Alfred Edmund Galloway, 352 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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VOL. VIII. No. 369.] SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1857. PRICE { UNSTAMPED...FIVEPENCE. Stamped.....Sixpence.

Review of the Week.

THE anxiety which has been felt for a week or two was allayed on Tuesday, by the birth of a little Princess—the ninth of the Royal children for which the British tax-payers will have to provide, the fifth of the Royal consorts destined to some German state. This is the most interesting official announcement of the week.

The six hundred and fifty-three newly-born Members of Parliament can in no respect vie with the members of the Royal Household in political importance, partly because the constituencies have so arranged the matter, that, as soon as the Honourable Members have fulfilled their duty of "supporting Lord PALMERSTON," they will completely neutralize each other for any useful purpose. Our daily contemporaries, indeed, have some of them attempted to classify the new House; but everybody feels that the classification is a vain attempt; and even those who make it explain away their own divisions. The constituencies have exactly fulfilled what the managers of the elections in London contemplated and intended: the Tory party has lost exactly as much as it was expected to lose; the future Speaker is already elected, and the divisions are prearranged.

Next to the Princess and the Members, horned cattle succeed in importance. The Board of Health has published a report by Dr. GREENHOW, intended to explain away the panic created by the proclamation. By the Order in Council, the Crown has prohibited the admission of cattle from the Baltic ports; Mr. GAMGEE having previously announced to the public that the disease affecting the cattle of Holstein and the north and east of Europe, was a typhoid of a very contagious and deadly character. Dr. GREENHOW qualifies this statement. The disease which has been observed in the imported cattle is "the lung disease;" a species of pleuro-pneumonia which has been very frequent in our domestic cattle for fifteen or sixteen years, is but slightly contagious, and is not of very great importance. Dr. GREENHOW admits that there is a far more virulent and dangerous disease prevalent in the east of Europe; that the authorities of Poland, Prussia, and Austria, have established a strong *cordon militaire* for the purpose of excluding the diseased cattle; but that by some means the infected animals have been suffered to pass the cordon; and it was the announcement of this fact which occasioned the royal proclamation. Dr. GREENHOW's explanatory report amounts to the assurance that the disease apprehended by Mr. GAMGEE has not yet been imported, but that if the precaution had not been taken in time, it might, and most likely would, have been imported.

The explanatory assurance, in fact, confirms the impression that there is a good deal of disease among the domestic meat; and if the graziers and butchers have any regard for their own business, they will take prompt steps, by a reform of slaughter-houses and an increased efficiency of inspection, to assure the public that the tainted is separated from the healthy meat.

Another explanation on an official matter is not quite so intelligible or so reassuring. We are informed that if the Legislature of Newfoundland objects to the recently negotiated treaty between France and England on the subject of the Newfoundland fisheries, the new treaty between France and England will be disallowed. France having claimed the exclusive right of fishing for a considerable space along the coast of Newfoundland, to the prejudice of the English colonists, who have always combated the claim, our Government has recently taken the extraordinary step of conceding the claim in a formal treaty. The people of Newfoundland are furious; they are supported by the people of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Canada; and they are to be tranquillized by the explanation, that if the people of Newfoundland do not like the arrangement, their representatives can disallow it. This is a new method of making treaties, by HER MAJESTY's Ministers, subject to the approval of a colonial legislature! Something further has to be explained,—on what grounds it was that Queen VICTORIA's Ministers thought it necessary to interfere; why the French Government desired the concession at this particular moment? We can indeed guess one among other reasons. There is in France at the present day a very considerable deficiency of provisions,—that is one difficulty with which the working classes have to contend. The increased means of the upper classes have contributed to draw a larger share of supplies for those who are well to do, leaving for the working orders diminished supplies and very much enhanced prices. Now, although the treaty recognition of a fishery which has existed until the present day would make no real difference in the amount of fish furnished for French consumption on two days in the week and during Lent, it would give the moral assurance that such a supply would remain unabated, while it would flatter the pride of France by the belief that the great Emperor, "their good Emperor" who "takes so much care for their welfare," had by his power and influence obtained a new guarantee for the possessions of the French Empire, for the comfort of the French people.

It is announced that the representative of this country at Madrid, Lord HOWDEN, has been exerting himself, in conjunction with the French Minister, to reconcile Spain and Mexico, with a hint that the efforts of the two European Powers are counteracted by the United States, which supports Mexico. We have no information on the point, but we are strongly inclined to doubt whether the Government either of President PIERCE or President BUCHANAN has lent the slightest support to Mexico in the matter. It must be a matter of indifference to the citizens of the United States whether Spain enforces her claims upon Mexico or not; but it will probably require more power than Spain can furnish to coerce Mexico; and the implied attack upon the United States we suspect to mean that, under the pretext of protecting Spain against an American ally of the Spanish Republic, France and England are about to send a fleet to the West Indies. It is quite natural that if Spain goes to war, she should feel anxious on the subject of Cuba; but the present Government of the Union has given no just cause for that anxiety. President BUCHANAN has declared as a fixed principle of his government that he will not sanction any annexation of territory to the Union, except by the voluntary request from the inhabitants of the territory annexed, or by peaceful and lawful purchase.

Another diplomatic announcement is that the good offices of France have made some progress in reconciling Austria and Sardinia. *Credat* Baron ROTHSCHILD. Even if Austria should be brought over, diplomatically, to relinquish her bullying, she cannot be reconciled with Sardinia. She has shown her teeth; she has confessed that she intended mischief, if she dared; and under those circumstances there is only one preliminary which would justify the Government at Turin in laying aside its armed position; it would be the actual dismantling of the forts on the Lombardo-Venetian frontier, and the recal of a large portion of the Austrian army from the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom and the protected Italian States. The Emperor's superficial attempts to win a low popularity in Milan or Venice can have no effect in restoring confidence to the Italians. But while Sardinia is menaced, she must continue her preparations against attack, and

LEADER NEWSPAPER ONE PENNY

tinue to increase her strength; and the latest proposition, the establishment of an army of reserve, a species of militia, is exactly the step calculated to render the Sardinian States impregnable, and to afford a most cogent suggestion to the whole of Italy. King Victor Emmanuel is again making common cause with all classes of his own population. Representatives of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom are already united to his standard, in the persons of exiled nobles and of refugees; movements in many of the Italian towns prove that the whole of the peninsula is waiting upon the course taken at Turin; and the preparation for actual conflict, based as it is upon a military representation of the whole people, appeals equally to the traditions of Florence and of Rome.

We have had a host of educational demonstrations, beginning with the Horse Guards. H. R. H. the Commander-in-Chief has issued new orders requiring that candidates for the offices of Aide-de-Camp, Brigade-Major, Deputy Quartermaster-General, &c., shall know something of the things which such officers ought to know. A candidate for the office of Aide-de-Camp must read and write grammatically—a hard trial for some gentlemen in red—must know one European language besides his own; Brigade-Majors must also know the movements of troops, articles of war, and the regulations of the Queen; and candidates for the high offices must know something of the way to survey a country—to sketch it, with the use of logarithms. The march of intellect is at last introduced amongst military tunes.

Mr. William Brown is to have a statue erected to him in the town-hall of Liverpool—the highest reward that could be given to a Roman citizen—because, out of his abundance, he has given the means for constructing a handsome mansion as a public library to ornament the town and shelter the free readers thereof. It is not every man having education at heart that can give so many thousands towards it. It is not every man having thousands to give that cares so much for education, or can indulge his personal tastes in so creditable a manner. A statue, a portrait given to the institution, a public dinner, some dozen addresses, and no end of compliments from mayors, lords, baronets, clergy, merchants, and working men, are the returns to Mr. Brown for writing a cheque which will not take a mouthful from his dinner, deprive him of one coat in the year, or cost him a single personal discomfort. How easy is it for the wealthy to do good or obtain popularity!

It is rather harder work for men who are not wealthy. The more honour to the Reverend Frederick D. Maurice for the exertions which have enabled him to establish in a permanent form something even greater than a public library—a genuine Working Men's College. He has not been able to write off a cheque, or to build a home, but he has given it his hundreds; he has given it endless exertion; he has obtained for it a freehold house; he has placed it in acknowledged relations with the University of London and with the Civil Service examinations; he has induced pupils to distinguish themselves and become teachers such as he and other men of his stamp can approve, as teachers of education. This is Christian Socialism in its purest aspect.

Another excellent clergyman, the Vicar of Brooke, in Norfolk, has established a rural circulating library for the county, with two others in imitation of it, and with colloquial lectures adapted to the comprehension of a rural population. Bishops have come to look on at the good which the working clergymen can accomplish.

It appears to us that more is done for Christianity in this unostentatious way than in the aggressive efforts of a Liddell and his imitators to dress themselves out on Easter Sunday in grand robes; or in the efforts of a Westerton, re-elected by the parishioners of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, for the Protestant purpose of stripping off the robes. Robe or no robe, what is the difference to the real spirit of Christianity? It is absurd of Liddell to believe that two cross pieces of wood or silver can propagate the doctrine; but how still more absurd to believe that something is done for religious freedom by undoing the pieces of cross wood. As the moralist says, we do not envy the feelings of that man who can look upon the universal emblem of Christianity with indifference.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

In glancing over some of the results of the Irish elections, the *Times* says:—"In Armagh, the Hon. Colonel Caulfield, the heir to the Earldom of Charlemont, and an hereditary Whig, has struck his colours without a blow, and handed over the representation to Mr. Maxwell Close, whose political principles are in perfect accordance with those of his colleague, Sir William Verner, one of the most ultra-Tories in the House of Commons. In Cavan, there has been a change of men only, the Hon. Captain Annesley, the new member, being to the full as ardent a Conservative as Mr. Burrowes, the retired member. The Downshire interest has had a signal triumph in Down county. Mr. Ker, the moderate Conservative, has been fairly driven from the field by Colonel Forde, whom no sane person would ever accuse as being in any way liable to the suspicion of moderation. He is an out-and-out supporter of Lord Derby. Monaghan, after a feeble threat of opposition on the part of Mr. Lennard, restores Mr. Leslie and Sir George Foster to their old seats on the Opposition benches, as staunch upholders of undiluted Toryism. Greatly to the surprise of every one, and to none more than the defeated candidate, Mr. John George at the last hour was displaced in the county of Wexford by young Mr. Hatchell, whose name as a politician was never before heard of, and whose first *début* was on the hustings as the successful opponent of Mr. George. In the county of Galway, Dr. MacHale and his suffragan bishop, Dr. Derry, have sustained a most mortifying defeat in the ejection of their repentant nominee. Captain Bellew, it is well known, had given great offence to the Mooreites by now and then separating from the faction, and recording a stray vote or so for the Government. The day of retribution, however, arrived, and immediately after the dissolution the gallant offender hastened to Ireland and supplicated absolution from the Archiepiscopal dictator of the western province. This was at first haughtily refused, but through the intervention of Dr. Derry a truce was patched up, and Mr. Bellew was permitted to appear on the hustings as the episcopal opponent of Mr. Gregory. But it was too late. The thoroughly Liberal Conservative and popular landlord proved more than a match for his two mitred antagonists, and, supported by the Roman Catholic and Protestant gentry, and with many of the priests at his back, the day was won, and a heavy blow given to the turbulent prelate whose only success at the present elections was the dubious victory at Mayo, where a Roman Catholic Liberal was set aside, and an avowed Derbyite substituted." This result was in some degree brought about by a very disgraceful coercion of electors by the Rev. Peter Conway, of Ballinrobe, a Roman Catholic priest acting in the interests of the Derbyite candidate, who is directly charged by two gentlemen of the name of Burke, father and son, with inciting a mob to drag them off a car, to beat and intimidate them, and to prevent their recording their votes in favour of Colonel Higgins, the Liberal candidate. Finding at last that the mob were going a little too far in their violence, the priest interposed, and saved the lives of the obnoxious electors, though he forced them to return without voting.

Sir Charles Domvile, one of the candidates for the county of Dublin, knows how to carry matters with a high hand. The following passage occurs in one of his addresses:—"I do not seek to represent in Parliament the owners of villas in this county; I seek to represent the owners of large properties and their tenants. I am supported by Lord Howth, Lord Meath, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Talbot de Malahide, and Colonel White, and, I may add, I support myself." At any rate, this has the virtue of candour, though the quality is here closely allied to insolence. Sir Charles has been defeated.

The official declaration of the poll for the Derry election was attended by a riot, arising out of an attempt to burn an Orangeman in effigy. A troop of the 17th Lancers, distinguished in the Balaklava charge, was called out; two men were wounded by shots (fired from a house which was being attacked); and it was not till the soldiers rode at the mob that the people dispersed. There has also been some rioting at Coleraine.

The Tipperary county election terminated on Tuesday in the unopposed return of The O'Donoghue and Mr. Waldron.

The election for Leitrim is the only one which has yet to take place. It will occur early next week; and the New Parliament will then be complete, so that the public will speedily be looking forward to the virgin session.

SCOTTISH PEERS.

The election of sixteen peers, to represent Scotland in the House of Lords, took place in the old Picture Gallery of Holyrood House on Tuesday. The noblemen who sat in the House during the last Parliament were re-elected unanimously. They are as follows:—The Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Morton, the Earl of Home, the Earl of Strathmore, the Earl of Airlie, the Earl of Leven and Melville, the Earl of Selkirk, the Earl of Orkney, the Earl of Seafield, Viscount Strathallan, Lord Gray, Lord Sinclair, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Colville of Culross, Lord Blantyre, and Lord Polwarth.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The following is a list of the members returned, since our last issue, by Irish and Scotch constituencies (the English and Welsh having been completed in the previous numbers), arranged according to their general political opinions.

SCOTLAND.

Places and Representatives.	L.	C.
ORKNEY—		
Mr. F. Dundas	1	0
WICK BURGHS—		
Lord J. Hay	1	0

IRELAND.

ANTRIM, COUNTY—		
Colonel Pakenham	0	1
Mr. Macartney	0	1
CAVAN, COUNTY—		
Colonel Maxwell	0	1
Hon. Captain Annesley	0	1
CLARE, COUNTY—		
Lord F. Conyngham	1	0
Mr. Calcutt	1	0
DOWN, COUNTY—		
Lord A. E. Hill	0	1
Mr. W. B. Forde	0	1
DUBLIN, COUNTY—		
Mr. J. A. Hamilton	0	1
Colonel Taylor	0	1
GALWAY, COUNTY—		
Sir T. Burke	1	0
Mr. Gregory	0	1
KILKENNY, COUNTY—		
Hon. A. Ellis	1	0
Mr. J. Greene	0	1
KING'S COUNTY—		
Mr P. O'Brien	1	0
Mr. Bland	1	0
LONGFORD, COUNTY—		
Colonel White	1	0
Colonel Greville	1	0
TIPPERARY, COUNTY—		
The O'Donoghue	0	0
Mr. Waldron	1	0
WICKLOW, COUNTY—		
Lord Milton	1	0
Mr. W. F. Hume	0	1

BIRTH OF A PRINCESS.

(From the *Court Circular*.)

At fifteen minutes before two o'clock P.M. on Tuesday, the Queen was safely delivered of a Princess.

There were present on the occasion in her Majesty's room his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Dr. Locock, Dr. Snow, and Mrs. Lilly, the monthly nurse. In the adjoining apartments, besides the other medical attendants (Sir James Clark and Dr. Ferguson), were the Mistress of the Robes, the Lady in Waiting on the Queen, and the following officers of State and Lords of the Privy Council—viz., his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Palmerston, Sir George Grey, the Earl of Clarendon, Mr. Secretary Labouchere, Lord Panmure, Sir Charles Wood, the Bishop of London, and the Marquis of Breadalbane.

The Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, arrived at the Palace shortly before two o'clock.

Prince Albert went about four o'clock to the Privy Council-office, and was present at a Committee of Privy Council, the other Lords present being the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Palmerston, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Sir George Grey, Mr. Secretary Labouchere, Lord Panmure, the Bishop of London, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. M. T. Baines, and the Marquis of Breadalbane.

[The latest accounts state that the Queen and infant are going on favourably.]

THE ANTICIPATED MURRAIN.

Dr. Headlam Greenhow, Lecturer on Public Health at St. Thomas's Hospital, &c., has been employed by the General Board of Health to inquire into the subject of the anticipated murrain which is at present creating great, and it would seem somewhat undue, alarm. A report from Dr. Greenhow has been published; and in this we read:—

"The disease at present or recently prevailing in Holstein and the adjoining countries is the 'Pulmonary Murrain,' and is identical with the 'lung disease' that has proved so destructive among the herds and dairies of Great Britain and Ireland during the last fifteen or sixteen years. Although possessed of infectious properties in a moderate degree, the 'lung disease' is known to arise spontaneously under certain ill-understood conditions of food and season, and is not usually believed to have been imported hither from abroad. It is almost universally diffused throughout this country, having from time to time broken out in an epidemic form in particular localities, and again disappeared, without any very obvious cause. . . .

"There is, however, another much more contagious and fatal disease, called in Germany the 'Rinder-pest,' or Steppe Murrain, which appears to have been confounded with the lung disease, but which, with one or two trivial exceptions, does not at present exist in any part of Germany or the west of continental Europe. This 'Steppe Murrain' is a totally different disease from the Pulmonary Murrain, and is spontaneously developed only in Bessarabia, Podolia, and other countries of Southern Russia, from which it is never absent, and whence it frequently spreads by contagion into Poland, and sometimes into Prussia and Austria.

"The most stringent measures are employed by the Russo-Polish authorities, and by the Governments of Austria and Prussia, to exclude this form of murrain from their respective territories. A regulation was published in Poland on the 9th of May, 1856, ordering the indiscriminate slaughter of all beasts that should exhibit any symptoms of the disease, under which, according to a recent return, 20,000 animals have already been slaughtered.

"Independent of these measures in the interior of the country, quarantine stations have been established on the Russo-Polish frontier, where beasts coming from the East are detained for three weeks. Similar measures for the exclusion and extirpation of the disease, should it show itself within those countries, have long been in force on the frontiers of Austria and Prussia. In Austria the infected cattle are immediately killed as soon as they show any appearance of the murrain, their companions being kept in quarantine; and regulations still more stringent are enforced in Prussia, for both the diseased animals and all other beasts that have been in contact with them are there killed and buried eight feet under ground, quicklime being thrown into the pits.

"These regulations have been most sternly enforced, and not only has the importation of cattle from Poland, where the murrain is at present believed to exist, been prohibited, but rags, hides, hoofs, hay, wood, and similar articles likely to have been in any way connected with cattle, and all persons suspected of having transactions with cattle, have been forbidden to cross the frontier. To enforce these regulations, detachments of troops have been stationed along the frontier at all the points of egress from Poland below Thorn."

This disease, however, occasionally passes into Austria and Prussia; and such has recently been the case. It has appeared in Silesia, in the neighbourhood of Breslau and Oppeln, but has not spread into any other Prussian province. In addition to the recent Order in Council, "the greatest watchfulness over the importation of cattle is maintained by the veterinary inspectors of the Board of Customs, both at London and the other ports of importation."

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday, show a limited business, but steady prices. At Manchester, stocks being moderate with a fair supply of orders, full rates have been demanded. The Birmingham advices state that the iron market is well maintained, and that in the other occupations of the place there is good employment. Notwithstanding the high rates of interest, the quarterly payments have been extremely well met. At Nottingham, and in the woollen districts, there has been partial dulness, while in the Irish linen markets the demand has been satisfactory.—*Times.*

In the general business of the port of London during the same week, there has been diminished activity. The number of vessels reported inwards was 212, being 64 less than in the previous week. The number cleared outward was 120, including 16 in ballast, showing a decrease of 25. The number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 45, being 2 less than at the last account. Of these, 7 are for Adelaide, 3 for Geelong, 1 for Hobart Town, 3 for Launceston, 6 for New Zealand, 12 for Port Philip, 2 for Portland Bay, 1 for Perth, 9 for Sydney, and 1 for Swan River; 5 of them were entered outward in January and 12 in February.—*Idem.*

EXPLOSIONS.

Two of the Hounslow powder mills have blown up. Some four or five hands, principally youths, were engaged last Saturday in the "composition mill," a building about thirty feet long, containing a large quantity of saltpetre, sulphur, and other ingredients of gunpowder. Three of the boys, about noon, suddenly perceived a blue light slowly flickering round the place. They raised cries of "Fire!" and "Run for your lives!"—when all in the building rushed forth. Three got safely out, but two others met the "blast," and were severely scorched by it. An explosion then took place, and a lad named Warwick was struck on the head by a falling beam, and severely injured. Two other explosions followed, by which two of the mills were blown to ruins. The engines were then brought out, and the flames subdued. An explosion occurred at the same works about seven years ago.

We have to record two fatal colliery explosions this week. One occurred at the Bredbury New Pit, belonging to Messrs. J. and J. Jowett, which works have only been opened about six months. The catastrophe took place at a quarter to seven o'clock last Saturday morning, when the colliers had been at work three quarters of an hour. The noise was heard a long way off. With fatal swiftness, the fire ran along the various workings, and fearfully burnt such of the colliers as had not taken the precaution to throw themselves on their faces. A man, named Platt, who was in the level where the explosion originated, crawled to the shaft's mouth, but a boy who attempted to follow him missed his way, fell a distance of thirty feet, and greatly injured his back. However, he ultimately escaped. A father and his two sons were suffocated by the vapours following the explosion. Several others were drawn up alive, but horribly disfigured by fire, or by bruises. The wounded are five in number. The accident seems to have arisen from the criminal carelessness of Platt, who was provided with a safety lamp, but who removed the top after he had entered the level, and thus left the flame bare. This man has been a collier for upwards of twenty years. He is now fearfully injured in consequence of his own folly.

The other colliery explosion arose from precisely the same cause. A night workman engaged in the Gorse Colliery, the property of Messrs. Richards and Glasbrook, Swansea, proceeded on the night of Thursday week to a part of the pit where safety lamps are required. He took one with him, but lifted the cap off. Some of his fellow workmen, it is said, remonstrated with him for his temerity; but he did not heed them. An explosion followed shortly afterwards. Six persons were brought out, more or less burnt and bruised. Two persons connected with the colliery—Mr. Evans and Mr. John Mathews—went into the pit to search for any one else who might be remaining; but they had not gone far when they were overcome by the afterdamp, and fell down in a state of exhaustion. They were speedily drawn out, and, having recovered, they resumed their search. For four hours they looked in vain; but ultimately they found the dead bodies of three boys and a man. Another boy was found insensible, but was afterwards restored. He was but slightly burnt, and would probably have escaped without any injury had he not nobly stayed behind to offer assistance to another boy, one of those who were found killed. One of the deceased men had apparently encountered his death by taking a wrong turning, in the confusion of the moment, when he met the advancing flames.

A terrible boiler explosion took place at the Leebrook Works, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire, last Saturday. The works belong to Messrs. Bagnall and Sons, and the occurrence happened, unfortunately, at a period of the day when a large number of the workmen were actively engaged on the spot. One of three boilers, all close together, burst, scattered the brickwork of the building over an area of one hundred yards, and killed two women, besides fearfully mutilating others, some of whom it is feared will not recover. The boiler separated into two immense pieces, one of which was hurled into a canal which runs near, and the other, after being projected a distance of eighty yards, made a breach through a stone wall, and then fell to the earth.

The process of emptying the water out of the Lundhill Colliery is now nearly completed. Between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night of Friday week, a dead body was discovered, floating on the surface of the water. It was got out, but was so far advanced in decomposition, and so frightfully mangled and distorted, that recognition was utterly impossible. The remains were put into a coffin, and placed in the adjacent shed which has been erected for the purpose of receiving the corpses as they are drawn forth. Disinfectants were copiously used; but one of the men engaged in the operation was made ill. "The graves at Darfield and other places," says the *Times*, "are now nearly completed. About one hundred and sixty of the bodies (if so many can be recovered) are to be interred at Darfield. The graves are made sufficiently deep to hold several coffins, which will be ranged one above another, a layer of bricks being placed between the different tiers. In the centre will be a monument bearing the names of the men and the cause of their death."—The "chair" at the bottom of the shaft was hauled up on Monday, after immense exertions by five men, who were working for eight hours in the midst of water. The reason of the difficulty was that the chair had diverged from the centre of the shaft under one of the archways communicating with the workings of the pit. Together with the chair, two corves were drawn up, as well as a considerable quantity of wood and other materials. The pit was unroofed on Wednesday. There have been several large escapes of gas, but no indications of fire are visible.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

MR. CHARLES SYMONS, landlord of the Railway Hotel, Teignmouth, while engaged in his brewhouse, fell into a vat of liquor, many degrees above boiling point, and was scalded in a frightful manner. He is not dead, and, although seriously injured, hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery.

Two field labourers, working at West Bolton, a village near Sunderland, have been poisoned by the root of water hemlock, which they took out of a ditch and eat. They were found in a state of insensibility, and died shortly after, their bodies then becoming quite black.

An inquest was opened on Monday afternoon on the body of Maurice Fitzgibbon, a bricklayer's labourer, who was killed by the fall of some buildings in Little Russell-place, Bow-street, on the morning of Good Friday. The evidence confirmed the facts as given in our last week's Postscript. An adjournment took place, that the jury might view the premises, and that a *post-mortem* examination might be made. Another of the men died on Wednesday.

A day or two ago, a gentleman gave his horse in charge of a boy in Southampton-row, Bloomsbury, while he attended to some business. The boy imprudently mounted the horse, and struck it with the reins. The high-spirited animal galloped into Bloomsbury-square, and jumped over the railings into the plantation. He broke one of the rails, tore open his hocks, and fractured the boy's arm. The poor animal, which was worth 100*l.*, was shot.

Five men have been killed at Greenlawalls new colliery, near Duddo, about ten miles west of Berwick. There was a partition wall between the old workings and the new. In the former, which had been quite deserted for a long time, a large quantity of water had collected, and this burst through the wall, suddenly engulfing all who were in the new pit at the time, and causing the death of every one of the five.

A shocking accident has occurred at Manchester during the trial of a new invention for preventing accidents. Mr. Hugh Baines has constructed a self-acting safety apparatus, for obviating the ill effects of the breakage of ropes in the ascent of goods or servants from one story of a warehouse to another. A trial was made on Monday evening at the place of business of Messrs. John Pender and Co. The cage was sent up, the rope was disconnected, and it was anticipated that the apparatus would act, and prevent any evil consequences. But it did *not* act, and the cage descended with fearful velocity to the basement floor, a depth of fifty feet. Four gentlemen were in the cage, including Mr. Baines himself. All were severely injured, and were carried to the infirmary, where one of them, named Shaw, died the same night. Mr. Baines has sustained a serious laceration of the foot. Two other gentlemen, brothers, had gone up in the cage, but had stepped out on to the upper floor just as the rope was disconnected.

Mr. J. G. Dodson, M.P., has been thrown out of a gig in which he was riding after the declaration of the poll for East Sussex. The vehicle was being drawn by a high-spirited mare, which was frightened at the bands of music and the flags. The animal suddenly reared, was pulled back, and fell, dragging the chaise with her, which rolled over Mr. Dodson and a companion. They escaped, however, without any injury.

The head of one of the officials of the London and North-Western Railway Company has been completely cut off by a train passing over it. Mr. William M'Cabe, a person of considerable engineering skill, the manager of the engine-shed at the Stafford station, was standing on the line, watching the shunting of a train, when some ballast waggons arrived on the spot, and stopped to put down a man who had had his hand smashed at another station. On starting again, M'Cabe did not notice that the train was in motion till it was too late. The buffer of the engine caught him, and threw him across the rails, when the wheels went over his neck, severing his head from his body. His son, a young man also employed by the company, saw the horrible spectacle, and, pulling off his coat, threw it over his father's head, which was carried forward a distance of five or six yards. M'Cabe was greatly respected by all the authorities on the line. He leaves a widow and six children. As many as sixteen years ago he lost one of his legs by an accident on the same railway.

Mr. Stephen Walker, licensed victualler, well known in the sporting world as the owner of the celebrated horse Winkfield, died suddenly on the evening of Thursday week from *delirium tremens.*

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

THE existence of a mutinous feeling among some of the native regiments in India has caused much excited comment. The high-caste Sepoys at Barrackpore have been greatly disturbed at learning, or fancying, that animal fat was used in the manufacture of some new cartridges, which would of course result in their lips coming in contact with that obnoxious substance in biting off the ends. The men held a parade on their own authority, and refused to obey the order of their Colonel to disperse. He then called out a regiment of cavalry and two guns; on which the malcontents offered to return to their barracks if that force were sent away. The Colonel consented, and the danger seems to have passed for the time. But the officer has been severely rebuked for culpable weakness in acceding to the demand of the native troops. Regiments in Bengal and Madras are also said to have exhibited a mutinous spirit; and a mission of a very singular and mysterious character is now proceeding through some of the provinces. The chokedars, or policemen, have been going about from village to village, leaving behind them little plain cakes of wheaten flour. These have been found not to be poisoned; and conjecture as to the meaning is baffled. The object, however, is suggested to be, not political, but religious or superstitious—a means of warding off disease.

"At the date of the latest accounts from Cabul," says the *Times* Bombay correspondent, "Dost Mahomed had not yet arrived in the capital. In the Punjab, a large force is assembling at Dehra Ghazee Khan—artillery, cavalry, and infantry—for service against a tribe called the Bozdars, across the mountains. Brigadier Chamberlain commands in person, and some smart fighting is looked for. In Oude, an affray has occurred, ending in loss of life to a member of the Bengal Civil Service. It appears that one Fuzl Ali, who had been long imprisoned for a murderous assault upon a Royal Minister some years back, escaped lately from custody

and became the leader of a band of robbers. He had already wounded and eluded an English officer sent against him with a party of Sepoys, when Mr. Charles Elliot Boileau, Deputy-Commissioner of Gonda, in Oude, twenty miles from Lucknow, heard of his proximity, and endeavoured to seize him. But Mr. Boileau, with the six troopers who accompanied him, fell into an ambush planted by the robber, and was killed himself, together with four of his men, the two others escaping grievously wounded."

A regiment has been despatched from Calcutta to Hong-Kong; but great dissatisfaction is felt that no more soldiers have been sent.

The Maharajah of Gwalior, chief of the Mahratta princes—a boy having rather a lofty contempt of European civilization—is on a visit to Calcutta.

A stone image of a Hindu god, which had stood from time immemorial under a peepul tree in some grounds belonging to the garden formerly the property of Sir Laurence Peel, but now of the ex-King of Oude, near Calcutta, has been abstracted, and has mysteriously disappeared, to the great alarm and sorrow of the worshippers.

Business is not very active, but the money-market has been very much easier.

PERSIA.

At the last dates from the seat of war, preparations were being made to attack the fortress of Mohammerah—a place seated on the right, or northern, bank of the river Karoon, at the point where its waters join those of the Euphrates and Tigris. The Persians have been enabled, owing to this commanding position, to intercept some of our supplies; and it is also stated that, if we succeed in capturing it, an advance to Shuster, and thence into the interior of the country, will be facilitated. The defences of the city are said to be very strong, and it is feared that the business will be sanguinary on both sides.

