera, partly an imposture, partly a delusion, only interesting to the persons whose consequence it seems to increase.

If we consider the tone of the press, it is generally devoid of political feeling. One or two Liberal organs in the metropolis, and a few journals in the secondary towns and cities, represent all that remains of the spirit of Reform. The explanation is, not that Reform is obsolete; but that no organisation exists to keep it moving. Some of the old Chartist leaders would be willing enough to put themselves at the head of their Order; but their Order will not have them—it is tired of illiterate rhapsody. The chief of the English democracy, impracticable except as monitors during the war, are in retreat. Mr. CORBEN is in the tent of ACHILLES; Mr. BURNHAM, upon a general election, might learn how tyrannical and ungrateful an English constituency may be. The younger school of modified Liberals—men of the stamp of Lord GOSCHEN—preserve their quietude; a few individuals who

once essayed the argument of Reform, now utter the cries of CASSANDRA, and predict that which might be true, if it were intelligible. We would, however, offer a caution to the junior enthusiasts of suspicion:—only prophesy that which, in any event, may be true. We have never seen a MOORE'S or RAPHAEL'S Almanac in which the hieroglyphics of the preceding year were not triumphantly explained.

The Chartist body as it exists, does not include all that portion of the middle and working classes which claimed "the Charter;" that is to say, universal suffrage, annual or triennial Parliaments, abolition of property qualifications, payment of members, vote by ballot, and the equalisation of electoral districts. It is composed merely of those who adhere to the old forms, as well as the old principles—who maintain the feud between the middle and working classes—who still delight in exhibitions of vulgar violence—who apply to England epithets which are justifiable when refugees apply them to Austrian oppression, or to BONAPARTE cruelty. The immense majority of intelligent workmen desire an amalgamation with the middle classes, upon fair terms, though they accuse them, not without reason, of having dealt hardly with them in trade, and selfishly in politics.

On the other hand, as far as we can perceive, the liberal middle class—that which has no secret hope of verging toward the aristocracy—sees the difference between itself and the working-class materially lessened; the proposition of a £5 franchise by the Whigs, teaches it to regard with less terror the word UNIVERSAL; it would accept, probably, as the essence of a new Reform, and the leading points of a new scheme of organisation, the fundamental principles of the suffrage, the ballot, and shorter Parliaments, leaving out, as questions of detail, to be settled easily afterwards, other questions which were formerly of equal weight.

When the nation sees the war mismanaged, sees diplomacy faltering, sees its *prestige* lost, and its policy corrupted, it turns against the aristocracy. It requires the aristocracy to act as though it were not an aristocracy, and as though England were not a monarchy. The time has come when it should study the public interests from a different point of view. We are governed by the aristocracy, because no other class has volunteered to govern. If the affairs of the metropolis are managed with spirit and economy for the next five years, why? Because local self-government, on a broad scale, has been established. And why has it been established? Because the middle class took the power out of the hands of a clique into its own.

THE SPITALFIELDS WEAVERS.

We are glad to find that good sense and temper have averted the prolongation of a contest which threatened to drive some hundreds of industrious families to the utmost limits of want in this inclement season. After much parleying on both sides, conducted with almost uniform good temper, and after mutual concessions wisely made, peace is now all but universal between the Spitalfields weavers and their employers. Under these circumstances, we should be taking a most unwise and mischievous course if we were to re-open the old sores by discussing the points at issue between the parties. So far as the past is concerned, we can do nothing but congratulate both masters and men upon this improved method of settling their disputes. The temper and sense which they have displayed do them infinite credit, and offer an admirable contrast to the perverse obstinacy which still prolongs that most unhappy dispute between the Man-

chester spinners and their employers. There, alas! the senseless and pernicious cry of "No Surrender!" has been unfortunately raised by those who have a selfish interest in continuing the dispute, and both sides are fighting upon the old terms: the one behind famine-stricken entrenchments; and the other in a luxuriantly provisioned camp. Wherever the right may be, there can be but one termination to such a struggle. It is WILLIAMS and MOURAVIEFF over again: the former in an impoverished fortress; the latter with all the country behind him. The main difference will be that the vanquished will have to surrender at discretion, *without* any of the honours of war.

Reverting for a moment to the peculiar case of the Spitalfields weavers, it has struck us as a most affecting circumstance that such a momentous contest could rage within the very heart of this metropolis, not merely without disturbing the ordinary functions of social life, but without supplying a topic for general concern, or even for conversation. It certainly affords an extraordinary proof of the greatness of this metropolis, and of the gigantic proportions which all its parts have assumed, when we find that many hundreds of skilled workmen, engaged in such an important branch of our commerce as the silk manufacture, can leave off working for several weeks, and the fact be not generally known within two miles of the locality where it occurred. A strike in one of the great Lancashire manufacturing towns completely paralyses the vitality of the place. Trade is at an end, the pulse of enterprise ceases to beat, and so far as the ordinary functions of business are concerned, the whole town is like a City of the Dead. The strike at Preston ruined shopkeepers by scores, and the *Gazette* is to this day adding names to its catalogue of misfortune, which would never have been there but for that terrible labour-battle. It was said at the time that the progress of the town was retarded for at least ten years. But in London, scarcely a mile from the Royal Exchange, a large community of workers may cease its activity, and few besides the poor law guardians for the district, and haply a few inquisitive rate-payers, know anything at all about it. The daily papers, indeed, said something about Whitechapel workhouse being full, but no one ever dreamed of connecting that fact with the strike of the Spitalfields weavers.

In dismissing the subject for the present, with an earnest hope that we may not soon be called upon to resume it, we urge both employers and workmen to take into their careful consideration the Conseil de Prud'hommes' system which works so admirably in France. We have so often and so fully entered upon this question before, that it would be superfluous to enlarge upon it again; but it seems likely that the intercommunication caused by the GRANDE EXPOSITION may have done something to promote a better understanding of French institutions and French principles among the people of England. The popular mistake in England has hitherto been to confound the political with the social system of France, and to suppose that because that nation has not yet been equal to the growth of a constitution, all its inner relations are equally unstable. Never was there a more monstrous blunder. The social system in France is in many respects as superior to our own, as our form of government is to theirs; and if this nation can be induced to adopt whatever of good can be discovered in the social system of its present ally, the alliance (whether ephemeral or everlasting) will not have been cemented in vain.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM REVIVAL.

THE choice before the Administrative Reformers is perfectly clear: they have to make their election between success and failure, and to choose at their own option. It is seldom that a young HERCULES has had a choice so distinct, with so little to disturb his judgment. The elements of success are perfectly plain; the causes of failure are manifest. The Administrative Reformers have not answered to sample; they have held great meetings, but, to speak with a friendly plainness, they have effected little. It is not correct in them to say that Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH was selected because they had held their meetings, or that Mr. BAINES is placed in office because of the Administrative Reform Association. The real cause why Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH was invited to join the Cabinet was, that he possessed the confidence of the public at large, considerable attainments, a power of making an impressive statement in Parliament, and no small amount of administrative ability when he screwed himself up to the exertion. He was not cut out for an administrator, and the exertion proved too much for his enfeebled frame; but he did well while he resolved to do so. His word was a pledge to the Colonies that they would be treated upon the whole with fairness and good sense; and in this country nobody believed that Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH would be a party to anything that was foolish or base. These were the reasons why he was asked to join the Cabinet; circumstances having deprived Ministers of their ordinary party bases, and requiring them therefore to rest the Government as much as possible upon individual trustworthiness or capacity. Mr. BAINES, again, had been in office before; his dismissal was considered rather discreditable to his colleagues; his character is good; and these were the grounds of his new appointment as much as any peculiar administrative capacity. If his administrative fitness had been the cause, the present agitation could not claim the credit of having pointed him out, since he had been in office long ago. It does not benefit any agitation to put forward unsubstantial pleas for the public confidence, most especially when those pleas can be contradicted by anybody who has simply observed the course of affairs.

The Administrative Reformers appear to us to have neglected two branches of action which would at once give them the master position of the day. They have suffered Government to beat them in the race of administrative reform. Our very friendliness to the movement makes us desire to place this charge against its leaders in as distinct a form as possible. Government has gone far beyond the Administrative Reformers in investigation—it has framed and carried out improvements: Administrative Reformers have done neither. They have not inquired into the conduct of any single department; they have not exposed the bad method of working hitherto; they have not compelled Government to adopt any specific measure. Government has done all these things of its own accord: it has made inquiries into the conduct of more than one department, has investigated the manner of doing business, has had before it several plans of improvement, and has carried out such parts of those plans as it thought fit. It has, therefore, positively completed some of those movements of which the Administrative Reformers talk. The very extracts in the volume published by the Administrative Reformers were taken from the publications of the Government.

Now, it is simply a measure of choice if the Association leaves the Government in pos-

session of the race. There is no necessity for doing so. Government has not exhausted the subject. With regard to inquiries, it has but scratched the surface. It has, in fact, asked such things as Sir CHARLES TREVELYAN and Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE desired to ask—no more; it has made suggestions such as Sir CHARLES and Sir STAFFORD approved. It has used its opportunity for going over a broad surface, but a real public body might beat it by ploughing deeper. And auxiliaries might be found. We have already seen a public officer, of high rank, mount the roof of the Admiralty, and look down into the Horse Guards; how much more easily might that officer look into his own department! Mr. OSBORNE is not lost to the public, because he happens to be in the Government. He would not refuse to answer questions put to him by a member of Parliament. There is no department that would be so instructive as his own. Why do not the Administrative Reformers, then, concentrate their attention upon that one office? We have no favour for the Admiralty; and if opportunity existed for investigating another, let that other be taken; but whether it is the Colonial-office, or the Admiralty, let us have a thorough investigation of some one department. Let us understand how it is composed; how the business is done; what are the forms, what the time occupied by the individual public servants, what their capacities are, what are the mistakes, what are the checks upon errors, what is the amount of money expended, what the amount of waste in maladministration, what the degree of light periodically thrown upon the department by its accounts and reports—in short, what the department is, how it works, what it does, what it costs, what it might do, and what might be saved. If the Administrative Reformers set out upon the mission of running the round of all the public departments, they would have a task before them for many a year; but the public would thoroughly support them. While anatomising one department, they would inevitably drag all the others into practical improvements of a provisional kind. This, then, is the course to set out upon—a round of compulsory inquiry into all the public departments, with a view to anatomising them, fastening upon one to begin with.

The anatomy would be the first step towards the design of a reform. Let us know what the Admiralty is, and then we should learn what would be the proper measures for making it what it ought to be.

This is work to be done in Parliament. Half a dozen men could accomplish it if they set about it in earnest, showed a definite purpose, and called for public support. But here again the Administrative Reformers have failed in using the opportunities that lie before them. They have endeavoured to act too much as an association simply of the persons engaged. They have not laid their plan of operations before the public; they have not said: "We intend thus to explore the public offices, and this one in particular; and we ask you to make your members grant us the committee necessary for the inquiry." They have fallen too much into the plan of endeavouring to compete with some local interest for the favour of the local lawyer, who always settles elections. In fact, they have tried to fight the corruptions upon electioneering tactics. This will not do. They will not find the electioneering lawyers support them, except here and there; they *would* find support from the public. Nor is it only the vote-holding classes that would lend them an efficient help; there is also the class that ought to have votes. They might stand before the working classes and say,

"We want to anatomise your Government; we want to show you how your work is done, or undone; how your money is taken out of your pockets, and wasted; we are obstructed by a feeble non-representing Parliament; you are robbed by bad servants—jobbed away by narrow constituencies, who send members to be the agents for procuring patronage. An extension of the constituencies to purify them is a good thing, and if we get a purer Parliament, we should have Administrative Reform. Administration of the public department is also a good thing; if we get it, it would help us in procuring extension of the franchise and purification of the constituencies. Either helps the other." The working classes know this, and if they saw a bold spirit in the Administrative Reformers, they would call upon the House of Commons to obey the demands of the Association, or to let them know the reason why.

ABRAHAM AND NAOMI.

THE confession of ABRAHAM BAKER is a moral tale of which the autobiographer himself could not read the moral. It is in its way as affecting as CHARLES LAMB's *Rosamond Gray*, but it is without a MATRAVIS. No novelist could more powerfully depict the working of simple and powerful emotions in the man's breast—none could better paint the struggles of a strong love with an understanding too slow to apprehend its own working, or to utter its own meaning; and too deaf, as it were, to catch the accents of impatient love in another. No story was ever plainer, except to the very man that tells it.

