

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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VOL. V. No. 219.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

WAR is still the all-absorbing subject at home and abroad—war to the Russian in Europe, and war to the knife in the House of Parliament. At the same time that we receive despatches of a brilliant "cutting out" affair in the Baltic, we have the reports of the gallant tenacity of the Turks in repulsing the Russians from Silistria, the advance of the allies in support of Omar Pacha, and the Council of War held between that chief and the leaders of the allied forces, Marshal St. Arnaud and Lord Raglan, at Varna. Upon the whole the account of progress made is as satisfactory as we can expect for a single week. At first, there were rumours that the Russians had succeeded in storming a battery at Silistria; but the very first statement induced us to doubt its truth. Marshal Paskiewitch, it is said, had retired to consult upon a fresh attack—a most unusual manoeuvre for a thoroughly successful assailant. It now appears that the Russians were repulsed more than once; that they have not yet regularly invested the fort; and, although its strength is not great, the behaviour of the leaders of the three armies induces the belief that they were prepared to render all support which might be necessary at the proper time. The understanding appears to be, that the allied Generals will be inclined to spare their troops much exertion during the hot season, to act principally upon the defensive, to let the Russians employ their strength principally upon their favourite enemies—climate and disease in the happy land of the Dobrudscha, and to reserve their own aggressive vigour for a more fitting season, or at all events for more inviting opportunity.

In the meanwhile the steps intended to check the offers of assistance to the Czar had been taken. A French force landed at the Piræus, on the 25th of May, to take military possession of Greece, and to assist the Government in putting down the insurrection. The first act of General Forey was to take possession of all the Greek vessels of war; the second act was to receive King Otho's acceptance of all the proposals of France and England. That judicious monarch, at last perceiving his own interests under this striking intimation, had proclaimed a strict neutrality in the affairs of Turkey, and had changed his Ministry, Mavrocordato being once more the Premier. In

other words, France and England have now entered office in Athens, and Russian sympathies are sent into opposition.

The war is also the leading subject of discussion, the leading motive of action in Germany. We have now before us two important documents—the Protocol (number 6) of the Conference of the Four Powers at Vienna, signed on the 23rd of May, and the identic and collective memorandum on the subject of the Austro-Prussian convention offered to the Germanic Diet. The protocol to which the Austro-Prussian and Gallo-Bavarian conventions are annexed, declares that the two conventions bind them to the relative situation which the Allied Powers generally occupied, for securing the principle established by the series of protocols in the conference of Vienna; that "the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the evacuation of that portion of its territory which is occupied by the Russian army are, and will continue to be, the constant and invariable object of the union of the Four Powers;" and that consequently the Conference "sanctions" the conventions just mentioned. The diversity in the statement of the objects of war, between the Four Powers and the two Western Powers, has been pointed out by several of our contemporaries; the Western Powers aiming to restore peace with the fresh guarantees that it shall not be again broken, while the Four Powers only aim at the restoration of peace as it was before the war.

The identic memorandum invites the other states of Germany to join the Austro-Prussian League; which, it will be remembered, pledges its adherents to defend each other's territories, German or non-German, from any attack whatsoever. Since no attack on those territories is contemplated by the Western Powers,—since, on the other hand, Russia has shown a disposition to make a coercive attack upon Austria,—this memorandum would have for its effect a consolidation of Germanic resistance to Russia. So far good, but there is great reason to doubt whether the accession of more states does not discredit and neutralize the accession of others. By the admission of all German states to the League, several undisguised friends of Russia, such as Bavaria, Saxony, or some of the minor states, are now seated in the League of defensive neutrality.

Another adherent to the European neutrality is Naples, to whom we may apply the same remarks that we have just applied to Bavaria.

