

The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1852.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

WHILE domestic affairs remain in a state of extreme stagnation, there continues to be some supply of political excitement from abroad. Scarcely has the Fishery dispute been brought to a conclusion, ere a new American question is raised, not indeed directly concerning this country, but collaterally threatening rather serious complications. It will be remembered that the British Minister for Foreign Affairs was urged by certain persons in the City to protect British ships in the forcible visitation of the Lobos Islands for the purpose of collecting guano, and that he declined, on the ground that those islands had always been treated as part of the territory of Peru. Exactly the same application has been made to the Government of the United States, with an exactly opposite conclusion; and on most extraordinary grounds. Mr. Webster lays down three ways in which islands may be attached to territory—by lying within a marine league of the shore, by first discovery, or by occupancy. And as "this department is not aware" that the Lobos Islands were either discovered or occupied by Spain or Peru, he thinks it "quite probable that Benjamin Morrell, jun., who, as master of the schooner *Watson*, of New York, visited those islands in September, 1823, may justly claim to be their discoverer;" and therefore the Government of the United States orders a warship to protect American citizens in forcibly taking guano. The notion that a visitor in 1823 could be the "discoverer" of the islands, is almost as ludicrous as the mode in which Mr. Webster places the ignorance of "this department" respecting certain well-known facts amongst the data for his conclusion. The aggression on Peru is accompanied by an avowed dislike and jealousy of Great Britain. It is the Government in Washington which now seems to be risking the duration of peace.

The uneasiness across the Atlantic gives some slight interest to the Jamaica meeting in Liverpool; where a hint was again thrown out, that the ill-used and discontented West Indians, if they cannot obtain more satisfaction from the British Government, may "cut the painter," and drift towards the United States. We have got so used to the threat that we have learned to disregard it; but it does sometimes happen that repeated menaces are fulfilled.

[TOWN EDITION.]

In France, the Prince-President has fallen upon evil auguries, if not as yet upon evil days. All the symbols of the Empire, that gas and pasteboard can devise to consecrate the Fête, are scattered to desolation and derision by the scornful winds—a waste of thousands to distract a people, cold, mocking, and disenchanted—even of fireworks.

The "Billingsgate" ball turns out a total failure: the chief actor absent, the heroes and heroines of the Halle obstreperously discontented, the popularity-hunting masqueraders of the Elysée confused and dismayed, and the rain flooding dancers and decorations with contempt. No wonder that Louis Napoleon should be demoralized and moody at St. Cloud. Repulsed by the silence of the populace, by the darkened windows of the bourgeoisie, he courts enthusiasm among the fishfags, and they hoot his ill-graced ministers, who have not even the courage of their own folly and of their own servility.

The press is hunted down, and springs up in a thousand unsuspected shapes and disguises. The petitions for the Empire are pushed again, by authority; for time presses, and the Star already wanes. The army, indeed, is announced to be reduced; but as a strong reserve force is mentioned, it is rather a re-organization than a reduction, to throw dust in the eyes of Europe. As a measure of retrenchment, the announcement would indicate the sense of a financial crisis looming in no distant future: but as a pacific demonstration, let M. de Persigny, our new guest, speak for its sincerity.

In the presence of subjects like these, the continued reports of a split in the English Cabinet, probable as they are, possess but little interest. Everybody knows that the Cabinet lacks the great elements of unity—success and self-confidence. Its shaking condition is contrasted with demonstrations, like the statue inauguration at Leeds, that continue even yet to keep alive the memory of their great opponent, Sir Robert Peel. The continued uncertainty of the weather renders the prospect of the harvest daily more adverse, and the enemies of Ministers are almost chuckling over a calamity which will give the Protection party its *coup de grace*. Their great source of safety lies in the fact that all parties dislike them, but upon opposite grounds; so that the antagonizing pressures keep them up in the middle.

Amongst the half political movements about the country, the meeting at the Hollow Meadows Farm, near to Sheffield, is one of the most interesting. In spite of every impediment and adverse prognostic this reclaiming farm is successfully established. Guided by their able clerk, Mr. Watkinson, the Poor Law Guardians have succeeded in showing what reproductive employment can do in improving the moral tone of the paupers, and in checking merely idle applications for relief from the able-bodied. At the meeting, many well-known persons were present,—among them Lord Goderich, the newly-elected member for Hull, and a member of the Poor Law Reform Association. That the Poor Law is a lever which may be used in elevating the condition of the working classes is a fact daily becoming better understood, and a continually extending knowledge of the truth is now guaranteed by the number of practical, able, and earnest men that have addressed themselves to the task.

Reproductive employment is better than compulsory emigration, like that attempted in Bradford, to clear it of the used-up class of woolcombers. Though voluntary emigration is a good thing, and in default of better measures it is beginning to tell powerfully on the condition of the labouring class. It does not yet appear to flag; in the *Times* of Wednesday more than two columns were filled with advertisements of ships about to sail for different parts of Australia!

To the dull season the railway companies are contributing their peculiar share of excitement. Accidents have been very rife. That at Bolton, although not so fatal as some, exceeds all that have gone before it in extravagance. At the Bolton station, through various circumstances of confusion and unpunctuality, five trains are brought to a stand, besides a sixth in advance, "and out of the way;" though of course it pre-occupied a siding. Emerging from a curve that is almost covered by tunnels and bridges, unchecked by signals, a seventh train dashes up, and several carriages are smashed. An eighth train, it is reported, barely escaped the same disaster. The pointsman who neglected the signal has avoided inquiry by hanging himself; but of course the public will not suffer him to be made the scapegoat for all the elaborate mismanagement which conspired to build up this gigantic "accident." The less, as almost simultaneously appears the report of the

which is believed to be very small. The incidental expenses up to Sept. 1850 have been 56*l.*, which, having been occasioned to a great extent by the erection of the buildings, the committee think they cannot fairly be charged to the farm account. They therefore date from Sept. 1850, and set down for the last two years the incidentals at 53*l.*, and the wages of the farm labourer, at 16*s.* a-week, 83*l.*; total, 136*l.*

"The report gives in the next place an estimate of the enhanced value of the reclaimed land. In its unreclaimed state its assumed value is 6*l.* per acre, which for the 19 acres reclaimed amounts to 114*l.*, adding to which 137*l.* for incidental expenses and farm labourers' wages, would make the cost 251*l.* By this outlay the land is supposed to be brought up to the value of 40*l.* per acre, or 760*l.* in the aggregate, which leaves a credit of 509*l.* to set against the relief of the pauper labourers on the farm, besides the balance of 15*l.* odd arising from their labour in the process of farming, making together 'a sum which covers all the expenditure on manure, seed, rent, and superintendent's salary and rations.' It is admitted that the aforesaid 509*l.* is not available to the funds of the union, simply because the land thus improved did not happen to be purchasable by the guardians; but that fortuitous circumstance, it is contended, does not detract from the value of this experiment as a guide to other unions which may have the advantage of being able to purchase unreclaimed land in a convenient situation, and thereby giving to the union the entire profit arising from the improvements.

"After remarking upon the excessive cost of far less efficient labour tests, previously adopted in this union, the report proceeds to remark that the present scheme, while it converts waste land into valuable property worth 40*l.* an acre, it provides unlimited employment for any amount of surplus labour, and for a class of persons incapable of almost every other kind of work.

"It is true," continues the report, "that your committee cannot show that the value of pauper labour here can be realized upon, but they think they can show a large amount of interest." The report then proceeds in substance thus—1. The union is possessed of the large building and two acres of land, at the low rent of 4*l.* a year for upwards of 90 years; also of 50 acres on a 21 years' lease at 4*s.* per acre, and nearly double that area adjoining, secured to the union at the same low rental; hence, by continually having 50 acres on lease, and sub-letting every acre (when cleared) beyond the quantity necessary for raising food for the workhouse, there will arise hereafter an annual return in the shape of rent for the benefit of the ratepayers. "The land already under culture is more than sufficient under ordinary circumstances to produce milk for the workhouse inmates, and whilst bringing the waste land under culture for sub-letting you produce most of the produce required for the use of the workhouse establishment." 2. A labour test is provided which not only deters the idle from seeking parish relief, but provides reputable and not unpleasant employment for the respectable artisan in times of bad trade, and affords recreative labour to the old and infirm, who would otherwise have to end their days immured in the workhouse. A number of minor advantages resulting from this union farm are given *seriatim*, with the particularization of which the report is brought to a close.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE FARM.

The main body of visitors to the farm left the George Inn, Market-place, at 25 minutes past ten in the forenoon, by a large omnibus and several conveyances of smaller capacity. The day being beautifully fine, the outside places had been taken up with avidity. After a pleasant drive, the caravan, if we may so term it, arrived at Hollow Meadows a few minutes before noon. The party proceeded at once to the large refectory at the farm, and examined the diet of the pauper labourers, nearly a score of whom were then at dinner, imbibing their homely but nutritious fare in seeming contentment, side by side with the larger table already spread with the more dainty viands of the visitors. The dormitories and other apartments of the house underwent inspection in turns, and evidence of cleanliness and comfort was everywhere observed. The party next sallied out of doors, and leisurely viewed the growing crops, of which we may state in general terms, that they presented a healthy, thriving appearance. Lord Goderich and the other strangers were particularly struck by the great contrast between the sterile aspect of the expanse of wild moorland and the fertile little farm which nestled in the midst, like an oasis in the desert, and the effect upon their minds was not a little enhanced when informed that that most gratifying metamorphosis had been effected within the space of about three years. After commenting with great satisfaction upon the crops, and quaffing draughts of *aqua pura* from a sparkling spring which supplies the establishment, the party strolled down to a piece of land abutting upon the turnpike road, a little above the homestead, where most of the pauper labourers were now engaged in the act of clearing and draining a portion of the yet unreclaimed land. They seemed to be, almost without exception, a gang of invalids, from whom no great amount of labour could be expected; but the burden appeared to be adapted to the back with the utmost consideration. The number of labourers at work was 25. About a score of them were resident at the farm; the others were undergoing the "test" of having to walk from and to the workhouse daily. The bracing moorland air and the picturesque landscape made it pleasant to the urban party to stroll

about, and gave greater interest to their novel occupation. But such was the oxygenic influence of the atmosphere upon the gastronomic system, that the summons of the dinner bell at half-past one o'clock was by no means an unwelcome sound.

A dinner followed the inspection; and appropriate toasts were proposed and spoken to after dinner. Mr. Groves, the Chairman, proposed "Success to the Hollow Meadows farm." (Loud cheers.) It was very pleasing to think that there was such a place where their fellow-townsmen who from bad trade, or sickness, or unavoidable misfortune of any other kind, might be sent, and where they might earn their own bread. It was certainly much less painful and less degrading than being in the workhouse. At that farm many drunkards had been reformed and many thoughtless characters had been led to reflection, and not a few had been made better sons, better fathers, and better citizens. There was nothing degrading in tilling the land, whereas the whole systems of labour—oakum picking and corn-grinding by the hand-mills—were both degrading and revolting. He hoped he should never see those mills restored. It was the sincere desire of the board to carry out the land labour test effectually and without unnecessary expense, and being a united body he had no doubt of their ultimate success. He felt bound to say that Mr. Watkinson, their clerk, had aided them very much with valuable information, and he had shown a laudable desire that the farm should be managed to the satisfaction of the ratepayers. The chairman concluded by commending the toast, and it was drunk with a hearty good-will.

When the "health of Viscount Goderich and the Poor Law Association" were proposed, Lord Goderich said—

"Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: I was very much gratified when I received, two or three days ago, an invitation from the Sheffield board of guardians to be present here to-day; and if I was very much gratified by that invitation I must feel still more flattered by the great kindness with which you have received me, and by the cordial manner in which you have been good enough now to drink my health. I fear I have done very little individually to deserve the credit that Mr. Saunders has been kind enough to lay to me. I certainly have been most desirous, if I could in any way benefit the poorer classes of my fellow-countrymen, either in parliament or out of parliament, that I should do so; and when my attention was drawn, as it was recently by a letter from Mr. C. Stark, the secretary of the Poor Law Association, to the principles of that association, it did seem to me that the general principle upon which it was founded was one which was as likely as almost anything I had heard of to elevate, and I hope ultimately to remove, one of the greatest evils under which our country now suffers—the great and crushing load of pauperism. (Loud cheers.) I therefore had great pleasure in accepting Mr. Stark's proposition, and becoming a member of that association. That association, as I have said, is based upon a theory—the theory that it is safer and better to employ paupers reproductively than it is to shut them up in idleness in a workhouse—(cheers)—where, if they are industrious men who in the great war of this world have not been able to find subsistence for a time, they would be taught only to learn idleness and to unlearn the industry that their former life had taught them. If they are, on the contrary, idle men who prefer the workhouse to work (because the workhouse is not a house of work but a house of idleness), this will make the workhouse the thing they will most dislike, because if Mr. Saunders shuts them up in these deep drains they will rather take any work in Sheffield than hard work six miles off. But although the theory of this institution appears very sound, theory is in itself very little, and in England especially, unless backed and supported by practice. We are a practical people. We like facts. It's no use to go to the boards of guardians throughout the country or to parliament and tell them that you have got a very good theory if they will but try it. If you can tell them one fact—if you can say, 'One set of men have been bold enough to make the experiment, and that experiment has been successful,' that is worth all the theory in the world. And therefore it was that I was most anxious to be present here to-day. I came here to receive instruction, and I must say that the instruction I have received is most valuable and most satisfactory. As far as one experiment can go, I should say this experiment is conclusive. It proves at least that under circumstances at all similar to those in which you are here placed, paupers may be reproductively employed upon waste land, by which the general produce and wealth of the country is increased—that they may be so employed profitably—and that it does not take long (for you have been only four years about it) before that profit may be actually realized. (Cheers.) And if that fact is of great importance in this country it is of still greater importance in Ireland. You have there a poor-law which in its present state it is impossible to work; and therefore I am pleased to find amongst the list of members of the poor-law association a large number of members for the Irish counties and others. It would be superfluous and impertinent in me to enter into an explanation to you of the benefits of a system which you have yourselves been the first to apply and to work; but I cannot sit down without expressing to you my admiration of the noble manner in which you have made that experiment. I doubt not that you have had great difficulties to contend with, and that you have found those difficulties amongst your fellow-countrymen and amongst many of the ratepayers of this town. But you have fought on through those difficulties, and by your perseverance and your courage I believe I may say you

have conquered. (Cheers.) And I believe I may say it is now an established fact that this system may be practically applied. (Applause.) The poor-law association has not drawn up any universal scheme. It has not entered, and I think it has wisely not entered, into any measure of detail. That must be for future consideration, and upon that subject there may be many differences. If when I entered I had any doubt that the principle was sound I must say I am now convinced that it is sound. Therefore if my humble efforts in the House of Commons or otherwise can be of any use in the furtherance of that principle it will be my pleasure to assist in carrying it out. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, there is one little circumstance personal to myself that perhaps you will forgive me for alluding to—one which has made it very pleasant to me to be here to-day; and that is, that I am always happy to be in an assembly of Yorkshiremen. (Loud cheers.) I happen to have a peculiar prejudice in favour of my own county. I hope it is not an unwise one. It is that which made it doubly pleasant and agreeable to my feelings that I should be elected by a large Yorkshire constituency, and it is that which makes me feel, as I do now, still more grateful for the kindness which you have shown me to-day. (Great cheering.)"

Mr. Ironside proposed "The Farm Committee." Poverty, he observed, arose principally from a want of self-denial, self-exertion, and self-reliance; and it was the duty of those who had those qualities in a proper proportion to endeavour to restore them in those who were without them:—

"As Lord Goderich had very appropriately observed, work-houses were now idle-houses. In accordance with the principle of the statute of Elizabeth, they are called work-houses, because the poor were to be set to work; but in time they became idle-houses. Recently, however, a change had come over the spirit of their dream, and the Poor-law Association, of which mention had been made, was an attempt to restore the principle of the statute of Elizabeth—to set the poor to work. (Hear, hear.) While those gentlemen had been theorizing, they the commonsense plain people of Sheffield, had been practicalizing. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Now it was quite unnecessary for him to make a speech on this question. He was an old radical, chartist, and socialist, of more than twenty years' standing. He knew Robert Owen, and all about it. (Laughter.) They, the socialists, determined they would regenerate mankind, and that they would do it by building a large hall in Hampshire. (Continued laughter.) He was proposed on the central board along with Robert Owen, and at the first board meeting he and Robert Owen had an argument on this very simple question. Mr. Owen wanted to put on the outside of the establishment some tablets indicating what the building was for. As they were very poor he tried to convince Mr. Owen that it was not advisable to spend 30*l.* or 40*l.* in putting inscriptions on the wall. He failed to do so until he used this argument:—'Do you see that land on that hill? And don't you think that if we spend 30*l.* in muck to put into that land it will be better than putting an inscription on the wall?' That argument told, and no inscription was put there. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Ironside) was now going to show the non-necessity for his making a speech. His speech was on that hill—in the contrast between one side and the other of that valley in which they were now assembled. Before the establishment of this farm incendiarianism was common. The magistrates had the unpleasant duty over and over again of committing paupers for insubordination. That is now done away with. (Cheers.) We have no paupers now, and we shall never again have a larger number in proportion. Everybody is convinced that this is a real test. The only difference was, as to whether they should go on farming or reclaiming land. He would say, go on reclaiming land. They might farm as well as others farm, no doubt. When any one said it was interfering with independent labour, he replied, 'That's nothing to me. Have we produced a better population? Because if we have, that is inevitable; and you take your money-bag argument and throw it to the devil if you like!' (Laughter.)"

Mr. Crowther returned thanks for the Farm Committee. Other speeches were made; and the guests returned to Sheffield.

A GUANO "DIFFICULTY."

The last mail by the *Europa* brings news of a probable rupture between the United States and Peru. A question has been raised as to the right of ownership of the Lobos Islands. The following letter in reference to this subject has been published:—

"Department of State, Washington, June 5, 1852.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., inquiring whether citizens of the United States can take guano from the Lobos Islands, which are situated near the coast of Peru, without infringing upon the rights of the citizens, or subjects, or Government of any other nation. In reply, I have to inform you that if those islands should lie within the distance of a marine league from the continent, or if, being further than that distance, should have been discovered and occupied by Spain or by Peru, the Peruvian Government would have a right to exclude therefrom the vessels and citizens of other nations, except upon such conditions as it might think proper to prescribe. There can be no doubt that the title of Peru to the Chincha Islands, whence guano is now chiefly taken, is founded upon the basis of discovery and occupancy. That article was taken from those islands and used as a manure by the Peruvians anterior to the conquest of Peru by Spain. It continued to be so taken and used throughout the Spanish dominions in that country, and this practice has been kept up to the present day. Although those islands are uninhabitable, the custom of resorting to them from the neighbouring continent for the

purpose of procuring guano may be said to have constituted such an occupancy of them as to give the Sovereigns of the continent a right of dominion over them under the law of nations. This department, however, is not aware that the Lobos Islands were either discovered or occupied by Spain or by Peru, or that the guano on them has ever been used for manure on the adjacent coast or elsewhere. It is certain that the distance from the continent is five or six times greater than is necessary to make them a dependency thereof pursuant to the public law. On the other hand, it is quite probable that Benjamin Morrell, jun., who, as master of the schooner *Watson*, of New York, visited those islands in September, 1823, may justly claim to have been their discoverer. He gives a full account of them in his narrative, published in New York in 1832. Under these circumstances, it may be considered the duty of this Government to protect citizens of the United States who may visit the Lobos Islands for the purpose of obtaining guano. This duty will be more apparent when it is considered that the consumers of Chincha Island guano in this country might probably obtain it for half the price they now pay, were it not for the charges of the Peruvian Government. I shall consequently communicate a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Navy, and suggest that a vessel of war be ordered to repair to the Lobos Islands for the purpose of protecting from molestation any of our citizens who may wish to take the guano from them.

"I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
"DANIEL WEBSTER.

"Captain James C. Jewell, Master of the
bark *Philomela*."

"P.S.—It is considered important that this letter should not be made public at present."

A vessel has been sent to these islands to protect the interests of American citizens who may be there.

It would seem, however, that Mr. Webster has made his statements without sufficient investigation of the facts of the case. A letter from Dr. Mathie Hamilton, late of Peru, dated Glasgow, the 24th of this month, appears in the *Times* of Thursday, in which it is stated, that "these islands were mapped for the King of Spain more than a century ago, they being both named and localized in various works, which are both buried in the archives of the Escurial, but are patent to all who would inquire on the subject." Dr. Hamilton states further, that three members of the Royal Academy of Sciences, M. Condamine, Don Jorge Juan, and Don Antonio de Ulloa, were sent out by the King of Spain, in 1735, to make scientific observations. In 1748, they published a work, printed in English in London, in 1772, which contains a map delineating the islands of Lobos. A geographical and historical dictionary, by Colonel Alcedo, was published in Madrid, in 1787, in which these islands are described as within the Vice-royalty of Peru. Dr. Hamilton has also had in his possession for nearly twenty years a map, which bears *prima facie* evidence of having existed for 250 years, in which the islands of Lobos are distinctly laid down.

The *New York Herald*, and some other American journals, speak in a confident tone of this matter, and seem to have little doubt of their Government making good their claim to these islands. The former paper characterizes the assumption of territorial rights by Peru as an unlawful usurpation, and the acquiescence of Great Britain in their claim as a selfish convenience. It blames also Mr. Abbott Lawrence, who was the American Minister in London at the time of our recognition of the claims of Peru, as wanting in vigilance or prudence.

The *New York Journal of Commerce*, however, takes a more moderate view, and expresses a doubt of the justice of their claims.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LETTER XXXV.

Paris, Tuesday Evening, August 24, 1852.

MY last letter was written and despatched too soon to give you any detailed account of the *Bal de la Halle*. I may now tell you that the most signal punishment was there inflicted upon all that official world in search of popularity. The *Dames de la Halle** (market women) with their *forts*,† insulted and hooted them all, and ministers, senators, generals, councillors of state, employees of the public offices were put to flight in the most summary and undignified fashion. At first the *poissardes* (fishwomen) got hold of them: these ladies were beaming with pride at the thought of dancing with men so beautifully bedizened and embroidered. The latter lent themselves to the fun with a tolerable grace for a round or two; but after a time becoming impatient and ashamed of the part they were playing, and of the coarse familiarity of their partners,‡ they were fain to give the ladies of the market the slip. Then began one of the most curious and comical scenes ever witnessed. All the quolibets and the vocabulary of the *Halle*||, all the flowers of fishy eloquence were

poured in torrents on the devoted heads of these hapless popularity-hunters. "On ne s'en va pas comme ça,"§ cried these brave *poissardes* to the senators, attired in their grand official costumes, in rich lace and brilliant embroidery, as they punched them in the ribs. "You are our jolly pals, and will ye will ye, sweet lambs, you must dance the rigodon with your commères. Et vite, en avant la musique!" ("So, then, music, ho!")

Then you might have seen at one moment two, at another four, presently six fishwomen hustling and dragging off almost by the neck and heels some majestic Senator, or some haughty Councillor of State. Then came the tug of war among the women for their prey; a war of abuse in which the whole catechism of the fish-market was exhausted of its elegancies. There was no longer any standing it, and the official visitors were obliged to take to their heels. Unfortunately, history—inexorable history—has "taken down" the names of the untoward personages, and has inseparably coupled them with the names of their odorous *dansesuses*. M. le Comte de Persigny, Minister of the Interior, danced the first quadrille with Madame Clément, dealer in vegetables; General Magnan, Commander-in-Chief of the army of Paris, with Madame Amboster, seller of baked apples; M. Romieu with Madame Daniel, seller of butter; M. Pietri, Minister of Police, with Mlle. Glaize, dealer in mushrooms; M. de Montour with Mlle. Jemmaire, seller of herrings; M. Collet-Meyzret with Mlle. Bessin, dealer in salt provisions; Captain de Lastic of the Navy, aide-de-camp of the Minister of Marine, with Mlle. Prosper, seller of gilets; Captain de Montour, *do.*, with Madame Brisomont, dealer in tripe and chitterlings; M. Ginut (from the Ministry of the Interior) with Madame Naumez, oyster-seller, &c., &c. On the other hand, the gentlemen of the market (*les forts de la Halle*) took possession of the official ladies, and danced with them. M. Lepage, *fort* of the butter market, was the partner of the Comtesse de Persigny; M. Waiz, *fort* of the meat-market, with Madame Theodore Ducos (wife of the Minister of Marine); M. Arnault, of the butter-market, with Madame Drouin de l'Huys (wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs); M. Lepage, of the oyster-market, with the Comtesse d'Ornano (of the Elysée); M. Delahaye, of the butter-market, with Madame Magnan; M. Barthélemy, of the fish-market, with the Baronne de Ladoucette, &c., &c. Worthy couples! They deserve to be handed down together to the most remote posterity.

Louis Bonaparte did not appear at the ball. His absence sorely displeased all these ladies and gentlemen. A hundred rumours, vieing in absurdity, were flying about on the causes of his absence. Different plots were mentioned, some of incendiarism, others of assassination. It was reported that the carpenters employed in the construction of the ball-room and of the galleries had taken a malicious pleasure in not "joining" properly the gallery destined for the President and his suite, who were to come down "by the run." But all these rumours were unfounded. It is true that working-carpenters were arrested; but it was not for having forgotten the fastenings of the Presidential gallery, but simply for having struck for higher pay on the night before the ball. These arrests gave rise to all the rumours. As for Louis Bonaparte, his friends forbade his appearance at the ball of the *Halles*, on the pretext, that in the midst of the crush a dagger might reach him by some secret hand. Besides, he was extremely fatigued with the *fêtes* of Sunday, and with the ball given at St. Cloud on the Monday. Add to this, that he was discouraged and discontented at the obstinate silence kept by the National Guard of Paris, without exception, on the occasion of the *fête*, and at the sullen determination of the crowd not so much as to raise their hats on his passage. The absence of shouts of *Vive Napoleon*, too, had left a deep impression of melancholy on the President's mind; and being like all the race whose name he bears, very superstitious, he was profoundly struck by the fearful storm which prevailed throughout the *fête*, and which utterly prevented or destroyed the illuminations ordered or prepared. Enormous sums had been literally thrown away. The chagrin of Bonaparte exceeds all bounds. He has almost shut himself up at St. Cloud for several days, and has ceased to be accessible even to his nearest friends. The "progress" into the southern departments is adjourned *sine die*. He is afraid of all uncertainties. So keenly irritated was he at the demeanour of the Parisian National Guard, that he was on the very point of decreeing their dissolution. The *Moniteur* denies the report: M. de Persigny's advice being to look evil fortune in the face, to continue to impose upon public opinion, and by a semblance of security to conceal the false position in which the Elysée really is placed.

§ "You don't 'hook it quite so easily," would be phrase in the vernacular.

Matters have reached such a point, that many of the pardons announced to appear shortly in the *Moniteur* will not appear at all. They are indefinitely postponed, like the "progress" in the south.

Moreover, the policy as to the revival of the Empire is totally changed. It is, at length, well understood at the Elysée that the apogee is past, and that the fortunes of Bonaparte are on the wane. It is felt that unless advantage be taken of present power to proclaim the Empire, the President will stand a sorry chance of being proclaimed Emperor at all! It has been resolved, therefore to "go a-head," and, the Czar willing or unwilling, to place the crown on the head of Bonaparte. Should the Czar declare war, the gauntlet will be taken up. The frontier of the Rhine (as I have before told you) will be the first prize to be won to create a diversion to counteract the present decay. Public attention, now concentrated on the Elysée, will be distracted by the operations of war, and Bonaparte will breathe freely awhile. It was at a great meeting of the Council, held at St. Cloud, on Monday, the 16th inst., that these grave resolutions were adopted.

The electric telegraph sent instant orders to the Prefects to canvass for the Empire, and, if possible, to obtain addresses in its favour from the *Conseils d'Arrondissement*, and from the Councils General of the Departments. The despatch arrived in the midst of the session of the former of these councils. The *Sous-Préfets*, whom it reached in time, immediately drew up an extraordinary report to the councils, concluding that it was important to proclaim Bonaparte Emperor without delay. These "conclusions" were at once adopted by the councils. Unfortunately, the despatch did not reach all the councils soon enough; a delay which explains the fact, that the immense majority of these addresses speak only of the necessity of *stability* in the government, and not a word about proclaiming the Empire. No doubt if the orders had arrived in time, the councils would almost unanimously have demanded the proclamation of the Empire. The almost universal abstention of the population in the recent elections, left the field open for adventurers, who have taken refuge in the Bonapartist party, to fill the municipal and general councils. The session of the former being closed, nothing further is to be expected of them. But the Elysée relies greatly on the Councils-General, which will have received in good time the necessary orders. We shall again find the government pompously proclaiming what is called in the jargon of the time the "unanimous will of the population of France."

The *Préfets* and *Sous-Préfets* have equally received orders to push the imperialist petitions, which had been momentarily abandoned, on account of the threatening language of the Czar.