He "took up with this young woman about two years ago"—for, he repeats several times, that he always explained himself, even to her, in the most homely and humble way—*too* humbly perhaps, not with sufficient confidence and strength of will,—*too* homely, not with sufficient imagination to conceive the very drama he was acting. They were fellow-servants and had to bear the chances of separation; but their mutual affection surmounted obstacles with the proverbial power of love. Both were "seriously" inclined in religion, and in one respect only does ABRAHAM complain of NAOMI's conduct, which appears in all things else to have been without reproach. He was kind to her beyond the usage of his class: he helped her mother; he treated herself with unbroken respect. "When we met we were almost too happy to see each other," he says; and he draws no distinction in saying so, between himself and NAOMI. But, notwithstanding her "serious" turn and her love, she exasperated him with a certain coquettishness. When she was absent, she sent him letters "joking about young men;" when he had to take a new place at a distance, she told him that as he was going so far away they had better part, and "she sent me a note and a box with a few things he had given her." He "felt that"—"I went into my bedroom and could not help crying." Three days afterwards, however, she sent him a letter saying that she wished to see him again, and asking him to write two lines to say that he had forgiven her. His answer is characteristic. "I complied with her wish. I told her that I would forgive her everything and wished to meet in peace again. On the Sunday following I would bring my likeness and two books for her. We spent a happy evening and were sorry to part when ten o'clock came." He was out of work, and went to live at Southampton for nearly a month.

"Naomi kept writing to me and I to her. She wished very much to come and live with me, and she was rather jealous of me, but her own mother knew there was no occasion for it whatever. What time I had to spare in the evenings I went to the chapel." He obtained a place with Mrs. POYNTER, and

through him NAOMI obtained a place in the same house; she obtained it without seeing her mistress, on the strength of a very high character:—

"We were very glad to see each other. I told her that as we parted once, I wished to remain with her as another fellow-servant. Her reply was, 'Very well.' 'If Mrs. Poynder should hear of our intimacy as has passed, we must only speak the truth. We knew right from wrong in every Christian way, as we had always done ever since we had known each other, and hoped that we may continue the same.' Her answer was, in a very Christian-like manner, 'Very well.'"

Mr. POYNTER went to Anglesea; ABRAHAM with him, NAOMI remaining with her mistress:—

"I never in my letters sent her any jokes to upset her mind, which she frequently did in hers when I was at Anglesea. I put my thoughts back to when I was at Benbridge, and thought of it very much, as Mrs. Poynder had workmen in the house. Naomi continued to write in a joking way. I wrote and told her not to send any more jokes, it so very much upset my mind receiving so much from her in that way. She wrote and told me she would not do it again. In the course of a short time I asked her if she would like to see me any more; if not, she would be kind enough to send my box and a few things to No. 8, on the Strand. She wrote and told me she did not wish to see me any more; neither should she send my things to the Strand."

He did not wish to go back to meet her, but Mrs. POYNTER was about to move: "there was much packing to be done, and I did not like to leave her without a man-servant." Many traits came out which show that for all his exasperating quietude on the surface, ABRAHAM was a real gentleman. He does not appear to have been at all aware of the struggle that was going on in the girl's mind. When he returned to Southampton, he did not see NAOMI until some time after he had been in the house; as he passed the kitchen door, a fellow-servant said, "BAKER, here is some one wants to see you." It never occurred to ABRAHAM, apparently, that NAOMI had caused him to be called in. It is not probable that their fellow-servant did it spontaneously, because she had seen nothing particular in their intercourse: "I did not judge from their conduct that he was in love with her, or she with him." And what did ABRAHAM do when he entered the kitchen? He offered to shake hands with her, and hoped she was well! And *this* was when he hardly knew what he was about for love,—so much that he was on the point of an insane murder. He "spoke to her several times—respecting the work;" what if he had spoken of something else? He says that she had never shown her temper show so much before; but even in his reproaches he seems never to have been hurried into speaking out. He said nothing more to her that day, nor the next, but continued, as the American Indian says, eating his own heart, "until I used that unlawful weapon."

Who does not understand this tale, so simply and so powerfully told by the principal actor? It is curious that he can describe with the force and clearness of a GODWIN or a GEORGE SAND the signs of emotion that he could not interpret. It will be seen that he had deep feeling at his heart—that he had sufficient power of utterance to make the girl conscious of that feeling; but that a dreadful reserve, an unconquerable restraint kept him from expressing himself or giving utterance to any strong wishes or decided purpose. The girl on the other hand, it is clear, had a strong, deep, and faithful attachment to him—but she was impatient—she was exasperated at his coldness on the surface. She was only too happy to see him, grieved to part; yet she parted—and returned; sent him back his presents, revoked them; coquetted and gave way to his decided wishes, when those wishes were expressed, with a "Christian-like" resignation. It is clear that she was exasperated at ABRAHAM

and that ABRAHAM could not at all understand the faithfulness of her more impatient and ardent nature. The training which he had had subdued the natural generosity of his feeling, but he had not sufficient education to elevate him to a broader sense of the things around him, or to endow him with the gift of language adequate to his thoughts. He had to struggle with a nightmare impotence upon his tongue. He could not make himself understood; he could not understand; he strained the girl's patience beyond endurance, and ultimately made her and himself victims to the thralldom which half-education puts upon the natural sense of man, from which complete education emancipates him.

MR. JOHN THWAITES.

THE nomination of Mr. THWAITES, a draper in the Borough, to the high and honourable post of Chairman to the New Metropolitan Board of Works, for which there was a crowd of aspirants, including barristers, magistrates, Members of Parliament, and men of political eminence, like Mr. ROEBUCK, is a singular circumstance, and one which deserves attentive consideration. It deserves *our* attention in an especial degree, because we supported the candidature of Mr. ROEBUCK against that of Mr. THWAITES; whose antecedents were unknown to us, and whose name had never attracted the notice of the public at large. We have, therefore, been at some pains to inquire into the motives of a nomination which, at the first blush, appears hardly judicious; and we are bound to declare frankly that the result of our inquiries is such as to enable us to bear witness to the good sense manifested by the new Board in the election of Mr. THWAITES as their President.

We learn that Mr. THWAITES, though engaged in the business of a woollen-draper, has taken an active part for many years in the local affairs of his neighbourhood; having, among other things, effected the amalgamation of rival Gas Companies, so as to secure a diminution of working costs by the elimination of double plants, double salaries, and double charges of all kinds; the result being a considerable reduction in the price, and improvement in the quality of the gas supplied, without diminution of profit to the suppliers. Those who have ever attempted the conduct of an amalgamation of this kind, know by how many practical difficulties it is beset; how many rival interests and opinions must be brought into harmony; how many prejudices overcome; how many animosities allayed; how much tact, judgment, and energy brought to bear, before the desired end can be attained.

His success in this, and other similar local undertakings, marked Mr. THWAITES in the eyes of his fellow-citizens of the South side as a fit man to represent their interests in the Commission of Sewers, now on the point of winding up. In that Commission he has had an opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with what may be called the subterranean affairs of the metropolis. For while, on the one hand, the appeals of Deputations and of individuals, and the current business of the office brought under his notice in the most practical form the grievances and wishes of the rate-payers in respect of drainage; it also fortunately happened, on the other hand, that the principal expositor and champion of the modern sanitary system was appointed a Commissioner during Mr. THWAITES' term of office, and delivered a series of addresses on combined House Drainage, tubular street drainage, main intercepting drainage, and the agricultural utilisation of sewage, which expositions of principle, it may be readily supposed,

were not lost upon his intelligent colleague. Mr. THWAITES and Mr. F. O. WARD soon appreciated each other; and though, at the outset, they stood opposed on several occasions, yet latterly they have fought side by side in almost every important debate; their differences of opinion being only such as mark, on both sides, an honest independence of judgment, and a decision of each question as it arises, not in the spirit of party, but in the light of simple truth.

To the knowledge of public affairs thus acquired in various schools of experience, Mr. THWAITES, if we are rightly informed, adds personal qualities which fit him in an eminent degree to guide the proceedings of a popular assembly. He unites suavity of manner with firmness of will; tact with single-mindedness and honesty of purpose; and a good deal of natural eloquence with remarkable powers of application and capacity for the despatch of business. Such, at least, is the view which, we are assured, is taken by his supporters, as to his qualifications for the responsible office to which they have named him. As we supported the candidature of Mr. ROEBUCK, against that of Mr. THWAITES, we feel that it is but fair play to acquaint the public with the grounds of the preference accorded by his colleagues to the latter gentleman, doubtless after a full and fair comparison of eminent merits on both sides.

In a remarkable letter, of which we hope to publish an analysis next week, Mr. THWAITES' accession to power is traced, not so much to any success of his in debate, or to any intellectual ascendancy acquired by him over his colleagues, as to the devotion to truth at all hazards, manifested on his staunch support of Mr. WARD, throughout his late perilous encounter with the "eminent engineers." There is no doubt that, though Mr. THWAITES stands aloof, as he should do, from party warfare, his nomination in the place of Mr. WARD's implacable opponent, Mr. JEBB, is a signal triumph for the Sanitary Reformers. On the other hand, the members of the new Metropolitan Board, and the general body of rate-payers whom they represent may, we think, congratulate themselves on having singled out, for the conduct of their debates, a President of their own class and order, possessing, in so high a degree as Mr. THWAITES, the rare combination of qualities which should distinguish the leader of a popular municipal council.

THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

BY ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A.,
PART II.

A DISADVANTAGE, which must not be omitted to be mentioned in relation to unincorporated Share Companies, is, that a person, on becoming a shareholder in such companies, is legally disqualified from recovering compensation for work done or services rendered on account of such associations; nor can he recover on any bill or note accepted by the directors or secretary of such association. The acceptance of shares rendering him a partner in the undertaking, it consequently cuts off his right of action against the firm into which he has entered. The negotiation of such acceptances or bills would remove such objections as regards their right of action and recovery by third parties. To remedy this difficulty, it is usual to insert in the deed of settlement, of companies established under the Registration Act, a provision that, as between the companies and the proprietors, partnership shall not be pleaded; otherwise, in actions upon calls, or for non-payment of shares instalments, or for debts due from a member to the company, or from the company to a member, no right of recovery would exist.

The powers sometimes exercised by unincorporated and even unregistered companies, of advertising for subscriptions on transferable shares, were always illegal at common law, and still continue so, subjecting the parties engaged in them, in addition to the ordinary liabilities of partnership, and the penalties of the statute, to be indicted as nuisances, in pretending to act as corporations. But the Legislature, with a view of facilitating laudable undertakings by joint-stock, has vested in the Crown powers by which the

necessity of an Act of Parliament in certain cases may be obviated. By the Act 1 *Vict.*, cap 73, the Queen is empowered to grant, by letters patent, to persons associated for trading and other purposes, many of the privileges of a charter of incorporation, by limiting the liability of the patentees, and enabling their secretary or other public officer to prosecute and defend suits in the name of the association, and they may even sue one of their members. Letters patent under the statute are equivalent to a private Act, except when compulsory powers to take, lend, &c., are requisite. Directors under this Act, and also under 7 and 8 *Vict.*, cap. 110, may advertise for subscribers and may allot shares upon provisional registration under the latter statute; but it has been decided, that except in case of companies such as are formed for the making of railways or other public works, which require a special Act of Parliament, no shareholder in a company merely provisionally registered can dispose or offer for sale any script or certificate for shares in the capital stock, even if he has paid a deposit thereon. We now propose to enumerate the legal authorities under which Joint-Stock Companies, or other associations analogous to them, or associations for any purpose other than trade, commerce, or manufacture, may be formed. It may, however, be useful to give the legal definition of a Joint-Stock Company, and of the persons moving in their formation and constituting the same.

