

Read Edmund Galloway, 392 Strand.

# The Speaker.

## 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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### Review of the Week.

THE Royal Speech was given to Ministers to conceal their thoughts; the Royal Speech this year, read with a little attention, amounts to a confession that our foreign affairs are in great confusion; that Ministers do not intend to carry on the course of policy which they appeared to have taken up in 1856, especially with reference to Italy, which passes *sub silentio*; that the ratification of peace with Persia is in doubt; that the treaties with the United States, and with Honduras, for the settlement of the South-American question, are again all abroad; that they do not intend this session to introduce any subject of political reform, but that they are about to reproduce those Law Reforms on matrimony and divorce, and the Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, of which the public has been quite sickened. The Prime Minister, indeed, was a great deal more explicit than the Royal Speech. He called upon the representatives of the country to give him trust for a whole year, although he confessed that he had got no further with Parliamentary Reform than an idea of 'considering' it during the recess. He is pledged to nothing but to consider, and the country is to give him credit for good intentions. Several of the members had stood forward with notices of a motion on the subject—Mr. ROEBUCK, a general notice; Mr. LOCKE KING, a revival of his county franchise bill; Mr. BERKELEY, the ballot; and we have yet to ascertain whether the entire House of Commons will be prepared to give Lord PALMERSTON a blank acceptance to be filled up at his pleasure. Mr. ROEBUCK, indeed, will have created some astonishment in the country with words which look like an announcement that he shall not press his motion, and will yield to the good-will and pleasure of the Minister for the time being. If this is the real purport of Mr. ROEBUCK's declaration on Thursday night, it amounts to a more absolute submission than has been made by any of the constituencies of the country.

While the leader of the House of Commons is thus feeling a constant increase of his strength in that field, some events have continued to show a degree of instability at the foundations of his government. The resignation of Mr. FREDERICK PEEL, on the ground that he had lost his parliamentary seat, has been followed by the resignation of Sir ROBERT PEEL, one of the junior Lords of the Admiralty, on what ground is not explained. It

can scarcely be his indiscreet speech with reference to the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE, for if that had been the reason, it would have been consistent with sense to call for his resignation at a much earlier day. The manifesto of the *Morning Post* against Mr. GLADSTONE, who is warned as to the consequences of pursuing the course that he began last session, shows that the friends of the present Government are not without their apprehensions. And it is evident that Lord PALMERSTON's friends feel the moral effect which may be produced by the swaggering confidence and the coarse bravado of some amongst his retainers.

Meanwhile, all the world has gone down to Manchester, to forget politics in aesthetics. The Great Exhibition has been opened. Having got together a magnificent collection of pictures, statuary, ornamental furniture, armour—illustrations of art, history, manners, and customs from the earliest ages—having displayed them in an arrangement which will upon the whole render the style of practical art clear to the meanest understanding—the managers of the collection invited the PRINCE CONSORT and a body of HER MAJESTY's troops to march up and down the streets of Manchester, and up and down the Exhibition building, while loyal and royal addresses were exchanged. There is an indelible propensity on these occasions, in opening any great work, to indulge the feelings in a systematic strut; and Manchester struts as well as London, St. Petersburg, or Paris itself. The fact that strikes the Cockneys most on arriving in the head-quarters of manufacture is, that the carriages are like carriages in London, and the people in the carriages like the people in the London carriages. One use of the Exhibition has been to make Manchester and London know each other collectively.

There is a report that the Emperor of the FRENCH will make a rush to Manchester some day, and that is not improbable, if he can leave the entangled state of affairs in Paris. At present he has enough on his hands. Besides the entertainment of the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE, who must be amused without learning too much, the Emperor is involved in a curious conflict between two great parties. For some time the Bank of France has been defending itself against the encroachments of the Société de Crédit Mobilier, but from the last reports it appears to have been fairly beaten. In 1856, it declined the offers of the Society to aid it with an advance of 12,000,000*l.*, for railway purposes, or for general loans in the present year. The Government requiring money, the State Bank had made

arrangements for doubling its capital, which is now 3,600,000*l.*, and lending the addition to the Government as a permanent loan, on terms mutually advantageous to the Bank and to the State. But the authors of the great joint-stock "Crédits" which have been established in Paris, and are to be established hereafter, sit at the elbow of the Emperor, and, like Satau at the ear of Eve, teach him how to gratify himself and to do evil. The result is an entirely new scheme—an enlargement of the Bank capital to the amount of 12,000,000*l.*—a favourite figure of the Crédit Mobilier—and an admission into its directorate of persons connected with railway enterprises in France. According to this last story, the Crédit Mobilier appears to have obtained actual possession of the Bank, presenting a large douceur to the Emperor in the form of an increased loan—4,000,000*l.* sterling instead of a smaller amount, with the advances of 4,000,000*l.* for the general commerce, and an effective addition of 4,000,000*l.* to the general discounting powers of the Bank. The effect is a glorification on the Bourse, and a general rising of every kind of stock. The promoters of these Crédit societies, which have already come amongst us in London in the humble guise of a General Omnibus Company, have seized the citadel of French finance, which is at the present moment the centre of European finance.

Peace concluded with Persia has not prevented another British victory. Sir JAMES OUTRAM has captured Mohammerah, a town of some importance, near the mouth of the Euphrates, afterwards pursuing the defeated Persians further inland to Shuster and Ahwas. Although happening rather late in the negotiations for peace, this victory may not be without its use. Persia had yet to consider the terms of the peace and the ratifications; and the victory may assist both to expedite and inform her deliberations. The fact that Sir JAMES OUTRAM did not receive the intelligence of the victory until the day after the battle, although the same news would traverse in a few hours greater spaces than the length of Asia, will teach the Government of that country, which history found amongst the earliest examples of civilization, the importance of adopting the latest inventions of civilization.

Australian papers report a ministerial crisis in both New South Wales and Victoria. That in Victoria was at once the most remarkable and the most complete, for the Government had given way, and had been succeeded by a new cabinet. The papers report an attack upon Government, and a late scrap of news announces the final result, but without ex-

plaining the exact cause of the catastrophe. It is, however, guessed to be the result of an assault, led by Mr. CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY, the celebrated Irish Repealer, who had accused the Government of a job. The job was this. A Mr. CHILDERS had set going a complaint against the Government Emigration Commissioners for sending out improperly selected emigrants, though no case of the kind appears to have been made out. Mr. CHILDERS, however, desired to come to England for a two years' visit, and any one can perceive how convenient it would have been if he could have come on a public mission at the public expense. This was the job for which Mr. DUFFY attacked the Government, and soon afterwards the Government broke down; making way for a new cabinet, in which Mr. DUFFY formed part. He has established himself completely as a tutor for the people of Victoria on Parliamentary matters; being highly conservative of metropolitan usages in such matters; and now we have to see the Repealer of the *Nation* as a Cabinet Minister. He is, however, a man of fine feeling and accomplished taste, capable of really adorning any post to which he might be elevated.

The English public has witnessed one stern exhibition of justice, and another is promised to it. MANSELL, the soldier who was convicted a few months ago for murdering a companion, was respiteed by several objections which his counsel took to the technical proceedings of the court at Maidstone. Some of the jury had been set aside, on the supposition that, being opponents of capital punishment, they would not fulfil their duty under the law, and convict MANSELL, even though he should be guilty. This was rather straining the course of justice; and the question was, how far that proceeding, and some others of a similarly technical kind, vitiated the conviction. MANSELL, whose life has thus been hanging by a thread of red tape, was brought before the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday, and, after months spent between hope and fear, has been formally consigned to the gallows.

The other exhibition will be far more instructive. In bringing the proceedings of the Bankruptcy Court to a termination, Mr. LINKLATER called for the prosecution of the delinquents of the Royal British Bank. Who are these delinquents to be? Some are far enough out of the way; HUGH JAMES CAMERON is nowhere; JOHN MACGREGOR is beyond the grave. The Government has before it two members of Parliament and some other distinguished persons; but here the question is, where to draw the line between active fraud and passive delusion. Justice is so blind, that she is not always discriminating; and her sword might in this sense as severely cut those who have really been amongst the worst-used victims, as well as those who have been active participants in the fraud.

NEED WE GO ABOUT CLOTHED?—An article has been published in the *Dublin Evening Mail*, giving an account of an experiment which a Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, of St. Anne's, Blarney, near Cork, has been and still is making on his own child, a boy aged fourteen months, in order to test whether clothing is necessary in this climate. The child is perfectly naked night and day, and this in the most intense frost. He sleeps at night, or whenever he likes during the day, on a travelling rug folded in four, but with nothing over him, and with no fire in the room. He is taken out naked in sleet and snow, and seems to enjoy it. He is very healthy, of a beautiful shape and complexion, and singularly easy and graceful in his movements. He is inured to hot and cold baths and to sudden changes of temperature in order to harden him to all influences. His muscles have become remarkably firm, but his skin is very sensitive to pleasurable impressions. Being made to sleep under clothes one night, he appeared much less healthy the next day. Ordinarily, he seems to be almost insensible to pain. His father is desirous to develop in him a stoical principle of self-control, and therefore frequently wakes him in the course of his sleep, and compels him to wait for his meals while the others have theirs. It would appear, however, that he sometimes feels the cold; for, on the night of last December 27th, when there was a very hard frost, he cried to be taken into his father's bed, and moaned bitterly. He was taken in, but on his father quitting the bed, followed him out of it. Sometimes he moans when cold water is put on him, but stops when told. Such are the main features of the story, as related at great length in the *Dublin paper*. A medical gentleman applauds the father for making such an experiment on his own child for the good of mankind; but this, perhaps, is questionable. After all, moreover, we are inclined to ask for a few names. The whole thing may be a bit of St. Anne's Blarney.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE real business of the new session commenced on Thursday, when Parliament was opened by Commission. The proceedings did not excite much interest, either within or without the walls, and the attendance of peers in the gallery of the House of Lords was but slight. The Lords Commissioners having entered the House, and the Commons being summoned, The Lord CHANCELLOR delivered as follows:

### THE ROYAL SPEECH.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty has availed herself of the earliest opportunity of having recourse to your advice and assistance after the dissolution of the last Parliament; and her Majesty trusts that there will be found sufficient time during the present session to enable you satisfactorily to deal with various important matters, some of which had occupied the attention of Parliament in the beginning of this year.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that the general aspect of affairs in Europe affords a well-grounded confidence in the continuance of peace.

"All the main stipulations of the Treaty of Paris have been carried into execution, and it is to be hoped that what remains to be done in regard to those matters will be speedily accomplished.

"The negotiations upon the subject of the differences which had arisen between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation, in regard to the affairs of Neufchâtel, are drawing to a close, and will, her Majesty trusts, be terminated by an arrangement honourable and satisfactory to all parties.

"The negotiations in which her Majesty has been engaged with the Government of the United States, and with the Government of Honduras, in regard to the affairs of Central America, have not yet been brought to a close.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that a treaty of peace between her Majesty and the Shah of Persia was signed at Paris on the 4th of March, by her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and by the Ambassador of the Shah; and her Majesty will give directions that this treaty shall be laid before you as soon as the ratifications thereof shall have been duly exchanged.

"Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that, at the date of the latest advices from China, the differences which had arisen between the High Commissioner at Canton and her Majesty's civil and naval officers, in China, still remained unadjusted. But her Majesty has sent to China a Plenipotentiary fully instructed to deal with all matters of difference, and that Plenipotentiary will be supported by an adequate naval and military force, in the event of such assistance becoming necessary.

"We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty, in conjunction with several other European Powers, has concluded a treaty with the King of Denmark for the redemption of the Sound Dues. This treaty, together with a separate convention between her Majesty and the King of Denmark, completing the arrangement, will be laid before you, and her Majesty will cause the measures necessary for fulfilling the engagements thereby contracted to be submitted for your consideration.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the present year to be laid before you.

"They have been prepared with a careful attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficiency of the departments of the public service to which they severally relate.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Her Majesty commands us to recommend to your earnest consideration, measures which will be proposed to you for the consolidation and improvement of the law.

"Bills will be submitted to you for improving the laws relating to the Testamentary and Matrimonial Jurisdiction now exercised by the Ecclesiastical Courts, and also for checking fraudulent breaches of trust.

"Her Majesty commands us to express to you her heartfelt gratification at witnessing the continued well-being and contentment of her people, and the progressive development of productive industry throughout her dominions.

"Her Majesty confidently commits to your wisdom and care the great interests of her empire, and fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may be vouchsafed to your deliberations, and may lead you to conclusions conducive to the objects of her Majesty's constant solicitude, the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people."

At the conclusion of the Speech, the Commons retired to their own house, and the Lords adjourned till five o'clock in the evening.

### THE ADDRESS.

In the House of Lords, the Marquis of TOWNSHEND moved the Address, and, in his introductory speech, blamed Lord Derby for the disparaging remarks he had made towards the close of the last session on Lord Palmerston—remarks which the verdict of the country had emphatically contradicted. Having touched upon the chief points in the Queen's Speech in the usual manner, the noble Marquis expressed his regret that nothing about Reform was mentioned in that speech. He was

himself in favour of Parliamentary Reform, the abolition of church-rates as regards Dissenters, and the admission of Jews to Parliament—even to their Lordships' House.—The Earl of PORTSMOUTH, who spoke with some hesitation, seconded the Address, and declared himself in favour of law reform, and of the introduction of an act with regard to breaches of trust.

The Earl of MELMERSBURY regretted the absence of the Earl of Derby, and expressed a hope that there would be no opposition to the Address. Glancing rapidly over the main topics included in the Royal Speech, he repudiated with some warmth the accusation which Lord Palmerston had deliberately made against the Conservative party—that, in their votes on the China question, they had exhibited a willingness to accept the degradation of the English flag for the sake of office. As to the Estimates, he trusted they would be found satisfactory. He should, on another occasion, draw the attention of the House to what he conceived to be extravagance in that department. But every possible attention should be paid to the manner in which the war is carried on; and Government would not find on that side of the House any reluctance to assist them. (*Hear, hear.*)

Earl GRANVILLE stated that information had arrived that evening that, on the 5th of April, the General of the English forces at Bushire had received intelligence that the treaty with Persia had been signed at Paris; and steps were taken to put the Persian General—whose name he did not recollect—(*laughter*)—in possession of the fact, so that an end might be put to useless bloodshed. (*Cheers.*) He would only add, that he thought Lord Palmerston's language did not bear the interpretation which had been put upon it by Lord Malmesbury.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE drew the attention of Lord PANMURE to the imputation of cowardice at the battle of Sobraon which had been thrown on General Ashburnham, the newly-appointed commander of the China expedition. He hoped the Government would support the General from these anonymous attacks.—Lord PANMURE vindicated the character of General Ashburnham, and observed that his accusers were utterly unfit to bear the Queen's commission, and to associate with their companions in the service. The General had behaved with great gallantry, and had simply obeyed orders at Sobraon.—Earl GREY thought that a stop should be put to these pernicious attacks by junior officers on their superiors. He urged on the Government the necessity of supplying the House with papers relative to the Persian war and to the China expedition. There was no question that, as Lord Malmesbury had pointed out, the Opposition had been vilified by the Government in connexion with the China affair. The Chinese had committed some great atrocities; but they had been exasperated by our most unjustifiable attack on them, and the responsibility of all the bloodshed would lie on us. All nations, when attacked by an organized force, commit individual acts of cruelty, and a semi-civilized nation, unaccustomed to the modern arts of war, would be more especially liable to do so in self-defence; but it did not become us, as Christians, to condemn the whole Chinese nation, on that account, as a set of savages, and to rake up outrages committed many years ago, for which reparation had been given, in order to justify our own attacks. The only way in which the Chinese excesses could be stopped was by forbearance on our own part, coupled with a strong display of arms.—The Earl of ALBEMARLE having said a few words in favour of Parliamentary Reform, and of an early attention to Indian abuses, the Address was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, Lord REDESDALE was reappointed chairman of committees.—The standing orders were re-enacted, and their Lordships adjourned at a quarter past seven o'clock.

In the House of Commons—the SPEAKER having read the Queen's Speech—the Address was moved by Mr. DONSON, who, in a maiden speech, reviewed the political features of the day, and observed that he thought the House possessed peculiar advantages for carrying out measures of improvement, in the absence of any antagonistic array of interests against interests or of classes against classes. He conceived it to be a promising sign that the Address should be moved by the representative of an agricultural community, and seconded by the member for so large a commercial constituency as Glasgow.—The Address was seconded by Mr. BUCHANAN, who enlarged upon the lesson taught by the country to Messrs. Cobden, Bright, Milner Gibson, &c., who, notwithstanding their great abilities and eloquence, had found that they could not contradict popular feeling and national honour with impunity. The population of Canton required strong coercive measures. He hoped the just expectations of the people with respect to Parliamentary Reform would not be disappointed; and concluded by expressing his approval of the reappointment of the committee on banking.

General THOMPSON protested against the Government view of the China question, and averred that he did not mean to let the subject pass without once more bringing it before the inquest of the country.—Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR thought the topic might be left in abeyance on the present occasion; but conceived that some notice should be taken of the great questions of political and social reform. With reference to church-rates, if the Government did not intend to legislate, he was himself prepared to propose a bill.—Mr. EWART

expressed a hope that a Minister of Justice would be appointed, and he trusted that Government would lay before the House statistics of education, property, and population, as elements on which alone a proper determination could be formed with regard to the required measure of Parliamentary Reform.

Lord PALMERSTON said that, with regard to a Minister of Justice, the Government had under consideration the best means of accomplishing the object. Considering the shortness of the present session, he thought it would be highly inexpedient for the House to enter into so large a subject as Parliamentary Reform until the following session. In the intermediate period, the Government would take the question into their fullest and most deliberate consideration. (Cheers.) He did not feel justified in saying anything with respect to the details of the measure, because those had yet to be considered, and any anticipatory conclusions might lead to embarrassment, and would curb the freedom of the Ministerial deliberations. "I hope," continued the Premier—"indeed, I am confident—that at the beginning of the next session we shall be able to propose to Parliament some measure which will be calculated to satisfy the just expectations of any parties, and to correct any defects which may exist in the present Reform Act, as well as to admit to the franchise those classes of persons who at present are excluded from it. (Hear, hear.) More than that I trust the House will not expect me to say at present. If this House has confidence in the present Government, it ought to show it by exercising forbearance, and by not pressing this session for any declaration upon particular points in reference to representative reform. If this House has not sufficient confidence in us to wait until the next session for the production of measures upon a subject requiring the gravest consideration, then it had better say so, and at once place the administration of the affairs of the country in other hands." (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) After congratulating the House upon the prospect which Europe at present holds out of a continuance of peace, Lord Palmerston proceeded:—

"There was one other subject to which my noble friend (Lord Robert Grosvenor) alluded, and upon which I must say a word. I refer to the question of church-rates. (Hear, hear.) That also is a subject, as the House is aware, which abounds with practical difficulties. However, the subject is now under the consideration of her Majesty's Government, and I hope we may be able to propose some measure which will get rid of the difficulties at present existing. I hope, however, the House will not expect us to introduce any measure until we have made up our minds upon the matter."

Mr. ROEBUCK, accepting the statement of Lord Palmerston as a distinct pledge upon the subject of a Reform Bill, said he would not interfere with the Premier's efforts to remedy the admitted defects and anomalies of the existing act.

The Address was then agreed to without a division, and the House adjourned at ten minutes past six o'clock.

#### ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A MAN was riding on horseback, a few days ago, past the turnpike-gate near Barnstaple, Devonshire, when he observed the gatekeeper, an old man, with his clothes on fire. Instead of instantly rendering assistance, the man rode back to the town, a distance of half a mile; but, by the time he returned, the lower parts of the poor fellow's body were burnt to a cinder, though he was still alive. He was removed to the Barnstaple Infirmary, and died shortly afterwards. He was subject to fits, and must have set his clothes on fire while in one of them.

A soldier, named Norrits, belonging to the 60th Depot at Fort Regent, Jersey, and a young woman, his sweetheart, have fallen over the rocks on the coast, and been killed. They were found at night, after being missed for a long time, lying at the foot of a precipice. The girl was dead; the soldier speechless and in agony from the injuries he had sustained. He lingered for fourteen hours, and then died.

A boiler explosion, which was attended by the loss of three lives and severe injuries to others, besides damage to property, amounting to nearly 400*l.*, took place on Friday week at North Wheal Vor Mine, in the parish of Breage, Cornwall. Five men, named William Grenfell (engineman), William Henry Williams, Samuel Reynolds, John Pope, and William Yates (miners), were in the engine-house between four and five o'clock in the morning, when, it is feared through the carelessness of the engineman in not attending to the feeding of the boiler, that instrument burst. John Pope was killed on the spot, and was blown from the boiler-house to a distance of seventy-six yards. Yates and Grenfell were so severely scalded that they soon afterwards died, and the other men sustained serious injuries by having been more or less scalded. The end of the boiler in which the tubes were was blown out, and the boiler-house was thrown down.

An explosion of hydrogen gas occurred on Tuesday afternoon at the blast furnaces of Messrs. William Riley and Sons, Millfields, two miles from Wolverhampton. Four persons were immediately killed, one fatally wounded, and four seriously injured. All these were workpeople of the Messrs. Riley.

#### OPENING OF THE MANCHESTER EXHIBITION.

The Manchester Exhibition of Art Treasures was opened by Prince Albert on Tuesday, in the presence of several Cabinet Ministers and a large gathering of the general public. Up to the very evening before, a considerable amount of preparation remained to be got through. The interior of the Palace presented a chaotic appearance, which seemed to defy all hope of the building being ready by the proper time; but the workmen were kept at their tasks during the night, and the morning found the preliminaries completed.

We subjoin in another column a report from a Special Correspondent on the main characteristics of the Exhibition, and the appearance of the Palace on the first day; but a brief account of the ceremonials of the occasion will be necessary in this place as a preface to the more critical remarks of our Correspondent.

Prince Albert arrived at a little after one o'clock, and, having been conducted to the dais, was addressed by the Mayor of Manchester in a speech of the usual loyal nature, to which he thus replied:—

"Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Gentlemen,—I have received with feelings of no ordinary gratification the address which you have presented to me, expressing such kindly feelings towards myself, and professing to represent the good wishes of the vast community which is collected in and around this city.

"It will, I am sure, be most pleasing to the Queen to receive, from the expressions contained in the address, a fresh assurance of the loyal interest taken by her people in all that concerns her happiness.

"I most willingly attend here this day to assist at a ceremony which the inhabitants of Manchester may well witness with pride, as its object is to inaugurate an Exhibition collected by the exertion of their enterprise and public spirit, and intended, not for the amusement and gratification of the neighbourhood alone, but for the instruction and improvement of the nation at large.

"You justly allude in terms of gratitude to that comprehensive and liberal spirit which has adorned the walls of this building with the choicest specimens of art from so many private galleries of the kingdom. It added much to the pleasure with which the Queen and myself had complied with the application for works of art belonging to us when we found this example so generally followed by the possessors of treasures which are, in general, so reluctantly entrusted by their owners to the care of others.

"The Queen will, I am confident, be glad again to visit Manchester, not only to mark by her presence her approval of the object and successful execution of this great undertaking which we have this day to celebrate, but from a recollection of the enthusiastic loyalty exhibited when she had formerly an opportunity of visiting this great centre of industry."

The Prince then passed along the central hall to the dais in the transept, the orchestra in the meanwhile playing the National Anthem, and the people cheering loudly. Lord Overstone then read, in the name of the General Council, of which he is President, an address, thanking his Royal Highness for the interest he had taken in the Exhibition, and expressing their condolence with him on the death of the Duchess of Gloucester. To this, Prince Albert replied:—

"My Lord and Gentlemen,—You are very kind in thinking at this moment of the bereavement which has befallen the Queen and her family.

"In the Duchess of Gloucester we have all lost, not only the last of the children of that good King who occupied the throne during sixty years, and carried this country fearlessly and successfully through the most momentous struggles of its history, and thus the last personal link with those times, but also a lady whose virtues and qualities of the heart had commanded the respect and love of all who knew her.

"If I have thought it my duty to attend here to-day, although her mortal remains have not yet been carried to their last place of rest, my decision has been rendered easy by the conviction that, could her own opinions and wishes have been known, she would, with that sense of duty and patriotic feeling which so much distinguished her and the generation to which she belonged, have been anxious that I should not on her account, or from private feelings, disturb an arrangement intended for the public good."

Mr. Fairbairn, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, who wore the uniform of a deputy-lieutenant, then read an address (of which he presented to the Prince a copy in a case of purple velvet, embroidered with gold), giving a sketch of the history of the undertaking. Towards the close of this document, the Committee remark:—

"In connexion with our proceedings, we would very briefly refer to the circumstances under which one very important feature of the Exhibition—the well-known historic museum of works of decorative art, collected by M. Soulage, of Toulouse—has found its way to Manchester. Upon the refusal by her Majesty's Government to purchase this choice collection at prime cost, we considered we were acting in the true interests of art in

volunteering on our individual responsibilities to purchase the collection upon the terms that had just been refused. We desired that a collection of so high an educational value to our artisans should have the benefit of the widest possible examination; and we would express a confident hope that it may yet be preserved in its entirety after the close of this Exhibition for more general public instruction."

Prince Albert replied thus:—

"Gentlemen of the Executive Committee,—I thank you most sincerely for your kind address. The expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Queen which it conveys will, I feel certain, be most gratifying to her. I have with pleasure accepted your invitation to preside at the inaugural ceremony of an undertaking which I have watched with the deepest interest from its first conception; and I may now be allowed to congratulate you upon the success which has so far crowned your labours.

"The building in which we are assembled, and the wonderful collection of these treasures of art, as you so justly term them, which it displays, reflect the highest credit upon you. They must strike the beholder with grateful admiration, not only of the wealth and spirit of enterprise of this country, but also of that generous feeling of mutual confidence and goodwill between the different classes of society within it, of which it affords so gratifying a proof.

"We behold a feast which the rich, and those who have, set before those to whom fortune has denied, the higher luxuries of life—bringing forth from the innermost recesses of their private dwellings their choicest and most cherished treasures, and entrusting them to your care, in order to gratify the nation at large; and this, too, unhesitatingly, at your mere request, satisfied that your plans were disinterested and well matured, and that they had the good of the country for their object.

"This is a gratifying sight, and blessed is the country in which it is witnessed. But not less so is the fact which has shown itself in this as in other instances, that the great and noble of the land look to their sovereign to head and lead them in such patriotic undertakings, and when they see that the sovereign has come forward to give her countenance and assistance to the work, that they feel it a pleasure to co-operate with her, and not to leave her without their support—emulating thus, in works of peace, the chivalric spirit which animated their forefathers in the warlike times of old.

"You have done well not to aim at a mere accumulation of works of art and objects of general interest, but to give to your collection, by a scientific and historical arrangement, an educational character,—thus not losing the opportunity of teaching the mind, as well as gratifying the senses; and manifold are the lessons which it will present to us! If art is the purest expression of the state of mental and religious culture and of general civilization of any age or people, an historical and chronological review given at one glance cannot fail to impress us with a just appreciation of the peculiar characteristics of the different periods and countries the works of which are here exhibited to us, and of the influence which they have exercised upon each other.

"In comparing these works with those of our own age and country, while we may well be proud of the immense development of knowledge and power of production which we possess, we have reason also for humility in contemplating the refinement of feeling and intensity of thought manifested in the works of the older schools.

"I trust that you may reap, in the approbation of the public at large, and in the remunerative concourse of the people, the immediate reward of your labours; and that, like the Exhibition of 1851, to which you so flatteringly allude, you may thus also find the means of closing your operations without having recourse to the Guarantee Fund which this district has so generously put at your disposal.

"Beyond this, however, I trust that the beneficial effects upon the progress of art and taste in our country, which we may confidently look to, may be a lasting memorial of your vast enterprise."

The orchestra then performed "The Heavens are Telling;" the Bishop of Manchester invoked the blessing of God on the Exhibition; and Prince Albert, attended by the chief functionaries, promenaded the building in procession, the orchestra performing various pieces of music. Prince Albert next formally declared the Exhibition open. The orchestra performed the Hallelujah chorus, and the Prince then slowly and minutely inspected the various parts of the building, the public being admitted to each department as he quitted it. Having left the Palace a little before five o'clock in the evening, he at once drove to Abney Hall, the residence of Mr. Hall, where he passed the night.

At half-past nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, Prince Albert proceeded to Salford to inaugurate the statue of the Queen (the workmanship of Mr. Noble), which has been erected by the Sunday school teachers and children to commemorate her Majesty's visit to the Park in 1851. The Prince was received in the library by the mayor and corporation of Salford, and proceeded to the large reading-room. The Mayor of Salford presented the corporation address, to which Prince Albert replied. The

Bishop of Manchester then presented an address from the Associated Institutes of Lancashire and Cheshire. The Prince next visited the exhibition of the works of local artists and the museum, after which he received an address from Mr. Alderman Agnew, Chairman of the Sunday School Committee. Finally, the statue, which is of Sicilian marble, and, with the pedestal, is twenty feet high, was uncovered amidst the cheering of the crowd.