In our own House of Commons, the war is

scarcely less fierce than it is on the Danube. The occasion for it this week was offered by the motion of the Attorney-General on Monday night, to withdraw five bills for the disfranchisement of certain electors in Canterbury, Hull, Cambridge, Maldon, and Barnstaple. In those boroughs systematic bribery and corruption were proved to exist; but the idea was adopted this year of sparing the disfranchisement of the entire boroughs were visiting with that penalty those electors who had been guilty of the offence. It was thought that this would be a course more in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution than the striking out of the entire boroughs, and more effectual as a check. A notion has prevailed, however, that some of the corrupt electors gave evidence incriminating themselves under a promise of immunity; the new Reform Bill to which these bills constituted a kind of appendix, had been given up; and there were said the Attorney-General, other "difficulties," which he did not specify. He therefore proposed to abandon the bills, leaving the penalty in terror against future offences. Sir Frederick Thesiger approved of that course, and it seemed as if the whole affair would pass off smoothly, until Mr. Disraeli called attention to the character of those measures, and to their position in the list of bills which Ministers abandoned, besides the Law of Settlement Bill, the Education Bill, and some others. He examined the bills which Ministers had withdrawn, had lost, or had compromised,—all of them constituting attacks on the institutions of the country, but all of them baffled. Lord John vindicated himself against the charge of attacking Lord Derby, with retorts on the defeat of that Government, and on Mr. Disraeli for his inconsistency in not having at one time or other supported the Jew Bill. Up rose Mr. Disraeli again, with a still fiercer attack on Lord John Russell, who had stipulated for reform on joining Lord Aberdeen's Government, and had then compromised his own principles to retain that Government in opposition, although but four years since he denounced Lord Aberdeen as a conniver with foreign conspirators. Sir George Grey now stood up for his former colleague, denying that Lord John had abandoned his party; and then came Lord John himself with more defence and a declaration that he should continue to stick to office so long as Ministers conduct the war properly; next Mr. Osborne with "Hansard" to prove that at one time or other Mr. Disraeli had voted against

the emancipation of the Jews, or on some cross-question of form—for such appears to have been the fact; and thus Ministers and ex-Ministers continued the fight over the Bribery Bills. On the whole, it was felt that Mr. Disraeli had been more successful than the other side; for Ministers are losing ground, and they know it.

The detailed measures of the Budget proceed without serious obstruction. Mr. Gladstone is allowed to arrange his Exchequer-bonds, and to carry the second reading of his bill, and Mr. Wilson arranges the sugar duties, and carries the second reading of his bill, without any effective opposition. Some slight exception was taken to details in the prize-distribution bill, absurdly called the Manning of the Navy Bill, which comprises several improvements in the manner of distribution, tending to protect the recipient of prizes from the abstraction made by agents under the name of "expenses." These bills have passed.

The Oxford University Bill continues to undergo considerable alterations in committee. So considerable, indeed, that Government intend to reconstruct a portion of it, and then to re-commit the Bill, so that it may be placed in a condition of better order. Some of the amendments made by independent Members have been better in purpose than in effect, and are not quite satisfactory to those who really best know what is wanted. The Reformers at Oxford are somewhat at issue with the Reformers in London. The London Reformers have stood aloof from Government; the Oxford Reformers have closed with it, believing the Bill to be imperfect, indeed, but the best they are likely to get. The London Reformers have helped to carry sectional election against the Government, hoping, thus to obtain immediate ascendancy of Professors. Sectional election of professors, however, involves sectional election of heads; and Oxford Reformers desire congregational election, believing that the working men would pretty soon be liberal, and not thinking the present staff of professors worth a real sacrifice of liberty. There is a great amount of acquiescence in the bill, testified by the late petitions; and probably the Oxford Reformer may shrink from going to sea again, if he can get through the bill some substantial good and the promise of more. The retention of clerical monopoly, to a considerable extent, is of course the worst feature. The commission, also, was bad; but it is to be improved, we hope, by the addition of some good liberal names.

On the recommendation of a select committee, the House of Commons has adopted several new rules, for the purpose of abridging the formal hindrance to business. For example, "blanks" left in bills are to be filled up, as a matter of course, when they are of a kind which occasions no dispute. Again, with regard to measures that are to be considered in committee of the whole House, there is not to be a separate motion for the House to go into each measure successively, but the House having gone into committee once for any evening, is to take all the measures intended for that stage on that day. The alteration will be an improvement so far as it goes; but it is only a nibble at an enormous abuse, principally arising from the amount of county and local business which the House keeps in its hands, and which consumes half the time of the session.