A very picturesque account by a Bengal officer of the charge of the 3rd Cavalry during the brilliant action at Khooshab has been published in a Calcutta paper. The writer only speaks on the authority of another, he himself not having been present. The Persian square, he says, was admirable—steady, and untouched by our artillery. He then proceeds to describe the achievements of the 3rd:—"When Forbes, who commanded this regiment, gave the order to charge, he and his adjutant, young Moore, placed themselves in front of the 6th troop, which was the one directly opposite the nearest face of the square. Moore, Malcolmson, and Spens came the least thing behind the other, riding knee to knee, with spurs in their horses' flanks, as if racing after a hog. In rear of them rushed the dark troopers of the 3rd, mad to avenge the death of poor Malet at Bushire. In spite of steel, fire, and bullets, they tore down upon the nearest face of the devoted square. As they approached, Forbes was shot through the thigh, and Spens's horse was wounded; but, unheeding, they swept onward. Daunted by the flashes and the fire and the noise and crackle of the musketry, the younger Moore's horse swerved as they came up. Dropping his sword from his hand, and letting it hang by the knot at his wrist, he caught up the reins in both hands, screwed his head straight, and then coolly, as if riding at a fence, leapt him at the square. If, therefore, any man can be said to have been first, the younger Moore is that man. Of course the horse fell stone dead upon the bayonets; so did his brother's, ridden with equal courage and determination. The elder Moore—eighteen stone in weight, and six feet seven, or thereabouts, in height—cut his way out on foot. Malcolmson took one foot out of his stirrup when he saw his brother officer down and unarmed (for his sword had been broken to pieces by the fall), and, holding on to that, the younger Moore escaped. The barrier once broken, and the entrance once made, in and through it poured the avenging troopers. On and over everything they rode, till, getting clear out, they reformed on the other side, wheeled, and swept back—a second wave of ruin. Out of five hundred Persian soldiers of the 1st Regular Regiment of Fars who composed that fated square, only twenty escaped to tell the tale of its destruction. Thus the 3rd Light Cavalry, to use their own phrase, gave our enemies 'a *jewab* (answer) for the death of Malet Sakib Bahadur.'"

The *Bombay Times* expresses great indignation and disgust at the conduct of our resident at Bushire, Commander Felix Jones, in assuring the Governor of the place, "up to the very moment that our fleet appeared before it, that we did not intend to go to war at all." In a despatch written by the resident to Mr. Anderson, secretary to the Bombay Government, and dated December 13th, 1856, the writer says:—"On the 29th November, a detachment of the fleet (Feroze steam frigate, towing two merchant ships and corvette Falkland) first hove in sight off Bushire, and dispelled the prevailing idea that the force would not quit the shores of India. *This illusion I had been able to maintain perfect to the last moment*, though the object I had contemplated of an immediate descent on the coast failed, from the fleet being scattered in various parts of the gulf." The loss of the Persians at the Battle of Kooshab is now believed to be greater than we supposed at first. Soojah-ool-Moolk is reported to have been displaced from his command in consequence of his defeat.

The treaty between England and Persia has arrived at Teheran. The ratification will not take place for five or six weeks.

The peace concluded between Persia and England was announced on the 9th of March to the General commanding the British expedition at Bushire.

CHINA.

Some further details relative to the war in China are given in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*. The Chinese, it is said, are at present making formidable military preparations. Since the attack on Canton the Chinese have executed enormous works on the Peiho, a river which falls into the Yellow Sea, and by which a communication is maintained with Pekin. That river is now barred in twenty-two different places by dams built of stone, which completely intercept the navigation. The river water has also been poisoned.

IRELAND.

Custom nor Law.—The Roman Catholic Archdeacon of Kilmore brought an action a few days ago against a Mr. Reilly for the recovery of money said to be due by him to the ecclesiastic, according to the custom of the Papal Church. The Archdeacon had built a chapel, partly at his own expense, and partly by contributions from the faithful. Mr. Reilly, however—who is described by the reverend gentleman as "only a nominal Catholic," who never goes to chapel and who gives offence to Papists and Protestants by his Sunday conduct—refused to offer any money towards defraying the expenses, though some Protestants, including Bishop Beresford, had done so. The plaintiff relied on old custom for establishing his claim; but the court ruled that the law could not recognise this. The Roman Catholic religion, observed the Judge, is held to be "damnable and idolatrous"—a reference which produced some retorts. Eventually, the process was dismissed.

Scene in a Chapel.—On Holy Thursday, during service in the chapel attached to the Presentation Convent at Kilkenny, a young man named Butler, a slater, bearing a most excellent character for steadiness and industry, was suddenly seized with a paroxysm of madness, and, rushing to the altar, tore and scattered the decorations, to the horror and astonishment of the congregation. He then ran to his house in the neighbourhood, and, locking himself into his room, commenced smashing all the furniture and flinging it out of the windows. The police were called in, and, having overpowered him, with great difficulty removed him to the city gaol, where he has since remained in a state of violent insanity.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

AMERICA.

One of the most interesting pieces of news from the United States this week is a statement to the effect that Lord Napier has been in communication with the Government at Washington upon the China question, with the design of effecting a tripartite alliance of England, France, and the United States, for the protection of mutual interests, and the extension of commerce and civilization in that quarter. The report, however, is doubted.

The debt-repudiation question is still agitating the people of California. The Supreme Court of that state has reiterated its former opinion that all of the debt over 300,000 dollars is unconstitutional; but the people are in favour of payment, and the Legislature has passed a concurrent resolution, affirming that the debt should be paid, and immediate provision be made to that end.

As far as can be judged from desultory and not very precise accounts, Walker's difficulties seem to be increasing. It is certain that several of his men have deserted, and it is said that the Costa Ricans have shipped a number of them to the United States. These men, before leaving, published an address to their companions, exhorting them to give up the cause in Nicaragua.

Some noteworthy rumours are stated in the *New York Times*:—"We have received the very important information that a partition of Nicaragua has been arranged by a convention at a session at San Miguel, in the Republic of San Salvador; and it has been determined to divide the State between Costa Rica, Honduras, and San Salvador. The Nicaraguans consent to the arrangement. Their dismembered country will be garrisoned by troops from the neighbouring states to preserve order, and after a specified time it will be reunited, and placed once more in the position of an independent republic. We learn a fact now for the first time made public, that on the 22nd of last December, the national Nicaraguan Government issued a decree revoking all the acts of the Walker Government from the 4th of November, 1855, to the 12th of June, 1856, including the decree revoking the charter of the old accessory Transit Company."

Telegraphic despatches from New Orleans affirm that, "instead of the purchases of Lower California and Sonora, the American Government will conciliate the South by paying the designated sum of 15,000,000 dollars for the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is also rumoured that Senator Benjamin has been offered an appointment for the purpose of accomplishing this purchase, and that an expedition is being fitted out at New Orleans for some point in Central America. It is supposed to be the intention to make the first demonstration on Veragua, a province of New Granada, between Costa Rica and Panama. The expedition is said to be friendly to General Walker, and it is to act in concert with him. It is also reported that a Provisional Government has been formed, and that there are considerable funds raised."

In New Mexico, the Indians have been committing murders and depredations. An American judge, named Hoopin, has been killed.

The *Albany Argus* states that Mr. M. Schoumaker, controller of the Central Railway, is a defaulter to the extent of nearly 50,000 dollars.

Some new difficulty has arisen between the Mexican Government and the British Chargé d'Affaires on the Barron question. It is also said that the claim arising out of the robbery of 48,000*l.* from the British Consulate at San Luis has been refused. Renewed apprehensions are entertained of an invasion of the provinces of Sonora and Lower California by organised bands of Americans from San Francisco, and strong forces have been sent to those districts.

A singular social revolution, which will probably have an effect on the institution of slavery in the course of time, is just commencing in Virginia. The emigration from the older states to the West has been so great within the last half century, that some of the former—more especially Virginia—are decreasing in population and in prosperity. Many of the once famous tobacco plantations of "the Old Dominion" have been abandoned, and have actually lapsed again into forest land and wilderness. There is now, however, a design on the part of several free labourers to purchase these waste places and to cultivate them as farms, without any mixture of black labour. The plan, indeed, is already inaugurated; and as, in the slave state of Texas, there are colonies of free German labourers who will not tolerate slavery, there is every reason to hope that the scheme in Virginia will succeed. The same system is being carried out in Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri.

In the meanwhile, the slavery question promises matter for agitation, and perhaps for still more bitter conflicts. The Massachusetts and New York Legislatures have proposed amendments on their constitutions, with a view to counteracting the decision in the Dred Scott case with respect to the inability of any man of negro descent to be a citizen of the United States. The states in question desire to make their laws as regards the black man more unmistakably in his favour; and men now look forward to the probability, at some future day, of a collision between the Federal authority and the Governments of the northern states on this point.

"Mr. R. J. Walker, who was one of the candidates for the post of Secretary of State in the new Cabinet," says the *Times* New York correspondent, "has accepted the appointment of Governor of Kansas. It is supposed, from his antecedents, that he will carry out the plans of the pro-slavery party in the territory.—Mr. Eskridge Lane, a nephew of the President, has died at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, of the 'National Hotel' disease, with which he was attacked while staying with his uncle at Washington during the inauguration." The disease in question is caused by the wretched sanitary condition of the hotel.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* says that the Cabinet has got through the consideration of the Kansas matters, and that Mr. Buchanan has laid down one point to which everything must tend—which is, that the free and unbiassed opinion of the whole people must have expression, in order that the will of the majority of the inhabitants of the territory shall rule in the adoption of a state government. Mr. Buchanan professes to feel indifferent as to whether Kansas becomes a free or slave state.

A telegraphic line is projected from Omahaw City to the Pacific. "The route," says the *Daily News* New York correspondent, "is up the Platte River 1100 miles to the mountains—and thence on to San Francisco. This is doubtless the most difficult line that has ever been constructed, owing to the obstacles that impose themselves in penetrating the wilderness, crossing the so-called American desert, threading the lines of rivers, battling with snow, and forcing civilisation, with its magnetic life, into the wigwams and homes of hostile, wronged, and remorseless savages." A military force and a large corps of workmen will protect the line from any injuries which the Indians might contemplate during its construction, and after its completion. "The company will have the benefit of block forts every twenty miles. This will admit of a police patrol of two men at every station, whose sole duty shall be to guard and pass over their sections twice a day, thus giving a more vigilant supervision than any great American telegraph line has ever had." The wires will run along the line of the waggon road. Some camels recently purchased by the United States Government will be employed in transporting wood and water across the desert (a distance of one hundred and fifty miles), for the construction and constructors of the telegraph. This, as the *Daily News* correspondent remarks, will introduce a curious element of ancient Oriental life into the extreme West, and in connexion with the most modern of scientific inventions.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Republicans intend to nominate M. Carnot as a candidate for the Legislative Chamber. They mean to propose him both in Paris and in the departments.

The religious ceremonies of Holy Thursday (the 9th inst.) were conducted with great pomp, and attracted a large number of persons to the churches, which were fitted up magnificently. An account given by the *Times* Paris correspondent of a spectacle exhibited at the church of St. Roch, in the shape of an illuminated picture of Mount Calvary at the time of the crucifixion, throws a curious light on these ecclesiastical show-pieces:—"Amid the sharp, rocky eminences arose the cross, half covered with black cloth. A number of lamps, partly concealed among the crags, shed a 'dim religious light' over the chapel in which the tomb was erected, while the cross itself, on which the brilliancy was skilfully thrown, came out in bold relief. At the Madeleine, the tomb was erected in one of the side chapels; but the effect, however in harmony with the rather ostentatious ornaments of the interior of that church, was not so striking nor so solemn as at St. Roch or St. Sulpice. The coffin was covered with velvet embroidered with gold, and above the whole rose a canopy of crimson velvet surmounted with white plumes." The writer says that the picture at St. Roch "was the object of general veneration." Shade of Voltaire! was it "veneration," or only curiosity?

General Todleben paid a visit on Thursday week to Prince Jerome and Prince Napoleon Bonaparte at the Palais Royal. Prince Napoleon, it is said, intends visiting Egypt in the course of next month.

"General Todleben," says the *Times* correspondent, "is rather *fêted* among official people. He remained with the Emperor nearly an hour at his first audience. The Emperor asked him whether, if the French and English had marched on Sebastopol at once after the battle of the Alma, they could have taken it. General Todleben declared that there was no doubt about it, as there were but two or three battalions in the place. This opinion was subsequently expressed by him to others."

A thunderstorm, accompanied by hail and rain, burst over Paris on the morning of Friday week.

The commission nominated last year on the monetary question has now met, under the presidency of M. Schneider, the Minister of Finance, M. Magne being prevented by other occupations from presiding. It is said that there never was so much specie in France as at present; but the peasants hoard, and an artificial scarcity is thus created.

In a paper lately read before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, M. Boussingault has shown that the water contained in the wells of Paris is impregnated with nitrate of potash, or saltpetre. It is true that this water is not generally used for drink, but wine-dealers water their wines with it; and although nitrate of potash is not absolutely poisonous, since it may be taken with impunity in much larger doses than can be imbibed with the water, still its presence always denotes the existence of vegetable and animal matter in a state of decomposition, which is unquestionably injurious to the public health. In consequence of this discovery, the baking establishment of the hospitals of Paris has resolved to use Seine water for making bread, instead of the water brought from the wells of the neighbourhood.

Some remittances of sovereigns are taking place from Paris to London. During the last week, 70,000 are said to have been sent *viâ* Boulogne. It appears that, at the reduced price offered for gold by the Bank of France, they no longer afford any profit on melting.—*Times City Article (Tuesday).*

The question of the renewal of the charter of the Bank of France is now under discussion. The Government is said to contemplate granting a term of fifty years, upon condition that the Bank shall double its present capital of 3,650,000*l*, and employ the additional amount thus raised by investing it in Government securities. According to the *Presse*, these securities are to consist of Treasury Bonds, but it is believed in private quarters that they are to be Three per Cent. rentes.

Silk still maintains a high price in France, owing to the holders of stock keeping the sales back, in the belief that another short crop is to be expected. The aspect of the mulberry trees, however, is favourable.

King Victor Emmanuel, according to a letter from Rome of the 3rd inst., has proposed to the Pope to resume negotiations with the Court of Rome on the following bases:—Monsignor Franzoni to resign his rank of Archbishop of Turin, and to receive a cardinal's hat in return. Monsignor Charvaz, Archbishop of Genoa, to be translated to the see of Turin; and, further, that a concordat should be concluded which would efface all the acts of the Piedmontese Government with respect to ecclesiastical matters for some years past.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

Marshal Vaillant, Minister of War, in order to place the effective strength of the army in harmony with the estimates of the budget of 1857, has decided that fresh temporary renewable furloughs shall be immediately granted to the soldiers of the classes of 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854. They will be divided in the proportion of about 100 to each regiment, making 3000 for the first military division, of which Paris is the centre. These furloughs will not in any way interfere with the others, granted in accordance with the Minister's circulars of the 7th of June, 1856, and the 22nd of January, 1857.—*Idem.*

Some men have recently been punished in Paris by fine and imprisonment for insulting priests in the streets—an offence which has become very common since the Verger affair.

The vines present a very healthy appearance this year, there being no sign as yet of the oidium, the disease from which they have recently suffered.

The Bishop of Nancy, principal Almoner to the Emperor, has returned from Rome, and has brought with him a Papal Bull for the better organisation of the Imperial Almonry.

The Grand Duke Constantine is expected in Paris on the 23rd. The Emperor wished his cousin, Prince Napoleon, to go and meet him; but he refused, his repugnance to anything like a Russian alliance being very great. There is said to have been a rather warm altercation between him and the Emperor; and the Prince is even reported to have intimated a desire to absent himself from Paris during the visit of the Russian Grand Duke.

Some electoral committees were formed a short time ago to agitate the country in the Republican interest and to aid in the return to the Legislative Chamber of Republican representatives. For some time, the Government looked on passively; but, according to the Paris Correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette*, when it was perceived that the committees were every day drawing off more and more of the working classes from the Government candidates, the police made two descents upon the agitators, and have altogether arrested one hundred and six. These will be tried, not for any conspiracy against the safety of the state, but for unlawfully assembling.

The spring campaign against the Kabyles, in Algeria, has been opened.

The commission with reference to Cayenne, which was appointed by the Minister of Marine, has, it is said, reported that the evacuation of the settlement at Cayenne is indispensable, and that the convicts should be removed to New Caledonia.

TURKEY.

Some pirates have attacked a Dutch ship in the Bosphorus, and have escaped all pursuit.

The English Ministry and the India Company have reversed the project for carrying the telegraphic wire from Constantinople to India by way of the Red Sea. It is now decided that the wire shall follow the line of the railway of the Euphrates.

The English steamer Arcadia, which was wrecked at the entrance of the roadstead of Smyrna, has been got up by the aid afforded by Admiral Roset.

The following are given in the *Times* City Article of Wednesday as the chief details of the projected Turkish Bank:—"The privileges are for thirty years, and extend over the whole of the Turkish dominions, giving the right of establishing branches in any part of the empire. The capital is to be 10,000,000*l.*, of which 2,500,000*l.* must be paid up. The Board is to consist of a Governor, Deputy-Governor, and twenty-four Directors, the Government nominating the Governor and Deputy-Governor and six directors, the remaining eighteen directors being elected by the shareholders. The right of issue is for 15,000,000*l.*, with a reserve of one-half in specie. Within six months from the commencement of business, the Bank is to withdraw that portion of the existing state paper circulation which bears interest. This amounts to about 2,700,000*l.*, of which 1,600,000*l.* carries six per cent., and 1,100,000*l.* ten per cent. The circulation not bearing interest—about 2,300,000*l.*—is to be redeemed within fifteen months. The total to be redeemed is, therefore, 5,000,000*l.* The depreciated specie currency, amounting to 4,500,000*l.*, is to be replaced by new silver and copper coinages to be gradually supplied from the Mint—the former with an alloy of sixteen per cent., the latter with an alloy of thirty-three per cent. For the amount of paper currency withdrawn the Government is to give the Bank transferable Six per Cent. Treasury Bonds, secured by a special assignment of the revenues of the provinces of Konia and Kutayah, Adrianople and Uskuif, amounting to nearly 1,000,000*l.* per annum. Similar bonds are also to be given for any difference resulting between the value of the depreciated currency called in and the new coinages issued in its place. Finally, the Board is to have the power of carrying on all legitimate banking operations in the same manner as the Banks of England and France."

The first experiment in European colonization in Turkey has just been made. One hundred and thirty Poles have embarked for the purpose of settling on the domains of Reschid Pacha in Thessaly.

AUSTRIA.

One of the Vienna correspondents of the *Augsburg Gazette* states, that two South-Slavonians forced their way into the anteroom of the Emperor's audience chamber, and there stated that a plot had been formed against his Majesty, which was to be put into execution while he was in Hungary. Inquiries have been made on the subject, and it is now said that the story has but little foundation in fact, the men having only come for the settlement of some private affairs of their own.

The Aulic Councillor, Von Lackenbacher, has left Vienna for Constantinople, where he is to form one of a commission for examining into the finances of Turkey. The money matters of that empire have got into a state of such grievous disorder that the Sultan has requested England, France, and Austria, each to send a person learned in such affairs to give advice to the Ministers of the Porte.

Count Ficquelmont, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1848, died at Venice on the 6th inst., in his seventy-eighth year.

The preposterous ceremony of "the washing of feet" took place on Holy Thursday (the 9th inst.) at Vienna. The Emperor operated on twelve old men, the Empress on the same number of old women. The performance is of a very simple kind, and is not too laborious. It is transacted thus:—A requisite number of basins is produced; a Lord Steward hands to the Emperor, and another Lord Steward hands to the Empress, a gilt ewer (Imperial humility must not be without its splendours); the august operator pours on *one* foot of each of the old folk (for self-mortification in palaces must be minimised) a few drops of water and then dabs the foot dry; and so, with a present of money, the ceremony concludes. And by this cheap humility does Ferdinand Joseph purchase the right to commit—or, as an act of special favour, to withhold from committing—any amount of pride and vanity and oppression for the next twelvemonth.—A writer from the spot says that "the Emperor handled the crockery in a masterly way; but the Empress required the assistance of her ladies." From this it would appear that it is a part of the education of Austrian ladies of the court to know how to handle hardware.

The concentration of 20,000 Sardinian troops in a camp near Alessandria has induced the Government to order the commander of the Austrian army in Lombardy to form "a camp of instruction" between Sesto Calende and Somma, at the southern extremity of the Lago Maggiore. Such, at least, is a report generally believed in military circles; and there is another report, to the effect that Sardinia has given up her intention of forming the corps at Alessandria.

Count Correr, the Podestà of Venice, has tendered his resignation to Count Bissingen, the Stadtholder of the province.

The Government has removed the sequestration placed on the estates of Count Annoni, deputy to the Sardinian Parliament.

The Government has solicited many of the most influential Hungarian nobles to undertake the task of preparing an enthusiastically popular demonstration in favour of the Emperor on the occasion of his approaching visit to his Magyar dominions. They have declined, however, knowing full well that the feeling of discontent at the loss of national liberty—at the endeavour to break down the Hungarian language by introducing German into the law-courts, where the people have actually to employ interpreters—at the separation from Hungary of Croatia, Transylvania and the Banat—and at the despotic rigour of the Concordat—is so great, that the attempt would end in failure.

ITALY.

The Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, on entering on his office of Governor-General of the Lombardo-Venetian Provinces, has issued a circular to the administrative authorities on the nature of their duties, and on the spirit in which they must henceforth act. Among other things, he recommends that the people shall be allowed to develop freely their material and moral resources; that they shall be treated with due consideration and humanity; and that functionaries shall not, by exaggerated zeal, compromise the safety of the throne and the welfare of the population.

Queen Victoria has sent a gold medal to Signor Vincenz Robandi, as a token of her admiration of his "Hymn of the Riflemen," which was dedicated to her, and which was very popular with all the allied armies in the Crimea.

The inhabitants of Novellara, in the Duchy of Modena, have sent 100f. towards the subscription for purchasing cannon for the fortress of Alessandria.

The state prisoners in the fortress of Paliano, in the Roman States, have been treated with great cruelty since the attempt made by some of their companions to escape, when six were shot dead and several wounded. They are kept in solitary confinement, and deprived of books, pen, ink, or paper.

It is denied by the writer of a letter from Naples in the *Nord* of Brussels that General Pianelli has arrived in France with a mission to arrange the differences between Naples and the two great Western Powers. The same writer says that the author of a false proclamation posted in the streets of Naples during the night, with the signatures of the Ministers and the King's seal attached, has been arrested. He is a young printer, and he admits his guilt, but denies having any accomplices.

Spinuzza, one of the insurgents at Palermo during the late outbreak, has been shot before his own house, his family being previously sent out of the town. He confessed, obtained absolution, received the sacrament, and heard mass, at a neighbouring church, where the sa-

cristan, who had known him from a boy, was overcome with emotion, and finally fainted. Spinuzza, who was very self-possessed, led him to a seat, and covered him with his own cloak, notwithstanding the opposition of the officers. Immediately before the fatal shot, he exclaimed, "Liberty for ever!"

RUSSIA.

The Emperor intends visiting Bessarabia on the return to St. Petersburg of the Grand Duke Constantine, who is expected to visit London at the end of May.

GERMANY.

After having sat for one month, the Wurtemburg Chambers have been prorogued.

Prince Alfred, who is still at Geneva, is expected at the beginning of May to arrive at Gotha, where he will reside for a time at Schloss Rosenau. He is expected shortly to go to the University of Bonn. For the Prince of Wales there has been taken a dwelling in the immediate vicinity of the University town, where he will reside for purposes of study.

MONTENEGRO.

The affairs of this little-known corner of Europe are causing some discussion at the present time among the diplomatists of Russia and Austria. The influence of Russia is exercised in favour of George Petrovitch, the President of the Senate, who is at the head of a large and powerful party, the great principle of which is a determination never to acknowledge the supremacy of the Porte. The Austrians, on the contrary, support Prince Danilo, and at the same time are endeavouring to persuade the Sultan to grant to Montenegro a neighbouring portion of lowland, so that the Montenegrins may be enabled to rear sufficient sustenance for their own support, which at present they are not able to do, owing to the savage, mountainous, and woody character of the country: an inability which forces them to make inroads into the Herzegovina and Albania in quest of food.

DENMARK.

Some interesting particulars of the death of the Sound Dues are given by the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, who writes:—"The last vessel that paid Sound Dues was the British screw steamer Shamrock, bound from Rostock to Hull with a cargo of wheat. The first vessel that passed the Sound without paying dues was the Prussian schooner Graf von Schwerin, bound from Stettin for England, also with a cargo of wheat. Both these vessels passed the Sound going outwards. The first vessel that passed the Sound inwards duty free was the British screw steamer Gertrude, bound for Stettin; and in honour of the occasion a private party from that port went out to meet her in a steamer, and welcomed her arrival under these improved auspices of the redemption of the Dues. The official rejoicings which the municipality of Stettin had prepared were deferred, naturally enough, for the first Prussian vessel that passed the Sound inwards duty free. This was the screw steamer Tilsit, which passed the Sound on the 6th inst., and was received on approaching Swinemunde by three steamers, with all the members of the body corporate of merchants on board, with hundreds of passengers, civic authorities, bands of music, flags, &c. All the vessels the nautical procession would have to pass, and all houses on the coast and quays, were rigged out with every species of bunting that could be procured."

The King has accepted the resignation of Herr von Scheele as Minister for Holstein and as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

SPAIN.

It is stated that the Progresista party is so broken up and disheartened, that several members of it abstained from voting during the recent elections, while others voted for the Government candidates. The prospects of constitutional rule in Spain are now very bad.

The *Iberia* newspaper has been acquitted of the charge of sedition, in consequence, it is whispered, of a violent attack which it has made on O'Donnell, to the great satisfaction of Narvaez. People believe that the article was written with a view to this result.

Count Montemolin, says rumour, contemplates a journey to England.

The contract for the conveyance of the mails between Spain and the Antilles has been taken by a Paris house —Gauthier, Brothers. The terms are 32,000 dollars for each voyage from Spain to Cuba and back.

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 9th contains a Royal decree granting an "ample and general amnesty to all those who, in any manner whatsoever, have taken part in the Carlist insurrections and conspiracies of the last two years." The decree is based on a report signed by all the Ministers, in which an indulgent view is taken of the Carlist movements, and in which it is said that the pardoning of the offenders will cause no danger to public order.

Espartero has sent to the Barcelona newspapers copies of a letter or manifesto addressed to the electors of that city who voted for him in the late elections, thanking them for their support, and explaining his political conduct. He states that he held aloof from the contest last July because he feared the triumph of the Government would end in a sanguinary reaction against liberty, while that of the populace would be likely to lead to the overthrow of the throne. Had he been concerned in the latter result, he should have justified the slanderous reports so long current with respect to his entertaining designs against the Queen, for whom he had shed his blood on the field of battle.

Marshal Serrano had an interview at Paris on Wednesday with Count Walewski on the subject of the quarrel between Mexico and Spain. M. Walewski is extremely desirous that this unfortunate affair should be amicably arranged, and is leaving nothing undone for that purpose. The English Ambassador also is lending his co-operation, and indeed both Governments, acting as they are in concert, will leave nothing undone towards the pacific solution of a difference which would be attended with serious complications. A great deal, of course, depends on the Mexican Envoy himself, and on the nature of the instructions he has received.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

An electoral committee has been formed at Jassy, to exercise a popular influence over the elections for the Divans *ad hoc*. In a manifesto which they have put forth, they say that their programme "is founded on the very principles of the treaty of Paris, namely—1. The union of the Principalities into one state, under respect for the rights of the Sublime Porte, according to the spirit and letter of our ancient capitulations. 2. The neutrality of the territory of the Principalities. 3. Respect for the rights of the Principalities, and particularly for their self-government, according to the spirit and letter of the same treaties. 4. The heredicy of the chief of the state: the hospodorat has had its day—a European *régime* ought to succeed it. 5. The legislative power confided to one General Assembly, to represent the interests of the whole nation. 6. The submission of foreigners residing in the Principalities to all the laws of the country. 7. The recognition of the right of the Principalities to enter into commercial relations suitable to their own interest. 8. All this under the collective guarantee of the powers who signed the treaty of Paris. The party of the union is at the same time the party of progress and reform."

The new Bessarabian frontier was marked out on the 15th of March, and the ceded territory evacuated on the 19th. These events were followed by the retirement of the English fleet from the Black Sea on the 29th.

QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF OFFICERS.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse Guards, April 9.

His Royal Highness, the General Commanding in Chief having had under his serious consideration the question of army education, especially as relating to qualifications for staff appointments, is pleased to promulgate, for general information, that, from and after the 1st of January, 1858, the undermentioned acquirements will be considered indispensable before appointment to the situations annexed:—

Every officer, before appointment, will be required to undergo an examination on the subjects mentioned, in such manner as shall be hereafter announced.

This regulation is not intended to affect officers now on the staff.

QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF OFFICERS.

Aides-de-Camp.—To write a distinct and legible hand, and compose English correctly. To have a good colloquial knowledge of one foreign language. To have a good eye for a country, and to be able to produce an intelligible sketch of it. To know the use of the sketching compass, or pocket sextant, in order to lay down and protract the leading features of a country to be described. To have a thorough knowledge of regimental duty, and tactics, and field movements on an extended scale. Also a knowledge of field fortification, both as regards construction and correct description on reconnoissance.

Brigade Majors.—To have all the qualifications of a good adjutant—the same requirements as are exacted from an aide-de-camp—and a thorough knowledge of military law and the army and War-office regulations.

Deputy-Assistants-Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.—The following further acquirements will be required to qualify for deputy-assistants-adjutant-general and deputy-assistants-quartermaster-general, viz.:—Practical sketching—both on horseback, called "flying sketching," as well as correct and finished plotting—practical trigonometry and geology, with knowledge of logarithms: To write, read, and speak at least one foreign language; to judge of ground and its proper occupation by all arms; to have a perfect knowledge of castremetation and the principles of permanent fortification: And to be thoroughly acquainted with geography and military history—especially as relates to the campaigns of ancient and modern commanders.

Assistants-Adjutant and Assistants-Quartermaster-General.—To the whole of the foregoing will be added for assistants-adjutant and assistants-quartermaster-general, the elements of mechanics, hydrostatics, and geology; the construction of military bridges, dams, &c.; an acquaintance with the principles of strategy; and statistics of the army. All staff officers should be able to ride well. By command of his Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief.

G. A. Wetherall, Adjutant-General.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

A very singular case of bigamy was tried last Saturday. James Green, the man accused of the offence, is a master sweep, residing in the parish of Tottenham, and his appearance is that of a respectable man. For eight years he lived with a woman named Latleif as man and wife, he being then unmarried. Upon Easter Monday last year, he married, at St. James the Great, Bethnal-green, another woman named Mitchell, who for nine years had been cohabiting with a friend of his, one Gardner, also a master sweep. The woman Mitchell stayed with Gardner until the night before the marriage, and the woman Latleif also remained with Green up to the same time. Upon Green marrying Mitchell, Latleif went the same day and lived with Gardner. The following Thursday, Mitchell, being tired of her new husband, went back to Gardner, whereupon Latleif at once went back to Green, who in April of the same year was married to her at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and the parties still kept friends until a short time ago, when Mitchell, from some cause not explained, gave Green into custody Gardner, who was called as a witness, said, in answer to the court, "When Green took Mitchell, I took Latleif, and when she came back I sent the other home. We were all drunk when we did it." The jury found Green Guilty, and he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and hard labour.