### THREE VISITS TO THE MANCHESTER ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

#### I.

##### THE INAUGURATION DAY.

We would willingly leave it to physiologists to determine whether Man is or is not a development of the Monkey: one thing, however, is certain—that he possesses at least that eminently simious characteristic, a proneness to imitation. The lack of novelty under the sun has passed long since into a proverb; classic poets have descanted upon the pregnant fecundity with which one event begets many similar: in the present day perhaps the most notable instance of this is the facility with which the idea of assembling a vast number of congruous and incongruous objects, with or without a definite purpose, has reproduced itself over and over again. The numerous Exhibitions conducted by the Society of Arts; the efforts in that direction patronised by the First Napoleon and continued by the Bourbons after their restoration; the Congresses of Cattle and Turnips assembled under the auspices of our own agricultural associations; more lately, the Monster Bazaar of 1851 and its Parisian rival of 1855 (not to speak of the comparative failures at Dublin and New York, both of which received their impulse from the great gathering of 1851)—all these have led up to, and received their crowning point from, the Art Treasures Exhibition, now being held at Manchester in this year of grace 1857.

Without descending to say anything of a merely complimentary tendency upon the occasion, it may be truthfully observed that this Olympic competition of the Muses at Old Trafford has in it something of far higher and more extended aim than any other Exhibition hitherto attempted. This, of all other Exhibitions, may be said to be in the right place, for surely, if collections of this sort are to have an educational tendency, it is a better and a wiser thing to teach the manufacturers than the purchasers. The general effect of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and of the more recent labours of the officials at Marlborough House, has been to teach the consumers what they *should* and what they *should not buy*; but the effect of the Manchester Exhibition will be to teach the manufacturers what is and is not fitting to be made. There is something very logical in this; and if those interested in the preservation and progress of our trade will only adopt the hint, we may look forward to a time when bad taste will die for want of nutriment, and that because the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition inaugurated a time when Good Taste came to reign supreme upon the banks of the Irwell, and Bad Taste, with Vice, and Ignorance, and Dissension in her train, fled away like a discomfited Afreet, and never came to trouble the atmosphere of industrial Lancashire any more.

As honour is too frequently paid where it is *not* due, we should never miss an opportunity of offering it where it really is. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort got the credit of the Great Exhibition of 1851—wherefore it would be hard to tell. The whole credit of having originated this undertaking, of having presided over its organisation, and of having carried it onwards to a high and unexpected pitch of perfection, is due to Mr. J. C. Deane, now the General Commissioner of the Exhibition. He it was who suggested the idea; he it was who gave it an organic form; he it was who has presided over and assisted in its development, until it has grown almost unexpectedly into its present astonishing proportions. When Mr. Deane first transmitted to Mr. Fairbairn his notions about an Art Treasures Exhibition, he never imagined that the result would have at all approached the reality. Something in the form of a decent and creditable collection may have seemed possible to him; but that it should ever come to be a perfect harmonious whole, composed entirely of the most excellent atoms that could be collected from all parts of the country—that the owners of masterpieces should be persuaded to part with their darling treasures for a while, in order to grace this triumph of civilization—that far-off mansions of the aristocracy should become unfurnished of their choicest ornaments for the adornment of a single room in democratic Manchester—those were dreams too wild for the most sanguine speculator; and as Mr. Deane now looks around upon this great work, of which he is, in truth, the prime architect, he must feel no small surprise at the recognition of the fact that sometimes out of a small spark a great fire is kindled.

In placing the site of the Art Treasures Exhibition outside Manchester, the Executive Committee has done well. The dull canopy of smoke which ordinarily roofs this city of looms and spindles rendered this necessary. The locality of Old Trafford is commodious and convenient—within easy reach of, and yet sufficiently removed from, Manchester to give an opportunity for the

light of heaven to illuminate these masterpieces of human art. The building itself is scarcely an earnest of what may be expected in the way of the refinement of taste, seeing that in its exterior aspect it would be difficult to imagine a plainer and more work-a-day construction. Three waggon-shaped boilers placed side by side, with another placed across at the end, afford the best simile which occurs to us of the general character of the building. Inside, the general effect is prettier and more artistic; but of that more anon.

And here our report must assume a narrative form. On Monday, the 4th, the swift magic of the London and North-Western Railway whirled us down to Manchester, where we found people in a state of pleasurable excitement about the coming glories of the morrow. The uncertainty about the coming of the Prince Consort (which was rendered more than doubtful by the recent demise of the Duchess of Gloucester) had imported enough of excitement into the matter to be just pleasant, and the good people of Manchester had been relieved from their tribulation in time to recognise that the Prince had acted wisely and nobly in resolving to sacrifice his own private feeling to the public good.

Next morning we proceeded to Old Trafford; and here, for the first time, the effects of haste in the preparations became obvious. The temporary railway station, arranged in the Oxford-road for the accommodation of passengers to the Exhibition, seems to be insufficient in space and ineffectual in the working. One line of rails is only capable of admitting one train at a time, and consequently, both at the Manchester end and at the door of the Exhibition, trains have to wait their turn like cabs *en queue* at the Opera. A little matter of detail also deserves severe reprehension. The platform at the Oxford-road station is so much below the level of the carriages that it is quite a serious climb or jump (as the case may be) for a lady to get into or out of her seat. In fact, the railway authorities have exhibited the greatest laxity in everything save the levying of contributions upon the public purse. That they have been pretty diligent in that respect will be understood from the fact that, on the opening day, the fare to the Exhibition (a little over two miles) was one shilling—a return-ticket eighteen pence. If this somewhat high rate had been accompanied by any special and satisfactory preparations for the public comfort no complaint need have been made; but as the very reverse was the case, we cannot too strongly condemn the sordid and shortsighted policy exhibited by the authorities upon the Altringham and Great Junction line.

Of the outward aspect of the Art Treasures Palace we have already spoken. It should be explained, however, that the building is immediately contiguous to the Botanic Gardens, the directors of which have very liberally offered their assistance to the executive committee, and on certain days the walks and alleys of these pleasant grounds offer an inviting retreat to the visitor whom long wanderings in the palace have jaded both in mind and body. The general effect inside the building is exceedingly good; and for the sake of the *coup d'œil* the entry should be made at the front facing the high road from Manchester. The eye then measures the whole extent of the building, glancing up the long vista which terminates in the superb organ which crowns the orchestra. The four lines of statues, reaching all up the nave, have also a capital effect. The lighting (which comes entirely from broad strips of skylight along each of the three arches) is amply sufficient. The decoration of the walls and pillars is simple and tasteful; very cool to the eye; nothing gaudy or out of tone. Two elements of beauty the *habitué* of the Sydenham Palace will look for in vain—water and greenery; and these would have been provided but for the high sense which the Committee has exhibited of the value of the treasures committed to its charge, competent authorities having decided that insect-harbouring plants and moisture-giving water cannot be safely introduced under the same roof with pictures of inestimable price. And this seems a fitting opportunity to pay a just tribute of praise to the high-minded courageous liberality with which the Committee has grappled with the difficult question of insurance. Differing in practice from the committees of all previous Exhibitions, it was decided to insure all the objects committed to their charge *from all risks*, and that has accordingly been done, at an expense which may be readily imagined. Nor would it be just to withhold a word of commendation from the contributors themselves, who have so cheerfully consented to part with treasures which have in many cases been the pride of their families for ages, the chief decoration of their mansions, the prime objects of their care among all their possessions; exposing things to peril which, if destroyed or damaged, could neither be replaced nor repaired; for it is needless to say that no mere money value can be set upon the numerous unique objects with which this unparalleled collection is enriched. And yet, in spite of these infinite perils which might well have affected the most liberal collector, the appeal of the officials charged with the collection of the Works of Art has been, in almost every case, responded to in the most liberal manner. The most exalted personages in the land have been the foremost to contribute their aid in the good work. The Queen and her Royal Consort have been by far the most liberal contributors; noblemen and commoners, corporate bodies and ancient institutions, have

sent their invaluable acquisitions, their heirlooms, their insignia, and their relics to this great illustration of human art. One or two dishonourable exceptions have occurred, and of these one deserves special mention. Sir Robert Peel has not only refused to contribute a single article from the rich stores of art collected by his father, but he has not even had the courtesy to reply to one of the numerous appeals addressed to him upon the subject by the officials of the Exhibition; forgetting the origin whence his fortune sprang, forgetting the liberality with which his father always encouraged the spread of art, this descendant of an honoured name has obstinately refused to follow the example of his superiors by contributing a single article to the Exhibition. This, however, is, we are happy to say, almost a solitary exception, and we should scarcely have thought it worth while to dwell upon it, but for the conspicuous position into which the present Sir Robert so obstinately persists in thrusting himself upon all imaginable occasions, and for the zeal as to the improvement of the working classes which he is constantly exhibiting, so far, at least, as delivering lectures and inaugurating mechanics' institutions are concerned.

It is time, however, that we return to the palace and give some account of the inauguration ceremony. We have already referred to the general *coup d'œil* which the building offers as you enter it from the east end. On Tuesday, however, it presented a spectacle which will probably never be repeated whilst it stands, for all up the nave, in triple rows, and filling the transept with a blaze of glory, and fringing the gallery like a flower border, were the far-famed Lancashire witches; so at least we have been informed by the enthusiastic reporters of the local press. But our readers—even our fair and gentle readers—must forgive us if we, who have explored so many fictions, and who disregard even gallantry itself when it stands in the light of truth, add this to the number of myths which fantastic word-painters delight to revel in. Nobody believes in old witches flying through the air upon brooms to diabolical sabbaths. Henceforth let no one believe in Lancashire witches; for there are none—at any rate, there are none in Manchester. Time was when, upon the breezy shores of New Brighton, the sward of Lytham, the gusty heights of Blackpool, the banks of the sweetly-flowing Ribble, the green pastures of the Fylde, and the rocky uplands of Clitheroe, the bright eyes and rosy cheeks of the Lancashire lasses were wont to fire our youthful imagination. It is gone—a mere dream of the past—gone with other fond illusions that we loved; the Lancashire witch is, so far as Manchester is concerned, as extinct as the Dodo or the Aptynx. Dark Israelitish eyes there were that flashed out of costly bowers of lace. Teutonic noses were there that buried themselves in bouquets of rare exotics, Greeks were there with features suggestive of neither Helen nor the young Parthenope, Jews and Arabians were there, and dwellers in Mesopotamia, but our dear, buxom, rosy friend, the Lancashire witch, had evidently denied her sweet presence to the gathering. *La Beauté, où va-t-elle se nicher!* Manchester is now almost a foreign colony; at any rate, anything but Lancastrian.

Yet it was a beautiful, nay, a glorious sight, those long lines of well-dressed women: for, as we have been compelled to be severe one way, let us be just in another. Neither the Inauguration of 1851, nor the Paris Ceremony of 1855, recalls such a picture of splendid and elegant costume as we saw at Old Trafford on Tuesday. Let it be said in a word, that in the composition of the tableau the richness of the material was equalled by the taste of the selection. Not even in Paris, the fountain-head of fashion, were so many really elegantly-dressed women got together. The simile is a trite one, but we can compare the spectacle to nothing but a flower-garden.

And so we passed on to our place—fortunately a very good one—and gazed for long but not wearisome hours upon that glorious picture, and saw the plot thicken as notable men mustered upon the dais; Van de Weyer, blazing with orders; Dallas, with his statuesque white head, republicanly simple in his costume, but aristocratically haughty in his treatment of the sable envoy of the Imperial Majesty of Hayti; Owen, our English Cuvier; and many others, whom it is not necessary to mention. Last, but not least in the throng of notabilities, came the new Member for Manchester, Sir John Potter, who had encased his portly person in a court suit for the occasion. Holding in memory the great man who erewhile represented Manchester, and recollecting his coat of formal cut, it was impossible to repress a smile at the sight of this worthy knight. Sir John Potter resembles the Sir John of Shakespeare in everything but wit, and taken in exchange for John Bright, is very much what a shilling's worth of coppers would be against a golden guinea. Cortes, what the representative of Cottonopolis has lost in power, it has gained in bulk. Presently, the orchestra filled, and in due time the three soloists, Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss, took their seats; then a hush of expectation, a hurried reference to watches (the Prince being a quarter of an hour after his appointed time), then the boom of cannon, a cheer, and the Prince was in the building. First of all there was an address to be presented, and a reply to be made at the east end of the building; then the procession was formed, and passed upwards to the dais in the Transept; the National Anthem finely given, two more addresses

(from Lord Overstone and Mr. Fairbairn), and two more replies to the same; a lengthy and somewhat commonplace prayer from the Right Reverend of Manchester; Haydn's noble Hymn of Praise, 'The Heavens are Telling'; the glorious Old Hundredth, executed better than we ever heard it before; then a procession round the building, and the Exhibition was formally declared to be open; after which a solo and chorus from Handel's 'Ode to St. Cecilia's Day' (which is not identical with the 'Alexander's Feast,' as some of our contemporaries appear to imagine), and the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' in which the clear, strong voices of the Lancashire chorus-singers told with wonderful effect. Such was the inauguration of the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition. Very satisfactory, and, as a Manchester man, in our immediate neighbourhood, finely observed, "Well worth the money."

## STATE OF TRADE.

THE reports of the business of the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show a general tendency to dulness. At Manchester, lower prices have been accepted, and in the woollen districts heaviness has been caused by the reduction in the staple at the London sales now in progress. In the iron trade there has been considerable steadiness.—The shipping statistics of the Board of Trade for the month ending the 31st of March present extraordinary evidence of commercial activity. The arrivals were very numerous, and the clearances outward were also on a scale to indicate that valuable returns, either in specie or produce, must continue due to us. With regard to the coasting trade, it appears that the aggregate capacity of the vessels entered inward in March, 1855, was 872,860 tons; in 1856, it was 954,763; and in the present return it is 988,306 tons, including nine foreign vessels of an aggregate burden of 1717 tons. The clearances outward were 923,034 tons in March, 1855; 999,072 in 1856; and 1,065,897, including 1936 tons of foreign, in 1857.—*Times.*

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been little activity. The number of ships reported inward was 147, being 38 less than in the previous week. These included 21 with cargoes of corn, flour, &c., four with cargoes of sugar, and one cargo of coffee. The total number of vessels cleared outward was 154, including 24 in ballast, showing a decrease of 13.—*Idem.*

## IRELAND.

THE ALLEGED ASSAULT ON THE BISHOP OF ARDAGH.—The story of the assault at Newtownforbes on the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh is now denied. But, if the denial comes from the rev. gentleman's fellow-priests, we know what value to place on it.

MORE POTATO RIOTS IN GALWAY.—Some further riotous demonstrations against the purchasers of potatoes for exportation have taken place in the districts of Oughterard, Oranmore, &c. Two companies of the 59th depot from Athlone have arrived at Galway; and the war steamer *Advice* having come into Galway Bay, she has been placed at the disposal of the stipendiary magistrate, for protecting the vessels engaged in the export of potatoes.

THE IRISH TENANT LEAGUE.—Dr. Gray, of the *Freeman's Journal*, one of the most active of the Leaguers, has publicly withdrawn from the body, and between two of its members an action at law has arisen, wherein damages are laid at 500*l.* for libel.

LORD CARLISLE AND THE PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—The Lord Lieutenant, through his secretary, Colonel Larcom, has sent an answer to the apology of the Protestant Association in connexion with the affair which we noticed last week. His Excellency accepts the explanation as a withdrawal of the offensive imputations, and does not 'at present think himself called upon to depart from the course he has previously pursued.' This letter having been read at a meeting of the association, one of the members, Mr. Thompson, disavowed any intention of using personal expressions towards Lord Carlisle. 'The address was sent to him merely in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant.' It was plain, however, that that was the very gist of the offence.

## THE ORIENT.

## PERSIA.

THE capture of Mohammerah is announced in a telegraphic despatch from General Outram, dated "Camp before Mohammerah, March 28th":—

"Mohammerah was captured by the British on the 26th inst. The enemy lost two hundred killed and wounded, among whom was Asherluf Brigadier, besides seventeen guns, and a vast amount of ammunition and military stores. The Persian army, under the Shah Zadeh, retreated towards Ahwaz and Shuster in great disorder. The British forces are encamped near Mohammerah. Our loss in killed and wounded is about ten. The Arab tribes are friendly, and are sending in their submission."

The following further telegraphic message has been received from Sir James Outram through Constantinople:—

"The flying expedition to Ahwaz returned to Mohammerah on the 4th inst. (April), completely successful. The large Persian army retired from their position, and retreated rapidly towards Dizful before a British force not four hundred strong. One gun was captured, and extensive military stores were seized and destroyed."

CHINA.—A serious riot, attended with loss of life, has occurred among the Chinese at the English settlement of Penang, being the first of the kind that has happened this century. It originated in a supposed infringement of religious ceremonies by the police, who had taken certain precautions for preserving the town from fire, of which there was considerable danger, owing to the use of crackers by the Chinese. Quiet has since been restored.

## AMERICA.

A WAR between the United States and New Granada seems to be threatened. The Commissioner sent by the Washington Government to Bogota to negotiate a settlement of the difficulties springing out of the Panama massacre of the 15th of April, 1856, and out of certain other matters, has submitted his ultimatum, which was rejected, and has left for the United States, followed by the resident Minister.

The New York Legislature has passed the bill declaring in effect that no slaves shall be bought within the boundaries of the State, thus contradicting the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the *Dred Scott* case. The Liquor License Bill (for restraining the sale of alcohol in small quantities) received the signature of Governor King on the afternoon of the 17th ult., and is now a law.

Mr. Sayer, a relative of Mr. Clayton, has avenged some severe comments made on the latter gentleman by a Mr. George P. Herrick, in a letter to the *New York Herald*, by assaulting the offending person in the streets. An attempt has been made to assassinate Mr. William Sydney Smith, the English Consul at Havannah, on account, it is thought, of his exposures of slave transactions.

The new Mexican constitution has been promulgated. It appears to be very liberal, as regards ecclesiastical matters. It omits to enact the supremacy of the Roman Catholic religion; incapacitates corporate bodies, and consequently the clergy, from holding real property; and subjects the priests to the ordinary tribunals, while declining to make the courts of law instrumental in enforcing the observance of monastic vows. The Archbishop of Mexico and the inferior clergy have of course denounced from the pulpit this admirable project of emancipation from the fetters of the Church; and many of the civil servants have refused to take the oath of fidelity to the constitution as thus modelled. These refractory persons have been dismissed.

After the destruction of the settlement at Spirit Lake, the Sioux Indians made an attack on Springfield, in the southern part of Minnesota, but were repulsed with a loss of about a dozen men.

Disasters crowd thickly on Walker's followers. A great part of Lockridge's force on the river San Juan has been destroyed by an explosion on board the steamer *Scott*. Letters from Greystown, to April 6, give a full account of this catastrophe, as well as of Lockridge's previous retreat from before Castillo, which place he found was much too strong for him to attack. Sixteen or seventeen men were killed by the explosion, and twenty-five or thirty wounded. The survivors were immediately transferred to Serapiqui by the other steamer, the *Rescue*, and the wounded were afterwards taken to a wretched excuse for a hospital at Punta Arenas, where they suffered fearfully. Several of the adventurers have arrived at New York in a forlorn state of poverty and disease.

The Department of War has issued an order putting in motion a large body of troops on the Western border. This has led to the belief that a descent is to be made on the territory of Utah, in order to compel Brigham Young and his infatuated brother Mormonites to obey the Federal laws. In the meanwhile, the dwellers by the Salt Lake are making great preparations for resisting any attack. Every male, from twelve to eighty years of age, is to be fully armed and drilled; and the women and children, if need be, are to fight to the last.

Two men have been forcibly taken from gaol and lynched in Iowa.

A curious contrast to the sanctimonious horror of actors and acting felt in this country by the over-righteous—of which species of bigotry Mr. Phelps recently gave some instances at the Theatrical Fund Dinner—has been presented at New York. The Rev. Dr. Bellows, of 'All Souls' Church, in that city, spoke in a very respectful, and even eulogizing, way of the stage on the occasion of his last thanksgiving sermon. Some of the chief actors resolved to present the preacher with a service of plate, costing a thousand dollars. Dr. Bellows felt that it would be imprudent to receive this tribute; but he has accepted an invitation to preside at the annual dinner of the American Dramatic Fund Association, and to deliver a lecture to actors and actresses on the duties and responsibilities of their profession.

"The preliminary proceedings in Mexico in the case of the Spanish assassinations," says a communication in

the *Morning Post*, "have terminated. It is proved that the sons of General Alvarez were the instigators of the crime. If an execution should take place, of which there is reason to doubt on account of the weakness of the Government, the intelligence will be forwarded to Havanna, in order to prevent the arrival of the Spanish fleet. On the other hand, the English Chargé d'Affaires has communicated a note from his Government, which allows nine days to bring M. Degallado before the tribunals; failing which, the Minister will retire, together with the members of his legation."

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

DR. KERN has returned to Paris, with authority to accept the arrangement that has been come to with reference to the Neufchâtel affair.

The Grand Duke Constantine and the officers of his suite dined on Thursday week with the Emperor. The former has since visited all the places of note in Paris. Some editors of the chief Russian newspapers have followed the Grand Duke to the French capital. The illustrious stranger disappointed the whole of Paris funkeydom by not going to the French Opera on the evening of Friday week, where the said funkeydom had mustered in great force to see him. The reason of this is said to be the mourning of the French Court in consequence of the death of the Duchess of Gloucester.

Two trains have come into collision on the railway in the vicinity of Villeneuve, owing to the driver of one of them not obeying a telegraphic order to stop. Some thirty persons have been wounded.

The coming elections are exciting some discussion, even in the jealously guarded press of France. The *Journal des Débats* of Sunday contains an article on the English elections, in which the writer speaks of "the interesting spectacle of a free people who transact their affairs amid the greatest political excitement, without any one in the three kingdoms or on the Continent apprehending the slightest injury to social order, or interruption to the regular march of government." M. Thiers has refused the invitation of the electors of Rouen to come forward. The Government will make strenuous efforts to oppose M. de Montalembert in the department of the Doubs, where there is some talk of the Emperor putting up the Duc de Conégliano, his chamberlain. "On the whole," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "the Government is forced to take more precautions than usual to neutralize the menaced opposition, and the new division of arrondissements in some, and even the disappearance of a certain number of electors in other places, are said to be among those means."

M. Alfred de Musset, one of the youngest and most distinguished members of the French Academy, died last Saturday, after a short illness.

Baron Gros is about to proceed to China as Minister Plenipotentiary of France.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the Northern of France Railway was held in Paris on the 30th ult. Baron James de Rothschild occupied the chair. This was the first meeting since the large robbery of shares and bonds last September. M. Delbecque, one of the directors, in reading the report, gave a brief history of the robbery, and stated that the greater part of the loss fell on securities belonging to the house of the MM. de Rothschild. That house would have to support a deficiency of not less than 5071 shares and 270 bonds, or five-sixths of all the securities missing; but it would take that loss entirely on itself. On the question being put from the chair for setting aside a sum of 100,000*f.* for a special reserve, to meet a certain portion of the loss falling on the shareholders from the robbery, a shareholder rose and proposed a vote of thanks to M. de Rothschild for his liberal conduct in taking on himself so heavy a loss. He begged leave to propose such a vote, leaving it to the whole meeting to second it. (*Cries of "All! all!" and loud cheers.*) The vote was then put by the shareholders themselves, and carried by acclamation. Full powers were then voted to the board to conclude treaties for new concessions, and to adopt such financial measures as might be deemed necessary. M. Delbecque, the Duke de Galliera, M. Adam, and Baron Alphonse de Rothschild were re-elected directors, and M. Vernes appointed in the place of Mr. Moss, of Liverpool.

It is stated in the *Indépendance Belge* that a bill has been sent down to the Council of State, and is to be pressed on as urgent, by which it is proposed to make the law much more stringent with regard to literary journals, which have hitherto enjoyed comparative immunity from the regulations which shackle the political press. They offend chiefly in speaking evil of dignities. The frivolity of their style is not to protect them any longer, and they will be taught that *ridentem dicere verum* is not a safe motto to act upon. A stamp duty, caution money, and even preliminary authorization, are among the repressive means proposed. Either of these would be the death-warrant of a host of ephemeral publications.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

The King of Prussia demands further modifications of the Neufchâtel treaty just concluded at Paris.

An *exposé des motifs* has been presented to the Legislative Body of a bill for opening a credit of 180,000*fr.*

for the purchase of the tomb and habitation of the Emperor Napoleon I. at St. Helena.

Prince Gregory Ghika, aide-de-camp of the Kaimakan of Wallachia, has arrived in Paris on a political mission.

A grand review of 50,000 men, composing the élite of the French army, took place in the Champ de Mars on Wednesday, in the presence of the Grand Duke Constantine.

#### ITALY.

The Empress Dowager of Russia paid a visit on the 25th ult. to the Pope, at the Vatican, and was very courteously received by the successor to St. Peter. A curious meeting, this, of Eastern and Western, of Greek and Latin, Christianity!

The debate on the bill for transferring the marine establishment of the Kingdom of Sardinia to Spezzia commenced in the Chamber of Deputies at Turin on the 28th ult., and was continued in the following sitting. MM. Pareto, Pallavicini, and Solaro della Margherita were among the chief speakers against the bill; M. Mamiani spoke in its favour. Count de Cavour, in reply to the various arguments of the Opposition, denied his having awakened hopes of liberty among the Italians on his return from Paris, and declared that the policy of Piedmont was liberal, and not revolutionary. He showed that the fears entertained by some members that the project was secretly recommended by a foreign Power (meaning England), with a view to seizing the place afterwards and converting it into a second Gibraltar, were utterly devoid of foundation, and that England, although she did not oppose the project, was far from being partial to it. How could she expect to take possession of Spezzia without a sanguinary war with all the European Powers, among whom France would stand foremost, since she would consider Toulon menaced? As to France, he could not tell whether she approved the project; but, considering the alliance existing between that country and Piedmont, and the interests of France, he could not but think that she must see the improvement in the Piedmontese navy with pleasure, as calculated to render Piedmont strong in Italy. With respect to the Cabinet of Vienna, he declared he was perfectly ignorant of its opinion on the subject.

The Roman Government has lowered the duties on a great number of imported articles, such as silks, linen and cotton goods, woollens, &c. It has been encouraged to this step by the good effects that have already ensued from the previous reductions.

The Pope has signalized the Easter festivities by various acts of 'clemency,' including a permission to return to Rome granted to Signor Sturbinetti, the chief of the Roman municipality during the Republican Government of 1849.

The two Mayors of Genoa, annoyed at the project for removing the Naval Arsenal to Spezzia, and at the consequent loss to them of certain contracts, have refused to pay their taxes. The town council has, therefore, been dissolved by the Government, which has appointed an intendant in its place. This act has caused a great deal of excitement and angry feeling.

#### RUSSIA.

The prohibition of the exportation of gold has been rescinded. The Government has just published the treaty of commerce and navigation with Japan. The treaty consists of nine articles. The ports of Simoda, Hakodada, and Nangasaki are thrown open to commerce.

A committee is about to be formed in St. Petersburg (says a letter from that capital) for the affairs of the Grand Duchy of Finland. Every measure relative to that province will undergo a preliminary examination by this committee, to decide whether it is in conformity with the particular laws of the Grand Duchy, and to point out to the Emperor the motives on which their decision is come to. The committee is to be composed of five members, Count Arnsfeldt, Secretary of State for the Grand Duchy, being the president. A similar committee formerly existed, but it was abolished in 1825, on the accession of the late Emperor Nicholas.

#### AUSTRIA.

The persons charged with making the preparations for the reception in Hungary of the Emperor and Empress are exciting great animosity by the domineering way in which they order the nobility to burst into a spontaneous combustion of loyalty at the approach of the Imperial visitors. The Magyars do not like being coerced into satisfaction; but they are afraid of refusing.

The following passage in an address of the Hungarian Protestants to the Emperor is said to have given great offence:—"It cannot have escaped your Majesty's attention that the most salutary laws, if based on resolutions taken by Government, instead of being the emanations of the religious convictions of the Protestant Confessions, are far from producing a tranquilizing effect: on the contrary, they create alarm, inasmuch as they shake principles which are based on the independence that is secured (*gesichert*) by the Protestant canons. The feeling of our independence—which independence is secured by law and by treaties of peace guaranteed by foreign states—induces us to hope that the settlement of our (spiritual) affairs will be left to ourselves."