But of course the Legislature and the larger portion of the trade of the metropolis were suspended on Wednesday, in order that a vast course might go down to Epsom for the purpose of seeing "Andover" win the Derby, and of witnessing the blank faces of the members who had betted upon "Autocrat" or "Dervish."

The state of trade again excites remark for the evidence of its soundness. Notwithstanding the defeats of Ministers, the continuance of the war hitherto, and the probability of its longer conti-

nuance. Consols have risen since last week, and have maintained themselves at an unexpectedly high point. On Monday they rose from 89½ to 91; next day they touched 91½, and they have since remained decidedly above 91. The reasons are obvious: from Australia we have reports not only of Canvas Town disappearing on the absorption of the surplus population of adventurers who had flocked to Melbourne, not only of excellent "findings" and bulky nuggets, but of many facts which prove that in that region, as well as in China, in Europe, and in America, commerce will continue uninterrupted by war; and, not less important, it now appears to be tolerably certain, that so far, the crops are likely to be good and abundant; only it is beginning to become rather vexatious that the rain should be so much more persevering with its measures than Ministers with theirs.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

There was a great party and personal debate on Monday night in the House of Commons, resulting in a sort of duel between Mr. Disraeli and Lord John Russell, in which the former appeared once more as a violent personal assailant. The question immediately before the House was scarcely debated at all. It was nothing more nor less important than the withdrawal of the five bills disfranchising certain voters in Canterbury, Cambridge, Hull, Maldon, and Barnstaple. The opportunity for so much speaking arose from the fact that each bill had to be separately withdrawn; and consequently each member had an opportunity of speaking on each motion. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the discharge of the order for the second reading of the Canterbury bill first; stating as a reason that an opinion prevailed in the House, an opinion to which he deferentially gave way, that the voters proposed to be disfranchised were protected by the indemnity from all consequences legislative as well as legal. Although it would be a great thing to purify the constituencies, that and would be dearly bought at the sacrifice of public faith. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER rejoiced that such a determination had been come to; and testified to the fairness with which the Attorney-General had acted. Mr. O. STANLEY, however, thought that Government were greatly to be censured for withdrawing these bills; as thereby the ends of justice had been defeated. Mr. VERNON SMITH said the bills ought never to have been introduced. Would the writs now be issued? Lord JOHN RUSSELL said in reply to this question that he thought the writs ought to be suspended until the select committee had disposed of the bribery bills before them; but Mr. GEORGE BURR held that that was no ground for delay. Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE here said that the five boroughs ought to be disfranchised; and he should object to any writs being issued to these delinquent boroughs.

In this quiet fashion the debate was jogging on, when Mr. DISRAELI rose and made a slashing attack upon the entire conduct of the Government this session. He revelled in a description of the number of measures introduced and their fate in that House. There were seven of them. Three had been withdrawn; three had been rejected; and one only remained, which he hoped would be altogether defeated. The chief characteristic of these seven measures was that they either attacked the rights of the subject or the institutions of the country. He enumerated them one by one—and asked whether Government had thought they could carry them; and if not, why they had been so imprudently introduced?

"He considered it a great matter that the House and the country should be impressed with all these circumstances, for they should not forget that they had a Government composed of men remarkably distinguished for their great abilities—(cheers and laughter)—men who were making enormous sacrifices both for their country and for themselves, and no man more than the noble lord himself making a greater sacrifice, for he had thrown overboard all his old colleagues, and was now associated with men who had formerly depreciated his great abilities. (Cheers and laughter.) But had the noble lord succeeded in the object for which he had made those enormous sacrifices? How did the House find these seven great measures at the end of May? Of these most important measures ever proposed to Parliament, three had been withdrawn, and three had brought defeats upon the Government. He could not help feeling that the country had not received that ample compensation, and that they would not be justified in saying the Government measures had not been conducted so statesmanlike as they ought to have received, or ought to have been. True, they had been told that the Government had no principles, but that it had all the talents, and, consequently, they had a right to expect something from Lord John Russell for banishing his friends to their present invisible position, and placing him upon a bench surrounded by men who derided his career for the last quarter of a century."