Allen Beamish, a very sharp, intelligent lad of fourteen, was tried for forging and uttering an order for the payment of 5*l.* 10*s.*, with intent to defraud. He had been sent by his employer to the bankers to get a cheque for 5*l.* cashed, and he brought back the right amount; but he had written the words "ten shillings" into the body, and had put the figure 1 before the 0 in the place for the shillings. The difference was of course appropriated by himself. He had also forged cheques for 4*l.* and 3*l.* When his employer found out that he had been robbed, he locked the boy into a second-floor room while he went for a policeman; but the young thief escaped in the meanwhile through the window. The boy, whose head reached only just above the bar, took notes during the trial, occasionally handed down suggestions in writing to his counsel, as to the questions to be put to the witnesses, and did not exhibit the slightest appearance of embarrassment. The jury, without any hesitation, found him Guilty. Mr. Metcalfe, counsel for the prosecution, said, he regretted to have to inform the Court that the prisoner had been charged on a former occasion with obtaining money from a tradesman by representing that he had been sent by a customer. One of his brothers had been convicted, at the present session, of forgery, and had been sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. The Recorder sentenced the boy to six months' hard labour, and at the expiration of that period he is to be sent to a reformatory school for three years.

Emma Dodd, who had been convicted of the manslaughter of her illegitimate child, was brought up for judgment, and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

Samuel Shouter, a drover, was tried for the murder of Sophia Dean. The two had cohabited, and one night they had a quarrel, during which the man struck the woman a slight blow on the head. Erysipelas set in, and death ensued; but, as it appeared that the smallest injury would have been likely to produce the disease of which she died, owing to her intemperate habits, the man was Acquitted.

David Davis and Owen Macarthy, labourers, of notoriously bad character, have been sentenced to six years' penal servitude, for an assault on Thomas Birch, captain of the sloop Cunliffe. On the 12th of March, this person was at Greenwich, and he accompanied a woman home to her house. While she was out, getting some liquor for which he had sent her, the two men, accompanied by a third, entered the room, and Birch, having reason to feel apprehensive, gave the men something to drink, and left. They accompanied him, and offered to show him the way to the Hospital, where he wanted to go; but they led him instead to the darkest and most disreputable part of the town, and one of them struck him a violent blow with some sharp instrument at the back of the head, while another made a snatch at his watch, which, however, they failed to obtain, and therefore ran off. On the police arriving, they found Birch severely wounded. Davis and Macarthy were subsequently apprehended, but the third man could not be identified.

Josiah Powderhill and John Leary were indicted for a robbery with violence from Ann Sheen, a woman of the town. She met Powderhill, together with a woman, near St. George's Church, Southwark, one night about twelve o'clock, and, having lent them some money out of kindness, accompanied them to a coffee-house, where she treated them with coffee, eggs, and bacon. These she paid for out of one of sixteen sovereigns which she then had about her, and they saw the money in her possession. She afterwards spent the night with them at several public-houses, and at one of these she met Leary. As the woman by this time began to feel the effects of what she had taken, she proposed to the barman of one

of the public-houses to leave some of her money with him for safety, and at the same time took out the handkerchief in which it was wrapped up, when Leary grasped her round the throat, while Powderhill snatched all the money from her. The two men then ran out of the house, but they were pursued by the woman, who caught Leary and gave him in custody. The other man escaped, but was apprehended early the following morning. When before the magistrate, Powderhill made a counter-charge against Sheen, who, he said, told him that she had robbed a gentleman in the City of 47*l.*, of which the 15*l.* he took from her was part. On the trial, she was brought up in custody from Horsemonger-lane Gaol. She refused to say, in the course of her cross-examination, how she had become possessed of the cash, but she added that the gentleman who had lost his money could not identify her as the thief. The defence was that the testimony of such a woman could not be relied on, and that the money, even had she possessed it, was probably stolen by her. The men were found Guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THE SUPPOSED MURDER NEAR ROTHERHAM.—The adjourned inquest on the body of Jacob Lambert, a collier, lately residing at Greasborough, whose body was found in the river Don, near Conisborough, under suspicious circumstances, has ended in an open verdict.

THE GLASGOW POISONING CASE.—Miss Madeleine Smith, the young lady who (as stated in our last issue) was apprehended on suspicion of having administered poison to her sweetheart, a young French gentleman named L'Angelier, was committed on Friday week to take her trial on the charge of murder. So far as motive is concerned, the grounds of the charge are understood to be that Miss Smith was anxious to cast off L'Angelier in consequence of having received and accepted an offer of marriage from a gentleman of greater wealth than the young Frenchman. L'Angelier is said to have possessed some means of blasting the young lady's reputation, which, it was anticipated by her, he would exercise in the event of her marrying his rival.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE NEAR BRIGHTON.—About seven thousand persons assembled on Good Friday at the Halfway House, midway between Brighton and the Devil's Dyke. In the course of the evening, there was a fight, and the police interfered, but were attacked so fiercely with flint-stones that several were seriously injured. Two of the rioters were examined the next day before the magistrates, and were sent to prison for four months, part of the time with hard labour.

MISCONDUCT OF A POLICEMAN.—A charge of drunkenness and of assaulting a policeman was brought last Saturday at Worship-street against Mr. James Bocking, a master wheelwright. There was a disturbance in Essex-street, Hackney, in the middle of the night, and Bocking, as the police asserted, was in some degree concerned in it. The policeman took him into custody, and, according to the officer's account, was assaulted by him, so that it was at length found necessary to strike him with the staff. Bocking's version of the affair was that he was wantonly seized by the constable, without any cause, and that he was seriously wounded by the staff. Other witnesses confirmed this, and Mr. Bocking was discharged, the magistrate observing that the conduct of the policeman was quite unjustifiable.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOTS.—About twenty persons were examined last Saturday at Kidderminster, on the charge of inciting and assisting in the attack on Mr. Lowe at the recent election. Two of the accused were described as gentlemen; their names were—Mr. Alfred Talbot and Mr. Henry Chillingworth. Another of the number was a butcher named Pitt. These three seem to have encouraged the mob to throw stones. Some of the other accused were tradesmen of the town. The evidence confirmed the accounts already given of the dastardly outrage. Mr. Ebenezer Guest, the county court bailiff, said that the most violent of the rioters "appeared to be bricklayers, masons, and stone-getters, and not weavers of Kidderminster." The same witness, in cross-examination, stated that at the nomination, on the day before the riot, Mr. Lowe had addressed the people, amidst much noise, first as "gentlemen," then as "ladies and gentlemen," and then as "children." A great many women and children were present. Several other witnesses were examined; and, the case for the prosecution having been concluded, an adjournment to Friday was ordered.—A subscription has been commenced for defraying the expenses of the prosecution. Strange to say, Mr. Talbot has offered 50*l.* It is said that, had Mr. Lowe and his friends passed through a certain street, they would have had boiling water and filthy liquid discharged at them. In the same thoroughfare, also, some chimneys were pulled down, in order that the bricks might be thrown at the objects of this savage conspiracy.

ANOTHER MURDER AT LIVERPOOL.—An inquest was held on Friday week in Liverpool, on the body of John Kilduff, a dock labourer, who died on the previous Wednesday, from a fracture of the skull. A man named Patrick Kilroy resided in the house occupied by Kilduff, and some arrears of rent were demanded, which caused Kilroy to feel offended, and he was heard to say he would have blood before twelve o'clock that night. While Kilduff was preparing for bed, Kilroy and another man came to his door, made use of an opprobrious epithet, and hid themselves in the entry; Kilduff went to the door, and Kilroy felled him with a piece of timber, from the effects of which he died. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder," and Kilroy was committed to Walton gaol.

THE MURDER AT ISLINGTON.—An inquest was held last Saturday at Islington on the body of James Scott, a baker, who was stabbed, under circumstances detailed in the *Leader* of last week, by a lodger of the name of Robert Robinson Tripp. A verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned.—A singular discovery was made by the police in searching the room occupied by Tripp. They found, amongst some hay in a box, the skull, shoulder-blade, and other bones, of a female skeleton, apparently about middle age. There were also portions of a bonnet, shawl, and other articles of women's clothing.—Tripp was re-examined before the Clerkenwell magistrate on Tuesday, when evidence was received confirming the original accounts, viz., that Scott had gone into his lodger's room at two o'clock in the morning to ask for arrears of rent; that a quarrel ensued; and that Tripp stabbed his landlord with a sword, and would have repeated the attack, had not another lodger, who had been called to the room by Scott, warded off the blow. On being taken into custody, Tripp repeatedly said that he hoped his landlord might die, and that, had not the other lodger interfered, he would have made the thing sure by a second stab. He was committed for trial. It is stated that he is sixty-three years of age, and that he has been known for a long time past as a very violent and eccentric person, keeping several dirks and pistols in his room, and often playing wild pranks with them. He made a murderous attack on one of his landlords about eight years ago, but was disarmed without doing mischief, taken before a magistrate, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, in default of being able to find bail. During the Peninsular war, he was in active service, and was learned in the use of weapons. He has exhibited a fancy for anatomy, and Mr. Robinson, his legal adviser, stated to the Clerkenwell magistrate that the bones found in his box were there "for purposes of study," and that the clothes belonged to his mother.

INSUBORDINATION AT SEA.—Andrew George Gallagher, William Todd, and John Williamson, seamen on board the barque Marchioness of Ailsea, were examined on remand last Saturday at the Thames Office, charged with insubordination during their passage home from the Cape of Good Hope. The men had complained of bad diet and of the vessel being short-handed, and they refused to do any more work. The captain then threatened to put Todd in irons, when the others interposed, and menaced the captain, chief mate, carpenter, and boatswain, with deadly weapons. They were off duty for eighteen days, but at length resumed work, though not ceasing their rebellious demeanour. Mr. Yardley, the magistrate, sentenced Gallagher and Todd to four weeks' imprisonment and hard labour for wilful disobedience to lawful commands, and Williamson to eight weeks' imprisonment and hard labour for assaulting Captain Andrew.

CRUELTY TO A CHILD.—One of the worst cases of cruelty to a child by the father ever brought into a court of justice was heard on Thursday week at the Chapel-en-le-Frith Petty Sessions. The father's name is Peter Rowland, and he is a tinman. The child is his daughter, about nine years old. He appears to have felt an unnatural aversion to her from her infancy, and he has already rendered her a cripple for life by an injury which he inflicted on her spine. Her mother is dead—killed, it is said, during pregnancy, by the man's brutal usage. The child was recently found, in a state bordering on idiocy, in the house occupied by her father: she was in a filthy condition, covered with sores, and apparently perishing for want of food. An attempt was made by the vicar to get the child removed from her father's custody, but it failed, owing to some legal flaws. Rowland then moved with his family to a sort of workshop, stated to be a most unwholesome place, owing to its being pervaded with a sulphurous smoke, from some local cause; and here the child was locked up for hours together, without food. She was frequently beaten; her body again became covered with sores and vermin to an extent too horrible to repeat, and her face is described as having the appearance of something not human. One day, screams were heard in the street; the neighbours entered the workshop, and found some red-hot cinders burning the child's neck and breast, as she lay on the hearth. Rowland at that time was drinking in the neighbourhood. The girl was at once removed, and placed under medical care; but her restoration to health is doubtful, her recovery of the use of her limbs impossible. Rowland has been sentenced to six months' hard labour, at the end of which time he is to find sureties for good behaviour for the same period.

STATISTICS OF CRIME.—The quarter sessions for the various counties in the west of England have just been held. Sir S. H. Northcote, as chairman of the Devon Quarter Sessions, stated in his charge to the grand jury that a decrease of crime was apparent in comparing the number of prisoners for trial at the present sessions with corresponding sessions in past years. The total number to be tried at the Easter Sessions, 1857, was 16, and last year there were 25 prisoners for trial. The number of prisoners committed to the gaol was considerably less than in the corresponding quarter. Last year, there were 331 committals, and in the present quarter there were 244, showing a decrease of 87. A decrease is apparent in other localities, while in some there is an increase. The diminution is in a great measure to be accounted for by the fact of the Spring Assizes having just sat, and cleared off a large mass of criminal cases; so that whether there is really an improvement is very doubtful.

A CHARGE FALLEN TO THE GROUND.—William Stevens Hayward, who stood remanded (on bail) from that day week on a charge of criminal assault on a girl, appeared before Mr. Jardine at Bow-street, on Tuesday, in discharge of his recognizances; but, as the prosecutrix, Jane Bettison, was not in attendance, and no communication had been received which could account for her absence, the magistrate said he had no choice but to dismiss the charge.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—A man named George Morris, living at Agar Town, was charged at the Clerkenwell police-court with having committed a savage assault on his wife, in consequence of which her life is considered in great danger. He receives good wages, but squanders them in drinking and debauchery, scarcely allowing his wife anything for the support of herself and the family. On coming home one morning, his wife, who was almost in a starving state, asked him for some money. At this, Morris became extremely furious, and struck the woman several violent blows on the side of her head with his fist: he then kicked her repeatedly about the body, and knocked several of her teeth out. A policeman being called by her son, the ruffian was taken into custody. His wife followed him to the station-house to make the charge against him; but it was necessary to support her on the way, as she was extremely faint, and hardly able to walk, owing to the injuries she had received. She was still suffering greatly when the case was brought before the magistrate, and was therefore unable to appear in court. Morris did not deny having committed the assault on his wife, but alleged that she had followed him about from street to street, and called him by abusive names. Mr. Corrie remanded him for a week, in order that the result of the woman's injuries might be known.

ATTEMPTED WIFE MURDER.—George Hollis, a young man whose real business is that of a gas-fitter, but who has some connexion with the stage, was further examined on Tuesday at Worship-street on the charge of stabbing his wife. It now appears that the refusal of his wife to make him a pair of stage trousers on a Sunday, because it was unlucky, was not the only cause of his passion. He had taken some improper familiarities with his sister-in-law, for which his wife reproved him, though very gently and almost laughingly. The two causes of offence coming nearly at the same time threw him into a rage, and his hand trembled with passion previous to striking the blow. He left shortly afterwards, but soon returned, and appeared very sorry. His wife then induced him to go away again, as a policeman was after him. On giving her evidence before the magistrate, she wept bitterly, and did the most she could to lighten the charge against her husband, saying that she had greatly "aggravated" him, and that she believed he only intended to frighten her. Hollis was again remanded.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE FROM DISTRESS.—The wife of Michael Grant, the notorious railway card-sharper, who is now in custody for his ordinary offence, has been charged at the Lambeth police-office with attempting to commit suicide. She was found by a woman hanging by a rope in her room, but was at once cut down, and revived. It appeared that her husband was at one time earning a decent livelihood as a licensed hawker, but he had taken to card-sharping, and thenceforth had never prospered. They had been in a distressed state for some time past, and, on her husband's apprehension the other day, she saw no prospect but starvation. Selling the remainder of her things, therefore, she gave her children something to eat, and then hung herself. It will be recollected that, when her husband was taken into custody, he begged for mercy on account of his wife and children. The woman, who is a wretched-looking creature, was remanded.

THE MURDER AT COLLINGHAM.—The inquest on the body of Mr. Joseph Hodson, a retired farmer, living at South Collingham, near Newark, who was poisoned by a mince-pie containing arsenic, has been resumed on two separate occasions. It appears that, before reaching the old man, the pie had been left at the house of his nephew, Richard Hodson, and it is proved that the wife of the latter bought an ounce of arsenic at a chemist's shop on the 27th of last December. A boy who took the pie from the carrier by whom it was to have been delivered to the old farmer, is believed to be the brother of Mrs. Richard Hodson; and it is in evidence that his mother told him not to say anything about taking the parcel in which the pie was wrapped up, should inquiries be made of him. A verdict of Wilful Murder has been returned against Richard Hodson and his wife.

ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.—Two men, belonging to the London swell mob, who have recently been taken into custody at Colchester on a charge of stealing, escaped

from the Borough Gaol on Sunday morning. They climbed up the wall of the yard, where they were taking exercise, got on the roof of a house, slid part of the way down the wall, and dropped a distance of twelve feet into a churchyard. The police were at once set on their track, and one of the men was found disabled and stunned in the churchyard, and was taken back to gaol. The other had got clear off, and it is supposed has come to London, where, as he is well known to the police, he will probably soon be captured.

Supposed Fatal Effects of Practical Joking.—Two respectable-looking men, named Thomas Willis and Thomas James, were charged at Guildhall with having caused the death of Thomas Hinkston, a lad of sixteen, under rather singular circumstances. Hinkston was the son of a man living in Oxford Market, and was employed with Willis and James at Mr. Lavington's. One evening when he came home from work, he complained of acute pains in the stomach. He went to work as usual on the following morning, but came home in the evening very ill, and went to bed, where he remained for some days. Finding the boy's handkerchief saturated with blood, his father asked him if he had received any injury, and the son answered that he had not. He became at last so much worse that it was found necessary to send for medical advice, and he then got a little better, but was still much troubled with pains in the bowels. One day, young Hinkston called his father to his bedside, and said that he felt he was going to die, but that he could not die in peace until he had told him something. He then stated that, when he was at work at Mr. Lavingston's about a fortnight since, the two men, Willis and James, laid him on the platform used for the delivery of goods, and rolled a firkin of butter on him, from the stomach to the chest, at which he cried out with pain, and they then desisted. This statement the boy repeated to one of the neighbours who was called in, and likewise to two police constables sent for by his father. He did not believe, however, that the men intended anything more than a joke. On the following morning, he died. An inquest was held, and the verdict returned was, that the lad had died from acute inflammation of the bowels and lungs, which might, however, have proceeded from natural causes. Willis and James were remanded, and have since been discharged.

Profligate Policemen.—A charge was preferred at the Mansion House on Wednesday by a City policeman against a Mr. William Bray, whom he accused of abusing and striking him on Cornhill. He went up to the officer accompanied by two or three women, and all began denouncing him as a scoundrel and vagabond. One of the women accused him of detaining her daughter. He said he knew nothing of her daughter, and finally the man assaulted him, and was taken into custody. Bray stated to the magistrate that the policeman had three times taken away his (Bray's) wife, and kept her in a disreputable house, and that his own wife helped to support him by a life of abandoned vice. The constable denied this, and said that the woman whom Bray called his wife was a professed courtesan. Bray's account, however, was confirmed by the mother of his wife. The Lord Mayor adjourned the case, and directed that the facts as regarded the policeman should be reported to the Commissioner of Police.—Gerald Longley, a constable in the Metropolitan force, was charged at Bow-street with absconding with his uniform, and a suit of livery which he wore in his office of assistant groom of the stables at Scotland-yard. He was engaged to be married, but, having obtained from the girl to whom he was to be united a Bible and Church Service, a lawn handkerchief, a watch and gold chain, and a sovereign, he deserted her, and finally left his post. It was understood that he had paid attentions to another girl. He was sent to prison for a month.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

On Monday last five men, named Robert Collings, George Boyce, George Pickering, Francis John Maybery, and Dennis M'Carthy, were examined at the Mansion House on a charge of stealing seventeen cases of boots and shoes, the property of Mr. Louis Isenburg, of 21, Leadenhall-street. Mr. Isenburg, who is a wholesale boot and shoe manufacturer, consigned, or rather intended to consign, to Melbourne very large quantities of boots and shoes in the course of last year; and Maybery was the man to whom were entrusted the boxes containing them, to take to the docks. Instead of taking them there for shipment, they were conveyed elsewhere, the contents were abstracted, and cinders and dust substituted in their place. The fraud was not discovered till the arrival of the boxes in Melbourne, when they were opened by the person to whom they had been consigned. The other men appear to have been accomplices of Maybery. The chief witness against them was one Timothy Desmond, a man now out of work, who seems to have been a friend of the accused, and who is suspected of having been concerned in the robbery. Cross-examination of this man elicited the fact that he had been dismissed from Messrs. Moses's service for participation in a robbery, also of boots. All the prisoners were remanded.—On Wednesday, two women were accused of being concerned in the same robbery. Desmond and other witnesses having been examined, the women were remanded.

Another case, connected with the preceding, was brought forward at the Mansion House on Tuesday. Thomas Walcot, formerly a journeyman in the service of Messrs. Moses and Son, at their shoemaking warehouse on Tower-hill, was accused of robbing the firm of six pairs of water-tight boots. Timothy Desmond, who gave evidence in the previous case, was the chief witness in this; and his statement criminated himself as well as Walcot, as he confessed that he and the other were in in the habit for some time of stealing their employers' property. Walcot cross-examined Desmond, and asked, "Are you not ashamed to look at me? You confess yourself to be a thief." Desmond answered, "I don't know why I should be ashamed of myself, I'm sure." To which Walcot retorted, "You are the biggest villain upon earth, and you ought to have a rope round your neck." Walcot was committed for trial.—Richard Steer, a shoemaker, was charged on Wednesday with being the receiver of the stolen goods; but, the only witness against him being Desmond, he was discharged, on giving recognisances to appear when the case was again brought forward.

Lieutenant Ernest Lloyd was finally examined at Marlborough-street on Monday, charged with obtaining goods from several tradesmen under false pretences. He had been in the habit of giving cheques on Messrs. Cox and Co., the bankers, which cheques were always dishonoured on presentation, the Lieutenant no longer having any effects there. There were at least thirty charges against him, but only a few were gone into, and he was committed for trial.

A little bit of election history came out on Monday at the Southwark police-office. A person named Edward John Syer was summoned by a cabdriver for the sum of sixteen shillings, cab-hire on the day of the Southwark election, when the vehicle was employed in taking voters to the polling place. Syer admitted that he had hired the cab, and said he had engaged thirty cabs on the 28th ult., at from sixteen to eighteen shillings a day. He had received his orders through Mr. James, Sir Charles's committee agent, and he was appointed "superintendent of cabs for the election." He thought it was very hard that he should pay, as he was a poor man. Mr. Combe, the magistrate, said that, as Syer had engaged the cabs, he was responsible for the fares; but he added that he had no doubt Sir Charles would ultimately pay. At this, a cab proprietor in the body of the court called out, "The committee hired twenty-five of my cabs, which were used in conveying voters to the poll, and I can't get my money. It's rascally conduct of Sir Charles Napier and his committee; but I'll make them pay." Ultimately, Syer was ordered to pay sixteen shillings, and five shillings costs, but was allowed a week for collecting the money. The magistrate advised him to summon Sir Charles Napier in the County Court, but recommended him, first of all, to apply to the Admiral. This the unfortunate "superintendent of cabs" said he would do.—Mr. James attended on Tuesday, and said that Syers had sublet his contract to another man, named Baldwin, who had also made a claim on the committee. There had been thirty-seven different claims by cabmen, amounting to 200*l.* Those claims it would be necessary to investigate; and Baldwin having taken from Syers the contract to provide the cabs, the former would be paid. The magistrate said that, as the committee had made the contract with Syers, he (Syers) ought to receive the money; but Mr. James evinced no willingness to adopt that opinion, observing that, in such a case, there would be two or three hundred more claims from cabmen. And so the matter rests for the present.

The attention of the Westminster magistrate was occupied on Monday and Tuesday by two charges of making a disturbance at the house of Viscountess Ponsonby, brought against an old woman named Anne Robinson and her unmarried daughter. They conceived, whether rightly or wrongly is uncertain, that the house occupied by her ladyship in Lower Belgrave-street belonged to them, a suit in Chancery, as they alleged, having terminated in their favour. They therefore went to the house to demand the rent, and, on being referred to her ladyship's lawyer, made a great noise, refused to leave, and were given into custody. The magistrate discharged them on their entering into their own recognizances to keep the peace; but they went again on the same night, and were still more violent, and the younger woman assaulted the servants who put her out. Accordingly, they were again brought before Mr. Arnold, who discharged the old woman unconditionally, and ordered the daughter to find bail.

Mrs. Clerk, the wife of a tradesman in Bermondsey, has been committed for trial from the Southwark police-court, on a charge of stealing the purse of a customer in a baker's shop. She quietly took it up from the counter, and walked off with it, but was soon afterwards taken into custody.

Mr. John Danger, a leather-merchant in Bristol, has been found Guilty at the Bristol Quarter Sessions of having obtained a bill of exchange for 184*l.* 16s. under false pretences from a fellow tradesman. Sentence was postponed to next session.

A man named Thomas Glass, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Northcott and Co., wholesale lace-manufacturers in Watling-street, was charged before Alderman Laurence, at the Mansion-house, with defrauding his late employers of various sums of money, and likewise with forging the signature of the firm to a cheque, as well as the endorsement of a bill. Messrs. Northcott were in the habit of receiving advices, from their customers in the country, of certain sums of money which had been paid by the latter into the hands of their bankers in London, and Glass was the person usually sent to collect these. On the 3rd of last January, the head clerk to the firm sent Glass to Messrs. Glyn's for three separate sums of money, amounting altogether to 103*l.* 13s. 6d., and to Messrs. Robarts for a balance of 25*l.* 5s. 6d. due to them from a customer living at Cheltenham. The man returned to the office of his employers after a time, and brought three cheques for the money he had been sent to collect at Messrs. Glyn's, but the sum of 25*l.* 5s. 6d., which he had been expected to receive at Messrs. Robarts's, was not forthcoming. Being asked by the head clerk why he had not got the latter, Glass replied that they had told him at Robarts's, that the money was "not up." He was then directed to write down this fact in his collecting-book, which he immediately did. On the same day, he absconded from his employers, and never returned to them afterwards. Nearly two months previous to this, on the 20th of last November, the firm were expecting the receipt of a draft on Messrs. Jones, Lloyd, and Co., for 40*l.* 3s. 6d., from a customer living at Southport, a Mrs. Ball. The letter enclosing the bill for this amount never reached Messrs. Northcott, and they afterwards discovered that it had been intercepted by Glass, who, unauthorized by any of the partners, had endorsed the bill in their name, presented it for payment, and received the money for it at Messrs. Jones Lloyd's. The same thing had been done with the cheque on Messrs. Robarts for 25*l.* 5s. 6d. Glass was therefore given into custody. Alderman Laurence remanded him, for the attendance of Mrs. Ball, who was believed to be in France.

Mr. Keating, on Thursday, in the Court of Queen's Bench, applied for, and obtained, a rule *nisi* for setting aside the verdict in the late trial at the Gloucester Assizes, "Roux *v.* Wiseman, and for obtaining a new trial. The verdict, it will be recollected, went against the Cardinal. The facts appeared in our paper last week.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

The Transit has been repaired after her accident. The opinion of the Lords of the Admiralty on the evidence furnished by the Court of Inquiry, held on Good Friday, was promulgated on board on Monday. It acquits the commander and master from all blame in the accident which has caused the ship's detention.

Court-Martial.—A court-martial has been held at Sheerness, to try Edward Jones, ordinary supernumerary seaman, on charges of stealing a piece of cloth, and then deserting. He pleaded Guilty to both accusations, and threw himself on the mercy of the court. He was sentenced to receive three dozen lashes, to be imprisoned in Maidstone gaol for six months with hard labour, and then to be dismissed the service with disgrace.

Damage to the Martin Luther.—The Martin Luther, 1241 tons register, left Liverpool on the 9th inst. with 498 passengers and 1200 tons general cargo for Quebec. On Sunday, the 12th, in lat. 50 N., long. 8 W., she experienced very heavy weather from the north-west. At eight P.M., when under double-reefed topsails and reefed foresail, the main top-gallant mast was carried away. At five A.M. on Monday, when under close-reefed maintopsail only, the fore and maintopmasts were carried away close to the caps, taking with them the boatswain, John Westwood, of Dunfermline, Peter Branagan, and three other seamen, who were on the weather yard-arm endeavouring to secure the foresail, which had broken adrift. They were all drowned. In order to clear the wreck, the officers and crew cut away the mainmast, which dragged the mizenmast with it, and she thus became completely unmanageable. On Tuesday morning, she was fast drifting to leeward before a heavy sea and north-west wind, and was only eighteen miles from Ushant, when she was sighted by the Tagus, which, after considerable danger to herself and damage to the lifeboat, succeeded about noon in rescuing her. The hull of the Martin Luther is in good condition, but in consequence of the heavy weather most of the berths were broken and knocked down, and the passengers have suffered severely.

The Fleet in the East of Europe.—The British fleet has passed the Dardanelles and arrived in Smyrna. As soon as the Turkish Government received this intelligence, it issued a circular to announce that the Dardanelles are henceforth closed to ships of war of all nations that are not provided with a special firman for going through, thus re-establishing the rule in existence before the war.

Accident at Woolwich.—During some military evolutions which were being made on Woolwich Common on Thursday, in presence of Lord Bloomfield, our Envoy at the court of Prussia, a gunner was seriously injured in the hand and face by the premature explosion of his piece.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THUNDERSTORMS. — Good Friday was signalized by some thunderstorms in the north of England. The lightning was very vivid. There have also been some very severe and disastrous floods.

FOUND DROWNED.—The body of Captain Asa A. Corning, formerly of the ship Confederation, was picked up on Friday week, floating off the Rock Light, Liverpool. He had been missing since last January, when his ship was wrecked in the Channel. All the crew were saved; but he, one of the mates, and a boy remained by the vessel, and went down with her. An inquest was held last Saturday, and terminated in a verdict of "Found drowned."

THE ENGLISH ARMY AND THE FRENCH MILITARY MEDAL.—A supplemental list of non-commissioned officers and soldiers selected for recommendation to the Emperor of the French, to receive the decoration of the French military war medal, has been published.

DEATH OF A MISER.—A few days ago (says the daily papers), the body of an old man named Partridge, a rag and bone collector, was discovered on a heap of filth in a room in one of the back streets of Exeter. He was in the habit of prowling about the city, collecting bones and garbage, and he has been seen to eat the most disgusting morsels from the streets. He lived alone in a room which was filled with rags, filth, and vermin. He had complained of illness a few days before his death, and had resorted to intoxicating liquors, of which he drank freely. After his death, a savings-bank book was found, from which it appeared that he had a large sum of money in the bank; and he had also lent 15*l.* to his landlady, besides sums of money to other persons. His death was evidently caused by self-neglect, dirty habits, and insufficiency of food.

ADULTERATED BREAD.—Four Croydon bakers have been fined each 10*l.* and costs for adulterating their bread with alum.

DISCOVERY OF HUMAN SKELETONS.—Some workmen employed in digging a drain behind York Castle the other day turned up the remains of about twenty human bodies, the skulls of three or four of which were wanting. The conclusion formed respecting them is that they are the remains of twenty-one Scottish rebels, ten of whom were executed on Saturday, the 1st of November, 1746, and the remainder on the following Saturday.

THE NEW SURVEY OF THE THAMES.—An interesting report by Captain Burstall, on his survey of the river Thames from Blackwall to Putney, has been published. The general upshot is that the depth of the river has increased several feet (varying in different parts) in consequence of the removal in 1832 of old London-bridge, which, with its large projecting starlings, and its general massiveness of structure, performed in some degree the office of a dam to the river. The removal of the obstruction has accelerated the "scour," and consequently increased the depth of the water. The effect has also been aided by dredging, and by the continual action of the river steamers. The last previous report on this subject was made in 1823, when the causes which have produced the deepening were not in operation.

THE BISHOPRIC OF NORWICH.—An intimation has been received in Norwich that the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham will succeed the Rev. Dr. Hinds in the bishopric of the diocese. The uncertainty which has hitherto prevailed on the subject is now considered at an end. Mr. Kitson, of Norwich, will continue to act as secretary.

SNOWSTORMS ON EASTER SUNDAY.—There were several heavy falls of snow at Manchester and the neighbourhood on Easter Sunday; but owing to previous and subsequent rains, the snow disappeared from the ground in the course of a few hours.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS SCULLY.—Mr. Thomas Scully, brother of the late member for Cork county, died at two o'clock on Monday, after a short illness, attributed to the fatigue he underwent during the contest for the county.