A deputation of the Protestants of Hungary has waited on the Emperor. It was headed by the Privy Councillor de Lonyai, who, speaking in the Magyar language, besought his Majesty to grant to the church of Hungary the right of convoking a general Synod, to deliberate on an organic statute for the church and schools of the reformed creed. The Emperor promised to take the request into consideration, and to accede to it as much as possible.

The burgomaster of Saaz, in Bohemia, has ordered all the Jewish families residing in that town to quit it within a fortnight. The Hebrews there comprise about sixty families.

#### SWEDEN.

The Swedish Government has transmitted to its diplomatic agents at foreign Courts a circular in which some remarks are made on the recent Danish note with reference to the Scandinavian Question. After expressing the 'lively astonishment' of the King of Sweden at the long piece of reasoning, 'not justified by any act of his Majesty's Government,' which the Danish Government has put forth 'on a question which has been hitherto confined to literary discussion,' the document proceeds:—"M. de Scheele [the Danish Foreign Minister] says, among other things, that 'he will not examine if really the conduct pursued by the Governments of the North was the most appropriate to circumstances, and that which ought to have been chosen, if it had been possible to measure in advance the proportions which the Scandinavian agitation would take.' The King [of Sweden] does not recognise in any one whatsoever the right to cast, officially, in a letter addressed to the agents of a foreign Power, and to be communicated to the Cabinets to which they are accredited, a blame, direct or indirect, on the acts of his Government, even though that blame should fall on the manner of acting of his own Government, which the minister, author of the circular in question, appears to envelop in the same disapprobation. It is our duty to remark on this unusual manner of expression, in order to prevent any repetition of the same. I have without doubt no need to add that no concert was come to with us touching the affair in question, and that no previous explanation relative thereto was asked for or obtained from us." The circular concludes with an expression of the Swedish monarch's friendly feeling towards the King of Denmark.

#### SPAIN.

Narvaez, it is believed, has been endeavouring for some time past to obtain the support and co-operation of O'Donnell, who, however, refuses to be connected with the existing Government.

The *Gazette* contains a decree summoning to the colours 50,000 men of the conscription of 1857.

General Urbistondo, chief of the King's military household, and lately Minister of War in the present Cabinet, who recently died after a lingering illness, was buried on the morning of the 28th ult. with much pomp, the king's carriage and aides-de-camp forming part of the procession.

The Queen is said to be in the fourth month of her pregnancy. As she has had one or two miscarriages at that period, her physicians cause her to live very strictly, and she is not even to leave the Palace until the end of the present month.

The Cortes opened on the 1st of May, when Marshal Narvaez read in the Queen's name an Address in which, after announcing the re-establishment of friendly relations with the Courts of Rome and St. Petersburg, and intimating a hope that the Mexican Government is beginning to prove that it will not countenance the acts of injustice and inhumanity which have been committed by its citizens on Spanish subjects, the sovereign is made to say:—"Public tranquillity and internal security are completely guaranteed, and the municipal elections and those for the legislative body were effected without any disturbance. I have been also able to give myself up without fear to the maternal feelings of my heart, by granting a political amnesty so general and so complete that not a single Spaniard has been excluded from it. My Government will propose to you an important measure—the reform of the Senate, founded on certain restrictions in the conditions of admission; the union of the dignity of senator with the highest charges in the Church and State; and the introduction of hereditary descent as a new element of stability and force; and as a means of preserving in a permanent manner the glorious names of those who in past times and at present have, in serving their country, added to its fame."

M. Martinez de la Rosa has been elected President of the Cortes, and MM. Maguiera, Ferreira, Alonso, and Count de Vista Hermosa, Vice Presidents.

Mgr. Simeoni, the Pope's nuncio *ad interim*, arrived on the 1st inst.

The mother of Marshal O'Donnell has just expired.

#### PORTUGAL.

At the sitting of the Lisbon Chamber of Deputies on the 28th ult., the first three articles of the project of law authorizing the Government to carry out the railway contract made with Sir M. Peto were voted by a large majority. The remainder of the project was expected to be voted on the 29th, and there seemed to be every chance of the contract being carried out.

#### TURKEY.

A Turkish vessel from Tripoli, having fifteen slaves

on board, has been seized at Tchesme on the requisition of the English consul-general. The municipal council at Smyrna has ordered the slaves to be set at liberty.

Ismail Pasha, commandant of the army of Anatolia, has been removed to the command of the army of Arabistan.

An Imperial order has been sent to the Greek Bishops requiring them to carry into execution the reforms decreed in 1856.

The 23rd ult. was the day fixed for the Nikiah, or  *fiançailles*, of the Sultan's three daughters, who had been promised in marriage some time ago to Mahmoud Pacha, son of Fethi Ahmed Pacha, Grand Master of the Artillery; Ethem Pacha, son of Mehemet Ali Pacha, Capitan Pacha; and El Hami Pacha, son of the late Abbas Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt. The description of the procession of the presents occupies nearly a column of the *Times*, wherein the type seems to flash with jewellery, embroidery, silks, satins, velvets, and gold and silver tissue. The reader instinctively reverts to the presents sent by Aladdin to the royal father of the Princess Badroulbadour, and perceives that the East still clings to its traditional splendours even in these days, and within the limits of Europe.

#### THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Wallachian Government, it is stated, has definitely fixed the 15th of June for the elections in Wallachia. Notwithstanding this postponement, the Unionist party, remaining calm and moderate, continues to feel certain of success.

The arbitrary acts of the Kaimakan of Moldavia continue.

#### PRUSSIA.

Baron Liebig has discovered arsenic to a large amount in the loaves of bread forwarded to him from Hong-Kong for analysis.

Prince Alfred of England has arrived at Gotha.

#### SWITZERLAND.

Colonel Denzler, commanding the Republican troops, and a member of the Grand Council of Neufchâtel, has published a letter addressed by him to the Cantonal Government, blaming the acceptance of the treaty without consulting the Grand Council. The Colonel expresses a hope that the people and Grand Council of Neufchâtel will declare themselves against the treaty, to which he considers the *status quo* preferable.

The text of the treaty has been non-officially published in the Swiss papers; but, as the version appears to be incorrect, we do not reproduce it.

## OUR CIVILIZATION.

#### THE BANK OF LONDON CASE.

The charge against Mr. Cockburn of conspiring to damage the Bank of London by publishing libels upon it, was further gone into last Saturday before the Lord Mayor. A Mr. John Lawson appeared on this occasion as well as Cockburn. The additional evidence went to show that Cockburn managed the paper, and was constantly about the printing-office, taking away proofs, and bringing them back again, corrected; that Mr. Lawson read and altered the proofs; that he was in the habit of going to the printing-office, though less often than Mr. Cockburn; that, when done with, the manuscripts were taken away, and the proofs burnt; that Mr. Cockburn told the printer to call Mr. Lawson by the name of Williams, as he didn't want the men and boys to know him by his real name; that, after the printing of the paper had left that office, and subsequently to the commencement of these proceedings, Mr. Cockburn had called on the original printer, and had said, "I hope you have not got any of my copy here—I don't want it to go into any other hands," but that, previously to this, some had been fetched away by the police; and that the persons described as the publishers of the *Joint Stock Companies Journal* were in no way connected with it. The person employed to carry about the placards said:—"Mr. Cockburn told me that, if any policeman came up, and ordered me to move on, I was to go on a little way and return again. He said, if a policeman came and threatened to take me into custody, I was to tell him I didn't care, for he (Mr. Cockburn) would soon come and fetch me out of prison. I had sold a good many copies of the paper before I was taken into custody. I gave 5s. 10d., which I received for papers, to Mr. Cockburn. I remember a gentleman asking Mr. Cockburn, when he was putting the board round my neck, if what was printed on it was true; and he said it was quite as true as that about the British Bank." In the cross-examination of Mr. Francis Palmer, clerk in the secretary's office of the Bank of London, that gentleman said:—"The placard refers to the retirement of one hundred and forty shareholders. That statement is untrue. They did not all retire. Some of them have died, and their shares are in the names of their executors; others have sold their shares. A hundred and thirty shares have been bought by ninety others." Re-examined by Mr. Bodkin (for the prosecution): "The persons who have retired have sold their shares to other persons who have bought them. Every share is represented by a proprietor." The Lord Mayor:

"Every share has an owner?" Witness: "Every share has an owner." The case was again adjourned, the defendants being allowed to go at large on their own recognisances in 100*l.* each.

**WHOLESALE DEPRAVITY.** — Henry Hills, a man of fifty, who has been for some years assistant-clerk of the Poplar Union, has been committed for trial on a charge of debauching several girls, ranging from nine to thirteen years of age. His wife kept a day-school for girls; and it appears he has contaminated nearly all the scholars. He had made preparations for a flight to America; but was arrested last Saturday afternoon. On reaching the gaoler's room, he appeared deeply distressed, and exclaimed, "I am a guilty man—I am a ruined man! I deserve to be hung!"

**WIFE-BEATING.** — John Townshend, an umbrella-maker in King Edward-street, Mile-end, has been sentenced by the Worship-street magistrate to six months' hard labour, with security for good behaviour for an equal term afterwards, for a murderous attack on his wife. They had been married eleven years, and during that time the wife had been constantly ill used, often to the endangering of her life. Her sister, who frequently interfered to protect her, was likewise repeatedly beaten and bruised. On the last occasion, the wife was assaulted with the leg of a stool, so that she was covered with blood; and her infant, whom she was holding in her arms at the time, was also hurt. The arrival of a policeman probably prevented murder.

**THE DARK ARCHES OF THE ADELPHI.** — A mob of disreputable young lads and girls has been in the habit of collecting for several Sundays past in the neighbourhood of the Adelphi, making considerable noise and disturbance, and occasionally adjourning to the dark arches. The police have endeavoured to suppress the nuisance, but apparently with no great success.

**BURGLARY AT RABY CASTLE.** — A burglary has been committed at Raby Castle, Durham, the seat of the Duke of Cleveland, and from 100*l.* to 150*l.* in gold and silver was stolen.

**SERIOUS SAVINGS BANK DEFALCATION AT RUGBY.** — Mr. Samuel Essex, auctioneer, and late clerk to the Rugby Savings Bank, was committed on Thursday week, by Mr. Leigh Trafford, on the serious charge of embezzling upwards of 1300*l.*, the moneys of the bank. Only a few cases were investigated, although it is known that money amounting to 1300*l.* or thereabouts has at various times been embezzled by the accused.

**THE CHARGE OF MURDER AT WOOLWICH.** — Benjamin Martin, a young artilleryman, appeared on remand at Woolwich police-court last Saturday, charged with throwing a woman into the river on the 24th ult., while he and she were intoxicated. The woman was drowned; but the evidence was not sufficient to criminate Martin, who had been admitted to bail after his first examination, and who now came forward voluntarily. He was discharged. The woman was married, and had three children.

**ARSON.** — A man named Charles Little has been found guilty at the Glasgow Spring Circuit Court of setting fire to his house, with a view to defraud an insurance company. He was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

**RIOTOUS RATEPAYERS.** — Four individuals, who are described as 'ratepayers and householders,' were charged at the Marlborough police-court on Monday, together with a servant, with being intoxicated and assaulting the police. One of the 'ratepayers and householders' appeared with a broken head, the result of a blow from one of the rate-paid policemen's truncheons. The accused had apparently been revelling, and were returning through the streets, when they saw a constable assisting a man who was in a fit. Conceiving great anger from this, as men in a convivial state will do from extremely inadequate causes, they charged upon the officer, and a struggle ensued, the police being roughly handled, one of the ratepayers getting what was described as 'a crack on the head,' and the whole of the Bacchanals being lodged in the station-house. The Marlborough-street magistrate fined them in various amounts.

**STREET PREACHING AND STREET THIEVING.** — Two notorious thieves have been examined at the Southwark police-office on charges of pursuing their vocation among the crowds collected at the Obelisk, Blackfriars-road, on Sunday, to listen to the preaching of an open-air Evangelist. One was committed for trial; the other remanded for a week.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.** — It was announced by Mr. Linklater in the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, that the examination of the directors of the Royal British Bank is for the present concluded; but he added that sufficient evidence had been obtained to institute a criminal prosecution, if the Government should choose to take that course.

**THE ALLEGED TAMPERING WITH A DEED OF SETTLEMENT.** — The case of alleged abstraction from the deed of settlement of the Athenaeum Insurance Company of a leaf containing the clause limiting the liability of the Association, was further gone into last Saturday, when Mr. Sutton, the manager, was examined. He stated that he was the original promoter of the company, and that it was at first intended to have a clause limiting the liability of the shareholders, but that it was not

passed. Mr. J. P. Cox, who brought the charge of mutilation of the deed against the company, was the superintendent of provincial agencies, and on one occasion he went to Mr. Sutton, and exclaimed, "I say, old flick, here's a curious go about the deed; there has been a clause taken out that limited the liability of the shareholders;" but Mr. Sutton treated the matter as mere nonsense. He always considered that the company was a limited one, inasmuch as they only proposed to deal in policies, and in them were inserted provisos of limited liability. Mr. Cox was dismissed in consequence of what he had said. He refused to render his accounts, and vowed that he would 'show up the company.' The Rev. Mr. Bartlett appears to have been the real manager of the concern, though Mr. Sutton was the nominal. According to the evidence of a Mr. Langley, the reverend gentleman called on him at Manchester and asked him to make statements about the office, and get reports in the public papers, which, if inquiry were made, the office could repudiate. Mr. Langley would do nothing of the sort. He lost all confidence in the office in consequence of Mr. Bartlett's proposals, and his connexion with it terminated soon after. Efforts have been made to find Mr. Bartlett, but without success, though a summons to the Court of Chancery is out against him. A very extraordinary statement was made by Mr. Charles Shaw, law-stationer, who said he had had great experience in deeds of settlement and their binding. "He had bound up some hundreds in the course of his time, and he could, without any difficulty, insert a sheet of parchment in a deed and remove it subsequently without leaving any traces. He had, in fact, done it; and, without mentioning names, he might state that a sheet was placed in one, without unbinding it, last Good Friday. (*Sensation.*) By whose direction he did not know, but he altered it and put it in another place. The traces left would be only such as those practically acquainted with the matter could detect. The trade had a particular kind of needle called a circular needle, by which it was done. It was like a rounded fish-hook. He could not positively say the deed in question had been so dealt with, though something—he could not exactly say what—had been done to it. His shop was not an infirmary for doctoring joint-stock companies' deeds." The inquiry into the case is not yet completed.

**GENTLEMEN SCAMPS.** — Mr. Vivian Hughes and Mr. James Wilson, gentlemen by courtesy, not of themselves but of others, have been fined 2*l.* 6*s.* and 2*l.* for an assault on Mr. Henry Young, the treasurer of the Victoria Theatre. They had intruded behind the scenes of the theatre, had refused to leave, had behaved with undue familiarity to Mr. Young's daughter, and had beaten the treasurer when he endeavoured to remove them. Hughes struck Mr. Young with a walking-stick, while Wilson used his fists at the same time. It was therefore found necessary to give them into custody.

**A DRUNKEN DOCTOR.** — An inquest has been held at Blyth, North Nottinghamshire, on the body of Mr. John Hawarth Jones, a farmer and cattle-dealer, who died from an illness consequent on a cold. He was attended by a Mr. Thornley, who, on a certain night, undertook to sit up with him, and left about five o'clock in the morning, but was shortly afterwards called back as Mr. Jones was in a dying state. It was then found that Mr. Thornley was hopelessly drunk, and that he had been drinking gin and brandy by the bedside of the dying man, and singing. Mr. Jones expired a little before seven o'clock. The death apparently resulted from suffocation caused by the bursting of an abscess in the throat. Mr. Thornley denied that he had been drunk; but the jury, in finding a verdict of natural death, severely censured him.

**ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.** — Two prisoners have escaped from Bristol Gaol. They obtained a large number of worsted comforters, forming part of the wearing apparel of the other prisoners, tied them together, got outside the prison, threw their extempore rope over the boundary wall, climbed up, and then dropped a distance of about eighteen feet. None of the locks of the prison were picked or tampered with; and a suspicion of negligence or collusion therefore attaches itself to the officers of the gaol. Both the prisoners were tried at the late Gloucester Assizes, and were sentenced, the one to fifteen years' transportation for a highway garotte robbery, and the other to twelve months' imprisonment for coining. — A woman has escaped from the House of Correction at York, having scaled the walls, and got over an iron palisade with singular agility.

**BETTING HOUSES.** — Mr. Thomas Russell, proprietor of a beershop in Bird-street, Oxford-street, has been fined 25*l.* (which was a mitigated penalty) for using his house as a place for betting. Several persons who were arrested at the house were discharged.

**THE ALLEGED ROBBERY AT A BEER-SHOP.** — Thomas Genge, the proprietor of the Great Britain beer-shop, in the Waterloo-road, surrendered to his bail, on Wednesday, at the Southwark police-office, charged with being concerned with three others not yet in custody in violently assaulting Simon Nelson, a Prussian Jew, and robbing him of forty sovereigns in his beer-shop. He was committed for trial, but bail was accepted.

**MURDER AND SUICIDE AT ROTHERHITHE.** — A woman living at Rotherhithe, named Knight, has committed

suicide by drowning herself in a water-butt, after having destroyed her infant son in a similar manner. A few days before this event, her husband went out of his mind, and, to prevent his laying violent hands on himself or his family, he was placed in the asylum, while his wife and child went to live at the house of the uncle. The woman seemed greatly distressed at her condition, and frequently uttered bitter complaints. Her friends, however, did their best to rally her, and one evening, after they thought that they had succeeded in soothing her mind, they advised her to go to bed with the child. Between five and six o'clock the next morning, the uncle got up to go to his work, and as he was drawing some water from the butt to wash himself, he was shocked at seeing the body of Mrs. Knight suddenly rise to the surface. He raised an alarm, and soon afterwards a police constable and some of the neighbours arrived on the spot, when they succeeded in getting the body out of the butt. Life, however, had been extinct for some time. The child was afterwards discovered quite dead in another water-butt. An inquest was held, when, as it transpired that the woman had for a long time past been predisposed to insanity, and as there appeared to be no doubt that she had drowned herself and her child, the jury returned a verdict in accordance.

**SUICIDE OF A MURDERER.** — William Marshall, aged fifty-four, who has been imprisoned in York Castle since 1837 for the murder of two of his children (for which he was not hung owing to its being shown that he was insane), has hung himself to the bars outside his window by his neckerchief and garters. Occasionally, he had long lucid intervals.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER.** — The wife of a labouring man in Somersetshire has attempted to kill her husband by cutting his throat. In the garden a hole was discovered, having every appearance of a grave, and beside it was a quantity of quicklime. The woman has been committed for trial.

**THE LATE MURDER IN WALWORTH.** — Bacon and his wife will be tried for the murder of their children, at the Central Criminal Court, next Wednesday.

**THE CASE OF THE MURDERER, MANSELL.** — The writ of error with respect to the alleged informalities in the formation of the jury on the trial of the convict Mansell was fully argued in the Court of Queen's Bench last Saturday, and judgment was given on Wednesday. The Judges were Lord Campbell and Justices Wightman, Coleridge, and Erle. The points to be determined were these:—Whether the trial became null and void on account of the Crown having twice ordered William Ironmonger, one of the jurymen, to 'stand by' when twice calling over the panel, the first call being interrupted by some other business; whether the technical phrase 'stand by' had been rightly used by the counsel for the prosecution; whether the jurors were called over in proper sequence; and whether the Judge who tried the case was justified in ordering Jabez Philpot, another of the jurymen, who had said he entertained a conscientious objection to capital punishment, to withdraw, without calling upon the counsel for the Crown to show cause. Lord Campbell overruled all the objections; the other Judges concurred; and it was ordered that Mansell be taken back to prison, and hanged on Monday, the 18th inst. The convict did not appear to be much moved by this decision, but walked out of court with a sprightly step. Had the law been in his favour, he would have been set at liberty, and could not have been tried again on the same charge.

#### GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

EVEN harmony cannot keep out of the law courts. Mr. Holloway, a music-seller and publisher in Hanway-street, Oxford-street, brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas last Saturday, against a Mr. Kelly, who keeps a small shop for the sale of cheap literature in Gray's Inn-lane. The object was to recover damages for the alleged piracy of a certain melody contained in a song with the rather sentimental title of 'Shells of the Ocean; or, I wandered on the Sea-beat Shore.' A Mr. Cherry was the composer of this tune, for which he obtained one guinea and a half from Mr. Holloway, who now valued the copyright at 1000*l.*, at the least. An arrangement of the song had been issued for that rather sheepish instrument, the concertina; and Mr. Holloway seems to have made a very good thing out of 'Shells of the Ocean,' though Mr. Cherry can hardly have become reseate over his guinea and a half. Mr. Kelly had sold the melody at a penny a copy, and in about two years had realized ninepence from the transaction. He had bought the copies at his door of a man named Fortune, who ought rather to have been called Misfortune. He did not know that the melody was copyright; and, when he discovered the fact, he sent all the remaining copies to Mr. Holloway. In short, he appears to have acted with perfect honesty. This trumpery action occupied the whole day, and, at the close, the jury found for the defendant.

In the Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved, last Saturday (present, the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, Justices Coleridge, Crowder, and Willes, and

Baron Bramwell), some convictions were affirmed and others quashed. Among the latter was the case of the Queen *v.* Lewis. The prisoner had been indicted for manslaughter. All the parties were foreigners, the vessel was foreign, and the cruelty was exercised on board that vessel. The court, therefore, had taken time for considering whether this was an offence for which the prisoner could be tried at Liverpool, in which town the deceased had actually died. Mr. Justice Willes said the court felt that, had the death occurred at sea, the case would not have been cognizable in this country, and that the mere fact of the party not having died until he arrived at Liverpool did not alter the law. Therefore, the conviction must be quashed.

In the Queen *v.* Fitch, the prisoner had been indicted for stealing a bonnet and a pair of goloshes. It appeared that the man lodged with one Reeves and his wife; and it was arranged between him and Mrs. Reeves that they should leave the house and live together. Fitch left the house, and afterwards went to his work; the wife then took a bandbox containing her bonnet and goloshes, and went from the house and joined her paramour. They were followed; Fitch was found carrying the bandbox, and he was apprehended for stealing the contents. He was tried before Mr. Justice Erle, and convicted; but a point was reserved as to whether this was a larceny. The court now decided that it was not; and the conviction was therefore quashed.

A curious bit of lawyer's morality was exhibited in the case of the Queen *v.* Sherwood. The prisoner had been charged with obtaining money under false pretences; that is to say, with professing to sell eighteen hundredweight of coals when he had only given fourteen hundredweight. Mr. Kettle appeared for the prisoner, and urged that this was only a misrepresentation as to quantity, which was not punishable; *if it were, any misrepresentation would be a false pretence.*—The Chief Justice: "Why should it not be? It would be a very salutary application of the law; it would be a most fortunate thing. There is, however, a case in point; but I doubt very much whether at that time the subject had received so much consideration as it since has, or the Judges would not so have decided. We are here only five; and therefore it will be better that the case should be argued before the fifteen Judges."

The cab case arising out of Sir Charles Napier's election for Southwark has again been brought forward. Syer, the man employed by the committee, was summoned by a cabman, named Wise, for sixteen shillings. The magistrate ordered Syer to pay the amount, but gave him a week to do it in, and recommended him in the meanwhile to apply to Sir Charles Napier's committee for the amount, and, failing that, to summon the parties in the County Court. The cabman on a subsequent day complained that it was very hard he should have to wait so long. He wanted the money for his family; and he had actually paid the tolls on the election day out of his own pocket.—Mr. James, the chairman of Sir Charles Napier's committee, has written to the *Times* to say that Syer engaged more cabs than he was ordered to engage, but that Sir Charles will not allow the cabmen to suffer.

In the case of Denis, *v.* Morley and Cobbett, which we related in our last issue, Mrs. Cobbett on Monday, in the Court of Common Pleas, moved for a *habeas corpus* to bring up the body of her husband, now in the Queen's Prison, in order that he might be enabled to move for a rule for a new trial. The lady exhibited some technical knowledge of the mode of procedure, corrected the Lord Chief Justice when he said he feared he had no power to grant such a *habeas*, and observed that all the counsel she had spoken to on the subject had said that, though the was in the right, she would never succeed, because the Judges are against her. She did not succeed in her then application, the *habeas* being refused.

At the trial the other day, in the Glasgow Spring Circuit Court, of an Irishman for robbing the tea shop of a Chinaman, the point was raised whether, as England is at war with China, the prosecution could be sustained. The Judge decided that the trial was perfectly correct, and the accused was found Guilty, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, on Wednesday, Mr. G. C. Franghiadi, representing the firm of C. Franghiadi, Sons, in the Greek trade, who suspended on the 20th of February, passed his final examination. The assignees were quite satisfied with the state of his accounts.

The choice of assignees under the estate of Colonel Waugh, the late Chairman of the London and Eastern Banking Company, was perfected in the Court of Bankruptcy on Thursday. It was mentioned that Colonel Waugh, though still absent, would surrender to his bankruptcy.—A petition was heard on the same day for winding up the London and Birmingham Iron and Hardware Company (limited)—the first proceeding of this nature under the Joint Stock Companies Act of 1856.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

**SAFETY OF THE ONEIDA.**—A despatch, dated Alexandria, April 28th, says:—"The European, with the Australian mails, arrived at Suez on the 19th inst., bringing the Oneida's passengers, together with her own, and gold of the value of 50,000*l.* The Oneida had put back

to King George's Sound. She broke her sole-plate and crank-pin four hundred miles north of Cape Lewin. She arrived in the Sound thirty-six hours after the departure of the Simla, and left for Sydney on the 22nd March."

**ADMIRAL LORD LYONS** has been cruising with the Brunswick, Centaur, and Conqueror in the offing of Malta since the 23rd ult., and was expected to enter port on the 30th.

**THE SULTAN'S MILITARY PRESENT TO THE QUEEN.**—The gun which the Turkish Sultan has sent to Queen Victoria was landed on Friday week at Portsmouth. "It is of cast brass," says the *Times*, "and reported to be about two hundred years old; it is thirteen feet five inches in length, and fires a shot of between eighteen and twenty-four pounds. It bears the following inscription in Turkish:—'A present from his Imperial Majesty Sultan Abdul Medjid to her Britannic Majesty Queen Victoria, 1857.' The gun is of beautiful mould, and is covered with designs and emblems of great artistic execution, and with ornamental embossings, chiefly of Oriental flowers. There are other inscriptions upon the piece in the Arabic language. The carriage is of walnut, with wheels of oak, all elaborately carved."

**THE NORMAN.**—The screw steamer Norman, Captain Vallint, from Rio Janeiro, bound for Cowes, put into Falmouth last Saturday evening short of fuel. She left that port (says a despatch from Falmouth) on the 14th of March; Bahia, 23rd; and Pernambuco, 27th. The fever, which was abating at the two former ports, had broken out with renewed virulence at the last-mentioned place, and the mortality was great. Captain Vallint reports having discovered the actual locality, on the 30th ult., of the Chapel Rocks in lat. 47° 30' N., and long. 8° 5' W., which he describes as about thirty feet long, of a flat surface, and immersed under the sea level to the extent of two or three feet. Twenty-four hours previously they had been falling in with a large quantity of timber within forty miles S.W. of the rock, which appeared to have been only a short time in the water.

**COAST DEFENCES IN SCOTLAND.**—The War Office is busied at present putting the coast defences of Scotland into repair and adding to their strength. At Aberdeen, three new batteries, manned by sixteen guns, are to be erected, by which the harbour and town will be defended from any attack on the seaboard. Lord Palmerston has sent a number of Russian guns as war trophies to Aberdeen, Elgin, and other towns in the north.

**COLLISION AT SEA.**—The fine American ship Andrew Foster, which sailed from New York for Liverpool on the 1st ult., came into collision with the Tuscarora, bound outward for Philadelphia on the 28th ult., between Holyhead and Tuskar, when the Andrew Foster sank. The crew and passengers, the captain's wife and two children, took to the boats, and were picked up by the schooner Little Fred, from Rio Grande for Liverpool, and were subsequently transferred to the steam tug Sea King, which brought them to the latter port. The Tuscarora was so much damaged that she was obliged to put back. The steamship Peninsula came into collision with the schooner Imperial Prince off the Ovens on Friday week. The schooner went down in a quarter of an hour, with two of the crew on board. The Peninsula had her bows stove in.

**ANOTHER ENCAMPMENT.**—It has been deemed advisable that the troops in garrison at Pembroke should be encamped this summer at a short distance from the dockyard, and for this purpose land has been selected at a place called Freshwater-east—a spot about seven miles from Pembroke. The customary tenders for the supply of firewood and straw for bedding are to be immediately sent in, so that by June it is likely the troops will be under canvas. The place fixed upon is exceedingly open and healthy, and adjacent to the coast, so that there is every probability of the health of the troops being properly kept up. Freshwater-east was the spot selected as the site for the new musketry drill, in which the soldiers will doubtless be properly initiated.—*Times*.