The first motion was agreed to; and on the second, for discharging the bill relating to Cambridge, Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied to Mr. Disraeli. The reformed House of Commons cannot be depended

upon for carrying bills, as in former times, when a Minister and his connexions could return a majority. No doubt Mr. Disraeli had felt the disappointment attending want of success; and Government has also felt that disappointment. Great questions, immensely superior to any except Parliamentary reform, had been before the House; questions relating to the East, upon which the House might have given its opinion; and there was the question of credulity or connivance raised by Mr. Disraeli himself. But then he only criticised. So great were his scruples that he would not disturb the Government by testing the opinion of the House. Yet when supplies had been granted, and ways and means were proposed, Mr. Disraeli came forward and endeavoured to defeat those measures for defraying the expenses of the war; and on two occasions he was defeated himself by majorities exceeding 100. Therefore he and his friends had not regained the confidence of the House which they did so much to lose while in office. Mr. Disraeli seemed greatly alarmed for the constitution. Assaults on the constitution! Well, he must be greatly relieved by the rejection of the Oaths Bill, when the only practical effect of his vote was to exclude Jews from Parliament:—

"The right honourable gentleman has more than once declared his wish to see the Jews in the possession of the privileges which the other subjects of her Majesty enjoy. He thinks them peculiarly fitted for those privileges—more so than Protestants, or Roman Catholics, or any other class; but still I cannot understand his great anxiety to see the Jews in the possession of those privileges; for sometimes he does not vote at all, and sometimes he votes for them, and the political convenience of the hour seems to have overcome his attachment to the Jews. Such is the position of the Government and of the right honourable gentleman. I regret that these great measures have been defeated, but with regard to the greater question, I must repeat that this House has not shown confidence in the right honourable gentleman; but has, both in discussion and division, shown confidence in the Government."

Mr. DISRAELI felt the taunt conveyed in the last sentences of Lord John's speech, and he broke forth into a torrent of invective, rising at once and commencing to speak thus:—

"The noble lord seems to think that I am surprised that he has not quitted office; sir, on the contrary, I should have been immensely surprised if he had. (Loud laughter from the Opposition.) Many more defeats, if possible more humiliating, and if possible more complete, must occur before the noble lord will feel the necessity of taking such a step as that. (Cheers.) I know the noble lord too well; I have sat opposite to him too long; I have seen him too often in the same position. Many a time have I seen him experience the most signal defeats, and I have seen him still adhere to office with a patriotism and a pertinacity which cannot be too much admired." (Cheers and laughter.)

With respect to his not having taken the opinion of the House on the Eastern correspondence, Lord John had totally forgotten that he did not lay the whole correspondence on the table, but secreted and kept back a most important portion, and, but for the allusion of a foreign journal, the people of this country would have been kept in total ignorance of what had really occurred, and would have been flagrantly misled.

"I confess, sir, I made a mistake in saying that the conduct of the Ministry could only be accounted for by connivance or credulity; it was too limited a view of the case. When we had all those papers before us, my opinion then became more complete and matured, and I say now, that their conduct can only be accounted for by connivance and credulity. (Cheers.)

Referring to Lord John's allusions to Lord Derby's Government, Mr. Disraeli roundly charged him with having offered an unfair, not to say a factious, opposition to that Government.