We are hurrying on to a crisis, a formidable crisis. No doubt a European war would be the signal for civil war. There are those who think, that nothing less is required to renovate and to strengthen the national heart,—that a fiery baptism can alone wash out the stain. Everything tends to precipitate the *dénouement*,—all circumstances seem to combine to hasten the crisis.

Persigny, the evil genius of Bonaparte, his right arm, his ever-counsellor, is struck with a frightful disease. He is not deranged, as I had been led to suppose, but only *epileptic*. He falls down every second or third day in terrible fits. Many would say that the hand of God was heavy on the man, to whom we owe all the crimes of the 2nd of December.

Another serious fact is, the disastrous failure of the harvest, as reported in all parts of France. One-third of the crops is said to be ruined, in consequence of which a great rise in breadstuffs has already taken place, and a dearth begins to be seriously apprehended. If you remember that the dearth of 1847 preceded by one year the revolution of '48, you may easily understand with what alarm certain minds find themselves in presence of a similar calamity.

A terrible war of *nouvelles à la main* is being waged against the Government. Everybody is become copyist. We have gone back, to use the words of the feuilleton of the *Presse*, to the times that preceded the invention of printing. There are more copyists in France now than in the middle ages; and what is more, they make a fortune at the work. MS. copies of Victor Hugo's *Napoléon le Petit* have reached 40, 60, and 80 francs. At these fabulous prices they are greedily snatched up. It is even the fashion to be provided with a lithographic stone, whereon to reproduce detached chapters of the forbidden books, and sell them again. You can form an idea of the sensation Victor Hugo's work has created: he would seem to have predicted its effects. It is the *réveille* of public opinion. Bales of copies are smuggled across the Belgian frontier; unfortunately the hawking is difficult, yet the provinces are inundated with copies,

* The *Halle* is the central market of Paris.

† The portions of the market are called "*les forts*."

‡ Fr. "*Et des compagnes qui les tutoyaient*."

|| A vocabulary representing our "*Billingsgate*."

and the effect in the country is not less formidable than it is in Paris.

An election of deputies is about to take place at Paris, to replace MM. Cavaignac and Carnot, who refused to take the oaths. An idea is very seriously entertained of re-electing them both, as a warning to the powers that be. M. Hénou, too, has to be replaced at Lyons; but the *Moniteur*, which convokes the electoral colleges at Paris, maintains a strict silence about Lyons. No doubt the Elysée is anxious to know the result of the Paris elections before venturing to confront that of Lyons. For it is Lyons, in truth, that has just named as councillors-general MM. Jules Favre and Sain, both of whom have addressed to Bonaparte a very strong letter, refusing to take the oaths. Bonaparte has just received another affront. Several representatives have declined to return to France; among others, M. Renaud is spoken of as having written a very sharp letter to the Elysée, explaining his refusal. The *Moniteur* registers daily a host of nominations in the Legion of Honour. It has been remarked as significant, that not a single member of the magistracy of Paris, nor of the National Guard, has received the cross in the midst of an avalanche of decorations. This does not go far towards proving that the Magistracy and the National Guard of Paris are much disposed in favour of Bonaparte.

The official journals would have us believe the contrary. Since the 15th, there has been an increase of arrests in Paris. Everybody seems to be arrested about everything. Two persons stand still on the Boulevards to talk politics; the *sergens de ville* arrest them. In the course of conversation you happen to bestow some rather lively epithet on Bonaparte—you are instantly arrested. If you look askance at a *sergent de ville*, you are done for. Perhaps when everybody has been arrested, Bonaparte will arrest himself. The prisons are full. It is said that the *Préfecture de Police* is full of mere lads, confined since the 15th for having cried *Vive la République*—a crime for which they are suffering in miserable cells. Domiciliary visits are recommencing in Paris and in the provinces. The *Journal de Castre* states that a visit was paid on Friday last by the gendarmerie and the police, to the houses of MM. Frédéric Thomas, Nanzières, Pieglowski, and Négrel, at Costres. Many municipal councils are dissolved, for having dared to re-elect the members who had refused to take the oaths. The council of St. Flour is in that predicament.

The press is deluged with "warnings;" but these warnings proceed exclusively from the Prefects, who cannot act without having previously consulted the Ministry of Police. A journal of Toulouse, the *Gazette de Languedoc*, has just been suspended for two months.

Two heads, of men condemned for political offences, have fallen on the scaffold. These wretched victims of the more successful rebel's justice were two operatives of Béziers, Abel Cadellard and Joseph Laurent; one an old man of sixty, the other a young man of 23. They passed through the town on the fatal cart in the midst of a weeping and sobbing population. No one looked upon the instrument of vengeance, or sanctioned by presence the judicial assassination. The market of Béziers was opened after the execution on the very ground where the scaffold had stood, but on that day none came to buy or to sell. S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

M. de PERSIGNY arrived in London on Thursday: whether in an official or semi-official capacity, or on a private visit, does not yet appear.

Lord Cowley, our ambassador to France, is now absent from his post, *en congé*.

General Magnan, in his capacity of President of the General Council of the Lower Rhine, made a declaration which is generally considered of great importance. He announced a reduction of the army in the following terms:—"Yesterday, at the moment when I was taking my leave, the Prince President told me that he was engaged in considering the formation of a strong and solid military reserve, which, without compromising the respect and dignity of France, would enable him to effect the economies which he desires to introduce in the public taxation."

The fact is that the French Government is placed in a dilemma between reduction of the army or increased taxation. The latter is impossible, and retrenchment is indispensable.

The architect of the Elysée has drawn up a report, after due investigation, on the fire which lately broke out at the Elysée, and has read his work to the President. The report concludes that the fire was not accidentally occasioned, as had been supposed, by the overheating of a stove, but was the result of *malice préposée* on the part of persons who gained access to the premises, certain artificial combustibles having been discovered in the bureau of the President's cabinet. The President, having listened calmly to the report, said at the close, "No, it was the stove." The conclusions of the report will not, therefore, be made officially public.

The *Bulletin des Lois* contains a decree from the President of the Republic, by which several retiring pensions are accorded to 75 persons belonging to the army. At the head of the table which accompanies this decree are the

names of Generals Bedeau and Changarnier, but not those of Generals de Lamoricière and Leflo. The pension assigned to the two former is 6000f. each.

The *Moniteur* announces that the Minister for Foreign Affairs signed two treaties, on Sunday last, with the Plenipotentiaries of the Belgian Government, the first reciprocally guaranteeing all property in literary works and works of art; the second making certain modifications in the Customs tariff.

A pamphlet, called *Les Nuits de St. Cloud; ou, les Deux Cours*, has been seized by the police at Brussels, on the complaint of the French Minister; and a judicial prosecution has been commenced against the publishers.

The French Mediterranean squadron has been at Cagliari (Sardinia), and was at Naples on the 15th instant, assisting at religious fêtes, and exchanging compliments and hospitalities with the Court.

The British squadron sailed from Gibraltar for the coast of Syria on the 16th, after having exercised the seamen and marines in gunnery practice, &c., on the neutral ground of the Rock. Mischiefs seem to be brewing in the Levant. The recent change of Ministry at Constantinople, by which Reschid Pasha, the Grand Vizier, has been dismissed, and Ali Pasha, a friend to Russia, appointed in his stead, with Fuad Effendi (a friend of France) in the Foreign department, render the presence of the English fleet in these waters of consequence. The recent demands of the French Government in the Tripoli affair (for the surrender of two French deserters), the presence of the *Charlemagne*, the screw line-of-battle ship, in the Golden Horn, and the fresh exigencies of the French ambassador in the question of the Holy Sepulchre—a question always conveniently revived for diplomatic purposes—seem to indicate that the absence of Lord Stratford is already felt at Constantinople.

A correspondent of the *Daily News*, dating Constantinople, Aug. 6, says, "Destructive fires occur now daily in Constantinople. From the 1st to the 6th of August, eleven great fires raged, the city being on the first day on fire at five different places. The Turks believe that incendiarism is instigated by the Russians, in order to excite an insurrection, and so much the more that several noted Greek desperados from the Peninsula have been seen in Constantinople. There are now three different parties in Turkey—the Sultan, the army, and the reformers, led by Reshid Pasha, are the first; the second is the conservative party of old Turkey, with the Muftis and Ulemas, priests and lawyers, under the guidance of the Sultan's brother; they enjoy now the patronage of Russia, and denounce the Sultan so openly for his reforms, that it became necessary to arrest on the 4th three Turkish priests, who incited the people to insurrection. The third party are the Greeks and Armenians, all of them tools of Russia. The wealthy Turks are frightened out of their wits; they firmly believe in an outbreak towards the end of the month, which would give a pretext to the Russians for an armed interference, and many families leave town on account of the approaching crisis."

"At the same time tidings have arrived from Odessa that a great camp is to be formed and a review held by the Czar in the plain of Akerman, the number of troops concentrated amounting to about 200,000. The Emperor of Austria is invited to this review (so they say here in Constantinople): and in Moldavia and Wallachia the arrival of Russian troops is spoken of as to take place in a short time, as a corps either of observation or of occupation; and strong Russian detachments are moving along the Gallician frontier towards the south."

The *Augsburgh Gazette* contains a letter dated the 8th inst. from the banks of the Po, from which it appears that the Austrian authorities have been giving a fresh instance of their brutality.

An English tourist was quietly sketching the picturesque amphitheatre of the old city of the Montagues and Capulets, when he was accosted by an Austrian sentry, who commanded him to desist. Upon declining to comply with this military prohibition he was arrested and thrown into prison, where he was detained for several days. After his liberation, this martyr of the pencil was thrust unceremoniously out of the city, and conducted by Austrian gendarmes out of the territory, subjected to the mild sway of Marshal Radetzky. The *Gazette* says that the Englishman called upon the commandant of the fortress to apologise to him, but that this demand was refused. He then applied to the Earl of Westmoreland, at that moment at Venice, for redress.

The Earl of Westmoreland's arrival at Florence is announced, but whether to conduct an orchestra in that city, or to apologise to the Austrian commander for the seeming exigencies of our Foreign-office in the Mather case, does not appear.

Justus Liebig ceased, on the 20th inst., to be Professor of Chemistry in the University of Giessen, in the electorate of Hesse-Cassel, after having lived there in that capacity during the long period of twenty-eight years. Before commencing his duties as professor in Munich, he intends to visit Russia. Dr. Liebig was born in Darmstadt in 1803, and Humboldt procured for him the appointment at Giessen. Liebig was long the chief ornament of the University of Giessen, and his departure is an irreparable loss to the Electorate.

The *Vienne Gazette* of the 22nd contains the following sentences of the court-martial sitting at Hermanstadt:—

Count Joseph Haller, aged 33, of Weisskirchen, in Transylvania, landed proprietor, and the Rev. Francis Nagy, aged 63, of György, reformed pastor, to be hung for high treason, their property being also confiscated. The Emperor has since commuted the punishment to ten years' imprisonment in the case of the younger, and fourteen in that of the venerable prisoner; the confiscation being maintained. Three yeomen charged with homicide during the civil war, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the court martial, now receive a remission of half the punishment. A subsequent notification in the *Gazette* states that the functions of the Hungarian court-martials are now suspended.

The trial of Messrs. Guerrazzi and Romanelli commenced

at Florence on the 16th inst.; but was adjourned for ten days on the 17th, on account of the state of health of the accused. M. Guerrazzi has for some time been subject to epileptic fits, the attacks of which have lately been very frequent.

By the last accounts from Warsaw the cholera was rapidly spreading, and the disease increasing in intensity; the police report of the 13th inst. shows that nearly half of the cases ended fatally. The Prince Statthalter had given 800 silver rubles to the committees for the hospitals. On the above date there were 550 persons attacked, of whom 244 died, 263 recovered, and there remained under treatment 1,483. The alarm among the population of the city is excessive.

There is now no doubt that the cholera is advancing from Poland, in two directions, north and west, as it is prevailing in several districts both in Silesia, the old province of Prussia, and the Polish part of the Duchy of Posen; and the general tenour of the last accounts from all these districts is very unsatisfactory.

A private letter from Warsaw, of the 17th instant, gives the following account of the origin of the scourge which is at present committing such ravages:—"It was thought expedient some time since to make some improvements in the small town of Lask, near Kalisch. For that purpose it was found necessary to make excavations in the cemetery where the victims of the cholera of 1832 had been interred. Almost immediately afterwards the operatives employed in the work were attacked with cholera, and every one of them died. Since then it has spread, and is attended with more than ordinary mortality."

The Hanoverian Government has just published an order forbidding all meetings of Anabaptists, and threatening with imprisonment any foreign missionary of that sect who shall attempt to preach in the Hanoverian territory.

Haynau is not yet forgotten, nor is the reception he met with at the hands of Barclay and Perkins's draymen.

The Brussels papers publish accounts of a tumultuous reception he has lately experienced in that city. It appears that the Marshal was present at the Brussels Vauxhall on Sunday evening last, whilst a concert was taking place. "At nine o'clock (says the *Echo*) the Marshal showed himself in the garden, and was immediately surrounded by a curious crowd of about two hundred persons. His attitude, it was noticed, had something theatrical about it. It being apparent that a demonstration was about to take place, General Chazal, of the Belgian service, who was in the garden, went up to the Marshal, and entered into conversation with him, hoping by his presence to overawe the rising feeling. A few moments passed, and no manifestation took place, the crowd meanwhile increasing very rapidly. M. Singelee, the director of the garden, caused the orchestra to play two favourite pieces, in the expectation that the attention of the crowd would be withdrawn from his uneasy guest; but in vain. Hisses were heard; then some very pointed observations were addressed to Haynau on his share in the Hungarian war, while the majority of the multitude cried, 'Turn him out—turn him out.' M. Chazal essayed to address the people and assuage the storm, but was not listened to, and the tumultuous excitement rose still higher. Meanwhile messengers had been sent to the police-station and barracks, and shortly the officers arrived, together with a file of soldiers. A number of arrests took place, but the persons being all of character and position, were released immediately. After this, Haynau remained some little time at the concert, guarded by a knot of Belgian officers, and followed by the spectators in all his movements. As he returned from the concert to his hotel he was again hissed, and a number of uncomplimentary cries were heard, but no violence was practised."

The *Independence Belge* of Tuesday has the following on the subject:—"We did not hesitate to express our censure upon the culpable manifestation which took place on Sunday evening at the Vauxhall against Marshal Haynau—an act unjustifiable against a stranger, protected as well by the laws of the land as by the duties of hospitality. To-day, we regret to say, that we have to notice an act of *bravado* and provocation on the part of Marshal Haynau, which the duties of hospitality, not to mention many other considerations, ought to have prevented him from perpetrating. Yesterday evening, at half-past six,—that is to say before the commencement of the concert—Marshal Haynau entered the Vauxhall and took his place, with a certain affectation, at the very table at which he was seated on Sunday. We can only look upon this proceeding as an error of tact, whilst others beheld in it an act of defiance. At all events, we are of opinion that the fact that his presence in the grounds had been the cause of, we own very culpable, disturbances, ought to have restrained him from a step which was of a nature to lead to a repetition of them, out of consideration to the State in which he was sojourning, as also for the men who came voluntarily forward to protest against the outrage offered to him. The authorities were, however, prepared to put down any attempt at disturbance. Moreover, the public common sense rendered the precautions needless. Marshal Haynau was allowed to remain undisturbed at his seat till the end of the performance. A mob of some hundred people then followed him to his hotel, some singing patriotic airs, intermixed with groans and hisses. Some few of the disorderly were arrested. This morning Marshal Haynau left Brussels for Paris. We regard this speedy departure as an indication that the marshal has felt himself that his conduct yesterday evening was very injudicious." Under the present régime, Marshal Haynau will be "quite at home" in Paris. With the hero of the 2nd of December such a man should be a favoured guest.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.

The association recently formed to promote chief international postage has issued a circular proposing the following plan:—

"Let a postal union be formed between as many countries as possible, on the following simple grounds:—

"1. Each country shall fix a rate of foreign postage at its own discretion, provided that the rate be uniform to every country in the proposed postal union, and every part of that country, and that rate shall be prepaid in all cases.

"2. Each country shall engage to receive, transmit, or deliver to its address, free of any charge whatever, any letter passing to it free from the post-offices of the other subscribing countries.

"In other words, each country shall levy a revenue on letters outwards, none on letters inwards.

"Thus, each country would collect its own revenue in its own coin, subject to its own regulations; uniformity and simplicity would be secured as far as they are practically useful to the inhabitants of a country, and cheapness would come of itself. Indeed, no Government would enter into such an arrangement that did not recognise the advantage of cheap postage, and no country would very long charge its citizens much more for the carriage of a letter than a stranger would have to pay for the reply to that letter, when the service rendered is precisely the same."

MR. F. O. WARD'S PIC-NIC ON THE PROPOSED METROPOLITAN GATHERING GROUNDS.

ON Saturday, Mr. F. O. Ward entertained, for the second time this season, a large party of scientific and literary friends, accompanied by several ladies, at an *al fresco* dinner, on the gathering grounds near Farnham, whence it is proposed to draw the pure "hill-top" water supplies for the metropolis. Amongst the guests invited were Sir Charles and Lady Fox, Dr. and Mrs. Lyon Playfair, the Count and Countess Mancel, Mr. and Mrs. Monckton Milnes, Mr. and Mrs. William Coningham, Professor and Mrs. Royle, Mr. and Mrs. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Meehi, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Lewes, the Rev. Charles and Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Rice, Mr. and Miss Barlow, Messrs. Edward F. Pigott, George Godwin, Thornton Hunt, Louis Blanc, Herbert Spencer, &c., of whom, however, a portion were deterred by the lowering aspect of the morning from proceeding to the ground,—of which it was remarked, in a quotation that seemed likely to prove but too felicitous, "The land whither thou goest is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven." The brilliant outbreak of the sun, however, soon dispersed the apprehensions, and rewarded the courage, of the faithful few who ventured forth to the wild, bleak slope of Hungry hill, to inspect the improved system of gathering tubes or "artificial springs," which supply Farnham town with the deliciously pure soft water it enjoys. Mr. Ward demonstrated the superior quality of this "hill top" water, as compared with "valley bottom" water, by the application of the soap test and other chemical re-agents. The contrast thus exhibited was most striking—the hill top water remaining brilliantly pellucid, while the earthy valley bottom water assumed a chalky appearance, exactly like that of the compound which schoolboys designate "sky-blue." After witnessing these experiments, and tasting the cool fresh water drawn directly from the mouth of the main gathering tube, the party drove to Tilford-bridge; beneath which flows a perennial stream of equally pure water, from the upland district called the Hindhead, in quantity sufficient for the domestic supply of London, as Mr. Ward showed by reference to the gaugings of Messrs. Rammell, Bateman, and Clarke, the eminent hydraulic engineers. From Tilford, a most picturesque and romantic drive, alternately through thick woods, over open turf, and down steep narrow lanes, brought the party to Waverley Abbey; amidst the ruins of which an excellent dinner was spread on the grass—a large "bright water-jug" sparkling symbolically in the midst, surrounded by vessels of the same element in the state of ice, from which certain slim, silver-crowned bottles, protruding pleasantly, divided the attention of the company.

Mr. F. O. Ward, in returning thanks for the proposal of his health, referred to the presence of the ladies as a token of the interest excited by the pure "hill-top" water agitation, and an earnest of the success which at no distant period must crown the efforts of the Sanitary Reformers to bring about the definitive abandonment of the sewage-tainted "valley-bottom" river supplies. He also mentioned the curious fact that six centuries ago the Cistercian monks, who inhabited Waverley Abbey (amidst the ruins of which they were then dining), had abandoned the river Wey, though flowing beneath their windows, and had resorted to a distant hill for pure soft water, which they collected and conveyed to the abbey in subterranean pipes closely resembling those laid down on Hungry hill for the supply of Farnham, and recommended for the supply of the metropolis. Those ancient waterworks of Waverley, he added, were planned and executed, according to the old records, "with great pains and difficulty" by a monk called "Brother Simon,"—a name oddly enough identical

with that of the present able City officer of health, who is now, six centuries later, strenuously advocating the adoption of a similar system for the supply of London. Mr. Ward concluded by expressing his earnest hope that such a "bright water jug" as then embellished their repast might sparkle at no distant period on every table in London—from that of our Gracious Queen, who, amidst all the luxuries at her disposal, cannot yet command a draught of pure water—down to that of her humblest subject in the meanest alley of the metropolis.

The day, which passed most brilliantly, terminated with a dance in the crypt of the old abbey; and the party returned to town thoroughly impressed with the superiority of "hill top" over "valley bottom" water; and convinced that having secured at length the blessing of the "big loaf," they should support Mr. F. O. Ward and the sanitary reformers in their meritorious struggle for the "bright water jug."

PROGRESS OF ASSOCIATION.

HALIFAX WORKING MAN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

AT the General Quarterly Meeting of the above Society, held on Monday, August 2nd, 1852, it was unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the Members were especially due to R. A. SLANEY, Esq., late M.P. for Shrewsbury, for his long and unremitting services on behalf of the labouring classes; and a Committee (consisting of the President, the Secretary, with Messrs. Thompson and J. Crossley,) was appointed to prepare an address.

At a Special General Meeting, held on Monday, August 16th, the following was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be signed by the principal officers on behalf of the Society:—

TO ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY, ESQ.

RESPECTED SIR,—We the undersigned, on behalf of THE HALIFAX WORKING MAN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, desire to convey to you, on your retirement from active political life, our unfeigned expressions of esteem and gratitude for a long and continuous series of services in the cause of the Labouring Classes of this country.

Especially would we wish to record our full appreciation of services rendered by you in the Commons House of Parliament; where, at times prominently, and at others unobtrusively, you were for so long a period found devoting your abilities, your time, and your means to inquiring into and legislating upon subjects of the highest moment to our social and political improvement. By means of Committees of Inquiry obtained and assisted by you, and further by your intercourse with the classes in whose welfare you took an interest, masses of most valuable information have been obtained, and made available as the groundwork of healthy and liberal legislation. Improvements in the Poor Laws and Factory Laws, the originating and carrying to a successful issue measures for sanitary, recreative, and prudential purposes, and, more recently, your exertions in obtaining a most important alteration in the laws relating to the investments of our class, attest that these expressions of gratitude and esteem are a very inadequate return for services so disinterested and important.

That your life may long be spared, and that health and prosperity may attend you, in the calm contemplation of the result of your labours, is, we beg to assure you, our sincere and fervent wish.

With every sentiment of respect,

We remain, on behalf of our Society,

Your obedient Servants,

BENJ. WALSHAW, President.

[With other Signatures.]

OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY,
20, COW GREEN, HALIFAX.

SCREW STEAMERS FOR AUSTRALIA.

(From the *Daily News*.)

THE sailing, on Saturday last, of the great "screw," the *Great Britain*, from Liverpool, with emigrants for Australia, has been regarded in that town as a commercial event; and there is every evidence that a new epoch in the history of screw steamers has thus been commenced. The *Great Britain* will be followed by many screws within a few months; and, first, by the *Cleopatra*, now lying in the East India Docks, and which sails for Port Philip and Sidney on the 1st of September. This magnificent vessel (iron) is inferior in size and nominal horse power to the *Great Britain*, but being about the newest screw steamer afloat, she is, probably, in virtue of being the last, the best in the world in point of model, speed, and availability for the purpose of an emigrant ship. She is Clyde-built, by the Messrs. Denny, (her engines by Tulloch and Denny, who are also of Dumbarton), and was intended for the Brazilian trade, recent tempting circumstances explaining her sudden diversion to the line she has now been placed on. The "speculation" is entirely a Liverpool one, and is the result of individual enterprise, unconnected with any "company"—a single Mersey firm, Messrs. McKean and McLarty, in conjunction with Mr. Lamont, an eminent name among the steam-ship owners of Liverpool, having bought the vessel, fitted her, and started her; and her captain (H. R. Cumming)

is a distinguished commander of ocean steamers sailing from the Mersey. She is of 1,500 tons, and of 300 horse power, and will carry out about 320 passengers, in three classes, first, second, and third, in these proportions; viz., 130 cabin, 120 second, and from fifty to seventy third class passengers. As a matter of news, the "fares" may be mentioned, these including bedding, linen, and all sorts of stores and provisions, but not wines or spirits. The fare for the after saloon is 80 guineas; for the fore saloon, 55 guineas; for the second cabin, 40 guineas; third cabin, 25 guineas, (bedding to be provided by the third cabin passengers). The saloons are superbly fitted up; and the other cabins, though destitute of all ornaments, are thoroughly comfortable, spacious, and convenient. The *Cleopatra* presents, of course, all late improvements in steam-ship construction, and is a model for an emigrant ship. The ventilation, in the first place, is perfect; and all the requirements of a long voyage have been fully met. There are six water-tight compartments, and crowds of boats to provide against the chances of wreck; and there are "annihilators" to guard against the more terrible disaster of fire. There is a wonderful "Refrigerator," on a vast scale, in the fore peak, to preserve fresh meat, &c., most of the way; and there is amidstships a more marvellous machine, a condensing apparatus, which may be called a still, its purpose being to convert salt water into fresh. This holds 1,000 gallons; and there is a novelty in the great extent of this application of the principle. Her engines are pronounced by the great marine engine-builders as the most perfect yet produced; and it is noticeable, that they differ from those of the *Great Britain*, which are on the oscillating principle in being on the lever principle, with multiplying powers. Without sails, the *Cleopatra* made a wonderfully rapid passage into the Thames from the Clyde; but with sails (she is full frigate-ship-rigged), she will go at the average easy rate of thirteen knots an hour. She calls at the Cape for coals, and leaves passengers at Adelaide. She is filling fast with passengers, is fully engaged for goods, and, like the *Great Britain*, will probably go out to the "diggings" heavy with specie. If these two screws are successful in their voyages and returns, losing none of their crews by the gold fever, (the *Cleopatra* is manned with eighty seamen and engine-men), we shall no doubt see the great Liverpool-like enterprises imitated generally by private merchants, without the costly intervention of companies; and in that view the sailing of such a vessel as the *Cleopatra*, under such circumstances, on the longest of voyages, is to be regarded as a most important event.

The *Great Britain* sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, with 640 passengers, and a large amount of specie on board. Crowds of spectators watched her departure from both shores of the river. She is of 3500 tons burden, and is propelled by an engine of 500 horse power. She has four masts, upon which may be spread 13,000 yards of canvass. She is capable of accommodating 730 passengers; they are divided into three classes. A "condensor," an apparatus for fresh water from the salt, is fitted up to supply 2000 gallons of fresh water daily. A supply of coal has been sent on to the Cape, which point the *Great Britain* is expected to reach in 25 days. She carries, however, a sufficient quantity of coal to last the whole voyage, under ordinary circumstances. She is expected to reach Melbourne in 56 days from the time of her departure from England.

SCIENTIFIC AIR-VOYAGE.

THE aeronauts, who ascended to the height of 19,500 feet on Tuesday week, have given the following interesting results of their observations:—

From the earth, the sky seemed about three-quarters covered with clouds; the lowest stratum being composed of detached masses of *cumulus*—an intermediate stratum of higher *cumuli*—and *cirrostratus* and *cirrocumuli* above all. The first stratum of clouds was passed very soon after leaving the earth, at the height of about half a mile; the second seemed about two and a half miles high; but the highest *cirrostratus* clouds were still above the greatest elevation of the observers, although apparently not very far. Near the highest point of their course, small star-shaped crystals of snow of perhaps 1-25th or 1-30th of an inch diameter were seen falling, (possibly their apparent fall was due to the rise of the balloon).

"At the elevation to which we attained," says Mr. Welsh, "no personal inconvenience of any moment was experienced; I only perceived a slight oppression about the ears and temples—but no difficulty in breathing. Mr. Nickling perceived, besides, a very slight difficulty in breathing before reaching the greatest height; but the feeling went quickly off, even before we began to descend. So light was any inconvenience which we experienced from the rarity of the air, that it did not

in the least interfere with our regular work of observing and recording. The cold would, of course, have become disagreeable, had we continued long in it."

This voyage, it is observed, should only be considered as preliminary, neither the managing committee nor the observers having any previous experience in aërostation.

SHAMEFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

THE train from Liverpool to Manchester by way of Bolton, which started at three minutes before seven on Monday night, lost nearly an hour in reaching Bolton. When it arrived at that place, the line was blocked by no less than five other trains, reaching over nearly a mile of the line. The first train, which caused the delay of all the rest, was a heavy passenger train, leaving Liverpool at half-past five, and due at Bolton at twenty minutes past seven, though it did not arrive at that place till twenty minutes past nine. This train, which divides into two parts at Bolton, contained passengers both for Manchester and for Yorkshire; some time was occupied in separating them, and placing them in their proper trains. The signal-lamp, which should have warned the driver of the sixth train, and which could have been seen a mile off, was not lighted, for the point-man, whose duty it was to see to this signal, had left at about a quarter to nine. His usual time for leaving was half-past eight; but, on this day, he was warned that there would be extra trains, and that, consequently, his services would be required later. The line, where it approaches Bolton, is curved, and the night being very dark, the driver of the last train did not see the obstructing trains till he came within a distance of about one hundred and twenty-five yards. He ran into the train before him, which was a luggage train, with such force, that the three first carriages of his train, which were third class, were crushed, the middle one being turned up on its fore end, between the other two. Fifteen passengers were injured, but only one seems to be in danger.