**MORE LARGE STEAMERS.**—The Mersey, 40, the large steam-frigate building at Chatham Dockyard, is progressing rapidly, and already some idea can be formed of her immense size. She will be the longest steam-frigate in the service, being considerably longer than the Royal Sovereign, 131, recently launched at Portsmouth. The following are the principal dimensions of the Mersey:—Length over all, 336ft. 6in.; length between perpendiculars, 300ft.; length of keel for tonnage, 264ft. 4in.; extreme breadth, 52ft.; breadth for tonnage, 51ft. 8in.; breadth moulded, 50ft. 8in.; depth of hold, 19ft. 10in.; burden, 3726 70-94 tons. Her engines will be of 1000 horse-power.—Two large vessels, which have been nearly constructed at Chatham, will be launched during the present year; they are the Howe, which was originally designed as a sailing vessel, but has been altered to a 90-gun screw steamer, and the Charybdis, 21, screw steam corvette, which was commenced in March of last year, from the designs of Captain Sir Baldwin Walker, Surveyor of the Navy.—*Idem.*

**MR. FREDERICK PEEL** has resigned the office of Under-Secretary for the War Department, in which he will be succeeded by Sir John Ramsden. Sir Robert Peel is said to have resigned his position as a Lord of the Admiralty.

**REINFORCEMENTS FOR CHINA.**—Early on Monday afternoon, the Furious steam-frigate left Plymouth for

China, accompanied by the Surprise and Mohawk despatch boats, Cormorant, Algerine, Lee, Banterer, Clown, Kestrel, Drake, Janus, Firm, Watchful, Woodcock, Slaney, and Leven gunboats, and Hesper steam transport. They will probably first rendezvous at Madeira. They left with fine wind down Channel.

**ANOTHER TROOP-SHIP DISASTER.**—A correspondent of the *Times* thus describes the last voyage of the new steam troop-ship *Urgent* to Barbadoes, with the 49th Regiment on board:—"She left Spithead on the 28th of February, sprang a dangerous leak in the middle of the Bay of Biscay, put into Corunna on the 3rd of March in a half-sinking state, and would certainly have foundered, but for calm weather and the daring act of an assistant-engineer, who repeatedly, at the risk of his life, set free the valves of the engine-pumps at a time when the water had risen to within a few inches of the fires, and when the deck-pumps were found totally insufficient, though worked for hours. In case of extremity her boats would not have held one-third of the number of men on board. She put into Madeira on the 9th, took up her screw in the trades, put her screw down again when the trades fell light, broke some of the engine gear almost immediately after, took twenty-four hours to repair, tried again, and snapped again. Finally went into Carlisle Bay under sail on the 27th of March." This is confirmed by the letter of an officer belonging to the 49th.

**A BOAT CAPSIZED.**—A melancholy accident occurred at St. Thomas's on the 11th ult., by which four lives were lost. The third officer of the Magdalena (Mr. Bushnan, son of Dr. Bushnan), and six of the crew, were sent ashore in the Wye's lifeboat for some sand for the use of the ship. The boat was loaded too deeply, and on coming off, about a mile from the shore, she upset and went down. Three of the men and the officer were drowned; the other three succeeded in reaching the shore. The names of the men who were drowned are Alfred Downton, David Kimber, and George Carter, all belonging to Southampton.

**WRECK OF THE STEAMER AMELIA.**—A Court of Inquiry ordered by the Board of Trade sat yesterday at the Bristol Council-house, to investigate the circumstances under which the steamer *Amelia*, plying between Liverpool and Bristol, was lost off St. Gowan's-head, near Milford, on the morning of the 29th of March. The main result of the inquiry was thus set forth:—"In the opinion of the justices, the accident arose in consequence of the master either mistaking the land he made or misjudging his distance from it, and disregarding the use of the lead, which, with reference to the fog which then prevailed, ought to have been specially attended to."

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE COURT.**—The Queen, who has been sufficiently recovered this week to take drives in the open air, left London for Osborne, Isle of Wight, on Thursday morning, and reached her place of destination at about half-past two in the afternoon. She was accompanied by Prince Albert, the younger members of the family, and the Court. While briefly stopping at Portsmouth, the Queen looked at the brass gun which has been presented to her by the Sultan of Turkey. Prince Albert returned to London the next day (yesterday), to be present at the funeral of the Duchess of Gloucester.

**NATIONAL EDUCATION.**—A deputation of the Metropolitan Church of England Schoolmasters' Association waited on the Right Hon. W. Cowper, Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, at the Privy Council-office, last Saturday, for the purpose of presenting a memorial to the Committee complaining of certain regulations established by the minutes of the Committee of Council, which materially affect the interests of the schoolmasters of England. The memorial set forth five distinct matters of grievance—first, that the amount of stipend payable to male pupil teachers is insufficient, and the mode of payment inconvenient, the teachers often having to wait for their money above fifteen months; secondly, that the school masters and mistresses who prepare the pupil teachers are themselves inadequately paid; thirdly, that the Committee of Council had laid down a regulation which precludes the payment of all sums due to the schoolmasters on leaving their schools, by way of augmentations and gratuities, for a less term than one year; fourthly, that the schoolmasters are not allowed to employ remuneratively their time out of school hours; fifthly, and lastly, that there is a degree of unfairness in the distribution of the capitation grant since its extension to all the national schools throughout England and Wales. Mr. Cowper assured the deputation that all these points should receive his most attentive and deliberate consideration; but he did not hold out any hope of the alleged grievances being altered, and seemed upon the whole to consider that the present arrangements are just and necessary.

**THE FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION.**—It appears that the statement which we made last week, upon the authority of a daily contemporary, that Lord John Russell was not present on the first day of the session, is incorrect. It is now stated by the same journal that his Lordship, together with the other members for the

City, sat at the top of the Treasury Bench on the right of the Chair.

**AUSTRALIA.**—By the last mails we learn that O'Shaughnessy succeeds as Chief Secretary at Mel bourne; Coster, Treasurer; Greeves, Trade; Duffy, Crown Lands; Hone, Public Works; Chapman, Attorney-General; Wood, Solicitor-General. The Assembly adjourned for one month to give time for the elections and other arrangements. The exports of gold from Melbourne to the 13th of March were—517,313 ounces, against 613,041 ounces last year. Money was plentiful and credit good. At Sydney, two public meetings had been held—one for the formation of an Electoral Reform League, the other to establish a society for the promotion of a Protectionist policy. Business was rather inactive, but without positive depression.

**THE HOP PLANTATION.**—Reports from all parts of the country represent the bine as coming in a very weak and sickly condition, from the bleak north-east winds which have prevailed so much lately; the cold nights and cloudy days being most unfavourable for a healthy and strong development of the plant.—*Maidstone Journal*.

**THE RUSSIAN RAILWAYS.**—It is affirmed that the Russian railway subscription in London has proved an almost total failure. The applications in France, Amsterdam, and Germany are stated to have been limited and unsatisfactory, but the want of success in this country has been still greater.—*Times*.

**RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.**—Mr. Armistead, one of the candidates for Dundee at the late general election, was accused by some of his enemies of having danced at Memel on a certain Sunday. This was denied by Mr. Armistead, and he brings documentary evidence from Memel to prove the truth of his denial. But what if he had?

**NEW PASSPORT REGULATIONS AT CALAIS.**—The following notice has been given by the authorities at Calais:—"His Excellency the Minister of the Interior has just ordered the suppression of the *visa* of passports for all travellers, without exception, coming from England through the port of Calais, having for their destination either Paris or Belgium and Germany."

**THE MARGATE AND BROADSTAIRS BOATMEN.**—The medals and awards allotted by the President of the United States to the lifeboatmen of Margate and Broadstairs, who saved the lives of the crew of the Northern Belle, were delivered to those gallant men last Saturday morning in the Town Hall of Ramsgate by Thomas Whitehead, Esq. The recipients were addressed by Mr. Whitehead in an appropriate speech. John Lang, Esq., of Broadstairs, returned thanks on the part of the men.

**MR. THACKERAY** delivered one of his lectures on "The Four Georges" at the Victoria Rooms, Bristol, on the evening of Friday week. The attendance was not large, owing, it is said, to the mismanagement of those who had the conduct of the entertainment.

**LETTER FROM MAZZINI.**—The treasurer of the Hawick Italian Committee has received the following letter from Mazzini, accompanied by an acknowledgment of a sum of money collected in Hawick in aid of the fund for the emancipation of Italy:—"My dear Sir,—Will you be so kind as to forward the enclosed to the committee, and with it my most sincere thanks for your noble exertions in a noble cause? There has been a great deal of misgiving spread in the hearts of my countrymen since 1848 by the ever doubtful, and sometimes hostile, conduct of your Government in Italian affairs; but such a warm, liberal, efficient sympathy as evinced by your own and some other Scotch towns will dispel the cloud. Through long sojourn and affections, I look upon Great Britain as upon my own second country; and so far as my influence on the Italian people allows, no seed of the future alliance now sown by you will be lost or neglected. —Yours faithfully, JOSEPH MAZZINI. April 29, 1857."

**THE KING OF OUDE.**—A meeting was held on the evening of Friday week at the Manchester Atheneum, to take into consideration our recent seizure of the kingdom of Oude. Major Bird was present, accompanied by Mouldey Mohammed Mussechood-deen, the King's accredited agent and the writer of a book on the subject which has just been published. A long address was delivered by the Major, who gave a rather cloudy account of the alleged grievances of the Oudean royal family.

**THE CLERKENWELL RAGGED SCHOOLS.**—The twelfth annual meeting of the friends of these schools took place on Monday evening in the Amwell St. School-rooms, the Earl of Carnarvon in the chair. The report showed an encouraging condition of things.

**THUNDERSTORM.**—The neighbourhood of Doncaster was visited by a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied with hail and rain, on the afternoon of Friday week. A man in the service of Mr. G. Innocent, farmer, Rossington, was employed in dragging in a field near that village with three horses, all of which were struck dead by the electric fluid; the swingletrees were split from end to end, and the man holding the stumps was thrown down, and it was necessary to carry him home. His legs were found to be quite black. He is now recovering.

**A CHURCH STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.**—The steeple of the parish church of Wisborough Green, Sussex, was struck by lightning and set on fire last Saturday about noon. The engines were speedily brought to the spot,

but it was not until six hours had elapsed that the flames were subdued. This is the third time that the steeple has been struck.

**PERSIA AND THE PERSIANS.**—Lieutenant-Colonel Sir H. Rawlinson, K.C.B., delivered on Monday afternoon, to a numerous and fashionable audience assembled in the lecture theatre of the United Service Institution, Whitehall-yard, a lecture on Persia and the Persians.

**LORD ELGIN.**—Envoy Extraordinary from the English Government to China, embarked at Marseilles on the 1st inst., on board the English Post-office packet *Caradoc*, for Malta.

**SEIZURE FOR CHURCH RATES.**—Some goods belonging to Mr. Joseph Proctor, a miller at Wallsend, and a member of the Society of Friends, have been seized for a church-building rate, which Mr. Proctor refused to pay. The clergyman is a Puseyite, and the parish will not grant him a church rate; but a special act exists for levying an annuitant or church-building rate. Mr. Proctor's goods are seized every year, and always for a greater amount than the rate for which they are taken.

**THE VERY REV. DR. MANNING.**—Formerly a clergyman of the Church of England and Archdeacon of Chichester, but who recently went over to the Church of Rome, was on Tuesday morning inducted into the office of canon and provost of the Papistical church in Horse-ferry-road, Westminster. The service was conducted by Cardinal Wiseman.

**THE SUEZ SHIP CANAL.**—M. Ferdinand de Lesseps made a statement on Wednesday with reference to his projected Suez ship canal, before the directors of the Manchester Commercial Association, who held a special meeting for the purpose. Having set forth his views, M. de Lesseps retired, and received in the course of the day a letter from the Secretary thanking him for his exposition, and enclosing a resolution promising the support of the Association provided proper guarantees are given for the neutrality of the canal.

**LADY ASHBURTON** died at Paris on Monday, after a long illness.

**FIELD-LANE RAGGED SCHOOL AND NIGHT REFUGES.**—The fifteenth annual meeting of this institution was held on Wednesday evening in the Lecture Hall, 165, Aldersgate-street. The Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair, and the chief speaker was Lord John Russell. The report showed that the institution is prospering.

**THE VICTORIA CROSS.**—The *Gazette* of Tuesday contains a notification of the bestowal of the Victoria Cross on four military officers (including an assistant-surgeon) for brave conduct in the Crimea.

**EQUALIZATION OF POOR RATES.**—A deputation of clergy from the east end of London in favour of this object, had an interview on Wednesday with the Poor Law Board. Mr. Bouverie, the President of the Board, did not hold out the least hope of the Government acceding to the wishes of the reverend gentleman. —A meeting of City ratepayers, in furtherance of the desired reform, was held on Thursday evening at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill. Mr. Alderman Sidney took the chair, and a petition to Parliament was adopted.

**SUICIDE OF AN OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—Mr. James Gudge, who for the past forty-two years has held some important offices in the House of Commons, and for the greater part of that time has filled the position of Chief Clerk of the Journals, a highly lucrative post, put an end to his existence at the Houses of Parliament, on Wednesday morning, between twelve and one o'clock. He had been in a low and irritable state for the last few days, owing, it was supposed, to overwork; and, on Wednesday morning, he was observed to lower himself gradually from the coping-stone of the terrace outside the river frontage of the House, and to drop into the water. He was speedily got out, and lingered for some hours, when he died from congestion of the brain and lungs, owing to the immersion. He had been suffering from an irritated state of the brain for ten or fifteen years, and at times he wandered in his mind. His age was sixty-two. The jury returned a verdict of Temporary Insanity.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.**—We have authority for stating that the paragraph which is going the round of the papers, headed "Reinstatement of the Rev. F. D. Maurice in his Professorship," is wholly without foundation.—*Times*.

**NEW CATHOLIC SEE.**—The *Weekly Register* announces that it is intended to divide the present Roman Catholic diocese of Liverpool, and form a new see for North Lancashire, at either Preston or Lancaster.

**GARRICK AND FORD.**—Garrick was an honoured member of the Steaks. Perhaps the hat and sword now among the *insignia* of the club were the identical ones he wore that night, when, announced for *Ranger* at Drury Lane, he lingered at the club so long, that the pit began to growl and the gallery to ring with the ominous call of "Manager, manager!" Garrick had been sent for to Covent Garden, where the Steaks then dined. Carriages blocked up Russell-street, and detained him at the crossing. When he reached the theatre, he found Dr. Ford, one of the patentees, walking up and down in anxiety. As Garrick came panting in, "I think, David," said Ford, "considering the stake you and I have in this house, you might pay more attention to its business." "True, my good friend," returned Garrick; "but I was thinking of my steak in the other house."—*National Review*.

**COINING.**—Now I am telling you odd events, I must relate one of the strangest I ever heard. An elderly woman gave information against her maid for coining, and the trial came on at the Old Bailey. The mistress deposed, that having been left a widow several years ago, with four children, and no possibility of maintaining them, she had taken to coining; that she used to buy old pewter-pots, out of each of which she made as many shillings, &c., as she could put off for three pounds, and that by this practice she had bred up her children, bound them out apprentices, and set herself up in a little shop, by which she got a comfortable livelihood; that she had now given over coining, and indicted her maid as accomplice. The maid, in her defence, said, "That when her mistress hired her, she told her that she did something up in a garret into which she must never inquire; that all she knew of the matter was, that her mistress had often given her moulds to clean, which she did, as it was her duty; that, indeed, she had sometimes seen pieces of pewter-pots cut, and did suspect her mistress of coining; but that she never had had, or put off, one single piece of bad money." The judge asked the mistress if this was true; she answered, "Yes; and that she believed her maid was as honest a creature as ever lived; but that, knowing herself in her power, she never could be at peace; that she knew, by informing, she should secure herself; and not doubting but the maid's real innocence would appear, she concluded the poor girl would come to no harm." The judge flew into the greatest rage; told her he wished he could stretch the law to hang her, and feared he could not bring off the maid for having concealed the crime; but, however, the jury did bring her in *not guilty*. I think I never heard a more particular instance of parts and villany.—*Letters of Horace Walpole*.

**A POINT OF LAW.**—Dick Wilson, Eldon's port-wine-loving secretary, deserves to be mentioned, as a member of the Beefsteak Club, for the great singularity of his fortunes. He was first steward and solicitor, and afterwards residuary legatee, of Lord Chedworth. He is said to have owed the favour of this eccentric nobleman to the legal acumen he displayed at a Richmond water-party. A pleasant lawn, under a spreading beech-tree, in one of Mr. Cambridge's meadows, was selected for the dinner; but on pulling to the shore, behold a board in the tree proclaiming, "All persons landing and dining here will be prosecuted according to law!" Dick Wilson contended that the prohibition clearly applied only to the joint act of "landing and dining" at the particular spot. If the party landed a few yards lower down, and then dined under the tree, only one member of the condition would be broken; which would be no legal infringement, as the prohibition—being of two acts, linked by a copulative—was not severable. This astute argument carried the day. The party dined under Mr. Cambridge's beech-tree, and it is presumed were not "prosecuted according to law." At all events, Lord Chedworth, who was one of the diners, was so charmed with Dick's ready application of his law to practice, that he engaged him in the management of his large and accumulating property, of which, as we have said, Dick was ultimately left residuary legatee.—*National Review*.

*Manuscript.*

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In this House a renewed discussion took place in the case of General Ashburnham, and Lord CAMPBELL obtained the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the present state of the law relating to reports in newspapers, and another on the subject of altering the mode of administering oaths to witnesses in the House of Lords.

The House adjourned early.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MAYNOOTH.

Mr. SPOONER gave notice of his usual motion as to the grant to Maynooth, amidst great laughter.

PUBLIC-HOUSES AND BEER-SHOPS.

In answer to Mr. KIRK SLEMYER, Sir GEORGE GREY said that the present state of the law relating to public-houses and beer-shops required revision, and would meet with the consideration of the Government.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. DODSON brought up the report of the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne.—Mr. HADFIELD made some objections to that part of the Speech which referred to the commercial prosperity of the country, and especially as regarded our trade with India and the Colonies, the restrictions on which require to be removed.

THE TRANSIT.

Mr. LINDSAY brought the subject of the Transit troop-ship before the House, and made a statement of the condition of the ship since her departure, after her repairs from her first accident. He also drew attention to recent disastrous voyages of the *Perseverance* and the *Urgent* when conveying troops. These ships were built by Messrs. Marc, but it was said they had been altered since they had been bought by the Government,

and the alterations fully accounted for the bad qualities they had exhibited. He asked if it was true that these three ships had been altered by the Admiralty; and if the reports with regard to them were true or not?—Mr. BENTINCK asked if it was true that when the *Transit* fell foul of her anchor and bored a hole in her bottom, it was five o'clock the next morning before the leak was discovered?

Sir CHARLES WOOD said it was time that these vessels were all bought of Messrs. Mare; but they were not built in anticipation of employment in the river. They were surveyed by the Admiralty officers, and were reported fit to carry troops and stores, and the only alteration required was that the screw should be made raiable. It was true that the size of the poop was increased, but it did not add materially to their upper weight. Sir Charles entered at length into a statement of the estimated stability of the *Transit*, and the result of trials and experiments. As to the *Perseverance*, since the accident which had happened she had performed her duty without the slightest complaint. No well-founded complaint had been made against the *Urgent* as a ship; exception had only been taken to her engines, which, of course, were not built by the Admiralty, but by Messrs. Napier, of Glasgow, for the Russian Government. For the accident to the *Transit* off the Isle of Wight, he admitted the Master was blamable, and he had received a severe reprimand. What happened to the *Transit* in the Bay of Biscay was only a common occurrence to new rigging. It got slackened, and it was necessary to set it up again. This might have been done at sea, but it was more convenient to do it at Corunna.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Sir GEORGE GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to alter the present law, which had abolished transportation entirely. It was the same measure which was introduced in the last session.

#### HUDSON'S BAY.

Mr. LABOUCHERE moved for a select committee to inquire into the subject of the condition of the Hudson's Bay territory. It was a renewal of that committee which sat in the last session.

#### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Mr. ADDERLEY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the promotion of industrial schools. This was also a revival of a bill of last session.

#### JUDGMENTS AND EXECUTION BILL.

Mr. CRAWFORD obtained leave to bring in a bill, also dropped from last session, creating a uniform practice with regard to judgments and executions in the United Kingdom.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past six.

#### FUNERAL OF THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER (YESTERDAY).

The remains of the Duchess of Gloucester were buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, yesterday. The corpse was conveyed by the Great Western Railway from the Paddington terminus to the Slough station. Mounted guards of honour attended its progress, and there was a large attendance of the public. The coffin was gorgeous in crimson Genoa velvet and gold nails, &c.; and the coronet, borne on a cushion, was of course not wanting. Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Cambridge occupied stalls in the chapel during the ceremony of interment, which was performed by the Very Rev. Dr. Wellesley, Dean of Windsor.

#### FRANCE.

The *Constitutionnel* gives some details as to the precise object of Baron Gros's mission to China. It says:—

"This diplomatist will have to demand from the Chinese Government reparation for wrongs peculiar to France alone. Among others is the murder of M. Chappelaine, the missionary who was last year put to death under the most atrocious circumstances. He is also to demand a fresh treaty of commerce. The French squadron is so composed as to be able to ascend the rivers, and thus act so strongly on the Chinese Government as to compel it to satisfy the demands made."

Speaking of a contemplated visit of Prince Napoleon to Berlin, the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, this day, writes:—"There is some rumour about a private mission connected with it, but of the truth or nature of which little is known. It is, at all events, curious that such a moment as this, with the Grand Duke still at the Tuilleries, should be chosen for the journey."

#### AMERICA.

The screw steamship Canadian has arrived from Portland, with advices to the 25th ult. The America has arrived at Halifax.

From Halifax we learn that the House of Assembly has passed the bill giving to the New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company the exclusive privilege for twenty-five years of landing a submarine telegraph cable from any part of Europe on any part of the shores of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

A despatch from Washington states that Lord Napier approved of the despatch of a strong American naval force to the Isthmus. Ten vessels were to be despatched.

**CONVOCATION.**—The two Houses of Congress for the province of Canterbury met yesterday; but the proceedings were not of general interest.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.**—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, May 8, 1857, including season ticket holders, 16,593.

## 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

#### ICARIA AT NAUVOO AND IOWA.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—You have honoured the Icarians with an article upon the subject of "Icaria" in your valuable paper of the 4th instant. As this article might mislead your readers, I beg of you, as a favour, to admit also the following corrections:—Icaria is, as before, at Nauvoo and Iowa unchanged, and the part of our brethren that removed to St. Louis is but a fragment of the Icaria. When this fragment contains 174 persons, the main colony contains 239 persons, of whom 2 are absent, 18 in Iowa, and 219 at Nauvoo. Since the 4th August, 1856, till the 1st January, 1857, there have been in the Icarian community 3 marriages, 6 births, and 4 deaths. The budget of the ninth anniversary, exhibited by the administration on the 4th February last, signed "Gérard," proved the general receipts from the 1st July to the 31st December, 1856, to have been 24,128 dollars 65 cents, and the general disbursements during the same period, 22,433 dollars 40 cents. The inventory exhibited at Nauvoo a net proceeds of 40,770 dollars 97 cents, instead of last year (1856), before the fraction left for St. Louis, 64,806 dollars 53 cents. The inventory of the Icarian colony at Iowa is herein not included: the works and soil of the latter are valued at 12,395 dollars. There are 3115 acres of land, of which 273 acres are in culture; one-third is more or less wooded, and contains 47 various buildings in wood.

The Icarian people, which zoologists would class into the "infinitely small" ones, is composed mostly of French, who have emigrated to try communism; that is, all work in common, and all divide in common, property is public, and lodges in the unit of state. However little numerous they are, they form, notwithstanding, through their constitution, a nation or people (in Europe exist but tribes, masses, or heaps of men), and the Icarian people is organised from without by ordinary laws, having almost no connexion with the exterior, possessing a governmental train, that is, all property belongs to the social body or to society, nothing to the individual person but the right and claim upon the national property.

The colony thus forms a large association or universal society, or a community of property, organized upon the basis of fraternity. The associates adopt each other for brethren and sisters. The aim of the association (incorporated by the Legislature of Illinois) is to live and work in common, to clear and cultivate the soil, to procure the well-being of all the associates, and, moreover, to devote itself to the interest of the whole of humanity, proving by practice that communism is possible, and the best social organisation to secure the happiness of all and everyone. Strangers from all parts of the world are admitted, if they adopt the communistic principles, and if they are of "ordinary utility." The social capital consists of the capital of all associates; everybody brings into the society what he is possessed of; personal property is abolished. There exists but an enjoyment or usage of such things of the community which are necessary. Equality is the principle of the community; all are equally well instructed, well lodged, well clothed, and well nourished. Anxiety and care, vice and crime, are unknown. Everyone engages himself to labour according to his power and his capacity in the employ distributed to him. The community engages itself specially to care and protect the children, old age, the infirm and sick. It has schools where all children are brought up and instructed in common. Poor Cabet, not far from seventy years of age, deviated "finally" from his own principles, which is much to be regretted. In the Social Contract he says: "The aim of the association would fail, and all would be compromised, if, distant from France, one party of the Icarians could suddenly quit the others, abandon the children, widows, old men, infirm and sick, disorganise, paralyze, and ruin the society by taking from it part of its capital. In consequence, the duration of the society has no limits. All associates engage never to quit the society without its consent, and to exact neither its dissolution nor its

liquidation, nor the division of the society. This is a sacred engagement, for without it nobody would have left France to search another country at a distance of from six to eight thousand miles." And he says further, "If somebody will retire from the society, he loses all his rights, and can claim nothing, not even his contribution, neither partially nor wholly." So much for poor, dear, old M. Cabet, and his disciples at St. Louis.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,  
C. G. ALLHUSEN,  
Consular European Agent for the Icarian Nation, United States of America.

Kiel, April 18, 1857.

#### THE ITALIANS IN ALEXANDRIA.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—In this country of sand and sunshine, not being blessed with a journal in which we can express our opinions on general matters, or bring before the eye of the public wrongs we are at times compelled to endure, we are, in cases like the one we are about to lay before you, in which private feelings have been grossly outraged by men in their public capacity, compelled to seek in the journals of other countries that exposition which we are denied in this land, that for the present we have adopted as our home. And knowing that in a free country like England a journal like yours is always open to expose everything unjust, we have on this occasion ventured to address ourselves to you, in the hope you will find for the following facts a place in the columns of your paper.

We do not supply you with these to increase the many divisions which now afflict our unhappy country Italy, but to put on their guard all lovers of religious freedom against the doings of a set of men professing to be liberals, but who are neither more nor less than the tools of that worst of all *isms*, Jesuitism.

Dionisio Ciatti, one of the best of Italian patriots, who, as major of a battalion in 1848, fought nobly for the independence of his country, but whose mind could not brook the hated presence of the tyrannical stranger in his native land, sought refuge, along with many of us, in this our common land of exile. His virtues as a citizen, his love and charity to his neighbours, his ardent love of country, his unalterable adherence to his principles as an Italian patriot, and his most lively aversion to despotism and Popery (as he himself would say, the latter being so identical with the former), gained for him the esteem of his brothers in exile, and also of all true lovers of political and religious freedom who had the good fortune to be acquainted with him. Unfortunately Ciatti was overtaken by sickness, and being unmarried, in the brief space of five or six days he was in a state to require assistance, not of a mercenary kind like that of his landlord's, but of that kind of assistance such as love, friendship, and charity can only give, and such as he himself had practised.

When in good health he always was surrounded by a numerous circle of friends, but his disease being a contagious one, some for fear of their health, some on account of business, some for one reason and some another, but always for some not very plausible motive, nearly all, or at least many, scarcely even paid him a passing visit for a few minutes in the course of the day. Notwithstanding, however, he did not want for true friends, those who truly shared with him the noble sentiments of nationality and liberty, those who were not stupidly or Jesuitically Roman Catholics, but brother Evangelists who truly sympathised with the sick man. Those alone were his untiring assistants, and to whom he many times expressed a hope that, should he soon be on the verge of eternity, they would not allow his last moments on this earth to be embittered by the presence of a Romish priest, because, said he, the faces of such men, covered as they are with the mask of cupidity and hypocrisy, instead of inspiring him with thoughts of the world to come, would recall to his mind the long story of his country's wrongs produced by that *caste* alone, the sufferings through them he himself had endured, their persecutions, their betrayals of the confessional, and in fact their guilt, as a body, of all sorts of wickedness, prevalent on this earth. These were the sentiments of Dionisio Ciatti. We will see how his wishes were carried out.