The Registration Act, under the limitations mentioned, defines a "Joint-Stock Company to comprehend every partnership having a capital divided into shares, such being transferable without the consent of all the copartners." The "Promoters" of a company is explained to be "every person acting in the framing and establishing a company, at any period prior to the company obtaining a certificate of complete registration." The word "Subscriber" means "every person who shall have agreed in writing to take any shares in the proposed or formed company, and who shall not have executed the deed of settlement." A "Shareholder" means "a person who is entitled to a share in a company, and who has executed the deed of settlement." Joint-Stock Companies may be constituted:—

1. By Special or Private Act of Parliament.
2. By Royal Charter.
3. By Letters Patent, under the Act 1 *Vict.* c. 73, by which the Act 6 *Geo. IV.* c. 91 was partially, and the Act 4 and 5 *Wm. IV.* c. 94 wholly, repealed.
4. Joint-Stock Banks coming within the definition of a "Joint-Stock Company," before explained, will necessarily include the Statutes 7 *Geo. IV.* c. 46, and by which Joint-Stock Banks are regulated.
5. By the Joint-Stock Companies' Registration Act 7 and 8 *Vict.* c. 110, as amended by the Act 10 and 11 *Vict.* c. 78.

To these may be added, subsidiarily, as affecting the managing and working of companies, the Acts 7 and 8 *Vict.* c. 111, 7 and 8 *Vict.* c. 98, 9 *Vict.* c. 16, 11 and 12 *Vict.* c. 45, and 12 and 13 *Vict.* c. 108.

It will be seen from the Act 7 and 8 *Vict.* that certain companies and associations are excepted but for the purpose of registration, as not coming within the definition "Joint-Stock Companies," as prescribed by the Registration Act, although such companies are essentially partnerships, and in some cases, as in those of Banking Companies and Mining Companies, on the cash-book principle, carry out their operations by means of a joint-stock composed of transferable shares. Such banks, however, are excepted because they are constituted as before described, under the Act 7 *Geo. IV.* c. 46, and the Act

To the associations or companies (so excepted) we may add:—

6. Benefit Building Societies, constituted under the 6 and 7 *Wm. IV.* c. 32.
7. Loan Societies, established under 5 and 6 *Wm. IV.* c. 23, as repealed and amended by the 3 and 4 *Vict.* c. 110.
8. Friendly Societies, established under 10 *Geo. IV.* c. 56, as amended and explained by the 2 *Wm. IV.* c. 37, 4 and 5 *Wm. IV.* c. 40, 3 and 4 *Vict.* c. 73, 9 and 10 *Vict.* c. 27, and 13 and 14 *Vict.* c. 115, 15 and 16 *Vict.* c. 65, 16 and 17 *Vict.* c. 123, and 17 and 18 *Vict.* c. 101.

The three last mentioned are short Acts, to amend in slight particulars, and continue the 13 and 14 *Vict.* c. 115, which Act repeals, except so far as regards Societies established under any of the previous Acts, relating to Friendly Societies.

Certain sections of the 12 and 13 *Vict.* c. 106, 16 and 17 *Vict.* c. 34, 17 and 18 *Vict.* c. 105, and 17 and 18 *Vict.* c. 31, also apply to Friendly Societies.

9. A species of Joint-Stock Company, or society, must now be mentioned, not contemplated by the Registration Act 7 and 8 *Vict.* c. 110, namely, Industrial Provident (Partnership) Societies, which are authorised by the 15 and 16 *Vict.* c. 31, as amended by the 17 *Vict.* c. 25, to the rules and regulations necessary for which the principal matter of these papers is specially devoted.

(To be continued.)

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*.

FEW literary questions require more thorough sifting than the question of Plagiarism. It is constantly being raised. Much bad blood is excited, wild accusations are made, and innocent men stigmatised, because there are no clear decisive principles laid down by which each case can be judged. This week we have received from a correspondent an article which appeared in the *National Intelligencer* (U.S.) on LONGFELLOW'S "Hiawatha;" our correspondent himself, an admirer of LONGFELLOW'S poem, being evidently somewhat distressed at finding the poet in what he considers to be a very equivocal position. We will first print the accusation:—

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen,—Few of your readers, I imagine, have ever heard of, much less read, the "Kalewala," the great national epic of the Finns. The name of its author (if, indeed, it be the work of one and not of many minds) is altogether unknown. After floating for ages among the people, passing from mouth to mouth and from generation to generation, like the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer before the time of Pisistratus, the fragments of this wonderful poem have at length been brought together, and stand before the world in a form almost complete. The latest version (that of Dr. Lonnrot) appeared in the year 1849, and contains fifty songs, or runes, and twenty-two thousand seven hundred and ninety-three verses.

High praise is awarded to Mr. Alexander Castren for his excellent translation into the Swedish language, and the zeal that led him to make extensive journeys through all Finland in order to take down the original from the lips of those who recited it, as their custom is, by alternate chanting, at their firesides, during the long evenings of a northern winter. A French translation by Leouzon le Duc was published in 1845. Another in German, made by Anton Schiefner, under the auspices of Castren, to whom it was also dedicated, and printed at Helsingfors in the year 1852, is lying before me.

My object in writing this present brief notice is to call the attention of the literary public to the astounding fact that Professor Longfellow, in his new poem, "Hiawatha," has transferred the entire form, spirit, and many of the most striking incidents of the old Finnish epic to the North American Indians. The resemblance is so close that it cannot be accidental, and yet the only approach to an acknowledgment of the source of his inspiration is found in the beginning of his first note, where he says, "This Indian *Edda*, if I may so call it."

Compare, for example, the prelude of "Hiawatha" with the following extract from that of the "Kalewala," done (from the German) translation into English of the same metre, which is also that of the original:—

"HIAWATHA."

Should you ask me, whence these stories?
Whence these legends and traditions,
With the odours of the forest,
With the dew and damp of meadows,
With the curling smoke of wigwams,
With the rushing of great rivers,
With their frequent repetitions
And their wild reverberations,
As of thunder in the mountains?

—I should answer, I should tell you,
"From the forests and the prairies,
From the great lakes of the Northland,
From the land of the Ojibways,
From the land of the Dacotahs,
From the mountains, moors, and fen-lands,
Where the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Feeds among the reeds and rushes."

I repeat them as I heard them
From the lips of Nawadaha,
The musician, the sweet-singer."
Should you ask me where Nawadaha
Found the songs, so wild and wayward,
Found those legends and traditions?
I should answer, I should tell you,
"In the birds' nests of the forest,
In the lodges of the beaver,
In the hoof-prints of the bison,
In the eyry of the eagle!
All the wild fowl sang them to him,
In the moor-lands and the fen-lands,
In the melancholy marshes;
Chat-o waik, the plover, sang them,
Mahug, the loon, the wild-goose, Wawa,
The blue heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
And the grouse, the Mush-ko-dasa!"

THE "KALEWALA."

These the words we have received,
These the songs we do inherit,
Are of Wiinimöinen's girdle,
From the forge of Ilmarinen,
Of the sword of Kankomieli,
Of the bow of Youkohainen,
Of the borders of the North-fields,
Of the plains of Kalewala.

These my father sung afore time,
As he clipped the hatchet's handle;
These were taught me by my mother,
As she twirled her flying spindles;
When I on the floor was sporting,
Round her knee was gaily dancing,
As a pitiable weakling,
As a weakling small of stature;
Never failed these wondrous stories,
Told of Sampo, told of Louhi;
Old grew Sampo in the stories;
Louhi vanished with her magic;
In the songs Wiunen perished;
In the play died Lemminkäinen.

There are many other stories,
Magic sayings, which I learned,
Which I gathered by the wayside,
Culled amid the heather-blossoms,
Rifled from the bushy copses;
From the bending twigs I plucked
them,
Plucked them from the tender
grasses,

When a shepherd boy I sauntered,
As a lad upon the pastures,
On the honey-bearing meadows,
On the gold-illuminated hillock,
Following black Muurikki
At the side of spotted Kimmo.

Songs the very coldness gave me,
Music found I in the rain drops;
Other songs the winds brought to
me,

Other songs, the ocean billows;
Birds by singing in the branches,
And the tree top spoke in whispers.

As a full and detailed comparison of the two poems cannot be here given, a simple outline of the "Kalewala's" plot must for the present suffice.

The hero of the epic is Wiinimöinen, a mythological personage, son of the Daughter of the Air, who let herself down from heaven into the sea, and was there wooed by the Storm Wind. After roaming through the waters for unnumbered ages he at length reaches the land and begins his career as a benefactor of mankind. Then follows a description of his exploits and adventures, extending through forty-nine *runes*. When at last his mission upon earth is accomplished, the aged Wiinimöinen enters his copper-bound skiff, takes leave of the people on the shore, and sails away far over the blue sea toward the distant horizon, until the barque is seen hanging in the clouds between earth and heaven. So he departed; and so departed *Hiawatha*.

Those who may desire to learn more of the "Kalewala" I would refer to the last

edition of the "Conversation's Lexicon." A faithful and spirited translation would be an acquisition to our literature. No living English poet is better fitted to make such a one than the author of *Hiawatha*. Had he done this at first I feel confident he would have achieved more real fame; for the Indian Epic is only an imitation, not a creation.

Pennsylvania, Nov. 21, 1855.

T. C. P.

The reader, on coming to the end of this article, doubtless feels that a strong case has been made out against LONGFELLOW. In justice to that delightful poet we must prove that no case whatever is made out. It is characteristic of the alacrity some men feel to catch others tripping—an alacrity which prevents their first ascertaining what are the facts—that T. C. P. has made an accusation which can be shown to be utterly futile by merely turning to what LONGFELLOW himself has said. In the notes to "Hiawatha" no claim of originality is set up, as regards the legends; on the contrary, LONGFELLOW most explicitly states that he is indebted for them to the writings of Mr. SCHOOLCRAFT, who has collected the Indian legends; and several other sources are referred to. Now, why should LONGFELLOW have passed in silence over the "Kalewala" if he had really taken his legends from it? He does not pretend that his stories are original; and, if he acknowledge where he got them from, why is a doubt to be thrown on his word, because similar legends are found in a work he has not named? As to the asserted resemblance between the "Kalewala" and "Hiawatha," if that resemblance exist, it will only be one among many of the singular family likenesses in mythologies.

As a question of *fact*, it is clear that LONGFELLOW has adopted the Indian legends collected by SCHOOLCRAFT and others, and has fully avowed his obligations. As a question of *principle*, it is clear to any one familiar with the history of poetry, that had he taken the legends from the "Kalewala," just as they stand there, he would have been guilty of no plagiarism—in the disreputable sense of the word—but would have done what poets have from all time been privileged to do. HOMER did not invent his stories; the Greek dramatists did not invent theirs; SHAKESPEARE and our dramatists never thought of inventing their stories; GOETHE did not invent "Faust," "Iphigenia," "Hermann und Dorothea," or "Reinecke Fuchs;" yet, who ever thought of mentioning the word plagiarism in these cases? Is the invention of a story the claim which the poet makes for our applause? Not in the least. Let him invent a good story if he can, it is a very rare and precious faculty; but his poetic genius can display itself in taking up and presenting in new forms the inventions of others quite as potently as in inventing the stories himself. No one can read "Hiawatha" and not perceive that it is original; it is the work of a poet, who has given new life to old legends, given a new music to the old songs. If America is not proud of her greatest poet, and cannot defend him against paltry charges of plagiarism, let us hope that England will be more dignified in her recognition of genuine worth.

The new number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* contains an article on MICHEL LATTAS, better known all over Europe and Asia under the title of OMAR PACHA, in which the career of the "little pet lion" is sketched by one who, to personal knowledge of the hero, adds great knowledge of contemporary history. The writer is very impartial, and by no means willing to overlook the hero's faults. In the same *Revue* the biography of *La Duchesse de Chevreuse*, by VICTOR COUSIN, is brought to a close; and M. ESQUIROS contributes another of his interesting papers on Holland.

MACAULAY.

The History of England: From the Accession of James II. By T. B. Macaulay. Vols. III. and IV. Longman and Co.