The clerk of the Boston station went, after the accident, to the house of the pointsman, whose name is Lee Bancroft. He confessed that he had received the notice requiring him to be prepared by the special trains; but he said he did not think he should be required to remain after his usual time. About half-past twelve the same night, he was found hanging by his neckerchief from a large nail, driven into the top of his sentry-box; he was then quite dead.

It is stated, that it was the duty of the guard of the train which was run into, to have gone back with his lantern when he found that the signal was not alight. It seems that he neglected this duty.

The inquest, held at Docker's Lane, respecting the death of Mr. John Thomas Beddington, was terminated on Wednesday, when the Jury declared themselves of opinion, that the death of John Thomas Beddington was caused in consequence of the ashpan having been severed from the engine, but the cause of such severance was not in evidence before them.

RAILWAYS IN 1851.

CAPTAIN SIMMONS, of the Royal Engineers, has made a report from the railway department of the Board of Trade to the Trade Committee of the Privy Council of the state of railways in 1851. By a series of extracts we shall be able to place before the reader some interesting information connected with the growth of railway system, the causes of the accidents which are constantly occurring, and the revenues derived by the companies.

INCREASE OF RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

The increase that has been made in the railway communication of this country in the year 1851 has not been so great as in any of the preceding years since 1844. Commencing from that period, there was a rapidly progressive increase in the number of miles opened during each successive year. This increase reached its maximum in 1848, in which year 1182 miles of railway were added to those previously opened for the conveyance of passengers. The yearly progress has since 1848 been as rapidly diminishing, the number of miles opened during the last year having only amounted to 269, of which 174 are in England, 9 in Scotland, and 86 in Ireland.

The whole extent of railway communication open for traffic in the United Kingdom at the end of 1851 was 6890 miles, which are distributed in the different parts of the kingdom in the following proportions:—

	Miles.
In England and Wales	5306
In Scotland	960
In Ireland	624

Total in the United Kingdom . . 6890 miles open for public traffic.

It appears, however, that a very considerable portion of these lines will never be constructed, in consequence of the lapse of the powers conferred upon the companies. The following table, compiled from the various acts of Parliament conferring powers upon the companies, and

from returns presented to Parliament, shows that the powers, both for the compulsory purchase of the necessary lands, and for the construction of the works, had ceased without having been exercised with respect to 645 miles, and that the powers for the compulsory purchase of lands had been allowed to expire previous to the end of 1850 (to which date the returns have been made) to a further extent of 571 miles, reducing the number of miles of railway not now open for traffic, for making which the powers were in force at the end of 1850, from 5101 to 3888. And it seems probable that a very large deduction from this number must be still made. From the latest returns which have been presented to Parliament relative to the capital of railway companies, it appears that at the end of 1850 railway companies had raised, either by shares or loans, a sum equal to 240,270,746*l.*, and that they retained powers to raise a further sum of 122,431,900*l.*, but a small proportion of which will ever be applied to the railway purposes contemplated when granted by Parliament.

The sums raised annually previous to the year 1848 cannot be ascertained; but since that period Parliament have required returns from the companies, from which it appears that the sums raised for railway purposes in—

1848 amounted to	£33,234,418
1849	29,574,720
1850	10,522,967

The returns of the sums raised during 1851 have not all, as yet, been received; and therefore the amount raised for the last year cannot be stated.

From a table which has been prepared in continuation of the similar table in the reports of the Commissioners of Railways of preceding years, it appears that the number of persons employed in making railways was 15,947 less on the 30th June, 1851, than on the 29th June, 1850, while the number employed on railways open for traffic has been increased by 3589, showing the persons employed upon railways to have been 12,358 fewer in 1851 than in 1850.

As the very rapid extension of railways consequent on the proceedings of the years 1845 and 1846 appears, from what has been shown before with reference to the capital of railway companies, now to be drawing to a close, the following comparative statement has been prepared with the view of exhibiting the fluctuations in the employment given by these extensive undertakings:—

PERSONS EMPLOYED ON RAILWAYS.

	Upon lines open for traffic.	Annual increase.	Upon lines in course of construction.	Annual decrease.
On May 1, 1847	47,218	5470	256,509	68,332
May 1, 1848	52,688		188,178	
June 30, 1849	55,968	4006	103,816	44,931
June 29, 1850	59,974		58,885	
June 30, 1851	63,563	3589	42,938	15,947
Tot. incr.		16,345	Total decr.	213,571
		Incr. on lines open		16,345
		Balance of decrease		197,226

The general result is, that on the 30th of June, 1851, the number of persons employed upon railways, either in construction or working, was 197,226 less than at the corresponding period in 1847. It would appear, therefore, that in the interval which has elapsed, this number of persons, who must have been withdrawn from other industrial occupations in consequence of the great demand for labour created by the impetus given in 1845 and 1846 to the construction of railways, has been again absorbed in other occupations, and obtain a living by other means.

The reduction of labour, as divided between the three kingdoms, is as follows:—

The number of persons employed on the 30th June, 1851, is less than on the 1st May, 1847—

In England and Wales by	125,296
In Scotland by	49,306
In Ireland by	22,624

Total diminution 197,226

From this it will be seen that the cessation of railway works has fallen more especially upon Scotland, where the greatest proportionate reduction in the persons employed has taken place.

The number of persons employed in each country on the 30th June, 1851, was—

In England and Wales	80,612
In Scotland	8,802
In Ireland	17,087

Total 106,501

ACCIDENTS.

On the subject of accidents it is to be observed, that 36 passengers have been returned as killed, and 375 injured, during the year 1851; these numbers showing a very great increase as compared with the preceding year, when only 32 passengers were killed and 183 injured.

It must not be assumed, however, that all of these accidents to passengers were accidents arising from causes beyond their own control, and are therefore to be considered as attributable to the dangers of railway travelling; for, upon examining the returns, it appears that during the year 1851 no less than 17 passengers were killed and 20 injured owing to their own misconduct or want of caution, leaving 19 killed and 355 injured as the total number of sufferers from causes beyond their own control.

With respect to the 37 passengers either killed or injured by their own misconduct or want of caution, it appears

that no fewer than 24 of these accidents (9 killed, 15 injured) arose from passengers attempting either to get into or out of trains whilst in motion.

On this subject it may be worthy of observation that during the same period (the year 1851) eight servants of railway companies, persons therefore, it may be presumed, in the habit of moving about, more or less, upon engines and trains, were killed, and seven injured from the same cause. Such a statement ought to operate as a caution to passengers not to leave their seats or to attempt to get into carriages while the trains are in motion; for if experienced officials constantly employed upon railways meet with such frequent disasters from this cause, it is naturally to be expected that inexperienced people, in making similar attempts to get either upon or off trains in motion, will be much more subject to accidents of this character. This result, giving a total of 374 sufferers, when viewed with reference to the number of passengers conveyed during the year, which amounted to 85,391,095, appears not unsatisfactory, being about 4 in 1,000,000; but when compared with the returns of the preceding year (1850), it appears that the traffic has not been conducted nearly with the same degree of safety in 1851 as in 1850; for while the number of passengers conveyed has increased in the ratio of about 17 per cent., the number of passengers injured by causes beyond their own control, which may be considered as a measure of the relative safety upon railways during different periods, has more than doubled, the ratio of increase being 104 per cent.

It will be found also, upon reference to the last annual report of the Commissioners of Railways, that the casualties in 1850 more than doubled those that occurred in 1849, so that relatively the risk of danger in travelling upon railways appears to have considerably increased.

It is matter of observation that this increase of accidents has taken place concurrently with the extension of the system of excursion trains, which has been principally developed within the last two years; and it is also to be observed that in the same period the number of persons employed upon each mile of railway open for traffic has decreased, as shown by the returns presented to Parliament, which are made up for the 30th June in each year, at which date it may be presumed that the excursion traffic is in full operation.

The average number of persons employed upon all the railways in the United Kingdom open for traffic were on the—

30th June, 1849	10·27 per mile
29th June, 1850	9·56 "
30th June, 1851	9·49 "

It is, however, right to observe that this reduction in the average number of persons employed may be in some degree to be attributed to improvements in the management of the railways, and to the consideration that the railways which have been opened in late years have traversed less populous districts than the railways first constructed, and have therefore required fewer persons to conduct the traffic upon them. These accidents may be classified under two heads:—

1. Those which arise from accidental failure of machinery, or from defects in the roadway or works.

1. Those which arise from defects in the establishment and management of the railways.

This head may be further subdivided into—

A. Inherent defects in the system upon which the traffic is conducted.

B. Defects in regulations.

C. Inattention to regulations, or inexperience of servants.

D. Want of punctuality.

Of the 41 accidents that have been reported upon, 2 only appear to belong exclusively to the first class, while 25 belong to the second class, and in 14 are involved circumstances falling under both classes.

The remedies suggested are, that goods trains and passengers trains should not run during the same time; that more care should be bestowed on the points; that greater accuracy should be obtained in time-tables; and that time-tables should be given to the drivers of goods trains.

TRAFFIC.

It appears that the number of passengers travelling on railways in England and Wales, which in 1850 amounted to 58,514,435, reached 70,471,179 in 1851, showing an increase of 20 per cent.; while the receipts from these passengers rose from 5,888,603*l.* to 6,952,612*l.*, being an increase of 18 per cent. This increase in a great degree is to be attributed to the Great Exhibition.

The general results of traffic over all the railways in the United Kingdom show that the aggregate number of passengers conveyed in 1850 amounted to 72,854,422; in 1851 to 85,391,095; being an increase of 12,536,873, or 17·2 per cent.

The gross receipts from passengers in 1850 amounted to 6,827,761*l.*; in 1851 to 7,940,764*l.*; showing an increase of 1,113,003*l.*, or 16·3 per cent.

The gross sum received for the transport of goods amounted in 1850 to 6,376,907*l.*; in 1851 to 7,056,695*l.*, showing an increase of 679,788*l.*, or 10·6 per cent.

The gross revenue of all the railways arising from traffic of all descriptions, which in 1850 amounted to 13,204,668*l.*, amounted in 1851 to 15,997,459*l.*, or very nearly 15 millions, showing an increase in the receipts for the year of 1,792,791*l.*, or 13·5 per cent.

SUGAR TREASON.

THE Liverpool Jamaica Association held a meeting on Tuesday, to receive a deputation from the island concerning its present distressed condition.

Mr. J. B. Yates, who took the chair, complained

that the pledges given by the Government to the planters had never been redeemed. Of the 20,000,000Z. awarded to them for compensation only 17,000,000Z. or 18,000,000Z. had ever been received by them, the rest being expended in collection and management, while the real value of the slaves amounted to 60,000,000Z. One half of the sugar estates had been abandoned, and the remainder were not half cultivated. Formerly 150,000 hhds. of sugar had been produced, while the present production was not above 35,000 hhds. He thought they should claim a repayment of the whole property unjustly taken from them—not merely the portion not paid for the slaves, but the property in lands, buildings, machinery, and property of every kind which had become annihilated by the operation of these laws. At any rate, they should demand that more labourers should be introduced into the colony at the expense of the Government; and assistance should be afforded in irrigation, in the formation of roads and railways, and in the education of the blacks.

A resolution, declaring that the colony was entitled to relief from the Government of this country was proposed by Mr. Girod, one of the deputation from Jamaica.

Mr. Smith, also one of the deputation, moved a resolution, declaring that the difference of duty should be increased between that levied upon colonial and that upon foreign sugar by diminishing the former. He thought that it would be far better for the interests of Jamaica for the "painter" to be cut between that colony and England. Let her drift to the United States, who would be very glad to have her. (Cheers.)

GLASGOW ON DIRECT TAXATION.

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of the city of Glasgow, held in the Trades' Hall, on the evening of Monday, the 26th of July, 1852, in terms of requisition to the Lord Provost, numerous signed, Mr. Alexander Alison was called to the chair. The following resolutions were read, and the adoption of the same was moved by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Buckie, farmer, and carried by acclamation, viz.:—

"1st. Whereas the adoption of a simple and equitable system of direct taxation, fairly levied on income, in lieu of the present unequal, complicated, and expensively-collected duties on commodities, would reduce the burden of taxation, and the loss connected therewith, to about one-half of the present amount: and whereas the present system creates class privileges, which are destructive of peace and general prosperity, it becomes necessary to reconsider the whole question of the general taxation of the country, with the objects, first, of reducing taxation, and second, of perfecting the Free-trade policy, so that industry and trade may be improved, and the grievances of those classes which suffer from the present partial state of Free-trade may be redressed. It is resolved that this meeting recognises the principle, that every man should be taxed in proportion to his income, as the only true and equitable method of taxation, and that the whole revenue of the nation should be raised by an income tax based on that principle.

"2nd. That this meeting approves generally of Mr. Alison's scheme of direct taxation, but in doing so, offers no opinion on questions of detail, as each may safely be confided to the wisdom of Parliament.

"3rd. That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in terms of these resolutions, be signed by the chairman, in name of the meeting: the petition to the Lords to be entrusted to the Duke of Newcastle, and that to the Commons to Alexander Hastie, Esq., M.P., and John Macgregor, Esq., M.P., with a request that they will present them to Parliament, and support the prayer.

"4th. That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a memorial from the committee, setting forth the advantages which direct taxation, in preference to the present system, would confer on all classes, and praying its adoption.

"5th. That a committee be appointed, to obtain subscriptions, and take what measures may be necessary to forward the object of the foregoing resolutions."

ALEXANDER ALISON, Chairman.

DUBLIN EXHIBITION OF 1853.

The following descriptive particulars of Mr. Benson's design, which has been adopted for the Exhibition Building, will be read with interest:—Presenting a front to Merriion-square of 300 feet, the main or centre feature of the elevation consists of a semicircular projection, which forms the eastern termination of the Central Hall. This will be a noble apartment of 425 feet in length, and 100 feet in height, covered by a semicircular roof upon trellis ribs, in one span of 100 feet. On each side of the centre hall, and running parallel to it for the same length, are two halls 50 feet wide, with domed roofs, similar to that which covers the main nave or hall of the building. The height from the floor to the roof of each of these halls will be 65 feet. They are approached through passages from the centre hall. In addition to these three halls are four compartments of 25 feet wide, running the whole length of the building; two are placed between the centre hall and the side halls, and two on each side of the latter; divided into sections of 25 feet square, forming convenient divisions for the purposes of classi-

fication. Over these compartments are spacious galleries, also running the length of the building, which will not only afford increased space for exhibition, but be an agreeable promenade from whence the effect of the three halls will be seen to great advantage. The ceiling of the halls being divided into panels formed by the trellis ribs, and the other constructive parts of the building, will provide ample opportunity for effective decoration. Light is admitted from above in one unbroken and equally distributed body. The construction of the building is strongly marked on the elevation, and forms, in fact, the ornamental character of the design. There are also external galleries, which will be attractive features in the exterior, and will be useful in providing access to the roof for repairs, &c. The termination of each of the principal roofs to the east and west is semispherical, giving strength as well as effect to the building. There will be three entrances in the front facing Merriion-square, under a range of verandahs, through which access will be had for the holders of season tickets and the general public. The materials of the building will be iron, timber, and glass. The latter will only be used for light, as before described. The parts of the roof at each side of the lights will be timber, covered with the waterproof cloth, manufactured by Messrs. Malcolmson, of Portlaw, county Waterford. The trellis girders which support the galleries will be of wrought iron, supported on cast iron pillars. Ample accommodation in the way of refreshment, retiring rooms, offices, &c., is provided in the plan. Access to the building can also be had by the spacious courtyard of the Royal Dublin Society, whose suite of apartments, including the museum, will be thrown open to the public during the Exhibition. The available area of ground floor will be 147,704 feet. Of wall space there will be not less than 87,000 feet. The design, not only in respect to the striking and bold effect of the elevation, but also of the interior, is deserving of the highest praise. Mr. Benson appears to have forgotten the Crystal Palace, and has had the courage to think for himself. He has produced a design worthy of the purpose contemplated, and highly creditable to his artistic and practical character as an architect.

ILLEGAL ORANGE PROCESSIONS.

THE Liverpool Orangemen, eleven in number, who were arrested while making procession through the town on the 12th of August, were tried at Liverpool before Lord Campbell on Saturday. After the Attorney-General had opened the case by detailing the facts which were admitted on behalf of the prisoners, Lord Campbell expressed his opinion that such processions were unquestionably illegal. It was then urged for the defence that some of the accused had simply joined the procession, upon which Lord Campbell stated decidedly that those who had not arms in their possession were acting quite as illegally as those who had. Lord Campbell suggested that the prisoners, with the exception of one against whom there was no case, should plead guilty, on the understanding that they should be discharged on their own recognizances in the sum of 50Z. to come up and receive judgment when called upon, saying, that if they refused and were found guilty, he should feel bound to pass a severe sentence. The prisoners seemed very unwilling to do so, but their counsel, with some difficulty, persuaded them to acquiesce.

Two men, both Orangemen, were indicted on the same day for having created a riot at Wigan, on the day of the election. One of them, Leadbetter, had been seen towards the close of the election, which had hitherto gone on quietly, going with a body of men, armed with bludgeons, towards a part of the town inhabited by Roman Catholics, where their appearance would be certain to create a riot. They were afterwards joined by Blinkhorne, the other prisoner. A riot ensued, in which stones were thrown, and Blinkhorne had been seen more than once to fire a pistol. They were both found guilty.

Seven other men were afterwards tried for similar offences committed on the same occasion, and they were all found guilty. Blinkhorne was sentenced to three months imprisonment, and the others to lighter punishments.

CAPTAIN SHEPHEARD ONCE MORE.

Thomas James Holloway, a young man in the service of the notorious Captain Shephard, and whose duties partly consisted, it is said, in carrying home articles which his employer may have left at his club, was charged by the Captain, at the Middlesex Sessions on Wednesday, with stealing a coat from the hall.

The Captain, as usual, gave great entertainment to the Court by his behaviour; he said that when the coat was taken there was an artificial sprig of myrtle

in the buttonhole, furnished to him by a sweet young lady in the Burlington-arcade.

The coat was then produced, which the Captain examined closely with his eyeglass, and on being asked if he could identify it, replied, "Oh, yes, I can swear to it; why there is the very pin the young lady put in. She is very pretty, my lord (to Mr. Witham, the chairman) but she is married."

An amusing conversation took place between the Captain and Mr. Payne, who appeared for the boy. In reply to a question from Mr. Payne the Captain admitted he had sometimes been in a station-house. He assured Mr. Payne that no man ever yet got through the imperturbability of his good temper. "I give you fair warning," he said, "but I advise you to try—I really should like you to try. Now, do try" (persuasively).

Mr. Payne.—I believe you are the celebrated Captain Shephard who so often figures in the police reports?

Captain Shephard.—Yes, I am; but, then, you know, I am not responsible for all the nonsense they put in the papers about me. Have you seen the *Morning Herald* this morning?

Mr. Payne.—No, I have not.

Captain Shephard.—Well, I wish you had, for there you will see a complete refutation which I have written to that last case.

Mr. Payne.—You were fined, I believe, the other day for sticking a man with a fork at Brentford?

Captain Shephard.—Yes, I was. I was fined 10s. by the magistrate.

Mr. Payne.—And you were confined, too, by the magistrate, for it?

Captain Shephard.—Oh, no, I was confined by the police, not by the magistrate, and very improperly, too; but you know that very well; you know all about it. (Laughter.)

Mr. Payne.—And then you summoned him for detaining your portmanteau?

Captain Shephard (thoughtfully).—Yes, I think I did.

Mr. Payne.—Oh, you must remember. It was where you produced the lady with the little foot—the "Exhibition" foot—the shape of which was sent as a model to China—that you wanted to show the magistrate, but he would not look at it.

Captain Shephard (rapturously).—Ah! how pleased he would have been if he had seen it. I wish you had seen it. You would never have laughed at it if you had. (Laughter.)

Mr. Payne.—And you used to shoot bows and arrows into her leg?

Captain Shephard.—Ah, so she said.

In reference to this little amusement the Captain made use of an expression, which he assured the Court was a technical phrase in his profession, but which was rather too coarse to be repeated here.

Mr. Payne.—And you sometimes amused yourself in the morning by biting dogs' tails off?

Captain Shephard (meditatively).—I tried a puppy dog's tail once, but I did not succeed—no, I did not succeed; and I never tried the experiment again.

Mr. Payne.—You also used to pull up the flowers in other people's gardens?

Captain Shephard (briskly).—Hollyhocks, oh yes—only hollyhocks.

Mr. Payne.—You were taken up before a magistrate for beating the boys?

Captain Shephard.—Yes, I was fined 5Z. for it.

Mr. Payne.—You were locked up, too, Captain, were you not?

Captain Shephard.—Ah, but you must allow me to explain the circumstances. I was fined 5Z., and it was Saturday; I had only 2Z. with me, and could not procure the remaining sum in time, so I was locked up in Coldbath-fields prison till Monday. I summoned the officer for this improper treatment, and I will again. (Laughter.) The magistrate on that occasion dismissed the charge, and (shrugging his shoulders) will again. (Renewed laughter.) I have written to the Secretary of State, but have not yet received a reply.

Mr. Payne.—And you said, "When the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw. Shakespeare—hem?"

Captain Shephard.—Do you never quote Shakespeare? But, pardon me, when you make a quotation you should make it correctly, and if you will just turn to *Hamlet* and see what he says on the subject of the southerly wind, hawks, and handsaws, you will perceive that you are wrong in your quotation. Ahem! I have a witness here to prove it.

Mr. Payne.—Oh, is the lady here to-day?

Captain Shephard.—No, I have brought another lady here—not the same one; (politely) perhaps you would like to see her?

Mr. Payne.—No, I thank you, Captain; but perhaps you will tell me how many times you have been in the station-house?

Captain Shephard.—Which station-house? You see, as I am here on oath, I must be particular in asking which station-house?

Mr. Payne.—Oh, I beg pardon; I mean station-houses.

Captain Shephard.—I will try and remember. (Slowly) Twice, I think, in Vine-street, and once in Westminster. It must be understood that I give this information gratuitously. It has not yet appeared in the papers. It was for throwing an oyster-shell through a fanlight.

Mr. Payne.—Were you ever in a lunatic asylum?

Captain Shephard (to the judge).—My Lord, if I am to answer this question I must be very discursive. If it is considered by you at all relevant to the case I will reply with pleasure, but I must explain at great length.

Mr. Payne.—Well, I will not press the question.

Captain Shephard.—Well, I am sorry for it. I wish you had.

Mr. Payne.—Well, this boy lived with you. Did you not speak to him improperly about women?

Captain Shephard.—I did speak to him about women. But the expression you make use of, sir, is a very loose one. Why, I might have said to him, "Tell the chambermaid to bring up the hot water." That is what I should call talking about women; and I may have spoken in that way, but not improperly.

Mr. Payne.—Has he not sometimes paid for your cabs?

Captain Shephard.—I have never asked him to do so as a favour, but he may have paid for me because I am very frequently without money, because I have given up carrying much about with me, for the last time I did so I was robbed of sixteen sovereigns. He never paid for my dinner. As to my being "cracked," I refer you to Dr. Anderson, Sir W. Burnett, Sir James Mackenzie, and others whom I have consulted. If you want further proof I refer you to my letter in the *Morning Herald*.

Captain Shephard here wished to say something in extenuation of the boy's crime.

Mr. Payne.—Why, you seem to forget that you said you wished him to be transported.

Captain Shephard.—Yes, certainly I did, because I have some influential friends in Australia who will take care of him there and get him on, for I am convinced that he will be ruined in the House of Correction if he is sent there.

Mr. Payne urged that the prisoner had no intention of stealing the coat, but presuming upon the intimate terms on which he was with the Captain, had probably thought he might raise a small sum on the coat. He proved that Holloway had generally borne an excellent character.

The jury, after some consultation, acquitted the prisoner, upon which Captain Shephard crossed over to Mr. Payne and shook hands with him, asking "If he had such a thing as a half-crown about him?"—Jeremy Diddler. Hem!" After which he left the court.

THE "MYSTERIOUS STRANGER."

THE police brought a young man, respectably dressed, who gave his name as John Green, before Mr. Corrie on Tuesday, and charged him with loitering about Middleton-square, at three o'clock in the morning, with intent to commit felony. He had refused to give any account of himself. When asked by the magistrate for an explanation of his conduct, the young man, in a melancholy tone of voice, said that he had his especial reasons for withholding his address; but he assured the magistrate, that he had no intention of committing a felony. He had merely sat down to rest himself. A policeman declared that he had found him before, sitting on the same door-step, early in the morning, but this was denied by the prisoner. On being asked by Mr. Corrie where he would go if discharged, the young man said, sullenly, "As I have told you before, I have my especial reasons for not answering your questions, and I shall not answer you. I would rather be sent to prison. I shall not go home if I am set at liberty. My reasons are too strong to explain who or what I am, or anything about my friends or connexions." Mr. Corrie afterwards had a private interview with him; but he still refused to give any explanation. He was remanded, in order that inquiries might be made respecting him, there being an impression that he was deranged.

TRIAL OF THE THAMES "WRECKERS."

THE Southend boatmen, who, as it was stated some time since, had made an attack upon the wreck of the *Renown*, which was lying stranded upon the Nore Sand for the purpose of depredation, were brought before the magistrates at Rochford on Thursday week, but the investigation was not concluded till Saturday.

The only evidence of importance which throw any new light upon the matter, was that of Mr. Hay, the receiver of droits, who stated that he had given authority to one of the defendants to go on board the vessel to render assistance, as he had done on previous occasions when vessels were stranded in the neighbourhood, and that he knew all the defendants to bear an excellent character; and that of the boatmen who had accompanied the defendants, who stated that the mate of the vessel had given them permission to go on board, and had assisted them in saving the cargo.

The magistrates acquitted them of the charge of wrongfully carrying away cargo, but convicted them of entering on board the vessel without the leave or permission of the person in charge, for which they were fined 5*l.* each, or, in default of payment, sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Notice has been given of an appeal against the conviction of the magistrates.

SKITTLE SHARPING.

THREE men, John Mulloney, George Collins, and Samuel Ridgely, were charged at the Mansion House, on Saturday, with cheating Daniel Barker of 3*l.* or 4*l.* at skittles. The landlord of the "Sun" public-house, in Bishopsgate-street, where they engaged the ground, suspecting some foul play, sent for one of the City detective police, who watched the whole proceedings. Barker was induced to play with Ridgely, at first for smaller sums, when he was allowed to win, and afterwards for as much as 1*l.* a game, which the sharpers took care that he should lose. Mulloney and

Collins, in setting up the pins, took care to place them far apart when Barker was to throw, and to set them near together when their confederate was to play. At the same time they prevented any suspicion by betting on Barker's play. They took care, meanwhile, that Barker should be plentifully supplied with spirits. They continued this game till they had got all Barker's money, when, as they were about to carry off their booty, the officer offered his services to conduct them to the station-house. On their way thither, one of them was seen to throw away a counterfeit sovereign, and another of them was found to have a sham coin in his possession. One of them is well known to have practised this profession for some time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prince Albert completed his thirty-third year on Thursday. At one o'clock the Park guns fired a salute, and the various churches westward of Temple-bar hoisted their flags in honour of the day. There was no especial military display at the Horse Guards.

We understand that the authorities have it in contemplation to purchase the extensive property of the Earl of Harrington, situated at Old Brompton, for the purpose of erecting a new National Gallery. The Government are favourably disposed as to the site as a most eligible place for the building.—*Morning Herald*.

The crops in the Metropolitan and Southern Counties had suffered considerably from the weather at the beginning of the week. In many places the corn had sprouted very much, and a great quantity had been beaten out of the ears. The Midland Counties also presented an unfavourable prospect. The Northern districts had fared better. The last two or three days have, however, revived the hopes of the farmers, and the latest reports from various parts of the kingdom are more encouraging.

Mr. Hind states that he discovered a new planet on Sunday night in the constellation Aquarius. It may readily be seen with a telescope of very ordinary power, and equals in brightness a star of the ninth magnitude, appearing to have the same yellowish tinge that has been noticed about Pallas, Melpomene, and others of the same group of planets. At 11h. 35m. 38s., Greenwich mean time (August 22), its right ascension was 22h. 22m. 29.7s., and its north polar distance 97° 32' 14"; the diurnal motion in right ascension is 53s. towards the west, and in N.P.D. about 5' towards the south.

Lord and Lady Palmerston were on Monday at Markree on a short visit.

The *Aberdeen Herald* mentions a report that the state of Mr. Macaulay's health will prevent him from sitting as a representative of Edinburgh.