He dwelt in the house of a poor fiddler, whom we will leave the reader to judge whether he was ignorantly afraid or conscientiously a Jesuit. Scarcely had poor Ciatti's illness begun to manifest any dangerous symptoms before this miserable scamp ran off to a certain chemist's shop, where Maltese mind sheds its light abroad, discussing in the blessings of Catholicism the virtues of its priesthood, and the still greater glory of the "only true Church," and where are accustomed to assemble a few *soi-disant* liberals, but whom we believe to be a sort of vestry servants, or rather Jesuitical brokers, who, merely for the desire of being thought to be exceedingly godly, are daily exhorting poor devils to take advantage of the confessional, receive indulgences, encouraging pompous funerals, and, in fact, recommending the use of all the nauseous wares offered for sale in the holy warehouse of the Roman Catholic Church.

Therefore, scarcely had the poor fiddler made known the perilous state of his lodger's health before it wa

unanimously agreed by the above-named enlightened assembly that no Italian Christian should die in Alexandria without the presence of a Roman Catholic priest; but knowing the sick man's aversion to the members of that body, and supposing that the friend then waiting on him would scrupulously carry out his wishes, they chose from amongst them an individual (to be a kind of mediator) who enjoys in their minds the title of refugee and liberal, also a pretended friend of the invalid, as the likeliest person to pay a visit to the sick man's room for the purpose of taking a few soundings. This self-same party, with a head of porphyry and the heart of a mouse, for fear, we suppose, of counteracting the great care he had bestowed at his toilet, previously had abstained from visiting poor Ciatti during his illness; but no sooner did he hear that by the death of one whom he should have treated as one friend ought always to treat another, he could put something in the way of the Roman Catholic priesthood, the eternal enemies of his country, than, like the bird of bad augury, he rushed eagerly away to fulfil his mission; but finding that the true friends of the dying man were determined, as far as they could, to carry out the wishes of their sick brother, he had to return as he started.

The priests, in the meantime, had been advised of all the proceedings, and, like the raven that waits the death of the fallen animal to devour its body, so they waited the last agonies of Ciatti, in order to plant on his death-bed the flag of triumph, and to appropriate the little money they might be able to find him possessed of. "The soul," said they, "the soul of this unhappy man will be lost, if we do not administer to him the comforts of our holy religion!" And so echoed their zealous clique.

But the real friends of the dying man informed them that Ciatti would die with indignation at the very sight of a priest about his bed; he was replied to, at the instigation of the priest, that confession was not necessary, nor yet communion, but that the presence, at least, of one of the respected Padres was absolutely so.

But knowing it to be impossible to have the presence of one of these priests without the sick man being aware of it, they coolly proposed to bandage poor Ciatti's eyes, allow the priest to enter the room, and, as if the poor fellow were dead, to await his last breath without even uttering a syllable.

Of course the true friends of Ciatti would not listen to such base proposals; but they were few and their adversaries were many, and soon the petty brokers of popish wares ran to inform the despotic Tuscan authorities, to whom, unfortunately, Ciatti belonged. By them the iron arm of the law was put in motion, which obtained for the priests a victory; but even in victory they were despicably poor. Oh, miserable men, who could propose such frivolous means! If the mercy of your God be such as he cannot draw under his mantle a poor sinner without the aid of another and a greater sinner; if your God in his omnipotence cannot save the soul of a poor creature without bandaging his eyes, we refuse his mercy. We deny such a being. No! our God is not your God; our God is not a malignant, revengeful, and frivolous being, selling out mercy by the pound-weight—the more money the more mercy—after the manner of the Roman Catholic priests, who sell the mercies of their God. The God we acknowledge, venerate, and worship, and whom from the innermost recesses of our hearts we silently adore, is an immense, incomprehensible, and infinite Being, who by the waving of His hand creates and destroys worlds and nations; our God is, in fact, the Fountain of inexhaustible light and life—yours, that of darkness and death.

There was sent to the house of the dying man an uncultivated-looking figure in shape of a priest, and it would almost be difficult for us to say whether the corpulency of his body or the ignorance of his mind be his qualification for the position which he holds. But we know that he was compelled to wait all night in an adjoining room, as those who had the care of the sick man's chamber would not allow him to enter therein.

Finally, at daybreak, February 19th, 1857, just as the clock struck six, poor Ciatti breathed his last. It was then that those who had waited upon him, seeing all human care would be for ever useless, with grief left the room of death. Then the priest, like a conquering herald, planted his flag of possession, singing a *Miserere* in such a strong and gladsome strain that it appeared to be, and in fact was, one of his *Te Deums*.

Behind such a conquest the God that was consulted was that of Mammon, in the shape of the effects poor Ciatti had left, and of which an account was immediately taken, in order to see whether they would pay for a first, second, or third style of funeral. And it was of the first.

The foregoing took place near Alexandria, Egypt. We could enlarge considerably on the underhand doings of the Romish priests, but fearing that this may already require more space than you can give it in the columns of your valuable journal, we reserve ourselves for some other time. Gloriety in truth, we fear neither persons nor parties; and being strong in our conscience and faith, we fearlessly bring to light the above facts, and openly defy contradiction.

Your obedient servants,

THE ITALIANS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Alexandria, March 23, 1857.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. 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.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 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 FIRST DEBATE.

THE Premier has met his Parliament. His speech, by courtesy attributed to the QUEEN, read very like a protocol, with a parenthesis on English affairs; but, at Mr. ROEBUCK's suggestion, he added a rider, and promised a Reform Bill next year. The main difference between moving for leave and throwing down a pledge in connexion with that topic, is this:—A distinct proposition means something to be done; a distinct promise means that something may be done, if a great many other things, all of which are probable or possible, do not happen. The House of Commons, after listening idly to the Royal Speech, about the Treaty of Paris, the unsettled questions between Prussia and Switzerland, the United States and England, and all the European Powers and the Danubian Principalities, heard with interest two announcements—from Sir DE LACY EVANS, that he would raise a debate upon foreign occupations; and from Mr. ROEBUCK, that he would challenge the Government on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. The Government—that is to say Lord PALMERSTON, rose—and signified that, next session, he would himself lead the party of Reformers. It is not to the popular voice, or to theoretical convictions, that he yields, but to the body of influential opinion already declared in favour of an improvement in the parliamentary representation of the country. He cannot afford, triumphant as he is, to slight the resolution of Lord JOHN RUSSELL to carry on the work begun in 1832. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, out of office, and with the Vienna mystery still hanging over him unexplained, is yet a powerful political chief. The

*Examiner* significantly raises its shield to parry the awkward and discreditable violence of the *Edinburgh Review*, and displays the BEDFORD crest. Lord PALMERSTON knows, therefore, that the Liberal majority is bent upon reform; with painful hesitation he rises in his place, and replies to Mr. ROEBUCK's notice for Thursday week, by a notice for February or April next year. We can only repeat our decided opinion that he dislikes the very mention of a Reform Bill, and express a hope that the nation will not suffer itself to be misunderstood or misrepresented.

Meanwhile Lord PALMERSTON is eager for official reinforcements. The gossip about the LORD CHANCELLOR's retirement is, however, very vague as yet; better law is wanted on the Woolsack than Lord CRANWORTH supplies, as well as a more authoritative reputation; but we do not credit the rumour

that it is contemplated to appoint Chief Justice COCKBURN his successor. Chief Justice COCKBURN possibly aspires to the portfolio of Justice, should that department be created; but the Great Seal would probably be the prize of Sir RICHARD BETHELL or Sir WILLIAM PAGE WOOD. Sir RICHARD BETHELL should be promoted. Mr. PHINN might practically explain his reason for giving up his post as Permanent Secretary to the Admiralty, by assuming the Attorney or Solicitor-Generalship. That is to say, unless he has fixed his eye upon the seat on the bench that is to be vacated, it is said, by Mr. Justice COLE RIDGE. Lord PANMURE's secession from the Ministry is also problematical, as well as the appointment of Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT in his place. It is understood, however, that Lord PANMURE is weary of his duties, and Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, an enthusiastic army reformer, and strong personal friend of the Premier, certainly has pretensions to be his successor. One change in the department has been determined upon. Mr. FREDERICK PEEL, as we anticipated some weeks ago, retires into private life—the Right Hon. FREDERICK PEEL. Sir ROBERT PEEL, moreover, quits the Admiralty for a reason or reasons not stated. It was at first supposed that he was to be put out of the sight of the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE; but the Grand Duke does not seem to be coming—also for a reason not stated, although probably understood at Buckingham Palace. We do not know whether Mr. BALL is to leave the Colonial Office; probably he will, and his absence will be sincerely regretted.

The new Parliament has begun by pacing along quietly under the guidance of the Premier, who adheres to his habitual policy. If this session is his, let next year be next year.

SIR JAMES BROOKE AND HIS CRITICS. FORMERLY there was a band of men whose business it seemed to be to insult the reputation and to civil at the proceedings of Sir JAMES BROOKE. The cabal has been effectually broken up. JOSEPH HUME, sincere in good and evil, is dead; poor JOHN MACGREGOR, who first worked the Indian Archipelago Company in his own special interest, and was then sworn into the British Bank conspiracy, is also dead; HENRY WISE, the discarded agent, may be still in existence, but he no longer looks from the top of his dining-table at that portrait of the English Rajah which he once apostrophised as the representative of all virtue, after intimating to a private friend that he considered it the likeness of a murderer. The portrait hangs in a civic hall, and Mr. WISE is nowhere. Sundry individuals, however, lurking under the anonymous, still carry on the war of insinuation, assisted by the credulous complicity of others, infected by morbid humanitarian convictions. Sir JAMES BROOKE, for instance, is to this day dogged by an old foe, who, having made several failures, literary and other, in connexion with the Indian islands, yet retains the will and the power to become his critic on every possible occasion. Hence has resulted, since the intelligence of the March massacres reached England, a small chorus of half-hinted objections, implying charges of tyranny and cruelty against the British Rajah of Sarawak. He is spoken of as a feudatory of the Sultan of Bruné—who, we beg to remark, is not the ruler of the whole island of Borneo, but only of an ancient state on the north-west coast—whereas he is practically no feudatory at all, but an independent governor, paying no tribute to the Sultan, acknowledging no

prerogative on his part, never referring to him for the sanction of administrative measures, raising forces and employing them according to his own uncontrolled discretion. The Sultan is more under obligation to him than he to the Sultan. When the British Commissioners inquired into the precise nature of the Rajah's tenure, they did not, and could not, condemn his occasional resort to arms in support of his authority; they merely held that the British Government had no relations with him and Sarawak. Supposing, however, that the Commissioners had been disposed to censure Sir JAMES BROOKE for defending his government against invasion and insurrection—which would have been tantamount to a manifesto in favour of piracy and assassination—what would have followed?

The Rajah having disengaged himself of all official responsibility, would have very properly denied the right of the British Government to intercept him in his Sarawak career, or to deprive him of the privilege enjoyed by the merest traveller—that of carrying arms, and using them in defence of his life and property, and the lives and property of those under his jurisdiction. Regarded simply as the owner of a foreign estate, held by legal grant from an independent sovereign, he would be at liberty to train a police by land and water, and to preserve the tranquillity of the country by employing force wherever and whenever necessary.

The next point raised against him is one which illustrates the perversity of such individuals as, having no solid ground of attack, resolve to create one. Sir JAMES BROOKE ascribes the recent outbreak, in part, to the agents of a conspiracy for cutting off the Europeans in the East. He is accused of substituting a myth for the real origin of the outbreak. Such conspiracies, however, have, from time to time, broken out in the Indian Archipelago. There were two in the Philippines a century ago, and there was one in Java. Moreover, the fact is stated, and not denied, that an emissary from Singapore, the member of a secret association, had been at work in the Kungsi; several banished criminals had returned by stealth; there was obvious concert and preparation. Still more conclusive is the fact that this conspiracy, though not believed in, has long been talked of in the East, as many officers and merchants familiar with those regions will attest. It is quite true that Sir JAMES BROOKE did not find four or five thousand Chinese within the limits of his principality when he originally settled in Borneo, but he certainly found a Chinese population in some of the districts. Among the forces employed under his command in repressing the insurrection against the native prince, MUDA HASSIM, were a number of Chinese. Their boats frequently visited the river; many of that people fled to him for protection after an unsuccessful contest with the Dutch of Sambas, and Pontianak, neighbouring territories; but quite as many were tempted by the encouragement he held out to industrial operations, and the immunity secured under his rule from freebooting and piracy, the ancient scourges of the island.

Instead of evincing any gratitude for these advantages, they have always formed the most turbulent, vicious, and ungovernable class of the population. Every European who has visited Sarawak testifies to their insolence and depravity. It may, indeed, suit some purpose of Mr. CRAWFURD's to talk, as he talked at a recent meeting of the Geographical Society, about their general good conduct in the Indian Archipelago; but Mr. CRAWFURD may be considered as all but expunged from the list of Indian Archipelago authori-

ties. He knows little or nothing of Borneo. His experience was principally confined to Java. It is forty years since he published his work, which embraced little more than an account of two or three islands. The Chinese, at that period, were not so densely disseminated through the Indian islands as at present. We prefer, therefore, the testimony of Sir JAMES BROOKE, who knows more of the Archipelago than any man living, and of the numerous Englishmen who have corroborated his accounts, to the pretentious generalities of Mr. JOHN CRAWFURD.

The outbreak at Sarawak was an insurrection of from four to five thousand Chinese—not a couple of hundreds—who were leagued in one conspiracy, but who did not attain their object, and subvert the government of Sir JAMES BROOKE in a single night. The government was not subverted at all. The houses of the European residents were burnt, and their property destroyed; several persons were murdered, and others wounded; but the Government remained so firm that, within a few hours, it rallied the native population, and cut the insurgents to pieces. Nor is it correct to identify the British Rajah's system of rule with that of the Dutch and Spaniards. The Chinese fled into his territories to escape Dutch severities and restrictions. He has followed the humane and cautious maxims of Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES, to whom in all things he is equal, and whom in original genius and in daring he immeasurably surpasses. That his authority is unpopular among the Chinese means, simply, that while he constrains the Malays and Dyaks to live under a common law, he will not suffer these cunning immigrants to enjoy a total exemption from taxes, from social responsibility, and from punishment for crime. He determined to govern them, of course, as he governed the Dyaks and Malays, who contribute their share to the expenses of the administration—in which his own private fortune was sunk, long ago—who are not permitted to smuggle; but who do not therefore congregate by night to avenge themselves by assassinating their Rajah, his colleagues, and a number of helpless women and children. The Rajah simply levies a light tax on the produce of the gold mines, checks the immigration of lawless adventurers by a poll-tax considerably more lenient than that of the Dutch, and prohibits opium smuggling, which, if permitted, would speedily demoralize the community. Were he a cruel ruler, the Malay and Dyak tribes would not celebrate his praises in their river and forest songs; were he a weak ruler, he would not have suppressed the Chinese revolt in two or three days, instead of struggling with it for years, as the Dutch did in Pontianak and Sambas. Again, it is a mistake to suppose that the whole of the Chinese in Sarawak are miners; a large proportion of them are engaged in trade; they do not inhabit one cluster of villages several miles from the capital of the principality: one of their chief quarters is close to the capital itself.

Although Sir JAMES BROOKE has no official relations with the British Government, he has a right, if again attacked, to the co-operation of our ships of war in the Eastern seas; he is an Englishman; he is devoting his life to the service of true civilization; he has sacrificed every worldly prospect to the one noble and generous purpose of his heart. The public will expect, moreover, that, when terms of peace are negotiated with the Government of China, he shall be indemnified for his losses at the hands of Chinese subjects, whose violence was no less unprovoked than brutal.

We anticipated a sort of half-stifled outcry against the British Rajah, knowing that some

of his old detractors were still in pursuit of their congenial calling: but it is too partial and hollow to affect the general bias of public opinion, which is cordially and unequivocally in favour of Sir JAMES BROOKE, whose Sarawak government has been a model of vigorous, wise, and humane administration.

#### OUR STEAM TROOP-SHIPS.

LAST week we expressed our belief that there was only one decent steam troop-ship in the service, to wit, the Himalaya. It is just possible that we may have generalized a little too sweepingly, and may have overlooked a creditable tub or two. But we wrote with a whole host of deplorable failures in our mind's eye. And at this moment, such is our ignorance, we don't know the names of the steam troop-ships which can be pronounced either swift or sure, much less swift *and* sure. On the other hand, we have abundance of slow and not sure, of the Transit order. Our nautical contemporary, the *Examiner*, whose opinions on sea subjects are generally edifying, sets up what we must call a weak defence for the Transit. With an infinite contempt for landsmen, it ridicules the letter from Corunna as the wail of a soldier, probably not the best judge of a ship's behaviour at sea. Even supposing a landsman to have written the letter (which remains to be proved), we think even a landsman may be a very fair judge of a dry hammock, if not of heavy rolling. The best apology our most unlubberly contemporary can make for the Transit is to suggest that, 'probably,' she met with very heavy weather in the Bay. To which we reply: possibly not, since it is a mere superstition to imagine it is always heavy weather in the Bay; and in any case there were, 'probably,' many smaller craft making much better weather of it across the Bay than the Transit. Our contemporary takes the wet hammock very comfortably, and pleasantly assures us that it is quite a common case for topsides to require caulking, and that rigging will be slack before it is stretched—two propositions we are not inclined to dispute. But, having a care to the comfort of our fellow-countrymen on board troop-ships, we ignorantly but obstinately persist in believing that troop-ships may get their topsides tight and their rigging stretched before they proceed to their destination. A trial trip at sea is all that is required. There is something ludicrous in a monstrous huge steam-ship, bound with troops to the war in China, putting into Corunna to caulk her topsides, and to take what our contemporary jauntily calls 'a pull upon her rigging.' We do not approve of our friends in the service being subjected to experiments *in corpore vili*. When a troop-ship sails *for her destination*, she ought to be in thorough sea-going trim. Is this mere landsman's ignorance? Be it so, we stick to it.

We were well aware that the Transit was not built by Government; and we took the precaution to say that 'great commercial companies are not in the habit of employing unseaworthy ships.' Whether the Transit be one of the finest models afloat, we know not, although, from the testimony of the eye, we should doubt it. It may be that the whole lot of our steam troop-ships are over-spared and over-lumbered, and tinkered into a state of dangerous inefficiency. Perhaps they are the victims of an epidemic. This week we have a letter from the *Urgent*, describing her recent voyage to Barbadoes. Just as it has been said of walking, that it is a series of falls adroitly intercepted, so we may say of the *Urgent*, that her way of walking the waters is a series of sinkings adroitly pre-

vented. The fault may be principally with the engines; but if our steam troop-ships cannot even steam (no one accuses them of sailing), they appear to us to be properly called unseaworthy. It is at least satisfactory to find that the *Adventure* and *Assistance* are being tried daily in Stokes Bay, and that they answer well. We may hope that their topsides will be tight and their rigging stretched before they proceed to China. To say nothing of their engines.

#### PRINCE ALBERT ON THE GEORGES.

PRINCE ALBERT said at Manchester, "In the Duchess of Gloucester we have lost the last of the children of that good king who occupied the throne during sixty years, and carried this country fearlessly through the most momentous struggles of its history."

We wish it were possible to place in contrast four lectures on the Georges by Prince ALBERT with the famous four by Mr. THACKERAY. We possess, however, the opinions of the great satirist, and we have now a clue to the opinions of the accomplished Prince. Mr. THACKERAY appeals to the pity of history in behalf of the poor insane king, the victim of delusion and disease; he is solemnly and profoundly pathetic when he asks us to approach with reverence the affliction of a crazed, forlorn old man; but Mr. THACKERAY'S Lear is Prince ALBERT'S Cromwell. For, standing on the Manchester dais, with a canopy above him very like a crown, the Consort felt all but regal, and in the name of the QUEEN decreed:—

Art. I. That GEORGE III. was a good king.

Art. II. That for sixty years he was The State.

Art. III. That he fearlessly carried England through the most momentous struggles of her history.

The portraits of the great men who lived when GEORGE III. was king, might have been observed to frown when Prince ALBERT, in their presence, thus deified the memory of the virtuous pastor and champion of his people. But the Manchester audience gazed at the Prince and took no heed of the statesmen, the admirals, and the generals ignored in his brief oration.

If History should reply,  
Give History the lie!

A few persons there might have been, however, who, having read Lord BROUGHAM'S Lives, Mr. THACKERAY'S Lectures, and the necessary chapters of Universal History, were startled to hear that GEORGE III. had carried the country through long and glorious struggles. They fancied that, within a few moments, Prince ALBERT had grown in voice and countenance very like a German potentate of the seventeenth century; his words were so purely monarchical; he attributed all vigour and victory to the throne; he uttered not the name of GEORGE, but spoke of him with monumental periphrasis as 'that good king.' Well might thoughtful men, with clear memories, stare at the Prince while he gave this public contradiction to Mr. THACKERAY. He who has so often distinguished himself by the enlightened philanthropy and scholarly culture displayed in his speeches, who has pronounced so often the panegyric of science, of art, of literature, was holding up his head under that little firmament of violet and gold, denying history, telling Englishmen that their recollections deceived them, affecting to believe that GEORGE III., who was mad half his life and mischievous all the rest, performed those vast achievements which almost redeemed a policy beset with disaster and disgrace. Pity that Mr. THACKERAY was not there, repenting of his Edinburgh apology, and resolving, for

the future, never to commiserate the imbecility of Prince ALBERT'S model monarch, to whom England owes that the combined Powers, during a series of wars, did not consume her utterly. The great Bourbon war and the American war were carried out by GEORGE REX, *solas*; Pitt, Nelson, Wellington, were the puppets of the kingly ENERGUMENOS.

Prince ALBERT, speaking of the kindly and charitable Duchess of Gloucester, in whom beneficence was a virtue unalloyed by ostentation, was, perhaps, bound by courtly duty to flatter her father's name. Well, he need not have been perplexed how to impute a good quality to the third GEORGE. There was something personally likable in the shattered old King, in his lucid intervals. He was honest in his sympathies; he loved some of his children; a few of his servants are reported to have wept, not in public, at his death. But as a King, he was the incarnation of obstinacy; he was addicted to favouritism in its worst form; he continually sought to encroach upon the Constitution; he involved his kingdom in disasters, and in no way aided in their triumphant issues.

We are sorry that Prince ALBERT should have added this exhibition to the display of Art Treasures at Manchester, because we sincerely regret any circumstance that casts a slur upon the throne. The English public believes in a mixed form of government, and in a balance of constitutional powers, and it has a loyal respect and affection for whatever virtues may hallow and adorn the Crown; but after two revolutions and a succession of reforms, it will not learn anew the lessons of divine right, or discredit history because Prince ALBERT contradicts it. The intellectual Prince will not succeed in popularizing the principle of personal government and monarchical sanctity. Happy would it have been for England had royalty been in the days of GEORGE III. what it is now, an element of dignity and grandeur in the State; but inasmuch as it was The State, it was a cause of calamity; and inasmuch as it was *not* The State, a race of able ministers, generals, and admirals 'carried the country through the most momentous struggles of its history.'

We have reason to be glad that Prince ALBERT did not enlarge his comment on the reign of GEORGE III.; he reversed in one sentence the history of half a century; had he proceeded, he might have become ironical, in spite of himself, and have supplied a fifth satire to Mr. THACKERAY'S series. Only, the satire might have wounded the living instead of the dead.

#### UP AND DOWN LONDON.

FROM Paddington to London-bridge, every one will admit, is a more formidable journey than from London-bridge to Brighton. But has any one man, in one day, travelled from Iceland wharf to Kensington Canal? Dr. LIVINGSTONE might do it. He is accustomed to sickness, fatigue, and danger. But we would counsel no less resolute and hardy experimentalist to undertake the expedition without trustworthy guides, a proper apparatus of transport, and a plenitude of money in the current coin of the several boundless contiguities of brick. London, to say the truth, is still barbaric. With a few exceptions, embracing the northern and southern populations, its inhabitants still employ carriages, cabs, and omnibuses as their means of transit, so that St. John's-wood is virtually more distant from the Strand than Richmond, and Islington than the top of Norwood-hill, that looks over Croydon, and catches

the breath of the sea. Yet there seems no reason why we should for ever depend upon cab and omnibus proprietors for our facilities of metropolitan locomotion, or in default be driven into vile steamboats, the builders of which, obviously, have never been in America, or they would improve their construction, and give the public saloon-cabins instead of rat-holes, while the passengers generally seem equally untravelled, or they would swear themselves into a bilious fever at the companies and captains. We have been half a century obtaining an amelioration of our omnibuses; our four-wheel cabs are still rickety sedan-chairs rolled upon wheels by horses that stagger as they go; yet we hear of ten per cent. dividends, and of satisfied proprietors realizing their shares and retiring. It is full time to think of making both ends of London meet, in a metaphorical sense, in order that Greenwich may be brought within a day's journey of the Swiss Cottage, and that the dwellers by the Greenland Dock may explore the world, if so they are inclined, at least as far as the Bayswater rivulet. If not for their sakes, at least for business purposes, we must speedily cast about us for some method of retrieving those thoroughfares which BURKE described as bursting with opulence, but which, in his time, no more resembled the main streets of our day than the Serpentine resembles the East India Docks.

We have arrived at the epoch of proposals—nothing more. It is true that Parliament has already granted power to a company to construct a railway connecting the Great Western, the London and North Western, and the Great Northern Railways, at a central terminus near the General Post-office; but the public has not granted the money, although it would be more safely invested between St. Paul's-churchyard and the Harrow-road than in the marshes and forests between Moscow and Ufa. Plans, however, exist in abundance. Mr. MITCHELL, a civil engineer, solicits the attention of Sir BENJAMIN HALL to a very bold and comprehensive idea. He will, if properly authorized and indemnified, surpass all the CÆSARS in history, and, knocking his way through the sixty thousand acres covered with buildings and streets that constitute London, will construct a grand, straight thoroughfare from Kensington Palace to Shoreditch. Its length would be four miles, its width ninety-eight feet. It would traverse the Serpentine, Hyde Park, Grosvenor-square, Regent-street, St. Giles's, Lincoln's Inn-fields, Holborn, Victoria-street, Smithfield, the Artillery Ground, and Finsbury-square, and terminate at the Eastern Counties Railway Station; vast heaps of trashy brickwork would be obliterated; bridges and viaducts would preserve the stately level; a double line of crystal colonnades would keep the rain off the footways without intercepting the sun; there would be a new palace, sublimely elevated, at one end of the line, and the double façade would present examples of every architectural order—Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Gothic, Norman, and Palladian, Moresco, Italian, and Egyptian—with vast intervals, no doubt, of that higgledy-piggledy of stucco, of early English grimace, turret of Italy, arch of Spain, pillar of Corinth, which is the glory and the beauty of our suburbs.

Parallel with this unparalleled street should run a line of railway, sunk in the earth, with crystal stations and flower-embroidered banks. There must be six stations—at Kensington-garden Gate, Grosvenor Gate, St. George's Church, St. Giles's Church, Chancery-lane, Smithfield, Finsbury-square, and Shoreditch. A branch-line should be carried over the heads of the wayfarers on Waterloo

Bridge, to supply the Surrey and Kent people with a share of Mr. MITCHELL's magnificence. Regent-street was constructed, from Pall-mall to Portland-place, between the years 1813 and 1823, at the trifling cost, including the purchase of property, vested interests, sewers, and law-charges, of 1,533,582*l.* It is a mile and a half in length; but MITCHELL's ideal street, four miles long, is calculated to cost 6,500,000*l.*, the railway 1,900,000*l.*, the new palace and improvements at Kensington 1,500,000*l.*, amounting in the gross to nearly ten millions sterling. But he thinks the ground-rent and traffic would yield nearly three per cent.—not a large promise for a prospectus.

Another civil engineer, Mr. F. W. RAMMELL, proposes to intersect London with railways. He objects, very reasonably, to underground schemes. We should have to undermine or displace a vast complication of sewers, water-pipes, and gas-pipes, and keep clear of a city of cellars and foundations. As a nation, we hate tunnels, dark, moist, impure, filled with noise and steam. Mr. Rammell would carry the rails, on iron frames, level with our first-floor windows, and work the trains by means of an atmospheric machinery. His railway would consist simply of a narrow line of rails, with an atmospheric tube between them, resting upon single rows of columns, planted along the kerb. Houses already in existence might be converted into stations; the trains should run upon an endless course, always in one direction, so as to avoid danger; a high average of speed should be maintained, with low fares, but large profits to the projectors.