IF any of our readers have not yet pounced upon these long-expected, much-talked-of volumes, we may allay their impatience by assuring them that, although very interesting, they have by no means the interest of the volumes which preceded them. Instead of galloping through them almost breath-suspended, they will find it very easy, and indeed somewhat necessary to walk leisurely to the end—"skipping" a considerable quantity, if they are not fond of dwelling upon commonplaces, and of seeing how much rhetoric and illustration a writer can think it desirable to expend upon an argument which he himself pronounces to be "evident." Indeed, no sooner does Macaulay use the words "the reason of this is obvious," than we prepare to skip several lengthy paragraphs, knowing of old that what is "so obvious," he will be certain to exhaust himself in proving. No theologian is more rhetorically expansive over an evidence of "design" than Macaulay is over a moral commonplace. He delights in it, swells with it, and like Virgil's crow "*siccat secum spatiat ardens*." Except Sir Archibald Alison, he has no equal in this department. It may be a charm to many. People, for the most part, like their thinking to be done for them; like the obvious to be demonstrated. As Emerson finely says, "they never understand a principle until its light falls upon a fact;" and Macaulay is prodigal of his rhetorical facts for the obvious light to fall upon. We will not, therefore, blame this redundant rhetoric. It is enough to note the fact of its presence, and to intimate the excuse for skipping.

The bulk of these volumes, materially increased by this expansive tendency in the writer, and by his constant repetitions, is also quite out of proportion to the subject matter. The eight years they embrace, although eight stirring years in our history, cannot of course vie in interest with the years contained in the previous volumes. Hence, with no diminution of power, there is necessarily a very considerable diminution of attraction. Such chapters as the incomparable introductory sketch in which the outlines of English History to the accession of James were rapidly and brilliantly touched, or as the celebrated chapter on manners, will not be found in the new volumes.

Their place is not supplied by the story of the siege of Londonderry, or the battle of Killiecrankie, admirable as these are. The fault does not lie at the author's door. He has taken enormous pains, and lavished all the resources of his peculiar talent, but his subject is less attractive.

William is the central figure of the whole. Macaulay has a passionate admiration for the DELIVERER, unlike anything he has yet shown for any character in history, and almost as powerful as his intimate enmity towards James. If James had ordered his ears to be cropped for writing seditious *Edinburgh Review* articles, Macaulay could not have pilloried him with more savage triumph. This gives a certain "animation" to his work, but grave readers will note with some regret that a work which is certain to be, and deserves to be, so popular, should be animated by such intense partisanship. Not that Macaulay can justly be taxed with wanting impartiality in his narrative of events. He is as impartial as historians usually are, perhaps somewhat more so. Certain political leanings must be granted to him; yet he is not blind to the errors of his own party, nor to the characters of that party's chiefs. But both the men he admires and the men he hates are represented in colours no cautious reader will accept. In fact, one can scarcely name a portrait in the whole gallery which has much appearance of being like. The most ignorant reader can decide thus far. We do not require to see the originals of those "portraits of gentlemen" hung up every year on the walls of the Academy to decide upon their resemblance: we know they are not likenesses, for we see that they are not men. Macaulay paints with epithets and antitheses; he seems to care much more for the effect of his sentence than for the fidelity of his expressions; and after a page of epithets and generalities, a hazy bewilderment steals over the reader's mind, which he in vain tries to condense into something like the image of a character. If we open Carlyle's "French Revolution," or his "Cromwell," after reading a volume of Macaulay, it is like opening a volume of a poet after reading some very clever verses by one who has all the qualities except "the vision and the faculty divine."

Of genius, indeed, Macaulay has none. His talents are great—indisputable; we should be sorry if any word of ours seemed to imply a want of respectful recognition of powers which are assuredly rare in such a combination as he presents; but it would be an abuse of terms to apply the word genius to anything he has done. The measure of his powers may be seen in his style. It is assuredly a remarkable style: clear, graceful, at times brilliant, but always mannered, and never rising to that climax of perfection which distinguishes great writers. He is often very picturesque, often very happy in the epigrammatic turn which makes a sentence memorable; but there are none of those surprised secrets of language which are never refused to the happy ardour of genius, none of those supreme graces and startling felicities of expression with which every genius enriches the thought and language of his country. His style is like Wedgwood's crockery; good, serviceable, cheap, fit for common use, better than what is elsewhere brought into the market; but the excellences of Sévres and Dresden are never met with in it. He never thinks otherwise than as thousands have thought before him; he never expresses himself in language not used by thousands before him. This is a merit, and a defect. It shows that he has no individuality; or, if individuality be assigned to his peculiar manner, it is an individuality which has no depth.

While touching, thus briefly, on his style, we ought not to overlook a certain negligence in these volumes which we do not remember to have noticed before. He is fond of praising "the diction" of men in whom diction must surely be a quite minor merit. And indeed it is evident throughout that he is a purist in language, which in a man of letters cannot be considered a fault. But we observe him dropping into the penny-a-liner style oftener than could be expected from so elaborate a writer. He is fond of such phrases as "the city holds no mean place," or "the nation rose as one man;" nor is he deterred from using such a word as "hypothecate;" nay, he even condescends to the barbarism "it should seem" for "it seems," a phrase in frequent use, indeed, like its fellow "it would appear," but which is only excusable in the hurry of newspaper writing. The phrase "it seems" expresses conditionality, and when "should" is added to "seem" the conditionality is rendered conditional; it is like talking of wet water (which the Greeks, by the way, did without remorse).

These are "trifles light as air," and scarcely worth mentioning, did not Macaulay's reputation as a stylist give them importance.

We shall make no extracts from a work which will assuredly be in the hands of all our readers ere long, nor need we pause to point out its manifold excellencies, since no one will be blind to them. In concluding these brief remarks, however, which have been almost exclusively directed against defects, we wish to convey as emphatically as possible our sense of its value. Its slightest recommendation is that it will be read like a novel. The permanent good it will effect is one which rises superior to all minor merits or defects, and which all liberal minds will recognise as important, namely the striking lesson throughout inculcated of the immense advantage the nation has derived from being steadfast to law and justice even in its most perilous hours; and the demonstration which runs through every chapter of the steady progress which has been made in every department, political and moral.

ESSAYS FOR THE AGE.

Essays for the Age. By Charles F. Howard, author of "Perseus and his Philosophies," "Olympus," &c. J. K. Chapman and Co.

We have not seen the former works of this writer, and confess that we sat down to read the present with a strong prepossession against it—a prepossession derived from the fact that he has printed at the end of his volume a list of "opinions of the press," all of a very dithyrambic tone, which announce to the world that the author is a phoenix. Publishers may, in the way of business, quote flattering testimonies of the wares they want to sell; but when an author does so, we almost invariably find him to be one whom "the papers" pronounce a marvel, and the public a noodle. Such terrible discrepancy exists between "opinions of the press" and the opinions of readers!

In spite of our prepossession, however, the "Essays for the Age" carried us from Prologue to Epilogue; and if we did not discover in them qualities

which could make us dithyrambic, we at any rate discovered an amount of caustic independence, and vivacious originality, which stamped these Essays as the production of what detestable writers call "a mind of no mean order." They are paradoxical, outspoken, terse, and often felicitous; a little slapdash, and a little crude now and then—essays and essayings. The subjects are various enough: Public Opinion—Routine—Samaritanism—the Moral of a Book—Property—Religion—Authorship—Solomon's Satires—Wordsworth's Philosophy—the Royal Roads—the Purpose of Life—Right and Wrong. None of them are without suggestive matter, none of them filled with the idle twaddle commonly supposed to be inseparable from the dignity of the Essay. Without bearing comparison with the Essays of Helps or Emerson, some of their best pages remind us of both. Mr. Howard hates cant, and says so. He does not admire Wordsworth, and says so. He is little awed by Respectability, and says so. He has but a mitigated respect for Holy Church, and says so. He thinks the Duke of Wellington a common-place man, and says so. He believes there are royal roads to learning, to virtue, to fortune—and says so. Now a man who will say what he thinks, or will utter even paradoxes which he only half thinks, is worth reading, for he provokes thought, even when he exasperates his reader. The tone of Mr. Howard's "Essays" may be heard in the following extracts:—Here is one on

THE TYRANNY OF BOARDS.

It is probable that nine out of ten men would be in favour of what is politely called a Free Constitution, or in other words, a democracy in disguise. Under certain conditions, and among certain people, this may be as good a form as any other. But it is the most intolerant of all. Its head and fountain is Public Opinion, and its means are Parliaments, Commissions, Congresses, and Boards. Probably more cruelty, injustice, and tyranny have been perpetrated under democracies, than under the sceptres of all the monarchs who have ever reigned. A body of men called a Board (can Mr. Trench tell us the origin of that horrid word?), aid and abet each other in decisions of iniquity, which any one man separately would shrink from. A Board is always void of responsibility—it is a phantom, and has no personality. Its Creator is Public Opinion—another phantom. Is it the voice of the masses, or of the gentry, or of the shopkeepers, or of all and each compounded? Is it the best insight, which, when men have once discovered, they instantly rejoice in advocating? Whence does it spring, and of what is it composed? Is it always right? Is it ever right? Is it ever wrong, and when? If wrong, how is it to be convinced of its wrong, and who is to convince it? Surely we should know somewhat of this power so vast, irresponsible, uncontrollable.

The following is excellent:—

It is, in fact, nothing more than a repetition. Repetition benumbs. The same law is apparent in the physical world: if you rub the skin with any hard substance, it grows irritated, but rub it again and again, and Nature provides a callosity strong enough to resist it, or rather too dead to perceive it. And so it is with mind: some man tells you a monstrous lie, which you at once laugh at, but he tells it to you again day after day with a grave face: you see it in the corner of every newspaper you take up, it stares you in the face as you walk along the street, and you find that many people have faith in it. Now this simple repetition has had a considerable influence on your mind also: the novelty which at first provoked your merriment is all over, the outrage upon truth which called forth your censure is gone likewise, and there now arises a natural kind of aptitude between that fact and yourself: you grow weary of railing, and become reconciled to the imposition, however gross. It is thus with particular facts, and it is thus also with the general course of life. At eighteen all was novelty and delight, but as the years roll on we find both those feelings become changed and deadened: the joy, the rapture, the fresh-blown hope, the confidence of boyhood, the newness of young blood, the fancy, and the poetry of life, all are gone—"the beautiful is vanished, and returns not," you say with Wallenstein. And the dusky and sorrow-laden hours pass away in much the same manner. In either case manhood is tamed down, or brought up to a uniformly stupid and blunted mediocrity, wherein is no newness of joy, and no newness of sorrow. We grow accustomed, and therefore we grow benumbed. We begin to look upon men and events, upon women and opinions, upon principle and expediency, as things upon which we have troubled ourselves for many years very uselessly. Here these facts are, we say, and here we suppose it is natural for them to exist. What is that to us—see ye to that, and, like jesting Pilate, we live and grow fat, making a more respectable figure in the world than formerly, but entirely losing that first view of life—a perception which, being unworn, is more likely to be true than this latter. This is custom, and custom is second nature; but I doubt very much whether second nature is in so close a conjunction with truth as the first. It seems very questionable whether a man perceive a fact any the more clearly because he has seen it the more often. "A clear idea," says Burke, "is a shallow idea," and the more shallow we grow, the more clear. It is by use, by exercise, by discipline alone that we are able to utter what we think, but the primitive perceptions are altogether above utterance: there is a haze and wonder overhanging all things, and this is inexplicable until it gets melted down by custom into sentiments almost unworthy of explanation. The vision is so full, that words fail to convey its meaning, and the oftener we look upon it, the less it strikes us, whereby we are able to explain clearly, because we see the fewer objects. At certain times the sight of the moon and the stars impress us very strangely, but only stay and try to mould that feeling into words, and you find it directly evaporating, so you talk about the stars themselves. Evidently our feelings and untold ideas are of a higher and more actual stamp than those which can be uttered, for which reason the great excellence of a writer is to have the facility of saying the most whilst he feels the most, for if he let the feeling go, he has only imagination—or memory—to aid him, and we all know how paltry a thing a man becomes, when he writes from imagination instead of feeling; it is showing us a waxen image for a living man.

We conclude with this caustic definition of

RIGHT AND WRONG.