PRESENT TO THE QUEEN FROM THE SULTAN.—Her Majesty's steam corvette Sphynx, on her way to England from Malta, has on board a beautiful piece of brass ordnance of about twenty pounds calibre, of peculiar workmanship, the carriage being most exquisitely carved, as a present from the Sultan to Queen Victoria.

LIFE ASSURANCE QUALIFICATION.—When the Minister introduced into Parliament the bill for inflicting a tax of 200 per cent. upon all persons guilty of insuring their furniture against fire, he observed, wittily if not wisely, "We have taxed your vices, we must now tax your virtues." Now that we have passed the meridian of the nineteenth century, and statesmen, rubbing their eyes, awake to the conviction that people seriously object to legislation being dealt with as a joke, we shall haply see that, instead of taxing our virtues, our representatives will actually base their legislation on the opposite principle of encouraging them; and so modify the laws affecting partnership, salvage, insurance, &c., as to bring them all within the category of common sense. Thus, *à propos* of this theme—the rewarding instead of the repression of prudential habits—we trust we shall not be deemed theorists for affirming that the practice of life assurance involves a property qualification more practical than an educational test, and certainly more legitimate than the mere possession of capital or income. It is not the mere possession of property, but the good sense, judgment, and self-denial manifested in its proper use that can ever be reasonably urged as a qualification for the exercise of political or municipal rights. Now there is one piece of property that every man possesses, and in connexion with which there is a test of his fitness to have a voice in the commonwealth. That piece of property is his own life, and that test is his providing for the contingency of its loss. A man who insures his life confers a benefit upon society, while he manifests his own reasonableness. He benefits society, for he is taking care to prevent his family from becoming a burden upon it, when deprived of their protector, and he gives evidence of his good sense and judgment in applying the results of science and observation for that purpose, instead of misinterpreting Scripture to justify his own imprudence, or trusting to the chance of being able to provide for the uncertain future by accumulated savings.—*W. Bridges on Life Assurance and Colonization.*

THE EASTER DINNER AT THE MANSION HOUSE was eaten on Monday, when the most distinguished guest was the young ex-King of Oude, who was accompanied by his retinue. Several other Eastern Princes were also present. The chief speaker was Major Bird, who acknowledged the toast of "Their Highnesses the Princes of Oude;" but nothing was uttered worthy of repetition.

THE COMET.—Herr von Littrow, the celebrated German astronomer, has written a letter to the *Vienna Gazette* on the subject of the comet which is expected to appear on the 13th of next June. The purport of this communication is to still the apprehensions which have for some time past existed in the minds of several persons on the Continent, who anticipate a collision between the terrible meteor and this world. Von Littrow thinks it doubtful that the comet will be even visible at the time stated, but admits that "it is possible, although anything but certain, that we may see it between the present year, 1857, and 1860." As regards the fear which many persons have repeatedly entertained of comets coming in contact with the earth, he says that such a circumstance is, in the first place, highly improbable; and secondly, that even if such a catastrophe were to ensue, it would by no means cause the destruction of the world; for, "it is irrefutably certain that the matter of which comets consist forms an extremely loose texture, that comets are in reality not coherent masses, but mere agglomerations of small corpuscules separated from one another by large interstices." The effect of a collision with such a body of vapour would barely equal that produced by thunderstorms and hurricanes. "Incredible as it may appear," he adds, "we hear it from too trustworthy a source not to believe it, that in Austria, the country people, in expectation of what is to happen, have ceased to till their fields, and are wasting their time in idleness. Such a delusion might provoke a smile, if it were not too lamentable."

MR. WESTERTON has been again elected—this time without opposition—to the churchwardenship of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

THE LATE MR. JOHN TOWERS.—This gentleman, one of the oldest and most indefatigable agricultural writers in England, died last Saturday, at his house at Croydon, at the age of seventy-nine.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—Mr. Sheffield Neave was elected Governor, and Mr. Bonamy Dobree Deputy-governor of the Bank of England on Tuesday.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in London, which in the previous week were 1235, in the week that ended last Saturday declined to 1059. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1104. But, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average should be raised for the purpose of comparison in proportion to the increase, in which case it becomes 1214. Hence it appears that the deaths now returned were less by 155 than the number which the average rate of mortality would have produced.—Last week, the births of 835 boys and 773 girls, in all 1608 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1511.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

MR. DISRAELI AND THE NEW REFORM BILL.—In October, 1832, Mr. Disraeli issued an address to the electors of High Wycombe. In that address Mr. Disraeli said:—"I am prepared to support the Ballot, which will preserve us from that unprincipled system of terrorism with which it would seem we are threatened even in this town. I am desirous of recurring to those old English and triennial Parliaments of which the Whigs deprived us. I shall withhold my support from every Ministry which will not originate some great measure to ameliorate the condition of the lower orders, to rouse the dormant energies of the country, to liberate our shackled industry, and reanimate our expiring credit."

THE CHINA MISSION.—We understand that the Earl of Elgin is to be accompanied in his diplomatic mission to China by his brother, the Hon. Frederick Bruce, by Mr. Oliphant, as his private secretary, by Mr. Fitzroy, and by a gentleman to be selected from the Foreign Office.—*Manchester Guardian.*

NEW READING ROOM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—It is stated that the present reading rooms of the British Museum will not be used after the 30th instant. On the 8th of May the new reading room will be thrown open to the public generally, who will be allowed to visit it freely till the 16th, after which day it will be devoted exclusively to the use of readers.

MR. COBDEN has addressed a letter to Mr. Willans, chairman of his committee at the Huddersfield election, thanking those electors who voted for him for their support.

FINSBURY ELECTION: DINNER TO SERJEANT PARRY.—Some two hundred of the electors of Finsbury, supporters of Mr. Serjeant Parry, the unsuccessful Liberal candidate, gave a dinner on Monday to that gentleman at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Serjeant, in addressing his hosts after dinner, refuted the accusations that had been brought against him by his opponents, such as, that he was a Socialist, and that he had signed a petition for opening the British Museum, National Gallery, Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays. Referring to one cause of his non-success, he said:—"In the course of his canvass, he found a large number of persons who were in every way qualified to vote, but whose names were not on the register. Many went up to vote, and to their astonishment discovered that they were not registered; and he was told that in the polling district of Clerkenwell alone, out of 6000 qualified electors, only 3000 were on the register. What was required in the borough was a liberal registration association."

THE LIVERPOOL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.—The proceedings in connexion with laying the foundation stone of the New Free Library and Museum at Liverpool, which is being built at the sole cost of Mr. William Brown, M.P. for South Lancashire, took place on Wednesday. The weather was fine, and the ceremony passed off extremely well. The chief speakers were Mr. Alderman Holme, Mr. Brown himself, Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, and Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Smith. The religious ceremonies were conducted by the Bishop of Chester. Previous to laying the stone, an address was presented to Mr. Brown by the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, of which he is a member, and in the evening he was entertained at a banquet in St. George's Hall. The chief additional speakers here were Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., and Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American consul and celebrated author.—On the same evening a *soirée* was given at the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson Street, by the working-classes, at which a highly eulogistic address was presented to Mr. Brown.

SUNDERLAND DOCKS.—The important trial between the Marchioness of Londonderry and the Sunderland Dock Company, in which a verdict of 20,000*l.* damages was taken by consent at the Liverpool Assizes last week, subject to a reference to be made a rule of court, has since been finally arranged to the mutual satisfaction of the noble plaintiff and the defendants. It is understood Lady Londonderry gives up all claim for past damages, on condition that the Dock Company erect shipping berths and carry out other arrangements at the docks in connexion with the Sunderland and Seaham Railway, within a specified time, for the use of her ladyship's collieries; so that the Dock Company escape being mulcted in pecuniary damages for neglecting to fulfil their agreement with Lady Londonderry to ship a given quantity of coals annually from her ladyship's collieries.

THE LATE THUNDERSTORM IN FRANCE.—The storm which prevailed on Friday week in several of the departments was attended with melancholy consequences in certain points of the Oise. At Chevières a young man who was at work with his parents in a potato-field was knocked down by the lightning and killed on the spot. His cap was burnt, his boots ripped up, and a part of the chain of his watch melted. At Sauqueuse St. Lucien, as two men named Carron and Geffroy were passing a windmill, the miller requested their assistance to turn round the sails, as he feared a storm was coming on. Scarcely had they completed their task, when the rain began to fall in torrents, and they ran for shelter, Carron into a stable, and Geffroy and the miller into the mill. When the storm, which lasted for some time, was over, Carron came out of his hiding-place, and called for his companion, but, not receiving any answer, commenced a search for him, and found him near the shaft of the mill, quite dead. The lightning had perforated a small hole at the back of his neck, and several similar holes were found in different parts of the body. His clothes remained uninjured. Carron states that, from the place in which he stood in the stable he saw the lightning fall on the mill five different times, but no injury appears to have been done to the building. During the storm the electric fluid fell on the wires of the telegraph between the stations of Bueil and Boisset (Eure), and melted the metal for a distance of about half a mile, overturning at the same time four or five of the wooden supporters. It finally entered the ground on the iron-way, tearing up several of the sleepers, and leaving a large hole, which would most probably have caused an accident had it not been perceived in time.

DISGRACEFUL WEDDING.—On Easter Monday, a remarkable wedding took place in Bradford parish church. James Tetley, a pauper, well on in years, was married to Betty Stockdale, whose previous husband was killed at Bowling Ironworks. The parties had lived some time as man and wife, and the legalization of the marriage was necessary to secure pauper relief. A procession left

the neighbourhood of Sticker-lane, where the couple resided, shortly after eight o'clock, accompanied by thousands on its onward march, the multitude still increasing in density as it passed down Leeds-road and up Vicar-lane to the Old Church. It was led by a man on horseback with white hair, ninety-seven years of age, dressed in a scarlet cloak, and this patriarch of the cavalcade gave away the willing bride. Two other horsemen followed—one dressed in a soldier's coat and a sorry hat, with his face painted as red as the coat; and the other in a bear-skin jacket or cape, with hat to match, and his face painted like that of a savage New Zealand chief. Then followed, in a cart, the bride and bridegroom, with an object sitting low between them, resembling in his crouched position, the figure of "Old Nick" playing the bagpipes in "Tam O'Shanter." The bride sat calm and meek, seldom looking round her, but the excited bridegroom often gesticulated violently, showing the intended wedding-ring on the little finger of his right hand. Thirty riders, on patient-looking donkeys, came next. Many of them were smoking, had their faces coloured, and were dressed in all imaginable costumes. Behind these came several vehicles full of "weddingers" and others enjoying the singular scene; and to add excitement to all, a band of musicians made the welkin ring with their furious execution of "See the conquering hero comes." By the time the procession had reached the top of the Church-bank, no fewer than 20,000 persons, who had escaped chiefly from mills and warehouses, crowded the churchyard and many of the adjacent streets. When the knot was tied, they were prevented from parading through the town by the police, and went to a public-house up Harrowgate-road, thousands still following.—*Manchester Examiner.*

Progress of Free Trade in Russia.—Free trade makes progress alike in free and despotic countries. Russia recently published a new tariff, in which considerable reductions are made on the duties formerly levied on numerous articles of import, and the Government of the Pope has lowered its tariff by 50 to 70 per cent. on cotton and woollen fabrics, clothes, soap, oil, and other commodities. The United States have also taken another stride towards free trade. An Act was passed at Washington last month which reduces the import duties on no fewer than eight schedules of articles of trade. The duty on spirits is reduced from 100 to 30 per cent.; on cut glass, rosewood and cedar manufactures, prepared meats, comfits, cigars, wine, and alabaster ornaments from 40 to 30 per cent.; and on beer, clothing, coal, coke, confectionary, dolls, furniture, glass, hats, hemp, iron, jewellery, manufactures of various kinds, muskets, olive oils, paper, saddlery, soap, sugar, tobacco, &c., from 30 to 24 per cent. Reductions of smaller amount are made on a multitude of other articles. It is true the schedules, lengthened as they are, do not include some articles, such as iron, which constitute the head and front of the Protectionist system in America, but these changes are nevertheless considerable, and every new tariff reform in the United States has the effect of isolating the more injurious monopolies and preparing an assault under which they must ultimately fall. It is gratifying to know that the good cause of free commercial intercourse makes progress in all latitudes and under all forms of government, and that we are daily approaching nearer the happy condition when mankind, whatever other differences may divide them, will be knit together in the bonds at least of material interest.—*North British Daily Mail.*

The Education Question.—Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., addressed a meeting at Stamford on Wednesday afternoon on the subject of education. He enlarged on the importance of education at the present moment, when it is proposed to extend the franchise, and pointed to the late revelations of witch superstition in the country as signs of the existence of a great deal of debasing ignorance. The increase of crime was also an alarming feature, and this must be stopped at the fountain-head by raising the intellectual and moral condition of the people. He believed "there is nowhere in the world that stolid, invincible, insuperable ignorance that is to be found in the genuine English peasant." His Lordship spoke more esspecially of the men of Sussex. The "poor benighted savage," he said, is far above them.—A meeting was held on Monday, in the parish of Brooke, of the members and friends of three associations which have been at work during the past winter in different parts of this county in the promotion of adult evening classes, the circulation of a simple, wholesome (chiefly illustrated) literature among the cottages, and the delivery of conversational lectures on useful and practical subjects, and of the most familiar kind. All classes are co-operating in this good work, and they appear to be successful.

Additional Mail to Gravesend.—On and after Monday, the 20th inst., an additional mail will be made up at this office for Gravesend, to be despatched by the train which leaves the London-bridge station at 4.50 P.M. (Sundays excepted). Letters for this despatch must be posted at the receiving offices in London before 2 P.M.; at the branch offices in Charing-cross and Lombard-street, the south-eastern district office, 170, High-street, Borough), and the western district office (Old Cavendish-street), before 3 P.M.; and at the General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, before 3.30 P.M. They will be delivered in Gravesend in time for reply by the London mail which leaves that place in the evening.—By command of the Postmaster-General, Rowland Hill, Secretary. — General Post-office, 16th April, 1857.

The Maidstone Murder.—An inquest has been held on the body of Elizabeth Jones, a girl of light character, who was killed by a bargeman striking her a violent blow on the head in a boat. A verdict of Wilful Murder has been returned against the man.

Discovery of a New Planet.—Mr. M. J. Johnson writes to the *Times* from the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, under date April 16th:—"I will thank you to inform your astronomical readers that another planet, the forty-third of the system between Mars and Jupiter, was discovered last night at this observatory by Mr. Pogson."

Sir Henry Bulwer at Bucharest.—The landed proprietors, advocates, and young boyards of distinction, of Bucharest, have been presenting to Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, our Commissioner in the Principalities, an address of esteem and confidence. They observed:—"The Roumans welcome with delight in you the worthy representative of free England—the Envoy of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. They indulge in the firm hope that your presence among them will powerfully contribute to deliver them from all restraint, and thereby secure to them an unshackled manifestation of the wishes of the country, with entire independence in the elections. We have the greater right to expect an attentive care on the part of the Commissioners in the application of the electoral law, as we have not taken any part in drawing it up. We have too long lived without liberty for abuses not to be rife, particularly at a distance from the capital. We solicit the attention of your Excellency to this point. We take great pleasure in reminding you that at the Congress of Paris the representative of her Britannic Majesty was the first to insist strongly on the necessity of taking into account the free wishes of the country." Sir Henry made an appropriate reply.

Welsh-speaking Bishops.—Letters from Lord John Russell and the Earl of Derby, relative to the appointment in Wales of Bishops who know Welsh, are published by the R. W. Morgan Middleton. Both statesmen are in favour of the Welsh Bishops understanding the language of the Principality; but Lord John Russell does not see the necessity for all Welsh Bishops being natives of Wales.

The Piano as a Room Ornament.—Too often a huge music-box, shaped like a coffin, and called *par excellence*, a grand piano, is foisted into a room, utterly regardless of effect. And, generally speaking, a grand piano, at best, is no beauty, either in colour, form, or execution. Whatever progress may have been made in the internal parts of pianos, externally they remain much the same as when first rising into fashionable repute. They are rarely so constructed as to be ornamental in a room decorated according to the present taste. There is much scope for improvement in the external ornamentation of pianos. They retain their old features too strongly, and are evidently designed by "cabinet-makers," and not by artists. Why should they not become ornaments to a room, instead of mere pieces of "furniture." They are nearly all of one prevailing type, and stick to the same form and pattern as pertinaciously as if designed by Chinese artists,—who conserve old patterns in everything. But who would pay for an artistically-designed piano? Who cares for a combination of art and beauty in the external case of a piano? Very few, it is to be feared. They are treated as mere music-boxes on a large scale; as mere cases to cover an ingeniously-contrived combination of hammers and wires. But why should they not be so formed as to please the eye as well as the ear? Let us hope that the time is not far distant when the case of a piano will be looked upon as a work of art, and so designed as to be an elegant and appropriate ornament to a tastefully decorated apartment. Its conspicuous size in a modern room imperatively demands ornamentation, in harmony with the general features of the prevailing decorations; to which at present they violently contrast in every particular.—*The Builder.*

The Force of the Anglo-Saxon Tongue.—The great lesson to be drawn from the fact that Anglo-Saxon underlies, like original granite, all the strata of the English language, is, that to write in it is to write for the hearts of the people. It is *their* mother-tongue, strong, sinewy, and expressive; and they cling to it with a fondness which no change of usage can uproot, and no caprice of fashion can destroy. Just compare, in point of force and significance, a "sanguinary action," with a "bloody deed;" "eternal felicity," with "everlasting happiness;" and "the exemplar of the celestials," in the Rhenish version of the Scriptures, with "the pattern of things in the heavens," in our own; and you will feel at once how the language is emasculated by such attempted equivalents.—*Fraser.*

The Irish Chief Secretaryship. — The Dublin papers state that the report of Mr. Horsman's resignation, which originated in a Scotch newspaper, is perfectly correct, and that the right hon. gentleman is no longer Irish Secretary. Mr. Ralph Bernal Osborne, Secretary to the Admiralty, is mentioned as Mr. Horsman's successor.—*Times.*

Postscript.

Leader Office, Saturday, April 18th.

FRANCE.

(*By Electric Telegraph*).

Paris, April 17th.

M. Mocquard, Private Secretary to the Emperor, has addressed from the Tuileries a letter to the journals, characterizing the assertion in the *Times* of the refusal of Prince Napoleon to proceed to Toulon to receive the Grand Duke Constantine as "a pure invention." So far so good. M. Mocquard's letters, however, are not usually accepted as undeniable, either in Paris or in London.

The *Moniteur* publishes a convention, by the terms of which England gives up the right to trade between the embouchure of St. Jean and Portendic, in return for the cession of Albreda.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS IN CIRCASSIA.

"The Circassians, attacked by the Russians in the last days of March," says a despatch received at Trieste, "repulsed the strong columns which had penetrated into the mountains of Tnab. The Russians lost 700 men; the Circassians 300. Mehemet Bey is giving to Circassia a military organisation. The tribes of Daghestan have captured Fort Saliah and massacred the garrison. The garrisons of the neighbouring villages surrendered."

MILITARY FRACAS IN GERMANY.

"A report was current yesterday," says the *German Journal* of Frankfort of the 14th, "that a quarrel had taken place between the Prussian and Austrian soldiers of the garrison of Mentz. The rumour is now confirmed, and it is further stated that the whole garrison has been confined to barracks. A local journal speaks of four vehicles filled with killed and wounded, and another version states that five Prussians were killed on the spot; but both accounts are doubtless greatly exaggerated."

SPAIN AND MEXICO.—PORTUGAL.

"The Mexican question," says the *Courier of Madrid*, "has made a great step towards a pacific and satisfactory solution. The letters and journals received from that country bring the latest intelligence down to the 3rd of March, and give the important news that the crime committed on the persons of Nicholas Bermejillo and his companions has been punished. The military commission established at Cuernavaca has succeeded in arresting four of the assassins, and caused them to be shot upon the spot."

An expedition is about to leave Lisbon for Macao, in order to enforce the treaty of 1796 between the Portuguese and the Emperor of China. It is alleged that the Chinese have usurped the authority then accorded to Portugal.

GREECE.

The Finance Committee has declared that the Ministry has extravagantly spent the public revenue.

DENMARK.

The Supreme Council has unanimously adopted the treaty for the settlement of the Sound Dues.

M. Tillisch has not succeeded in forming a Ministry.

The Royal British Bank: Dividend Meeting.—Yesterday was appointed for the anxiously expected dividend meeting, and a great number of persons who had not proved on the previous occasions were generally admitted without opposition. There is little doubt that the dividend will be 2s. 6d. in the pound.

West Indies, &c.—From Barbadoes we learn by the last mail that the financial condition and prospects of the country were most satisfactory. The unusual state of the weather at St. Lucia had overthrown all the calculations of the agriculturists. The quantity of rain had been detrimental to the young canes. From Nicaragua there are rumours of the death of ex-President Rivas of Nicaragua by assassination.

The French Republican emigration have just lost one of their most energetic members, M. Rougée. The refugees of all nations and the English Democrats have been invited to attend his funeral on Sunday, the 19th inst., at half-past nine, A.M. They will meet at the residence of the deceased, No. 36, Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road.

Open Council.

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

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

THE LAWS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

SIR,—I now come to the 5th clause of the petition, which declares that "it is proved by well-known cases of hardships suffered by women of station, and also by professional women earning large incomes by pursuit of the arts, how real is the injury inflicted." We may leave to Mrs. Norton's eloquent pen the task of dilating on the first part of this clause, since it is from a "woman of station" of the class most obviously protected in England by the habits of their class in regard to wives and daughters, that the most emphatic and persevering succession of appeals has come. Mrs. Norton, possessing an acute and practical mind, willing to take what she can get, and fitting all her arguments to the peculiar habits of mind of those in power, is the very voice to touch the class to which she belongs by birth and education. Appealing less to abstract right than to the chivalry and sentiments of the Lords and Commons, she is ever dramatic, poetical, and womanly. Her bitterness is forgiven to one who has suffered so severely, and her indignation is coloured by the fiery blood of the Sheridans, which gives her a prescriptive right to uncompromising language. But as the Court Guide is but a fraction of the Directory, so the "women of station" who suffer from careless settlements or spendthrift husbands are but a fraction compared to the great army of workers, beginning with artists in every realm of genius, and descending to the shopwoman, the sempstress, and the shabby, but honest and hard-working drudge who "chars" in gentlemen's houses. To begin with professional women of the highest order: Sarah Siddons, whose monument is in Westminster Abbey if I recollect rightly, the only woman whose statue is placed there by right of genius, wrote a letter when she was ill, begging her husband not to make certain legal dispositions of the money she had earned for her family, the prospect of which caused her great chagrin; and Mrs. Glover, who was deserted by her husband, and who by her own exertions made an income on the stage for her children, actually found her salary demanded by her husband from the manager, though he was living with another woman; and the judge to whom she appealed was forced to declare the law on his side (vide *Westminster Review* for October, 1856). The large salaries of all our actresses and singers are wholly at the mercy of their husbands, good, bad, or indifferent, and cannot be efficiently secured to their own use for their children. The tales which were rumoured of Jenny Lind having suffered severely from this legal injustice may or may not have been true,* but their prevalence showed the belief in the public mind that such robbery was quite possible and far from improbable. It must be remembered that musical and dramatic artists, while they are the only women who as yet have in England amassed large fortunes, are infinitely more exposed by the ordinary chances of their life to make imprudent marriages than other women. To none is it more necessary to be shielded by the protection of the law, to none is it more desirable that they should be able to secure to themselves and to their daughters an honourable position of social independence; upon none does the present state of the law press more heavily than upon these public servants—these women to whom the public owes so much, and to whom it accords so little—who exchange their great gifts for fame and for money, yet live in perpetual danger of seeing the one tarnished and the other lost. Now that the great tragedians of every country are, singularly enough, of the female sex, surely the question of fortunes gained by women in pursuit of the arts is no longer matter of imagination. In England we have no women who as yet gain large sums by painting, but were Mdlle. Rosa Bonheur an Englishwoman, and married, the 2000*l.* she received for the "Horse Fair," and the golden currents which flow from every country into her studio in exchange for animals and landscapes, would be utterly at the mercy of a domestic fiend who *might*—it is within the range of masculine possibility—dissipate them in cigars and lockets, or speculations on 'Change. In literature we have a large class of Englishwomem who earn considerable sums of money. Take the *Athenæum* of any week, and cast an eye over the advertisements; what a mass of literary labour is got through by women. How indefatigably they are at work; how they translate, edit, and abridge; how they write for children, for circulating libraries, for periodicals, for newspapers. They are quite up to the average literary demands of the day, and there are whole departments in which they find remunerative employment almost as easily as men, and with increasing facility. And not a penny of their earnings is legally their own! One need not look for any ill conduct on the part of the husband, not even for maladresse in business; but if he becomes security for a friend, and *that friend fail*, all the hard-earned gains of this unfortunate third party, the sovereigns beaten out of toilsome hours over the desk, in obedience to the impatient printer's devil, go into this commercial gulph. Let not any one say these things never happen; in a large population a certain proportion of everything happens, however outrageously improbable. When, for instance, we learn by statistics that eight thousand letters and newspapers are posted in a year absolutely *without any address*, and that considerable sums of money are sent on the same wild-goose errand, we may well believe that the particular kind of imprudence I have mentioned is to be found in assignable proportions, combined with liability of a wife's property and earnings to cover the debt.

And, now, it will probably be said that all these risks and liabilities are included in the terms of marriage; that "in for a penny, in for a pound," is at once the symbolical and the literal equivalent of that important step! But *why?* Why are we to sanctify all the indirect accidents of marriage because marriage itself is holy? Why, because a woman is indissolubly bound to the father of her children, must she be inextricably involved in the strings of his empty purse? Surely people are silly enough, unlucky enough, and benighted enough for the most malevolent fairy who ever gave ill gifts at a christening, without helping them legally to fresh misfortunes. They marry on slight pretences, false pretences, and no pretences at all, and the most spiteful lover of poetical justice need not insist, that like Frederick and Catherine in the old German tale, having irremediably lost one of their two cheeses, they should roll the other down hill after it to find which way the first had run. Yet this is the logic which insists that in those very cases where the harmony of a household is endangered, its pecuniary welfare shall be cast as holocaust into the same fire! The very circumstance of a woman having unfortunately married a bad, a stupid, or an imprudent man, is the reason why the law should enable her to protect herself.

I remain, sir, yours obediently,
BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.

* We believe they were entirely imaginary.—ED. L.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1857.

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.

THE FRANCE OF TO-DAY.

WHO can imagine the effect of an announcement that the British nation had ceased growing? Between the years 1819 and 1855 we contributed two million three hundred thousand immigrants to the population of the United States; within the same period we transmitted vast numbers of colonists to Canada and Australia; since 1800 the inhabitants of our own islands have doubled, in spite of a great famine; what, then, should we think if this process of expansion were suddenly to be arrested? Yet such a suspension of national vitality has taken place in France. From 1841 to 1846, 1,170,000 souls were added to the population; from 1851 to 1856, only 256,000; in 1854 and 1855, the deaths actually exceeded the births. Statists are seeking for explanations of this formidable result; many causes are suggested; to each of these we wish to assign its full value—even to emigration, although not more than ten thousand persons annually quit France for the colonies, England, or America—a number compensated for by the arrival of foreigners. We may go back to the great wars, when one prodigious army after another, amounting to a total of two millions, was annihilated under the flag of NAPOLEON, the idol of the Empire, when it was twice found necessary to reduce the military standard, when boys were marched to Lutzen and Leipsic, because the supply of men had failed; but the fact interposes, that during the reign of LOUIS PHILIPPE the energies of France seemed to revive, and more than a million was added to her population within five years. We will allow all due importance to the influence of small agricultural holdings, producing an inexorable entail of poverty, to the extension of the Malthusian economy from the capital to the villages, to the succession of bad harvests, grape blights, silkworm failures, and other discouragements; these details cannot fairly be left out of the calculation; but do they account for the astonishing and alarming cessation of vital energy we now witness in France? In what have the French people so materially changed since the five years from 1841, when, with the same division of property, the same aversion to large families, and no exemption from natural inflictions, they multiplied with comparative rapidity? Whatever change of manners took place after 1851 was certainly preceded by a wholesale change of institutions. In front of the whole inquiry stands the conspicuous certainty that, under the Empire, the growth of population has everywhere been checked; while in many places the births have not made up for the deaths.

Not that France is overcrowded. Belgium contains 147 inhabitants to the square mile; England 130; France only 68; yet, with ample scope for development, the body of the nation dwindles instead of dilating. At the same time, the necessaries of life are produced in smaller quantities in the provinces, and luxury flourishes at the capital; the poor congregate in the great cities; an immense displacement of wealth is paraded for prosperity; Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, St. Etienne are swollen by the formation of new faubourgs; thousands forsake the field without entering the factory; the proportion of deaths among adults is singularly large; but what other process is going on at the same time? The capital that was formerly employed in cultivation or in manufacturing industry, has since 1851 been absorbed in Paris and expended in loans or in luxury; prices rise; bread is artificially cheapened for the dangerous populations of the faubourgs; to the peasantry it is become dearer; France is being gradually reduced in these respects to the level of Spain and Turkey. In the meantime the public expenditure increases enormously; the Empire wears literally a mural crown; its works in stone and mortar are confessedly imposing. It has its Golden House; it delights in the colossal; with DION CASSIUS, LOUIS NAPOLEON perceives no difference between public and private funds; while the life of France is drained away as by a mysterious disease, broad, strategical streets, and ornamental façades are certainly added to Paris.

We may take advantage of another opportunity to estimate the value of LOUIS NAPOLEON'S monuments. Our pre-

sent business is with the melting of the population, and the causes of its sudden decay from 1851 to 1856. Even if we cast in the gross total of the deportations to Algeria and Cayenne, they sink out of sight in the chasm. It is true that the departments signalized as having experienced the most sensible arrest or decrease of population are precisely those which were more than decimated by the mixed Commission of December—those which were marked in red on the map as strongholds of the Socialist democracy, those from which the agricultural, mechanical, and professional classes were deported wholesale without trial to flood the convict colonies of the Empire. The usurpation of 1851 passed over these provinces like a desolating war; yet some deeper and more abiding cause must be at work; it is, we are compelled to believe, the corruption of society by the example and influence of the Empire. If a great and expanding nation can be violently arrested in its career, its vital forces turned abruptly into sordid channels, its moral consciousness blinded and benumbed, the circulation of its intellectual activity suspended; if it can be cut off from the traditions of the past, bewildered by stock-jobbing, encouraged to waste its energies in sensual excesses, deterred by fear or ridicule from healthy or exalted pursuits;—if it can undergo this change without being enfeebled, attenuated, and exhausted, we must utterly repudiate the doctrine of all history—that a deadening despotism, applying itself only to satisfy the material cravings of the populace, infuses into the blood of the debauched nation the virus of a poison.

There is now in France no such thing as public life; it follows that private manners are depraved. The Seine might whisper a story to the Dead Sea, and France might show other causes for the failure of its productive powers than the determination of domestic economists to limit their family liabilities. Louis Napoleon pretends to stimulate agriculture—the agricultural population is diminishing; he affects to aggrandize Paris—Paris is fed at the expense of the provinces; he points to developed commerce—it scarcely compensates for diminished production at home;—he is the patron of the working classes—they have a falling sickness among them; the one flourishing class in France consists of speculators, gorged, we repeat, by vast displacements of wealth, but adding nothing to the resources of the country or the stability of the Government. The Spanish Kingdom exhausted, and the Turkish Empire disorganised, are now the European parallels of Imperial France. It may be that some historian of a future day, when recalling the glories of the modern Augustus, will point to the architectural trophies of the capital; but other historians will record that from the first to the sixth year of Louis Napoleon's reign it was that France, instead of advancing, began to recede, and that, instead of multiplying and abounding, her population diminished and decayed, exhibiting to the New World the phenomenon of arrested development in the Old.