Mr. Feargus O'Connor's health is said to be rapidly improving under the care of Dr. Tuke.

The burgesses of Manchester decided on Friday week, almost unanimously, to carry out the provisions of the Public Libraries and Museums Act for the future support of the Free Library.

The Duke of Wellington has been actively engaged during the last ten days in completing the necessary preliminaries for the formation of the militia in Hampshire and the Tower Hamlets, over which districts he is lord-lieutenant.

The *Galway Vindicator* stated, that Mr. Robert J. Walker, late United States Secretary, and one of the most distinguished financiers and statesmen in America, was daily expected in Galway, probably with a view to the establishment of a line of packets between New York and that town.

Miss Martineau visited Belfast last week, and on Thursday proceeded to Dublin, on her way to the west of Ireland. It is now twenty-one years since Miss Martineau paid her last visit to this country, having in the meantime travelled in the East and America, giving to the world, as usual, instructive and entertaining accounts of her wanderings.

The senior painter of Germany, M. de Wächter, member of the Royal Institution of Stuttgart, has just died in that place, aged 90. He was originally a pupil of the French painter David, and afterwards studied at Rome. He resided for many years at Vienna, where he was distinguished as an historical painter. When afterwards he came to pass the end of his life at Stuttgart, Frederick I. made him Conservator of the Royal Cabinet of Engravings and Professor at the Beaux Arts, which places he retained to the last.

A model lodging-house has recently been established in Liverpool, to accommodate thirty inmates, at a charge of 2*s.* 4*d.* a week.

The floor of the Crystal Palace will be taken up at the end of this week, when vast treasures are expected by some to be brought to light. It is said that large sums have been offered for the first search.

We read in the *Constitutionnel*:—"It appears that a certain number of Englishmen have considered it necessary to address what they call fraternal letters to the principal towns of France, in the name of about fifty English towns. The town of Caen has just received its letter, Chelmsford having been designated to correspond with the inhabitants of the Norman city. The Mayor of Caen has announced his intention to reply to the inhabitants of Chelmsford in the name of his fellow-citizens."

Hussey's and McCormack's reaping-machines were tried at Cirencester on Tuesday; but the result can hardly be considered a test of their respective merits, as the machine

sent by McCormack was evidently a bad specimen. Hussey's machine performed its work very creditably, cutting three acres of wheat in two hours and ten minutes. McCormack's, however, broke down at the very first, and after three or four hours had been spent in repairing it, a fresh catastrophe occurred, which occasioned another delay. When it was at last got to work, one of the cog-wheels gave much trouble by becoming clogged with soil and stubble.

It seems that the enterprising emigrants to the Australian district of Victoria are no longer to be left to the tender mercies of the land sharks on their arrival. A company is about to be formed, as we hear, under good auspices, for the purpose of establishing hotels both at Melbourne and Geelong, and even at the diggings; and this in connexion with, what has now become an absolute necessity, an Inland Carrying Establishment. It is said that the hotels are to be fitted with every comfort for the various classes of emigrants, including baths, reading rooms, and medical attendance. We hail this enterprise as likely to contribute more largely to the welfare of the colony than any which has yet been devised, and the promoters have our best wishes for their success.

An immense refracting telescope has been erected on Wandsworth-common, constructed under the superintendence of Mr. W. Gravatt, F.R.S., for the Rev. Mr. Craig, vicar of Leamington. The main tube is seventy-six feet in length, and thirteen feet in circumference at its widest part. The object glasses are twenty-four inches in diameter; one is of flint glass, made by Mr. Chance, of Birmingham, and the other is of plate glass, cast by the Thames Plate Glass Company. The telescope is sustained by a tower sixty-four feet in height. The tube rests upon a framework, which runs upon a circular railway at a distance of fifty-two feet from the centre of the tower. The arrangements are such that the telescope can be readily directed to any point in the heavens.

The village of Erith, on the Thames, was visited on Monday last by an excursion party of about 1000 persons from the district of St. Philip, Bethnal-green. The party was composed of working men and their wives, the elder children of the Sunday school with their teachers, the clergy of the district and the churchwardens, and a few friends interested in all that concerns the working man. Refreshments were provided for the party in Mr. MacLure's gardens. A band was in attendance, and the young people were amused with dancing and rustic games. They returned home at six o'clock. The clergy of the district are endeavouring to form a good library, and to establish lectures for the working men, but their funds are short.

Mrs. Chisholm has been accused of being a propagandist Roman Catholic by the "shipping interest," or some other "interest" whose profits are endangered by her efforts. At a meeting held at the Parochial School-room, Clapham-common, to hear an address from that lady, at which the rector presided, it was stated that he had received a letter, warning him from taking the chair, because Mrs. Chisholm was a Roman Catholic. Mrs. Chisholm stated that when she commenced her work, the bishop of the colony had directed his chaplain to write to her and ask a few questions. She had replied to him, and ever since there had been a good feeling between her and the bishop. On commencing her exertions on her return to this country, a benevolent nobleman, hearing of her efforts, said he would raise a few hundreds to help, but the shipowners, who were afraid she was going to ruin their trade, called upon him and dropped their venom in. They said, "Mrs. Chisholm is a good kind of woman, but people cannot trust her; she is an agent of the Propaganda." The nobleman was afraid, and the subscriptions did not come in. She had persevered, however, and had ultimately obtained much success.

Mr. Webster, the manager of the Haymarket Theatre, has brought an action against Mr. Gurnett, the publisher of the *Manchester Guardian*, for the following libel:—"Wednesday and Thursday being left open, because of the extraordinary neglect of Mr. Webster, lessee of the Haymarket Theatre, who, after a letter of large promises, was written to thrice without deigning any answer, and when a telegraph letter at length extorted a reply, it was such as to determine the committee to make other arrangements without seeking any aid from Mr. Webster." Mr. Webster had been applied to for his gratuitous assistance in a series of dramatic performances which were to take place in Manchester for the benefit of some local charities, and he readily promised to give his aid so far as his own engagements would permit. But, being busily engaged in the production of a comedy, entitled "Mind your own business," in which he himself was to take a part, Mr. Webster had written to the committee in Manchester to excuse his absence. His letter was, however, from some cause, delayed a day beyond the time he had expected it to come to hand, so that his name appeared in the announcements. Two or three days after appeared the obnoxious paragraph quoted above. The action came on for trial at Liverpool on Saturday, when a verdict was returned for the defendant.

Messieurs. Gratiolet and S. Cloez have demonstrated by careful experiments that the pustular contents of the skin of the toad and of the salamander are poisonous, and alkaline in their nature.

The *Vienna Gazette* of the 17th inst., informs that "The court-martial sitting in Vienna has sentenced Maria Swobada, clothes-maker, to fifteen blows with rods, and fourteen days confinement in irons, for verbal and actual injury of the officers of public security."

Captain Parkin, of the *Radiant*, was approaching England on his return from the East Indies, when one night, about three weeks ago, he suddenly found a great snake-serpent of the most venomous kind in his cabin. A light was obtained, and the reptile was destroyed after a short contest.

Exeter was visited on Thursday week by a violent thunder-storm. The rain was so heavy as to cause considerable damage, and a sewer was so much weakened

that a vehicle in attempting to pass over, broke in, with severe injury to the horse and driver. Several persons standing in a passage were struck by the lightning, one of them being killed and the rest severely injured. The electricity passed over two persons standing at the door without doing them any injury.

Some days ago a strange looking object was observed on the stone banks in Mill Bay, near Harwich harbour. On closer inspection it was found to be a fish, which spouted up a stream of water to the height of twelve feet. The creature was attacked by means of a knife fastened to a pole, and the wounds inflicted on it weakened it so far as to enable the men to pass a rope round its tail and so to haul it up upon the beach. A scythe was then brought, and with this they inflicted a mortal wound, but the dying struggles of the monster were so violent as to drive back the crowd of spectators. It is supposed to be a fin-backed or rock whale, and measures twenty-one feet in length and fifteen in girth.

The body of a fine infant, which seems to have met its death from violence, was found on Wednesday night on the roof of a stable in Salisbury Wharf, Adelphi.

Mr. William Cooper Robinson, an attorney of Hull, has been charged with forging an I O U for 1000*l.* Mr. Pritchett, by whom the document purported to be signed, denying all knowledge of it.

Three women were brought before Mr. Henry on Tuesday, charged with attempting to destroy themselves. They seem all to have been more or less drunk. They were all remanded.

On the arrival of her Majesty's yacht at Osborne, from Antwerp, on account of some information given to the revenue officers, it was searched, and about eighty pounds of tobacco were found there. Considerable quantities were found on board the other yachts of the Royal Squadron.

Above two tons of contraband tobacco was found on board the cutter *Elizabeth*, belonging to Yarmouth. She was captured off Tilbury, having apparently nothing but bloaters on board. The tobacco was concealed under a second deck, beneath the ballast.

Two prisoners in Appleby gaol, named Moor and Thexton, attacked the turnkey on the morning of Thursday week, when he came to open the doors of their sleeping cells, and threatened to murder him, if he refused to give up the keys. The cries of the turnkey brought assistance, but not before he was seriously injured.

Thomas Jones and William Williams were tried at Liverpool on Saturday, before Mr. Bliss, Q.C., for obtaining money under false pretences from persons intending to emigrate. It was proved that they had received 14*l.* from a man named Pridham, and 20*l.* from another named Mills, on the pretence of finding them a passage on board a vessel. The jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Two Irishwomen appeared before the Lord Mayor on Wednesday to dispute the maternity of a baby nine months old. The complainant, Mrs. Toohy, stated that her baby had been stolen from her in February, when in the charge of her little girl. The daughter recognised Mrs. Mooney as the woman who had stolen the child, and Mrs. Toohy was sure it was her baby. On the other hand the prisoner declared it was her baby, and had been born and baptized in Cork. Alderman Challis said he was in a difficult position, and remanded the case in the hopes that the police would throw some light on it. It seems he had not sufficient confidence in Solomon's mode of treating such cases.

Mr. Gardiner, the landlord of the George Tavern in Fenchurch-street, of which house he has been in possession for above nine years, having observed that the drain beneath the cellar had been choked for some days, had the sewer opened. It was found that the obstruction was caused by a metal case, about the size of an ordinary house-pail, which was hermetically closed. This singular receptacle was opened, and in it were found the lower parts of the body of a woman. The origin of this strange deposit is altogether mysterious, but it is believed to have remained there for several years.

Three houses were broken into on Sunday, in the neighbourhood of Sturminster Newton. The house of Mr. Thomas Rowe, brick-maker, was taken during the morning service, the family being at church, and a considerable quantity of plate was carried off. Another house was attacked during the afternoon service, and two others were disposed of during the evening service. Some strange and suspicious persons, who were seen lurking about at the time of the robberies, have been captured at the house of William Hobbs, a tailor of Sherborne, having in their possession various housebreaking implements, but none of the articles stolen on the occasions specified above. Some circumstances have been discovered which afford a clue to the identification of some of the prisoners.

Dr. Dodd has at length a rival. The Reverend J. Nisbett, who was summoned before the magistrates at Worcester some weeks ago, on a charge of forging a bill of exchange, was again brought before Mr. Sidebottom on Monday. One of the signatures to the bill purported to be that of Richard Mitchell, who was stated by Mr. Nisbett to be a clerk in the goods department at the Nine Elms station of the South Western Company. It was proved on this occasion by Mr. J. P. Newman, a clerk at that station, that there was no person of the name of Richard Mitchell employed at that station from September 1847 up to the present time. Mr. Elgie, who appeared for Mr. Nisbett, declined to enter upon any defence at that time. The prisoner was committed for trial. It was decided that the prisoner should be admitted to bail in the sum of 1000*l.*, with two sureties in 500*l.* each.

Mr. George Frederick Carden, the barrister, who has become notorious for his vexatious complaints against policemen, charged Benjamin Bayley, at the Middlesex Sessions, with stealing a quantity of printed paper and prints. The stolen goods consisted of old numbers of the

Court and Ladies Magazine, of which Mr. Carden was the editor and proprietor, which had been sold by Bayley as waste paper. A good deal of altercation took place between Mr. Carden, who conducted his own case, and Mr. Parry, who appeared for the prisoner. Mr. Carden admitted, on cross-examination, that a confectioner's business was carried on in his house in Rathbone-place, where he left Mrs. Bayley and three other young women to conduct the business, although, as he said, there was little or nothing for them to do. There seemed some doubt whether the charge had not been made on account of Bayley's having accused Mr. Carden of improper familiarity with his wife. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal.

Two Irishwomen, named Margaret Mills and Mary Madden, were brought before the Lord Mayor on Wednesday, by Horsford, an officer of the Mendicity Society. It was stated that they had followed Mr. Solly, whose charitable disposition seems to have rendered him a ready victim to importunate beggars, from Great Ormond-street to the city, speculating in an omnibus fare in order to obtain alms from him. On his leaving the omnibus at the Mansion-house they had followed him to the Union fire office, such a crowd of beggars collecting around him that the police were obliged to interfere in order to clear the road. The elder woman, Madden, was stated to be an expert and experienced beggar. Storey (the detective officer) said it was actually the fact that a dozen beggar-women have gone into an omnibus the moment Mr. Solly has entered it, and it was a common practice of beggars of all kinds to ride on the top of his omnibus wherever he was going. He said that the beggar-women follow Mr. Solly in Lombard-street like a flock of sheep, and it is impossible to prevent it. The women were discharged, as it was not proved that they had solicited Mr. Solly for alms.

As an express train was passing Carnegie park, near Port Glasgow, on Saturday morning, a man was observed a little in advance about to cross the line with a little girl. The girl ran across at once, but the man hesitated, as in doubt whether he could cross safely. At last he made a rush for it, and had cleared the width of the engine within one inch, when the edge of the buffer caught him and dashed him off the line. He was found to be quite dead.

Shortly before three o'clock on Thursday morning, a terrible conflagration broke out in the East-end Assembly Rooms, Mile-end-road. In less than half an hour seven of the Brigade and West of England engines had reached the spot. Notwithstanding all this powerful aid, the Assembly Rooms were doomed to destruction; and the firemen then directed their efforts to the adjoining tavern, also belonging to Mr. Phillips, and were partially successful.

James Deverell Gibbon, seventy-four years of age, who in his earlier days was a popular singer, but has now for some time been an inmate of the Lambeth workhouse, fell, on Saturday, from a flight of stairs upon a pavement sixteen feet below. He seems to have lost his balance in leaning over the rails which were three feet high. His head first struck the stones, and the concussion is described by a bystander as resembling the "breaking of a cocoa-nut with a hammer." He died in about eight hours.

Mr. Edward Pratt, paymaster of the 99th Regiment, was found dead, floating in Kingstown Harbour, on Monday morning, his feet as well as his wrists were tightly tied together, and a rope bound his neck to his feet, so that his body was completely doubled up. His servant girl stated that his conduct had been such as to lead to the belief that he was not in his right mind. It was believed that he had lost a sum of 800*l.* He had several times said that he could not live any longer.

A man named Parker attempted to cross the York and North Midland Railway, with a horse and cart, on the afternoon of Wednesday week, in the neighbourhood of York, as a train was approaching. He miscalculated, however, upon the speed of the train, and the engine caught the front of the cart, crushing the horse and shafts and throwing the man, who was sitting at the back of the cart, to some distance. He was much injured, but is expected to recover.

A cab was driving down the Waterloo-road from the bridge, when the bit broke, and the horse set off at full gallop. After going some distance, the horse took fright, and turned upon the pavement, and ran along the footway, till he came to the shop of Mr. Tough, a grocer. He here rushed at the shop-window, and drove his head through the glass, at the same time breaking the near shaft. He then turned round and kicked till his hind legs went through the window and stuck fast there. The driver was thrown from his seat, and his head was cut open. An old gentleman was inside the cab, but he escaped uninjured. The horse was drawn out of the window by means of the ropes of a brewer's dray which was passing at the moment. The horse was terribly cut.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

The health of London is still depressed by the prevailing epidemic, and 1084 deaths have been registered in the third week of August. In the corresponding week, three years ago, 2456 of the inhabitants died, while in other years the deaths ranged from 842 to 1057, and were, after correcting for increase of population, 1013 on an average.

208 deaths were referred to diarrhoea, 18 to cholera; of the latter 16, of the former 176, were children under the age of 15. Two old people died of cholera, 19 of diarrhoea, which was also fatal to 13 persons of the middle age of life (15-60).

Scarlatina, that enemy of the young child, was fatal to 27 boys and 22 girls, of whom two were 15-20, twenty-two were 4 and under 10 years of age. Forty persons, comprising 25 adults, died of typhus, 4 only of measles, 13 of hooping-cough, 14 of small-pox. Within the last three weeks small-pox has declined. In the week no death from

influenza, scurvy, or ague was registered, and only 2 from infantile remittent fever. Consumption destroyed 140 lives, tabes 29, hydrocephalus 37; 41 persons died of disease of the heart, 41 of pneumonia, 21 of bronchitis, 22 of cancer, 29 of violence—namely, 2 by burns or scalds, 5 by hanging or suffocation, 4 by drowning, 16 by fractures and contusions, one by wounds, and one by other violence. Of childbearing 8 mothers died.

581 males and 503 females—606 children under the age of 15, 316 men and women under, and 162 above, the age of 60—died in London in the week from all causes, out of about 2,420,000 living. This mortality is much below that experienced in the other large cities of the world; but the untimely age at death, as well as a comparison with other places in England, shows that in this city there is still a great waste of life, health, and energy, which may be saved by draining London, and by other hygienic arrangements.

While cholera is in Warsaw those measures should be carried out which experience has shown cannot be attempted when the epidemic is in London.

Last week the births of 850 boys and 789 girls, in all 1639 children, were registered in London. The average number in seven corresponding weeks of the years 1845-51 was 1306.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 14th of June, at Portland, Cape-town, the Hon. Mrs. Henry Barrington: a son.
On the 27th of June, at Kirkee, the wife of J. Percy Smith, Esq., Lieutenant and Adjutant, 10th Royal Hussars: a daughter.
On the 18th inst., the wife of William Shaen, Esq., of 8, Bedford-row: a daughter.
On the 18th inst., at Southill, Beds, the wife of Commander Hon. Mark Kerr: a son.
On the 21st inst., at 9, Eaton-terrace, Eaton-square, the lady of the Hon. Sir Arthur Buller: a daughter.
On the 23rd inst., at 18, Savile-row, Burlington-garden, the wife of Joseph Toynbee, Esq., F.R.S.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 17th inst., at Walmer, Kent, the Rev. C. E. Fewtrell Wyde, of the Uplands, Bridgenorth, Shropshire, to Cecilia Elizabeth, only child of Captain Charles W. Bell (H.E.I.C.S.), of Richmond, Surrey, and granddaughter of the late Sir Thos. Bell, of Cranford, Middlesex.
On the 17th inst., at the parish church of Chesterfield, James Brotherton, Esq., of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law, Receiver-General of Her Majesty's Inland Revenue, and only son of Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P., to Mary Hannah, eldest daughter of John Roberts, Esq., R.N., of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
On the 17th inst., at Brighton, Henry Elliot Bayly, Esq., of Her Majesty's 54th Regiment, second son of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Bayly, K.H., of Burly-villa, Lyme Regis, to Thomasine Charlotte, eldest daughter of the late Thomas Oliver, Esq., of the Royal-crescent, Bath.
On the 17th inst., at Christchurch, Baker Smith, Esq., solicitor, eldest son of Peter Baker Smith, Esq., of the Middle Temple, to Caroline Elizabeth, only daughter of R. Perkins, Esq., of Camberwell.
On the 17th inst., at Thenford, Chas. Henry Rouse Boughton, Esq., eldest son of Sir W. Rouse Boughton, Bart., to Mary Caroline, second daughter of J. M. Sovereign, Esq., of Thenford, Northamptonshire, and Wallop-hall, Salop.
On the 18th inst., at Leamington, Frederick Shelton, Esq., Captain in the 93rd Highlanders, to Jane, daughter of the Ven. John Timbrill, D.D., Archdeacon of Gloucester.
On the 19th inst., at Richmond, Yorkshire, Edmund John Jennings, of the Inner Temple, to Elizabeth Janet, second daughter of the late Rev. William Plues, formerly Head Master of the Royal Grammar School of Philip and Mary, Ripon.
On the 19th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, Captain Lloyd, Grenadier Guards, of Aston-hall, Shropshire, and of Chigwell, Essex, to the Lady Frances Hay, third daughter of the Earl and Countess of Kinnoull.
On the 19th inst., at Scotscraig-house, Fifeshire, Margaret Dougall, second daughter of the late William Stark Dougall, Esq., of Scotscraig, to Captain Henry John Curteis, of H. M. 37th Regiment, youngest son of the late Edward Curteis, Esq., of Glenburne, county of Antrim.
On the 19th inst., at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Robert Hedley, Captain in Her Majesty's 62nd Regiment, eldest son of Robert Hedley, Esq., of Long Benton, Northumberland, to Charlotte Emma Catherine Coote, daughter of the late Charles Coote, Esq., of Bellamont Forest, county of Cavan, and niece of the late Lord Cremorne.

DEATHS.

On the 9th of June, at Vellore, Madras Presidency, in his 22nd year, Ensign Alexander Egerton Cumming, of the 28th Regiment M.N.I., eldest son of the late Colonel Alexander Cumming, H.E.I.C.S.
On the 4th inst., at Athol-street, Douglas, Isle of Man, Eliza, the beloved wife of H. H. Prichard, Esq., late Lieutenant-Colonel commanding Her Majesty's 56th Regiment, aged 43.
On the 12th inst., at Fobury-house, Wilts, Elinor Elizabeth Johnson, relict of Colonel John M'Combe, C.B., late of H.M. 14th Regiment, in her 82nd year.
On the 14th inst., at Burrow-lodge, Ilfracombe, Henrietta T. Bowen, daughter of the late Rear-Admiral James Bowen, aged 54.
On the 15th inst., at Bad-Weilbach, near Mayence, on the Rhine, Dr. Herbert Mayo, formerly Senior Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, and Professor of Physiology at King's College, London.
On the 15th inst., at Bangor, in the 57th year of his age, the Rev. John Warren, M.A. and F.R.S., chancellor of the diocese of Bangor and rector of Gravelly, Cambridgeshire.
On the 16th inst., at Wrentham Rectory, aged 54, Charlotte Matilda, wife of the Rev. Stephen Clissold, and second daughter of the late Sir Thomas Gooch, of Benacre-hall, in the county of Suffolk, Bart.
On the 17th inst., at Ramsgate, aged 40, Captain David James Ward, one of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity-house, and second son of the late Rev. James Ward, D.D., of Collishall-hall, in the county of Norfolk.
On the 17th inst., at Fulham, after a protracted illness, Mary, wife of J. Evan Thomas, Esq., F.S.A., of Lower Belgrave-place, Pimlico.
On the 18th inst., at 8, Eccleston-square, Edward Davis Protheroe, Esq., aged 54, formerly M.P. for Halifax, and one of the Record Commissioners.
On the 18th inst., at Edinburgh, John Kinnis, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.E., and Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, in the 50th year of his age.
At Barbados, Dorothy Griffith, daughter of William Rolloch, Esq., and widow of Isaac Skinner, Esq., brother of General Richard Skinner.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatsoever 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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 10, Wellington-street, Strand, London. Hints to New M.P.'s. By an Experienced "Stranger," to be continued next week.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, August 28.

THE Queen will set out on Monday for Balmoral.

The new Parliament, it is expected, will be opened by the Sovereign in person, on her Majesty's return from Scotland, in the second week in November.

The *Hermann* arrived at Cowes on her way to Bremen, and landed the mails from New York to the 14th. The fishery question, when the *Hermann* left New York, was again the all-absorbing topic of discussion, and it does not appear by the accounts which have now come to hand that it has at all abated in intensity. In the Senate, on the 12th, on the President's message relative to the fisheries being taken up, Mr. Soule delivered himself of a long speech. He thought firmness and determination would secure peace with England, while silence and hesitation would produce a rupture. He was fully aware of the great stake which the United States and all the world had in a peace between the United States and England; but he also knew that, unless the danger was faced in time, circumstances would arise when war or disgrace would be inevitable. The country would repudiate any peace obtained by negotiation under the rule of British cannon. If negotiations were thus concluded, then was gone the pride, glory, honour, and dignity of the nation. The British North American possessions were no longer colonial dependencies, but would shortly take their place among the nations of the Continent. While disposed to insist upon the full recognition of the rights of the American fishermen, he was also disposed, under proper circumstances, to deal favourably with them in what they had so much at heart; but he would never do anything under the lash of England. He hoped the committee on foreign relations would report a resolution expressive of the sentiments of the Senate.

Several other senators also spoke upon the subject, but the speeches of most of them were more pacific. The subject, after a long debate, was postponed.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* says:—

"The debate in the senate, on the 12th, was very learned and very patriotic; but if it was intended as bearing upon the documents sent by the President upon the fishery question, it was somewhat wide of the mark. There is not one word in the documents in question going to show that Great Britain has, at this time, set up any claim to the waters inside the headlands. Mr. Webster's Franklin proclamation certainly makes that assertion; but the President has not communicated that proclamation to the senate, nor recognised it in any way. Some days ago I stated that I had reason to believe, that so far from the British government intending to sustain the forced construction of the treaty alluded to by Mr. Webster, it had refused to do so, notwithstanding the urgent solicitations of the colonial authorities; and that Admiral Seymour's orders were to assist in seizing all foreign fishing vessels found within a marine league of the coast, and to prevent the armed vessels of the colonies from making any seizures outside of that line. This information has since been confirmed by an authority which leaves no room for doubt in my mind. It is very probable the President will be able, in a few days, to communicate these facts to the senate, and this proves that Mr. Webster's proclamation, which has created all the excitement, originated in an entire misapprehension of the true facts of the case, and the real ground assumed by England."

The *Tribune* says:—

"Our Washington correspondent states that the breach between Messrs Fillmore and Webster has been cemented. Whether this be so or not, it is very certain that the President cannot afford to lose the services of his secretary in the present crisis. The fishery affair which is really assuming a very ominous shape, and the guano difficulty with Peru, are matters that require all the diplomacy of which Mr. Webster is master, to bring them to an amicable adjustment. Both branches of Congress seem to be rather ruffled at the recent proceedings of Great Britain—the House Committee on Commerce, it is said, are delaying to report a measure for reciprocal trade, which has been matured, and senators are freely descending on the consequences of an appeal to arms."

A telegraphic despatch from Boston, dated the 12th inst., to the following effect, appears in the *New York Journals*:

"By the steamer *Admiral*, we have St. John papers of yesterday. Commodore Perry, of the *Mississippi*, landed at St. John on Monday, and was received by a guard of honour. On Tuesday he proceeded to Fredericton, to have

an interview with the Governor. A public dinner to the officers of the *Mississippi* is talked of by the inhabitants of St. John."

A portion of the Whigs of North Carolina, opposed to the election of General Scott, had nominated the Hon. Daniel Webster for President, and William A. Graham for Vice-President. A similar movement was to be made in Georgia, and was likely to spread throughout the south.

The National Free Soil Convention at Pittsburg had nominated John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, for President, and George W. Julien, of Indiana, for Vice-President. The *Herald* remarks upon this nomination—

"This nomination of Mr. Hale throws the two old parties of the country back upon their original grounds. It will take from the Whig and Democratic ranks all the Free-soilers of every shade and hue—thus injuring one party about as much as the other, and leaving the great body of the people to decide upon the principles at issue between them. True, it will greatly cut down the vote of both; but then it is not likely that it will interfere with the actual strength of either, as did the Buffalo ticket in 1848. In that contest Mr. Van Buren, in addition to receiving the Free-soil vote of the country, was supported by a long line of old and warm personal friends. Mr. Hale has no such personal popularity. He will get the vote of his party, composed of all the colours, isms, and ites of the country, and nothing more. He was formerly considered as belonging to the Democrats, but in the United States Senate of late he has been anywhere, everywhere, and nowhere, just as it suited his convenience. Mr. Julien, the nominee for Vice-President, represented the fourth district of Indiana in the last Congress."

The Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia, has been nominated by President Fillmore as United States Minister to England, the Hon. Abbot Lawrence having resigned. Mr. Ingersoll is a lawyer, a legislator, a statesman, and an accomplished gentleman, and no doubt his nomination will be confirmed by the Senate.

Thomas Francis Meagher has declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. He took the following oath:—

"I, Thomas Francis Meagher, do declare on oath that it is *bona fide* my intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce for ever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, of whom I am now a subject."

We still receive accounts, both from Cuba and different parts of the Union, of another expedition to wrest the Queen of the Antilles from Spain, but whether or not they are true it is really difficult to decide. The *New York Courier* thinks Cuba will never belong to the United States short of purchase, and says the price at first proposed—by the *New York Sun*—100,000,000 dollars, would be dirt cheap, and that, in the hands of the American, it would pay for itself in ten years.