The knowledge of the difference between Right and Wrong is supposed by jurists to constitute the difference between lunacy and sanity. Indeed, every child over five years of age is, it is thought, fully capable of making so obvious a reflection, and so intuitive a distinction. The various synonyms and personifications which these two small words have been made to bear, amply justify this supposition of the boundless distance between them. Right is Virtue; Wrong is Vice. Right is Dr. Cumming; Wrong is Dean Swift. Right is a clean shirt, and the Book of Common Prayer on a Sunday; Wrong is beer, spirits, and skittles. Right is the Sunday School, and the Religious Tract Society; Wrong is tobacco and pitch-and-toss. These more particularly apply to the poor man, but the rich are quite as amply and generously provided for. For the gentler

sex, Right is meekness, and Wordsworth's Excursion; Wrong is Byron, and the voluptuous Moore. Right is baby-linen for the poor, and slippers of Tyrian hue for Sybarite divines; Wrong is too much confidence and trustingness, qualities which generally bring forth ruin and shame. Right is caution, contentment, and Marthaism; Wrong is marrying a poor brave man whom you love.

For the sterner sex, Right is a tight umbrella and a "right-and-proper" conventional tone; Wrong, the utterance of any chivalrous sentiment or free-hearted speech. Right is demureness and subserviency; Wrong is sincerity and candour. Right is Sir John Paul, Bates, and Company, with a godly company of Saints, and a Chapel with patrons, who give Evangelical tea-parties, where the scandal of the neighbourhood is well discussed—all, of course, for the glory of religion, and the honour of virtue. Such a community necessarily grows rich, being well fed by the loaves of the devout and free-will offerings of the pious. When was it ever known that the righteous was deserted, or his seed begging their bread? Certainly not. Chapel pews always let for high rentals, on purpose to fulfil those words of the Psalmist.

EARLY GREEK ROMANCE.

The Greek Romances of Heliodorus, Longus, and Achilles Tatius. Translated from the Greek, with Notes, by the Rev. Rowland Smith, M.A., formerly of St. John's College, Oxford. London: Bohn.

Few books have had a greater influence on modern literature than the three works here reprinted by Mr. Bohn, in a cheap form, and worthily included in his "Classical Library;" yet, until now, it was with the utmost difficulty that a copy of any of them could be procured. The lover of early romance was obliged to search the British Museum, or some other large collection, before he could make himself acquainted with these renowned elder brothers of the great family of fiction, either in their original language, or in the form of translations; and even literary men have been obliged to content themselves with the summaries given by Dunlop, in his "History of Fiction," and to take the reputed merits of the originals for granted. Consequently, the re-issue, for five shillings, of Heliodorus, Longus, and Achilles Tatius, will be welcomed in many humble libraries.

Heliodorus—the chief of the triad, both as regards length of composition, and priority of birth—has been regarded by many as the father of Romance. Yet he can scarcely maintain the position. Not to speak of that vast world of fiction which is embodied in ancient poetry—not to include the stories sprinkled thickly throughout the Bible, though many of these are confessedly put forth as inventions or parables—not, in short, to go so far a-field, but to confine ourselves to elaborate narrations in prose, written mainly with a design to entertain, it must be acknowledged, even with this limitation, that Heliodorus had his predecessors. Indeed, the "Ethiopics, or the Adventures of Theagenes and Chariclea," exhibit an elaborate and highly artificial state of fiction-writing; and we do not find that any branch of literature has sprung at once into such ample growth. It is impossible, moreover, to conceive that Europe (to put Asia out of the question) would have waited until the fourth or fifth century after Christ for a species of literary composition so obvious and so delightful; and, upon investigation, it has been found that, long before the period of Heliodorus, the Milesians—a Greek colony of Asia Minor—were celebrated for their amatory tales, the germs of which were probably derived from the nations of the East. Antonius Diogenes, who lived a little while after Alexander the Great, wrote a romance called "Dinias and Dercillis;" Petronius Arbiter may be described as a romance-writer of the time of Nero; and Jamblichus, a native of Babylonia, but a Greek by descent, composed, in the course of the second century, the "History of the Amours of Rhodis and Sinonides." In the same century, Apuleius produced his "Golden Ass"—a romance imitated from the earlier works of Lucian and Lucius, and of a nature not to be confounded with history or mythology. The "Life of Apollonius of Tyana," by Philostratus, though pretending to be the veritable biography of that singular union of philosophy and imposture, is so mixed with extravagant adventures and continual reference to the supernatural, that it may fairly be ranked as a work of fiction, even if "founded on fact;" and instances to the same effect might be multiplied.

Thus, we see that, some centuries previous to the year 400 (at which period Heliodorus appears first to have distinguished himself), Romance was known in Europe. It is possible, however, that Heliodorus may have given a new character to fiction-writing; may have extended its limits—enriched it with a more wealthy and vital imagination—adorned it with greater variety and strangeness of incident—and, by separating from its texture all satire and all obviously didactic purpose, made it more fit for entertainment and mental recreation. Certain it is that "Theagenes and Chariclea" was for many centuries regarded as the model for compositions of the same kind; that it has had an influence perfectly astounding upon the literature of nearly the whole of Europe; and that, by the medium of numerous translations, paraphrases, &c., it has permeated, not only through the prose fiction of Italy, Spain, France, and England, but has reached even the poetry of some of those countries, and has found its way to the stage, and to the canvass of the artist. The interminable romances which, on the revival of learning, became popular all over Europe—the "Diana" of George of Montemayor; the early productions of Cervantes, and even "Don Quixote" itself, making allowance for the satire; the novels of Calprenede and Scudéri; the "Astrea" of d'Urfé; the "Arcadia" of Sir Philip Sydney; the "Argenis" of Barclay, &c.—together with the shorter tales, such as the narratives of Boccaccio, Bandello, and Fiorentino, and the fairy fictions of Madame d'Aulnoys,—all derive their origin in some degree (though bringing, of course, much additional wealth to the stock) from the fertile source of the "Ethiopics." We might go further, and say that, notwithstanding their greater reference to nature and dramatic truth, the works of Le Sage, Richardson, and Fielding, show some lingering relics of the style which, though not originated by the old Phœnician Bishop, was, owing to some superior energy of imagination, some higher perception of ideal fitness, or some "greater gust" of language, projected by him into the literary mind of Europe, like a subtle elixir, turning Gothic and Celtic lead into classic gold. Tasso, becoming acquainted with "Theagenes and Chariclea" at the court of Charles IX. of France, where it was the delight of the fine ladies and gentlemen who loved and petted and sighed over a work of imagination as if it were a porcelain vase,—Tasso, being smitten with the fortunes of the hero and heroine, and wishing to please the courtiers,

promised them, according to Ghirardini, "that they should soon see the work attired in the most splendid vestments of Italian poetry, and kept his promise by transferring to the heroine Clorinda (in the tenth Canto of the 'Gerusalemme') the circumstances attending the birth and early life of the Ethiopian maiden, Chariclea." Dunlop adds, that "the proposed sacrifice and subsequent discovery of the birth of Chariclea have likewise been imitated in the 'Pastor Fido,' of Guarini, and, through it, in the 'Astrea,' of d'Urfé." Racine projected a drama on the subject of the "Ethiopics;" and Dorat produced in Paris, in 1762, a tragedy, entitled "Theagenes and Chariclea." The old English tragi-comedy, called "The Strange Discovery," was suggested by the same romance; and Hardy, the French poet, wrote no less than eight dramas on this one story. In addition to these testimonies to the popularity of Heliodorus, we may mention that Raphael, assisted by Julio Romano, has painted two pictures from the old Greek fiction.

Heliodorus was a native of Emesa in Phœnicia, probably coming of a Greek stock, and was created Christian Bishop of Tricca in Thessaly. His episcopal function, according to Nicephorus, was thought to be outraged by the writing of such a book as "Theagenes and Chariclea," "inasmuch as many of the youths were drawn into peril of sin by the perusal of these amorous tales." The Provincial Synod, therefore, ordered the romance-loving Bishop to burn his story or renounce his see; and, like a true, honest worshipper of God-given Art, he chose the latter alternative. But, unfortunately, this anecdote, so worthy to rank among the heroisms and self-sacrifices of genius, is held to be apocryphal. It is not unlikely, however, that the fellow-bishops of Heliodorus may, in the ultra-Puritanism of their virtue, have regarded with pious horror this romance of love and heathenism; for the scene is laid in ancient Greece, Egypt, and Ethiopia, and, although there is real religious feeling in the book, the objects of worship are, of course, Apollo, Diana, &c. We have a right, indeed, to assume even the probability of the Synod objecting to the Bishop's literary performance, because Jeremy Taylor—the ornate preacher who robed his religious discourses in the most gorgeous vestments of poetry—says, in a letter to Evelyn, that the composition of the "Ethiopics" was a wide departure from the duty of the Bishop. Yet, allowing for a certain openness and sincerity of expression common to the age, the romance is by no means licentious.

After passing into the literary mind of Europe, "Theagenes and Chariclea" would seem to have fallen into a temporary obscurity; but a manuscript copy is said to have been saved by a soldier at the sack of Buda, in 1526 (an anecdote which the Rev. Rowland Smith, M.A., might as well have told his readers in his Preface); and this circumstance appears to have brought it again into notice, for the first printed edition was issued at Basil, in 1534. A translation was made by a Polish knight; and Amyot, the translator of Plutarch, rendered it into French. As a set-off to the story of Heliodorus losing his bishopric in consequence of his romance, it is pleasant to note (though our reverend editor seems to consider it below his attention) that, for translating that romance, Amyot obtained the abbey of Bellasone. Four translations, according to Mr. Smith, have been made into English: one by Thomas Underdowne, London, 1587; another by W. Lisle, 1622; a third by Nahum Tate and others, in 1686; and a fourth in 1791. Mr. Smith, on his title-page, speaks of having made the translation now before us himself; but, in his preface, he says that it is "based" on that of 1791. Of the fitness of the latter translation to form this base, Mr. Smith shall himself speak:—

"The version upon which the present one is founded is in many places more of a paraphrase than a translation. Several passages are entirely omitted, while of others the sense has been mistaken; it has been the endeavour of the translator to remedy these defects, and to give the meaning of his author as literally as is consistent with avoiding stiffness and ruggedness of style."

We strongly suspect, though the Rev. Mr. Smith does not say so, that the translation—or "version"—of 1791, is not direct from the Greek, but that it comes through the French.

The characteristics of Heliodorus will have been deduced in a great measure from the foregoing observations. "Tasso," says the Rev. Mr. Smith, "praises him for the skill which he displays in keeping the mind of his reader in suspense, and in gradually clearing up what appeared confused and perplexed." His literary vices, however, are numerous. The narrative is often prolix, artificial, and involved; the characters have no reference to nature, or to the spontaneous fluctuations of passion, but speak in set, rhetorical phrases, such as Heliodorus (who was a Sophist) might have learned in the schools; and there is a continual tendency to interrupt the action by untimely exhibitions of the mere author. Yet, the sin of prolixity is not carried to nearly the same extent that it reached in later works; and we must concede to the "Ethiopics" great variety of situation, great wealth of scenery and accessories, and great ingenuity in the elaboration of the plot. The description of the pirate's retreat in the First Book—a reedy marsh, spreading drowsily between barren islands which are approached with difficulty from the land—the winding cave in which Chariclea is hidden—the sudden attack made upon the buccaners by other buccaners—and the firing of the dry reeds and the tents on the islands, which burn into a light grey ash that the wind scatters,—all this has the vividness and picturesque truth of modern romance. At other parts again (especially in the long digressions, and the episodes within episodes, as well as in a certain Asiatic splendour and sumptuousness), we are reminded of the "Arabian Nights"—that is to say, of the translation of that work from the French—not of the passionate, red-blooded, Oriental version of Mr. Lane; and, perhaps, in the very next page, we detect something of the primitive intensity, and reference to simple, natural fact, of Homer. As, for instance, in this description of a young man descended from Achilles:—"His eyes were of a deep blue, inclining to black, imparting an amiable but animated look to his countenance, like the sea smoothing itself from a storm into a calm." Or, in the following passage, about some emeralds and amethysts—"the former as green as the vernal corn, and shining with a kind of oily lustre; the latter resembling the colour of the sea-beach, when played upon by the shadows of an overhanging rock, which impart to it a purple tinge." Gorgeous pageantries and processions, moreover, move through the story; and for a lengthened specimen we cannot do better than quote one of

these—a scene full of life, motion, and splendour. The occasion is the celebration of the Pythian games:—

"The procession began with an hecatomb of victims, led by some of the inferior ministers of the temple, rough-looking men, in white and girt-up garments. Their right hands and breasts were naked, and they bore a two-edged axe. The oxen were black, with moderately arched and brawny necks—their horns equal, and very little bent; some were gilt, others adorned with flowers—their legs bent inwards—and their deep dewlaps flowing down to their knees—their number, in accordance with the name, exactly an hundred. A variety of other different victims came afterwards, each species separate and in order, attended with pipes and flutes, sending forth a strain prelusive of the sacrifice: these were followed by a troop of fair and long-waisted Thessalian maidens, with dishevelled locks—they were distributed into two companies; the first division bore baskets full of fruits and flowers; the second, vases of conserves and spices, which filled the air with fragrance: they carried these on their heads; thus, their hands being at liberty, they joined them together, so that they could move along and lead the dance. The key-note to the melody was sounded by the next division, who were to sing the whole of the hymn appointed for this festival, which contained the praises of Thetis, of Peleus, and their son, and of Neoptolemus.