THE SIGN TO PARLIAMENT.

When the Premier's policy is understood, it will become evident to the public that the leading necessity of our times is—the Union of Reformers. The Cabinet has discussed the points of a possible Bill, and, it is understood, intends to set them aside in favour of what are called direct measures of administrative and social improvement. Lord Palmerston is not for reform with the capital R; he is rather for Cajolery, and means with that instrument to work as effectually as he can upon the susceptibilities of the House of Commons. He is not pledged; he has never made large promises; the new Parliament, he thinks, is his own; then why should he propose organic changes? He is quite capable of turning Reformer, being a plastic material; but those politicians who entertain a belief that the representation of the people is imperfect, and ought to be improved, will do well to cast aside the hope that Lord Palmerston will volunteer in their service. His supporters inquire how the Government is to be carried on without him? We are not in a position of national difficulty; we have no war upon our hands: then what is it that Lord Palmerston is supposed to represent? The principle of strong government, perhaps. That is the question, however. A large majority will go into the new Parliament, compromised in favour of an extended franchise. The problem to be solved is, whether that majority shall be corrupted into the personal following of a minister without a policy, or whether it shall do the work proposed to it by the constituents of the Legislature. While Lord John Russell occupies a seat in the House, the Reform cause has a sound and solid basis; it remains for the real Liberals of all shades to decide between his professions and the "admitted claims" of the member for Tiverton. It is certain that, up to the present moment, the Cabinet has not decided to propose any genuine measure of Reform: it is probable, that should any such proposal emanate from the Government, there will lurk behind it a latent scheme of stultification. The Liberal party is forewarned. It has been kept in suspense by floating rumours of official deliberations which are known to have taken place; but before the meeting of Parliament it will have no doubt discovered the full extent of the conspiracy to flatter it with illusions, to break the force of public opinion, and to suppress agitation by trickery.

Failing Palmerston, Reform has its resource in Russell, and Russell has an ally in Graham. But, without Graham or Russell, the cause of the most powerful party in the nation ought not to suffer from a mere shuffle of the cards. What if the Premier should have appealed to the country with a deliberate resolve to disregard the evidences of popular opinion, and to treat the public will with contempt?

HOW WE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE SPENT THE DAY OF CHRISTIAN MOURNING.

Never has a holiday been more successful than that which was planned for the London folks on Good Friday. The railway companies had arranged to begin the Easter holidays with cheap trains in almost every direction. You had cheap trains to Tilbury, Southend, and Gravesend; cheap trains for all the popular watering places from Dover to Hastings; cheap trains for Aldershott, for Redhill, for Greenwich; cheap trains to Birmingham and beyond it, to Windsor, Dorking; cheap trains for Boulogne; in short, for any place that holiday-makers could desire, not forgetting of course the Crystal Palace. The most was to be made of the holiday. Excursion tickets, in some cases, began on the Thursday night, and carried you over the Easter Sunday, so that the junketing and jollification began on the Friday, were kept up on the Saturday, grew fast and furious on Easter Sunday, still faster and more furious on Easter Monday, and cooled by degrees on Easter Tuesday. The Crystal Palace on the Friday was a glorious scene. The London-bridge terminus was thronged by a crowd as dense as that entering the Opera, only far more extensive and bulky. Every approach to Sydenham or Anerley was thronged; the hotels, public-houses, and tea-gardens could scarcely find the machinery to supply their customers. The Palace itself has seldom been so crowded, for the Good Friday is becoming an established institution at the Crystal Palace. Last year, there were little more than 17,000 persons in it; this year there were 27,400. The reporter of the fashionable *Morning Post* observed loaded reticules, bulging pockets, and other evidences that the multitude under the glass were, for the most part, frugally inclined—belonging to the "plodding and honest middle-class tradesmen and well-to-do mechanics." John Gilpin was abroad with his most respectable wife and children; and Sally was taken from our alley, although it was not the day that comes between the Saturday and Monday. But parsimony was not the spirit of that day in the Crystal Palace. Nothing so stinted or so carking would have suited the occasion. Those, indeed, who could not be open-handed were still on pleasure bent; and the little baskets, the shiny reticules, the pocket pistol, afforded the means of personal enjoyment. But the coffee-room was thronged by those partaking the cup which cheers but not inebriates. After five o'clock, "beer was to be obtained, and was evidently in considerable demand; wines were also seen gracing the more aristocratic tables." We are still quoting the fashionable intelligence. All was "decorum," but all, also, was enjoyment. Nor was the company limited to John Gilpins and the sweethearts of Sally; for amongst the 27,000 were 1700 season tickets; so that there was at least a large sprinkling of polite persons; and no doubt there are gentlefolks in the Crystal Palace at times who do not hold season tickets. Amongst other enjoyments, music was provided, by two bands, in the concert-room and in the gardens; the music comprising, amongst other things, military hymns, Costa's "Eli," Mendelssohn's dramatic "St. Paul," and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and "Moses in Egypt." There was every kind of enjoyment enjoyed by every class. Taking numbers, the different orders represented, and the character of the amusement, it might be said that there was a national holiday in the Crystal Palace. But while the Crystal Palace was thus filled, all London was out of town; and the million was disporting itself up and down railways, on the beach, in the tea-gardens, in the hotels—everywhere. The spectacle was one to do one's heart good, from the unrestraint, the geniality, and the universality of the enjoyment.

But *on what day* did all this happen? Surely it was an anniversary of the Christian Church; and the anniversary of what?

There may be, and there is, to the devoutest of Christians, strong moral consolation for the memories which the anniversary recals; but the most cheering aspect of the occasion can scarcely be connected, in a really Christian mind, with junketing, seaside excursions, or concerts. We are not speaking simply of an historical anniversary celebrated by a people; we are speaking of a day set apart by the Christian Church to commemorate a particular event—an event which must necessarily impress all believing Christians more with the memory of the Sacrifice than with rejoicing for the blessings which were obtained by the Sacrifice.

We use the word "believing Christians" in imitation of those who talk "seriously" on

such subjects; though what it can be intended to define we can scarcely understand, for we can scarcely bring distinctly to the mind what can be an *un*believing Christian. If there are such things, we might imagine that *to them* Good Friday would only be an occasion for closing shops, wearing one's best clothes, and going "somewhere;" to any resort where the Public-house Act would permit. Outward conformity to all which is absolutely required, and inward disregard of such commemoration, would be exactly the kind of conduct that we might expect from an unbelieving Christian.

It is strange that the manners and customs of the English, as exemplified on that particular day, should so exactly agree with what we imagined as the manners and customs of that unaccountable creature which we have called the Unbelieving Christian, and whose existence is involved in the expression "Believing Christian." How this comes about we do not know, though of course there *are* reasons for it. It is not for us to conjecture why it is that there can be "Christians" in this country whose feelings run in the track of excursion trains on the most mournful anniversary of their Church. Possibly some in the crowd at Sydenham on Friday last may have been to divine service before attending profane service in the Crystal Palace; they may have gone through the proper suit and service so as to quit themselves of their duty for the day; but we are not now speaking of forms and ceremonies, which are quite consistent with the idea of an unbelieving Christian; we are speaking of conviction, and still more of feeling.

Perhaps some of our clergymen could throw light on this subject. Many of them have confessed the difficulties with which they have to contend, in the apathy of the people generally. Our churches are only designed to hold about one-fifth of the people of the country, the Crystal Palaces that are built are intended for much larger multitudes. It is true that the Crystal Palaces hitherto constructed could not hold all the people of this country at any one given hour; they are not made for those who cannot pay to support Crystal Palaces as a weekly institution; nor is it necessary that they should be. But if we understand the doctrine of our clergy, it is necessary that all the adult population of this country should be present in some of our churches or chapels nearly about the same time every Sunday. If some are too poor to pay for their admission, that, we conceive, does not affect the question. Those who possess the means should give to the Lord a tithe of their possessions, which would at once settle the question of free admission for the whole of the poorer classes; and if the wealthy really *were* "believing Christians," we can hardly imagine that that mechanical difficulty would not be settled. The railway companies find no difficulty in providing excursion trains, the directors of the Crystal Palace can provide concerts; so that the English people evidently believe in junketing and concerts.

If it were possible, it would be very useful for purposes of moral politics to obtain the statistics of the state of belief in this country; distinguishing the Believing Christians from the Unbelieving Christians. A further question would arise—How it happens that the Unbelieving Christians consent to keep up the appearances which are involved in that self-contradicting designation? Are they too degraded, either by want of education or by the mercenary habits of this country, for the genuine faith and sublime morals which were inculcated by the Founder of Christianity? At all events there seems to be ample room for the missionary; the difficulty is to find a missionary of sufficient influence to obtain the means for his mission from the Believing Christians, and the means of success with the Unbelieving Christians.

DR. LETHEBY AND THE CITY LETHE.

A SUDDEN alarm was created last week by a Report from Dr. HENRY LETHEBY, the Medical Officer of Health to the City of London, on the state of the City district generally, but more especially of the Eastern Union. His Report exposes a very horrible state of things. The total mortality of the City is at the annual rate 26·2 per thousand of the inhabitants, the usual yearly average being 25·9; but the mortality has been very unequally distributed. In the City proper it has been 20·7—a low rate, in part to be accounted for by the rather high average of the inhabitants in the scale of society, and by the residence of a very considerable proportion out of the bounds. But the rate in the West London Union was 29, and in the East London Union 31·4. The chief causes of death arose from the disease of the respiratory system. But there were 58 deaths from violence and starvation—more than one a week in a section of the British capital! The ulterior causes of this mortality are soon ascertained. In the 1989 inhabited rooms circumstantially inspected during the quarter there were 5791 inmates, belonging to 1576 families. But the crowding of rooms was not confined to the same family; strangers were lodged together, even bedded together—men and women, adults and children; the incidents of life, from birth to death, going on in the same room, in an atmosphere loaded with moral and physical filth; the beggar, the prostitute, the woman in labour, the infant, the corpse, all literally "pigging together." Such abodes perpetuate fever and its allied disorders; but they perpetuate something worse. "There stalks side by side with this pestilence a yet deadlier presence, blighting the moral existence of a rising population, rendering their hearts hopeless, their acts ruffianly and incestuous, and scattering, while society averts her eye, the retributive seeds for increase of crime, turbulence, and pauperism."

This disclosure has astonished the world as if it came out for the first time. Dr. LETHEBY, however, remarks, "This was the language of Mr. SIMON years ago;" it has been the language of Dr. SUTHERLAND, Dr. SOUTHWOOD SMITH, Dr. LYNCH, and many others; it was used four or five years ago by Mr. SIMON, ten years ago by SUTHERLAND, twenty years ago by SOUTHWOOD SMITH. Lord CARLISLE can vouch for the strict accuracy of these expressions. The existence of these depôts of fever, moral and material, has been officially stated to the public any time within these last twenty years; the depôts themselves having existed for a century or more, in fact ever since our towns became so closely packed. The depôts are found not only in London, they are in all great towns. In Dublin, the ruins of the old manufacturing district will exhibit something of the same kind. In Edinburgh, the "closes" of the old town, although perhaps not inhabited by so very low a population, are without drainage, without inspection that penetrates the street-door, and are a patented apparatus for cooking condensed essence of fever. The wynds of Glasgow are as famous as its commercial port; and we can only say that an English beggar is a cleanly, distinguished, and ventilated animal in comparison to a Scotch beggar. The Scotch animal can only be compared to the rag-picker of Paris. But it is not only in these particular depôts that the evil consequences are to be found; they are not traced only in the amount of mortality. We venture to say that entire districts around the City—a wide space, for example, at Clerkenwell, a very large district round St. Luke's, Somers-town, or Pimlico—present a population mingled with such as inhabit these lowest neighbourhoods; but the infection extends, debases the physical health of the whole neighbourhood, impairs the energies of all classes, and results, not only in the increased number of deaths, in frequent prevalence of fevers, but in a permanently low state of health, diminished energies for the work of life, and diminished energy even for local improvement. And all our towns have this stigma upon them.

What are the remedies? Dr. LETHEBY can think of nothing but the enforcement of the Common Lodging Houses Act, with its inspection, and its penalties to compel repairs, drainage, washing, and so forth. It is a very good instrument in its way, but there are many things which it cannot do. It cannot feed the hungry—those tens of thousands in this great city who are deprived of employment by the changes and caprices of commerce. It cannot educate the ignorant, who submit to contagions that they might conquer had they but the elements of knowledge. It cannot redistribute the population, forced into these special quarters by "improvements" that raise rents elsewhere, and drive about the working class as if it were no better than vermin—than rats who are not consulted, but rather the reverse, when houses are rebuilt and neighbourhoods remodelled. The selfishness of modern times has been pampered by prosperity. The well-to-do classes, when they speak of politics or of social improvement, think of themselves; they improve for themselves; they regulate for themselves; and they leave those classes who are most helpless not only to themselves, but to themselves in places cribbed, cabined, and confined, by the encroachments. The working classes are not only abandoned without aid, but they are injured by the improvements of their fellow-creatures. There are grand exceptions. Here and there an earnest priest or layman comes forth to hold out the hand of help for his fellow-men however debased, charity will extend its pittance, and an association will pick up some few to elevate them by teaching. But while the whole of society is putting down tribes, charity is but rescuing individuals, and an association here and there is only redeeming the wholesale work of injury inflicted by the system.

But again we say, what we have so often said before, that social reform, which it is at present the fashion to talk of, has never yet appeared save as the handmaid of political reform. In a despotical country the aristocratic classes, the knights of Rome, the purple emperors rising to couches of luxury, render the attendant classes first the slaves and then the victims of the system of favouritism thus established. The increase of luxury for particular classes has been the sign of that crowning prosperity which precedes the downfal of nations. It is when other classes have obtained political power that they assert their right to the share of the good things of this life, and the prosperity is better distributed. We may have a talk about practical reforms, but the million will not get its due share until by using its own political power it can make its voice heard and felt in the making of laws and in the administration.

POLITICAL POINTS—THE BALLOT.

THE necessity of the Ballot is the practical moral of the General Election. That neces-

sity will not be diminished, but enhanced, by any extension of the franchise. We must have secret voting for the sake of purity, of independence, of conservatism. Nearly all the old objections have been exploded—the un-English character, the impracticability, the imperfection of the Ballot-box. It is now admitted that voting by Ballot is decidedly an English fashion — the practice of our corporations, clubs, vestries, and parochial constituencies; the imputation of impracticability has been set aside by sheer force of concurrent observation and testimony; as to the imperfection of the contrivance for ensuring secrecy, the argument is now reversed. Lord John Russell declares that it is only too perfect; it arms the elector with an irresponsible power, unjust in its operation to the non-elector. It seems a truism to say that if the non-elector be qualified to superintend the vote of the elector, he is qualified to vote himself; but the debate has been reduced to truisms. The Ballot is an article in the faith of all real Reformers. It is a very small theory of a very small section indeed that represents it as having obtained neither a wider nor a more energetic support than formerly. On the contrary, it has struck many new roots among the constituencies, and we anticipate a renewal of those debates which, when Mr. Grote was a politician, intimidated the elder brethren of both Houses. Lord Althorp, in 1832, declared that the Chandos Clause would operate as a powerful argument in favour of the Reform Bill; his descendant marks as a fact that which, twenty-five years ago, was a prediction. Lord Grey joined in the prophecy; but we have no Lord Grey now—only a sour calumny on the name. Well, were it possible so to analyse the late elections as to distinguish the votes of tenants-at-will from those of freeholders and leaseholders, what would be the deduction? That the electors exercised their franchise in harmony with the spirit of the non-electors, or that they smiled sorrowfully at the non-electors, and regretted their incapacity to help them? The Ballot would enable the enfranchised and the unenfranchised classes to work together; open voting divides them; the voter is responsible, not to the non-voter, but to the landlord. This is the distemper, the defect, the disgrace of our representative system. But the Ballot will not mend it, do they say? It is complete as an instrument of fraud, incomplete as a guarantee of honourable secrecy. Diverging lines never meet, so that there is no danger of a coalition between these ingenious reasonings. Under Hobhouse's Act the Ballot is allowed in parochial elections. What took place in 1843, in the parish of St. James? The electors gave their open, Parliamentary, purchased, or intimidated votes to the Tory candidates; their secret parochial votes to the Liberals; and immediately petitioned for the protection of the Ballot in all elections whatever.

The nomination system is increasing; the petty boroughs are falling into the hands of great proprietors; the counties are governed by the Chandos Clause; the large boroughs are not more free from questionable influences than the small; strong personal desires supersede important public interests; and what is the remedy? Among the opponents of the Ballot has any one ever suggested an alternative?

CONSPIRACY AGAINST CONSPIRATORS.

It is the French Government that provokes criticism on this side of the Channel. For our own part, we have been anxious, of late, to refrain from unpleasant comments on the Emperor's administration; not that we particularly care for Post-office seizures—illustrations of the order that reigns in France—but that it does not seem our duty to be incessantly reminding our French friends of their political degradation. "When France is satisfied, Europe is content." Within a few days, however, certain transactions have taken place which it is essential to colour faithfully as a study of the magnificent system of the Empire. Every one has heard of a great conspiracy against the Emperor's life, of arrests in Paris, of an attempt to procure the extradition of certain refugees domiciled in Great Britain.

The conspirator is Louis Napoleon himself. His police have seduced an adroit and eloquent Republican artisan, well known in the faubourgs of Paris, and have suborned him as a decoy to tempt the refugees in London into a plot against the Emperor's person. We know this man, and if challenged, we will publish his name. He came to London a short time ago, and called upon some of the principal exiles. At first he pretended to deplore the apathy of France, and affected moderation, in order to elicit some avowal that might compromise his former Chiefs. This strategy failing, he declared that Pianori's was the only practicable method, that the deed must be despatched quickly, that an organisation must be established to render success certain. All his efforts failed. His pistol, dagger, and poison proposals were distinctly and peremptorily rejected. The exiles have learned caution, at least. The envoy of the Rue de Jérusalem, therefore, returned to Paris, where his defeat procured him a cool reception. He made a second attempt; but, upon renewing his visits to the refugees in London, was unmasked in the presence of several, stigmatized as a spy, and sent to report a still more ignominious discomfiture to the agents of his magnanimous master, the Emperor Napoleon the Third.

In Paris, however, this wretch was more successful than in London. Trading upon the confidence of his former associates, he ensnared a number of them into a conspiracy, possessed himself of the necessary evidence, and enabled the police to justify, in the sight of the law, a swoop of preventive arrests. We are correct, we believe, in stating the whole number at not less than four hundred. Now, these seizures are not made among incendiaries; the Imperial Government has little to fear from revolutionary mountebanks; it leaves them to discredit the Liberal cause by folly and extravagance.

The plan of the French police is, to arrest every man who may be expected to exert a moral influence at the approaching elections—and, in Paris as everywhere else, it is moderation that is feared by authority.

OUR PRINCESSES.

We have never shared in the popular antipathy to the marriage of our Princess Royal with the young Prince of Prussia. The law compels her, under existing circumstances, to accept a foreign husband; and it is far better that she should become the wife of a Prince destined probably to ascend a first-class Protestant throne, than that she should wear the tinsel coronet of Schwerin, Hechlingen, or Nassau. Half the petty courts of Germany are tattered and miserable burlesques of sovereign grandeur. But if the Princess Royal is married to a Prussian Prince, with magnificent expectations, is that a reason why the House of Commons should vote her a stupendous dowry, in the shape of a permanent charge upon the public revenue? We hope we are right in treating the 70,000*l.* scheme as a fable; it might occur, even to very small economists, that, whereas the Queen's privy purse is only 60,000*l.* a year, it would be a monstrous anomaly to bestow a more gigantic grant of pin-money upon the Princess Royal. Indeed, it will become a very serious question how far the nation is to be applied to for pensions for the younger branches of the Royal Family. We must hear not a word about economy, however, from those who persist in upholding the principles of the Royal Marriage Act. *That* is the law which converts our princesses into our dependents.

HISTORY IN 1887.*

Some New Zealander has invented a chronicle of thirty years unacted history in England. We always cast an eye of suspicion upon statesmen in corners who build up ideal systems; they usually exhaust themselves in ideals of parallelogramic communities; but here is a practical man, with thirty years to do his work in, and England, the Colonies, France, Russia, and China, to dispose of as he pleases. At the end of that time, in 1887, where are we? We are so far improved in humanity, that, upon another Palmer disgracing another Rugeley, we put him to bed, and administer small doses of strychnine until he dies in epileptic convulsions with tetanic complications. They who kill with antimony, with antimony are killed. We keep at the Home Office a complete apparatus of murderous retaliation—especially in the poisoning department. Our lesser criminals we herd in desolate islets, or work in chains; some we condemn to descend into a coal-pit, never again to emerge. We next—somewhere about the year 1870—touched up our representative system, and then asked, what is to be done with our Princes? One we made King of Australia, another King of Canada, deporting two batches of our aristocracy to enrich the blood of our dependencies. Large portions of the North American Republic thereupon attached themselves to Canada; the Blacks rose and slaughtered the slave-holders. The Chinese knocked their dynasty on the head, the British annihilated the Russians in the Baltic, the Hungarians welcomed back Kossuth, and expelled the Austrians; but, most wonderful of all, Louis Napoleon died, the Empress became regent, and the "child of France" was taught to anticipate a matrimonial alliance with one of Queen Victoria's daughters. And this is all that a prophet can prophesy to happen within thirty years!

The Home-in-the-East Reformatory.—The annual meeting of the friends of this institution was held on Tuesday at the Home, Old Ford, Bow, when, in the absence of the President (the Earl of Shaftesbury, who forwarded 10*l.* towards the emigration of the most deserving inmates), the Rev. G. T. Driffield, the Rector of Bow, presided. Previous to the meeting, a numerous party of ladies and gentlemen, including a large number of the clergy, assembled at the Home, and went through the different departments, expressing their approval of the entire arrangements, and their admiration of the cleanliness and orderly behaviour of the boys. The report stated that during the fifteen months sixty-five boys had left the Home, of whom ten had absconded before the probation and nine after, twelve had left voluntarily, three been dismissed, one put in prison, and two in the workhouse. Thirty-seven boys had thus left the Home under circumstances which were not encouraging, but over which the committee had no control. Besides that number, eight had been taken home and provided for by their friends; seventeen had left for situations, and seven had behaved so well that they had been sent out to Canada a few days since at the expense of the institution. The report gave several cases of boys having met with great success after leaving, and concluded with an earnest appeal to the charitable for an increased amount of support, the institution being in debt to the extent of a few hundred pounds, and the expenditure exceeding the receipts.

* *Probable History of the Next Thirty Years.* Low & Co.

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.*

WE said last week that the Reviews this quarter were better than usual, and this week the new number of the *Edinburgh* comes in to confirm the statement. Those who are in the habit of watching the progress of periodical literature must have noticed with pleasure that this patriarch of the Quarterlies is of late, after a somewhat wintry season, renewing its vigorous youth. For a time, certainly, it seemed to have passed into the hopeless barrenness of age, the once vivid pages being wholly filled with dreary statistics and still drearier dissertations on subjects of at best but little interest, and often of no interest at all. Like the melancholy peculiar to tailors, which, according to CHARLES LAMB, may be traced to the sameness and singularity of their diet (they are well known to be, as a body, vegetarians, living almost exclusively on cabbage), this melancholy condition was too evidently produced by want of nourishment rather than weakness of constitution. The Review, living wholly on Blue-books, by a natural process gradually became subdued to the colour of what it fed on. No doubt Blue-books are very good, but as they supply only one of the constituents of intellectual strength, their too exclusive use tends to impoverish the blood and dry up the vital juices, until a more liberal regimen becomes indispensable to mental health. The salutary effects of such a change are seen in the recent numbers of the *Edinburgh*. With a more generous and stimulating diet, it has regained much of its old vigour, variety, and incisiveness of intellectual action. This is seen not only in the subjects chosen, but in the spirit with which they are treated. The choice of subject, however, is by no means an unimportant point as an index to the power and vitality of a Review. The last number of the *Quarterly*, for example, contained three articles on "Salmon," "Ferns," and "Rats," respectively. As natural history is fashionable—minute botany and marine zoology being quite the rage just now—there is no doubt a certain wisdom in this. But it was felt that, for such a journal to give three out of eight articles to the minutiæ of a single subject, was, to say the least, an uncalled for abnegation of its higher functions; and though the papers, being well written, were decidedly interesting, the number was fairly open to the charge of devoting too many great articles to small subjects.

No such complaint can with justice be made against the current number of the *Edinburgh*, two of its best articles being dedicated to recognised celebrities, "Alexander the Great," and "The Atlantic Ocean." The first is a defence of ALEXANDER's character and conduct against the wilful misrepresentations of NIEBUHR, and the more temperate and judicial depreciation of Mr. GROTE. The article, though not brilliant, is interesting throughout from the scholarly research it displays, the care with which it is written, and the broad and liberal spirit it breathes. We may add that the writer, as it seems to us, does his hero no more than simple justice. ALEXANDER THE GREAT will always be judged very differently by two parties more or less opposed to each other—those who look on him as the destroyer of the old, the semi-barbaric warrior who helped to extinguish Athenian independence; and those who regard him as the founder of the new, the great general who helped, by his genius and conquest, to diffuse Hellenic civilization—the precious vase of Attic culture being broken only that its fragrance might fill all lands. In this view he simply—though in a sense not intended by the poet—"gave up to the East what was meant for mankind," thus commencing the spread of that culture which, since his day, and in great part through his instrumentality, has extended to every quarter of the globe. The writer thus sums up his discussion of the subject:—

If he overthrew the liberties of Hellas, in their native seat, he gave to the Hellenic mind a wider scope, and eventually a yet nobler mission. He was the precursor of Heraclius restoring the True Cross from its Persian bondage, of Leo beating back the triumphant Saracen from the walls of the city which Philip himself had besieged in vain. The victories of Christian Emperors, the teaching of Christian Fathers, the abiding life of the tongue and arts of Greece far beyond the limits of old Hellas, perhaps the retention of Greek nationality down to our own times, all sprang from the triumphs of this perhaps "non-Hellenic conqueror," but, in his ultimate results, most truly Hellenic missionary. And though we may not personally attribute to him the praise of results which neither he nor any mortal could have contemplated, let us at least do justice to the great and noble qualities, the extended and enlightened aims, which marked his brief career on earth. Many faults, and a few crimes, indeed stain his glory; but perhaps none of mortal race ever went through such an ordeal. It would indeed have been a moral miracle if a fiery and impulsive youth had passed quite unscathed through such temptations as had never beset humanity before. A youth, a Greek, a warrior, a king, he would have been more than man had he looked down quite undazzled from the giddy eminence of what he might well deem superhuman greatness. The fame of even the noblest of conquerors must yield to that of the peaceful benefactors of their species, or of the warriors whose victories do but secure the liberties of nations. We do not place Alexander beside Leonidas or Washington, beside Alfred or William the Silent. But we do protest against a view which places him in the same class with Attila and Jenghiz and Timour. Their warfare was devastation for its own sake; his was conquest which went hand in hand with discovery and improvement. Theirs was a wild beast's thirst of blood, a barbarian's lust of mere dominion; his was "an ambition which almost grew into one with the highest of which man is capable, the desire of knowledge and the love of good." Such is the judgment of one who yields to none in the extent of his research, and who, if he may yield to some of his competitors in the brilliancy of original discovery, yet surpasses them in those calm and judicial faculties, without which research and brilliancy are vain. By the judgment of that great historian we still abide.

The article on "The Atlantic Ocean" discusses in clear and vigorous style the Gulf-stream, the Arctic currents, the forces which determine their course, and the laws which such chartered libertines as winds and waves are now known to obey. It also furnishes an account of the Atlantic telegraph, the rival lines of mail steamers—the CUNARD and COLLINS—giving, of course, the palm for speed and safety to the former. The writer, in the following passage, accepts Lieutenant MAURY's suggestion for lessening the risk of collision, which experience proves to be considerable:—

It is not, however, a rivalry without risk. In seeking for the maximum of speed, safety is jeopardized in all these great lines of mail steamers. Winter storms, icebergs, fogs, tropical hurricanes, and collisions with other vessels, are all encountered at high rates of velocity. Experience and discipline have done much to protect against these dangers, but serious hazards still exist; and especially those of collision, which are constantly augmenting in an ocean every year more crowded with ships, seeking to find the shortest passage across it. In these days, however, of bold design and prompt execution, there are few ills which do not bring with them the suggestion of remedy. Lieut. Maury, and others in sequel to him, have urged the adoption of "*steam lanes*" across the Atlantic; that is, definite lines of navigation of a certain width, and distinct from others throughout; so appropriated severally to vessels going east or west, that the chances of collision may be greatly lessened, if not actually removed. The width of the zone of ocean now traversed by the mail steamers is about 250 miles. It is proposed to mark off *lanes*, 20 or 25 miles in width, on the northern and southern borders of this zone, as the routes respectively to be followed and adhered to, by all steam-vessels crossing in one direction or the other. The scheme, or some one equivalent to it, we doubt not to be practicable; and such is its obvious utility, that we as little doubt its being eventually carried into effect. The phrase of a *Steam lane* may somewhat startle those who are wont to associate with this word the cross roads of a midland rural district—the high hedges, deep ditches, and straggling cart ruts; the bushes of blackberry, hazel-nut, and hawthorn, and the hundred sweet flowers and weeds which luxuriate on the hedge banks. We cannot quarrel, however, with this new use of the term, if the object be fulfilled to which it is applied;—if *long lanes* of ocean, "which have no turning," be really laid out for the safer navigation of the seas. The very simplicity and familiarity of the name is a tribute to that prowess of man, which has taught him thus to mark out and pursue a fixed path through the wide wilderness of waters.

The paper on "The Last Census of France," in a careful and dispassionate review of facts and figures, with the causes and consequences they suggest, gives a picture of the results of Imperialism gloomy enough, and even menacing. We can only, in passing, recommend it to the serious study of all who wish to know the actual state of the French people, whose interests in many respects are so identified with our own. We have, however, dealt with the subject in another department of this journal, and we shall not allow it to escape the close attention of our readers.