"He had scarcely retired from office—from which, be it remembered, he was not driven by any efforts of ours, but by discourtesy quarrels with his own colleagues—when he went into fierce opposition; and against what? Against the measure for the establishment of the militia force upon the voluntary system. (Loud cheers.) Night after night the noble lord opposed that measure; he exhausted every combination of faction; he opposed it at every stage, and at last he exhausted the support and confidence of his own friends. (Cheers.) And now let me appeal to the House and the country, what is their opinion of that measure? Is it not recognised as one of the most successful measures that ever passed this House? (Loud cheers.) Is it not the safeguard and the protection of the country at the present moment? (Loud cheers.) But is that all? What was the conduct of the noble lord and his friends with regard to another measure of the Government of Lord Derby? What did they say when we proposed to reform the Court of Chancery? They opposed our proposition with derision. 'What!' said they, 'are you going to put Parliament into Chancery? that must never be;' and it was nothing but the good feeling of the House, which the noble lord on that occasion could not manage to suit his own purpose—nothing but the good feeling and the high spirit of the House which allowed us to pass those useful measures which were introduced in another place by Lord St. Leonard's. Was not the reform of the Court of Chancery a most useful measure? (Cheers.) But the country is not indebted for it to that distinguished statesman now the leader of this House—it is indebted for it to that Government which, from the first moment it was formed, he opposed with every artifice. Suppose the reform of the Court of Chancery had not been accomplished by the Government of Lord Derby, would you

by this time have obtained that important measure from all the Talents—(laughter and cheers)—those gentlemen who make such enormous propositions, but who accomplish such slight results? (Laughter.) What have those distinguished and gifted beings whom I see before me done equal to the establishment of the militia on the voluntary system, and the reform of the Court of Chancery? (Loud cheers.)

Another proposition of Lord Derby's Government—a liberal and enlightened proposition—had been defeated by the aid of the "sanctimonious rhetoric" of Mr. Gladstone; and Lancashire and Yorkshire still cry for their share of representatives. Mr. Gladstone then said "it is not for a Government of sufferance to propose a measure of Parliamentary reform. You must wait until you have a Government worthy of confidence. And here, no doubt, the vision of a true reforming Government passed before the right hon. gentleman's prescient and prophetic glance. (Laughter.) Well, now, what have you got in the matter of Parliamentary reform from this Government?" (Cheers.)

He next charged Lord John Russell with denouncing a graduated income-tax, and then joining an Administration that passed a graduated income-tax.

"But under what circumstances did the noble lord join that Government? The noble lord must, as I said before, have made great sacrifices. He parted from the colleagues of his life, who had been faithful to him, to take into his bosom the ancient foes who had passed their lives in depreciating his abilities and in decrying his eminent career. He gave up the confidence—I may say he almost broke up the being of that historic party, the confidence of which to a man like the noble lord ought not to have been less precious than the favour of his Sovereign. (Cheers.) And for what did he do it? Not from any spirit of faction—not from any spirit of political jealousy or envy of Lord Derby or anybody else, but because he was devoted to great principles and was resolved to carry great measures—the great measure of education for example. To carry the great measure of education—that was the reason why the noble lord broke up an ancient and noble party—long connected in its associations with the glory of this country. There were also other great measures, but perhaps hardly of equal importance, and not so pressing. There was the completion of the reform of this House, the fulfilment of the religious liberties of the country. These were great measures indeed. We know what happened with that great scheme of education which the noble lord brought forward last year. It evaporated most suddenly and completely. I don't know at this moment whether it was ever introduced into the House, but I believe it vanished even while the noble lord was making his proposition. He might ask for some explanation as to the relation existing between himself and the Government of which he is a member? All the great measures for which he made costly sacrifices have been defeated or withdrawn, but the noble lord still retains his position. The most eminent statesman in this country, one of the oldest and most experienced of the members of this House—one who has been three times Secretary of State—who has been Secretary of State in each department—who was Prime Minister of England for a long term—one who is associated with the memory of great principles—who is beloved by large bodies of his countrymen—who was the leader of a noble historic party—condescends now to accept a subordinate office under one who is not only a Minister not entitled to the confidence of the country—(loud and continued cheering)—but who was his ancient and inveterate political opponent, and whom only four years ago he rose and denounced in this House (he talks of connivance!) as a conspirer with foreign conspirators. (Loud cheers.) And now he comes down to the House and tells us that the defeat which his bill experienced on Thursday night has been occasioned by my being false to the principles which I had previously professed. The noble lord said that I pretended to be an assenter of the claims of the Jews to political equality with the other subjects of her Majesty, and that I made that cause subservient to political schemes; that when occasion suited me I left the House and did not vote, and that when it was convenient I did vote, still as occasion suited me. Now, I give to that statement a most unequivocal and unqualified denial. (Loud cheers.) . . . I believe the noble lord has been much too easily influenced by counsellors who have already injured his position, and who will not rest in their endeavours until they have permanently sullied his once illustrious name. (Cheers.) This I plainly tell the noble lord. I have now endeavoured to vindicate myself from the attack which the noble lord has made upon me, but there is one subject upon which I do not wish to be mistaken, and I therefore repeat that the noble lord is in error—unintentional, I have no doubt—in stating that I ever left this House when a vote in favour of the Jews was called for." (Loud cheers.)