"At length, a band of youths on horseback, with their splendidly dressed commander, opening upon them, afforded a spectacle far preferable to any sounds. Their number was exactly fifty; they divided themselves into five-and-twenty on each side guarding their leader, chief of the sacred embassy, who rode in the midst: their buskins, laced with a purple thong, were tied above their ankles; their white garments, bordered with blue, were fastened by a golden clasp over their breasts. Their horses were Thessalian, and by their spirit gave token of the open plains they came from; they seemed to champ with disdain the foaming bit, yet obeyed the regulating hand of their riders, who appeared to vie with each other in the splendour of their frontlets and other trappings, which glittered with gold and silver. But all these, Cnemon, splendid as they were, were utterly overlooked, and seemed to vanish, like other objects before a flash of lightning, at the appearance of their leader, my dear Theagenes, so gallant a show did he make. He too was on horseback, and in armour, with an ashen spear in his hand; his head was uncovered; he wore a purple robe, on which was worked in gold the story of the Centaurs and the Lapithæ; the clasp of it was of electrum, and represented Pallas with the Gorgon's head on her shield. A light breath of wind added to the grace of his appearance; it played upon his hair, dispersed it on his neck, and divided it from his forehead, throwing back the extremities of his cloak in easy folds on the back and sides of his horse. You would say, too, that the horse himself was conscious both of his own beauty and of the beauty of his rider; so stately did he arch his neck and carry his head, with ears erect and fiery eyes, proudly bearing a master who was proud to be thus borne. He moved along under a loose rein, balancing himself equally on each side, and, touching the ground with the extremity of his hoofs, tempered his pace into almost an insensible motion.

"Chariclea was borne in a chariot drawn by two white oxen—she was dressed, in a purple robe embroidered with gold, which flowed down to her feet—she had a girdle round her waist, on which the artist had exerted all his skill: it represented two serpents, whose tails were interlaced behind her shoulders; their necks knotted beneath her bosom; and their heads, disentangled from the knot, hung down on either side as an appendage: so well were they imitated, that you would say they really glided onward. Their aspect was not at all terrible; their eyes swam in a kind of languid lustre, as if being lulled to sleep by the charms of the maiden's breast. They were wrought in darkened gold, tinged with blue, the better to represent, by this mixture of dark and yellow, the roughness and glancing colour of the scales. Such was the maiden's girdle. Her hair was not entirely tied up, nor quite dishevelled, but the greater part of it flowed down her neck, and wanted on her shoulders—a crown of laurel confined the bright and ruddy locks which adorned her forehead, and prevented the wind from disturbing them too roughly—she bore a gilded bow in her left hand; her quiver hung at her right shoulder—in her other hand she had a lighted torch; yet the lustre of her eyes paled the brightness of the torch."

We have left ourselves no space to speak of Longus and Achilles Tatius. We must, therefore, be content simply to allude to the first as the most celebrated exemplar of pastoral fiction, and to the second as a literary disciple of Heliodorus. For a more intimate acquaintance, the reader will no doubt refer to the authors for himself.

Poems of Ten Years. By Mrs. Ogilvy.

Bosworth, London.

Metrical Pieces, Translated and Original. By N. L. Frothingham.

Trübner, London.

Echoes of the War and other Poems. By Henry Sewell Stokes.

Longman, London.

These are three volumes of verse, all rather above the average jingles of publishing amateurs, but neither very promising of choicer fruit. We place them in the order of merit, according to our judgment. Mrs. Ogilvy, to be sure, is the merest rhymist of the three; but then she makes the best rhymes. She is good only at this kind of work, and at what the lawyers call a "statement." Were it a custom to put "cases" in smooth, fair metre, she would be the Miss Brass of the Realms of Rhyme. The best jingle in her book, taken as a whole, and the one containing most originality of thought, is "Walter von de Vogelweid." Longfellow's pretty and fanciful song on this subject will be remembered, perhaps, by the majority of our readers. He carries out the legend, from the testamentary act of the Minnesinger, in favour of his friends and supposed admirers, the birds, to the shabby behaviour of the monks, in withholding the daily gifts of bread thus bequeathed by the poet. Mrs. Ogilvy's version stops at the fact of the bequest, from which she draws the conclusion, that Walter was wise in his generation, and ensured for his name an immortality which his verses would not have gained it. In her poems of imagination, Mrs. Ogilvy's tendency to prosaic descriptions of natural phenomena, interferes a little with the poetical effect. More than one verse, on this account, reminds us of Dr. Darwin. For instance:—

Down among the waters dense,

Fatal to our breathing sense,

Tiny minnows, whales immense

Live in genial homes, nor care to journey thence.

The "Metrical Pieces" of Mr. Frothingham include a considerable number of translations from the German, made at a time, the author tells us, "when it was far less common to present the poets of Germany in an

English dress than it has since become." To say that Mr. Frothingham has done any public service by these translations would certainly not be true. But they are creditable to his industry and taste, and show that he has a good acquaintance with the poetical literature of Germany.

Mr. Stokes's "Echoes" will not

— roll from soul to soul,
And grow for ever and for ever.

It may be questioned whether all echoes of this war, raised by our poets, have not already stopped growing. All we can say of Mr. Stokes has been said. He is above the average class of jinglers who try to wake the "Echoes" with their jingles.

The Arts.

CHRISTMAS WEEK AT THE THEATRES.

DRURY LANE on Wednesday evening entertained its holiday visitors with a pantomime bearing the rather uninviting title of *Hey Diddle Diddle; or Harlequin King Nonsense and the Seven Ages of Man*. Nonsense is an excellent thing; but "Hey Diddle Diddle" conveys a very shadowy suggestion of the humorous, and "the Seven Ages of Man" is, upon the whole, rather a solemn than a jocose topic. Pantomime writers, however, have a glorious knack of melting all individuality of scheme into one brilliant, floating atmosphere of stage enchantment; and, if the young ones have pretty scenery, pretty fairies, surprising changes, and noise without stint, they are satisfied. The scenery of the DRURY LANE pantomime, as of the COVENT GARDEN, is by BEVERLY, and is extremely beautiful, like all the productions of that first of stage-painters. One scene, indeed—that representing the village of Prettywell, with a distant view of the church—elicited enthusiastic demands for the artist. There was plenty of rough fun to please the juveniles; and the elders were delighted by some hits at the spirits "Redtape" and "Routine," who were banished to the regions of Noddledom. TOM MATTHEWS, the eternal, performs one of the clowns; and a gorgeous scene in fairyland concludes the entertainment.

COVENT GARDEN.—Amid the general flourish of trumpets which the approach of Christmas calls forth from managers, the note of Mr. ANDERSON, Wizard of the North and lessee of Covent Garden Theatre, proves, this year, to be the longest, loudest, and most intensely brazen in tone, of all the theatrical orchestra. He amazes the general mob of sightseers by puffing in the *Times*, at greater length even than Mr. SMITH, of Drury Lane (who does not stick at a trifle when he issues his manifestos, as the public well know by this time). He appeals to the "learned few" by calling his theatre an "auditorium." He flashes into the very souls of the street-passengers by a burst of electric light from the top of his Enchanted Palace. He exhibits himself (in an advertising point of view) before the multiform mercantile interests of this commercial country, in the remarkable and unparalleled character of a gentleman who has made so much money by his vocation in life that he does not know what to do with it, and is reduced to the dire necessity of taking a theatre and producing a pantomime, as a last desperate means of casting superfluous cash to the winds. A man with too much money! A man with an electric light at the top of his theatre! A man whose advertisements are as long as leading-articles (and five times as interesting)! A man who can call pit, boxes, and gallery an "auditorium," and actually not appear to be proud of it! Is it necessary to report that this man is successful—that on the first night when he opens his theatre an acute and discriminating public pour into it, cast their superfluous gold and silver at the feet of the *Monte Christo* of conjuring, and drive him to despair by madly adding to the wealth which his weary soul is yearning to get rid of and can't on any terms whatever? No, no; the condition of the "auditorium" on Wednesday evening last our readers can realise for themselves. It will be more to the purpose if we tell them that the pantomime of the *Field of the Cloth of Gold* has been magnificently and prodigally got up in all its parts. The costumes and the scenery are superb. The size of the stage, and the inexhaustible resources of the Wizard's purse, have enabled Mr. BEVERLEY to do himself the fullest justice on the most "gorgeous" scale. There is a scene in this pantomime, called the "Golden Groves of Good Humour," which is the very perfection of painting, lighting, and decoration—one of those happy unions of magnificence and good taste which it is a genuine enjoyment to look at. Equally good, in another way, is a scene on the deck of the "Great Harry," in which the stage-business is very noticeable for its good management. The introduction to the pantomime is written by Mr. SALA; the tricks and transformations are by the Brothers BROUGH; the Pantaloon is a new stage-humourist from America; and the Clown is the never-resting, never-flagging Mr. FLEXMORE. These are some of the prominent attractions of the pantomime—the rest we may safely leave our play-going readers to find out for themselves.

For the poetry of pantomime, we must go to the HAYMARKET. Grassy dells, oak-shadowed solitudes, woods of mountain-ash, glens of dark growths of nightshade and bella-donna, country lanes and moonlight meadows, fairy-haunted valleys and nooks like those in old romance; sudden transformations of summer verdure into snowy, lifeless landscapes; radiant beings glittering in costumes representative of moth and butterfly and trumpeter, hornet and bee, and wasp and beetle, with fairies of more human sort;—such are the pastoral, delicate, and super-dainty cates which Mr. BUCKSTONE yields us this Christmas season. The last scene is peculiarly magnificent; and the harlequinade was received with the utmost satisfaction. *The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast* is sure of a long run.