The article on "The Dilettanti Society" affords an illustration of the improved spirit we have referred to as characterizing the *Edinburgh* of late, the disposition to recognise and appreciate the influences which, in the evolutions of modern life, are unconsciously changing the form and character of society. We ought to say, parenthetically, that the history of the Society given in the body of the paper certainly takes away from its labours the character of polished trifling, and elegant but utter uselessness, which somehow or other we had supposed naturally belonged to them. On the contrary, the Society has evidently done much for art, as well as for historic science and archæology. Towards the close, the writer of the article considers the influence of classical culture now in comparison with its position and power half a century ago—in what spirit will be seen from the following extracts:—

It requires no deep philosophy to understand that the moral and intellectual characteristics of any period can hardly be discerned by those who are close upon them: each man reflects them in his own nature, and believes the coloured or distorted object to be the reality. With this reserve, we express our belief that our lot is cast in that moment of this world's life in which the great instrument of civilization, the Classical Culture, is ceasing to occupy the minds and regulate the intellectual motions of mankind. There are many who would find in this persuasion no cause for regret, and these not among the ignorant nor the vulgar. If the tradition was a guide, it was also a check; if it drew up the ordinary intelligence, by certain fine and analogous processes, to a certain level of noble thoughts and graceful expressions, it cramped within the same framework many luxuriant growths of fancy, and many genuine diversions of genius. As long, indeed, as the Latin language was the vernacular of the education of Europe, by that very fact it acquired a certain liberty of development; and while it might lose something in its philological structure, it gained in its adaptation to the various requirements of the advancing world. But when the modern languages gained their perfect stature, and claimed to be written and spoken by all men as the organs of their separate nations, and the classic tongue declined to the use of mere scholars, and soon ceased to be the medium of general communication even there, no variation of its authentic shape was longer possible, and it only retained the powerless faculty of a dead form of speech. Mr. Conington, in the interesting lecture to which we have before alluded, regards this circumstance as an advantage for the study of the language; but we so little agree with him, that we look on the fact of the appointment of a Professor of Latin in the University of Oxford as in itself a strong proof of the diminution of the classical spirit. This very eulogy of the Latin language reads like a funeral oration over that condition of study, when the colloquialisms of life, the banter of youth, the academic sports (of which the "Westminster Play" is allowed to linger as a belated representative), the principles of philosophy, and the verities of religion, spoke the great common diction. It seems to us like establishing an annual lecture upon the principles of Liberty in the place of the working of the British Constitution. . . . . .

But it is still a stronger index of the intellectual tendencies of our time that even those who succeed in attaining the highest classical honours at our universities dismiss the subject from their minds when they mix in political and common life. It is not only that the young politician's "first speech," with its apposite quotations and its scholarly tone, is a custom of the past; not only that such a publication as established the reputation of Payne Knight, and made him a man of fashion, would now exclude him from respectable houses, and seriously damage his prospects in life; but that in the writings and the speeches of these very men, in their occupations, and in their amusements, you are not conscious of the presence of the old spirit, you do not taste the flavour of the ancient grace, and you think that they might just as well have been devoting their youth to Sanscrit as to Greek, to German as to Latin. . . .

The foundations of this change in the thoughts and expressions not only of this country but of the civilised world must lie deep. Not to go farther back, the great French Revolution ("the Dowager," the French now call her) accelerated, while it pretended to arrest, the fall of the traditional literary authorities. Our friend

Gracchus, with his Titus hair, and the Goddess of Reason draped as Lucretia, were the real romantic iconoclasts of the classic faith, whatever they thought themselves to be. The most abundant periwig at the court of Louis XIV., or the bitterest satire against the "Précieuses" of Paris, were in nearer relation to the thoughts and manners of the ancients than all the travesties of classic liberty. And now henceforward the actual modern life must stand alone on its own truths, and with its own forms of utterance, and what was before a loyal love of the lessons of the early masters and teachers of the intellectual world, will seem to many a servile and unworthy dependence. The new ideas of the dignity of labour, of the worth of men as men, of the dangers of privilege, of society without subject classes, are wholly alien to the associations of the old history of Southern Europe. The Roman Church, indeed, as we have already hinted, almost reciprocated the liberality of the Roman emperor who offered a place in the Pantheon to the Founder of Christianity, by the permission it gave to the moral dominion of the classic writers over the spirits of youth, and by its perpetuation, in its most solemn functions, of the ancient language. . . . .

Our enlarged politics, our improved morals, our deeper religious convictions, are a weighty compensation for these losses, and yet we linger over the old weak and faulty world with a natural tenderness. It may be quite unimportant to humanity that the Laocoon should be pronounced in four syllables; and yet when we first heard a well-educated American pronounce it like "racoon," it made us shudder. We shall get used to it.

The number closes with two political articles on "China" and "The New Parliament," written with vigour and ability, but with a suspicious tendency to underrate the importance of Reform.

The *National Review* keeps up its reputation for good writing and acute criticism, the first article, on "Aurora Leigh," being at once more discriminating and just in its estimate of Mrs. Barrett Browning's poetic genius than any we remember to have seen. At the outset the writer points out, we will not say Mrs. Browning's weakness, but certainly a limitation of her power, in the want of dramatic faculty which she evinces. The effect of keeping the mind up to the lyrical pitch through a long poem like *Aurora Leigh*, would naturally produce the artificial excitement he refers to in the following passage:—

Verse is two very different things; it may be used either as the expression of poetic thought, or as a mere external grace, to give a charm to narratives or descriptions, or pieces of humour, to which it is not in any sense necessary. Parts of Pope, of Crabbe, and of Prior, afford ready illustrations of this use of it. But when we speak of poetry, we mean, in general, verse used as the embodiment of poetic conception, to which it clings as the body of a man does to his spirit. It is possible to take this sort of expression, which true poetic conception demands, and use it for subject-matter which does not in itself require it; and, instead of letting the thought kindle the imagination for its own particular occasion, to maintain an artificial heat for general purposes. This is what is done throughout a great part of Mrs. Barrett Browning's poem. A greater master teaches another lesson. When his matter descends, Shakspeare's forms descend with it; and wherever the nature of his subject-matter demands it, he intersperses prose-scenes, or even prose speeches, in his dramas; and more remarkable than these changes are the subtle variations in the rhythm, and in the warmth of the imaginative colouring, answering everywhere in the nicest correspondence to the level of the subject-matter. But Mrs. Browning maintains her high unstooping flight over all the varied surface of her story. She dresses her poetry as the ancient actors did their persons; and, like them, she loses in truthfulness and nicety of expression what she gains in external display; and it repels the modern reader to find, instead of changing feature and modulated voice, the rigid tragic mask and sounding mouthpiece of the Greek theatre. This undue poetic excitement shows itself in the imaginative diction alone, and is not accompanied by any corresponding elevation in the structure of the metre, or the flow of the rhythm; in these the approach to prose is made as close as possible, bearing some such analogy to ordinary poetry as recitative does to singing; for while the lines are rhythmical, the periods are almost all prosaic. The result we cannot help thinking a very unsatisfactory one; and when, in this semi-verse, semi-prose, the matter of the author comes couched in the most daring and far-fetched metaphor, it makes the reading inconceivably difficult and wearisome. Where the matter is such as to be in keeping with this high poetic utterance, as in the last pages of the book, there is enough to kindle the answering fire in the reader's brain; and the bold and passionate snatchings of the imagination at depths of meaning, which no other language but its own can compel to the surface, are intuitively followed and comprehended. It is otherwise when ordinary conversation, discussion, narrative, reasoning, or self-communing, are expressed in the poetic forms which poetic matter alone justifies; clothed upon with purple diction, and made to glitter with blazing jewellery of metaphor; distracting the reader from the matter before him, annoying him with their inappropriateness, and often puzzling him to seize their meaning.

The paper on "The Clubs of London" is full of pleasant gossip, as well as curious and valuable information on a subject which, considering its attractive nature, has been, as the writer remarks, singularly neglected. Only one book on the subject appears to exist, and this, justly described as a "trashy compilation," was published thirty years ago. The writer of the article, however, is wrong in supposing the author of this work to have been an Irish bookseller's hack; he was, we believe, a quondam member of the sublime Society of Beefsteaks, whose inner life he endeavours to expose. We must resist the temptation to quote passages illustrating the old club life of London, as well as all attempt at characterizing three other articles of interest, on "The Phases of Force," "The Mutual Relations of History and Religion," and "The Memoirs of St. Simon." The only defect which strikes us in this number, which belongs, however, to the Review generally, is a certain want of breadth and power in dealing with social and political questions. There are two articles on these subjects in the number—on "Secondary Punishments," and "The Foreign Policy of the Ministry,"—written conscientiously and with care, but they still want the large insight, firm grasp, and familiar yet decisive handling manifested in the other departments of the Review.

The *London Quarterly* contains, as usual, a number of good articles, but we can only pause to notice one of more than average merit, on "The Writings of Charles Kingsley." The writer passes in review all his publications—Sermons, Poems, Novels, and Lectures—for the purpose of extracting the essence of his moral teaching. This is done with skill and fairness, the passages selected being, we believe, just those which Mr. Kingsley would accept as containing what is most essential in the doctrine he labours to enforce. This doctrine the writer criticises, of course, from the orthodox point of view, but with calmness, knowledge, and insight; pointing out very clearly the close connexion that exists between Mr. Kingsley's doctrine and that of the neo-Platonic mystics whom he denounces, as well as that of the mediæval mystics whom he is disposed to accept, and showing how such a doctrine naturally emerges in spiritualistic pantheism.

We have left ourselves no space to do justice to the last number of the *Journal of Psycological Medicine;* and can only hastily note as of special interest the third paper (continued from the previous series) on "The Physiological and Psycological Phenomena of Dreams," and a most valuable and elaborate analysis of M. Morel's "Traité des Dégénérescenses Physiques, Intellectuelles, et Morales de l'Espèce Humaine."

One of the politer forms of social excommunication is the habit, not peculiar to factitious aristocracies, of treating men of wit or genius as the escaped subjects of a menagerie, rather than as human beings blessed, or cursed it may be, with a more sensitive fibre, finer sympathies, and more delicate susceptibilities than the average of their fellow-creatures, but nevertheless essentially human in their lives and feelings, and not entirely insensible to self-respect. In provincial society your man of genius, whose name is the pride of his country's literature, and the delight of the world, is complacently and condescendingly regarded as a species of celestial mountebank by every vulgar and respectable nobody who pays taxes, and puts his legs under a mahogany table, whose conversation is a cackle, and whose intellectual accomplishments are a congestion of feeble prejudice and sheepish conformity. If we may believe report, M. Alexandre Dumas, the Younger, has lately administered a very happy rebuke to a high Parisian lady who had invited the fashionable dramatist, by way, we suppose, of an attraction to her habitual guests. As the story goes, M. A. Dumas *fils* was requested to "tell a story," and, without shocking the courtesies of society by a positive refusal, he replied: "With pleasure, Madame, but allow me to take my turn. When M. le Capitaine d'Artillerie who came into your drawing-room just before me has fired a gun, I will tell a story." We are aware that it is the fashion just now in Paris to attribute to the discoverer of the *Demi-Monde* many an inedited *mot* in search of a father, and it is quite possible this anecdote may be a pure invention in any case, it is good enough to be true.

MRS. GASKELL'S LIFE OF CHARLOTTE BRONTË.

The Life of Charlotte Brontë. In Two Volumes. By Mrs. Gaskell.
Smith, Elder, and Co.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

There were other fiends at Haworth besides its waywardness and its barbarism: there were damp and cold. The parsonage, as many parsonages have been, was surrounded by the churchyard; the burial-ground lay high, and the water flowed into the village literally poisoned with death. Sanitary improvements were talked of long ago; but the money-loving people in the neighbourhood would do nothing that was costly. They procrastinated improvement, but continued to bury in the churchyard. Other causes, perhaps, carried off the brother, though not precisely at that time. The only son, Branwell, had much of the power which developed itself in his sisters, but a larger share, apparently, of the father's failings. His cleverness caused him to be a favourite with the 'natives;' as a boy, he could get away from home better than the girls; he became a lion at the festive gatherings even of the humblest places in the neighbourhood; and in that way, no doubt, he learned the wild courses which ended his life in 1848. Mr. Brontë, with the capricious intelligence of his country, could see many things with an eagle eye, but was blind to the danger for his family; and indeed circumstances may have been too strong for him, at least in the aggregate. He had a very limited income, and it was this which induced Charlotte and her sisters to attempt the relief of their father by going out as governesses. The experiment was made in 1839; but Charlotte's strong sense—the sense, perhaps, brought into the family from Penzance—soon made her feel, that to be a governess she must possess more positive information than she had derived from home; and by dint of persuasion, and the help of a loan from her aunt, with her sister Emily she entered the school of Madame Héger, at Brussels. We have this school in *Villette*. Charlotte was called home by the sudden death of her aunt, but she returned to the same school as teacher; and then went to Haworth again to set up a school of her own, with her sisters. The speculation failed; no pupils were obtained, and the three girls turned their thoughts to literature as a means of assisting in the household exchequer. The small volume of poems, published at their own expense, produced no golden fruit. Charlotte and Anne each wrote a novel, but then the difficulty was to find a publisher. Messrs. Smith and Elder returned Charlotte's first manuscript, in one volume, but in terms so encouraging that she replied by offering them *Jane Eyre;* it was accepted, printed, and published within two months. How it was received the public well remembers.

It is a curious trait of the independence of the girls, that although while the work was in progress Mr. Brontë was induced to suspect something by seeing his girls so constantly at the desk, he *knew* nothing until Charlotte presented him one of the six copies sent to her by her publishers. The incident reminds us of a somewhat similar one in the memoirs of Madame d'Arblay, where she speaks of presenting *Evelina* to Doctor Burney, who had a rooted objection to novels:—

She went into his study one afternoon after his early dinner, carrying with her a copy of the book, and one or two reviews, taking care to include a notice adverse to it: "Papa, I've been writing a book."

"Have you, my dear?"

"Yes, and I want you to read it."

"I'm afraid it will try my eyes too much."

"But it is not in manuscript; it is printed."

"My dear, you've never thought of the expense it will be! It will be almost sure to be a loss, for how can you get a book sold? No one knows you, or your name."

"But, papa, I don't think it will be a loss: no more will you, if you will let me read you a review or two, and tell you more about it."

So she sat down and read some of the reviews to her father, and then giving him the copy of *Jane Eyre* that she intended for him, she left him to read it. When he came into tea, he said, "Girls, do you know Charlotte has been writing a book, and it's much better than likely?"

The discovery of herself to her publisher as Currer Bell is exceedingly dramatic and interesting; but we are already outrunning our space.

Literary success did not terminate the trials of the Brontë family. Charlotte lost her sister Emily, then her last sister, Anne; we have already mentioned the brother's death. The father was accompanied by his sole remaining daughter to Manchester, and she remained with him during an operation for cataract. This time of her life seems to have been cheered only by the prosperity of the pen, and the pleasure which it enabled Charlotte to give to her aged father until the approach of the last year of her life. In May, 1854, she became the wife of the Reverend Arthur Bell Nicholls; and a very happy wife she was during a few short months; but ere the anniversary of her marriage, she had ceased to live.

There is something inexpressibly touching in the conclusion of her life, and the desolate state in which it left her husband and her father. She had been for some time in "a low, wandering delirium." Awakening from it for an instant, she saw her husband's woe-worn face, and caught the sound of some murmured words of prayer that God would spare her. "Oh!" she whispered forth, "I am not going to die, am I? He will not separate us, we have been so happy."

Early on Saturday morning, March 31st, the solemn tolling of Haworth church-bell, spoke forth the fact of her death to the villagers who had known her from a child, and whose hearts shivered within them as they thought of the two sitting desolate and alone in the old grey house. . . . .

Few beyond that circle of hills knew that she, whom the nations praised far off, lay dead that Easter morning. Of kith and kin she had more in the grave to which she was soon to be borne, than among the living. The two mourners, stunned with their great grief, desired not the sympathy of strangers. One member out of most of the families in the parish was bidden to the funeral; and it became an act of self-denial in many a poor household to give up to another the privilege of paying their last homage to her; and those who were excluded from the formal train of mourners thronged the churchyard and church, to see carried forth, and laid beside her own people, her whom, not many months ago, they had looked at as a pale, white bride, entering on a new life with trembling, happy hope.

Among those humble friends who passionately grieved over the dead, was a village girl who had been seduced some little time before, but who had found a holy sister in Charlotte. She had sheltered her with her help, her counsel, her strengthening words; had ministered to her needs in her time of trial. Bitter, bitter was the grief of this poor young woman, when she heard that her friend was sick unto death, and deep is her mourning until this day. A blind girl, living some four miles from Haworth, loved Mrs. Nicholls so dearly that, with many cries and entreaties, she implored those about her to lead her along the roads, and over the moor-paths, that she might hear the last solemn words, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Such were the mourners over Charlotte Brontë's grave.

A portrait of Charlotte Brontë is prefixed to the first volume of the biography, and Mrs. Gaskell considers it a good likeness; it is by a first-rate artist, but it is not one of his happiest efforts; it errs especially in giving an idea of length, and therefore of height. Her father thought that it looked too old, and that the features were not perfect, but that the expression was wonderfully good and like her. Mrs. Gaskell thus describes her original:—

She is (as she calls herself) *undeveloped*, thin, and more than half a head shorter than I am; soft brown hair, not very dark; eyes (very good and expressive, looking straight open at you) of the same colour as her hair; a large mouth; the forehead square, broad, and rather overhanging.

But even the graphic power of Mrs. Gaskell falls short. Charlotte Brontë said of herself that she was "so ugly that people avoided looking towards her a second time,"—the natural idea of an artist conscious of personal defect, and shy in feeling; but it is extravagantly untrue. The forms of the face were not symmetrical, but they were rough rather than unpleasing. The countenance was commanding, opening into an expression of extreme, frank, animated, and kindly interest; and the upright carriage of the head gave a certain upright character to the very expression of the countenance. Beneath this powerful head were shoulders not broad but rather squarely set, and a body almost destitute of thorax; a figure, indeed, not very unlike those which Richard Doyle once rendered so familiar in his fanciful grotesque drawings of little ladies seated on flowery arabesques, fairylike in size, with a certain animated grace.

The effect of the book is melancholy. A stern sense of duty appears to be the one whole support for a frail nature through trials more severe than flesh is ordinarily made to bear; a vehement disposition, chastised by that consciousness of duty, under the control of an admirable sense, and rendered almost calvinistic in its strictness. But this, we conceive, is only a superficial view: within that imprisonment of constraint was a really free spirit. Charlotte Brontë was, above all things, an artist. A characteristic trait of this internal fire, not recorded in Mrs. Gaskell's volumes, was once called forth accidentally at a literary party, and, slight as it is, it affords an insight into her nature. Several attempts had been made to draw out the reserved young lady, then the newest lion of society. She answered with her eyes rather than her lips, and appeared to be observing more than responding. A gentleman in the party hazarded an opinion that the class of artists is always, as he expressed it roughly, "vagabond," from the twofold circumstance, that the artist has to deal with the native passions of human nature in their full development, and that he has to observe in his feeling, and therefore in his actions, permanent laws which are seldom consistent with the transitory laws of usage and fashion; hence the tendency of the artist tribe, whether in music, painting, or poetry, to be in one sense vagrant. The eminent *littérateur* to whom the remark was addressed combated it with ability and with the authority of a most prosperous and distinguished position. Currer Bell herself put in a remark or two—warmed into the subject—with a fire that forgot restraint, took the defence of the original position out of the mouth of the unknown gentleman who had started the question, and pressed hard upon the polished *littérateur* who disclaimed the vagabondage of the artist tribe. So much for the *vis* of artist life in her. We have given her own testimony as to the enjoyment which she really received, and nothing can extinguish the force of the words which she uttered to her husband—"We have been so happy."

THE MYSTERY OF SHAKSPEARE.

The Philosophy of the Plays of Shakspere Unfolded. By Delia Bacon. With a Preface by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Groombridge and Sons.

DELIA BACON withholds, for the present, her historical key to the Elizabethan art of tradition, which was originally designed as the first division of this voluminous argument. It is complete, perfect, and irresistible; yet, as a mere evidence, it is less sublime than an exalted system of critical demonstration, such as is now set forth in two books, four parts, thirty-one chapters, and an introduction, prefaced by the magnanimous irony of Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne. Mr. Hawthorne was solicited to occupy the portal of Delia Bacon's palace of pure logic, and to encourage the advances of the timid visitor. It was an embarrassing situation. He could not profess himself a disciple, therefore he took rank as an admirer; he could not swallow the theory, so he praised the flavour. Nor could he even consent to paraphrase the new utterances of Bacon's authority; consequently, the preface is crowded with extracts from the book. The unpublished historical demonstration, which the author of *The Scarlet Letter* has been careful not to read, has been omitted, sayeth Delia, in order that nothing may interfere with the internal testimony of her hypothesis, which, without the obstruction of facts, will lure the reader into sweet faith, whereas, had Delia discharged her double-shotted evidences, the world might have been "stupified and overpowered." This arrangement, it is hoped, will satisfy all minds of the first order, feeding on the essence of reason; minds of the second order, insisting upon proofs, will have their turn; but if they are stunned by the Elizabethan key, they are not to say that Delia Bacon failed to warn them. She has discovered that Lord Bacon, conspiring with Sir Walter Raleigh, made use of William Shakspeare's name to conceal the authorship of the oracles, commonly called plays, in which those plotters against the human intellect embodied new religious and political creeds, suggestions of sedition, heresy, and dangerous thinkings. Her essay, therefore, is a turning out of the inner readings in Shakspeare's dramas, the mysterious inclusions of one idea within another, representing a philosophy of a kind that no professor could have ventured openly to teach in the days of Elizabeth and James. The Plays were Enigmas. So says Delia Bacon. "It is for the public to say whether she has proved her theory," adds Mr. Hawthorne, who then kisses hands, and bows himself out in this fashion:—

In the worst event, if she has failed, her failure will be more honourable than most people's triumphs; since it must fling upon the old tombstone, at Stratford-on-Avon, the noblest tributary wreath that has ever lain there.

Shakspeare's poetry, then, is hieroglyphic; its esoteric value is now for the first time made known; it is a beautiful form permeated with the blood of a strange and daring philosophy. But Miss Bacon's method itself is slightly obscure—especially her statement of the Proposition, from which we vaguely gather that the intellectual growth of the Elizabethan age, branching into allegory, fable, drama, Latin treatise, the Instauration, sonnet, lyric, and syllogism, is traceable to one source, to a single designing, almost omnipotent mind; but it confuses us not a little to discover that this single mind was the joint property of Bacon and Raleigh, and perhaps of other unknown partners. Revolution is shadowed forth in the whimsies of Titania's dream; treason lurks under the Masque of Comus. Whatever Jonson may urge, until he rises from the dead and suffers cross-examination in the Delian tongue, his record may as well be kept shut, for no one will believe him—who believes Delia.

In *Lear*, the intellectual traitors of the age struck at the royal prerogative. "Of course it was not possible that the prerogative should be openly dealt with at such a time"—"I think the king is but a man as I am," is consequently Bacon's mystic way of unhinging the right divine. *Lear*, in point of fact, is a body of philosophic lessons for the enlightenment of princes and the chastening of their pride. Here Bacon proves himself to be a Leveller, a new Prometheus, an aspiring Titan, a Benefactor, a Poet, and a Prophet, sporting with doctrines which, if publicly avowed, would bring his head to the block. In *Julius Cæsar* he explains the empirical system of treatment in diseases of the commonweal; he is still a Literary Shadow; in *Coriolanus* he propounds the scientific cure of the commonweal, his dramatic expositions forming a manual for the study of the Prince of Wales:—

But probably this Prince was not aware that his father entertained at Whitehall then, not a literary Historian, merely—a Book-maker, able to compose narratives of the past in an orderly chronological prosaic manner, according to the received method—but a Show-man, also, an Historical Show-man, with such new gifts and arts; a true Magician, who had in his closet a mirror which possessed the property of revealing, not the past nor the present only, but the future, "with a near aim," an aim so *near* that it might well seem "magical;" and that a cloud was flaming in it, even then, "which drizzled blood upon the Capitol." This Prince of Wales did not know, any more than his father did, that they had in their court then an historical scholar, with such an indomitable passion for the stage, with such a decided turn for acting—one who felt himself divinely prompted to a part in that theatre which is the Globe—one who had laid out all for his share in that. They did not either of them know, fortunately for us, that they had in their royal train such an Historic Sport-manager, such a Prospero for Masques; that there was a true "Phil-harmonus" there with so clear an inspiration of scientific statesmanship. They did not know that they had in that servant of the crown, so supple, so "patient—patient as the midnight sleep," patient "as the ostler that for the poorest piece will bear the knave by the volume"—such a born aspirant for rule; one who had always his eye on the throne, one who had always in mind their usurpation of it. They did not know that they had a Hamlet

in their court, who never lost sight of his purpose, or faltered in his execution of it; who had found a scientific ground for his actions, an end for his ends; who only affected incoherence; and that it was he who was intriguing to such purpose with the Players.

Shakspeare himself was the serving-man of the ruling philosophers; he was patronised by them; he lent them his name; they hid their lamps under his bushel; they sapped the basis of kingly and feudal tyranny; they preached terrific gospels through the mouths of Hamlet and Brutus; they wrote, in private cabinets, pieces for the Globe Theatre, in which the real meaning could only be read by the sympathetic light of some future century:—

Driven from one field, they showed themselves in another. Driven from the open field, they fought in secret. "I will bandy with thee in faction, I will o'errun thee with policy, I will kill thee a hundred and fifty ways," the Jester who brought their challenge said. The Elizabethan England rejected the Elizabethan man. She would have none of his meddling with her affairs. She sent him to the Tower, and to the block, if ever she caught him meddling with them. She buried him alive in the heart of his time. She took the seals of office, she took the sword from his hand and put a pen in it. She would have of him a Man of Letters. And a Man of Letters he became. A Man of Runes. He invented new letters in his need, letters that would go farther than the sword, that carried more execution in them than the great seal. Banished from the state in that isle to which he was banished, he found not the base-born Caliban only, to *instruct*, and train, and subdue to his ends, but an Ariel, an imprisoned Ariel, waiting to be released, able to conduct his masques, able to put his girdles round the earth, and to "perform and point" to his Tempest.

Indeed, the theatre was called the Globe by Raleigh, who thought at the time of his geographical enterprises. This is conclusive—at least Delia thinks so. We are a little puzzled, however, to know what was Bacon's share and what Raleigh's in the authorship of *Shakspeare;* at all events, it seems *Shakspeare* was not written by Colley Cibber.

VINEYARDS AND WINE-CELLARS.

A Pilgrimage into Dauphiné: Comprising a Visit to the Monastery of the Grande Chartreuse, &c. &c. By the Rev. G. M. Musgrave, M.A. 2 Vols. Hurst and Blackett.

We desire to be on good terms with Mr. Musgrave, and shall abstain as carefully as possible from noticing his opinions of politics or public characters. He is quite free to misunderstand French history, manners, and men; no great harm is done when he writes his worst concerning George Sand. He is, specially, an artist, an archæologist, and a collector of agreeable gossip; so that we have found his two volumes very entertaining and doubt not that many readers will admit them to contain matter that will at once instruct and amuse. The tourist who treads in Mr. Musgrave's steps will find him a cheerful companion and a trustworthy guide; stay-at-home people will welcome his chapters of purple picture and fascinating statistics of vineyards and wine-cellars. These chapters would suffice to ensure the reception of the book, which abounds, however, in pleasant sketches, describing scenery, social habits, and incidents by the way. We are almost tempted to believe that Mr. Musgrave's political theories are only those of an artist allured by a gorgeous perspective, or an archæologist enslaved by a reliquary show, and that he has never read George Sand, and slanders her sincerely. So we refuse to converse with him on these topics, and diverge into the gardens of Meaux. One species of rose derives its name from Meaux, but hundreds are produced in that paradise of pink petals, where the Giant of Battles, the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and the Queen Rose are among the conspicuous varieties. The smallest is the Pompon, a tree not more than twelve inches in height, with a tiny tufted blossom. The Greeks scented their wine with the essence of the rose, so that a brief discourse upon "the woman of the flowers" fitly introduces a memorial of Epernay, where dwell M. Moet and Madame Clicquot, sovereigns of Champagne. M. Moet has two palaces, on opposite sides of the same street, and in one of these he lodged Napoleon on the eve of the battle of Montmirail. In the other he dwells himself. Mr. Musgrave counted ninety orange-trees in his flower garden; not far stands the rival castle of Madame Clicquot, seated upon a high hill, and holding its machiculated and turretted battlements in huge pride above vine-covered hills, the ruins of Château Châtillon, and the exuberant clusters of Aï. She possesses, it is said, fourfold the wealth of M. Moet, and her four daughters are all married to opulent men. M. Moet, however, is considerably rich, employs two hundred workpeople, keeps a stock of three million bottles of wine, besides seven vast tuns, in which seventy Dukes of Clarence might have been suffocated, and stores with his champagne a labyrinth of well-ventilated vaults, some of which are fifty feet below the surface of the ground. Here Mr. Musgrave pauses to remark that every pint and a half of Champagne wine undergoes, before it finds its way to the table, not less than a hundred and fifty several processes of manipulation.

At Rheims he resumes his notes on wine. Champagne is seldom drunk pure in England; the Russians prefer it in its native state; but for the British market, to every forty gallons of wine from five to ten gallons of brandy is added. The sweetening is artificial—white sugar from the Isle of Bourbon costing, in casks, ninepence per pound. Mr. Musgrave drank some unsweetened champagne; "a more unpalatable drink under the denomination of wine I never tasted. It was like Sauterne mixed with wormwood." The finest quality on the spot was sold at four shillings a bottle, the commonest, or pink champagne, at two shillings and ninepence. It is calculated that a dozen of the finest Rheims growth could not be delivered in London at a price less than sixty-eight shillings the dozen. But Mr. Musgrave observes, very properly, that when you have the best wine, you should have the best glasses to drink it from; and we hope our manufacturers may adopt the pattern of the specimen he brought from Rheims; in the broad, saucer-shaped glass the effervescence is speedily dead, as also in the old-fashioned long glass in the form of an inverted funnel. The stem should be hollow, and as it approaches the circular flat upon which it stands, should be perfectly globular. As long as this contains any wine, a column of fixed air is seen ascending and keeping up the sparkling action, not pleasant to the eye alone, but conducive to the flavour and cordial to the taste.

Mr. Musgrave's next observations were in Burgundy, or the Côte d'Or. "When a regiment on march gains first sight of the Clos Vougeot, the officer in command gives orders to present arms" to acknowledge the supremacy of the grape. The Chambertin estate comprises less than twenty acres—Golden Fields, or Golden Slopes, as the people style them. Near it lies the Clos Napoléon. After ample out-door inspections, Mr. Musgrave visited the pressoir, to examine the crushing machinery three hundred years old—a ponderous structure that exhibits no indications of decay; its component parts, the tourist says, have been but slightly altered since the main post—the entire stem of a fine oak—supporting the screw apparatus was sunk twenty feet deep into the ground, before Louis XIV. was born! But the richest wine does not flow from this machine; it is the fruit of the first crush, the bursting of the grapes under their own pressure when heaped in a vat, and left for hours to distil into the trough beneath. Little of this splendid wine reaches England; it is frequently stolen on the way, almost always adulterated.

An interesting account is added of the famous liqueurs made at the Grande Chartreuse. There are four varieties. The principal is the Elixir; it is sold in bottles, put up in wooden cases, turned in bottle shape, and sold at a high price. The Green Liqueur is as strong as Scotch whisky, or curaçoa, but with no flavour of orange; its aroma is apparently derived from angelica plant, thyme, and sweet balm-mint, compounded with various others. The Yellow Liqueur is neither so potent nor so sweet. The White is called also the Balm of the Chartreuse. Upwards of fifty plants, seeds, and flowers are used in the fabrication of these liqueurs; the chief basis being the first shoots of the pine-tree, wormwood (or absinthe), mountain pinks, mint, and balm, the essentials of which are distilled and mingled with great art in the secret laboratory of the Chartreuse.

We can point to Mr. Musgrave's volumes as particularly rich in local sketches; the reader who can tolerate an occasional obtrusion of opinionated levity will be interested and informed.

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

A Concise History of the English Constitution. By Edward Howley. London. 1857. Longman and Co.