Circular boulevards, with new streets radiating from a centre, tramways for heavy traffic along each side of the great thoroughfares, a new attempt to govern locomotives upon common roads, have been among the suggestions for an improvement of metropolitan communications. We may not accept any of these schemes, which treat blocks of houses as cream cheese, and capitalists as nuggets to be melted down; but we must adopt one plan or another, for, as time progresses, the opposite ends of London will be separated by an impassable wilderness, and the people of the parts about Primrose Hill will know no more of the dwellers in Globe Town than Aboukir knows of Table Bay.

#### LEGALISED THEFT.

THE belief in witchcraft, which the British public has lately affected much surprise at finding full-blown among us, is only a coarser form of that superstition concerning the Oath which still lingers on the magisterial bench, and, in spite of law reformers, still upon the statute books. Nonconformity has established itself all over the country, and, after some trouble, has got itself recognised in our institutions. No form of disbelief, however extreme, do law officers now attempt to punish. Sixteen years have elapsed since the power of adjudging punishment to heresy was taken entirely out of the hands of magistrates, and no court high or low has the power to revive any such proceeding without the special consent of the Crown. But while the right of nonconformity is established in the streets, there lingers the old superstition that the world cannot go on without conformity in the witness-box. Whatever a man may believe as a private individual, he must have, or profess, one common belief in the witness-box, or he is outlawed. Every possible latitude is now allowed him as to the manner of swearing. He may hold up his right arm, or his left; he may kiss the Bible, or he may break a saucer; he may swear by a false god; but he

must swear. During the first century of our rule over India we insisted upon swearing the pagans "on the true faith of a Christian;" but our oath not being binding on their consciences, it was found that they disregarded it. Our Indian statesmen, more liberal than our English statesmen, changed the form of oath, and permitted that form to be used which was binding on the pagan conscience. Now the Hindoo swears by what we regard as a false god; but the plan answers, and the pagan witness tells the truth as satisfactorily as the Christian. The force of the oath lies not in conformity of belief, but in an appeal to the swearer's highest sense of veracity. We take it that a free English subject is entitled to as much respect as a conquered pagan, and when an English deponent appears in our courts declaring his intention solemnly and conscientiously to speak "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and binds himself by all the consequences of the laws of perjury, we cannot see why English law should refuse that man credibility, refuse him the protection of justice, and abandon him, defenceless, to outrage and to plunder.

For some time past the newspapers have teemed with cases of this kind. A short time ago an Edinburgh thief, having a spite against a respectable tradesman whom he knew to have a conscientious objection to an oath, took the opportunity of robbing him; being detected and brought before the sheriff, he reported the prosecutor's inability to take the oath, when the said sheriff, or whatever was his legal designation as a magistrate, liberated the thief, and sentenced the prosecutor to ten days' imprisonment for the offence of refusing to swear. We are not quite sure whether the robbery came about by pre-calculation exactly as we state, but this was the way it might have come about; this, however, was the way the prosecutor was treated, and license given to every thief who listed to go and do likewise. The other day, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a witness indebted to a tradesman pleaded, on being sued for payment of his claim, that his creditor was destitute of the conventional belief necessary to enable him to take the oath. The court connived at the proceeding, the law leaving the judge no other course; and the crafty defaulter evaded the payment of the debt.

Another case which has never yet been reported, in some respects more flagrant than either of these, occurred the other day in the Staffordshire Potteries. At the police-court, Hanley, before T. B. Rose and JOHN RIDGWAY, Esqs., on Monday, March 9th, a man named JOSEPH TAYLOR, was charged by his employer, Mr. J. B. BEBBINGTON, with stealing a wheelbarrow, a quantity of moulds, gum, porcelain ornaments, scales, weights, &c. The whole of the stolen property was produced in court, having been taken out of the house of the prisoner by the police, acting under a search-warrant. On the prisoner being called forward and the New Testament handed to the prosecutor, the following dialogue ensued:—

*Pros.* Before taking the oath I wish to make a statement.

*Magist.* Well, what is it?

*Pros.* I wish to state that I regard the oath as a civil, and not as a religious ceremony.

*Clerk.* He does not believe the Scriptures.

*Magist.* Then I cannot take your evidence. Now, sir, I must have the matter more plainly out: You have in your hands a copy of the Holy Scriptures—do you or do you not believe in their divine origin? It would be a perfect farce to swear a man on a book he does not believe.

[The magistrate after some consultation with Mr. Ridgway, resumed:]

I am quite clear in this case. The law allows us to take the evidence of Quakers, Moravians, and some other sects under an affirmation dispensing with the

oath, to none of which sects the prosecutor says he belongs; but it gives us no power to take the evidence of a person who says he disbelieves the Holy Scriptures.

*Pros.* I did not say that.

*Magist.* It is a matter of inference. However, the magistrates have determined to take a note of your declaration, and then to take upon themselves the responsibility of refusing your evidence. Now, sir, you will please to attend:—

"This witness before being sworn, made a declaration that he regarded the oath as civilly but not religiously binding, whereon, &c."

*Is that correct?*

*Pros.* Assented.

*Magist.* Then there is no case against the prisoner. I never, in the whole course of my experience, met with but one case of this kind before. That was the case of a man named Yates—since, I believe, dead—the late Jeremiah Yates, who, on presenting himself before me to be sworn in as special constable, at a time when his refusal would have brought upon him a fine of five pounds, said that he did not believe the oath, but that he would take it to save the five pounds. I ordered him out of court, saying that I would have neither his services nor his five pounds, and that I did not consider him a fit person to serve her Majesty. There is no case against the prisoner, let him be discharged, and let the property be taken back to the place from whence it was brought by the officers who executed the search-warrant.

In all the dialogues between witnesses and the bench touching the oath, the exact point at issue has never been put more clearly, nor in language more unobjectionable, than by Mr. BEBBINGTON in this instance. There was no syllable jarring on the faith of the court—no obtrusion of any opinion held by the prosecutor—nothing but a simple, respectful, and decided declaration that the oath was binding on his conscience to all intents and purposes as a civil ceremony—and as a civil ceremony only. Mr. ROSE followed up this by an impertinent and illogical commentary. He had no evidence whatever before him on which to ground his inference (that the prosecutor disbelieved the Holy Scriptures), and he proceeded to employ the officers of the court in removing the stolen property, which occupied a considerable space before the bench, to the house of the thief, who was dismissed, with something like triumph, to enjoy the fruits of his plunder. With the knowledge that this is the kind of treatment which may be expected by a conscientious prosecutor, no wonder that Mr. ROSE has not had many cases before him. This clear-headed SOLOMON relieves JEREMIAH YATES of the duty of serving HER MAJESTY, and excuses him the fine of five pounds after his coarse profession of indifference respecting the oath—a profession betraying no consciousness of moral obligation in the matter. After this tenderness to JEREMIAH YATES, Mr. ROSE refuses, with a sort of unction, protection to Mr. BEBBINGTON, who professes a manly respect for civil veracity, and hands over his property to the undisputed custody of the thief. The sooner the law, which not merely permits, but instructs magistrates to commit these outrages, is amended, the better for public justice.

#### THE ITALIAN PORTSMOUTH.

THE Sardinian Government has for some time been proposing to transfer the naval arsenal from Genoa to Spezzia, and it meets with a double resistance, combining elements really incompatible. We shall understand the nature of this resistance better when we perceive the real character of the project. The port of Genoa lies at the bottom of a spacious gulf. The construction of the port, however, would not readily admit of expansions without a very great expense. Even a quarter of a century ago the space was barely sufficient for the commerce; and with the increase of trade, the growth of steam navigation and passenger transit, and the rising importance of the Sardinian States as a political power in the Mediterranean, the port is becoming decidedly too small to be, as it has already been

expressed, at once the Portsmouth and the Liverpool of Northern Italy. The Government at Turin therefore proposes to separate the Portsmouth from the Liverpool, to leave the commercial business to Genoa, and to carry the naval business down to the gulf of Spezzia; though we do not understand that commercial business will be excluded from that gulf.

This project, as we have said, meets with two classes of opponents. Most obviously it is arrested by the Genoese, because the citizens of the Italian Liverpool do not like parting with any business that has hitherto been carried on in their port. This is quite natural, but it is scarcely so far-seeing as we might have expected from the Genoese. Much space will be gained which they absolutely require; and such extension of trade will be created by calling the Gulf of Spezzia into activity, as to have the certain result of bringing increased business to Genoa. For there is no doubt that, as in the case of many extensions of trade amongst ourselves, the gross amount of trade divided by the two ports will be infinitely larger than it is at present, Genoa, most likely, being yet richer than she is now. The other opponent is Austria, who is of course using all her influence to obstruct a transfer that threatens her power in more ways than one.

Spezzia is, in fact, destined by nature to be a great port. For picturesque beauty it has been compared with the Bay of Naples, with which it will vie in extent and safety, while the depth of water is greater. The town, which contains about four thousand inhabitants, is beautifully situated on an eminence at the head of the gulf. Nearer to the mouth of the gulf, on the right bank, is the town of Porto Venere (Port Venus), which still contains ancient ruins, and commemorates the old name of the gulf, Portus Lunæ—Moon Port. The bay is land-locked, and yet is very easy of access. In the midst of it is a natural phenomenon, which is perhaps unparalleled—a fountain of fresh water arises from an immense spring at the bottom of the gulf. It bursts from under the sea in the middle of the bay, forming a column thirty feet in diameter, and rising nearly unmixed to the surface, which is visibly raised by the pressure from below. Quite at the surface the water is brackish, but when it is drawn from a depth of thirty-eight feet it is soft and fresh, and colder than that of the sea. It is generally understood that the first NAPOLEON intended to make the gulf of Spezzia a naval station and arsenal, and to surround this spring with a wall or other apparatus, by means of which ships could lade their water from its source.

Lying about sixty miles south of Genoa, the gulf of Spezzia is to that extent removed from the depths of the bay in which Genoa lies, and it stands more out in the Mediterranean, and is, in fact, the key to the naval position of that quarter. If possessed by a naval power, it constitutes a great opportunity for the development of naval strength, and it might be the instrument for reviving the old nautical valour which once distinguished the Genoese and the Venetians. In its rear, ready facilities are offered for communication with the Lombard territory; and should the commercial business of Lerici be developed with the facilities of a free port, it is more than probable that a free trade would be *de facto* established with that same Lombard territory, Austrian prohibitions notwithstanding.

In fact, the opening of a naval station at Spezzia would go far to introduce freedom and independence, naval, political, and commercial, into Central and Northern Italy. These are the reasons why Austria hates the

project, and conjures up every influence that can resist it. These are the reasons why the patriotism of Genoa should sanction a temporary sacrifice, which is likely to be repaid by immense advantages to Italy, and even by commercial profit to Genoa itself.

#### THE INCOME-TAX OF A TOWN DOUBLED.

OPPRESSION, in our day, is usually inflicted only on individuals, or on classes; seldom do we find the Government extending oppression to a whole town; yet a case of the kind actually exists at the present moment. The sufferer is not any private victim of a Chancery suit, any gentleman tabooed by leading political parties, or any section of the working classes; it is the respectable town of North Shields. The case is stated in the *North and South Shields Gazette*:

"In 1844 two persons resident in North Shields were appointed to collect the Income-tax for the Tynemouth-In district. One of them never acted; the other, a Mr. Briggs, took the whole duty upon himself. In the autumn of 1855 he became a bankrupt, at which time he had in his possession a sum of 1700*l.*, of moneys collected for Income-tax in his district. This sum he had deposited in his own name in one of the local banks, and it was seized by the Court of Bankruptcy for the benefit of his creditors. The bank, however, did not surrender it without hesitation. Knowing it to be Government money the bank declined at first to pay it over to the Court of Bankruptcy as belonging to Briggs's private estate, but wrote to the Commissioners of Income-tax, offering it to their disposal. The commissioners refused to have anything to do with it, and the 1700*l.* went to pay Briggs's private debts; but it was ordered that the deficiency should be made good by a re-assessment of the township and an exaction of the amount over again."

These simple facts tell the whole story and its moral. As our contemporary says, 'a more arbitrary act of fiscal oppression was never perpetrated in Turkey than that which has been decreed by our Income-tax pachas.' In fact, we may suspect the Income-tax Commissioners of being Mussulmans, so exactly does the treatment of Christians in South Shields agree with the treatment of Christians in Bulgaria and Armenia; only that in Turkey Proper the Osmanlis are now mending their manners. The mulct inflicted upon North Shields is unjustifiable by any contrivance of casuistry. The defaulters are not persons appointed by the town. The Income-tax Commissioners appoint a collector, and invest him with the power to enforce payment by summary process. The inhabitants have no kind of voice in the matter; their income is ascertained—or, in many cases, is presumed without ascertaining it: for we have no doubt that Shields, like every other town of the country, is paying a tax upon income which does not exist. Thus created and invested with these arbitrary powers—powers that are entirely inconsistent with the spirit of the English constitution—the collector rakes up the money. The inhabitants of course obtain their receipt for it; and in almost all cases it is held at law that a valid receipt exonerates the payer from any future claim. Not so in the present instance. The collector defaults, and the loss should fall upon his principals; but, in defiance of law as well as the constitution, they now repudiate the receipts of their own officer, and come upon the town to make good the loss occasioned by their own bad selection.

Our Shields contemporary declares that the wrong will not be endured without a struggle:

"The first attempt to enforce it was met with such a firm front in North Shields, and provoked such a burst of indignation all over the kingdom, that the Commissioners desisted for a while, but now they have resumed hostilities. But the threatened town is not inactive. We understand that a meeting of the committee appointed to resist the re-assessment will be held immediately, and that it will probably be succeeded by another public meeting."

Good. We cannot, however, hold out very strong hopes. Exactly the same wrong was inflicted upon Greenwich. Greenwich, of course, was indignant—resistance was organised—we heard much about British Constitution, and all that sort of thing; and ultimately Greenwich—paid.

At the present day, this is usually the end of popular agitation. Gentlemen assemble in public meeting, appoint a chairman, pass resolutions that they will not endure this or that, call for an outbreak of indignation from the whole kingdom, set a few journals writing upon the subject articles which look like a final declaration of war—a proclamation with the principle No quarter and no surrender, and then we learn some day that the denounced act has been accomplished, and the country goes on as before.

The fact is, that if the country had taken the matter into its own hands, we might have got rid of the whole Income-tax long ago. It is a bad impost, excusable only for a temporary purpose, like that which PEEL designed for it; but as a permanent part of the revenue, it is clumsy, injurious, tyrannical, unfair, and disgraceful to the country that tolerates it. If men of the Tyne really 'unite together,' as our contemporary advises them, 'with hearts and brains and purses ready to defend their right,' they may relieve themselves from this wrongous infliction. *Will they do so?*

MR. COBDEN.—Mr. Alexander Laing, manufacturer, Hawick, has received a letter from Mr. Cobden, in acknowledgment of a copy of resolutions passed at a public meeting in that town, sympathizing with Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Gibson on their recent defeats at Huddersfield and Manchester. In this communication, Mr. Cobden thus accounts for his defeat:—"The invitation to become a candidate, which emanated from a public meeting, did not reach me till after my opponent, who occupied an influential local position, was already in the midst of a canvass from door to door throughout the borough—an ordeal which I at once declared I could not go through for all the seats in Parliament—and his success was insured against all possible opposition, no matter from what quarter it might have come. In fact, my entrance upon the contest was at the time simply and solely a mistake; but, owing to the circumstances under which it was fallen into, it involved no blame or serious responsibility to any one." Mr. Cobden adds that, at the time he gave up the borough of Stockport for the West Riding of Yorkshire (for both which constituencies he was elected at the general election of 1847), he perceived that he was giving up safe anchorage for dangerous waters, and anticipated the present result; but he was persuaded by his friends to sit for the West Riding. He "was the first to declare that it would be impossible, after the free-trade question was settled, that the largest county constituency in the kingdom should continue to be represented by one wholly unconnected with it by birth, property, or residence." He concludes by remarking:—"For personal reasons, it is convenient to me at present to be relieved from the duties of Parliament. I must confess, however, at the same time, that there never was a moment when, on public grounds, I would have more gladly taken my seat in the House of Commons."—At a meeting of the Catholic electors of Leeds, held at the rooms of the Catholic Literary Institution, on the 17th of April, it was unanimously resolved that an address be presented to Mr. Richard Cobden. The document sets forth the high sense the meeting entertained of the services rendered by Mr. Cobden to the Roman Catholic body in always upholding civil and religious liberty; and expresses regret that the country should, for the present, have lost the parliamentary services of "so great, so useful, and so honest a man." Mr. Cobden, in thanking the Catholic electors of Leeds for their address, says he opposed the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill of 1851 on the same grounds that he would have opposed a similar bill affecting the church government of the Wesleyans, the Independents, or the Baptists—viz., because it interfered with religious liberty.

THE OXFORD PROFESSORSHIPS.—Mr. Matthew Arnold, M.A., was on Tuesday elected Professor of Poetry by a majority of 85 over the Rev. John Ernest Bode, M.A. The numbers were, respectively, 868—278. The election of a Professor of Political Economy took place on the same day. The candidates were—Mr. Neate, M.A., who polled 194 votes; the Rev. J. E. T. Rogers, M.A., 180 votes; and Mr. Nassau William Senior, 128 votes. Mr. Neate, who is the newly elected M.P. for the City of Oxford, is therefore chosen by a majority of 64.

## 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*.

THERE is a strange, sarcastic melancholy in that passage in the forty-third book of *Livy*, where the historian, writing in an age of decadence, apologizes for the ancient feeling with which his narrative of the old times of Rome is imbued: “Ceterum et mihi, res vetustas sribenti, nescio quo pacto antiquus fit animus.” The author of the extremely remarkable article in the present number of *Fraser*, on “Imperialism,” seems to us to betray the *antiquus animus* of the Roman, in these latter days of expediency and indifference. The stern concision, and lofty austerity of his indignant eloquence, make him the new *TACITUS* of modern *Cæsarism*. This is not the department of our paper in which we talk politics, and we dare say our readers would be little disposed to pardon an invasion of the peaceful republic of Literature and Art. We shall therefore refrain from dwelling upon the subject of this article, the more contentedly that our own opinion of Imperialism has never for one moment changed or faltered, not even when all England was outwardly and visibly worshipping its success.

We must find space for an extract or two, to give a taste of the writer's quality, and very earnestly recommend all our readers to seek and study the paper entire as it appears in *Fraser* for May. It deserves to be republished in a more permanent form.

A certain Prince once hinted that a constitutional government was unfit to carry on a war with vigour and success:

But that war is better waged or borne with more constancy by an ordinary despot than by a commonwealth, is a notion belied by all history, from Marathon to Sebastopol. Was the administration of the Aulic Council in the campaigns of Italy less trammelled by ‘red tape’ than those of the English War-office in the Crimea? And as to favouritism, was it a people's minister or a king's mistress that, after Rossbach, gave another army to ‘poor Soubise?’ Was it a constitutional government or an enlightened despot that sent the dying St. Arnaud as the price of services in a conspiracy, to paralyze the march on Sebastopol, and entail on the two armies the murderous misadventure of the winter siege? The English minister was condemned; the French Emperor was lauded to the skies. But if the French army had been led by the great generals of France then in exile, instead of the accomplice of the Usurpation, the English minister's army would have wintered in Sebastopol.

Compare the generals and war ministers whom Louis Quatorze inherited from Huguenotism and the Fronde, with those whom he made for himself by absolute monarchy before the end of his reign. Or, if the Roman Empire is the type, compare the generals of the Senate with the generals of the Emperors; compare the conduct of the Senate to Marius and Cæsar when in command against the public enemy, with the conduct of the Emperors to Germanicus, Agricola, and Belisarius. Politics is an experimental science; and those who, in their treatment of it, wish to be specially scientific, are bound to have special regard to facts. Where are the facts that prove that, in their choice or treatment of generals or any other public servants, commonwealths are swayed by private passion or interests, and despots by the public good?

We entreat our readers to mark well the application of the following sentence, in which the writer points out the private, as well as public, demoralization consequent upon the worship of immoral success:—

The banner of his (Napoleon I.) successor, and the restorer of what he called his dynasty, hangs among those of the chivalry of England in the Chapel of the Garter; and therefore we are required, as loyal subjects, to suppose that the Garter can bind honour on Louis Napoleon's knee. It is weakness to say what this man and his associates are, since not the less they have their feet on the neck of that which was a free nation. Thus much only we would have remembered, that the Imperial friends of order twice, while France was at peace under a constitutional monarchy, set up in their own interest the standard of civil war. Twice they conspired against the State and were the ridicule of the world: a third time they conspired with all the forces of the State in their hands, and were miracles of genius. *Of how many Redpaths may not the ambition have been excited to lofty aims by the triumphal progress of the heroes of the coup d'état through the shouting streets of a nation once jealous of morality and honour!*

## ALL DESPOTISMS ALIKE.

After all, the French Empire is as the other despotisms of Europe. It loves, hates, fears, acts, conspires with its kind. It apes their state, and surrounds itself with all that is unmanly and debased in their parasitic trains; while Court preachers find the deepest depth of sycophancy in affecting freedom. It vies with them in ignoble luxury, and in squandering on selfish magnificence and ostentation the public money, which, lavished in imperial grandeur, dwarfs, to the eyes of pleasure-hunters, the paltry hospitals of freedom. It would copy their aristocracies, if an aristocracy could be had for money. It holds their Italian god upon his throne. It has, like them, its State religion, for which, like them, it will persecute, and shows already that it will persecute, when it dares. Like them, it is the enemy, though as yet the cautious and stealthy enemy, not only of seditious newspapers, but of literary freedom. It tries at present to bribe and suborn intellect; it will soon learn and dare to suppress it. The Jesuit, whose instinct is sure, knows it for his own: and as he sees it stand on the ruins of French thought and freedom, he says in his heart that the world is his, after all, and that the cause of truth and liberty has had its hour. Surely the man whose moral judgment it can blind with its tinsel and condescension must be more than a Celt.

Few perhaps of the English admirers of the French Empire have made up their minds that it is to last for ever. They say France has need of repose for a time. Perhaps France says so to herself. And so says to himself the exhausted traveller in the Alpine storm. He, too, needs repose for a time, after which he will rise refreshed, and push forward to his hospice. But how long a sleep does the traveller need? How long a disuse of the limbs does the patient require, in order to restore their powers? How long an abstinence from political action will confirm a nation in political virtue? How soon will despotism fit slaves for self-government? It is necessary to decide, that MM. Morny and Fould may know when the happy hour is come for restoring the liberties and the honour of their country.

## THE TRUE LOVERS OF DESPOTISM.

The Jesuit will always love despotism. For him despotism quenched half the Reformation, holds half Europe in darkness, and robs the other half of the aid of mutual light. Jesuitism and despotism have need of each other, and each knows it well,

Free thought shakes alike false shrines and arbitrary thrones. It was sound advice that was given to the Epicurean despot of Rome, to encourage the priest and augurs, and punish novelties in religion, for the same tended to sedition: and it was sound policy in a Nero and a Diocletian to persecute the truth that makes us free. It was deep wisdom in Napoleon I. to restore, as the stay of his dynasty, that degrading falsehood which the noblest blood of France had been shed to put away: and it is deep wisdom in the priests of that falsehood to glorify the memory of a saviour and protector who was a Mahometan to Mahometans, a German freethinker to German freethinkers, and in his heart perhaps the purest practical atheist that has ever played a part in history. While liberty was strong, the French priesthood blessed the tree of liberty with their lips, but it was with curses in their hearts: their adoration of the Messiah of Order is blasphemous but sincere.

The voluptuary, too, will love a form of government which promotes dissipation in order to drug thought, and which not only brings a calm feelingly sweet after the storms of moral and intellectual life, but graces that calm with imperial architecture and imperial shows. What does it signify to a gourmand and a *mélomane* that the government does not allow Luthers? What harm will it do to him if the next generation is deprived of truth and public morality, and perhaps even of the thirty pieces of silver for which truth and public morality are sold? An atheist in heart, if not in profession, what does he, the human animal of to-day, care for the fate of the human animals of to-morrow? The bright scene may change. The Saviour of Society may become a Nero; the true nobility of the nation may become *prætors*; the Jesuit may become an inquisitor, though now, occupied in struggling with more deadly forms of spiritual evil, he smiles on the voluptuary's unobtrusive creed. But by that time Apicius will have rendered back his grossness to the dust. Only men who believe in God and Spirit can live in the future of their kind.

The stockjobber, again, adores a power which, for the moment at least, protects his shares; which does not offend his morality or his public spirit; and which dazzles whatever is left in him of imagination with the splendid image of success. *The stockjobber, we say, but not the merchant. Liberty is the only foster-mother of commerce; and commerce wafts liberty with all her sails.*

If space permitted, we might be disposed to discuss rather in a spirit of reservation than of objection certain passages in this article, but we shall wait for another opportunity and another place; for the present we will only say, that it is worthy of a free English heart and brain, and that to read it is like clasping an honest hand, or breathing the air of the mountain-top.

The remaining papers of *Fraser* are varied and interesting, especially one on CHARLOTTE BRONTE and her sisters, full of fine sympathy; a merciless exhibition of MR. SAMUEL WARREN; and an able criticism of some recent restorations and architectural renovations in France distinguished, says the writer, by that very vulgar vice, a “precipitate passion for display.”

We have little room to speak of *Blackwood*. But we must again express our gratitude for “Mr. Gilfil's Love Story,” which fills us with increasing admiration as it proceeds. “A Run to Nicaragua” is an original view of Central American politics, from an actual eye-witness of General Walker's operations. We must extract a sketch of that typical adventurer:—

A glance at the personal history of the remarkable man who conducted this daring enterprise may not be uninteresting. General Walker's father had been a banker in Scotland, and emigrated to the United States in 1820. Walker himself was born in 1824, but manifested a roving disposition. At an early age he graduated successively in law, physic, and divinity; travelled for a year in Europe; returned to the States, and became the editor of a newspaper in New Orleans; thence proceeded to San Francisco in California in a similar capacity, which he relinquished to take command of the Sonora expedition. On his return from this he entered into the arrangements above stated with Castillon. In stature, General Walker is but little over five feet four. His features are described as coarse and impulsive; his square chin and long jaw denote character, but his lips are full, and his mouth is not well formed; his eyes are universally spoken of as the striking feature in his face—of a singularly light grey, they are so large and fixed that in a daguerreotype the eyelid is scarcely visible. His manner is remarkably self-possessed, and some of his most intimate friends, who have been with him throughout the most trying scenes of his Nicaraguan experiences, have assured me that under no circumstances have they ever observed him to change countenance, even to laugh, or to alter in the smallest degree his slow and precise mode of diction. He is at all times taciturn, and when he does speak it is directly to the point. He manifests a contemptuous indifference to danger without being reckless, and altogether seems better qualified to inspire confidence and respect among lawless men than to shine in civilized society.

He is ascetic in his habits, and his career hitherto has shown him to be utterly careless of acquiring wealth. Highly ambitious, it is only due to him to say that his aspirations, however little in accordance they may be with the moral code in vogue at the present day, are beyond riches. Like the Emperor Louis Napoleon, he has a fixed faith in the star of his destiny, and like him he doubtless will be branded by the civilized nations of Europe as an unprincipled adventurer or a heaven-born hero, according as he fails or succeeds in his daring enterprise.

The University of Oxford has done itself honour this week by the election of Mr. MATTHEW ARNOLD to the vacant Professorship of Poetry. As a true poet, a fine critic, and, moreover, as the son of a man whose name is precious to Oxford, and honoured as universally as it is known, we are sure Mr. MATTHEW ARNOLD will justify the choice of the large majority which has placed him in the chair he is so well qualified to fill. We say this without the slightest disrespect to his competitor, the Rev. J. E. BODE, justly esteemed for his personal character, and for his high attainments in classical scholarship.

In the midst of a dry heap of diplomatic and political news in the *Times* of last Tuesday, appeared the following short paragraph:—

M. Alfred de Musset, one of the youngest and most distinguished members of the French Academy, died yesterday, after a short illness.

Two paces of the vilest earth are all that remains even to a King when once the breath is out of his body; and two, or at the most three, lines are all that can be spared to a poor poet—a mere child of grace and genius, whose lamp of life is shattered, and whose light in the dust lies dead—when the movements of a Grand Duke and of the Crédit Mobilier have columns at their service. Nevertheless, as it is the fashion of Courts to go in mourning for their great ones, we may be allowed in this place to offer, from beyond the sea, the last tribute of respect to the memory of a poet. ALFRED DE MUSSET was one of

those 'children of a summer star,' who lose their way early in this busy world of harsh and cold realities; who drain the wine of life with fevered lips to the very dregs, exhaust the bitter and the sweet of love, and awake from disenchantment to despair. His last volume of minor poems was published in 1850, and in those few pages there was nothing that bore a later date than '39—'42.