The OLYMPIC presents us with another burlesque from the sparkling and well-tryed pen of Mr. PLANCHE, beyond all comparison the most witty, original, refined, and classical writer of this species of entertainment. The subject of his extravaganza this Christmas—*The Discreet Princess; or the Three Glass Distaffs*—does not present so many opportunities either for effective acting, or for brilliant and romantic scenery, as the story selected last year, the *Yellow Dwarf*; and we therefore do not expect to see a repe-

tition of the extraordinary success achieved by that production. But there is no lack of Mr. PLANCHE's accustomed wit, humour, and playful fancy—qualities which in his hands retain so much of their natural grace and buoyancy, that they hardly contradict our sense of the remote and fairylike, but seem to form an integral part of the rich embroidery and fantastical filigree-work of enchantment. The *Discreet Princess* is the nursery fiction familiar to us all in childhood, and derived from the collection of CHARLES PERRAULT. A certain King (called *Gander the Stupendous* in the present version) goes to fight the Infidels, and leaves his three daughters locked up in a tower, secure from all visits from the male creation, and charged with instructions to employ themselves until their father's return with the continual use of three magic distaffs of glass, given to them by *Mother Goose*—distaffs which are sure to break if the fair owners should in any way misconduct themselves. How the tower is entered in disguise by the malignant *Richcraft* (Mr. ROBSON); how he endeavours to make love to the Princesses, but is defeated by the prudence of *Finetta* (Miss JULIA ST. GEORGE); how that young lady's distaff is preserved unfractured to the end, while the other two are broken; and how *Finetta* triumphs over *Richcraft*, and is ultimately married to that rakish prince's younger brother, the handsome and chivalrous *Belavoir* (Miss MASKELL); we need not describe, since all are probably acquainted with the story, or will become so through the pleasant medium of Mr. PLANCHE's rhymes. The chief burden of the piece, as regards acting, of course rests with Mr. ROBSON; and we have another instance of the unique powers of that popular favourite in blending the broadest comicality with a certain impish intensity of rage, malice, baffled cunning, and madness. We laugh at the burlesque language, the clownish tones of voice, the grotesque, unwonted gestures; but through the whole runs a wild, irregular, almost supernatural, glare of tragic earnestness. We are not sure that Mr. ROBSON is not falling into a mannerism; and we are sure that he depends too much upon abrupt gusts of passion, and sudden contradictions of manner, to allow of his becoming an actor of classical tragedy; but in his way he is singularly original and fine. His performance of *Richcraft* is not equal to that of the *Yellow Dwarf*; yet there is a scene in which he falls into a fit of raving madness after being taken out of the barrel of spikes, which is quite up to his best. In the way of comedy, he sings a capital parody on the "Ratcatcher's Daughter;" and his physical agility is exhibited in a sudden fall through a trap-door into a subterranean dungeon, and in a parody on the ghost scene in "Hamlet," where he glides along the stage by a shuffling motion of the feet, so as to produce an effect like that of the spectre in the "Corsican Brothers"—an effect heightened by the introduction of the celebrated tremulous ghost-music of that scene. Mr. EMERY acted *King Gander the Stupendous* with an heroic pomposity which gave a touch of truth to the extravagance of the burlesque; Miss STEPHENS did the most that could be done for the slight part of *Mother Goose*; Miss ST. GEORGE acted spiritedly and sang charmingly as *Finetta*; Miss TERNAN was appropriately voluble and shrewish as the *Princess Babillarda*; and Miss MARSTON looked handsome in a becoming scarlet bodice (we think it is called), and performed the lazy *Princess Idelfonza* with graceful languor. The dresses were bright and showy; the scenery pretty and tasteful, if not striking; and a second parody on the "Ratcatcher's Daughter" brought down the curtain to the entire satisfaction of the audience.

A faint attempt at novelty was made in the Christmas entertainment at the ADELPHI—an attempt which, inasmuch as any endeavour to escape from old pantomimic platitudes is a step in the right direction, is worthy of praise. But, though two negatives may make an affirmative (and on this principle the writer seems to have gone), a dull burlesque tacked to a heavy pantomime will not make a pleasant holiday piece. It is a coalition not more likely to be loved in the theatrical than in the political world. Our old and much valued friend Jack, of Bean-stalk renown (not "Jack the Giant-Killer," as we inadvertently stated last week), was the subject of the opening

portion of the piece, and was introduced by young *Mother Goose* (Miss WYNDHAM), after a colloquy with the spirits of *Burlesque* and *Pantomime*, the latter of whom bewailed in dismal accents the usurpation of extravaganzas on the ADELPHI stage. *Pantomime* being soothed by *Mother Goose* (as who wouldn't be by such a radiant pacificator?) consents to a coalition with his rival, and the regular story of *Jack and the Bean-stalk* then commences. The best hits were in this opening scene; some of them reminded us of PLANCHE's delicate strokes of satire. But when PAUL BEDFORD appeared as the *Ogre*, and bellowed as he always bellows; when Mr. R. ROMER, as an amiable *Ogress*, made sleepy attempts to be funny; when a number of children tumbled about the stage without any definite notion of what they should do; when Madame CELESTE changed the adventurous Jack of our childhood to a half-French, half-melodramatic, hero; and when even that king of burlesque knights, Mr. J. BLAND, could excite our laughter only by exhibiting a shaggy wig and beard,—we felt that the spirit of dulness was present in all its power. Nor was the pantomimic portion of the coalition entertainment any better, though the first scene promised well with a pretty *tableau*, aided greatly by the admirable dresses of the four principal characters, in addition to a *Pierrot* as their running footman. These were played by Madame CELESTE (*Harlequin*); Miss WYNDHAM (*Columbine*); Mr. GARDEN (*Clown*); Mr. C. J. SMITH (*Pantaloon*); and Mr. LE BARR (*Pierrot*). The latter of these people did many stupid things without the least aim at a joke. They stole everything they could, and, having done so, threw away their booty. Large boxes were brought on the stage duly labelled, and taken off again untouched, leaving the audience—more apprehensive than the author—to supply their own jokes, which they did pretty freely. The political "hits" wouldn't hit; the "transformations" wouldn't transform. And yet, notwithstanding all this inveterate dulness, the piece is well worth seeing. The scenery in the opening is beautiful, especially a Mont Blanc landscape in the midst of which the *Ogre* dwells; the dresses are rich, and in good taste; the dancing is worthy of any theatre; while the delightful singing and acting of Miss MARY KEELEY, Miss KATE KELLY, and Miss ARDEN, would compensate for any amount of stupid joking. And lastly, who would not go to see the heroine of domestic misery play *Harlequin*, and dance so admirably that one almost regrets her tragic inclinations; or who would not feast his eyes on the loveliest of *Columbines*, dressed in enchanting perfection?

PRINCESS'S.—Here the charming and pathetic old story of *The Maid and the Magpie* has been ruthlessly burlesqued to serve as the introduction to the pantomime. The employment of children, which was such a prominent feature of the Christmas entertainment at this theatre last year, has been resorted to with equal success for the present season. The magnificence of the banquetting scene in *Henry VIII.* is charmingly parodied by the children, the grown performers watching them from private boxes. The most striking trick is the cutting off of the Clown's head, which is admirably managed; and the most amazing dance is the descent of the ladies of the ballet from the top of the stage in the form of parachutes—a bold idea, executed with wonderful beauty and completeness. The scenery and the costumes are throughout worthy of the high reputation of the theatre for such matters. We feel rather disrespectfully towards Mr. CHARLES KEAN's learned playbills; but we sincerely and admiringly acknowledge the taste and beauty of all his "spectacular efforts," and we can fairly congratulate him on everything connected with the getting-up of his pantomime for the present year.

Harlequin and Puss in Boots; or the Ogre of the Rat Castle, and All the World and his Wife, is the title of the SADLER'S WELLS pantomime, which is full of Islington robustness and fun. *Jane Shore* forms the subject of the SURREY production, and contains a good scene in a haunted chamber; and the story of *St. George and the Dragon* presents matter for an equestrian pantomime at ASTLEY'S—a novelty peculiar to this locality.

Friday, December 28.

BANKRUPTS.—JOSEPH FARMAN, Portobello-terrace, Notting-hill, builder—GEORGE FREDERICK CHAGGS, Cobourg-row, Old Kent-road, wholesale fancy stationer—WILLIAM EDMONDS, Kidderminster, hosier—JOHN GRIMWOOD PERKINS, Throgmorton street, City, stockbroker—MOSS DAVIDS, Milledale-row, Holborn, milliner and bonnet salesman—GEORGE TAYLOR, Derby, silk manufacturer—THOMAS JOHNS, Dowlands, Merthyr Tydvil, grocer.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE
London, Friday Evening, Dec. 28, 1855.

The Christmas week's holidays and a great absence of business has found our Money Market pretty nearly the same as last week's quotations. No news from St. Petersburg, and no material rise in French or Austrian funds, would seem to indicate that the speculators do not believe in any good result to arise from Count Esterhazy's propositions to the Czar. This week has been the usual half-monthly settling of the Share account. The principal feature has been the rise in Great Western, owing to the Bears getting frightened from the scarcity of Stock. At the last hour, however, the Bulls were found to be in the ascendant, and a contango was asked for continuing accounts. Eastern Counties shares have been well sustained. The Chairman's able defence does credit to his advocates or himself, and the evident personal spite evinced by the Committee will go far to do Mr. Waddington a greater service than they imagine with the Shareholders.

In the Foreign Stock Market there has been but little doing, except in Turkish Six-and-a-Half Bonds, where the fluctuations have been considerable. Spanish Deferred mark 19½, 20. Mines are neglected. A few inquiries after Cologne Mining Shares and Santiago de Cuba. The "Compagnies Générale des Omnibus de Londres" Shares have been dealt in at 4½, and 1 premium. Great Western of Canada shares are firmly held and inquired after by good men. East Indian Five-and-a-Half Guarantee Shares are about 21 premium. The markets leave off at four o'clock with no great change. Consols for the January opening, 88½, 88½ ex. dividend. Turkish Six-and-a-Half, 83½, 4.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Dec. 28, 1855.

The trade during the week has been of the holiday character usual at this season. Buyers have taken nothing beyond what they required for immediate use, at prices barely equal to those last reported. The firmness of the producing markets, however, gives confidence to holders, and there is no disposition to press sales; indeed, the quantity held here is quite insignificant. Upwards of fifty cargoes of wheat have arrived off the coast for orders, the larger part of them being Egyptian. With the present uncertainty as to the result of the negotiations with Russia, there is the same disinclination to buy cargoes, that there is to enter into any new transactions of any other description. Buyers expect to get Saida as low as 50s., but even should sellers be induced to submit to take a decline, it is doubtful whether it would lead to much business at present. Meantime holders exhibit firmness, and much of what has arrived will probably be consigned. 53s. has been refused in one instance for Saida, and a very fine cargo has been sold at 56s. cost, freight, and insurance. A cargo of Salonica has been sold at 71s. cost, freight, and insurance. About twenty cargoes of maize are off the coast, to which the above observations will also apply. Hardly any sales are reported during the week, and quotations are therefore entirely nominal. The supply of barley is very small, and of oats moderate. There is, however, very little demand for either, and prices remain about the same as on Monday.

Aberdeen, 22; 3; Bristol and Exeter, 79, 81; Caledonian 51½; 4; Chester and Holyhead, 10, 12; East Anglian 11, 12; Eastern Counties, 84, 85; Edinburgh and Glasgow 50½; 12; Great Northern, 73½; 8; Ditto, A Stock, 74, 6; Ditto, B Stock, 119, 121; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 102, 101; Great Western, 52, 53; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 5; Ditto, Thirds, 6, 7 pm; 11; Ditto, new Thirds, 6, 7 pm; 10, 5; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 76, 71; London and Blackwall, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and South Coast, 63, 5; London 6, 4; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 63, 5; London and North Western, 94, 4; Ditto South Ditto, 84½, 5½; and North Western, and Lincolnshire, 23½, 2; Metropo-Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 23½, 2; Metropo-litan, 4, 4 dis; Midland, 63½, 41; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 36, 8; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 34, 14; North British, 28½, 5½; North Eastern (Bewick), 67, 8; Ditto, Extension, 82, 8 dis; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 82, 8 dis; Ditto, Leeds, 11½, 12; Ditto, York, 44½, 5½; North 5, 4½ dis; Ditto, 4½ dis; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 22, 4; Scottish Central, 101, 103; Scottish Midland 73, 5; South Devon, 11, 12; South Eastern (Dover), 56½, 7½; South Wales, 31½, 24; Vale of Neath, 19, 4; West Corn

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BYRON.—In Curzon-street, the Hon. Mrs. Fredk. Byron: a son.

CLARKE.—At Southampton, the wife of Captain Clarke, Royal Engineers: a daughter.

HEYGATE.—At Roccliffe, Leicestershire, on the 27th instant, the wife of Sir Frederick William Heygate, Bart.: a daughter.

MARRIED.

JERVIS.—ROSEN.—At Eton College Chapel, George Jervis, Esq., 9th Regt. B.N.I., son of the late Colonel George R. Jervis, Bengal Engineers, to Leonie de Rosen, daughter of Robert Baron de Rosen, of Lehniet, Esthonia, Russia.

MITCHELL.—OSBORN.—At St. Pancras, New-road, Chas. James Mitchell, Esq., son of the late Peter Mitchell, Esq., of Camberwell, to Louisa Harriet, daughter of the Rev. Edward Osborne, Vicar of Asheldham, Essex.

DEATHS.

BLANKARNE.—At Camberwell, Elizabeth, relict of the Rev. James Blankarne, aged 82.

BLACKWOOD.—At Eaton-terrace, Arthur Edward Vessey, son of the late Captain Francis Price Blackwood, R.N., aged 18 months.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 25.