To this assault Lord John was then precluded from replying by the forms of the House. Sir GEORGE GREY, one of his old colleagues, rose up to defend him; and was received with loud cheers when he said that the course taken by Mr. Disraeli was not one calculated to elevate the tone and character of the House. He rated Mr. Disraeli for his violent and unprovoked attack upon Lord John, followed by a still more violent personal attack "made with a vehemence of manner and gesture and an acrimony hardly witnessed in former displays upon the part of the right hon. 'gentleman.'" (Loud cheers.) His invective would not in the least impair the character of Lord John Russell.

"The right hon. 'gentleman' has accused my noble friend of wishing to throw over his former colleagues, and of lending himself to those who have been opposed to him all his life; and he has denied that the noble lord, in taking that course, was actuated by any patriotic motives. He has accused my noble friend of taking a course of which his past life, from the commencement of his Parliamentary career, is the best refutation; and I trust that when the

right hon. gentleman has sat as long in Parliament and has been as long before the country as my noble friend, the esteem in which he will be held by the country will be equal to that in which my noble friend is now held. (Loud cheers.) I can only say that my noble friend did me the honour to consult me when, upon the dissolution of Lord Derby's Government, he was invited to take part in the Administration about to be formed; and I may say that the part which the noble lord subsequently took in forming a part of the Government of Lord Aberdeen met with my hearty, sincere, and cordial approval. (Cheers.) . . . I could appeal to evidence which perhaps the right hon. gentleman would not like me to resort to to show the uniform support which has been given by every former colleague of the noble lord to the Government of which he is now a member. Further, when the right hon. gentleman expresses in this House a firm belief that the Government of Lord Aberdeen does not possess the confidence of the country, I would repeat what I and others have observed before, that I think it degrading to the party of which the right hon. gentleman is the leader that these assertions should be made night after night without testing the opinion of the House in a proper and legitimate manner." (Loud cheers.)

Colonel PEEL having declared that, Conservative as he was, he could never be a party to such attacks as had been made upon Lord John Russell that night; the motion was agreed to.

The moving that the order for the second reading of the third bill be discharged gave Lord JOHN an opportunity for reply; and for making a statement of historical value regarding what took place at the formation of the Aberdeen Administration. At the commencement of his speech he regretted if he had done Mr. Disraeli any wrong with regard to the Jewish claims. But when accused of factiously opposing Lord Derby's Government, he must question the facts relied upon by Mr. Disraeli. The fact was he had opposed the Militia Bill because he thought his own the better measure; and so far from repeatedly dividing the House against it, he only voted against the second reading, and took no part whatever in the committee. What he did object to was the attempt made by Lord Derby to carry on the Government without possessing the confidence of the House of Commons; and owing to the course he took Lord Derby was compelled to disclaim that doctrine and consent to wind up the session. That which overthrew the Government of Lord Derby was their mode of carrying on the Government, and the means they resorted to to obtain a majority in Parliament.