Mr. Justice Crampton on Thursday delivered judgment at his own residence in the case of the application to admit to bail Mr. Delmege, the magistrate, and eight soldiers of the 31st regiment, then imprisoned in the county gaol of Ennis, on the coroner's warrant, charging them with the wilful murder of the persons who had been shot by the military at Six-mile-bridge. The learned judge, in admitting the prisoners to bail, said, "I feel myself called on in law and justice to admit all the prisoners to bail. I shall make no observations upon the evidence given before the coroner; the case is to be tried, and I wish not in any way to prejudice the trial." His lordship then directed that Mr. Delmege should give bail, himself in 100*l.* and two sureties in 50*l.* each; the military to enter into bail, themselves in 20*l.* each, and two sureties for 10*l.* each.

The gold mania, after appearing in Scotland and our own eastern counties, has alighted in Ireland. The *Mayo Telegraph* says:—

"While the ports of England, Ireland, and Scotland are alive with thousands of emigrants hastening to the gold diggings of Australia, now considered more productive than the California mines—while we hear of fresh discoveries of the precious metal in Jamaica and British America—we would be wanting in duty to our country did we hide from them the astounding intelligence that in Connaught—ay, in Mayo!—gold has been found to exist. This very important discovery has been made through the persevering exertions of John Atkinson, Esq., M.D. and chemist, Castlebar. We are not at liberty to name the localities, and even if we were we would not deem ourselves justified in imparting that knowledge until such time as that persevering gentleman has been insured compensation by the proprietors for his great loss of time in pursuit of the hidden riches embowelled in the soil of Mayo. We are, however, permitted to state that the gold now extracted, and in the possession of Mr. Atkinson, has been found on part of the estate of the Marquis of Sligo. Appearances of the existence of the same precious metal present themselves on part of the estates of the Earl of Lucan."

Under the head of "Asiatic Cholera, and its three factors," a correspondent of the *North British Daily Mail* writes as follows:—

"Reasoning from what happened in 1832 and 1847, Asiatic cholera will, in the course of a few months, perhaps

weeks, visit Glasgow for the third time, to sweep into the grave thousands of its citizens. I believe it would prove of material use, towards the prevention of this fearful scourge, were it well understood by the public, that three factors seem necessary for its production.

"The first is an unknown change in the constitution of the elements, or an unknown agent present with them, now for the third time moving steadily on from east to west, from Hindostan, through Persia, Turkey, Russia, Poland, and Prussia, to the British Islands, and hence to America and the West Indies.

"The second factor seems necessary to fix the first in its transit, and consists in the miasmata arising from putrefying animal and vegetable substances left exposed in the alleys and neglected receptacles for filth in overcrowded towns, and especially in those parts of them which are ill-supplied with water and incompletely drained.

"The third factor is a debilitated condition of the human body, brought on by the employment of improper articles of food, especially such as lead to looseness of the bowels, and by the habitual use of intoxicating drinks.

"The first of these three factors has hitherto proved inscrutable in its nature, and has resisted all attempts to limit its progress by sanitary cordons or quarantine regulations. But the second and third are, in a great measure, within our own power entirely—indeed, were we to put in operation our protective means against them early enough; and there can be little doubt that either of them could be annihilated, the first factor would pass over us without mischief.

"Cleanliness, then, and temperance are the preventives of cholera; dirt and drink beckon it and welcome it to the scene of its destructive dealings with human life."

The last representative of a name celebrated in the annals of 1793, M. Isidore Justin de Robespierre, died in June last at Santiago de Chili, where he had been established nearly 60 years.

Alexander von Humboldt, who has accompanied the King of Prussia to the sea coast, surprises people by the bodily vigour which he displays in spite of an age of eighty-three years. After walking and driving about for the greater part of the day, and partaking in all sorts of public festivities, he reads aloud in the evening to the royal party without showing signs of fatigue.

The electric telegraph which connects London with Paris, and which will soon connect it with Lyons, Chambery, Turin, and Genoa, is to be prolonged to La Spezia by the Sardinian Government. From that port, the Submarine Company, it is said, is to sink an electric cable to the island of Gorgona, and from thence another to Bastia. The French Government will then continue the line by land at its own expense to Ajaccio, and the narrowest point of the Straits of Bonifacio, where a cable 14 kilometres in length will, at the expense of the company, establish a communication with Sardinia, which the Piedmontese Government will continue to Cagliari. But M. Bonelli, the author of this plan, does not stop here. He has proposed to the Submarine Company to prolong the cable to Tunis, whence France would conduct wires to Bougie and Algiers, while England would conduct others to Tripoli, Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez. By this means, Algiers would be brought within a few seconds of Paris, and news from India might reach London in little more than a week.—*Savoy Gazette*.

The boy Greenhalgh died on Tuesday at noon, of the injuries he sustained in the railway collision at Bullfield, Bolton, on Monday night. An inquest was held on Thursday, on view of his body and of that of Bancroft, the signal-man, who committed suicide; and evidence (confirming the account we published) was adduced to show that the collision occurred through the negligence of Bancroft entirely, as the guard of the luggage train was on his way back up the line, with his light, when the passenger train met him, then so near to the train that he could not stop his engine. It seemed clear that nearly all the engines were overtaken; and the jury, after returning verdicts of manslaughter against Bancroft for the death of Greenhalgh, and temporary insanity in his own case, added the following to their verdict:—The jury cannot separate without expressing their opinion that the servants employed on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, from Liverpool to Bolton, on Monday, the 23rd of August, were totally inadequate to meet the extraordinary demands upon them consequent upon running special trains; and also deprecate in the strongest terms the running of trains of such unusual lengths, and with a deficiency of locomotive power to work the same; and, further, that there was great irregularity in the starting and arrival of trains on the day before named, no less than seven trains (two of them numbering upwards of thirty carriages each), and extending nearly a mile in length, accumulating on one line of rails at the Bolton station, rendering an increase of servants indispensable to the safe and effectual working of the line.

Another sad occurrence, attended with the loss of three lives, and inflicting injuries on a considerable number of other persons, took place yesterday on the premises of Messrs. Whitehouse, who have large iron works about three quarters of a mile from West Bromwich. About a quarter past nine in the morning one of the huge boilers in use on the premises exploded, causing the immediate death of three of the workmen, one of them a young man named Jones, lately married; another poor fellow, who had only gone to work on the premises that morning, was scalded to death; and a youth named Pritchard, sixteen years of age, met an equally violent and instantaneous death. The number of persons injured was more than usually numerous in such casualties. Three out of four brothers, named Key, were frightfully hurt; two other poor fellows, named Taylor and Walker, had scarcely a better fate; and one Willetts, who was passing the place, with a horse and cart, at the time the explosion took place, was very badly injured. The violence of the explosion is represented to have been most terrific. The works are very much shattered, and a portion of the huge boiler was hurled with great force across the canal.

The Leader

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1852.

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 "FELONIAL" OFFICE.

"COLONIAL Office" is a misnomer. There exists in this country no department of Government truly answering to that name; none that fulfils the functions of a national organ for conducting the business of colonization, promoting the interests of our colonists, and facilitating their mutual relations with the mother country. The office in Downing-street, facetiously styled Colonial, is a legalized imposture, a transcendental Tripe and Montagu concern, organized and maintained for the sake of pay and patronage. Its action is most prominently displayed in thwarting colonization, injuring and insulting the colonies, wasting the national revenue, and sowing the seeds of hatred and strife between Great Britain and her young offshoots. If it were swallowed up to-morrow by a partial irruption of Lord Maidstone's deluge, it is probable that neither the imperial mother nor her distant progeny would find themselves much the worse for that catastrophe. The only mourners for the lost institution would be placemen and place-hunters; Kaffir cattle-lifters, whose trade has so grown and prospered under the auspices of the defunct; and British thieves and ruffians, for whom it has so liberally provided free passages to the gold-fields of Australia. Disposed to call things by their right names, we must coin an epithet to designate an institution that offers splendid bounties for crime, deals lovingly with gaol-birds, and vexes honest men. The "FELONIAL" OFFICE it may well be called, in consideration of the order of interests it delights to foster and favour.

Of all our more important colonies there is but one alone that has not present cause of complaint against this same office. That happy exception is Canada, which is at this moment at the highest point of prosperity she has ever reached, so that even the late disastrous fire at Montreal is already regarded as an insignificant drawback from the growing wealth of the community. The rise in her fortunes has been continuous since the change in her constitution, consequent upon the rebellion into which she was goaded by Downing-street. Having by that event acquired the right of nominating her own paid functionaries, she has ceased to be a profitable subject for official interference. Downing-street, therefore, disdains to meddle with her, and she thrives accordingly.

The workings of the *felonial* system at the Cape of Good Hope are fresh in the recollection of our readers. Every one knows how Earl Grey, in violation of a solemn promise, attempted to land a shipful of his protégés on the shores of Table Bay; how the colonists refused to accept the gift, held fast by their determination in spite of threats and cajolery, and compelled the imperial minister to recede from his purpose, covered with the ridicule of defeat and the ignominy of gratuitous bad faith. We remember the attempts to coerce the Cape Boers, and their results; how the sturdy Dutchmen abandoned their farms and homesteads, and migrated to Natal, a region in which the British flag had not yet been planted; how they were pursued by a military force, and their right to migrate was argued down with muskets and cannons; how they clung to their freedom with the obstinate courage of their fathers of old, turned their faces once more towards the wilderness, and wandered in search of a new settlement beyond the Orange River. And now we have seen how one of the latest acts of the British governor has been to ratify a convention with Pretorius, the leader of the emigrant Boers, fully conceding to them the independence which it was found impossible to withhold. There is no need that we should dwell upon the sad and shameful history of the past and present Kaffir wars; the two last of them

especially bearing the impress of Downing-street in their origin and their whole progress. Engendered by a quackish system, in which a spurious philanthropy was a main ingredient, and conducted under the inspiration of the same spirit, they have resulted in the development and permanent organization of rapine, havoc, and bloodshed, on a scale of appalling magnitude. The crew of an English man-of-war avenged themselves upon a tyrannical captain by standing motionless, with folded arms, at their guns, under the enemy's fire, until the conscience-stricken offender humbled himself on his knees before the brave men he had wronged. The Cape colonists will not take up arms for the defence of their own lives and property under an authority which possesses neither their respect nor their confidence.

The treatment which Australia and Van Diemen's Land are now experiencing at the hands of the parent state is perhaps as tragic-comic a piece of foolery as was ever exhibited by the genius of red tape. We are letting loose the *élite* of our criminal population, the boldest and most skilful hands among them, upon the disorganized and defenceless society of the gold colonies. The consequences are notorious to everybody. Robbery and murder are as common as nuggets in Port Phillip; men are seized and rifled in broad daylight, by numerous gangs, in presence of armed spectators, who dare not interfere; and a vessel lying in Hobson's Bay, within three miles of Melbourne, has been boarded by twenty pirates, and plundered of gold dust to the value of more than 30,000*l*. The perpetrators of these crimes have been in almost every instance convicts escaped from the neighbouring penal settlements of Van Diemen's Land. The universal testimony of the suffering colony to that effect is corroborated by the totally different aspect of affairs in New South Wales, which, safe in its remoteness from the polluted island, has enjoyed unbroken quiet and order ever since the discovery of its gold beds in May, 1851. It is a contemptible equivocation to say that the home government sends no convicts to the Australian mainland, and therefore has no hand in deluging Port Philip with crime. It has been an accessory before the fact to nine-tenths of the murders and robberies committed in the colony during the last ten months. It has never ceased to send off shiploads of convicts to Van Diemen's Land, where they immediately obtain tickets of leave and employment at 20*s*. wages a-week, or more. There is no control over their movements except that of policemen of their own class, who are not likely to keep very fast hold of their charge when once their palms have been greased. Bass's Strait is but 200 miles wide. Seven hundred tickets of leave men are known to have escaped across it since the first gold was dug in Port Philip.

But now, as if to make the iniquity of our Government more glaring, and to increase the disorders consequent upon convict transportation to the most intolerable degree, gold has been found abundantly in Van Diemen's Land itself. A casual observer passing through a town near the diggings has seen a nugget valued at 1500*l*. He describes the condition of Hobart Town as exactly resembling that of Melbourne after the discovery of the Mount Alexander mines; the wages for all kinds of service rising enormously—coachmen refusing to hold the reins for 200*l*. a-year; butlers telling their masters "they will see them hanged first" before they remain in their service at any advance of wages; and workmen expecting to earn from their trades something like the amount of the Governor's salary. The same writer, an officer in the 99th regiment, states, that unless the pay is indefinitely increased, his regiment will melt away. The officers cannot live on their present allowance, and the men will not. Already one officer, a lieutenant of seven years' service, had thrown up his commission and gone to the diggings. That is the state of the island, to which some of the most accomplished desperadoes in the world are to be sent for safe-keeping, discipline, and reformation: safe-keeping in an island that by this time, perhaps, has not an organized force sufficient to put down an alehouse riot; discipline under a universal relaxation of the ordinary bonds of society; reformation in the midst of boundless profusion and licence, in the delirium of sudden wealth, or under the fierce throbbings of the gold-fever's unslaked thirst.

It is scarcely a month since the *Lady Montagu* sailed with convicts for Van Diemen's Land.

On the 17th instant, the arrival of the *Equestrian* convict ship, having the same destination, was reported at Spithead.

The inevitable consequence of a little longer perseverance in this atrocious system will be the premature loss to Great Britain of her Australian colonies. The loathing and indignation it excites in them are intense, universal, and irrepressible; and give ominous significance to the allusions to American history and American institutions now frequent in the mouths of Australians and Tasmanians. The large and increasing infusion of the Yankee element into a population thus disposed is another fact that cannot be regarded with indifference; for Yankees are formidable propagandists. A republican federative council is ready organized and extant in the Australasian Anti-convict League, which combines together the best energies of four provinces; and Downing-street may be well assured that the leaguers are thoroughly in earnest.

CONCERT IN RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

WHEN the *Times* remarks, sarcastically, that amalgamation implies the existence of two railway companies, where one is superfluous, and the existence of two capitals, where one is superfluous, it does but state a fact manifest to all who survey the topography of railway distribution. The result is a strange practical paradox. In many cases there are two, or even three, railways performing the amount of work not more than sufficient for one; at the same time that, in the same district, these very railways are insufficient for the work they have to perform, and, by that insufficiency, causing many of those accidents which inflict death and injury on individuals, and loss on the companies. For example, the Great Western Railway, the North Western, and the Great Northern, are competing for the traffic of districts common to the three; and yet there is no doubt that the North Western Railway is insufficient for the traffic which it already serves. By their competition, these railway companies are helping to reduce each other's receipts, not only through the process of beating down for fares,—for low fares are not always a source of loss,—but also by positive abstraction of traffic from one railway to another. In other words, the dividend of that district, which might very well be shared by two railways, is now distributed over three railways, and three capitals are occupying the ground where two would suffice for supplying the service, *as it is now supplied*. It would be better for these railway companies, and, we believe, not greatly worse for the public, if one of these railways were taken away; and yet we believe that the three capitals which have been employed to construct these roads, might very well be devoted to the same district, with a great increase of public benefit and safety, and with a proportionate increase to the prosperity of the enterprisers.

Without entering into nice details, or pledging ourselves to minute particulars, the drift of our observations will be clear, when we point to the fact, that the traffic of the North-Western Railway overcrowds that line, compels the managers to send trains too large, or too rapidly one after the other. The consequent effect is, that the safety and good order of the line would be much increased by doubling it, and separating the heavy slow traffic from the light fast traffic. Instead of that useful division, that intelligent distribution, we have two mixed railways; thus having two things when one would do, and yet remaining without that thing which we need. Now that railways are constructed, the evil, perhaps, cannot be wholly, or, at least, not so conveniently avoided, as if it had been considered from the first; and yet nothing in the whole case is more obvious than the fact, that even now an intelligent combination of resources and distribution of services, might very much mitigate the evil. One line, for instance, may be employed mainly in heavy and slow traffic, and the other line, with some modification of branches, employed, more especially, in the quick traffic. The resources of such distribution would be increased in proportion to the extent of the field, and to the number of lines placed at the disposal of the amalgamated managers.

This view is strengthened by the recently issued Report of the Railway Board for 1851. In that document some remarkable facts are brought out, showing that, in spite of successes too tangible to be questioned, some injurious influence

checks both the prosperity and the development of the railway system, depriving both public and railway proprietors of advantages that might otherwise be enjoyed. Although Parliament has sanctioned the construction of railways to the extent of 12,317 miles, only 6890 miles have been opened; 326 have been abandoned by authority of Parliament, and there is reason to believe that 3600 will not be completed. This abandonment is without a corresponding reduction of the capital authorized by Parliament. In England and Wales, during the year ended June, 1851, the passenger traffic has increased by about twenty per cent.; the goods traffic has increased at the rate of ten per cent.; railway extension at four per cent.; and the gross revenue has increased about eighteen per cent. There is no doubt that the increase of traffic and revenue is due to increase of conveniences; yet extension and dividends do not advance correspondingly.

If we seek an explanation of this anomalous conjunction of facts, we shall find it in the waste of capital to promote those futile extensions which have been abandoned, and in the general want of plan which has so placed railways that they abstract traffic from each other, instead of distributing them to supply wants in places or in modes not supplied. If any one will survey the map of the country, he will find that the iron network is very irregular in its meshes, and that many places are neglected which would pay as well as many that are served. Again, if even on the existing network there were such a distribution of trains as combination could permit, the number of trains might be greatly increased without detriment, rather with gain to the public safety; and by an increase of business employment would be found for that capital which is at present negatived or applied to waste, with a corresponding increase to dividends.

Mere amalgamation, indeed, would not secure these beneficial results, since they would depend on the degree in which the true principle of Concert should be applied. Amalgamation might be nothing but one form of monopoly—which is the combination of persons in one branch of employment to promote their common interest, as separate from the interests of other classes, or even as opposed to those interests. The true principle of Concert includes the interests of *all* the parties to any transaction, the consumer as well as the producer. The prosperity of railways must, in the long run and to the largest extent, depend upon the degree to which they are made subservient to the convenience of the travelling public; and a perception of that truth has already gained a hold among railway administrators. Amalgamation would help the further appreciation of it, since it would remove from the calculation all the disturbing influences of loss by competition, in construction, or working.

THE TRUE AGRICULTURAL BOAT.

To raise wages would hardly be regarded by practical agriculturists as the best mode of redeeming agriculture from its "distress;" and yet, if we are to break the vicious circle of the ordinary agricultural system, perhaps there would not be a better place to begin. At least so we are led to infer from the letter of "A Dorsetshire Landed Proprietor," in the *Times*. In the first instance, no doubt, his testimony is of a kind to be seized by free-traders. A few years ago, when wages were 7s., with 1s. 6d. a week deducted for rent of a wretched hovel, the same gentleman wrote to the *Times*, insisting on the necessity of a change in the system—especially the necessity of a healthy emigration, free-trade with our colonies, and measures to raise the labourer out of his miserable condition. Subsequently there has been free-trade with our colonies, and with other countries besides; there has been emigration, though not, we believe, to so great an extent from Dorsetshire direct as from some other counties; and there have been, partially at least, measures to elevate the condition of the labouring class. And the "Landed Proprietor" reports the result:—

"Since the duty has been taken off corn, in my neighbourhood, after the second year rents recovered to their former standard. Wheat crops are no longer looked upon as the sole absorbing source for paying the rents. Oats are now 24s. a quarter, a price higher than when the duty was on; hay, 4l. to 4l. 10s. a load; butter is 10d. a lb.; pork 8s. a score; while the improved system of farming has led to a much larger production at the same cost than was formerly obtained,

although the prices of wages are rapidly increasing. Labourers are not to be had to get in the crops; 3s. 6d. a day, with a gallon of beer, are freely tendered, and lucky is the farmer who can find men sufficient to meet his present wants. Formerly the farmers only gave 6s. an acre for turnip hoeing; now they gladly give 10s. For the last six weeks part of the work on my property has been at a stand-still for want of hands; and there has not been, in mine or the neighbouring parishes, a single man but what might have found employment. How different from what it was!"

Such are the fruits of free-trade, which abolishes restraints on production. But there is something more than free-trade in this case—more even than emigration:—

"The course I have adopted to counteract the want of labour is to erect a certain number of comfortable dwellings, suitable to the wants of my estate, with an acre of land to each, so that the men when unemployed by myself or others may have resources of out-door occupation within themselves. This acre to a poor man is invaluable; his wife and children can cultivate it principally. It was with a feeling of humble thankfulness to the Almighty that I noticed one of my labourers eating French beans and potatoes with his bacon and bread, who, a few years ago, I remember to have seen eating only bread and cheese for his dinner."

And the good landed proprietor had a right to thank his God for the result of the work in which he had aided. The fact is that Free-trade alone will not work. Trust to it alone, and there is nothing to prevent it from depopulating Paisley and Bradford to people either with iron machines; or from setting man to compete with man, until farmers shall give enormous rents and get work done at wages too low for life. And then landlord or factory-lord may stalk about amid the misery he makes, and feel wretched, doubting for the safety of his property, and dreading bankruptcy itself in a system where production is directed chiefly to articles *not* necessary for life, and the machinery for exchange is enormously beyond proportion to the machinery for production. For such are the results of mere negative free trade. The really virtuous patriot knows that he must do more—that he must help to direct industry in a distribution of it which is most desirable—that he must, above all things, help to bring forth the natural resources of his native soil. The Dorsetshire Landed Proprietor has done so, and with what results we see. Landed proprietors often tell labourers that they, farmers and all, "must row in the same boat:" the saying is truer than mere Protectionists, from their actions, have seemed to think. If, like Felix Loyd, or this Dorsetshire Landed Proprietor, they will first secure a comfortable condition for the labourers, assuredly they will find prosperous farmers, flourishing landlords, and happy faces in all classes.

TRANSPORTATION OF THE CONDEMNED WOOLCOMBERS AT BRADFORD.

An emigration scheme is on foot at Bradford; but it is of a kind to make us look rather to the dark motives that stir it than to the hopes which await it. The woolcombers are convicted of the crime of poverty, and are duly sentenced to transportation.

The business of the woolcomber is superseded by the "combing-machine." "Handloomweavers, combers, and other kindred artisans and craftsmen, must be content to take their places with shoebuckle-makers, leather-breeches-makers, pig-tail-peruquiers, and other divers artists of a trade gone by;" so says a local apostle of the cruel economy school. To us, who regard human beings as the primary consideration, goods as a very secondary one, and machinery as a mere means for the convenience of human beings, it is not such an obvious truism that men must be "content" to be ruined and exiled because a new invention enables the few to make larger profits and to dispense with the living machines. The few—the every few as compared with the numbers of the workpeople—now discover that "they do not want the men here to *comb* the wool, but that they do want them to *grow* it in Australia;" and, accordingly, the men must go. Whether they wish or not, whether they have affections that cling to their native soil or not—those are irrelevant questions: they must go. It is said.

But that is not all. While they are summoned together for their departure, and to pay towards their own expatriation, they are reproached with the past. They are told that they ought to have

"availed themselves of the good season" "to lay by money for emigration, as they might have done"—whereas they "contemned the counsel of their friends, and spent all their earnings in eating and drinking, as if there were no 'rainy day' to come;" they became the "fatuous, unreasonable" "dupes of designing men," who enlisted "the unreflecting sympathies of their victims on behalf of Utopian schemes of politics and social economy." Yes, it is woolcombers and handloom weavers who are the guzzlers of society—the feasters, the spendthrifts on luxury; it is the politicians of that class that prostitute the pen and the tongue to mercenary purposes; and when the woolcomber, in his pride of place, falls, no one pities him. For these reasons is the *Bradford Observer* justified in thus discussing the removal of the live nuisance:—

"The woolcombers of this town and district are a numerous body. They are a distressed, degraded, and naturally dissatisfied body. They increase our poor-rates. Their physical misery, and morbid habits of life, imperil the health of the community. They are, politically speaking, our 'dangerous classes.' From their ranks we naturally look for the reinforcement of sedition and tumult in troublous times. As they at present exist, they lower the tone of society: their example is contaminating; the attendant influences of their situations compromise us all. We have already admitted that much of the evil of their present lot is traceable to their own improvidence and indiscretion. But we have disposed of the cause;—we are looking now at the effect, with a view to the application of a remedy. What is to be done? Shall we allow this deadly leaven to permeate society? The woolcombers cannot now redeem themselves;—shall we suffer them to remain, festering in wretchedness, and diffusing the contagion of their physical and moral disease? * * * We hope ere long to record the departure of a large number of this class of our fellow townsmen; and when they go, may good success attend them."

No wish for their success here! No, they are a disgrace, a nuisance; they lower the tone of society; they recruit sedition and tumult; they are "morbid;" they contaminate, "they compromise us all;" "they increase our poor rates."

Let us warn the woolcombers of Bradford who may consent to emigrate, that one more mortification may await them: if they seek the aid of the Emigration Commissioners, impoverished, morbid, degraded, enfeebled, it is highly probable that they may be rejected as *unfit* to be emigrants; just as candidates for emigration among the Paisley weavers and Kidderminster carpet-makers have been rejected. In that case, they must be content to go to the union, or to sink into the grave—as quietly as they can. But we ask the representatives of the employer-doctrine, whether, at such desperate times, these "dangerous classes" are not likely to remember the language now levelled at them? Assuredly they will; and we dare to tell the *Bradford Observer*, that writing like that in its number for the 19th instant will not have been recorded in vain.

But suppose the men should go—"success attending them"—what will be the feeling with which they depart? Already our system is sending out hundreds of thousands annually to recruit the republic of the West with Irishmen who hate England. Already we have letter upon letter from Australia, warning us of the democratic spirit, hating English domination, which is gaining ground, even in South Australia, the most conservative of all the Australian colonies. Already Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales are threatening "to stop the supplies." Already the star-spangled banner of the Australia has been seen in the Thames. Already, grave merchants at Liverpool are echoing the threat of the West Indians, that they may "cut the painter," and drift to the great American Union. And it is at such a time that emigrants are to be sent out with words of contumely and dislike ringing in their ears!

Let us, however, make a confession for the men of Bradford which possibly they will be to make for themselves. They have been guilty of a serious mistake, common to the whole of the working classes. On the one hand more active among them have concentrated their energies on a specific measure which best, was but a Parliamentary "bill"; a therefore incapable of sustaining for its enthusiasm of a whole people. In the place, the vast body of the working classes consented to fall into the selfish policy of classes above them, and to be apathetic ex-

pursuit of some immediate advantage to self. They have suffered themselves to be misled by personal intrigues, to adopt petty manoeuvres, to profess base and paltry principles. A multitudinous people cannot diplomatize, cannot vie with the wealthy classes in subscriptions for moneyed agitation, cannot wage war by covert manoeuvres. Openness, boldness, trust in the force of numbers and of manly motives, are the only true reliances of any people. If the working classes had been true in their allegiance to a generous faith—if they had been prepared each to risk loss and even destruction in standing up for the rights of all—if they had been truly resolved to stand or fall together, we should not see all Paisley a pauper warren, the men of Sheffield petitioning for *more statutes* to prevent them from working themselves to death, nor woolcombers of Bradford consenting to transportation under the revilings of those whose class they have enriched. But it is not yet too late to mend; if the working-classes, whether of Yorkshire or Dorsetshire, of Renfrewshire or Worcestershire, will adopt the true policy which will always make working men strong—if they will trust in generous manly principles, be united in action, and bold, they may yet dictate their own terms.

THE THREE POACHERS OF WORKINGTON.

ODIOUS in themselves, the Game Laws are rendered doubly so by any harsh administration; and one would suppose that magistrates would be especially cautious in applying those laws to very young people. On these grounds we can hardly believe a story which has been sent to us by a correspondent; not because it comes to us without the tokens of an honest narrative, but because the fact stated seems to be nearly impossible.

One evening, but while it was still daylight, during the late warm weather, Joseph Nichol, Richard Sanderson, and Richard Hetherington, were seen in a mill-race near Carlisle, dabbling in the water, turning the stones, and endeavouring to catch fish; boyishly trespassing. On the following day they were summoned before the Workington magistrates, and charged with breaking the Game Laws. They told no lie, but admitted the facts alleged, and pleaded "guilty." Our correspondent says, "they were too honest to tell a lie, as they would have been to steal a farthing." Those formidable statutes, the Game Laws, were not explained to the lads, with a reprimand, and a remand home; but the culprits were sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the county gaol.

Now what are the ages of these dreadful offenders? Hetherington is *thirteen* years old, Sanderson, *twelve*, and Nichol *eleven*! "These same magistrates," says our correspondent, "are parents—talk of the value of Sunday Schools and Ragged Schools, and have abundance of opportunities of witnessing the progress of juvenile offenders when they have once entered the great seminary of vice." By what *right* then did they consign those young boys to ruin?