BANKRUPTS.—GUSTAV HASSE, 4, Railway-place, Fenchurch-street, City, merchant—JAMES WOODROFFE, White Lion, Leather-lane, Holborn, Middlesex, licensed victualler—JAMES THOMAS MURRAY, 5, Lower James-street, Golden-square, Middlesex, pianoforte maker—JOSEPH HENRY WETSTONE, 213, Oxford-street, Marylebone, bookseller and stationer—CHARLES SHARP, 6, Albion-road East, Stoke Newington, late of 46, Lime-street, City, wholesale ironmonger and commission agent—THOMAS HEYWOOD and JOHN HEYWOOD, 124, Wood-street, Cheapside, City, and Melbourne, New South Wales, lace warehousemen—THOMAS HENRY RYLAND, Birmingham, wood turner—TIMOTHY SPRAY, Lenton, Nottingham, lace manufacturer—PATRICK FARRELL, Broughton-works, Salford, Lancashire, contractor and builder—JOHN NEWSOME, Dewsbury, York, woollen manufacturer—JAMES WILLIAM GREGORY, Halifax, grocer—JOHN PATTINSON, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, builder, joiner, and cabinetmaker—JOHN RICHARDSON, the younger, Cockermouth, Cumberland, common brewer.

wall, 4, 6; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7, 8; Ardennes, —; Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 34, 51; East India, 21, 3; Ditto Extension, 4, 4 pm.; Grand Trunk of Canada, 9, 9 dis.; Great Indian Peninsula, 5, 2; Luxemburgs, 3, 4; Great Western of Canada, 24, 5; North of France, 35, 2; Paris and Lyons, 45, 3; Paris and Orleans, 44, 6; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 3; Western and N. W. of France, 29, 30; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 8, 2; Brazil Imperial, 1, 2; Cocas, 2, 2; St. John del Rey, 27, 9.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	205	....	....	....	206	206
3 per Cent. Reduced ..	89½	88½	....	88½	88½	88½
3 per Cent. Con. An. ..	....	....	....	....	....	88½
Consols for Account ..	88½	88½	....	89½	88½	....
New 3 per Cent. An. ..	89	89½	....	89½	88½	89
New 3½ per Cent. ....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Long Ans. 1885 .....	....	....	....	16	16	....
India Stock .....	....	....	....	....	225	....
Ditto Bonds, £1000 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ditto, under £1000 ..	....	....	....	3s. d	8s. d	....
Ex. Bills, £1000	3s. d	7s. d	....	7s. d	4s. d	4s. d
Ditto, £500 .....	....	3s. d	....	....	4s. d	....
Ditto, Small	3s. d	7s. d	....	....	4s. d	....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds (small) 100	Portuguese 5 per Cents. ..
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents 57	Russian Bonds, 5 per
Chilian 6 per Cents	Cents
Chilian 3 per Cents	Russian 4½ per Cents....
Dutch 2½ per Cents	Spanish
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif 95	Spanish Committee Cert.
Ecuador Bonds	of Coup. not fun.
Mexican	Turkish 6 per Cents
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.. 41	Turkish New, 4 ditto....
Portuguese 4 per Cents. ..	Venezuela, 3½ per Cents. ...

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—The vast increase in the demand for these Cough Lozenges, and the numerous testimonials constantly received, fully justify the Proprietor in asserting they are the best and safest yet offered to the Public for the cure of the following complaints:—

ASTHMA, WINTER COUGH, HOARSENESS, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, and other PULMONARY MALADIES.

They have deservedly obtained the highest patronage; very many of the Nobility, the Clergy, and the Public generally use them under the recommendation of some of the most eminent of the Faculty.

Prepared and sold in boxes, 1s. 1½d., and tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London. Sold retail by all druggists and patent medicine vendors in the world.

KEATING'S PALE NEWFOUNDLAND COD LIVER OIL, perfectly pure and nearly tasteless, having been analysed, reported on, and recommended by Professors Taylor and Thomson, of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, who, in the words of the late Dr. Pereira, say, "the finest oil is that most devoid of colour, odour, and flavour," characters this will be readily found to possess.

79, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

Half-pints, 1s. 6d.; pints, 2s. 1d.; quarts, 4s. 6d.; five-pint bottles, 10s. 6d.; imperial measure.

Orders from the country should expressly state "KEATING'S COD LIVER OIL."

DR. KAHN'S CELEBRATED ANATOMICAL MUSEUM (the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it an European reputation, and obtained the warm commendations of the press in this and other countries) is now open daily. A New Series of Original Specimens and Models, embracing some most important and curious features, illustrative of the wonders and secrets of the Human Structure, has just been added to the Collection, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world. Medical practitioners and students and the public at large are invited to visit the Museum, where Lectures are delivered during the day, and a new and peculiarly interesting one is delivered by Dr. KAHN, at half-past Eight o'clock every Evening, on the Reproductive Functions in Man. Admission, One Shilling.

Just published, price 1s., free by post (gratis to Visitors to the Museum), a new edition of Dr. KAHN's Treatise,

The SHOALS and QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH. An Essay, specially intended to avert dangers to which the young and susceptible are peculiarly liable, and to arrest the progress of evil.

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855, an Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of £1000, from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Trieseemar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and Exhaustion of the System, whether arising from accident or climate. Trieseemar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which opium and cubebs have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Trieseemar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may be on the toilet-table without their use being suspected.—Sold in tin cases, at 11s. each; free by post, 2s. extra; divided into separate doses, as administered by Velpéau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 88, Cornhill; Haunay and Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; J. H. Powell, 15, Westmoreland-street Dublin; Kaines and Co., Leith-walk, Edinburgh; and D. C. Campbell, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

EXETER-HALL.

MONDAY EVENING NEXT, DECEMBER 31st, 1855.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that Handel's Oratorio of

THE MESSIAH

will be produced on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, December 31st. Principal singers—

MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT,

Miss Dolby. Mr. Lockey.

Herr Reichardt. Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Lawler.

The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than 600 Performers. Conductor, M. BENEDICT.

Prices of Admission:—Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), £1 1s.; Unreserved Seats (Body of the Hall), 10s. 6d.; West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Area (under West Gallery), 7s.

Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

A correct book of the Oratorio is given with the Tickets. Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. MITCHELL's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond street.

* * * The First MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT will take place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Thursday Evening, January 10, 1856, full particulars of which will be duly announced.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

Lessee for the Christmas Pantomime, Mr. J. H. ANDERSON. Immense success of the Great Pantomime of THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD. Triumph of the real Clown, FLEXMORE. MAGIC AND MYSTERY in its new arrangement, MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN EVER. On Monday, December 31st, and during the week, the Performance will commence with MAGIC AND MYSTERY, by Professor Anderson, the Great Wizard of the North, as recently given by him at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, 112 consecutive representations, and before an aggregate audience of 300,000 persons. To conclude with the Grand, National, Historical and Chivalric PANTOMIME, which has been so long in preparation, and on the production of which so large an expense has been incurred, of YE BELLE ALLIANCE, or HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR, AND YE FIELDS OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD, being a LEGEND OF THE MEETING OF THE MONARCHS. Scene 1. "The Caverns of the Gnome Britannicus in Subterraneanusia," Britannicus, Mr. John Neville. Scene 2. "The Land's End, Cornwall, with the Car of the Dragons," Good Humour, Miss Harriet Gordon; Diorama—No 1. "The Emperor Napoleon's Arrival in London, and his enthusiastic reception." Diorama No. 2 "Queen Victoria's Visit to Napoleon's Tomb, in the Hotel des Invalides at Paris."

"And o'er that shrine the last remembrance quench Of malice 'twixt the English and the French!"

Scene 3. "The Deck of 'The Great Harry,' 4-decker, 128 guns (the First English Man-of-War). The vessel lying alongside the Quay at Dover, with the embarkation of Henry the Eighth," Henry the Eighth, Mr. Harry Pearson; Pretty Poppet, Master Sloman; The Queen of England, Mr. Jones; Maids of the Bedchamber to the English Queen, Mesdames Rosy, Pinky, Daisy, Pansy, Lilly; Cardinal Wolsey, Mr. P. Q. Villiers; Sir Jasper Spritsail, (commander of "The Great Harry") Mr. D. Stewart. Diorama—No. 3. "Voyage from England to France, with a Storm at Sea." Scene 4. "The Interior of the Chateau of Francis I. between Guisnes and Ardennes," Francis I., Mr. W. Shalders; Le Sire de Framboisy, Mr. H. Carles. Scene 5. "The Field of the Cloth of Gold, introducing a Grand Pas de Rosiere, by Miss Emma Horne and Corps de Ballet." Scene 6. "Grand Corridor in the Chateau, leading to the Bedchamber of the Monarchs—Four fine Normandy Lasses, Six Feet Two Inches in their Clogs." Scene 7. "The outside of Blondette's Farm," Blondette, Miss Emma Horne; Coquelicot, Mr. C. Brown. Scene 8. "The abode of the Fairy Queen in the Golden Groves of Good Humour," (by Mr. William Beverley), The Fairy Queen, Miss E. Thorne. General Transformation—Harlequin, Mr. C. Brown; Pantaloon, W. A. Barnes (the Transatlantic Pantomimist); Columbine, Miss Emma Horne; Clown, the Great Flexmore. The Apotheosis of YE BELLE ALLIANCE. (Designed by M. Guerin.) England and France—Mourners at one Altar, Victors on One Throne. The Coronation with the Coronals of Valour by the Genius of Victory. Morning Performance, January 5th, at Two o'clock; Evening, doors open at Half-past Six, Commence at Seven.

The Box-office is now open, under the direction of Mr. O'Reilly. Private Boxes (which may also be taken at the principal Libraries), £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s. Grand Balcony, 4s. Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d. Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. Pit, 2s. Gallery, 1s.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE. — Lessee Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday and during the week—THE JEALOUS WIFE: characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, Leslie, G. Vining, Danvers, Mrs. Stirling, Miss Castleton, Miss Marston, and Miss Bromley; after which a New Extravaganza, by J. R. Planché, Esq., entitled THE DISCREET PRINCESS; or, THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS: principal characters by Messrs Emery, F. Robson, Danvers, White, Clifton, H. Cooper, Misses Ternan, Marston, Maskell, Stephens, and Julia St. George.

Commence at half-past Seven.

MR. GORDON CUMMING has the honour

to announce that TWO NEW PICTURES were added to his AFRICAN ENTERTAINMENT, on the 26th. The subjects are—1st. The Hunter's Troop of Sixteen Horses, attacked by Five Lions, painted by Harrison Weir; 2nd. A View of the River Limpopo, with large Herd of Hippopotami, by Richard Leitch.

232, Piccadilly. Children half-price in the Reserved Seats and Stalls.

FENTON'S 350 PHOTOGRAPHS,

taken in the Crimea, under the Patronage of her Majesty, and with the Sanction of the Commanders-in-Chief. The EXHIBITION of Mr. FENTON'S PHOTOGRAPHS is removed to the New Water colour Gallery, 13, Pall Mall, next to the British Institution. Daily from Ten to Five, and in the Evening from Seven to Ten. Admission One Shilling.

TO LOVERS OF FISH. — 100 Genuine

YARMOUTH BLOATERS for 6s. package included. These HIGHLY ESTEEMED DELICACIES and CHEAP ARTICLES OF FOOD forwarded to all parts, on receipt of penny postage stamps or P. O. O. (preferred). Full and plain directions, County, and nearest station.—Address, THOMAS LETTIS, Jun., Fish Curer, Great Yarmouth.

"This is the third season Mr. Lettis has supplied us with Yarmouth Bloaters, and we find the quality excellent.—J. BRASNOWE, House Steward, Blenheim Palace, October 20, 1854."

"Mr. Lettis.—As soon as you send out your genuine Bloaters, I shall be glad to have a supply as usual. Those I had last year gave great satisfaction.—A. F. COUANOUX, Ambassador's Court, St. James's Palace.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST TEAS

In England are to be obtained of PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY, LONDON.

This is a good time to buy TEA; when Parliament meets it is almost certain we shall have an increase of duty to meet the expenses of the war.

Strong Congou Teas, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s., 3s. 2d.

A general Price Current is published every month, containing all the advantages of the London markets, and is sent free by post on application.

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SWINTON BOULT, Secretary to the Company.

December, 1855.

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