To him, as to many other greater men, the reward of fame came late. For many years he had been treated by the serious critics as a trifler; and although his *Contes d'Espagne et d'Italie*, his *Spectacle dans un Fauteuil*, and his exquisite lyrics were the delight of women and of young men; although his life had enough of romance in it to be interesting, it was not until about ten years ago that the singular success of one of his Proverbes (*Le Caprice*) gave a sudden lustre to his name. Two or three more of his Proverbes were subsequently performed at the Français—*Il ne faut jurer de rien, Il faut qu'une porte soit ouverte ou fermée*, and his dramatic pieces, *La Quenouille de Barberine, Les Caprices de Marianne*—with a success belonging rather to the poet than to the dramatist, as the failure of the drama, *André del Sarto* a fine subject wasted, clearly proved. It was one thing to compose with a diamond pen a *Proverbe*, and another to construct a drama of sustained interest and passion. We incline to believe, that it will be for his minor poems that ALFRED DE MUSSET will be remembered. In these, the passionate warmth of colour, the reckless elegance, the mocking grace, the almost feminine languor and inconstancy of humour smiling through tears, are infinitely charming. The influence of BYRON upon the young countryman of VOLTAIRE is easily perceived, but enough remains of individuality to give the poet a personal rank. His election into the Academy was especially remarked at the time, as it was almost a single instance of pure literature being admitted by the disbanded senators who fill the benches of that august body, and conspire in choice language against the Order that is not of their making. No doubt, his literary title to academic election was a sound one. A romanticist by habit and association, he was always a rigid classicist in theory. But poor ALFRED DE MUSSET was not at home in the Palais Mazarin; and, indeed, wherever he appeared of late, it was as a ghostly visitant from some *débraillé* world. His way of life had become perplexed in the extreme; silent and shattered was that fragile lute

On whose harmonious strings  
The breath of heaven did wander, a bright stream  
Once fed with many-voiced waves, a dream  
Of youth which night and time have quenched for ever!

Peace be with him! As he wrote of a brother poet of Italy, LEOPARDI—

L'heure dernière vint, tant de fois appelée.  
Tu la vis arriver sans crainte et sans remord,  
Et tu goûtais enfin le charme de la mort.

#### THE OXFORD ESSAYS.

*Oxford Essays.* Contributed by Members of the University. 1857.

J. W. Parker and Son.

THAT it is very possible for a considerable politician to be a quite inconsiderable writer has been proved by others before Mr. Gladstone, who would assuredly have been much better employed in parliamentary duties than in writing the opening article of the *Oxford Essays*, an article which threatens the public with a work on Homer such as will exhaust the subject—and its readers. To write upon Homer now-a-days, unless the writer is a scholastic recluse, or is ambitious of University distinction, it is necessary either to have some new thoughts to utter or some overpowering enthusiasm which must utter itself. Mr. Gladstone writes in the argumentative spirit of a casuist bent on 'reconciling' scripture with science. He is at once cold and exaggerated, his admiration passing all bounds of reason, yet put forward in an argumentative guise. The style is laboured, confused, and commonplace. His capability of treating the subject—or, indeed, of saying any reasonable word about it—may be estimated by what he advances as the motive of his labours, namely, that although ancient Greece honoured Homer, "in later times and in lands where he is a foreigner, I know not if he has ever yet enjoyed his full honour from the educated world." This is the latitude of language which public speakers permit themselves, feeling that no one believes what they say; but in literature such language is almost insulting in its ineptitude. Does Mr. Gladstone believe that Homer has not been honoured 'to the top of his bent'? If he believe this in the face of evidence so universal, his sagacity is not remarkable; if he do not believe it, the assertion is a gratuitous offence. Be it known, however, that in Mr. Gladstone's eyes Homer has not yet been sufficiently honoured, and that Mr. Gladstone is to publish a work which will remedy that mistake. Judging from this essay, we predict that the work will leave the question where it was before.

Mr. Gladstone conducts his inquiry on 'internal and moral evidence.' This is sufficient for him. But before it can suffice readers they must have some confidence in his power of estimating such evidence. We have no confidence in Mr. Gladstone's power; nay our distrust is ineradicable and may be justified by this one specimen of his discernment—he thinks *Æschylus* nearer to Homer in 'majesty, nature, reality, and historical accuracy than Sophocles or Euripides.' In one word, matter such as Mr. Gladstone's would require a far more attractive style than he can write to make it worthy of attention from serious, busy men.

Mr. Grant Duff furnishes an interesting and instructive article on 'Sicily,' very useful for those about to go there, and stimulating readers to set sail at once for the lovely coast. With Dr. Wilson's 'Schemes of Christian Comprehension,' we meddle not. Mr. Freeman compares 'Ancient Greece and Mediæval Italy,' in an historical essay; and Mr. Bridges gives

us strange pictures of the 'Jews of Europe in the Middle Ages'; while 'Montaigne' and 'Thucydides,' afford Mr. Church and Mr. Sellar opportunities for the agreeable form of critical étude, which writers are never tired of writing, nor readers of reading.

The subject of Natural Theology could scarcely have been in better Oxford hands than in those of the Rev. Baden Powell, a man at once candid, philosophical, and orthodox. *A propos* of the 'Burnett Prizes' he offers

Some general reflections on the entire state of the question of the evidences of Natural Theology as it stands at the present day, and with reference to the spirit in which it is now viewed both by advocates and opponents.

This it is our wish to do in a tone of entire candour—to treat the argument entirely as a philosophical question, where the point at issue is *not* the truth of the conclusion, but the mode of arriving at it; involving the necessity for a calm and unbiased criticism of the evidence on the one hand, and the objections raised against it on the other.

How well he hits off the weaknesses and vices in this passage:—

From what we have seen of writings of this class at the present day, we cannot but notice some very prevalent characteristic faults. They most commonly evince, in our opinion, too violently polemical a spirit—too narrow and exclusive a tone—too strong a tendency to strain the argument beyond due bounds—or, when argument is found to fail, too ready a disposition to make up for deficiencies in reasoning by appeals to feeling—by falling back on eloquent religious declamation or orthodox denunciation—too much affectation of a turgid mystical style of cloudy metaphysics, mistaken for scientific reasoning, but unfortunately little adapted to answer the real requirements of earnest philosophical inquiry—to remove or obviate the serious and harassing difficulties and doubts in which so many are involved;—meeting with two little sympathy—or to satisfy the demands of the acute but often ill-directed and ill-informed intelligence of the masses, which seldom finds a direct, unequivocating, honest, and adequate response to its fair requisitions. Besides a general sameness of tone and topics, there are some standard subjects of invariable vituperation which most of these writers seem to think it essential to the credit of their orthodoxy to bestow in one unmitigated strain on some obnoxious views and theories: such, for example, as the theory of the physical nature of the vital principle—the nebular hypothesis—Hume's doctrine of causation, and, above all, the views of development as expounded by the far-famed author of *The Vestiges of Creation*.

Mr. Baden Powell, noticing the metaphysical arguments in which these writers delight, well says:—

When we come to examine critically the most celebrated of these reasonings, such as the so-called *a priori* argument of Descartes and Leibnitz (which is nothing more than a reproduction, in a philosophical form, of that which S. Anselm had revealed to him in a dream), it seems hardly to require much formal argument to see that our conceiving the idea of an all-perfect Being—one of whose perfections must be self-existence—is no more a proof of the reality of that self-existence than it is of any other conception which we may entertain. Yet so powerfully are the minds of men captivated with anything wearing the appearance of abstruseness, especially if professedly favourable to their religion, that it has required the exhaustive criticism and logic of Kant to disabuse the minds of thinking men of so transparent a fallacy, though dignified by the name of the 'ontological' argument.

We must close our extracts with one on 'Materialism,' a favourite bugbear of Natural Theology:—

Much very needless discussion has arisen from the impression that the question of materialism, in regard to the vital and intellectual functions of man, is essentially mixed up with that of the existence or nature of God. Yet surely nothing can be more unfounded than to suppose such a connexion; whichever way we may form our conclusions as to the principle of life and mind in man, it can in no way affect the argument for the existence of a Deity; if the human life or intellect were ever so entirely the mere result of physical agencies acting on the organised body, it is impossible to see how this could affect the argument from order or design in the natural world: nay, if it were to, it would rather tend to enhance than to elevate that argument; since it would only show the more wonderful instance of creative skill and power to educe such marvellous effects as those of vital and mental action out of such simple elementary combinations as the ultimate analysis of the organised body displays. The principle of this argument is, we think, an important one, and has many further applications. We will just illustrate it by a single parallel case, which will be familiar to those acquainted with optical science:—

If a ray of light could be imagined conscious that in taking the course prescribed by the law of refraction it were following the principle of least action, and by choice selecting the shortest and easiest route compatible with the conditions offered by the refracting medium, this would be a far less wonderful result than that the unconscious mechanically-constituted series of waves in an insensible ether, or of molecules in a projected beam, should by necessity fulfil such a law, as a consequence of their pre-ordained nature combined with that of the media they traverse. In like manner, that a conscious immaterial agent should by volition perform intellectual acts through the medium of an organised brain, would be a far less wonderful case, than that the brain itself, by the mere action of determinate physical causes, should itself be the agent of thought. The materialistic doctrine, if it were true, so far from being derogatory to designing wisdom and power, would, in fact, present a far higher, and more striking instance of it.

#### KARS AND KMETY.

*Narrative of the Defence of Kars. Historical and Military.* By Col. Atwell Lake, C.B. Bentley.

THE chief value of this book consists in its testimony to the powers of defence possessed by an able officer commanding the resources of a badly-fortified town. Kars was protected, during its long siege, not by its regular system of ramparts and bastions, but by field works, hastily thrown up, almost in the midst of conflict, and on very difficult ground. Though a place of great importance, the key of Asia Minor, and enjoying a military reputation as old as the sixteenth century, its capacities for resisting an attack had never been developed. Planted between a mountain wall and a vast plain, at a point where a river issues from a gorge of the hills, its ancient fortress rested upon a polygon of rocks—a double line of curtain walls, four bastions, a citadel, with a covered way to the water-side, and a sprinkling of little towers. Without, upon the slopes, stood a few detached works of no great solidity; and in 1828, Paskiewitch reduced the whole in less than three days. How was it, then, that Williams held it for months, and would have retained it altogether, had he been fairly seconded by his Government? When he arrived, the heights were unoccupied; it was

with a view to cover the entire ground with lines of fire that Colonel Lake prepared and superintended a plan of field works, commanding every avenue of attack, and creating a cluster of minor fortresses wherever the enemy could have menaced with his batteries, either the town or its external defences. The winter and spring of 1855 were spent in preparations. Towards the end of May the Russians approached. Early in June their divisions came in view; the Turkish outposts were attacked, and the long contest was begun. Had the Ottoman cavalry behaved with proper spirit, the Cossacks might on this occasion have been thoroughly routed. However, the campaign had been opened. From thirty-five to fifty thousand men of all arms were before the place, under Mouravieff—well-disciplined, and abundantly supplied. So much alarm was caused by their appearance that, on the 20th of June, Lord de Redcliffe wrote to Lord Clarendon: "It is his (the Seraskier's) opinion that the positions at Kars are not tenable against the enemy." All direct communications with Erzeroum were cut off. And now, when too late, it was found that Redpathism had been at work in the stores; vast quantities of provisions existed only on paper; blocks of stone had been put with the flour in sacks; the food of the garrison had been embezzled.

With the course of the struggle between the army inside and the army outside the public is already familiar. The narrative, as presented by Colonel Lake, is solid, serious, authentic, and illustrated by a variety of important documentary matter. It is a military study of rare value, and should become a class book in military schools. Many a future Williams may imbibe from it the inspiration that will enable him to hold some future Kars against the watchfulness and superior resources of a formidable foe. We shall confine our notes, however, to those passages in which justice—reluctant and grudging justice, we are sorry to say—is done to the name and deeds of Kmety, the chivalrous Hungarian general to whom so much was owing upon every memorable day in the history of the Kars siege. At the battle of Inje-Dereh, according to a despatch from General Williams, dated February 18, 1855, he was one of the few who endeavoured, by personal bravery, to encourage the soldiers when abandoned by their officers:—

Since that battle General Kmety kept the outposts, and was the eye of the army until it went into winter-quarters; and he is still the officer in charge of the advanced posts of Kars.

General Williams, in the same despatch, complained to Lord de Redcliffe that Kmety was without the pay due to his rank, and that no decoration had been conferred upon him:—

He is one of those men who abstain from complaints or intrigues, and I make this appeal in his favour without a request on his part.

The great battle of the 29th of September took place. We state Kmety's services only as they are stated by Colonel Lake:—

Major Teesdale had just reached his tent, and was in the act of dismounting when he was startled by a gun flashing through the darkness directly in front.

This was so extraordinary an event, that he at once galloped off to the battery from whence the sound proceeded. He asked the officer at the gun what was going on, and was then told, for the first time, that the Russians were advancing. Nothing could be seen in the valley but a darker shade across it than usual. It was now half-past four. The guns continued to fire steadily from the Tachmash works on the approaching mass, and soon all uncertainty ceased, for the Russians, finding that they were discovered, set up a yell from twenty thousand throats. The whole black valley seemed to be alive with the multitude that came rushing on in apparently irresistible numbers.

The fire ran along the whole line of the defences almost at the same moment, and showed the busy figures of the Turks hastening to every assailable point.

Such was the attack, which was continued for hours with signal gallantry by almost overwhelming numbers. Eight battalions rushed upon the Rennison lines, where Kmety commanded in person; the resistance here was marvellous; scarcely a ball failed; the head of the column was several times literally shot away; hardly a Russian general officer escaped; the Turks were led out of the batteries by Kmety himself, and the Russians were driven down into the plain at the point of the bayonet:—

This column left eight hundred and fifty corpses upon a space not exceeding an acre in area.

Kmety had saved that portion of the lines entrusted to his care, but he would not rest; he hurried to the rescue in another part of the field:—

Scarcely were the defenders of Yuksek Tabia freed from this crushing fire, when General Kmety, at the head of four companies of chasseurs, came up from the Rennison lines. Running into Yarimai Tabia, and springing like chamois amongst the rocks, these gallant soldiers made short work of the few Russians who still held their ground there, and then re-forming, went gaily on to Tachmash.

Here the fight continued to rage with unabated fury. Only three companies arrived with the noble Hungarian; the men supplied themselves with ammunition from the pouches of the Russian dead:—

Sallies were made for no other purpose than to obtain the needful supply, and at one time part of the garrison were employed in stripping off the pouches of the fallen on one side of the redoubt, and throwing them to their comrades, who were thus enabled to repulse the enemy on the other side.

Colonel Lake places Kmety at the head of the list of officers who, with Turkish troops under their command, undoubtedly bore the brunt of the battle, in which ten thousand men repulsed and routed five-and-thirty thousand. General Williams, in a despatch describing the affair, bore testimony to the conspicuous courage and conduct of his Hungarian ally, although he scarcely gave due prominence to his share in securing the victorious result of the day. Not a word of allusion was contained in Lord Clarendon's reply, nor a word in the Sultan's address. But the following paragraph clearly shows the importance of Kmety's aid to the defenders of Kars:—

The feasibility of a retreat was now discussed. Secrecy being the element of a successful sortie, the plan was only confided to the Mushir, the chief of the staff, and General Kmety.

Again:

Retreat having been decided upon, Major Teesdale was ordered to prepare, with General Kmety, a proposition for the best line of march.

They decided that a retreat was impossible.

When it had been determined to surrender, no stipulation was made that the Hungarian Generals Kmety and Kollmann should not be delivered over to the Austrians. They knew, therefore, that to capitulate with the rest of the garrison would be to risk the execution of the sentence of death passed against them by the Imperial Courts, and preferred to risk an endeavour to escape.

Kmety, then, was among the foremost of the heroes of well-defended Kars, and it would not have detracted from the glory of Sir William Fenwick Williams had he associated his name in public with the names of Lake and Teesdale.

#### THE NEW ZEALANDERS.

*New Zealand, or Zealandia, the Britain of the South.* By Charles Hursthouse. 3 vols. Stanford.

We have always valued the native New Zealanders as a race destined to arrive at a high state of civilization. Naturally, or, according to Bolingbroke, unnaturally, they are particularly ferocious; but they are intelligent and teachable. The poor Australian seems to belong to that period in the history of man when he collects the seeds of wild grapes, leaves the dead in tree tops to be eaten by birds, roams over uncultivated plains, and dies under the touch of society. We can make nothing of the Ashantee or the Zulu; the Doko appears as if created for cavern-life and to feed on grubs; but the Maori is a singularly improvable being. Not that he is easily reclaimed, but that he has a clear and strong intellect, and, after existing for a few years among Englishmen, becomes their companion or their rival. Formerly, he liked the flavour of human flesh; his instincts, in that respect, still force him to despise the poetic doctrine that he who once eats of a cannibal dish will become a madman; yet the New Zealander has certain British qualities in his moral and physical composition. He has never been scorned by the islanders of the West, who have looked with contempt upon Kafirs, Hottentots, and even Hindoos, but who have invariably regarded with respectful admiration a people that fed on dogs and sharks, drank blood, and ran, wrestled, and swam with the strength and fortitude of gladiators.

Mr. Hursthouse, anxious to apologize for his friends, explains that the Maoris were not the only cannibals in the world, since the peculiar institution exists among "that great race of men scattered over the Indian Archipelago, Madagascar, South Sea Islanders, and parts of the American continent." With reference to the Indian Archipelago we suppose he alludes to the Sumatran Battas, occupying a very limited district of a single island. Stedman's report that among certain tribes in the interior of Africa the limbs of men, women, and children, are hung up for sale in public shambles is very like an apocryphal story, and wants confirmation. We will not believe, even on the authority of the Sicilian Diodorus, or of St. Jerome, that the ancient Britons were a cannibal nation, although it is true that some Caledonian tribes were accused of delighting in human flesh, killing the shepherd and sparing the flock, and capturing young maidens in order to serve up their legs and bosoms at the repasts of chiefs. All these statements rest upon the most untrustworthy foundation of gossip and calumny. Really, then, there is no excuse for such a digression as the following on the part of Mr. Hursthouse:—

If in the neighbourhood of the commercial and literary town of Glasgow, a race of cannibals has really existed, we may contemplate in the period of the Scottish history the extremes of savage and civilized life. Such reflections tend to enlarge the circle of our ideas, and to encourage the pleasing hope that New Zealand may produce, in some future age, the Hume and Macaulay of the southern hemisphere.

The celebrated New Zealand chief, Hongi, who visited England in 1820, is styled "the cannibal Napoleon." He was the cynosure of London drawing-rooms. Why not? Cabrera danced with the daughters of our aristocracy. George IV. gave Hongi a suit of armour; other folks gave him guns; beautiful ladies smiled in his eyes; "he was so susceptible of female criticism, that at a party once, when some fair critics were making merry at his tattoo, he threw himself across three chairs, buried his head, and remained shut up until the company had departed." This Maori brave was informed on his way home that some warriors of a rival tribe, ruled by Prince Hinaki, had knocked one of his people on the head. He met Hinaki himself, who sued for peace, sat at the same table with him, and argued with him—but to no purpose. Blood must be avenged. There was war, and Hongi, after a murderous battle, shot his foe, scooped out his eye with a clasp-knife, ate it, stabbed Hinaki in the neck and drank his blood. The two brothers of the dead chief, with about three hundred common men, were eaten; Hongi took twenty prisoners whose lives he wished to spare, but his daughter, having lost a husband in the battle, slew them all with her own hand. Then rushing into a forest, she attempted to kill herself, but failed; it was in vain that her friends sought to heal the wound; she found an opportunity to commit suicide. Mr. Hursthouse quotes a still more striking example of the *lex talionis* in New Zealand. Tamai was a chief who had slain a rival chief, Pehi. Tamai was conquered by the Pehi clan:—

The victors returned to the vessel laden with 500 baskets of human flesh. Some say that the flesh was cooked in the ship's coppers; and it is not improbable, as the vessel was completely in the hands of the natives. On reaching Kapiti, Tamai was given up to the widow of Pehi, who took him, with his wife and sister, to her own house; giving up half to their use. They talked so friendly to one another, and she behaved so kindly to him, that a stranger would have taken them for man and wife rather than for a doomed captive with his deadly foe. She used even to clothe him in her finest garments, and to deck his head with choice feathers. This continued for about two weeks, until either she had assembled her friends, or thought her victim sufficiently fat for killing. She then suddenly caused him to be seized and bound, with his arms stretched to a tree; and, whilst in this position, she took a spear, a long narrow rod of iron, with which she stabbed him in the jugular artery, and drank his warm blood as it gushed forth, placing her mouth to the orifice. He was afterwards cooked and eaten.

Cannibalism is now supposed to be extinct in New Zealand; the natives dislike any allusion to it. They tattoo and labour less than formerly, hold fewer slaves, are not so inveterately polygamist, and read newspapers in their own language.

**DRESS.**—The usual and the sole apparel of the men, the year through, night and day, is our common white or red blanket fastened at the neck, and worn like the Roman toga. Shirts and trousers, however, are now frequently worn; and near the towns, on high days and holidays, some Exquisite will array himself in dress-coat or surtout, and ogle the girls in tall hat, stiff collar, and tight boots. The ladies (*simplici munditiis*) are chiefly arrayed in pink and blue cotton "roundabouts" (a bed-gown sort of garment, cut short) with a blanket for a mantle; but they often have silks and satins in the "kist" at home; and gay damsels, at feast and races, will take the saddle with gauntlets and silver whip, habit, hat, and plume. The Maori likes to partake of the amusements of the settlers; is a bold rider at races; and enjoys himself at regattas, anniversary fêtes, and merry-makings with something of that cheerful vivacity and good-humour which delight us in the French. A chief, asked to dine with the Governor, will acquit himself with a grave elegance worthy of Belgravia; and on his return, relate to his listening village the minutest features of the feast: what he had to eat and drink, what the Governor said to him and what he said to the Governor, how the lady who sat next him was not so pretty as the Governor's wife, but wore more rings; and how another fair creature pestered him with silly questions, and even asked him to dance.

Mr. Hursthouse's two volumes form a compendious manual of all such information as is necessary to the New Zealand colonist. Its plan is good, and it seems to have been carefully constructed by a writer thoroughly familiar with his subject. We will not flatter the author so warmly as he flatters himself, but we may credit his work as one with which an emigrant to New Zealand may profitably occupy the leisure hours of his voyage. The substance is neatly packed together, and the classification of topics is admirable.

#### A BOOK ON TROUT FISHING.

*The Practical Angler; or, the Art of Fly Fishing.* More particularly applied to Clear Water. By W. C. Stewart. Edinburgh: Adam Black and Co.

If a Cockney sportsman, brandishing a rod and line, hurries out for a day to Richmond, to Hampton, to the banks of the Lea, or any other piscatorial resort, and, after painfully dancing his fly on the surface of the stream, returns home at night with an empty pannier, he feels himself privileged to curse the sport as slow, and to stigmatize all men who patiently sit for hours in their quiet punts as a set of fools, never failing to apply the pedantic definition of Johnson to the whole race of anglers. But fishing, let it be well understood, is not a slow occupation except to those who are unskilled in its practices. It requires constant watching, constant attention, and is full of excitement. Less time and labour are necessary to make a man a good shot than a good angler. For, after all, there is much to be learnt and studied to become proficient in this art. Neatness of hand, quickness of eye, energy and perseverance—all these qualifications may appertain to the young artist, and yet he may be still unskilful, and why? Because he fails in the most necessary qualification—observation. He must become acquainted with the habits of the fish, the places to which they resort in search of particular kinds of food, and of the influence of the weather upon them. This knowledge he can only attain by constant observation and as patient study. We must not, however, be led to write a dissertation on the subject instead of a notice of the book. Mr. Stewart's manual appears very *à propos* for those who delight in angling. He lays down good rules for ascertaining in what streams the best fish may be found, and the most skilful method of angling for them. His subject is confined to trout fishing, but then it includes every branch of it—'artificial fly fishing,' 'angling with the worm,' 'May-fly fishing,' 'minnow and par-tail fishing,' 'lock fishing,' &c, whilst a short chapter or two is devoted to fly dressing, and the angler's equipment. We readily recommend the work to amateurs of the rod and line.

#### The Arts.

##### ROYAL ACADEMY.

###### I.—THE STORY TELLING.

The impulse or the power of art to tell a story is poorly exemplified in the present exhibition. The stories best told are of the slightest conceivable character; the most powerful stories, with a few exceptions, are told feebly, and sometimes unintelligibly. Tried by its highest test, therefore, art may be considered at a grave discount this season—much below the average; and the exhibition must be tried by some other test to find what it is really doing to carry on the work of progress. The remark applies most especially to the best-known painters, young as well as old. Mr. FRITH, who has been able to give us in brilliant form some of Molière's most piquant scenes, this year comes down to the portrait of a very insignificant "London Flower-girl," and "Kate Nickleby at Madame Mantalini's"—Kate, a very fair specimen of middle-class young ladyhood in a humble position, but nothing more. HERBERT leaves the telling of stories, profane or sacred, to tell the story of a sea-beach on the coast of France. And MILLAIS, besides the first trifle from his pencil, only tells one simple story in a quaint manner, and half tells a more stirring tale. The trifle, "News from Home," represents a soldier in the trenches reading a letter. The work of the trench, the occupation of figures in the background, the costume of the Highlander—the fur cap, the red coat, the ruddy complexion—are all unmistakable, likewise the letter; and the expression of the countenance is appropriate. But the picture is very small, it is scarcely finished on the scale of its miniature size, and it is not particularly striking in any way, except as a *tour de force* in colouring to fetch out the intensity of red. The tale which it tells most forcibly is, that the regiment of Highlanders wear stunning red coats. Mr. PICKERSGILL puts before us a "Duke Orsino and Viola"—the disguised lady telling her sorrows in disguised language. The subject is as old as the hills; it has been told hundreds of times exactly in the same way; and the best that can be said is, that the Duke looks gentlemanly and sincere, and Viola sad; but what then?

One of the best works ever produced by C. W. Cope is called "Breakfast-time—Morning Games;" and it points our moral. A little girl is mounted on a footstool; she is told to shut her eyes and open her mouth; she has duly done so, and she is waiting with great impatience to find how large shall be the lump of sugar which a young lady is putting into her mouth; while a third

girl, of intermediate age, is watching the countenance of the young one with amusement. Now the whole of this story, all its hopes and fears, and the characteristics of the drama, come out with great strength; the morning costume, not yet forgetful of the toilet, is finished off with a perfect knowledge of young ladies' arrangements, of pinafore and socks, and even of tablecloths. It seems that British art is able to present in perfection the vicissitudes of a lump of sugar, and Mr. Cope attains absolute success in this part.

Mr. LESLIE attempts to illustrate the *Spectator* by a picture called "Sir Roger de Coverley in Church." Landlord of the whole congregation, Sir Roger is exercising his duty as moral policeman, in seeing that nobody sleeps at church; and he is awakening a dozing Hodge. There is the church, with its penlike pews; a clergyman in unmistakable surplice; an old woman, who is old; a few of the gentry; and a few of the rustics; the whole tinted with a certain lilac blush, which has a tendency to creep over the colouring of Mr. LESLIE; but the picture conveys nothing whatever beyond the bare fact, which is quite sufficiently told in the five lines that are quoted in the catalogue. Perhaps, if the painter had quoted those lines, and left a blank space on the wall, the intelligent visitor would have conjured up a more living likeness of Sir Roger than the diagram before him.

We come, indeed, to a very different style of subject in the "Prison Window—Sevilla, 1857," by Mr. J. PHILIP, with its companion, "Charity—Sevilla, 1857." In the prison is some rough fellow of Seville—he may have been taken up for a brawl or for an insurrection; he is a strong-armed, strong-bearded man, rather below the middle age. Beneath the window, outside, stands a young woman in rough clothes tinted with the brilliant colours that are favoured in Spain, but worn almost to rags; she is lifting up an infant, in order that the imprisoned father may kiss it. The man is straining through the bars, and is just able to reach the infant's forehead. The mother has her cheek against the back of the uplifted child; her countenance is downcast, and her left hand reaches up to clasp her husband's, as that is placed round the child's head. The countenance of the woman is not distorted by grief, but it yields entirely to a grave sadness. Her action is simple; her figure, although much concealed by the coarseness of her clothing, is lithe and shapely; and the whole effect, with natural action and natural emotion, is that of perfect grace. The strong feeling of natural passion—the affection between child and parent, husband and wife—is brought out in great strength, and there is a powerful effect without grimacing or posture-making. The colouring of the picture is characteristic and vigorous. It is somewhat too opaque; and there is a degree of English mannerism blended with a style adapted to the glowing climate of Seville. For instance, the light on the child's head is expressed too much by dabs of grey, so that at the distance where the spectator can read the expression of the countenances, the raw material in the handling makes itself too apparent.