This book would be more interesting if it were less professional. It is the misfortune of men engaged in one pursuit that they parade that pursuit in the most ordinary events of life. The soldier judges civil affairs invariably according to the articles of martial law. A learned schoolmaster is generally a pedant. Divines view the most trivial matters with a theological eye, whilst actors and actresses enter society with the strut and the elocution of the stage. Mr. Howley is no exception to the general rule. Had we opened his book and read the first few sentences of it without remarking the "of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law" appended to his name, we should at once have divined the author to be a member of the wig-and-gown fraternity. This is an objection, a strong objection to a book evidently written with the purpose of its becoming popular. We believe that even the History of the English Constitution is capable of being written in an easy, clear, and popular style, and, therefore, regard the work a failure which is too incomplete for the incipient barrister, and too overcharged with the jargon and mannerism of law-books to be acceptable to the general reader.

If an Englishman be asked what is his Constitution, he would be puzzled to tell what it is. He would probably metaphorically answer, that it was a stately tree the growth of ages, whose roots had struck deep into the immemorial customs and usages of the country, overlaid, of course, with a stiff stratum of statutes and precedents, and whose branches happily sheltered all who lived under it from the blasts and the heats of tyranny. This is practically well; but is it not an anomaly that those who enjoy the greatest amount of freedom of any people under the sun should not be able to define what their Constitution is. Ask an American, and he will unrol to you a parchment sacredly preserved in the archives of his country, and containing not many clauses and sections. He will tell you, This is our Constitution; it is this that we will ever preserve as the palladium of our liberties. It is surprising how incapable are even those studied in the statutes and usages of the country of giving a clear and comprehensible definition of the English Constitution. "As it substantially exists," says Mr. Howley, "it may be defined as the aggregate of the laws, that determine the political relations between the bodies that share in sovereign power and between those bodies and all subordinate legislatures, together with the laws that regulate the political relations between the sovereign bodies, the subordinate legislatures, and the individual members of the community." Aggregate of the laws! What a hopeful prospect for the young student to be told that his Constitution is the aggregate of the laws that determine the political relations between bodies, &c., when he remembers the volumes upon volumes of statutes that encumber the shelves of our law depositories, and, moreover, when he is informed that the amount of incoherency and inconsistency, not to say contradiction, in these statutes is so great that it requires all the learning as well as all the practised acumen of a judge to bring these anomalies into harmony, and decide what is constitutional and what is not.

Mr. Howley begins his exposition of the British Constitution by an inquiry into the origin and extent of sovereign power. In England, we find that from the earliest times this power has been considerably limited. The trial by jury proved always a safeguard to the liberty of the subject. Contemporary with the Plantagenets, a French gentleman or nobleman was liable to be called before a single judge under the influence of the king, and, being pronounced guilty, without any formal process of law, might be put in a sack during the night, and thrown into a river. It is true that legal irregularities did occur even in this country under regal authority; but the king suffered for it in one way or another, or obtained indemnity for himself and his accomplices from the Parliament. Never was the royal prerogative stretched to such unwonted length as by the infatuated Charles I. This prince, under some fatal hallucination, persisted in exercis-

ing powers that the Plantagenets were forced to surrender, and the Tudors never dreamt of seizing. Yet this tyrannical despot is still mourned over as an injured man, an insulted sovereign, and a glorified martyr. Never since the Norman Conquest had England been so degraded. "Londoners could not build where they liked," observes Mr. Howley, "nor could tradesmen in the City have shops where they liked. The king thought it a splendid sight to behold none but goldsmiths' shops in Cheapside, and as a few shops belonging to other trades broke the row of glittering windows, the Privy Council, at the royal desire, asked the judge to certify what statutes and laws there were to compel the goldsmiths to locate themselves in Cheapside and Lombard-street. Whatever the answer of the judges may have been, the Privy Council some years afterwards wrote letters to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, reprimanding them for their remissness in bringing all the goldsmiths to Cheapside and Lombard-street, and removing all other trades from those streets. The independent legislative power of the Crown was especially hostile to free trade. Proclamations were issued against making starch from wheat, the importation of alum, and the exportation of corn, regulating the sale of soap, gunpowder, and tobacco, and limiting the prices of poultry, rabbits, and butter. The nobility and gentry were commanded to leave London, and to repair to their mansions in the country; and evidence exists to show that the Court of Star Chamber fined many of them for disobedience. There were many other proclamations, which must have irritated the aristocracy. It was vexatious to be told not to ride a horse with a snaffle bit, nor shoot partridges with the aid of a setter, nor use a trawl net in fishing, nor wear a hat styled a demi-castor." We have happily escaped the petty nuisances of legislation, above all we have escaped regal independent legislation. A study of the "Petition of Rights," the "Bill of Rights," and the "Act of Settlement," which form separate chapters in this work, will give the reader who is not familiar with Hallam, an idea of the groundwork of the liberty he enjoys. It is, however, the general history of his country that the student must consult to obtain a real knowledge of the manner in which those free institutions that form the fabric of the British Constitution have been built up and welded together.

The Arts.

THE OPERAS.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE Old House in the Haymarket opened on Tuesday last, under the happiest and most encouraging auspices, with a brilliant and crowded audience, and a performance that amply fulfilled the highest expectations. The new tenor, Signor GIUGLINI, may be emphatically and distinctively pronounced a *charming* singer. On his appearance as a Novice in the first act, there was something in the priestly cast of his head and features that lent a romantic interest to *Fernando*, who received the welcome of an assured success. And we may at once say that the anticipation was not destined to be disappointed. In the air "*Una vergin, un angel,*" there was a perceptible and very excusable tremor in the voice which, in a slight degree, affected the freedom and certainty of its delivery, and which betrayed itself in a disposition to hurry the time, and in one passage perhaps to sacrifice the truth of the music to a doubtful ornament where perfect simplicity was desired: but this may be charged to the inevitable emotion of the singer bearing the burden of a thousand favourable rumours, and presenting himself before an audience inferior to none in Europe.

There was more than enough, however, in the first notes of the singer, to satisfy the most exacting critics that here was at least a clear, fresh, rich tenor voice, full of youth and promise, already well disciplined and not yet *strained*, having all the delicious reediness in the higher tones, and something of the bell-like vibration in the middle voice which constitute that exceptional organism, a pure tenor. The transition from the chest to the head voice was managed with perfect ease and without a break, and the *sotto voce*, the *smorzando* more especially, proved the accomplished method of the singer as well as the delicacy and beauty of his voice. In the great scene of the second act, where *Fernando* discovering his shame, and furious at the sneers of the Court and the dishonour heaped upon him by the *King*, dashes down the badges of his disgrace and breaks his sword across his knee—"*Car vous êtes le roi!*"—Signor GIUGLINI displayed an energy and spirit for which, we confess, his manner in the first act had scarcely prepared us; but it was in the concluding act, one of the most affecting situations in the whole range of the lyric drama, that the new Tenor may be fairly said to have 'brought the house down.' He was rapturously encored in that exquisitely touching romance, *Spirto gentil* (*Ange si pur*), and he sang it the second time even better than the first—with infinite grace of manner and purity of style. The chastened but not conquered passion, the subdued despair, the secret tenderness, the supreme melancholy not untinged with bitterness, were all expressed by the finished art of the singer, and the effect upon the audience was audible in their silence not less than in their applause. In the concluding duo where *Fernando*, reconciled to *Leonora*, beseeches her to fly from the convent—*Va dans une autre patrie!*—Signor GIUGLINI sang with a warmth of expression and an abandonment to the emotion of the scene which were all the more remarkable since in the earlier scenes of the opera his demeanour, and even his voice (clear as crystal as it is) might have been accused of a certain coldness, more like the cloister than the stage.

That Signor GIUGLINI is not yet a great dramatic artist, or a perfect singer, we are not disposed to deny; he seems a little inclined to sing from the throat rather than from the chest, his falsetto (for which he has happily little use) appears weak and wavering; and his action is occasionally embarrassed and constrained. But he has all the promise, and more than the promise, of a fine dramatic singer, who may one day take rank among the illustrious names which Italy has contributed to the lyric stage. Let him only persevere in study, follow the best models, sing the best music, and before the best audiences, and his success will be as lasting as it is already sure.

Madlle. SPEZIA, who made her *début* in London as *Leonora*, we shall be glad to hear again before we pronounce a more positive opinion upon her merits. At present we may speak of her as a singer not without charm and power, with a voice deeper than a soprano, a little worn perhaps, a little too much disposed to *coo*, but having its fine moments, and in a high sense serviceable and effective; while as an actress Madlle. SPEZIA is conspicuous for energy and intelligence. She has been very well received, and we doubt not will gain in favour as the season proceeds.

Signor VIALETTI, the new basso profondo, is a positive acquisition; he had not much to do in the *Favorita*, but wherever his voice was heard, it was found to be deep, weighty, and well-toned, and his acting was dignified and impressive.

Signor BENEVENTANO, whom we remember not very agreeably as the heavy father in *La Traviata*, has not got over his disposition to bellow—we are sorry we can find no other word to express the constant tendency to exaggeration in his singing; but on the whole, as *Alfonso*, he seemed to us certainly improved; and if he will only moderate his prodigious force of lungs, and take the stage a little less superbly, he may yet become an acceptable, as he certainly is a useful, member of the company. The orchestra is unmistakably better than last year; it is more in hand, and plays with more discretion and delicacy, and with undiminished vigour: we will only whisper a protest against the occasional excess of the brass. The chorus was, for the most part, steady and efficient.

If Madlle. CAROLINA POCCHINI, the *Esmeralda* of this season, cannot make us forget the dreamy, voluptuous grace and exquisite refinement of the incomparable CARLOTTA GRISI, she is, at any rate, in complete command of all the secrets and difficulties of the art. She dances with a degree of self-possession, of fearless freedom, of precision, of vigour, of neatness, of aplomb, only belonging to the very few; and if she does not always charm, she never disappoints.

The *Favorita* was repeated on Thursday, and will be given to-night.

Madlle. PICCOLOMINI will appear on Tuesday next in the *Figlia del Reggimento*, and on Thursday in the *Traviata*. *Lucia di Lammermoor* will be the first new part in which this bright young Star of Sienna will appear. *Don Giovanni*, with the extraordinary trio, PICCOLOMINI, SPEZIA, and ORTOLANI, and GIUGLINI as *Don Ottavio*, will speedily follow, and last not least, ALBONI is daily expected. The season promises to be quite a revival of the Golden Age of HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA at the LYCEUM, opened with something less than no novelty; for it gave the *Puritani* without MARIO or LABLACHE! Madame GRISI is still the *Elvira* of other days, and even now has not her equal in those characteristic qualities which are beyond the reach of time: Signor GARDONI is a very pleasing singer, but on this occasion his voice was fatigued or affected with cold; and Signor GRAZIANI, who seems inseparable from *Il mio Balen*, was too hoarse to sing one half the music, and incapable of doing justice to the other: Signor TAGLIAFICO is always satisfactory and effective, but somehow we always miss LABLACHE in that fine old Puritan dress. The opening night was on the whole not very lively, but the performance of *Norma* on Thursday was infinitely superior. GARDONI was in better voice, and GRISI is still nearer to perfection than any of the singers who now contend for her supremacy. RONCONI appears this evening in *Maria di Rohan*, and the *Trovatore* is coming, with MARIO, and GRISI as the *Leonora*. The truth remains, however, that at the LYCEUM, the public is wanting, and without the public the Opera may be as select—it runs the risk of being also as dull—as a drawing-room. Without *the public*, the Opera is an exotic deprived of warmth and air.

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL: CRYSTAL PALACE.

WE abstract from a very interesting article in the *Times* a report of the preparations for this great musical solemnity:—

This important undertaking gradually advances, and promises a result which, if the festival of 1857 is to be simply a preliminary essay, to test the possibility of still greater things in 1859 (the centenary anniversary of Handel's death), will lead to expectations with respect to the latter by no means easy to realise.

During the last few weeks material progress has been made. The metropolitan division of the chorus has terminated in the selection of 1100 picked voices. Each applicant for a place in the chorus, before being admitted, has been tried at the pianoforte, the compass and quality of voices, or efficiency at sight-reading, and other essential gifts being registered, so as to guarantee the ultimate choice of the most efficient. The "1100" have already passed the ordeal of two rehearsals at Exeter Hall, under the superintendence of Mr. Costa, in choruses of *Israel in Egypt* and *The Messiah* respectively; and on Wednesday evening last the third oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus*, was submitted to a similar experiment. The provincial branches of the chorus are forming in the principal cities and towns of Great Britain under the guidance of professors and amateurs of acknowledged ability.

The numbers and distribution of the orchestra are already determined on. There will be 76 first violins, 74 second violins, 50 violas, 50 violoncellos, and 50 double-basses (in all 300 stringed instruments); 9 flutes, 9 oboës, 9 clarionets, 9 bassoons, 12 horns, 12 trumpets and cornets, 9 trombones, 3 ophicleides, 9 serpents and bass-horns, 3 drums, and 6 side-drums (90 wind instruments)—a force hitherto unprecedented.

The organ, constructed expressly for the occasion by Messrs. Gray and Davison, will be one of great power and on an appropriately gigantic scale. The organ will occupy a platform in the Crystal Palace of 40 feet wide by 24 deep, which will not only afford sufficient room for the pipes to speak, but ample passage between each division, so that any department of the immense harmonious structure can be approached without difficulty and at an instant's notice. The erection of the organ at the Crystal Palace began on Wednesday morning.

The orchestra, already completed, occupies a space of 168 feet in width (just 38 feet wider than Exeter Hall), and 90 feet in depth. The seats for the performers are gradually raised, one above another, so that every instrumentalist and vocalist can have a full view of their conductor. The band will be in front, the chorus at the back.

We shall continue to report progress as the preparations approach completion. For the present we remind our readers that the three days of the Festival are to be Monday, June 15, when the *Messiah* will be given; Wednesday, June 17 (*Judas Maccabæus*); and Friday, June 19 (*Israel in Egypt*). The total number of performers engaged in this colossal concert will be two thousand five hundred.

THE COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.

WE were alluding the other day to the performances of the Cologne Choral Union and to their influence upon pure musical taste in this metropolis. We are now happily enabled to announce that this celebrated society, the most distinguished of the innumerable vocal associations of Germany, will revisit this country in the month of May next, under the felicitous auspices of Mr. MITCHELL. Their stay, however, will be necessarily limited to a few days only; we trust our readers will not lose the opportunity. The first concert will take place on Monday, the 25th of May.

ON Thursday evening, Mr. G. W. MARTIN, who has distinguished himself for some years past as the writer of Prize Glees, gave a performance of his most successful compositions at EXETER HALL. A corps of as many as two hundred male and female voices was engaged for the occasion; and the effect was highly creditable to the composer and to the executants. The gratification of the audience was enhanced by a duet for two pianofortes, admirably played by Mr. BENEDICT and Mr. LINDSAY SLOPER.

EASTER MONDAY AT THE THEATRES, &c.

EASTER MONDAY without Greenwich Fair! Easter Monday with very few new show-pieces at the Theatres! Easter Monday with the last swirl of a General Election ebbing over the land! Such were the phenomena of the first day of this present week. As to Easter Monday with rain and cold wind, that was quite in the ordinary course. However, as there were no out-door amusements, the weather was little matter. At DRURY LANE, Mr. DILLON "starred," and a junction was effected between *Conrad and Medora* and Mr. E. T. SMITH's Christmas Harlequinade. The HAYMARKET produced a brilliant burlesque called *Hippomenes and Atalanta*, written by Mr. TALFOURD, and pleasantly acted by Miss MARY OLIVER, Miss WILTON, Miss TERNAN, and Mr. COMPTON. The PRINCESS'S went on with the far more than Easter splendours of *Richard II.*; and the ADELPHI fell back on Madame CELESTE and *The Elves*. At SADLER'S WELLS, a temporary Spring season brings forth the American HOWARD family in *The Episode of Eva*, and Miss WOOLGAR in the admirable piece of *The Good-for-Nothing*, succeeded by PLANCHE'S *Fair One with the Golden Locks*. The STRAND performances were marked with rather an awkward failure, the performers not being 'up' in their parts, and the prompter finally rating them in good set terms, and indignantly ringing down the curtain. A flavorous melodrama from the French, called *The Iron Arm, or the Stolen Marriage*, stimulated the palates of the SURREY audience; and a still more highly spiced dish was set before the ladies and gentlemen who patronise the VICTORIA, in the shape of *Dark Shadows and Sunshine of Life, or the Wild Gipsy Girl*. ASTLEY'S produced *The French in Algiers, or the Battle of Constantine*—*à propos* to the new campaign against the Kabyles;—and the various "Saloons" were not without their attractions.

The several EXHIBITIONS were well attended during the day; and EXETER HALL, at night, gave "A Grand VERDI Festival," at which a large attendance of music-lovers showed that the critics have not been able to cry down the composer.

A FRENCH MURDER.—As some persons were proceeding along the road which leads from Auxerre to Vermanton, they were astonished to find, at about three miles from the former place, the mail cart which plies between the two towns standing in the middle of the road, with the driver lying dead near it, and the letter-bags extracted. The man had been shot through the head, and the crime had evidently been committed as he was driving along the road. The man's gold watch, chain, and purse were found on him; so that it appears, either that the sole object of the murderer was to steal the letter-bags, or that, having taken alarm at something, he had not time to rifle the man's pockets. As yet, no clue has been discovered to the murderer. The affair has created a great sensation in the department of the Yonne.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—"In the absence of any great piece of news," says a Paris letter in the *Nord* of Brussels, "I send you a little one. The proprietor of a reading room, in Paris, has received a singular order. He has been requested to send to a Vienna journal all the articles most hostile to the policy of Russia, which appeared in the French journals of 1853, 1854, and 1855. Is this a matter of mere curiosity—is it a fancy of a collector—or is it a preparation for an approaching polemic in the Austrian press, which it is desired to support by arms taken from a foreign arsenal?"

HEROIC CONDUCT.—About half past one o'clock on Monday morning, the schooner Isabella was making for Sunderland harbour, the wind blowing a gale from the east. The tempest drove her behind the south pier, the waves dashed over her masts, and the crew were in imminent peril of destruction. The Wear Commissioners' men were at hand with the rocket lines. The Stormy Petrel, Mr. Joseph Hodshon, ever present in the hour of danger, was also there, and slipping off his clothes, volunteered to carry a line on board, two hundred and fifty yards distant, and performed the daring feat, and all hands were "cradled" on shore in the rocket-chair.—*Gateshead Observer.*

A SAD CASE.—On Saturday (says the *Somerset County Gazette*), a young man named Rendell, who formerly held a very respectable position in society as a miller, near Castle Cary, was placed at the bar of the Assize Court, charged with setting fire to his own premises. His father and mother had come to Taunton to hear their son's fate, and had taken apartments at Mr. Bult's, Waggon and Horses Inn, East Reach. Whilst in town, the old gentleman was suddenly seized with illness, and Mr. Bult called in Mr. Cordwent. On Saturday he was unable to go to the hall, and the broken-hearted mother went alone. Whilst the trial was proceeding, a messenger was sent to the hall to inform Mrs. Rendell that her husband had breathed his last. The son was transported for fourteen years; and the two sad events have completely prostrated the poor woman. The deceased was a retired half-pay officer in the navy, lately residing at Rampisham.

MORAL EFFECT OF FIRE-ARMS.—Beecher gives an amusing account of the effect of fire-arms on the aborigines of Terra del Fuego. They could not be made to understand how that, standing a long way off, they should hear a noise, and see a little smoke, and then that they should be mortally wounded. It was to them quite incomprehensible, and they therefore felt no alarm at the sight of a musket. But when once they became convinced of the danger, their terror was proportionate. This feeling was curiously exemplified in the total demoralisation of all armies, from the middle of the sixteenth century till near the end of the seventeenth. The Swiss complained that it was not their nature to stand patiently under the fire of artillery, but to march straight onwards! And Montluc's soldiers would say to him, "Let us engage, sir; it is better to die sword in hand than to be killed by artillery;"—that *stromento d'inferno*, as the Italians called it. This nervousness increased still more when they saw their ablest knights, such as a Bayard, a Guise, and a Sydney, fall by the deadly bullet. Tacticians wrote elaborate treatises on forming squares and stars, of pikemen and arquebusiers; but human nature was too strong, and there arose that disorderly system of skirmishing, when each man looked but after his own safety, which he thought must lie in his own carbine and petronel. Field artillery, as the select portion of the army which was to support infantry, and be supported by it, became neglected, and each man loaded himself with quick match and powder-flasks—a system of warfare well described by Warburton, in his "History of Prince Rupert," as "limited to the wasting of gunpowder, and in making a noise." It required a Gustavus Adolphus and a Cromwell to overcome this lax state of discipline, and once more to teach the soldier. how to face death in the ranks; but then the one with his Lutheran Swedes, the other with his psalm-singing Ironsides, had a wonderful material to work upon; for even at the present day the Southern gets impatient at being kept any length of time under fire. The dislike of the Tudors to fire-arms, which has induced many to suppose that the bow was still then the favourite weapon of the conquerors of Agincourt, arose from as paltry a feeling as ever disgraced a crowned head. Henry VII objected to the crossbow, because much damage had been done by it to the king's deer. Henry VIII. would allow no one to possess a handgun, unless he also possessed 100*l.* a year, and then was stock and barrel together to be no more than twenty-seven inches long. Edward VI. considered that "Hayle shot" was pernicious, owing to "much fowl and game having been destroyed."—*Westminster Review.*

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 14.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—THOMAS ATKINSON, Brearley, near Luddenden-foot, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer—EDWARD GRAY BROCKLEHURST, Liverpool, hose and strap manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.—EDWARD BEVAN, Kidderminster, victualler and horse dealer—THOMAS RIDLEY, Hartlepool, Durham, draper—ROBERT SWAN YOUNG, West Hartlepool, Durham, tea dealer and grocer—THOMAS HUNTLEY, Sunderland, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—THOMAS RODGER (deceased), Coatbridge, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, grocer, spirit dealer, and merchant—CHARLES MANSON, Saint Andrews, potato merchant—JAMES ADAM, Port-Glasgow, joiner—WILLIAM WILSON, Content Farm, Wallacetown, St. Evox, Ayrshire, farmer and provision merchant—GEORGE DAVIS, Cowcaddens-street, Glasgow, draper and outfitter—WILLIAM WILSON, Cloverhill, Ayrshire, cattle dealer—DAVID GOVAN, 8, Mathieson's-lane, Hutcheson-town, Glasgow, cow feeder.

Friday, April 17.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED. — WILLIAM POPHAM DAVIS and JAMES DAVIS, Cardiff, slate, marble, and brick merchants.

BANKRUPTS. — JAMES CHOAT, Albert-road, Dalston, tailor—WILLIAM ADAMS, Huntingdon, miller—ALEXANDER BLOXHAM HENDERSON, London-street, Paddington, livery stable keeper—THOMAS RICHARDS, Aberystwith, draper—FREDERICK LETT, High-street, Lambeth, potter—WILLIAM TENT, Royal Exchange, City, hosier—JOSEPH SMITH, Broad-street, Lambeth, dealer in iron—WILLIAM JAMES TAYLOR, Albion-terrace, De Beauvoir-square, Kingsland, cabinet maker—ANDERSON STOKOE, Findon-hill, Durham, grocer—RICHARD WINTER NEAVE, Sheffield, miller — GEORGE JAYNE, jun., Newport, builder—SAMUEL DALTON, DANIEL DALTON, and ALFRED DALTON, Chester, ironmasters.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JOHN M'ROSTIE, Crieff, flesher—DAVID SPENCE, in Ferry-Port-on-Craig, merchant, —JAMES GLENNIE, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, lace and sewed muslin warehouseman—WILLIAM SHARP, Kirkwall, draper — THOMAS MURRAY, Port-Glasgow, tailor and clothier.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HARRISON. — On the 5th inst., at Corley Vicarage, the wife of Major Broadley Harrison, 10th Hussars: a son.

HORSLEY.—On the 14th inst., at 2, Tor Villas, Campden-hill, Kensington, the wife of John Callcott Horsley, Esq.: a son.

OAKLEY.—On the 10th inst., Lady Georgina M. L. Oakley, Wickwar Rectory, Gloucestershire: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DEWAR — HARRISON. — On the 14th inst, at Newton Purcell Church, William Wemyss Methven Dewar, Esq., youngest son of the late Sir James Dewar, K.C.B., Chief Justice of Bombay, to Augusta, youngest daughter of Mr. John and Lady Louisa Slater Harrison, of Shelswell-park, Oxon.

GARVOCK—CLAYTON. — On the 2nd of March last, at Ceylon, by the Lord Bishop of Colombo, Colonel Garvock, Assistant Quartermaster-General, only son of the late Major Garvock, Assistant Adjutant-General at the Horse Guards, to Blanche, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Clayton, Scots Fusilier Guards, of Stone Hall, Surrey.

HARBORD—GURNEY—HAMOND. — On the 14th inst., at Westacre, Norfolk, the Hon. and Rev. John Harbord, brother of Lord Suffield, to Caroline Penelope, and Somerville Gurney, Esq., son of Daniel Gurney, Esq., and the late Lady Harriet Gurney, to Katharine Sarah—daughters of Anthony Hamond, Esq.

DEATHS.

DELL.—On the 13th inst., at her house, No. 13, Woburn-square, in the 85th year of her age, Mary, widow of the late Rev. John Dell, B.D., formerly fellow of New College, Oxford, and rector of Weston Longville, Norfolk.

TAYLOR.—On Good Friday, at his seat, Hollycombe, Sussex, in the 88th year of his age, Sir Charles Taylor, Bart., for many years a Member of Parliament.

THORNHILL.—Killed, on the 14th of Sept., 1856, by accidentally falling down a quartz mine, at Muckleford, Victoria, George King Thornhill, Esq., son of the late Colonel Thornhill, 13th Foot.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, April 17, 1857.

THE import of gold from the Australian colonies has been so extensive, that it has arrested the downward tendency of the funds and share market. At one time it was believed that the Bank would raise the rate to 7 per cent., in order to effectually damp the efforts of those capitalists who are endeavouring to flood the market with Russian railway stock; but it may be assumed that so great is the pressure for money, even for temporary purposes, that a very small amount will be taken up in this country. The *fortnightly* settlement of the share account has added to the pressure for money just now, but the difference in rates given day by day in the Stock Exchange is very great. Seven and a half per cent. was given on one day, five and a half the next; so soon as the requirement is urgent and offers liberal, the large Hebrew capitalists pour in large sums for loans on stock. The foreign stock market has been heavy throughout the week. Turkish Six per Cent. stock stands its ground better than has been its wont on the eve of a dividend, and the fluctuations in this stock are becoming less violent.

Railway shares are about the same, having recovered a temporary depression; but the market does not look healthy. Absence of business is the characteristic complaint.

Great West of Canada shares are hardly so firm. Grand Trunk of Canada are about ½ per cent. higher. Eastern Counties are likewise firm. The belief is that the expenses are being reduced 1000*l.* a week, while the receipts are largely augmented. Joint-Stock Banks are steady. Ottoman and Egypt still flat.

In miscellaneous shares there is but little business doing. Peninsular and Oriental, Royal Mail, North of Europe Steam, Berlin Water Works, Oriental Gas, have been dealt in.

Mining shares very flat. Great Wheal Alfreds have experienced a very serious fall of nearly 10*l.* per share, an accident to the machinery having let in the water. The delay in raising ore has been the cause of this fall. Wheal Trelawny, Mary Anne, Caradon, Sortridge Consols, &c., have changed hands.

Blackburn, 8¾, 9; Caledonian, 69¼, 69¾; Chester and Holyhead, 34, 36; Eastern Counties, 11⅝, 11⅞; Great Northern, 97, 97½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104, 106; Great Western, 67¼, 67¾; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 102¼, 102¾; London and Blackwall, 5⅞, 6¼; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 109; London and North-Western, 105¼, 106; London and South-Western, 101, 102; Midland, 82½, 83; North-Eastern (Berwick), 86½, 87½; South-Eastern (Dover), 75, 76; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7⅛, 7⅜; Dutch Rhenish, ¼ dis. par.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 34½ 35; Great Central of France, 23¼, 24¼; Great Luxembourg, 6⅛, 6⅜; Northern of France, 39¾, 40¼; Paris and Lyons, 62¾, 63¼; Royal Danish, 17, 19; Royal Swedish, 1, 1¼; Sambre and Meuse, 9¼, 9¾.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, April 17, 1857.

ENGLISH Wheat has advanced 1s. to 2s. over former rates, and greater firmness is evinced in every article. There is also more inquiry for Foreign, and as there is less pressure to sell, the full prices of Monday are obtained, and in some cases exceeded. Barley continues to arrive in considerable quantities, but the decline which has taken place has brought forward buyers, and to-day sales show a slight improvement in prices.

The supply of Oats is limited; and a large proportion of the recent arrivals having been disposed of, a recovery of 1s. from the lowest point has taken place.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	*Mon.*	*Tues.*	*Wed.*	*Thur.*	*Frid.*
Bank Stock	216½	.....	216	.....	213	212½
3 per Cent. Red	91⅞	91⅞	91¾	91½	91⅛	91⅝
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92⅞	93⅛	92¾	92¾	92¼	93
Consols for Account	93¼	93½	93¼	93	93¼	93⅜
New 3 per Cent. An.	91¾	92	91⅞	91½	91⅛	92
New 2½ per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	76
Long Ans. 1860	.....	.....	2½	2½	2½	.....
India Stock	.....	.....	222½	.....	221	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	.....	8 d	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	1 d	.....	8 d	3 d	4 d	5 d
Ex. Bills, £1000	6 d	6 d	2 d	2 p	8 d	10 d
Ditto, £500	.....	3 d	3 p	.....	4 d	5 d
Ditto, Small	2 d	6 d	2 d	5 d	3 d	10 d

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	100½	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	...	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	...	Russian 4½ per Cents	95¼
Chilian 3 per Cents	70	Spanish	25
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish Committee Certf. of Coup. not fun.	6½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	97	Turkish 6 per Cents	93¾
Equador Bonds	...	Turkish New, 4 ditto	100
Mexican Account	23½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents	...
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	77		
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	45		

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—First appearance of Madlle. Piccolomini, on Tuesday next, April 21.

OPERA.—LA FIGLIA DEL REGGIMENTO.

On Thursday,

LA TRAVIATA.

BALLET (on both nights).—LA ESMERALDA.

For particulars, see Bills.

A limited number of boxes in the half-circle tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had on application at the Box-office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, will be performed a new Drama, entitled DADDY HARDACRE. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, and Leslie; Mesdames Stephens and Hughes. *After which* the new Drama, by Tom Taylor, Esq., called A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke, Leslie, and H. Cooper; Mrs. Stirling and Miss Maskell. To conclude with the new Farce, THIEVES! THIEVES! Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, Leslie, &c.; Misses Swanborough and Bromley.

COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.—DER KÖLNER MÄNNER GESANG VEREIN (80 Men Voices), HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS. Mr. MITCHELL respectfully announces, in reply to numerous and continual inquiries, it is at length arranged that the above distinguished Society will again visit London, and will have the honour of giving a THIRD SERIES of CONCERTS, under the direction of Herr FRANZ WEBER, commencing at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday Afternoon, May 25, from Half-past three to five o'clock. It is also respectfully announced, that owing to the positive necessity for their return to Cologne on or before the 8th of June, the Concerts to be given by the Society in this country cannot possibly be prolonged beyond a fortnight. Subscriptions will be received as formerly.—Reserved Seats, for Six Concerts, 2 guineas; Single Reserved Seats, 10s. 6d.; Unreserved Seats, 5s.; which may be obtained at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

Many of the Pieces sung by the Society, by Silcher and other popular composers, are in course of publication.

EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,

OPEN AT MANCHESTER, MAY 5TH, 1857.

SEASON TICKETS, 2*l.* 2s., may be obtained at the Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester; also in London, Mr. SAM'S, Royal Library, St. James-street; Mr. MITCHELL'S, Royal Library, New Bond-street; LETT'S and Co., Royal Exchange; SMITH and Co., 157, Strand; and at HIME and SON'S, Church-street, Liverpool.

By order, THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary.

Inquiries as to APARTMENTS may be made from Mr. SAMUEL HADEN, Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester.

THE GREAT TOBACCO CONTROVERSY.—Dr. SEXTON will LECTURE on this important topic daily, at Three and Half-past Seven P.M., at Dr. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. The Museum, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world, and the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it a European reputation, and obtained the warm commendation of the press in this and other countries, is open daily (for gentlemen only) from Ten to Ten. A new Lecture is delivered by Dr. KAHN at Half-past Eight P.M. precisely. Admission, 1s.—Descriptive catalogues of the Museum, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. KAHN, gratis to the visitors.

"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR" ON DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

"Much of the Pale Oil sold in the market is found to be nothing more than Skate Oil—a fact which will account for the failures which have so frequently attended the use of the so-called Cod Liver Oil. The utmost reliance may be placed upon the experimental researches of Dr. de Jongh, who is one of the most eminent of European chemists; the Oil procured by him enjoys also the additional sanction of the opinion of Baron Liebig and the late Dr. Pereira in favour of its genuineness and efficacy. Our own experience practically confirms their judgment, and WE UNHESITATINGLY RECOMMEND DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL AS THE BEST FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES, AND WELL DESERVING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PROFESSION."

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GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN and FLORIST, 10, RAILWAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respectfully to inform his friends and patrons, that his unrivalled collection of Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds is now arranged, and Catalogues will be forwarded, post free, upon application. T. B. further begs to state that he still continues to make assortments of choice Vegetable Seeds, in collections suitable for Gardens of every size, from Ten Shillings and upwards.

Ladies and Gentlemen not being able to call at the above Establishment, may rely upon their orders being executed with only First-class SEEDS.

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DENMAN'S SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY.

"Having tasted these Wines, we say to those who like wine possessing Richness without Sweetness, Dryness without Acidity, and Body without Brandy, by all means give them a trial."—Vide *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, January 17, 1857.

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SOLERA SHERRY.—VINTAGE 1834, guaranteed, 54s. per dozen. Queen Isabella's favourite Wine, as used at the Royal table of Spain.

The peculiar characteristics of the wine are full body, fine flavour, and great richness, and is the FINEST SHERRY ever imported, and eminently suited to the palate of those who enjoy and appreciate a first-class wine.

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"This wine possesses immense body, combined with a full and rich nutty flavour, and a dryness mellowed by its age, constituting at once the finest sherry we ever tasted; and we say to connoisseurs of really fine wine, Call and judge for yourselves."—*Vide Morning Herald*, Feb. 19, 1857.

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Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.
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There has been no Brandy made from Wine in France, either in the present year or in the preceding one. Owing to the successive failures in their vintages, the French wine grower gets a higher price for his wine, consumed as such, than he can realise by its being distilled into Brandy; and forasmuch as the Foreign Brandy of recent importations is but the product of British grain and beetroot spirits, the prestige hitherto exclusively enjoyed by French Brandy as having been distilled from a particular French wine no longer exists, and is no longer worthily assignable to it now that is bunglingly made from other materials. The supply of wine for distillation into Brandy having failed, the French distiller is constrained to recur to a manufacture in which he needs the quarter of a century's experience which has been exercised upon that of BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, to render his article respectably competitive, and he has not had it. Under these circumstances, the Messrs. Betts challenge that their PATENT BRANDY is superior to any now made abroad.

It is to the interest of the public and the Messrs. Betts that these facts should be widely spread, for recent importations are of a quality so inferior as to disgrace the name they bear, and are twice the price of BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, which is supplied by the trade to private families in any quantity, down to the single capsuled bottle. Excise regulations prevent its sale from the DISTILLERY, 7, SMITHFIELD-BARS, ST. JOHN-STREET, in any less quantity than two gallons.

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Bedsteads, from	12s. 0d. to £12 0s. each.
Shower Baths, from	7s. 6d. to £5 12s. each.
Lamps (Moderateur), from	6s. 0d. to £6 6s. each.

(All other kinds at the same rate.)

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	Fiddle or Old Silver Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	38s.	48s.	60s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	30s.	35s.	42s.
Tea ditto	18s.	24s.	30s.

Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

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	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
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The TWO-GUINEA DRESS and FROCK COATS.

The GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS and HALF-GUINEA WAISTCOATS.

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N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

J. W. BENSON'S

WATCH, CLOCK, and CHRONOMETER MANUFACTORY, 33 and 34, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON. Established 1749.—J. W. BENSON, Manufacturer of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES of every description, construction, and pattern, invites attention to his magnificent and unprecedented display of Watches, which is admitted to be the largest and best selected Stock in London. It consists of Chronometer, Duplex, Patent, Detached Lever, Horizontal, and Vertical Movements, jewelled, &c., with all the latest improvements, mounted in superbly-finished engine-turned and engraved Gold and Silver Cases. The designs engraved upon many of the cases are by eminent artists, and can only be obtained at this Manufactory. If the important requisites, superiority of finish, combined with accuracy of performance, elegance, durability, and reasonableness of price, are wished for, the intending Purchaser should visit this Manufactory, or send for the ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET, published by J. W. BENSON (and sent post free on application), which contains sketches, prices, and directions as to what Watch to buy, where to buy it, and how to use it. Several hundred letters have been received from persons who have bought Watches at this Manufactory, bearing testimony to the correct performances of the same.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the *Morning Post*, Oct. 30, 1856.—"Exhibits exquisite artistic feeling in ornamentation, and perfection of mechanism in structure."—From the *Morning Chronicle*, Oct. 30.—"Excellence of design and perfection in workmanship."—From the *Morning Advertiser*, Nov. 1.—"The high repute which Mr. Benson has obtained for the qualities of his manufacture stands second to none."—From the *Morning Herald*, Nov. 3.—"The high standing of Mr. Benson as a London manufacturer must secure for him a large amount of public patronage."—From the *Globe*, Nov. 3.—"All that can be desired, in finish, taste, and design."

GOLD WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., accurate time-keepers, 3*l.* 15s., 4*l.* 15s., 5*l.* 15s., to 15*l.* 15s. each. Gold Lever Watches, jewelled, and highly-finished movements, 6*l.* 6s., 8*l.* 8s., 10*l.* 10s., 12*l.* 12s., 14*l.* 14s., 16*l.* 16s., to 40 guineas.

SILVER WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., exact time-keepers, 2*l.* 2s., 2*l.* 15s., 3*l.* 15s., to 5*l.* 5s. each. Silver Lever Watches, highly finished, jewelled movements, 3*l.* 10s. 4*l.* 10s., 5*l.* 10s., 7*l.* 10s., 8*l.* 10s., 10*l.* 10s., to 20 guineas.

A Two Years' Warranty given with every Watch, and sent, carriage paid, to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or any part of the kingdom, upon receipt of Post-office or Banker's order, made payable to J. W. BENSON, 33 and 34, Ludgate-hill, London.

Merchants, Shippers, and Watch Clubs supplied. Old Watches taken in Exchange.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

SEASON 1857-8.

PROGRAMME.

THE Directors beg to announce that they have made the following arrangements for the ensuing season.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA CONCERTS.

The SEASON will COMMENCE on FRIDAY, the 1st of May, 1857, with a GRAND MORNING CONCERT, by the artistes of the Royal Italian Opera. These concerts having been honoured last year by such general approbation the Directors have entered into arrangements with Mr. Gye to give a similar series of Twelve Concerts during the present season.

These concerts will be supported by the following celebrated artistes:—Madame Grisi, Mademoiselle Rosa Devries, Mademoiselle Marai, Mademoiselle Didiée, Mademoiselle Parepa, and Madame Bosio. Signor Mario, Signor Ronconi, Signor Neri-Baraldi, Signor Gardoni, Signor Graziani, Herr Formes, Signor Tagliafico, Monsieur Zelger, Signor Polonini, and Signor Lablache.

The grand orchestra of the Royal Italian Opera, with additional performers, and also the celebrated chorus, are engaged for the whole series.

The musical direction of the whole is in the hands of Mr. Costa, who will himself conduct a portion of the concerts.

With the above assemblage of artistes it is hardly necessary for the Directors to state that the performances will be of the highest class, and capable of very great variety.

The concerts will take place on the following Fridays, viz.:—May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, June 5th, 26th, July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st.

The space allotted to the Concert-room last year (extensive as it was) having been found quite inadequate to accommodate the audiences, the Directors have this season determined to give the concerts in the Great Transept.

The two guinea season tickets will be available for these concerts. Transferable tickets will also be issued for each concert at 7s. 6d. each; which tickets can be obtained at the Company's offices, or any of the agents.

In compliance with a desire which was universally expressed last season, a limited number of reserved stalls will be set apart, which may be taken for the Series of Twelve Concerts at one guinea each stall, or at half-a-crown each for a single concert.

II. CONCERT of the COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.

The Directors have made arrangements with Mr. Mitchell for the services of the Cologne Choral Union (Kölner Männer Gesangverein), whose performances on their former visit have attracted enthusiastic admiration, for a Concert in the Centre Transept of the Palace, on Saturday, the 6th of June.

N.B. Both classes of season tickets will be available for this concert.

III. GRAND WATERWORKS.

The displays of the vast system of fountains, cascades, and jets d'eau will be resumed, and continued during the whole season. The upper system will play daily as heretofore; and the entire display, embracing the fountains of the grand basins, the water-temples, the cascades, and the whole of the upper fountains, on occasions to be from time to time announced.

IV. FLOWER SHOWS.

There will be two grand horticultural and floricultural fêtes during the present season:

The first on Saturday, the 30th of May; and

The second on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 9th, 10th, and 11th of September.

The prize list for the latter occasion includes special prizes to amateurs.

V. POULTRY SHOWS.

There will be Two Shows in the course of the coming season.

The Summer Show will take place on the 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of August. The Winter Show on the 9th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of January, 1858.

The schedules of the prizes, and copies of the regulations at both the Flower and Poultry Shows, are now ready, and may be had on application.

VI. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS of the BUILDING.

EXHIBITIONS OF PICTURES.—The picture gallery, formed during the past year in the north wing of the palace, has proved so successful in its capabilities for the effective display of paintings, that it is the intention of the Directors to hold therein during the present season two exhibitions of the works of living painters of all schools.

Particular attention has been given to the foreign schools of painting, and arrangements have been made which the Directors believe will ensure an exhibition of these works at once of great extent and of first-class quality.

The first of these exhibitions will open in May, and continue open during the summer.

The second will be a winter exhibition.

Exhibitions of photographs will also be held in the upper portion of the picture gallery from time to time during the season.

CERAMIC COURT.—The Directors are desirous to take the present opportunity of expressing their acknowledgments for the kind and ready manner in which their requests for loans for the Ceramic Court were responded to by the owners of collections of porcelain and pottery of the most rare, fragile, and valuable descriptions.

But for the confidence thus placed in them, it would have been impossible for the Directors to have formed the collection now displayed in the Ceramic Court; a collection admitted by all to be unrivalled, and on which the highest encomiums have been universally bestowed.

It is very gratifying to the Directors to be able to say that the further aid offered them is such as will enable them to continue the Ceramic Court, for the present season, with a number of additional specimens, exemplifying the capabilities of the art in its most elaborate branches.

The collection will be, as before, under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Battam, F.S.A.

INDIAN COURT AND GALLERY OF ENGINEERING MODELS.—In each of these departments the Directors have to acknowledge assistance of the same gratifying nature as that in the Ceramic Court. By public companies and institutions as well as by private individuals, the Directors have been entrusted with the most valuable and beautiful models, with costly carvings and works in ivory and bronze, fabrics, and works of art, granted with a liberality and readiness for which they cannot sufficiently express their obligations. They have thus been enabled materially to improve the Indian Court, and also to form a collection of Models of Engineering Works, illustrating in a very complete manner that great branch of British skill and enterprise, surpassing any other now accessible to the public. It will give the Directors great pleasure to receive any further contributions with which they may be favoured.

THE NAVAL MUSEUM.—The exhibition under this denomination in the first and second galleries of the north transept, fronting the garden, now contains about three hundred models of Ships, Boats, and Vessels, of all descriptions, affording an illustration of the progressive improvement in British Naval Architecture and Navigation during a period of three hundred and forty years. It also contains specimens of new inventions connected with the improvement of navigation.

The Directors beg here also to acknowledge the ready and extensive assistance which they have received from shipowners, shipbuilders, engineers, and shipping companies in forming this very interesting and national collection, and at the same time solicit the further aid of all parties who may have the means of extending it.

WATER TOWERS.—The Great Towers are now completed, and arrangements have been made by which, for a small charge, visitors to the Palace can ascend them and enjoy the extensive view from the balconies, where powerful telescopes are about to be placed.

MAMMOTH TREE.—An object of great interest has lately been added to the contents of the Palace, which will remain on exhibition during the whole of the coming season. The object alluded to is a portion of the trunk of the Wellingtonia gigantea, or Mammoth Tree, being the largest of the group of those trees discovered in California. The portion erected in the Tropical Transept, opposite the Abû Simbel figures, is no less than 103 feet in height, and 32 feet in diameter at the base.

EXHIBITING DEPARTMENT.—Amongst the branches of industry which now find important illustration in this department, may be mentioned the manufacture of Gold and Silver work and Electroplate, both domestic and artistic; Vulcanite and India Rubber generally; Colour Printing and Typography; Papier Mâché, Ornamental Iron, Fancy Goods, and other productions of Birmingham; Domestic Furniture, Church Furniture, in stone, wood, metal, and fabric; Hardware generally, and especially the productions of Sheffield, in the court filled by the manufacturers of that important centre of industry.

CANADIAN COURT.—The arrangements announced on a former occasion with the Government of Canada are now, the Directors are happy to report, complete. The Government of Canada have undertaken to form and maintain in the Palace a collection which shall completely set forth the condition of the manufactures and other industry and resources of that important colony. At a time when so much public attention is being directed to Canada, such a collection cannot but be both interesting and useful to those who may be intending to make that country their residence, as well as to those who have commercial relations therewith. In the circumstance that the collection has been originated and undertaken by the Canadian Government itself, and that a large sum of money has been voted for the purpose of its creation and maintenance, a guarantee is afforded to the British public that it will be thoroughly well carried out, and be a real representation of the commerce of the colony.

The collection will be placed in the large court lying between the News-room and the Stationery Court, immediately adjoining both the Nave and Centre Transept, and at present occupied by the sculpture of the German school.

RAW PRODUCE COLLECTION AND TRADE MUSEUM.—The Technological portion of this department is rapidly approaching completion. It will comprise illustrations of all the chief manufactures of the United Kingdom; and specimens of the products, animal, vegetable, and mineral, of Great Britain and the colonies, as well as of other countries. It is believed that it will be open to the public in the course of the present summer.

The department is situated in the second gallery on the garden side of the Great Transept.

MACHINERY IN MOTION.—The Machinery will be in action during the season at such times as will be announced in the detailed advertisements. The Machinery now in the Department comprises a complete set of machinery for Spinning, Carding, Warping, Sizing, Weaving, and all the other processes for the manufacture of Cotton goods from the bale to the thread, and from the thread to the finished piece, by Walker and Hacking, and Harrison and Co.; Lathes, Shaping-machines, self-acting Planing, Drilling, and other machinery, by Whitworth, Muir, Harrison, and Co., Else, and others; Condie's Steam Hammer; Woods' Carpet Loom; Winding Machinery, by Clark, of Leicester; Centrifugal Pumps, by Appold, and Gwynne and Sons; Centrifugal Sugar and Drying Machines, by Manlove and Alliott; Steam Engines, by Goodfellow, Dunn Hattersley and Co., and others; Marine Engines with Screw Propeller, by Tod and M'Gregor; and a great variety of other machines.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.—The Department of Agricultural Machinery and Implements has been considerably improved during the past year. Specimens will be found there of the Portable Steam Engines and all the other new machines of the chief manufacturers, and purchases can be made at the same prices as at the warehouses of the makers. The stock is continually receiving additions, and every means is taken to make it a perfect representation of the state of one of the most important branches of modern industry.

READING ROOM.—The Company's Reading and News Room is situated close to the Centre Transept, between it and the German Sculpture Court. It contains all the Morning Journals; the Weekly Papers, Metropolitan and Provincial; and all the Periodicals and Magazines.

In addition to this, advertisements and copies of new works, both British and foreign, are displayed immediately after publication.

FANCY FAIRS.—The Directors are prepared to afford accommodation to benevolent and other societies, for holding fancy fairs in the Palace during the season.

CRICKET, ARCHERY, AND THE GROUNDS GENERALLY.—It gives the Directors great pleasure to announce that the Cricket-ground is now complete, and that it will be thoroughly in order for the approaching summer. Great care has been taken in the formation of the ground, and they believe that it will be found fully equal in extent and excellence to any other in the neighbourhood of London.

The Archery-ground will be continued, as before, in the northern portion of the grounds, behind the Picture Gallery Wing.

Considerable progress has been made towards the completion of the ornamental grounds in the lower portion of the Park, in the vicinity of the Cricket-ground and the Lower Lake; waste parts have been cultivated, shrubberies planted, and new walks made, and the whole rendered much more agreeable and convenient of access than it was last season.

VII. SEASON TICKETS.

The Directors have determined upon continuing the price of Season Tickets of admission at the following rates, viz.:

I. SEASON TICKETS (NOT TRANSFERABLE), AVAILABLE FROM 1ST MAY, 1857, TO 30TH APRIL, 1858, TWO GUINEAS EACH.

These tickets will admit the holder—

To the whole of the Twelve Opera Concerts.

To the Concert of the Cologne Choral Union, on the 6th June.

To the Flower Shows on May 30, and Sept. 9, 10, and 11.

To all the displays of the Grand Fountains.

To the Poultry Shows on August 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11; and

On all ordinary days—in fact, on every occasion between May 1, 1857, and April 30, 1858, on which the Palace is open; the four days of the Handel Festival, viz., the 13th, 15th, 17th, and 19th June, only excepted.

II. SEASON TICKETS (NOT TRANSFERABLE), AVAILABLE FROM 1ST MAY, 1857, TO 30TH APRIL, 1858, ONE GUINEA EACH.

These tickets admit the holder on all the occasions named above, excepting the Opera Concerts, and the other Fridays throughout the year, and the 13th, 15th, 17th, and 19th June, being the four days of the Handel Festival.

The tickets will be issued on and after the 20th instant; and may be obtained at the Crystal Palace; at the offices of the Company, 79, Lombard-street; at the offices of the London and Brighton Railway Company, London-bridge, and Regent-circus, Piccadilly; Central Handel Festival Ticket Office, Exeter Hall; and at the following agents to the Company:

H. A. Bebbington, 426, Strand; George A. Caldor, 1, Bathurst-street, Hyde Park-gardens; Cramer, Beale, and Co., 201, Regent-street; Duff and Hodgson, 65, Oxford-street; M. Hammond and Nephew, 27, Lombard-street; W. H. Henningham and Co., 5, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square; Keith, Prowse, and Co., 48, Cheapside; Letts, Son, and Co., 8, Royal Exchange; Mead and Powell, Railway Arcade, London-bridge; J. Mitchell, 33, Old Bond-street; W. R. Sams, 1, St. James's-street; John Henry Smith, 22, Gresham-street, Bank; W. R. Stephens, 36, Throgmorton-street; Charles Westerton, 20, St. George's-place, Knightsbridge.

Remittances for Season Tickets to be by post-office orders payable to George Grove.

VIII. GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL.

It gives the Directors great gratification to be able to announce that they have entered into arrangements with the Sacred Harmonic Society for a Grand Series of three Performances of Handel's Oratorios, to take place in the Centre Transept of the Palace in the month of June.

Her Majesty and H.R.H. Prince Albert have been graciously pleased to extend their especial patronage to the Festival, and have expressed their intention of honouring it with their presence.

The performances on this great occasion will be on the most gigantic scale, far exceeding anything of a similar nature hitherto proposed or carried out in this or any other country. The Orchestra will number upwards of 2500 executants, including all the principal performers, vocal and instrumental, and an immense reinforcement of amateurs from the musical societies of the metropolis, the provincial towns and districts, and other sources. An organ of great power has just been constructed by the well-known builders Gray and Davison, expressly for the festival, and its erection in the Palace is now rapidly proceeding.

The Directors have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Costa has accepted the office of Conductor.

The Oratorios performed will be the three most celebrated masterpieces of Handel:

"The Messiah," on Monday, June 15.

"Judas Maccabeus," on Wednesday, June 17.

"Israel in Egypt," on Friday, June 19.

The Festival will form the subject of an entirely separate subscription, and the Annual Season Tickets of the Crystal Palace will not be available for any of the performances.

The price of stalls on the floor of the Palace, reserved and numbered, is fixed at one guinea each for each oratorio. If taken as a set, for the whole three at one time, two guineas and a half. A limited number of reserved stalls will be set apart in the Galleries, which will be disposed of in sets, *i.e.*, for the whole three Oratorios, at five guineas per set. By a "set" is meant a ticket securing one stall for the whole of the three performances.

These tickets will be transferable.

Tickets may now be secured at the Handel Festival Ticket Office, No. 2, in Exeter-hall; at the Crystal Palace; and at the Temporary Offices of the Company, 79, Lombard-street.

Further particulars will be announced from time to time.

IX.—RATES OF ADMISSION, RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

ORDINARY RATES OF ADMISSION.—These remain as before, viz:

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays	1s. 0d.
On Saturdays	2s. 6d.

Children under 12 years of age Half-price.

The Palace will be opened on Mondays at 9 A.M.; on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 10; excepting on the days of the concerts by the Opera Company, on which days, and on Saturdays, it will be opened at 12; closing daily about sunset.

BRIGHTON RAILWAY.—During the season, the trains of the London and Brighton Railway Company will leave London-bridge Station every half-hour, and during busy days every quarter of an hour, from 9 o'clock A.M. till dusk, returning from the Palace at the same intervals throughout the day. (For exact times of starting, see the Railway Company's time tables.)

Return fares, including admission to the Palace—

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.
On Shilling Days	2s. 6d.	2s. 0d.	1s. 6d.
On Half-Crown Days	4s. 0d.	3s. 6d.	3s. 3d.

Children under 12 years of age, half-price.

WEST-END RAILWAY.—The opening of this line to the Wandsworth Station has already been attended with great convenience to visitors to the Palace, and it is with much pleasure that the Directors anticipate the completion of the whole line to the Sloane-street Station, as well as the junction with the main line of the South-Western Railway at the Clapham Common Station, in the course of the coming season. An access will thus be opened for the residents in Hyde-park, Belgravia, and Brompton, and the other West-end districts, as well as for the neighbourhoods of Richmond, Windsor, and Hampton-court, by which great economy of time will be effected, and still further convenience afforded to the public.

MID-KENT RAILWAY.—The portion of this line from the station of the South-Eastern Railway at London-bridge to Beckenham has been opened, and the extension to the Crystal Palace Station will be shortly completed, whereby an easy access will be afforded to the residents in the Lewisham and Blackheath districts.

EXCURSIONS.—Arrangements have been made by which benevolent societies, schools, and other large bodies may visit the Palace at the following reduced rates—applying only to shilling days and third-class carriages:

For a number of excursionists	s.	d.		s.	d.
over 250 and under 500	1	3	per head instead of	1	6
Exceeding 500 and under 750	1	2	,, ,,	1	6
Exceeding 750 and under 1000	1	1	,, ,,	1	6
Exceeding 1000	1	0	,, ,,		

Children, half-price.

(Signed) ARTHUR ANDERSON, Chairman.
JAMES FERGUSSON, General Manager.

THE

EXHIBITION

OF THE

ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY, 5th MAY,
AT MANCHESTER,

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE OF

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN

AND

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT,

Who has graciously consented to preside at the GRAND INAUGURAL CEREMONY.

THIS PALACE, covering a space of 18,000 square yards, will contain the LARGEST and most

VALUABLE

COLLECTION OF WORKS OF ART,

Ancient and Modern, ever presented to the public, and which, there are many reasons for supposing, can never be brought together again. The Exhibition will also include

A NATIONAL GALLERY OF PORTRAITS OF BRITISH CELEBRITIES;

Also,

A HISTORY OF MINIATURE ART.

A separate gallery of the choicest

WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS,

From the time of Girtin.

THE CELEBRATED MEYRICK COLLECTION OF ARMOUR, FROM GOODRICH COURT.

ENGRAVINGS,

From Wood, Copper, and Steel, showing the history of the engravers' art, from Marc Antonio to the present time;

SCULPTURE, IN MARBLE AND BRONZE, ANCIENT AND MODERN;

FINE SPECIMENS OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

CURIOUS

ANTIQUE FURNITURE,

RICH DISPLAYS OF

GOLD AND SILVER PLATE,

MEDIÆVAL WORKS,

RARE SPECIMENS OF CHINA AND BRONZES.

Along with the far-famed and hitherto comparatively unknown Continental

COLLECTION OF M. SOULAGES.

These gems of art have all been most graciously lent for the purpose by Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, and the leading nobility and gentry of the United Kingdom.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS.—A LARGE ORGAN has been erected for the occasion, and throughout the season there will be DAILY MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, by a large Orchestra, under the superintendence of Mr. CHARLES HALLÉ, who will conduct in person each Thursday.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.—A communication will be opened from the Palace to the Gardens, thus adding to the interest and variety of the Promenade. The charge for admission will be entirely under the control of the Council of the Botanical Society.

REFRESHMENTS will be provided on an extensive scale, at moderate charges. A tariff of prices for dinners and lighter refreshments, approved by the committee, will be affixed in conspicuous parts of the Palace. The refreshment rooms communicate with the Palace, and adjoin the Botanical Gardens and the railway station. No refreshments will be allowed to be carried into the Palace, as the arrangements are adapted for the suitable supply of the wants of all classes.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Executive Committee give notice of the following GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS for the information of visitors:—

The EXHIBITION will be OPENED on Tuesday, the 5th May, on which day none but the proprietors of 2*l.* 2s. season tickets will be admitted.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:—From the 6th to 16th May (both days inclusive), 2s. 6d. for each person. On and after Monday, the 18th May, 1s. for each person, except on Thursday in each week, when the charge will be 2s. 6d. for each person.

N.B. There will be also certain days (not exceeding eight in all) *specially reserved* for proprietors of 2*l.* 2s. season tickets, of which due notice will be given by public advertisement at least seven days beforehand.

SEASON TICKETS at 2*l.* 2s. entitle the proprietors to admission on all occasions when the Exhibition is open to the public; tickets at 1*l.* 1s. entitle to admission on all but the "reserved days." These Tickets may be procured at the Exhibition Building; or at the offices, 100, Mosley-street.

Season Tickets are *not transferable*, and must be *signed by the proprietor* before being presented at the entrance of the Palace, where a book will be kept in which the proprietor will be required to write his or her name whenever requested to do so by the officers of the committee.

HOURS OF EXHIBITION.—The doors will be open daily at ten o'clock, and will be closed at sunset. A bell will be rung half an hour before closing.

CATALOGUES.—A General Catalogue, price 1s., will be sold in the Palace. A more full and explanatory catalogue will be subsequently published at an advanced price.

BATH CHAIRS will be provided at a moderate charge for the use of ladies and invalids.

OPERA GLASSES will be on Sale or Hire in the Palace.

SMOKING in any part of the Palace is strictly prohibited.

NO PARCELS, STICKS, OR UMBRELLAS will be allowed to pass beyond the entrance, where they may be left in charge of a proper officer, at a charge of one penny.

NO CHANGE will be given at the doors.

NO RETURN TICKETS will be given to any one leaving the Palace and passing out beyond the barriers where the turnstiles are fixed. N.B.—These limits include the Refreshment Rooms, but not the Botanical Gardens.

CARRIAGES.—All drivers will be required to obey the directions given to them by the police on duty at the approaches.

VISITORS ON FOOT are requested to keep the path to the north side of the carriage drive.

Arrangements are being made with the various railway companies for

EXCURSION TRAINS,

and also to enable all visitors to purchase both the railway ticket and the ticket for admission to the Palace by a single payment. THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary.

Offices, 100, Mosley-street.

[ESTABLISHED 1841.]

MEDICAL INVALID AND GENERAL LIFE OFFICE, 25, Pall Mall, London.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

At the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on 27th November, 1856, it was shown that on the 30th June last—

The Number of Policies in force was.....5738
The Amount Insured was.....2,752,197*l.* 7s. 2d.
The Annual Income was.....118,557*l.* 16s. 2d.

Two Bonuses have been declared (in 1848 and 1853) adding nearly 2 per cent. per annum on the average to sums Assured, and by which a Policy of 1000*l.*, issued in 1842 on a healthy life, is now increased to 1260*l.*

Since the last Division of Profits in 1853, the accumulated funds have increased by more than 105,000*l.*, offering considerable advantages to present assurers.

Profits divided every five years—next division in 1858.

The Society, since its establishment, has paid claims on 651 Policies, assuring 254,008*l.*

Assurances are effected at home or abroad on healthy lives at as moderate rates as the most recent data will allow.

Indian Assurances at very moderate rates, and great facilities given to assurers.

Invalid Lives Assured on scientifically constructed tables.

Policies issued free of stamp-duty, and every charge but the Premiums.

Agents wanted for vacant places.

Prospectuses, Forms of Proposals, and every other information, may be obtained of the Secretary at the Chief Office, or on application to any of the Society's Agents in the Country.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

DIRECTORS.

Wm. Ashton, Esq., Horton-house, Wraysbury, Staines.
The Rev. Thos. Cator, Bryanston-square, and Skelbrook-park, Doncaster.
Charles Hulse, Esq., Hall-grove, Bagshot.
F. D. Bullock Webster, Esq., Norfolk-terrace, Hyde-park.
Arthur P. Onslow, Esq., Lawbrook-house, Shere, Guildford.
Thomas Pocock, Esq., Southwark-bridge-road.
Peter Paterson, Esq., jun., Park-road, Holloway.
James Laughton, Esq., Holm Villa, Lewisham-road.

This Company enables persons, without speculation, to invest large or small sums, at a higher rate of interest than can be obtained from the public funds, and on as secure a basis.

Forms of application to deposit sums of money, at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, or to purchase shares (the present interest on which is 6 per cent.), may be had on application to R. HODSON, Sec.

15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

No. 3, PALL-MALL EAST, LONDON.

Established A.D. 1844.

CAPITAL 500,000*l.*

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of interest may be obtained with perect security.

The Interest is payable in January and July, either at the Head Office in London, or at the various Branches throughout the Country.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on application.

THE CAMBRIAN and UNIVERSAL LIFE and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital 100,000*l.* Established 1849.

Office, 27, Gresham-street. Agencies in the principal towns of England and Wales.

This office offers the benefit of assurance in all its branches, and is highly eligible for every description of life assurance.

A new and most important feature, entirely originating with this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and Deferred Annuities included in one policy.

Rates of premium moderate.

Annuities granted. Family endowments.

Loans on personal and other securities.

Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on application.

By order,
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