It would not have been so if the lads had been young gentlemen: they would then have been "pulled through." The Game Laws are odious; not so much because they are logically inconsistent with the principles of law, but because, from the nature of things, they must always operate as class laws, oppressing the poor. Plebeians, writes our correspondent, with a just expression of the general feeling, "must be taught that fishes that sport wildly in God's water—the fleet hare that skims the moors—and the wild bird that owns no domain in the air—are for aristocratic palates only. When they secure these to themselves, and the land, even to the enclosure of the commons, is it not a mercy to the human family that they can devise no statute to bottle up the air for their exclusive use?" Such is the general feeling against the laws; but when fathers see their sons—when they see their young sons—when they see their sons protected by the Game Laws revenging each of their privilege by consigning mere men to the school of a life's ruin, are not the laws raised dangerous, even to society, as it is by such magistrates! Shall no doubt hear more of this case.

NATIONAL AND COLONIAL POSTAGE.

Everybody explain upon what principle it is that the Post-office authorities carry newspapers parts of our colonial empire for nothing than the penny stamp, and yet charge a

shilling for carrying the smallest letter a similar distance? No one would wish to see the circulation of newspapers restricted in any way, but if six ounces of printed paper can be carried to New Zealand or Australia for a penny, what valid reason can there be for charging twelve times that sum for carrying a sheet which does not weigh more than half an ounce? Chancellors of the Exchequer always insist that luxuries ought to be highly taxed, and unquestionably, a letter from a distant friend is one of the most exquisite; but then Chancellors of the Exchequer ought to remember that it is frequently the poor man's luxury, and that, as he cannot pay so heavy a tax as the Post-office charges upon it, he must forego the enjoyment. Measured by weight, the charge for sending a newspaper to Port Phillip, as compared with the postage of a letter to the same place, is as 1 to 144! And this is done by a Government which professes to entertain the most anxious desire to place the colonies on terms of equality with the mother country!

In a speech delivered by Mr. Sidney Herbert, a few weeks ago, to a party of poor needlewomen about to embark for Australia, he insisted strongly upon their not forgetting to write home to those friends who had assisted them to exchange shirt-making in London at threepence a piece, with squalor and starvation, ending in the workhouse or the hospital, or worse, for health, comfort, and independence in that colony. This is advice which has been frequently given, but to very little purpose. Of the many thousands who have been sent to Australia during the last two or three years, comparatively few ever think of writing home; and Mr. Sidney Herbert and his friends cannot but "know the reason why." If they wish emigrants to maintain a frequent correspondence with friends at home, they ought instantly to join the Association to promote a cheap and uniform system of colonial and international postage. That society was formed in the summer of last year by some of the most active members of the various committees of the Exhibition, but it is only within the last month or two that it has begun to move. It already includes among its members Earl Granville, Lord Ashburton, Mr. William Brown, M.P., Mr. Charles Villiers, M.P., Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., Sir Roderick Murchison, Sir William Reid, Sir John Burgoyne, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Mr. Dilke, Mr. Cole, and a number of influential foreigners. The Association has only to act with vigour and perseverance in order to accomplish the very important measure which it has taken in hand.

Among the various circulars it has published, there is one which contains the basis of a proposed arrangement, by which the postal revenue shall be fairly divided between the contracting parties; each country being allowed to use its own coins, weights, and measures, in the collection of that revenue.

"To satisfy these conditions," says the circular, "the following plan is proposed. Let a postal union be formed between as many countries as possible, on the following simple grounds:—

"I.—Each country shall fix a rate of foreign postage at its own discretion, provided that rate be uniform to every country in the proposed postal union, and every part of that country; and that rate shall be prepaid in all cases.

"II.—Each country shall engage to receive, transmit, or deliver to its address, free of any charge whatever, any letter passing to it free from the post-offices of the other subscribing countries.

"In other words, each country shall levy a revenue on letters *outwards*, none on letters *inwards*.

"Thus, each country would collect its own revenue in its own coin, subject to its own regulations; uniformity and simplicity would be secured as far as they are practically useful to the inhabitants of a country, and cheapness would come of itself. Indeed, no Government would enter into such an arrangement that did not recognise the advantage of cheap postage, and no country would very long charge its citizens much more for the carriage of a letter than a stranger would have to pay for the reply to that letter, when the service rendered is precisely the same."

So far as England is concerned, the whole question of cheap international postage resolves itself into the single service of the transportation of letters by sea; and the cost of that is so very trifling, as hardly to form an item worthy of consideration. A barrel of flour, which weighs 196 lbs., is brought from New York to Liverpool for less than half-a-crown. Let a package of letters be carried at the same rate, and the ocean

postage charge would be only about $\frac{1}{100}$ th of a penny. But let us be liberal, and allow a penny for the transportation of a letter from America to England. Surely that would defray all expenses of collection, and leave a handsome profit to Government. As regards our own colonies, the adoption of cheap postage might be effected at once, and Sir John Pakington ought to be asked, what hinders it from being done?

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

IV.

"That system of laws is alone calculated to maintain civil liberty which leaves the subject entire master of his own conduct, except in those points wherein the public good requires some direction or restraint."—BLACKSTONE.

"A rational Government will attend solely to the happiness of the governed."—OWEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—In the early part of the fourteenth century the revival of the arts, the development of commerce and manufactures, and the faint indications of improvement in the system of government, had awakened a desire in the minds of the people to elevate their condition, and to emancipate themselves from a state of villenage which had become more intolerable than slavery. The general rising of the incorporated trades in Flanders and in Paris, headed by Artevelde and Marcel, and the insurrection of the French peasantry, or *Jacques*, were but the natural consequences of this growing spirit of discontent. Reports of these events were speedily circulated throughout England, where personal slavery, according to Froissart, was more general than in any other country in Europe, and prepared the people for action. Doctrines of the most revolutionary character were actively propagated by itinerant preachers, who travelled about the country inculcating on their auditors the tenets of the primitive Christians, the common origin and social equality of mankind, the community of goods, and the abolition of all artificial distinctions, and proclaiming that the degradation and sufferings of the Commons arose from the corruption and tyranny of their rulers. Doctrines so popular and so conformable to the ideas of natural equality engraven in the breast of every man, were greedily accepted by the multitude; and the imposition of an additional poll-tax produced a sudden and violent outbreak. The insurgents, headed by leaders under the assumed names of Wat Tyler, Tom Miller, Hob Carter, and Jack Straw, demanded not only a general amnesty, but the abolition of slavery, freedom of commerce in market towns without toll or impost, and a fixed rent on lands instead of the services due by villenage. These demands were at once complied with, and charters of enfranchisement and pardon were granted, but revoked soon afterwards, by Parliament. The insurrection of Wat Tyler and his followers, unsuccessful as it was with regard to its immediate objects, nevertheless gave a death-blow to villenage, and impressed upon the rest of the community an abiding conviction and a salutary dread of the popular strength. When the Commons again rose, in the rebellion headed by Jack Cade, some seventy years later, the difference in the nature of their demands is very remarkable, and throws a strong light upon the progress achieved in the interval by the labouring classes. In 1380, their principal demand was the abolition of villenage or slavery; they made no claim to any positive political rights or privileges. In 1450, the question of villenage had been already settled, and the Commons demanded not only the redress of various public grievances, but one of their complaints amounted to a distinct assertion of popular rights—namely, their remonstrance against the *illegal interference of the nobility in elections of knights of the shire*; and they required that the choice of their representatives in Parliament should be left in the hands of the people.

About this time the Lollards, especially the *Fratres vite communis*, who were distinguished for their mysticism and practical usefulness, increased rapidly in the Netherlands and in Germany; one of their chief objects being the advancement of the religious education of the people; and their activity, and the respect in which the brethren were held, excited the hostility of the Mendicant orders. It was not, however, until the sixteenth century that the reviving study of ancient literature furnished means for the due investigation of the state of the Church; and the labours of the Italian and German humanists, of Reuchlin and Erasmus, prepared the way for the great Reformation. Luther himself, although a

zealous Church reformer, was a conservative politician, and violently opposed to the principles and designs of some of his disciples—especially to those of the Anabaptist leaders in the social war which broke out in Suabia and Westphalia, six years after the first publication of More's *Utopia*. The Anabaptists, however, were divided into two distinct sects, the reformers, and the communists; and their demands and avowed designs were very similar to those of the insurgent English Commons in the reign of Richard II.

Like all former insurrections, this peasant war in Germany was finally suppressed; but the massacre of the Anabaptists served only to propagate their principles, which were immediately adopted in the Moravian communities, founded by Hutter and Sherding, in 1527, and widely disseminated, at a later period, by the English levellers and millenarians, or fifth monarchy men.

In the eighteenth century we again find similar social phenomena, leading to the same results. The misery and discontent of the French nation, caused by the rapacity and corruption of the clergy and nobility; oppression and violence followed by insurrection and repression: the established rights of property opposed to the principles of justice and humanity; and the producers of all wealth defrauded of their social political rights by its possessors.

If the religious and social reformers of the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries gave a deadly blow to the papal and the feudal system, the revolution accomplished by the Rationalist Reformers of the eighteenth century proved equally fatal to the principles of Divine right and ecclesiastical authority. The natural Rights of Man were then declared supreme, and above all law; and Liberty and civil Equality the inalienable inheritance of the human race.

I remain yours faithfully,

WILLIAM CONINGHAM.

Kemp Town, August 19th.

THE ERRORS OF THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCACY.*

INDIGNANT reader, it may be worth passing notice, that neither in the former letter was there, nor in this will there occur, one word against the principle of even entire Abstinence from sign-post liquids. Let the race of Barleycorn be ostracised, if you will. Not a plea shall be heard for the smallest glass of the weakest wine. Pure water deserves all the praise you bestow upon it, and more. Perhaps it were well if a moderate stream of that virtuous indignation poured out upon the head of the Spirit Merchant were suffered to ripple on the crania of the Tea Dealer and Coffee Roaster, who, in their philanthropic and sober way, spread as much nervous and dyspeptic ruin around them as does the Frankenstein of the Juniper root. The present Temperance advocacy is open to the objection of being but a *partial* reformation. Probably quite as many men die of the Tea-pot as of the "Bottle"—but because the manner of their death is quieter and less conspicuous, we hear of no Anti-Souchong Associations. A sound principle, and a wise sanitary reformation, would enter a protest against the whole class of stimulants.

If the reader were transported into the cold, rude, and cheerless interiors of the majority of the provincial Temperance Hotels, he would find himself in a cloud of narcotic smoke, reminding you of Pandemonium, where pallid men are puffing at pipes like chimney-pots, and drinking coffee that looks and tastes very much like warm water in which the said pipes were washed, and he might be of opinion that there are victims of Temperance as well as of Intemperance. What is called the Temperance Reformation does not go far enough. When it has denounced one bad habit, it ought to take a little more trouble to give its converts a better.

In thus treating a topic of conscience, perhaps one is bound to speak personally, though it be otherwise unnecessary. Once for all, then, the case may be put thus: Disliking theoretically the whole class of artificial stimulants, that is no reason why I should impose on everybody else my tastes or dietetic vagaries. At my own table I would supply, if a trader I would sell, any of these things to those who conscientiously preferred them: At proper times, and in proper places, I would seek to make my wish for their disuse prevail; and where I could not convince, I should still repose upon my own chosen habits, and leave other people free to live as seems well to them. Conventional dietists will

not hate one who so acts—they may not avoid him; they may even come to think that one who is so confident and so tolerant has some reason for the course he takes, and in time his patient example may create the conviction that his argument has failed to produce.

A gentleman in Glasgow, remarkable for shrewdness and tolerance in most respects, lately told a company of persons, utterly above suspicion for personal integrity, that he did not believe in the honesty of any man who took a glass of wine. When Temperance is so advocated—and the instance is not uncommon—it becomes simply a rudeness. The conjunction of Wine and Fraud resembles the Anti-Jacobin intolerance of old Waverley, who admonishes his son to keep no company with "rakes, gamblers, and Whigs;" and Temperance platforms fall into a twin ejaculation, "Beware of thieves, prostitutes, and moderate drinkers."

It might be said that the strict and inexorable rule of abstinence on the part of others, overlooked the probable intention of life. There are various states of physical and dyspeptic indisposition to which alcoholic stimulants afford unquestionable relief. It can be proved, possibly, that in the long run the said stimulants are injurious; but if a man happen not to care for the "long run," there is an end of the prohibition to him. The propriety of total abstinence may greatly depend on a man's intention of life. But untutored zeal will not stay to consider any human condition. Let it therefore be assumed that the least portion of wine is an evil, still the least portion must be a lesser evil than the greatest portion. Therefore the moderate man must do less harm to himself and to others than the immoderate. Possibly, therefore, it may not be the soundest policy to denounce the moderate drinker, in terms so unmitigated as is now the custom. As all human things are liable to abuse, even the best—the virtue of moderation—which seeks to use and strives not to abuse, is a noble one. Moderation is the soul of progress. In every state of life and action the sentiment should be honoured. To teach a man that he cannot rely upon himself—that he will fall if he tastes—that he cannot balance himself—that he is unable to avoid extremes—is to snap the iron link of self-reliance—is to make a man a coward by threatening that he will become a slave. The man who believes ale to be an injury, and still takes it:—the Asylum or a moral Hospital is the proper place for him. He ought to be sentenced to Teetotalism, and all who abstain that he may be encouraged to abstain, deserve honour. But there is another and a wider order of good that might be attempted. An effort should be made to teach the salutary sentiment, moderation. Hundreds would learn that lesson for one who adopts abstinence. If half the applause bestowed on Teetotalism had been bestowed on Moderation—had we heard more of self-reliance and less of "pledging"—we should have far more temperance and more moral strength than now in the world. Excess would be a dishonour even in a "Public House." The example of the rationally temperate would be nearly universal. Hundreds of publicans would encourage it. They would be the friends of such an advocacy, and that cause which has made itself the Tap-room jest and the publicans' antagonist, might command the respect of the public, the influence of multitudes who now stand aloof altogether, and the countenance of half the innkeepers in the kingdom, who are no more the friends of drunkenness than the Teetotallers themselves.

Every advocacy has two halves—first, to show what is wrong and ought to be superseded; next, to show what is right and ought to be substituted. A man may be told that alcohol is an evil, long before he will abandon it, unless you show what else can more wholesomely be taken. Dr. Wilson, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Edward Johnson, Dr. Gully, by demonstrating the chemical and pathological effects of water, have created a new field of temperance advocacy, superseding the pledge, by making possible an appeal to a double sense, and effecting conviction in a more enduring way.

So many shrink from the "pledge" as a badge of moral weakness, that insisting upon its being taken creates a barrier in the way of accessions. The pledge is ever an *artificial* protection to resolution, and if a man once falls from it he is commonly ruined. A false shame destroys all future confidence in himself, and he makes no attempt again to tread the golden path of moderation. Indeed, if he does so, he knows he shall be denounced by the Pharisees of the Vow. It is a serious mistake to overlook how much men are sustained by the friendly opinion of their fellows. That monarch who said—"Treating his subjects as beasts would make them so," might teach Rechabites that to treat the Moderate drinkers as drunkards is often to make them drunkards. When you constantly accuse an innocent man of evil, he soon feels that he might as well commit the evil as be continually charged with it. He could sink no lower in his neighbours'

opinion were he guilty. He may as well be criminal as be treated as a criminal; and he who, in harshness, has been long made to bear the responsibility of guilt, comes to think he may as well taste its destroying pleasures, and enjoy its licences, since he is so pertinaciously made to bear its punishment. Teetotalism has to boast of many whom it has saved from intoxication. We hear nothing of how many it has antagonised into that vice. Yet the catalogue of its errors might balance that of its glories.

He who has passed much time at the dogmatic and acrimonious meetings held weekly for the dissemination of Temperance, will have noted with sorrow the ill-suppressed rivalries of trade interests and sectarian views which mar their influence, and he will note how, more than all, the pride of the platform o'ertops all social plans for the promotion of the principle itself. Intemperance has distinct, traceable causes. The habit of excess does not come by chance, by caprice, or by wickedness. It is not to be cured by precept, or mitigated by denunciation, more readily than any other human vice. The field of reformation is immense which the intrinsic temperance question opens up. It would be the most magnificent of discussions, if honestly and comprehensively entered upon. In every artery of society you probe one of the sources of this vast vice. If ever the question of *effects* should be pursued to *causes*, the public will indeed have reason to look back with pride and satisfaction to the first agitation of so great a topic. We might pursue the subject, but more has already been said than many will forgive, whose advantage has been chiefly intended.

It is sad to see the low estimate in which the party ostensibly holding temperance views stand in most towns. They are regarded but as a nucleus of intolerant persons, "pledging" themselves, and denouncing nine-tenths of the community, and calling that reformation. So near is this description to the truth, that these very articles will call forth many harsh and imputative rejoinders, notwithstanding that these papers have been written in the friendliest spirit. We who are not with these people in every respect, are set down as being against them in all. The press constantly refuses to meddle with the question, on account of the offence all criticism is known to give the disciples. But we have confidence that able, intelligent, and tolerant friends of temperance are rising up in many quarters, prepared to bring about a better state of things. The old discussions have been merely recriminative displays between Tea-pot, Coffee-pot, and Brandy-bottle, of which it may be said that if the looker-on attended solely to the mutual imputations, he would declare the belligerents intemperate all round,—the issue being like that of our good friend Elihu Burritt's lectures in Manchester, or that neighbourhood, where he was laid up several days through his excitement in speaking on —Peace!

I now pass from this subject. Assurances on many hands, furnished since the first article appeared, testify that this is a topic on which a few plain words required to be spoken. Though they will be misunderstood by some, there is reason to believe that they will be useful to more. Thoroughly appreciating the earnestness, the humanity, the untiring devotion with which the Temperance advocates of England labour in their vocation, it only remains to beg pardon for thinking that there is much important ground which they do not occupy—that there are some habits of reasoning which they ought unequivocally to discontinue, and that their own zeal would work more good if somewhat tempered with moderation. ION.

PLATT ON THE PASSIONS.

BARON PLATT accuses the Liberals of "arousing the passions of the multitude;" without the slightest proof of any such fact. He mistakes the multitude for another thing: he should have said that they "aroused the passions of the judge;" a great calamity. It is quite clear that he must have been in a passion, or he would not have jumbled all things together. One Liberal did indeed do his best to assuage the passions of certain people at Clifton, and to rescue the Tories; and while that was proceeding, another was attacked, knocked down, and hacked by the Tories. Who aroused the passions of the multitude on that side?

It is remarked that Mr. Baron Platt used even stronger language than that reported; that he said "it mattered not to him whether the prisoners were Conservatives or Destructives;" betraying the bitter animus in the latter epithet. Or was it that he used the two epithets as synonymous, accepting the title of Destructive for his own party?

It might serve well enough for a party whose judge would put restraints on that popular discussion of vital questions which is the constitutional privilege of the people; who carries on to the bench the rancour of faction, and from the judgment seat consummates the enmities of the Tory rioters by sentencing political opponents with undisguised relish.

* See Leader, No. 125.



Open Council.

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

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

THE RECENT CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE. (To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—My former communication, concerning the recent Co-operative Conference was solely occasioned by your having spoken of that body, as it appeared to me, in terms of unjust disparagement, tending to fix upon it a character which I felt it did not deserve. The letter of Mr. Vansittart Neale, published in your last No., contains a sufficient explanation as to the constitution and character of the conference, and the reasons why so large a proportion of the co-operative societies there represented, were those connected with the Society for Promoting Working-Men's Associations, by whom the conference was convoked,—a circumstance which may have suggested to you the idea of its being a "sectarian and exclusive" body. Permit me to add, as an additional reason to those advanced in explanation by Mr. Neale, that those societies being chiefly in London, had much greater facilities for sending delegates than societies in Lancashire and Yorkshire, where such bodies are most numerous. Several of the principal associations in the north of England, and even in Scotland, however, were represented by delegates at that conference, and many others expressed by letter their sympathy with its objects.

The only fact referred to in your explanation in support of the alleged "sectarian and exclusive character of the conference," is that of an intentional discourtesy having been put upon *The Leader*, in its not having received a special invitation to attend the proceedings of the conference, a discourtesy which you say "was not put upon some of our contemporaries, who have laboured less than ourselves in the same cause," (i.e., co-operation.) I trust it will not be considered a discourtesy when I say that this appears to me a very slight foundation upon which to build so grave an accusation against a public body as that of sectarianism and exclusiveness. It, however, rests upon a mistake. The facts are these,—a note was sent to *The Leader*, and other journals known or presumed to be favourable to co-operation, requesting that publicity should be given in their columns to the forthcoming conference; no special invitation to attend its proceedings was sent to any journal. Two reporters for the press, however, presented themselves, and those gentlemen can bear witness that every courtesy was shown to them, and every facility afforded (as it would have been to a reporter from *The Leader*, or any other paper) to make their reports as full and accurate as possible. A report of the conference as contained in the *Morning Advertiser* was subsequently sent by me to the *Leader* and other weekly journals. Extremely regretting that any misunderstanding upon this subject should have arisen, and fully acknowledging the services rendered by the *Leader* to the cause of co-operation,—

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SHORTER,
Secretary to the Conference.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I am glad that "Ion" has informed your readers that Temperance hotels are not licensed to sell intoxicating drinks. Those who want to buy must go to those who sell; and no teetotaler is to be blamed for not selling alcohol, any more than a baker for not selling beef. Fortunately for those who are strong enough to be angry, but not strong enough to do without wine, there are scores of houses in every town with the tempting notice, "Licensed to be drunk on the premises," where they can drink to their heart's content. We teetotalers are foolish enough to prefer sleep to stimulants when we are tired with lecturing.

I very much regret, along with "Ion," the bigotry of many teetotalers. But I still more regret the conduct of those who have given occasion to it. When Christians and ministers not only do nothing to prevent drunkenness, but hinder those who are doing all they can, and often tempt on the unwary to destruction, it is no wonder that those who owe their all to the practice of teetotalism should not be able to appreciate the self-sacrificing love of such men as "Ion."

Your correspondent complains of the "innumerable teetotal orators and tract distributors," who are not hospitable enough to give their friends the particular drinks they want. We do not profess to keep a druggist's shop; and friends must bring their own medicines with them. Moreover, they should take them privately, and not force us to see them taking doctor's stuff at the dinner table. Arsenic and prussic acid are very valuable medicines; so are castor oil and senna; but I suppose that even "Ion" does not provide those for his friends at meal times. There are plenty of druggist's shops in every town; and will be, along with workhouses and gaols, so long as intoxicating liquors are used as at present.

Bishop Hall's "silken string" is not much talked of by Christ and his apostles. The advocates of drinking are not, perhaps, aware that the word *moderation* occurs only once in the Testament; and there it ought to have been translated *gentleness* or *patience*, as in other places where the same Greek word is used. St. Paul taught that we ought to give up eating flesh or drinking wine, if they led our brethren to transgress; and our Lord taught that it was better to be drowned than to "offend one of these little ones."

If "Ion" had ten sons and brought them up to moderate drinking, and one of them afterwards gradually became a drunkard; and if he had known that by bringing them all up without stimulants he might have saved that one from his awful fate, I doubt not but that even he would have been a strenuous advocate of teetotalism in his own family. We teetotalers wish to feel for all tempted persons, as for our own children; and we practise that which we advise, and which is, at any rate, the safest course.

A word to teetotalers. You see from "Ion's" letter how much you set the "respectable" drinkers against us by bigoted language. Now do not hide one atom of the true light, but speak the truth with gentleness. We are not such very perfect people that we can throw many stones safely. Perhaps the best way in which we can learn *Christian* moderation is by considering wherein *we* offend. As our minds are not clouded by drink, and ought not to be by smoke, we should be able to see our faults rather more clearly than others; and having given up one bad habit we ought to be strengthened to give up the rest. How can smoking, and cheating, and unchaste teetotalers, venture to denounce moderate drinkers?

Again, do not give up teetotalism because your ministers do. "Ion" greatly lauds George Dawson because he has taken to drinking, for no better reason than that he wished to "give the other thing a turn." We have more sacred reasons for keeping our pledge. The welfare of millions, under God, depends upon it. I believe that more ministers break their pledges than reformed drunkards. They are under peculiar temptations. Some are self-seekers; and when they think they can gain by leaving us they do so. Others are led by their people; and congregations of "Ion's" cordially dislike teetotal parsons. Others are led by their doctors; and rest more on the spirit of wine than the spirit of God for strength. Others think it a low and unchristian motive to be bound by a promise. Others are really sincere in thinking teetotalism injurious; especially when their teetotal friends run down religion, and profess to cure all the evils under the sun by teetotalism.

If you or "Ion" wish to hear any more from me on teetotalism, I will take my stand on this one precept which our Divine Redeemer uttered—"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Yours respectfully,

PHILIP P. CARPENTER.

Warrington, Aug. 22nd, 1852.

THE TURBULENT CLIQUE AT THE DUBLIN MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

87, Capel-street, Dublin, 10th August, 1852.

SIR,—In your reply to a communication made by me to you last week, you accuse me of intolerance; and with the view you took of my letter you would be quite right.

I there wished the exclusion or expulsion, from the Dublin Mechanics' Institute, of "an intolerant clique," but not because they wished the expulsion of the *Leader*, and opposed the engagement of Mr. George Dawson as lecturer, nor for any other expression of re-

ligious or political feeling, but on account of the annoyance some twenty of them have given by wanton acts that interrupt the proceedings of the Institute, such as entering the reading-room, walking up and down its whole length like policemen, and carrying on conversation loudly, slandering the individuals who opposed them, within their hearing, making "faces" at them, using aggravating expressions calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. Under these circumstances, no one could read in the reading-room, nor even enter it, without being *insulted*. This conduct was not pursued merely on the nights of bringing forward motions, but for the whole year round. The same sort of conduct is resorted to at the general meetings of the Institute, and captious opposition given to our "motions," such as rising up to oppose them for the sake of merely delaying their being put from the chair.

Such is the conduct for which I would wish the twenty members who are guilty of it to be expelled, and not for holding or expressing any opinions, however extreme.

I would not wish, nor *allow*, any limitation to be made in point of eligibility of membership that would exclude Roman Catholics, as Catholics, but such limitation as would exclude men for such conduct as I have here detailed, no matter by whomsoever perpetrated.

If you require further evidence than mine on this matter, I refer you to last Saturday's *Nation*, where there are four articles on the subject—one from the directors of the Institute; one from James Haughton, its wealthy and talented treasurer; one from Mr. C. Ferris; and one from Charles Gavan Duffy, proprietor of the *Nation*, which is a *professedly* Roman Catholic paper, in which even he calls them a captious clique, and refuses to receive any further correspondence from them, except signed by their names in full.

I would not, Sir, thus trespass upon your time, but that I was chagrined by your mistaking my view of toleration, which, in religion and politics, is as free as your own, and which makes me a constant reader of the *Leader*, as being the only paper in the British empire that has thoroughly liberal opinions, and properly supports that *progress* which is the only means of reaching the highest degree of human happiness upon earth.

Most respectfully yours, JAMES DRY.

TO CONTINENTAL LEADERS.

SIR,—In my former letter, I had intended to notice slightly only the ideas it contained, so that others might work them out, if their object seemed to them attainable; but at present I will, if you will allow me, endeavour to explain more at length the views which I entertain. As regards the best method of influencing the public mind in England, so as to induce it to feel from conviction more interest than it now does in the affairs of other countries, it would seem that this is better done in detail, or by individual instances, than by general assertions or facts, which are not so easily comprehended or supported.

If one point, then, is kept steadily before the attention of the public in this country, and that one so easily appreciated as the justice or injustice of the tribunals in others, the impression will be at once felt, and will be continually increasing. The governments of the continent too, if they will not allow that a nation has the right to govern itself, will hardly deny that it has a right to be governed well; if it can be proved, therefore, that they lend themselves continually to judicial oppression, that slight offences are punished with the severity of great ones, that long imprisonments often take place before sentence is passed, that persons obnoxious only to the government suffer as if they were convicted criminals, and that politically law is but an instrument for the interest or vengeance of a party—if this can be proved, not only by occasional allusions, but in an enlarged and persevering manner, and one which will leave no doubt, it may become worth the while of governments so exposed to mitigate somewhat for their own sakes the despotism which they now exercise.

Let the leaders also of continental reform make it their mission to consolidate necessary institutions whilst they are endeavouring to do away with abuses; and if a government which exists by force has to be removed by force, there will be less danger in their hands of those violent convulsions and of that breach of all law which the pent up feelings of an injured nation sometimes commit when it finds itself stronger than its oppressors.

Let them also in those countries where the want of nobility in the government has degraded the people and lowered the standard of public opinion and of private morals, let them endeavour to inculcate, in judicial matters at least, the value of truth, and what ought to be the impartiality of law, and they will be the best benefactors of their country.—I remain, Sir, yours respectfully, E. F.

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 excellent advice given by OVID to his pupil in gallantry, which we often feel tempted to apply to Literature in the dull season. "Sit near the object of your attentions," he says, "and anticipate all her wishes. Should a grain of dust fall on her robe, brush it away with a discreet hand. Should there be none fall upon her robe, (and it is here OVID shows himself a master!) brush away the *absent* dust.