"But he says that I opposed his plan of finance upon the difference between permanent and precarious incomes. The utmost which I did was to state my doubt upon the subject, and to say that it was a principle which was entirely new. But when that Government was overthrown, a serious question offered itself to my mind, on which I might be obliged to give a decision. That question was, as I had taken part with those who had overthrown the Government, whether or not I should take any part in the Government which was now about to be formed. I do not hesitate to say, that if I thought a Government could have been formed, either by myself or by any other party, without any union of different parties, capable of taking up a strong position in the House of Commons, I should have said it would be better to have one party only than to have the union of different parties who had not hitherto acted together. But when I came to consider the position in which I should have been placed, supposing her Majesty should send me an invitation to form a Government, as her Majesty afterwards did send me such an invitation, I saw that I should not be able to form a Government which would have power to carry on the business of the House. But with regard to Lord Aberdeen, could he, with the assistance of Sir Robert Peel's friends, form a Government alone? He said no, it was impossible. Lord Derby's Government had been justly defeated after a dissolution of Parliament, and after every means had been taken—I will not enter upon the nature of these means—to insure a majority for that Government. Was I to contribute to bring Parliamentary Government into discredit? Was it not my duty to do everything which I could to enable her Majesty to form a Government in the House of Commons? I did not act alone—I did not betray—I did not desert—I did not surrender the confidence of party with which I have been connected. (Loud cheers.) My right honourable friend (Sir G. Grey) who has just spoken has, I think, given you a testimonial that I did not surrender the confidence of that party; and the man I naturally went to consult on that occasion was not one who had been constantly my enemy, and one in whom I could have no political confidence. The man whom I went to consult was my Lord Lansdowne—(great cheering)—and I found with him a right honourable friend of mine, as distinguished for his talent and character as any member of this House—I mean Mr. Macaulay. (Cheers.) I think I shall betray no confidence when I state what passed at that interview. I asked Lord Lansdowne whether, supposing Lord Aberdeen were to have a mission from her Majesty to form a Government, he thought I could be a member of the Cabinet of Lord Aberdeen, and whether he thought it my duty to become a member of it? We discussed various contingencies, and Lord Lansdowne ended with declaring that, in his opinion, it was my duty to the public to accept office under Lord Aberdeen. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Macaulay declared his opinion still more strongly. 'I know you are not afraid of responsibilities; but you never will have incurred so awful a responsibility as you will incur if you do not lend your utmost assistance in forming a Government at the present moment.' (Cheers.) I consulted others, and among them my right honourable friend who has just spoken, and they were all of opinion that the best mode of forming a Government was by uniting the Whig party with the party of the remaining friends of Sir R. Peel, who were then ready to accept office under Lord Aberdeen. With regard to Lord Aberdeen personally, I must say I have always been on terms