We contrast this picture, on the fourth wall of the great room, with the painting by MACLISE on the opposite wall. William III. is visiting Peter the Great at his shipwright labours. Peter, a young man of large stature and vigorous limbs, is reposing from work, and receives William in an attitude that Mr. Macready might have conceived for the purpose. He stands on one leg; the other leg raised upon a block, his elbow on the raised knee, his chin on the bent wrist, the other arm akimbo upon the rather strongly pronounced hip. A Russian companion is hacking away at a block of wood so near Peter that the courage of the great man is shown in his indifference to strokes that menace the calf of his leg. A dwarf attendant on the Czar turns round to stare in humorous fashion at the intruding William, whose homely manner, in the quiet English dress, becomes exaggerated by the contrast with the Russians at their scarcely-suspended arsenal toils. Now, we are quite certain that when William went to see Peter the Great, the Russian Prince left off work, stood on both feet, and conversed with the English King in a very sensible and unpretending manner. He did not stand as if he formed part of a *tableau vivant* at the Adelphi, enjoying the applause of an undiscriminating audience. Mr. MACLISE's colour is beyond criticism; it belongs to the style of colouring adapted to paper for hanging rooms—an opaque chalky mixture, laid on with a certain sweep of outline, convenient for the material, but not well suited to the expression of organic form. With a caprice that cannot be reduced to reason, the muscles of Mr. MACLISE's men start out into prominent exertion where there is no necessity, as in the case of Peter's half quiescent posture, or they sink into smooth generalization. They are in the convulsive state of a wrestler overcoming a foe, or in the dormant state of a mere muscular diagram. There is a vein run down the forearm and across that appears to be common in Mr. MACLISE's mankind; though where one vein is prominent in God's human nature, it usually has companions that bring out a venous network. The subject of this picture is a simple matter of fact, involving no feeling whatever. It could illustrate nothing but the character of the persons—William's character, Peter's character, or the contrast between the Russians and the English; but where is the authenticity of the phases we have here? where the verisimilitude? Nowhere. The simple matter of fact which the picture was to illustrate is not illustrated; the whole spread of canvas tells nothing; it attempts to tell a mechanical falsehood, and fails.

###### THE OPERAS.

MADLE. PICCOLOMINI essayed on Thursday, for the first time in England, the great part of *Lucia di Lammermoor*—an opera we can never separate from the memory of PERSIANI, whose wonderfully brilliant and passionate impersonation of the heroine must be a memorable tradition to a London audience. Vocally and dramatically the part is a most arduous one, demanding the highest powers in the singer and the actress. We cannot honestly profess a belief that Madle. PICCOLOMINI, with all the charm and fascination of her youth and genius, has been able to efface the recollection of PERSIANI. She cannot, in truth, sing the music as it is written, nor even as she desires to sing it. It is beyond the natural powers of her voice, and equally beyond her acquired skill in its management. We heard it observed more than once during the evening, that the music was too much for her, and that she was overweighted; and this is, we fear, the simple truth. To every artist there is a certain range of faculty, and however reluctantly we may confess it, Madle. PICCOLOMINI appears to us to have passed out of the domain of her delightful supremacy in attempting *Lucia*. And yet while we write regretfully these words, we are half inclined to draw the pen through them, and to tell only half the truth; for would not the spoiled darling of the public persuade Justice itself to break its pen? That she looks enchantingly, that her acting is instinct with true feeling and genius, who doubts? Whatever may be wanting in perfection, critically regarded, is almost effaced by the victorious charm that carries all before it. GIUGLINI's voice was under a cloud on Thursday evening, but he fully sustained his reputation in *Edgardo*. BELLINI, if he does not give to *Enrico* the dramatic importance and intensity which

we remember in *Ronconi*, sings the music admirably; and *VIALETTI*, in the small part of *Bidebent*, has proved his value as a sound and effective *basso*, and an unassuming but judicious actor. The orchestra was again, to our thinking, too loud in the accompaniments; but the lovely rippling prelude on the harp, in the second scene of the first act, was played ravishingly.

We are glad to see that the *Barbiere* is announced for Tuesday next, with *ALBONI* as *Rosina*, and the elegant German tenor *REICHARDT*, who has won golden opinions in Paris this last winter, as *Almaviva*. We hope we shall have the *Figlia del Reggimento* again for Madlle. *PICCOLOMINI*. The *Trovatore*, supported by *ALBONI*, *SPEZIA*, *GIUGLINI*, and *VIALETTI*, is in preparation, and great exertions are being made for the production of *Don Giovanni*, to which all the members of the company have promised to lend their aid.

*Rigoletto* was produced at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA on Thursday, and Madame *Bosio* made her first appearance, singing as brilliantly and looking as elegant as ever. The performance of this opera at the LYCEUM is almost perfection in the general effect, and it presents the best singing of *MARIO* and the best acting of *Ronconi*. The *Traviata* is announced for next week, with a very strong cast. Madame *Bosio* will be the *Violetta*.

AT the second performance of the MUSICAL UNION on Tuesday, Madame *CLARA SCHUMANN* appeared for the first time this season, and played from memory the *Sonata Appassionata* of BEETHOVEN with all the tranquil mastery, the earnest sincerity, and the true simplicity which distinguish her from the crowd of pianists even more than the unequalled tone, precision, and brilliancy of her playing.

#### THE DESIGNS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

AN EXHIBITION was thrown open to the public on Monday in Westminster Hall, to which the press and a few favoured individuals were admitted privately on the previous Saturday. It consists of the designs sent in both by English and foreign artists for the new Government offices which have been necessitated, not merely on the grounds of taste, but by reason of the dilapidated condition of the tenements in Downing and Fludyer-streets. The proposed plan is to make a clear space on that block of ground which is bounded on the north by Downing-street, on the south by the immediate vicinity of the Abbey, on the east by the river, and on the west by St. James's Park. Here is a very large space, offering ample verge for the schemes of the most practical or the fancies of the most dreaming architect; and the competitors have taken advantage of the opportunity for shadowing forth a vast number of stupendous structures, all of which, with one happy exception, are destined to disappear in the limbo of unrealized projects. Until the award is made, the names of the artists will remain a secret; but each contribution is distinguished by a number, as well as by a motto or fanciful signature.

For the purposes of this Exhibition, the old Hall has been temporarily divided, by means of wooden partitions extending to the dais, into four long alleys, which are subdivided crossways. The dais is appropriated to large models, some of which are very interesting. The number of competitors is above two hundred, and the designs extend to upwards of six hundred. Many of these are merely diagrams; some are elevations in outline; others are elaborate architectural drawings, with the minutest details beautifully worked in, and with various landscape accessories. The last named of course attract the greatest attention on the part of the general public; and several of them are really very elegant works of art, considered merely as drawings. As to the quality of adaptation—of fitness for the end proposed—we leave better-instructed heads than ours to determine in what degree it is to be found in the designs here brought together; but obvious to the eye of any intelligent visitor is the wonderful amount of luxurious, though perhaps untrained, fancy, and of patient, drudging, solid

work, hung up from end to end of these long partitions. If we might hint a doubt of an unprofessional character, it would be that there is generally an excess of small ornament. Some of the façades bristle with minute details of embellishment, fatiguing the eye, and frittering away the total effect. There appears to be an excess of the semi-barbaric, semi-mechanical Renaissance style; indeed, we could fancy Mr. RUSKIN going mad among these architectural suggestions of the infidel and immoral nineteenth century. There are exceptions, however. We have the earlier Italian style, the Roman form of the ancient Greek, the pure Hellenic itself in its various types, the Gothic, the Venetian, the old English, the Flemish Town Hall, and the nondescript. One gentleman appends to his contribution a document, elaborately expounding the superiority of the Gothic over every other style for such a work; but we confess our own choice would be in the direction of ancient Athens or Corinth.

We decline offering any opinion on specific designs; but one or two plans at the upper end of the Hall, sent in by visionaries who contemplate the rebuilding of half London, are too curious not to be noted. We here borrow from the account in the *Times*:

"A remarkable instance of the enlarged view of the matter is to be found in the huge model exhibited on the dais. Raising the buildings on the site more particularly under consideration, the artist has carried his solid map as far as Bermondsey, and has even thrown in a model of St. Paul's as an extra ornament. This is only one specimen among very many of the vast amount of industry and talent that has been brought into activity by the Government offer. With respect to the charts generally, it may be observed that they nearly all presuppose a new site for Westminster-bridge. One project is worth mentioning for its extreme oddity—namely, a scheme for carrying a park or flower-garden through the Thames lengthwise, so as to leave a navigable canal on each side."

To professional architects and builders, this Exhibition (which will continue open to the public for some weeks) is of course more interesting than to others; but even the general public will find much entertainment in wandering through the walks of visionary palaces, vast and fanciful as the conceptions of 'the dreaming PIRANESI,' and comparing them with the solid web of the grand old timber roof above, which, after so many centuries, still looks down upon the modern Londoner in unrivalled beauty and enduring freshness.

A CONVERSAZIONE was held on Wednesday evening at the house of the SOCIETY OF ARTS, in the Adelphi, in connexion with the subscription for the widow and children of the late THOMAS SEDDON. The room, which was densely crowded, was hung round with pictures and sketches of the deceased artist. Mr. RUSKIN delivered an eloquent address on the genius of Mr. SEDDON, and pointed out his peculiar character of truthfulness. A vote of thanks to Mr. RUSKIN was passed by the meeting.

#### THEATRICAL NOTES.

MR. WRIGHT and Mr. PAUL BEDFORD have been creating much merriment among the frequenters of the ADELPHI by their performance of two retired tradesmen who have been banqueting at Highbury Barn in company with their brother 'Social Villagers,' and who next morning find themselves at the house of the one performed by Mr. WRIGHT, in a state of horrible mystification as to how they got there. Their condition of mental foginess with respect to recent events is increased by an account given in a morning paper of a murder committed on the previous night in Seven Dials, certain circumstances inducing in them a fantastic fear that they have been the authors of the crime; and they are agonized with remorse and with visions of Newgate until the happy discovery is made that the paper was published six years back. The piece, which was well received, is called *Fearful Tragedy in the Seven Dials*, and is an adaptation of *L'Affaire de la Rue de Lourcine*, recently produced in Paris.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

##### BIRTHS.

COWAN.—On the 7th inst., at 19, Upton-road North, De Beauvoir Town, London, the wife of Mr. George Inglis Cowan: a daughter.  
HARVEY.—At Bracondale, the Lady Henrietta Harvey: a daughter.  
PRITCHARD.—At Bristol, the wife of Commander Pritchard, R.N., H.M.S. *Insolent*: a daughter.

##### MARRIAGES.

BOWEN—STANLEY.—At Newton, Suffolk, James Bevan Bowen, Esq., of Llywngwair, Pembrokeshire, to Harriette, daughter of the late Rev. J. Stanley, of Southoe, Hunts. BYRNE—FRANKLAND.—In St. George's, Westminster-road, James Byrne, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., to Lucy, daughter of the late Thomas Frankland, Esq., of Georgetown, Demerara.

##### DEATHS.

BAYFIELD.—Alfred D. Bayfield, Esq., of Deans'-court, Doctor's Commons, in his 40th year.  
BELL.—At Bourne, Lincolnshire, William David Bell, Esq., in his 60th year.  
MILDAY.—On Thursday, at her residence in Belgravia, in her ninety-third year, Lady Mildmay.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, May 5.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—SAMUEL DANFORD, Bat-tersby-fields, and George-yard, Lombard-street, City, money-scriver.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS HARRISON, Harrietsham and Maidstone, coal and timber merchant—THOMAS WARD, 4, Bow-churchyard, City, stock manufacturer—THOMAS FREDERICK THEED, 1, Winchester-street, Waterloo-town, surgeon, chemist, and druggist—HENRY BATESON, 2, Hadden-place, Waterloo-road, apothecary—JOHN FIGG, Downing-street, Farnham, Surrey, boot and shoe maker and leather seller—LUCY OAKLEY, Walsall, Staffordshire, draper and tailor—WILLIAM SHELDON WITHERS, Mansfield, Notts, miller—WILLIAM PENNY, Newport, Monmouthshire, brewer—DAVID MEYRICK, Bute-street, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, boot and shoe maker—KITCHINGMAN GRAVIL, Halifax, grocer—EBENEZER BROOKS, Sheffield, spring-knife manufacturer—WILLIAM SWINTON LAURIE, Liverpool and New York, merchant—WILLIAM WILLIAM JONES, Portmadoc, Carnarvonshire, shipbuilder—GEORGE GILLET, Preston, cabinet-maker—JAMES WALLWORK, Chorley, Lancashire, cotton spinner and manufacturer—ANDERSON STOKER (not ANDERSON STOKES), as stated on the 17th ult., Finsbury-hill, Durham, grocer and flour dealer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—DAVID STEWART, Dundee, contractor and shipowner—THOMAS WALSH, Finsbury-street, Glasgow, wine, spirit, and provision mer-

chant and grocer—JAMES RUTHERFORD, Crieke, gala-cloth and shawl manufacturer.

Friday, May 8.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM STEPHENS, Gloucester, cattle salesman—HENRY WHEELER, Derby, painter—THOMAS DAVIES, Neath, Glamorganshire, contractor—THOMAS BRADLEY, Kidderminster, apothecary—WILLIAM OGILVIE, CAMERON, Camomile-street, City, export oilman—JAMES CATT, High-street, Southwark, brewer—JAMES SWIFT, Milton-road, Gravesend, stonemason—THOMAS STUTEY, Sheerness, builder, &c.—JAMES SUMMERS, Hatton Garden, wholesale jeweller—WILLIAM GEORGE BROWN, High-street, Dartford, Kent, clothier and outfitter—ROBERT JAMES NORTON, Fleet-street, outfitter—THOMAS RILEY EBSWORTH, of No. 66, Wapping-wall, and of No. 2, Forest Villa, Forest-hill, Sydenham, ale and beer merchant, dealer and chapman.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JAMES HAMILTON, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, general merchant and baker—PATRICK ALEXANDER FALCONER, Glasgow, clothier, &c.—JOHN FITZROY YOUNG, St. James's-square, Edinburgh—ANDREW BRENNER, formerly writer in Edinburgh—RODERICK CHISHOLM, Inverness, tea merchant—JAMES MACPHERSON and COMPANY, Leith, plumbers, brass-founders and gasfitters.

#### Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, May 8, 1857.

SINCE the settlement of the share account at the end of last week, there has been so manifest an improvement in the Funds, that sanguine speculators predicted their price in June would be 95.

Yesterday, and even the day before, first slight, then heavy, and finally very heavy sales, showed that there was something amiss.

The Bank directors at their weekly meeting had determined to stop all loans on stock by refusing to renew loans on such advances. There may be some reason for this, but surely the time was ill-chosen. The day of the settlement of the Consols account, and the foreknowledge that certain brokers and others connected with the Bank displayed by placing stocks to a heavy amount, gave great scandal to the Stock Exchange dealers, who have more than once contended against the very illegitimate use made by the Bank brokers and their friends of the knowledge which their position gives them of acting upon the market.

The first announcement of this measure caused a panic, Consols falling nearly 5 per cent. But so soon as men began coolly to estimate the effect of the new improved stringency, the funds slowly recovered, and finally left off at 93 to 93 1/2 per cent, and to-day have touched 94.

The other securities in foreign and home shares partook of the fall, and even to-day the heavy market evinces signs of a fall. Great speculators have sold largely.

There has been a violent agitation during the week in the Grand Trunk of Canada Railway shares, and a fall of some magnitude has resulted. The debate now going on in the Canadian House of Assembly as to the aid to be furnished this national undertaking, is the influence, no doubt, that disturbs the market; and sales have been pressed enough to drive the shares to 16*l.* per share, or 6*l.* per 100*l.* stock.

French and Belgium lines are firmly supported. East Indian railway shares of every description are in demand. Eastern Counties rule the same. Berwicks and Yorks are firmer.

A great demand for Caledonians shows that the arrangement hinted at some time back will be carried out, and these shares possibly go to 40*l.* per share. Mine shares have been more freely dealt in this week. Great Wheal Alfred and Wheal Vor are in demand. The new undertakings do not take with the public at all. Money is in demand at 7 per cent. in the Stock Exchange. The fine weather that is promising and an easier money market must tend to lighten matters before next settling.

At four o'clock this day prices close as follows:—Consols for money, 93*l.* 4*l.*; Consols for June account, 94*l.* 4*l.*; Turkish Six per Cent., 93*l.* 4*l.*; Turkish Four per Cent., 100*l.* 10*l.*; Russian Five per Cent., 101*l.* 10*l.*; Chilian, 102*l.* 10*l.*; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 95*l.*

Blackburn, 8*l.* 9*l.*; Caledonian, 70*l.* 71*l.*; Chester and Holyhead, 34*l.* 35*l.*; Eastern Counties, 11*l.* 11*l.*; Great Northern, 97*l.* 98*l.*; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 102*l.* 104*l.*; Great Western, 60*l.* 67*l.*; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 104*l.*; London and Blackwall, 6*l.* 6*l.*; London, Brighton, 102*l.*; London and South Coast, 110*l.* 111*l.*; London and North-Western, 105*l.*; London and South-Western, 101*l.* 104*l.*; Midland, 105*l.*; London and North-Eastern, 10*l.* 10*l.*; North-Eastern (Berwick), 86*l.* 87*l.*; South-Eastern (Dover), 75*l.* 75*l.*; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7*l.* 7*l.*; Dutch (Rhenish), 1*l.* 0*l.* dis.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32*l.* 32*l.*; Great Central of France, 23*l.* 24*l.*; Great Luxembourg, 7*l.* 7*l.*; Northern of France, 38*l.* 39*l.*; Paris and Lyons, 58*l.* 59*l.*; Royal Danish, 17*l.* 19*l.* x. d.; Royal Swedish, 1*l.* 1*l.*; Sambre and Meuse, 8*l.* 9*l.*

#### CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, May 8, 1857.

THE ARRIVALS of all kinds of Grain into London continue very moderate, and holders of Wheat generally ask higher rates, but which are not conceded by buyers. There is more inquiry for Barley, and in some instances prices have advanced 6*l.* The supply of Oats barely equals the demand, but they remain without alteration in value.

There have been very few arrivals off the coast. A cargo of Galatz Maize arrived has been sold at 38*s.* 3*d.*, one of Ibrail at 37*s.* 6*d.*, and one of Ismail at 37*s.* 6*d.*; two cargoes of Ibrail on passage at 36*s.*, and one of Galatz 36*s.* to the Continent, all cost, freight, and insurance.

MAY 9, 1857.]

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.  
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock.....	214	213	213	212	212	212
3 per Cent. Red.....	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 per Cent. Con. An.....	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Consols for Account.....	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94
New 3 per Cent. An.....	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
New 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents.....	78	77 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	2 7-16	24	24	24	24
India Stock.....	220	.....	221	221	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	.....	4 d	3 d	5 d	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	9 d	10 d	.....	4 d	.....	4 d
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	2 d	2 d	2 d	1 d	4 d	par
Ditto, £500.....	1 d	.....	5 d	1 d	.....	.....
Ditto, Small.....	1 d	.....	par	1 d	1 p	1 p

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)						
Brazilian Bonds.....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	...			
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.....	86	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	105 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	102	Russian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents....	96			
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	75	Spanish.....	41 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Dutch 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents.....	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish Committee Cer- of Coup. not fun.....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf. 97 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	93 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Equador Bonds.....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Mexican Account.....	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuela 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents....	...			
Peruvian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents....	77 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Portuguese 3 per Cents. 45 $\frac{1}{2}$						

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.  
Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.  
Monday, and during the week, will be performed the new Drama, entitled DADDY HARDACRE. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, and Leslie; Mesdames Stephens and Hughes. To conclude with YOUNG AND HANDSOME. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Murray, E. Cooke, Leslie, Danvers, Coney, and Franks; Mesdames Swanborough, Thirlwall, Hughes, Bromley, Castleton, Maskell, and Melfort.

LES BOUFFES PARISIENS, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—First Representation, Wednesday, May 20.—1. M'SIEU LANDRY, Opérette, 1 Act.—2. LES DEUX AVEUGLES, Bouffonnerie Musicale, 1 Act. Musique de Offenbach.—3. BA-TA-CLAN, Chinoiserie Musicale, 1 Act. Musique de Offenbach. Principal Characters by Messrs. Pradeau, Guyot, Gerpre, and Leonce; Mesdames Dalmont, Marechal, Belnoir, and Mace, their first appearance in this country. The Orchestra of the Théâtre des Bouffes will accompany these Representations, under the direction of the popular Composer, Mons. OFFENBACH. To commence at Half-past Eight o'clock. This Engagement being limited to One Month, Performances will be given EVERY EVENING.

Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets may be engaged at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.—DER. KÖLNER-MÄNNER-GESANG-VEREIN (80 Men Voices), under the direction of Herr FRANZ WEBER. Mr. MITCHELL begs to submit the arrangements for the first week:—

Monday Afternoon, May 25.....Hanover Square Rooms.  
Tuesday " 26....." "  
Wednesday " 27....." "  
Thursday Evening " 28.....Exeter Hall.  
Friday Afternoon " 29.....Hanover Square Rooms.  
Saturday " 30....." "

The Afternoon Concerts will commence at half-past Three, and the Evening Concert at half-past Eight.—The engagement of this distinguished Society is positively limited to Two Weeks.—Tickets for the whole of the above Concerts may be secured at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1857.—NOTICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS: APARTMENTS.—The Executive Committee having reason to believe that many of their fellow-citizens will be disposed to offer accommodation to strangers visiting Manchester during the period of the Exhibition, have determined to OPEN for the convenience of visitors, a REGISTRY of the APARTMENTS which, upon application, may be obtained. All parties disposed are invited to send, without delay, their proposals in writing, in which must be stated the situation of the house, the number of sitting and bedrooms, and other accommodations offered, and the terms required.—Further information may be obtained at the offices, and all applications must be addressed to Mr. SAMUEL HADEN, registrar of apartments, No. 100, Mosley-street, Manchester.—By order,

THOS. HAMILTON, Secretary.

MADLE. ROSA BONHEUR'S GREAT PICTURE OF THE HORSE FAIR.—Messrs. P. and D. COLNAGHI and Co. beg to announce that the above Picture is now on View at the GERMAN GALLERY, 168, New Bond-street, for a limited period.—Admission, ls.

ROLFE'S GOSSIPING CONCERT.  
MR. ROLFE begs to inform his Patrons and the Public that his EIGHTH "GOSSIPING CONCERT" will be given in ST. MARTIN'S (Great) HALL, Long Acre, on TUESDAY, MAY 12th, with additional Songs and Anecdotes, and Illustrated by a Grand Combination of Vocal and Instrumental talent.—Stalls, 2s.; reserved seats, 1s.; balconies, 1s.; platform, 6d. Tickets may be had at the Hall, of the principal music-sellers, and of Mr. Rolfe, 17, Surrey-square, S. Doors open at a quarter-past seven.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, COVENTRY STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE. Programme: Lectures by Dr. KAHN, daily, at 3 o'clock, on highly interesting and instructive topics, and by Dr. SEXTON, F.R.G.S., F.E.S., as follows: At half-past 1, the Phenomena, Curiosities, and Philosophy of the Sense of Sight. At 4, the Great Tobacco Controversy. At half-past 7, the Food we eat; its Uses, Preparation, Adulteration, and Digestion. The Museum contains 1000 Models and Preparations, and is wholly unrivalled in the world. Open daily (for gentlemen only) from 10 till 10. Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis to visitors.

FINSBURY CHAPEL, SOUTH PLACE.—Gentlemen desirous of promoting the Cultivation and Diffusion of Religious Free Thought, by Single Lectures, or Courses of Lectures, on Sunday Mornings, at the above Chapel, are invited to communicate with the Secretary. The Lectures are not expected to be gratuitous.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—First appearance of Madame ALBONI, REICHARDT, VIALETTI, BENEVENTANO, BELLETTI. Last appearance but one of POCCHINI.

On Tuesday next, May 12.

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA.

Rosina.....Madame Alboni.

LA ESMERALDA.

La Esmeralda.....Pochini.

PICCOLOMINI, GIUGLINI, BELLETTI, VIALETTI.

Last appearance of POCCHINI.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.

On Thursday next, May 14th, an Extra Night,

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.

Lucia.....Piccolomini (her third appearance in that part).

Edgardo.....Giuglini.

LA ESMERALDA.

La Esmeralda.....Pochini (her last appearance).

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. Price 21s. and 12. 11s. 6d. each.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, HAYMARKET.

Under the Immediate Patronage of

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN,

AND

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

MRS. ANDERSON,

Pianiste to her Majesty the Queen, and Instructress to their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE OF WALES, the PRINCESS ROYAL, the PRINCESS ALICE, the PRINCESS HELENA, and the PRINCE ALFRED, will give her Annual Grand MORNING CONCERT in Her Majesty's Theatre, MONDAY, May 18th, 1857, commencing at Half-past One o'clock precisely, with all the Principal Artiste, also the Band and Chorus of that establishment—Conductor, Signor BONETTI.

Principal Vocal Performers:—Madlle. PICCOLOMINI, Madlle. MARIA SPEZIA, Madame CLARA NOVELLO, Madlle. ANGIOLA ORTOLANI, and Madame ALBONI; Signor ANTONIO GIUGLINI, Mr. CHARLES BRAHAM, Signor BENEVENTANO, Signor CORSI, Signor VIALETTI, and Signor BELLETTI.

Instrumental Solo Performers:—Pianoforte, Mrs. ANDERSON, Mrs. F. B. BROWN, and Mr. W. G. CUSINS; Violin, M. REMENYI, Solo Violin to Her Majesty the Queen; Violoncello, Signor PEZZE, First Violoncello of H. M. Theatre; Contrabasso, Signor GILARDONI, First Contrabasso of H. M. Theatre.

Further Particulars will be duly announced.

Prices of Admission:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Boxes, Grand Tier....	4	4	0	Stalls.....	1	1	0
Pit Do.....	2	12	6	Pit.....	0	7	0
First Do.....	3	3	0	Amphitheatre Stalls	0	5	0
Second Do.....	2	2	0	Gallery.....	0	2	6
Third Do.....	1	11	6				

Applications for Boxes, Stalls, and Places, to be made at the Box-office of Her Majesty's Theatre; the principal Librarians and Music Publishers; or of Mrs. Anderson, 34, Nottingham-place, York-gate, Regent's Park.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Under the Immediate Patronage of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.

MR. BENEDICT

Begs respectfully to announce that, in lieu of his ANNUAL CONCERT, he has made arrangements to give THREE GRAND MUSICAL FESTIVALS, Dramatic, Classical, and Miscellaneous, on WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, June 10, 24, and July 8. The Artists will include Madlle. PICCOLOMINI, Madlle. MARIA SPEZIA, Madlle. ANGIOLA ORTOLANI, and Mad. ALBONI; Signr. ANTONIO GIUGLINI, Herr REICHARDT, Mr. CHARLES BRAHAM, Signr. BELLETTI, Signr. BENEVENTANO, Signr. NAPOLEONE ROSSI, Signr. GIOVANNI CORSI, and Signr. FILIPPO VIALETTI,

Supported by  
THE CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA  
OF THAT GREAT MUSICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

One portion of the Concert will be conducted by Signor BONETTI, and another by M. BENEDICT.

The Programme will include MENDELSSOHN'S POSTHUMOUS FINALE to the Opera of LORELEY, performed for the First Time in England on the Stage, and other important works. Instrumental Performers of the greatest eminence have been secured. Full particulars will be duly announced. The Performances have been fixed to commence at Two and terminate at Five o'clock.

SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS (TRANSFERABLE) FOR THE THREE CONCERTS.

	£	s.	d.
Private Boxes to hold Four Persons.			
Boxes—Pit Tier	6	6	0
Grand Tier	8	8	0
First Tier	6	6	0
One Pair	5	5	0
Two Pair	4	4	0
Upper Boxes...	3	3	0
Pit Stalls	2	2	0
Pit	0	15	0
Gallery Stalls	0	10	0
Gallery	0	5	0

PRICES FOR EACH SINGLE CONCERT.

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—112, REGENT-STREET, and No. 4, LEADEN-HALL-STREET, London.—Bouzes, vases, pearl and ivory work, medieval manufactures, dressing-bags and dressing-cases, toilet-cases, work-boxes and work-tables, inkstands, fans. The largest stock in England of papier maché elegances—Writing-desks, envelope cases, despatch-boxes, bagatelle, backgammon, and chess-tables. The premises in Regent-street extend fifty yards into Glasshouse-street, and are worthy of inspection as a specimen of elegant outfit. Everything for the work and dressing-tables. Best tooth-brushes, 9d. each; best steel scissors and penknives, 1s. each. The usual supply of first-rate cutlery, razors, razor-strops, needles, &c.; for which Mr. MECHI'S Establishment has been so long famed.

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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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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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