Et si nullus erit pulvis, tamen excute nullum."

We apply this to books, and we say to the critic, "If there are no books to review, review them."

Heard melodies are sweet,
But those unheard are sweeter!

Books published are agreeable, but those unwritten are incomparable! One day when an admiring versifier presented the witty DEJAZET with two poems he had written in her praise, she read one, and, smiling graciously, replied, "*Je préfère l'autre—I prefer the other!*"

This is a roundabout way of communicating the fact that we are sadly at a loss for material just now. Could we but adopt OVID's advice, our task would be pleasant enough; but the reader of a newspaper is fastidious on the article of news. We must look abroad; it is idle to look at home just now.

In Germany we hear of two poets getting places under government—GEIBEL, at Munich, and SCHEERENBERG, at Berlin. There is a prospect for the aspiring! It is true the poets are both mediocrities; but so much the better prospect for the aspiring! AUERBACH, who is in Switzerland, has just completed another novel. ADOLF STAHR, whose book on GOETHE we noticed the other day, has—in conformity with an usage which suggests very serious reflections—asked for a divorce, that he may marry FANNY LEWALD, the authoress. GUTZKOW is about to start a journal, and has commenced an autobiography, the first part of which he calls *Aus der Knabenzeit*.

It must be confessed that the Germans are but poor hands at memoirs. Indeed, their literature is comparatively scanty in that department. GOETHE was, if we remember right, the first author who wrote an autobiography; and even he properly styled it, *Poetry and Truth from my Life*—for it is very far from a biography. Not only does he reverse the ordinary mistake of autobiographers, and instead of making the most of his materials for personal display, make the least of them, understating in a remarkable manner the truth as regards his own acquirements and influence, but he seems to be as anxious to keep himself out of sight as other writers are to keep themselves prominent. Thus, with great *naïveté* he apologizes in one place for speaking so much of himself! Since his work, however, Germans have been autobiographical, and now KARL GUTZKOW, taking advantage of his popularity, commences a veridical history of his own life, a volume of which is to appear every five years. *Aus der Knabenzeit* relates his boyhood, beginning with the year 1811, and describes Berlin, his native town, with graphic vivacity, especially in its burgher life during the great struggle against NAPOLEON.

To add to our slender budget we may mention the *Athénæum Français*, a weekly journal modelled on our *Athénæum*, with the single exception of its articles being all signed. This we think an improvement, and a justice both to the reviewers and the reviewed. We have read the eight numbers of this journal, and can recommend it as likely to be both useful and agreeable.

The *coup d'état* has placed many things in France in an odious light, but the frightful servility, impiety, and unblushing corruption of the Church stand out a mass of blackness, which no episcopal whiteness of lawn, no Jesuitical mellifluousness of phrase can ever cause us to forget. The Church that blessed the Barricades and sang hosannahs to 1848, of course had no compunction in blessing the "salvation of society" accomplished on the 2nd of December. What FREDERICK THE GREAT said of Providence being always on the side of the best battalions, is disgracefully true of the Church. The power that secures them the loaves and fishes is the power demonstrably divine. Nevertheless, the way in which the Church not simply acquiesces in LOUIS BONAPARTE'S policy, but transcends the servility of the Elysée, is something to astonish even those who like ourselves are prepared for a great deal of dirty work in that direction. This is what we read in a contemporary:—

"Reflections on the Emperor now constitute the highest crime. The *Univers*, the organ of the Church, places such attacks beyond the crime of blasphemy. Speaking, for instance, of Proudhon's book, it says:—'The author is not contented with attacking, according to custom, the clergy, Christianity, God himself—he goes very much further (*il va bien plus loin*)—he insults the Emperor and the Empire.'"

What indeed are Christianity and God compared with the Emperor! Insult them, if you like, it is the privilege of an *esprit fort*; but to blaspheme the Empire is to render society impossible! And this, remember, is the language of the Church organ, in which Bishops and Archbishops,

Cardinals, and all the "right thinking" express themselves or see their opinions expressed; a journal which if it swerve from the strictest etiquette of doctrine is "called to order" by the authorities.

And men call this Religion.

DOUBLEDAY ON SOCIAL SCIENCE.

On Mundane Moral Government, demonstrating its Analogy with the system of Material Government. By Thomas Doubleday. Blackwood and Sons.

MR. DOUBLEDAY has here undertaken a task of immense difficulty, not only without the requisite preparation, but absolutely without any adequate conception of its difficulty, and his book is in consequence a failure. We should not have occupied our scanty space with any consideration of a work in which we see little intrinsic value, did not there lie in the very failure a lesson worth drawing out.

Of Mr. Doubleday we must speak with respect. His ingenious and suggestive work on "Population"—and the *tone* of the present work, are sufficient to make us anxious to separate as far as possible the writer from the work. We think the attitude of his mind is altogether a false one as regards the true issue of moral speculation; we think his opinions are not only erroneous but move in a path whereon truth can never be found; nevertheless we know that this false attitude and this false method are not peculiar to him, but are common to the great mass of speculators on moral and social questions.

That false Method is the Metaphysical Method, and his book affords us an excellent illustration of the essentially sterile nature of that Method. In proportion as Metaphysicians endeavour to bring their speculations within the range of Science they manifest their radical error. Mr. Doubleday here undertakes to prove—first, that our moral and social life is regulated by Laws and not by caprice or chance; second, that there is a close analogy between those Laws and the Laws which regulate the material world; thirdly, that he has discovered the one fundamental Law, which is to the Moral world what Gravitation is to the Material world.

Said we not that his task was one of immense difficulty! His conception of the difficulty was extremely vague; for he placed it in this distinction between the investigations of material and moral questions:—

"The phenomena of the laws which regulate material existence are in some measure palpable to view; but the machinery of moral regulation must of necessity be hidden from sight."

It is not easy to decide on the meaning of that passage. If it means that we know anything more of the "machinery" of the material than of the moral world, it is a profound mistake. In either case we only perceive phenomena which we classify into general forms under the name of Laws. If it be meant that material phenomena are more easily observed than moral phenomena, that also is a mistake; the only difference is this: Moral phenomena, owing to their greater complexity, are less easily assigned to their antecedents, and therefore less easily reducible to Scientific Law. But vital phenomena, are, by reason of their greater complexity, in the same position with respect to chemical phenomena, and again chemical phenomena are from the same reason less than physical phenomena.

The sentence on which we comment occurs in the preface, and gave us little hope for the demonstration the book was to offer. The reader will smile when we bring forward the Law which Mr. Doubleday naïvely imagines he has discovered; and yet, in truth, the discovery is as valid as most other metaphysical discoveries. The fundamental Law governing our Moral Life, as Gravitation governs the Material Universe, is, according to Mr. Doubleday, EXCITEMENT. Nothing more, nothing less. All the manifold phenomena are resolvable into that one law. A book is written to prove it.

At first the reader will be tempted to throw aside this as an elaborate truism, meaning simply that "Men are moved by motives;" but we invite him to dwell for a moment on this said Law, that he may appreciate the Metaphysical Method which led to the discovery. To reduce all moral phenomena to Excitement could never enter a scientific mind as the expression of a Law, simply because it is no law at all. There is a law of Gravitation, but Gravitation is not a law, though Mr. Doubleday (p. 212) seriously asserts it to be one. Tell an ignorant person that the planets move by the same law as that which makes the apple fall and the balloon rise, and tell him further that the law in question is Motion (for Gravitation is nothing more when divested of its law—viz., attraction acting directly as the mass and inversely as the square of the distance) will he be any the wiser? In like manner to tell him that all moral phenomena are but phenomena of Excitement, is not to put him in possession of law but of a word. Mr. Doubleday thus defines his meaning:—

"It has always seemed undeniable to the author of the foregoing pages, that there is not in human beings any inherent independent power of activity. The human mind only acts after having been acted upon. Bodily actions are the result of mental determinations or mental feelings, though some of them, by constant use, become almost mechanical; but to all mental determinations there is wanting that which metaphysicians name 'motive.' This is the exciting cause of the mental determination to act or forbear to act, as it may happen. Without the excitement of motive, the mind cannot act, simply because there is no ground for any particular direction of its activity in preference to any other possible direction. Until the motive excites it to act, therefore, the mind is passive; there is no cause nor reason for its moving in any direction. Nothing is presented to it to excite it to come to a decision. It is, therefore, in the absence of all motive, inactive. The power of active decision is there waiting to be called forth. Until excited, it is, however, a sleeping power, incapable of awaking through any inherent independent activity of its own."

Supply the words "motion" and "matter" in the place of "motives" and "mind," and you will see how accurately the passage represents the old physical speculations of metaphysicians. How many scientific discoveries have been made by means of "motion?" Whereas by means of the law of attraction we are incessantly adding to discoveries. When Mr. Doubleday furnishes us with the Law of Excitement in lieu of Excitement

as a Law, he will do for Morals what Newton did for Physics; and not till then.

The misconception of the nature of Law which pervades this work, is accompanied by as greater misconception of the scientific nature of Analogy, so much employed by him, e.g.—

RELIGION AND ELECTRICITY.

"In this connexion between violence and religious feeling, there are not wanting analogies with material phenomena. If the divine and spiritual principle of sincere religion has occasionally produced fruit so strange and unexpected as hostility and bloodshed, persecution and hatred, so have the subtler material elements—however pervading may be their salutary effects—produced accompanying evils, which can neither be evaded nor denied. One of the subtlest of our atmospheric elements is electricity. Of the great part it plays in promoting vegetation, in the formation of rain and dew, and in the regulation of climate and temperature, there can be little doubt. Yet it is probable that this recondite but salutary and beneficent agent is, in its changes and mutations, one of the causes of those mysterious visitations of pestilence and famine that, from time to time, in all recorded ages, have, at certain periods, afflicted the world. The same may probably be true of magnetism and of galvanism, if these be not indeed modifications only of electricity. Thus, then, in both worlds, material and moral, evils may accompany, and do accompany, the most refined and spiritualised, as well as the grossest and most tangible agencies. Electricity becomes the source of disease and death; religious zeal, of persecution, cruelty, and aggression. The best of motives and agents are not good unmixed, as the worst are not altogether bad; and as that electric fluid, which is present in the rain and dew that refreshes all nature, is the moving power likewise in the thunderstorm, the tornado, the pompero, and the hurricane—breathes pestilence in the sirocco, and storm in the monsoon—so have the mild teachings even of Christianity their possible tendencies to an opposite influence, and from the Sermon on the Mount the perversity of human passion has elaborated a Sicilian Vespers and a Saint Bartholomew!"

Monmouth and Macedon both have M. as their initial.

This work is, however, only one of a class. So long as men attempt the scientific solution of moral problems, and neglect the Method of positive science, so long will they wander helplessly through the labyrinth without a clue.

SPECIMENS OF INDIAN POETRY.

Specimens of Old Indian Poetry. Translated from the original Sanskrit into English Verse. By Ralph T. H. Griffith. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

THOSE who complain of the neglect of the Indian Muse, forget that beyond the remoteness of Indian thought there lies another cause—inadequacy of translation. Few poems read well in translation, and none where the substance is not of itself interesting enough to dispense with form. Now in Oriental poetry the form is everything; and that form is so opposed to all our ideas, that in translation it is apt to be wearisome bombast.

Translation is always a makeshift. But as English readers are not likely to learn Sanskrit for the literary delight of enjoying Indian poetry, one is very glad to get hold of a makeshift, that some dim image may be seen, "as in a glass darkly," of this Indian Muse. Hence the interest of such a work as Mr. Griffith's. It is an unpretending little volume, but lovers of literature will prize it; and as our own poets are silent just now, a hearing may be gained for these voices of an early world.

The "Veda Hymns" with which the volume opens belong to the untranslatable class. The extracts from the "Book of the Law of Manu," the "Ramayana," and the "Mahabharata" are more intelligible. From the first we extract

THE DUTY OF KINGS.

"He that ruleth should endeavour with his might and main to be
Like the Powers of God around him, in his strength and majesty;
Like the Rain-God in due season sendeth showers from above,
He should shed upon his kingdom equal favour, gracious love;
As the Sun draws up the water with his fiery rays of might,
Thus let him from his own kingdom claim his revenue and right;
As the mighty Wind unhinder'd bloweth freely where he will,
Let the monarch, ever present with his spies all places fill;
Like as in the judgment Yama punisheth both friends and foes,
Let him judge and punish duly rebels who his might oppose:
As the Moon's unclouded rising bringeth peace and calm delight,
Let his gracious presence ever gladden all his people's sight;
Let the king consume the wicked—burn the guilty in his ire,
Bright in glory, fierce in anger, like the mighty God of Fire;
As the General Mother feedeth all to whom she giveth birth,
Let the king support his subjects, like the kindly-fostering Earth."

But the most beautiful of all is that "Death of the Hermit Boy" from the "Ramayana." The bereaved king, whose son has just been taken from him, recurs in his sorrow to an early crime, and see in his present affliction a punishment:—

"Spake he sorrowing to Kausalya, sighing, weeping, for her son:—
'Art thou waking, mournful lady? give me all thy listening ear,
Hearken to a tale of sorrow,—to an ancient deed of fear.
Surely each must reap the harvest of his actions here below,
Virtuous deed shall bear a blessing, sin shall ever bring forth woe;
Bright are the Palāsa's blossoms, homely is the Amra tree,
And a man will fell the Amras, tend Palāsas carefully.
For awhile his heart is merry, when he sees the flowers so fair,
But in summer-time he sorrows, seeking fruit, for none is there.
Fool! I water'd bright Palāsas, laid the useful Amras low;
Now I mourn for banish'd Rāma, and my folly fruiteth woe.
'Tis a deed of youthful rashness brings on me this evil day,
As a young child tasteth poison, eating death in heedless play."

He relates how he waited in ambush to try his archer-skill, and fancying he heard a wild beast—

"Eager to lay low the monster, forth a glittering shaft I drew,
Poisonous as fell serpent's venom from the string the arrow flew;
Then I heard a bitter wailing, and a voice, 'Ah, me! ah, me!'
Of one wounded, falling, dying, calling out in agony;

Writhing on the bank in anguish with a plaintive voice cried he,
'Ah! wherefore has this arrow smitten a poor harmless Devotee?
Here at eve to fill my pitcher to this lonely stream I came,
Tell me, whom have I offended, how have I deserved blame?
Who should slay the guiltless Hermit, living in the secret wood,
His sole drink the river water, simple herbs and fruit his food?
Will the murderer spoil my body? Am I for my vesture slain?
Little from my deerskin mantle, or my bark coat will he gain;
'Tis not mine own death that pains me—from my aged parents torn,
Long their stay and only succour—'tis for their sad fate I mourn.
Who will feed them when I am not? Heedless youth, whoe'er thou art,
Thou hast murder'd father, mother, offspring—all with one fell dart.'
Horror seized my soul within me, and my mind was well-nigh gone,
In the stilly calm of evening as I heard that piteous moan;
Rushing forward through the bushes, on Surayu's bank I spied,
Lying low, a young Ascetic, with my shaft deep in his side;
With his matted hair dishevel'd, and his pitcher cast away,
From his side the life-blood ebbing, smear'd with dust and gore he lay;
Then he fix'd his eyes upon me,—scarcely could my senses brook,
As these bitter words he utter'd, that long last departing look:—
'Only to fetch water came I—tell me, wherefore do I bleed?
Have I sinn'd against thee, monarch; done thee wrong in word or deed?
Ah! I'm not thine only victim—cruel king, thy heedless dart
Pierces too a father's bosom, and an aged mother's heart.
They, my parents, blind and feeble, from this hand alone can drink,
When I come not, thirsting, hoping, sadly to the grave they'll sink.
No fruit from my Veda studies, none from Penance do I gain,
For my hapless father knows not his dear son is lying slain;
Ah! and if he knew me dying, powerless to save were he,
As a tree can never rescue from the axe the doom'd tree.
Hasten to him, son of Raghu! tell my father of my fate,
Lest his wrath like fire consume thee—hasten ere it be too late!
There within the shady forest is my father's hermitage,
Go, entreat him, son of Raghu! lest he curse thee in his rage;
Hasten, king!—but first in mercy draw this arrow from my side;
Ah! it eats away my body, as the river-bank the tide.'
Mind-distracted thus I ponder'd;—Now he writhes in agony,
When I draw the deadly arrow from his body he must die,
Quick he saw the doubt that held me, pitying, fearing, where I stood,
And the wounded boy address'd me, conquering pain by fortitude:—
'Let not thy sad heart be troubled for thy sin if I should die,
Lessen'd be thy grief and terror, for no Twice-born, King! am I;
Fear not, thou mayst do my bidding guiltless of a Brāhman's death,
Wedded to a Vaisya father, Sūdra mother gave me breath.'
Thus he spake, and I down kneeling, drew the arrow from his side;
Then the Hermit, rich in penance, fix'd his eyes on me, and died.
Pierced through, wetted by the ripples, by Surayu lying dead,
Bitterly I mourn'd the Hermit, weeping, much disquieted.
Motionless I stood in sorrow—sadly, anxiously I thought,
How to minister most kindly to the woe my hand had wrought.
From the stream I fill'd the pitcher, and, as he had told the road,
Quickly reach'd the lowly cottage where the childless twain abode;
Talking of their son's long tarrying, a poor aged sightless pair,
Like two birds with clipped wings, helpless, none to guide them, sat they there.
Sadly, slowly, I approached them, by my rash deed left forlorn,
Crush'd with terror was my spirit, and my mind with anguish torn;
At the sound of coming footsteps thus I heard the old man say,
'Dear son, bring me water quickly—thou hast been too long away!
Bathing in the stream, or playing, thou hast stay'd so long from home;
Come, thy mother longeth for thee—come in, quickly, dear child, come!
Be not angry, mine own darling—keep not in thy memory
Any hard word from thy mother, any hasty speech from me;
Thou art thy poor parents' succour, eyes art thou unto the blind;
Speak, on thee our lives are resting—why so silent and unkind?'
Thus I heard, yet deeper grieving, and in fresh augmented woe,
Spoke to the bereav'd father, with words faltering and slow."

After relating what has befallen—

"O'er his cheeks at my sad story flow'd the tear-streams in a flood,
Scarce for weeping spake the hermit, as with folded hands I stood;
'King! hadst thou conceal'd this horror—this blood-shedding left untold,
On thy head the sin had fallen with its fruit ten thousand-fold;
For a Warrior stain'd with murder, of a Hermit above all,
From his high estate, blood-guilty, were he Indra's self, must fall;
Thou dost live, for all unconscious, monarch! didst thou slay my son;
Else had all the race of Raghu fallen, by thy deed undone;
Lead us, king, by thee bereav'd, lead us to the fatal place,
Let us fold our darling's body in a long and last embrace.'
By the hand I led the mourners to the river where he lay,
Fondly clasp'd the sightless parents in their arms the death-cold clay."

We omit the lamentations of the father, followed by the funeral preparations—the poem thus concludes:—

"Duly were the sad rites ended by the parents' loving care,
And again the Sage address'd me as I stood a suppliant there:—
'Thou hast slain my well-belov'd,—rob'd my one dear child of breath,
Slay me, slay the childless father—there is now no sting in death.
But—for thou hast kill'd my darling—wretched King! thy breast shall know
Something of the pangs I suffer—a bereav'd father's woe.—
Thus I lay my curse upon thee—for this thing that thou hast done,
As I mourn for my belov'd, thou shalt sorrow for a son.'
Thus the childless Hermit cursed me, and straightway the aged pair
To the funeral pile ascended, and breathed out their spirits there.
Lady dear! that youthful folly fruiteth woe upon my head,
Heavy is my heart within me, and my soul disquieted;
Yea, the ancient Hermit's cursing is fulfill'd on me this day,—
Sorrow for my banish'd Rāma taketh all my life away.
Kiss me now, my own Kausalya, quickly will my vital breath
Leave me at the awful summons of the messengers of Death;

Woe is me! my son, my Râma—oh! 'tis bitter thus to die
When my child, my best beloved, gladdens not my closing eye.
Blest are they as Gods in Heaven, who shall see my noble son
Entering his halls in triumph when his weary exile's done;
Woe is me! my soul is darken'd, and my senses well-nigh fled,
Like the parting feeble gleamings that the dying torches shed.
Oh! my son! thy father's glory! oh! that thou wert by my side!
Fare thee well, mine own Kausalya!—Thus the sorrowing father died!"

The primitive pathos and simplicity of this pierce through the translation. It is such passages that lend themselves to translation, though we doubt not there is an accent in the original of exquisite beauty such as no translation can echo.

Mr. Griffith has modestly ushered in these "specimens," keeping himself in the back-ground. We are wholly incompetent to pronounce on the merits of his translation, but can cordially recommend the volume as a readable novelty.

LOUIS BLANC ON THE REVOLUTION.

Histoire de la Révolution Française. Par M. Louis Blanc. Tome III. W. Jeffs. There are men so fond of Literature, and so indifferent to Politics, that Macaulay's election to Parliament has been a grief to them, because it will retard the composition of his *History of England*; and to men of that class it will doubtless be a pleasant thought that Louis Blanc is excluded from the absorbing activities of Republican politics, and is forced to bestow a large amount of his energy on the composition of his *Histoire de la Révolution Française*—the third volume of which we have still to render account of. On its first appearance we gave it a brief notice, promising to return to it at leisure. The leisure never came; other books of pressing interest and novelty forced themselves upon us, and Louis Blanc at last slipped out of sight. And even now that we endeavour to repair the neglect our notice must necessarily be very brief.

The readers of the first two volumes need not be reminded of the extreme care in the sifting of facts, and minute reference in the citation of authorities which accompany the splendid animation of Louis Blanc's style; and this third volume shows even an increased anxiety of painstaking in that respect—as if he felt that it was necessary above all things to vindicate his claim to the title of conscientious historian as well as brilliant writer. That he is *impartial* no man expects. Absolute impartiality is not to be expected. One may question indeed its *desirability*; for it can only accompany absence of convictions, or that judicial attitude of mind, which destroying all emotion, destroys history as an art. Impartial, Louis Blanc is not; but he is honest, generous, and frank. You know his bias and "allow for the wind."

His style, in its splendour and its glitter, its energy and its monotony, its epigram, its abuse of apostrophe, and above all its admirable clearness, is too familiar to our readers for us to do more than mention that in this volume he has written with more sustained excellence than in any other. The opening chapter graphically, yet briefly, sets forth the whole meaning of the 4th of August, when France, animating the noblesse by one sublime impulse, abolished Feudalism for ever. This is followed by a description of the religious condition of France at the period, with a striking portrait of Claude Fauchet, the Priest of the Revolution. The portrait most elaborated is that of Marat; whom it is clear Louis Blanc does not regard with that stupid fanaticism which disgraces some sections of the republican party, though even he is too tender towards the man of whom it has been said, *à propos* of his deification—"It is well that our convictions should be a religion; but it is not well when our religion makes idols of monsters as hideous as those blindly worshipped by savages." Louis Blanc quotes an exquisite *mot* by Voltaire, who said to Marat, "*Le néant est un grand empire; régné-y!*" The Inane is a vast empire; proclaim yourself emperor."

Besides these chapters abounding in curious details, many of them novel, there is a curious chapter devoted to the party of the Comte de Provence, who here appears under a totally new light. We should like to hear the other side before accepting this chapter.

On the whole, we commend Louis Blanc's *History of the French Revolution* as one indispensable to the student of that epoch.

PLATO'S REPUBLIC.

The Republic of Plato, Translated into English, with an Introduction, Analysis, and Notes. By John Llewelyn Davies and David James Vaughan. Cambridge: Macmillan.

Of all Plato's works, the *Republic* is the one most read; and deservedly, for, although in tragic interest and solemn gravity of thought, the *Phædo* surpasses it, as the *Symposium* does in the dramatic presentation of character, and the *Phædrus* in poetic beauty, yet, taken as a compendious exposition of the main doctrines to be found in Plato, the *Republic* is the most typical of the dialogues. A good translation is, therefore, a work to be welcomed, and such a work is that before us. To those who talk "familiarly of Plato as maidens do of puppy-dogs," and who, never having tried the Greek, are ignorant of its difficulty, this translation may seem no more than one among the many translations which, from time to time, profess to initiate the unlearned into the secrets of ancient literature; but we venture to say that no one competent to offer an opinion on this subject, will refuse to Messrs. Davies and Vaughan the highest praise for the fidelity and elegance with which they have translated this dialogue. It is more exact than literal translations, for it represents the meaning of the original in corresponding phrases. The absurd notion, now current, that literalness gives exactness, and that all the expletives and *gesticulations* (so to speak) of the original are to be reproduced, may be easily ridiculed by a similar translation from French. *Qu'est-ce que c'est?* should thus be rendered, *What is that which it is?*

The translation before us has one considerable merit, it is very readable. It has another: there are no ostentatious notes, lavishing cheap erudition upon an incurious reader, and withholding all the while any real information! It has a third: an Introduction, written by Mr. Vaughan,

excellent in itself, and admirably preparing the reader for the work it introduces. A passage will confirm what we have said:—

"The principle, then, which pervades the Republic, amounts to this, that whatever we find in society,—every element of social life—has its exact counterpart on a smaller scale in the mind of the individual. If Plato had only intended to assert in this shape the proposition, that man is a social being, and that to study him isolated from his fellow-men can only lead to a false view of his nature, every one at the present day would acquiesce in such a statement. Plato would, no doubt, have assented to such a proposition himself, if it had been put before him; but the principle in question cannot be regarded as identical with this, or deducible from it. Again, if he had meant to say, that in all inquiries into the nature of man and society, we must treat the parts as the resolved units of the whole, instead of treating the whole as the aggregate of the component parts; or that, as we cannot form a conception of man prior to society, we must study him as the social unit, which presupposes the study of society;—if this were the exact expression of Plato's meaning, many writers at the present day would probably agree with him. But to suppose this would be to transfer the subtleties of modern thought to the less complex notions of a ruder age. Plato's conception was much simpler than this. He fancied that society must present exactly the same features and qualities as the individual, only exaggerated and heightened. It would be scarcely too much to say that he looked at man through the state, just as the physiologist examines some diminutive animalcule under the microscope. And hence, whatever he discovered in the state, he expected to find repeated, on a smaller scale, in the minds of its several members.

"At the present day we hear and read much of a science which has been variously called Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy of History, Physique Sociale. What may be the future attitude of this infant science,—to what degree of certainty and of precision it may hereafter attain,—and how far, when fully worked out, it may give rise to a corresponding art, which may serve as the statesman's guide,—it would be presumptuous at present to predict. The first task of this, as of every other infant science, has been to fix and define the primary notions which must underlie every part of the whole. What the conceptions of life, of function, and of organ are to biology, that the conceptions of humanity, of progress, and of civilization, are to sociology. And so much as this at least seems to have been certainly ascertained, and become the perpetual property of science,—that there is upon the whole, though with many drawbacks and many vicissitudes, a progress of humanity, governed by laws, whose outlines can at present be only dimly discerned. But though society progresses, the capabilities and intellectual powers of the individual are invariable. The great men of ancient times were not inferior in ability to the greatest of the moderns. It is their position in the world's history that has made the latter seem superior to the former. Leibnitz and Kant were not more profound thinkers than Plato and Aristotle. If Newton had lived in the second century before the Christian era, he would probably have been only a Hipparchus; and if Hipparchus had followed Kepler, he might have discovered the law of gravitation. The progress of humanity and the development of science do not give new intellectual powers to the individual; but they both afford him a firmer standing-ground, and teach him to use better the powers already at his disposal.

"Thus we see that Plato's conception of the relation of man to society, and the view presented by modern science, are diametrically opposed to one another. With Plato, society is merely a repetition of the individual on a larger scale: in the view of modern science, the individual is, rather, the creature of society. With Plato, society is an aggregate of individuals: in the view of modern science, it is an independent organism, having a life and movement of its own. The very idea of laws of nature,—in the sense which modern science has taught us to attach to the words,—much more the idea of a progressive movement of society and of laws determining that movement, was altogether unknown to ancient philosophy. Such a conception was, indeed, impossible in Plato's time. The history of more than two thousand years was necessary to its formation."

There is one passage which, from so philosophic a writer, we read with surprise, and with some misgiving as to its real meaning. Speaking of Plato's doctrine of Ideas, he says:—

"Plato believed in the existence of real objects corresponding to such terms as virtue, beauty, man, animal, bed. These real objects he called *idéas*, 'essential forms,' or 'archetypes.' Perhaps we may represent the process by which he arrived at this theory, thus. Finding that we try all beautiful objects, virtuous actions, &c., by a kind of ideal standard, he attributed an objective reality to this standard. Having done this, and failing to see the distinction between abstract terms that are founded on a moral sentiment, and those that are founded on a perception (e.g., between 'virtue' and 'whiteness') he was led to attribute an objective reality to all abstract terms. Lastly, confounding *general* with *abstract* names, he was compelled to assign an objective reality to all general terms also; e.g., animal, bed."

The supposed confusion of general with abstract terms we do not understand Platonically, and as to the *distinction*, he failed to see between abstract terms derived from moral sentiment and from perception, we must avow an equal blindness. There are actions having the quality we name virtuous, and there are substances having the quality we name whiteness, and these qualities we can abstract from the one as from the other, both by the same mental process; and, if Plato believed Virtue as a *type*, existed apart from virtuous actions, he was justified in believing Whiteness as a type existed apart from white things. Can Mr. Vaughan mean that Virtue is not a quality inherent in actions, as Whiteness is in chalk,—but is a *subjective* qualification, and thereby distinguishable from Whiteness? It will not avail the argument. The mental process of abstraction is the same whether we found it on a moral sentiment or on a perception.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- A Lecture upon Cotton as an Element of Industry.* By Thomas Bazley, Esq. Longman, Brown, and Co.
- The Home and Grave of Byron: a Complete Guide Book to Newstead Abbey and Neighbourhood.* Longman, Brown, and Co.
- Poems.* By The Hon. Julian Fane. William Pickering.
- Illustrations of Instinct, deduced from the Habits of British Animals.* By Jonathan Couch, F.L.S. John Van Voorst.
- Erastus; or, How the Church was made.* A. Cockshaw.
- Suggestions on the Law of Lunacy and Lunatic Asylums.* By J. Leech, M.D. John Churchill.
- On the Archetype and Homologies of the Vertebrate Skeleton.* By Richard Owen. John Van Voorst.

Portfolio.

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

LETTERS OF A VACABOND.

II.

October 26, 1851.

I AM not in a condition, my dear Giorgio, to supply you as you would desire with accounts of the public events which are exciting the English in so unusual a degree; for I have been kept a prisoner by an accident altogether unexpected. It would do your heart good to see the enthusiasm which the cold English are exhibiting on behalf of Hungary and Kossuth. Edwardes, who is a thorough Englishman, and devotedly attached to liberal opinions, is very proud of it. He sympathizes with all of us, to a great extent, but complains that the Liberals of the Continent tried to go too fast in 1848; and he almost charges us with throwing difficulties in the way of the English Minister. But Hungary he has thoroughly at heart. He recognises her constitutional claims. He would make any sacrifice to support her rights, except going to war. We have got beyond that, he says; and he points to the state of England as a proof. Say what you may, he argues, we are getting on capitally in every respect. Trade is really increasing. The Exposition, which is just over—and he is always throwing in my teeth the savage neglect I showed in being too late to see it—proved the supremacy of England in trade and useful arts. Of real freedom the English enjoy more than any nation under the sun. The circumstances of the people have improved. The power of the aristocracy is abating; that of the middle class is increasing; and the public opinion of the country is now wielded by plain men of business, who promote the interests of society in promoting their own. It is true, he admits, that they do not get on so fast as he could wish, even with approved measures; but “slow and sure.” And there is no country, he repeats, in which so much substantial happiness is enjoyed. Am I not candid to tell all this to you, my dear fellow, who have so often argued to me the same things? You, indeed, proved it to me in great part from books, and Edwardes speaks as a man mixing with the world; a difference which only establishes your case the more strongly.

I have said little to Edwardes of my own feelings, because I would rather see than say, especially at first. But I do not see that in *justice* Hungary has half so great a claim on England as Italy; nor in association; when we owe to Italy so much of our arts and our civilization; when so much of our daily avocations originates with her. But be that as it may, I am glad to see my countrymen renewing that sympathy for brave nations abroad which England has owned before; and I applauded rather than criticized the praises which, while he was hastening through his tea, Edwardes poured forth with equal generosity upon Hungary and upon England. We were going to a meeting in honour of Kossuth; and I believe that Edwardes was “to move a resolution;” but we were not destined to arrive at the place.

Just as we had turned into Oxford-street, we found one of the great crowds for which London is famous, collected round one of those “accidents” that enliven the somewhat tame life of this thriving metropolis: some one had been knocked down by a policeman and seriously hurt. “And it’s a *gentleman!*” whispered a working man with emphatic horror. Edwardes descended from his phaeton—I was wrong in calling it a gig; Edwardes says that gigs are never seen now, “except in Lincolnshire and Mesopotamia”—and we penetrated to the focus of interest. There lay a young man, in deadly stillness, bleeding at the head, and breathing heavily. The case was worse than the report: he had been knocked down into the road, and there run over; and, as we afterwards found, was suffering from a concussion of the brain and a broken leg. After some delay, he was removed home—not at any distance; we remained with him all night; and I have been in the house ever since. The first steps towards recovery were only advances to a more shocking state of existence; a broken leg and violent delirium are not good companions to each other, and I volunteered to watch him in turn with his brother. The father was paralyzed with fear; and the mother, vigorous as she seemed at a pinch, wanted *grip* for such a purpose.

It was a horrid case, and we shall never hear the whole merits of it. The young man must have been in wine; he got into some miserable scuffle, and was, I fancy, brutally treated. The policeman came next day; and the poor father, who is a model of helplessness, on the presence of any *strong* calamity, called on me to stand by him before the injurer of his son. “He thought it well to have the presence of a third party.” The policeman had evidently come to beg and bully, in order to save his post; and he found bullying the better course. The father had no mercy for the man while pleading that he was under provocation; but when he heard the odious details of the disturbance, some unintelligible quarrel with or about a profligate woman, he did all he could to “hush up” the matter; and at parting he actually shook hands with the policeman; who stalked out with an air of magnanimous forgiveness that deserved at least five shillings. “I do not like to bear malice,” said the tradesman to me. I cannot describe to you the painful emotions which the aspect of that worthy man

gave me—his tribulation at the sight of blood and physical suffering; his clumsiness; his anxiety to escape and “leave it all to the doctor and the women;” his feverish solicitude to hush up “William’s wildnesses,” clear the premises of police, and keep his shop free from “anything unusual;” the fussy, chop-fallen, palsy obtrusively evasive bearing. And yet he seemed anxious, and prepared to do “all for the best,” if he did but know how. Only “these things upset him so;” they are “so remarkably disagreeable.” Edwardes delighted him by telling him that the best thing that he could do was to keep out of the way; and next to his reliance on the unbounded ability of “the doctor,” I believe, was his gratitude to me. He told me forty times, that he could not express his sense of the kindness, the perfectly unexpected and unmerited kindness, which I had shown to the family; and in return, at every interval of business, he was indefatigable in seeing “that I was made comfortable,” “that I had all I wanted.” He has concentrated his own share of the labour thrown upon the household in surrounding me with superfluous materials for festive feeding, and with a perfect plethora of bedroom comforts, including several things of which I cannot guess the use.

Meanwhile I have grown to be quite “one of the family,” and am treated with a degree of confidence that seems extended to no one else. Of course calamity exercises its usual power, in performing the work of time. But part of this sudden familiarity, I believe, lies in the fact that I am regarded as “a foreigner,” and it is thought that things may be done before me which would not be permitted if I were an Englishman. Why is this? Is it not because half of the ordinary sense of right and wrong lies in the notion of what your companion will think of you. “*Honi soit qui mal y pense,*” is the rule of chivalry—obsolete just now in England; but the rule of daily life is, “Disgrace to him of whom ill is thought.”

It is a good family; would it were as happy. It comprises Mr. Johnson and his wife—a woman far short of fifty, but worn to a framework for the most respectable costume that London could exhibit; her children, of whom the eldest is a girl some twenty-five or thirty years of age; the youth in bed; three other daughters, the youngest about twelve; a second son, about sixteen or seventeen; and the wife’s cousin, not much older than the oldest daughter. We—how soon one gets to appropriate others into that multiple egotism *we!*—we are gradually “settling down into our ordinary ways;” and very strange ways they are—at least, to me. Could I write down all of respect, surprise, affection, regret, and indignation, that the ordinary life of this ordinary family causes me, I might take many days to write this letter—far longer than poor William will suffer me to remain at the work. Anything in the account that you cannot understand, I dare say Helen can remember enough to explain to you.

To be frank to you, this poor fellow lying beside my chair in his bed is a most insufferable animal. Convalescence only develops the odious inanity of his being. Pale, exhausted, feeble, he calls for attention to his comforts in a voice of irritated, impatient complaint at their not having been anticipated. From the fragmentary disclosures which he has made, I learn that his life hitherto, since he got away from school, has been one of business by day and “pleasure” by night. What the “pleasure” is I can only guess. Reminiscences of places of amusement not the most artistic—triumphs over policemen, of whom our poor friend has bastinadoed enough to garrison a great town—allusions, when we are alone, to more than one “poor girl” who has been very faithful to *him*—such for the past: for the future, profit by the lesson just incurred, sticking to business, and reform; for the present, mere and absolute suspension of ideas. The poor wretch has not read, has not experienced, has not loved, has not *lived*—he has been but the subject of accident and instinct. He cordially *loves* nothing; not even “Eliza,” on whom he intends to confer his battered body, as soon as he can arrange a partnership with his father. To describe the utter vacuity of his mind, at present, in the transition between the Chateau Rouge stage of life, and the counting-house stage, would be impracticable: you cannot describe a negation, nor paint a vacuum. The scraps of half boastful, repentant ribaldry—the silly feats of bravado—the convalescent mind narrowing to a very few ideas, the guides of the wise future—the tightening selfishness of the man not worth a place in the world, but now the object of an organized solicitude—make a composition of vanity ludicrously disgusting. Edwardes tells me that young Johnson is a perfect specimen of the London “gent.” I can assure you that a gent. *in articulo mortis* is not a sublime object. The father tells me that although William is wild—“and we have all been wild in our day, sir,”—he is a sharp fellow, and may have a place in the business as soon as he is married—“and a wife as soon as he asks for her.” Many a girl would be glad to have him, the father says; and Edwardes declares that it is *true!*

William loves nothing; and how any one can love him I cannot guess; save for that blind instinct which, by the blessing of our Heavenly Father, is stronger than man’s precepts and maxims. A more utterly valueless being than the sick man appeared as he lay in bed, it would be impossible to imagine. So actively worthless, so mischievous in all that there is to him of faculties, that truly the thought came over me more than once, how it was a less true service to any living creature to help in the labour of lugging him back into health and life, than to help in the purifying process of the opposite sort. A finger and thumb might have done it. I fancy it was less reason that restrained me than that same blind instinct. It is clear that some do love him. Not his father; who only respects him

—for his acuteness in business; and even that is a sympathy. Not his mother; a kind, loving soul, who knows what affection is, and who sets about her duty towards her son with an active assiduity far above resignation. Not his third sister—the only person in the house of whom he respects; a great girl of nineteen, who looks like a gipsy foundling intruded into the family, and who seems feared by them all. But his other sisters have the sickly family affection which they ought; and with his maiden cousin he is evidently a spoiled pet—an object of admiration for a sort of daring repute as a *roué* and swashbuckler, representative of modern chivalry and adumbration of the Lovelace region of life, moving in which womanhood, neglected by a jog-trot world, is at least appreciated by the attentions of Tarquinism. To those fearful regions, divided from respectable life by the great brazen wall of Gog and Magog, the “gent.” is privileged to travel; and neglected womanhood humbly wonders why the spirit of Lovelace needs go abroad to find its victims; wonders modestly and in unasking secrecy, and contents itself with ministering to the decorous repose of the traveller when he comes back again through those terrible brazen gates of Gog and Magog.

“We are settling down into our ordinary ways,” and I am growing familiar with the routine of an English middle-class home. It is not exactly the same with the one in which I passed my first Sunday. Johnson is not so rich, or rather, in English phrase, which reserves the word rich for great wealth, he is not so “well off” as Mr. Dowding, but he is still in very comfortable circumstances; he is a tea-dealer and grocer. He lives over his own shop, which Dowding would not do, scarcely to save himself from ruin. The family rise early for London, and the breakfast-table is generally surrounded by half-past eight o’clock. The scrupulous cleanliness is one of the first things to strike the new comer. I am not sure how far it is superficial or not; I have suspicions; but Edwardes, who confesses that English cleanliness used to reside chiefly in clothes and furniture, and face and hands, avers that now it is much better; and I can testify to the vigorous freshness of the third daughter, Margaret, who comes into the room almost wet from the bath; but then she is regarded with alarm for her daring and energy, especially by her faded eldest sister and cousin. The tablecloth, the plates, the cutlery, the silver, the “tea-things,” though plain, are resplendent. The bread cuts as white and smooth as *crema di burro*, so that one can scarcely fancy it to be wheat. Margaret laughed at me for thinking it so; but Johnson, who is sore on the subject of deception in trade, declared that he did not believe in the stories about adulteration; and Mrs. Johnson frowned at me in a motherly way not to continue the subject. Johnson unfolds the wet *Times*; invariably offers it to me; when I decline, asks me to excuse him; and plunges into it, occasionally reading scraps out loud. He always looks to see what Kossuth is doing, and then glances at the police news. The English are very fond of the police department in their paper, and always profess *not* to be so; except a few, who bravely brave the smiles of others in declaring that they *are* fond of it. The adventures of the dissolute, the reckless, and the wretched, furnish spice for the day of the respectable. Soon after breakfast Mr. Johnson disappears, and the young ladies go to their avocations. They “practise” in turns, which means that they study playing the piano-forte; an instrument you find in almost every house. What this is done for I cannot well learn. They scarcely ever become very proficient; very few can master their natural or conventional shyness enough to show even what they have learned to do before others; and most of them, so far as I can find out, drop music after marriage, with other “illusions.” However, the Miss Johnsons “practise” after breakfast; the younger girls then undergo some kind of teaching from their eldest sister; “For now that Sophy has grown up,” says Mrs. Johnson, “we can do without a governess, though Sophy herself, and indeed Jane, had the best of governesses.” To what effect, I cannot discover; they learned French, but they never will say a word of the language, and I am too courteous to put them to the test of reading it. They cannot “play,” which in England always means sounding “the piano,” as they call it. They cannot sing; one must avoid historical allusions if one would spare them moments of painful awkwardness. I do not see that they know *much* more than the women of your own country, though the time spent in “education” is vast. Why? you will ask. Because the English, coerced by custom, think much more of “the name of the thing” than of attaining the thing itself. To master historical knowledge, or to grasp the spirit of art, as little enters the mind of an Englishman for his daughters as killing a man enters the son’s mind when he “learns to fence.” The one thing they do seem to learn to some extent is precisely that over which they spend least time, and that is dancing. But when the time for a ball or a dance comes—the English make a distinction between the two—they *do not dance*. At least, so they tell me, for I have not yet seen any dancing. They all tell me that “no one dances now, it is vulgar; they just walk through it.” Throughout the morning needlework fills up the interstices; and it seems to me that Miss Selby, the cousin, never does anything else, except “dress for dinner.” Mrs. Johnson is occasionally absorbed in a consultation with the cook, who announces “the butcher,” or “the baker.” “The tray” breaks the morning with bread and butter and water, Johnson unlocking a little cupboard and taking a glass of wine for himself, always offering one to me, and one to “my dear.” I only observed her take it once, and then her eyes looked red. Red eyes are not an unfrequent ornament of the ladies, especially those more “in *mezzo del camin*,” but

it is the rule for others “to take no notice, and it passes off.” “A walk” before dinner is thought necessary, because it is wholesome. Then dinner, rather substantial, with beer for the drink; a show of wine after it, all the young ladies excepted; a hasty dose on Johnson’s part; a brief interval of indolence, tea, and then needlework, till “the tray” again makes its appearance, and then bed. Such appears to me to be “life” among the middle-class in England. I can hardly find out at what part any real life comes in. William promises to show me life when he is well again; Miss Johnson assures me that in the winter they are “very gay,” and promises to take me to “parties.” I try to learn more from Mrs. Johnson, whose weak eyes will not let her read or work after candles are brought in, and she is glad enough of a “quiet chat.”

From what she tells me, the Johnsons are quite a model family of their class: they have brought up their children, on the whole, very respectably—for William is beginning to grow steady, and Henry is all his parents could desire, if he could only show a little more interest in business. Sophy, it is true, is still upon their hands; but she might have had some very good offers; and at all events she will know, like Sarah (the cousin) how to make herself contented with her lot in life. And a married life is not one so much more happy, as single persons suppose; *that* illusion soon goes off, and very proper that it should. It is all very well for girls to talk of love, and to enjoy the happiness of youth and hope while they may, but when a woman marries, and has a family, she must come down to the *realities* of life; and Sophy has been spared those trials. Fanny (this is a daughter I have not seen) is very happily married to a worthy man, and they are *still* very fond of each other! Jane is engaged, and both the others are young. Margaret gives her parents some uneasiness, on account of her impetuous disposition; but with care she will no doubt do as well as the rest.

I wish I could show you the countenance of grave resignation with which good Mrs. Johnson uttered that hopeful phrase, “As well as the rest.” Although desiring to hear rather than talk, I could not help asking whether that was all that the girls had to expect in life? Mrs. Johnson first looked at me without answering, as if she did not understand the meaning of my question; and then, after a pause, so long that I thought she had forgotten, she said that, although no doubt I had seen much of the world, I was still comparatively young. Her eyes glanced uneasily at her daughters, as if she feared that they might hear my dangerous questions; and indeed I feel sure that Sophy *was* listening. “You do not know,” said Mrs. Johnson, deprecatingly, “what it is to be a mother.” That unquestionable truth silenced me.

Conversation flagged, and I invited the girls to music. After a fit of shyness, I discovered that they were all willing enough, only no one would begin. Then no one “could play *that*”—the thing proposed, whatever it was; so I was fain to put my own rough hands to the work. I found some feeling and taste in most of them, lurking under a mass of incompetency, moral and educational. It turned out that they never intended to sing “professionally”—that is, completely. But gradually they warmed into praiseworthy attempts, and in Margaret I discovered a voice full and dark as the purple grape under the vine leaf.

It seems to be thus all round—universal abnegation. I confess to you, my dear Giorgio, that I was wrong in describing the English as a money-making nation: I do not find them so, or they are so no longer. They are not avaricious, at least, not generally. They attend to business, because it is the only work before them; as a rat begins to eat the wood of his cage to make his way. They are a most abstemious nation, except in eating and drinking; and in that, after all, they are the reverse of luxurious. Cold damp mutton seems to be, as often as not, *the* one solace of the Englishman’s day, with half a pint of dark porter. They have energies and feelings, but they consent to waive them; as for music, they have voices, which they consent to waive; and as the nation has power, which it consents to waive. Life, with them, is one tedious waiver. The political philosophers of the day have constructed doctrines to show that this state of existence is necessary. They aver that it is a success; although, as they confess, “there is a skeleton in every house.” Avoidance—to avoid exposure of that skeleton, to avoid discredit, to avoid danger of every kind, to avoid all that is “disagreeable,”—is the leading object of the Englishman, especially in the middle class. And as a compromise, he attains that avoidance by waiving any positive form of existence. To the man, a youth of “life,” such as William Johnson has tasted, and a maturity of business—art, nature, life foregone. To the women, an alternative chance—seldom a choice—between the disappointed matronly “reality” of Mrs. Johnson, or the faded, faint unlived life of Miss Selby. But I suspect there is more than one skeleton in poor Johnson’s house; and more than one anxious to disclose itself.

Last night I desired to return to Edwardes’s, but they were all anxious to keep me a *few* days longer; and I yielded. But I went to see the Edwardeses, for I began to feel the want of their society. As I rose to go, the third daughter, Margaret, started from her chair, and cried, “Oh! may I go with you? *Do take me too.*”

“My dear!” exclaimed her mother, with every element of reprobation flung into the tone; but Margaret pleaded with an impetuosity that overwhelmed the mother’s passive resistance; and with an apology to me for her daughter’s wildness, Mrs. Johnson tacitly consented.

Margaret hurried away in dread of a revocation; and issued from the

door radiant with delight and liberty. Taking my arm, she laid her hand firmly and fully upon it; we soon strode to Edwardes's, and she threw herself into the arms of Mrs. Edwardes with a greedy affection which I had noticed in her before. I hardly know which is the more painful sight—this young life panting to burst the cage which is drawing round it; or the life, like that of the eldest sister, subdued to its cage. The English call themselves a "free people;" I feel amongst them like the wolf in the fable, whom the house-dog invites to the comfort and safety of a civilized home: the mark of the collar round the Englishman's neck warns me off.

THE FAIRY WIFE.

AN APOLOGUE.

A MERCHANT married a Fairy. He was so manly, so earnest, so energetic, and so loving, that her heart was constrained towards him, and she gave up her heritage in Fairyland to accept the lot of woman.

They were married; they were happy; and the early months glided away like the vanishing pageantry of a dream.

Before the year was over he had returned to his affairs; they were important and pressing, and occupied more and more of his time. But every evening as he hastened back to her side she felt the weariness of absence more than repaid by the delight of his presence. She sat at his feet, and sang to him, and prattled away the remnant of care that lingered in his mind.

But his cares multiplied. The happiness of many families depended on him. His affairs were vast and complicated, and they kept him longer away from her. All the day, while he was amidst his bales of merchandise, she roamed along the banks of a sequestered stream, weaving bright fancy pageantries, or devising airy gaieties with which to charm his troubled spirit. A bright and sunny being, she comprehended nothing of Care. Life was abounding in her. She knew not the disease of reflection; she felt not the perplexities of life. To sing and to laugh—to leap the stream and beckon him to leap after her, as he used in the old lover days, when she would conceal herself from him in the folds of a water lily—to tantalize and enchant him with a thousand capricious coqueties—this was her idea of how they should live; and when he gently refused to join her in these childlike gambols, and told her of the serious work that awaited him, she raised her soft blue eyes to him in baby wonderment, not comprehending what he meant, but acquiescing, with a sigh, because he said it.

She acquiesced, but a soft sadness fell upon her. Life to her was Love, and nothing more. A soft sadness also fell upon him. Life to him was Love, and something more; and he saw with regret that she did not comprehend it. The wall of Care, raised by busy hands, was gradually shutting him out from her. If she visited him during the day she found herself a hindrance and retired. When he came to her at sunset he came pre-occupied. She sat at his feet, loving his anxious face. He raised tenderly the golden ripple of loveliness that fell in ringlets on her neck, and kissed her soft beseeching eyes; but there was a something in his eyes, a remote look, as if his soul were afar, busy with other things, which made her little heart almost burst with uncomprehended jealousy.

She would steal up to him at times when he was absorbed in calculations, and, throwing her arms round his neck, woo him from his thought. A smile, revealing love in its very depths, would brighten his anxious face,

as for a moment he pushed aside the world, and concentrated all his being in one happy feeling.

She could win moments from him, she could not win his life; she could charm, she could not occupy him! The painful truth came slowly over her, as the deepening shadows fall upon a sunny Day until at last it is Night: Night with her stars of infinite beauty, but without the lustre and warmth of Day.

She drooped; and on her couch of sickness her keen-sighted love perceived, through all his ineffable tenderness, that same remoteness in his eyes, which proved that, even as he sat there grieving and apparently absorbed in her, there still came dim remembrances of Care to vex and occupy his soul.

"It were better I were dead," she thought; "I am not good enough for him." Poor child! Not good enough, because her simple nature knew not the manifold perplexities, the hindrances of *incomplete* life! Not good enough, because her whole life was centred in one whose life was scattered!

And so she breathed herself away, and left her husband to all his gloom of Care, made tenfold darker by the absence of those gleams of tenderness which before had fitfully irradiated life. The night was starless, and he alone.

VIVIAN.

The Arts.

SHAKSPEARE AGAIN IN THE PROVINCES.

THE amusing Playbill I printed last week, as a curiosity of the Literature of Managers, turns out to be no such novelty. It appears that the Provincial Managers have a touch of that scribbling disease, by Juvenal named *cacoethes scribendi*. *Bunn is abroad*—in lieu of the Schoolmaster! A correspondent sends me the following specimen of an unappreciated Schlegel.

HAMLET!

BY EXPRESS DESIRE.

THEATRE—BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

The Lessee has the honor to announce that the play of "HAMLET" will be presented on FRIDAY next. This Tragedy since the time of its birth has been the wonder of Europe. The transcendent genius of Shakespear is here summed up, and shines with a lustre unapproachable by any writer of either ancient or modern times. We may say of it, with the Bard,

"Time cannot change it, nor custom wither its infinite variety!"

MIDNIGHT—APPEARANCE of the GHOST! HAMLET'S ALARM.

Terrible Revelations of the Murdered King!

HAMLET'S RESOLVE—AFFECTATION OF MADNESS—STRATAGEM.

Burial of Ophelia—Hamlet's duel with Laertes.

The King's Prayer—Death of Polonius by the hand of Young Hamlet.

GRAND BANQUET!

Death of Hamlet, Laertes, and the King, from the effect of a poisoned foil!!

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN PRUSSIA.—Under the revised penal code of Prussia, it is provided that executions are no longer to be public; the sentence of the law is carried into effect in an enclosed space attached either to the prison or some other building, as may be appointed. Though capital punishment is seldom inflicted in Prussia, it is by no means abolished; it remains on the statute book for crimes of the deepest kind; and though in most cases the sentence is commuted to imprisonment for life, the power of inflicting it is retained. The first execution under the new system, in the district of Berlin, took place at the prison of Moabit, about a mile from the city. The criminal was a peasant named Lamm, condemned to death for the murder of his uncle. The regulations of the new code were strictly observed. They require that the members of the Court which pronounces the sentence shall also be present at its fulfilment, together with the public prosecutors, or Staatsanwälte, of the district and city criminal courts, and a deputation of the commune in which the prison or place of execution may be situate. On the present occasion all the persons compelled to attend *ex officio* were present; a few persons connected with the several courts were also admitted by tickets, but the public were kept in ignorance both of the place and hour of the execution. The yard of the new prison in front of the south-west tower was appointed. A body of mounted police guarded the external approaches; but there was scarcely any occasion for their services, very few persons having assembled. A written placard posted in the entrance of the district court during the day was all the notice the public received of the last solemn act of justice. The *Gazette* gives, under the title of "warning," a brief statement of the crime (which was committed on the 6th of March, 1849), and an extract from the sentence, with a note stating that "it has been this day executed."

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE. BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

	Satur.	Mon.	Tues.	Wedn.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	227	227	228	228	228	230
3 per Cent. Red.	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
3 per Cent. Con. Ans.	99½	100	99½	100	100	100
3 per Cent. Con. Ac.	99½	100½	99½	99½	100½	100
3½ per Cent. An.	103½	104½	104	104½	104½	104½
Now 5 per Cents.						
Long Ans., 1860		615-16	6½	615-16	6½	615-16
India Stock					276	86
Ditto Bonds, £1000	86	86	88	89	89	86
Ditto, under £1000	87				89	
Ex. Bills, £1000	68 p	68 p	68 p	68 p	71 p	
Ditto, £500	68 p	68 p	71 p			68 p
Ditto, Small	68 p					

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

Austrian Scrip, 5 p. Ct., 3½ pm.	102½
Austrian 5 per Cents.	82½
Brazilian, Small	102½
Buenos Ayres	73½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.	65½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	98½
Granada, ex Dec., 1849, coupon	24
Granada Deferred	11½
Peruvian	102½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. Def.	58½
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	37½
Sardinian 5 per Cents.	95½
Spanish 3 per Cents.	49½
Spanish 3 p. Cts. New Def.	22½
Spanish Passives	6
Spanish Com. Certif.	
Coupon not funded	3

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The Band of the First Life Guards will perform, by permission of Colonel Hall, every SATURDAY, at Four o'clock, until further notice.

Admission, One Shilling, On MONDAYS, SIXPENCE.

GUTTA PERCHA TUBING.—Many inquiries having been made as to the Durability of this Tubing, the Gutta Percha Company have pleasure in drawing attention to the following letter, received

FROM MR. C. HACKER, SURVEYOR TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD:

"Office of Works, Woburn Park, Jan. 10, 1852.

"In answer to your inquiries respecting the Gutta Percha Tubing for Pump Suctions, I find that the water has not affected it in the least, although it will eat lead through in two years; we have adopted it largely, both on account of being cheaper than lead, much easier fixed, and a more perfect job.

"Yours, &c., C. HACKER."

N.B. The Company's Illustrated Circulars, containing Instructions to Plumbers for joining tubes, lining tanks, &c., will be forwarded on the receipt of three postage stamps.

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Lot 6.—All those large commodious PREMISES, situate in Oxford Street, comprising a large SHOP, with excellent Dwelling House over, Outbuildings, and other Appurtenances, called "The Oxford Inn," now in the occupation of Mr. William Hill.

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Lot 8.—Another DWELLING HOUSE and SHOP, adjoining the preceding Lot, being No. 7, in Oxford Street, in the occupation of Mr. Neathway, Tailor, at £22 per annum.

Lot 9.—All that convenient DWELLING HOUSE and SHOP, being No. 8, in Oxford Street, in the occupation of Mr. William Reynolds, Baker; and also the Outbuildings, now used as a Coach-House and Stable, in the rear of and adjoining the said Premises.

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