of private friendship with him. I have always respected his public character; and when I have had occasion to speak of his conduct in the Foreign-office during the Administration of Sir Robert Peel, I have said that, though opposed in many respects to that Government, I could not find that on any occasion the honour or the interests of the country had been sacrificed by Lord Aberdeen. Such was my public testimony to the conduct of Lord Aberdeen when I was in Opposition. (Cheers.) The right hon. gentleman chooses to say that when I spoke of my noble friend near me as not being the Minister of Austria, or of France, or of Russia, or of Prussia, I alluded to Lord Aberdeen. I made no such allusion. I meant no such allusion; but I meant to declare that though there was a coterie then formed in this country—composed, no doubt, of foreigners—my noble friend was the Minister of England alone, and not of any foreign Power. (Cheers.) I maintain that sentiment to this hour. I think that my noble friend, as Foreign Minister of this country, upheld to the highest point the honour and interests of the country. (Cheers.) But, Sir, the question was whether: it being as I thought impossible to form a Ministry of the Whig party, impossible to form a Ministry of the followers of Sir Robert Peel, and unwise, if not impossible, to leave the Government in the hands of a party which did not possess the confidence of the House of Commons, and which, in my opinion, did not deserve that confidence—(loud cheers from the Ministerial benches)—whether the men who had acted together on the greatest question which for some years had divided Parliament—namely, the question between protection and free trade—whether the men who had conferred together on that question might not confer on other questions and enter into office together. (Cheers.) There were many of my former colleagues to whom office was not proposed; there were some to whom office was proposed and declined; but, with regard to both one and the other, having the highest opinion of that party—having acted with them all my life—I felt sure that if they found their principles were the principles of the Government, if they saw that which they considered a liberal course adopted, if they saw that liberal course tempered by the moderation which has always been the characteristic of the Whig party, and which was so acknowledged and declared by Mr. Bunsen—if they saw that those principles were the principles of the Administration, whether they held office or not, themselves would be of no consideration, but they would as heartily and as willingly give their support to a Government so constituted as if they themselves formed a part of it. (Loud cheers.) And, Sir, I have not been deceived in the men with whom I had acted. (Cheers.) I could not, indeed, have formed an Administration from which they could have been excluded; but the Administration of Lord Aberdeen was naturally formed, in great part, of those with whom he had acted, and since the formation of the present Government upon all general principles of domestic policy we have agreed. (Cheers.) I cannot, of course, pretend, after what has passed to-night, that we have been generally successful in the measures that we have proposed. I think we are engaged at present in a most difficult task, apart from any measures of reform of Parliament, of oaths, or of corrupt purposes. Should I be of opinion that the conduct of the war is not safe in the hands of the present Government—that that Government is not carrying on the war with the vigour which makes war successful, and with a view to a peace which alone could be safe and honourable, from that moment I should cease to be a member of it. (Loud cheers.) But, Sir, considering that that is the great and the pressing question of the country, no taunts of the right hon. gentleman would make me leave the Government with which I am connected—a position, God knows, of more labour and anxiety than of any pleasure, profit, or emolument. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I repeat that, unless I were convinced that the present Government is not more likely than any Government which could be formed to carry on the war successfully, and to conclude it by an honourable peace, I should cease to be one of its members; but, so long as I have that opinion, I shall trust to the House and to the country for putting a fair interpretation upon my conduct. (Loud cheers.) I rely upon that justice of a country which, while it is most enlightened, is, at the same time, sometimes misled with regard to the conduct of public men. I rely upon that justice which hardly ever fails to construe rightly the actions of public men." (Loud and continued cheering.)

Here ended the combat; and it was now for the spectators of the fray to make comments. Mr. OSBORNE reminded Mr. Disraeli that in 1849 he was absent from a division on the Jewish claims; and that in 1850 he voted against them. Disregarding the attack Mr. DISRAELI explained that he was ill great part of 1849; and that his vote in 1850 must have been upon a cross-division. Mr. OSBORNE offered him £5000, but he declined to take it. Mr. WALPOLE defended Mr. Disraeli's consistency, and questioned Lord John's account of the principle on which Lord Derby's Government was founded. Mr. BRIGGS made a smart attack upon Lord John, who, he said, had come out of the affray with some scars. He firmly believed that Lord John joined Lord Aberdeen from the purest motives; but the Government was not one that could act for the welfare of the country. It was only the financial measures of Mr. Gladstone that had saved them; but upon every other matter Government did not lead—Lord John did not lead the House. Their best measures are unceremoniously kicked overboard; and it cannot be said that Lord John led the House last week upon the Oaths Bill.

"But if the Government of Lord Aberdeen were formed upon such patriotic principles, and if the noble lord entered that Government with such honourable views, if the noble lord finds out, after eighteen months, that the experiment has been a failure, and that the whole of the promises held out with regard to what was to be done in Parliament for the country by that union of men, hitherto separated in politics, have failed, then I am not quite sure that it will

not be the duty of the noble lord and of his colleagues—as patriotic now as they were eighteen months ago—to endeavour at no distant time to form some other combination that may possibly be more successful.” (*Ironic cheers and laughter.*)

If Mr. Disraeli, instead of resigning when beaten, had involved the country in a war, he might have been Chancellor of the Exchequer now; for Ministers not having the confidence of the House, say that having involved the country in a war, they are bound not to quit the Sovereign.

“I do not mean to say that there is no force in the argument that men who have engaged the country in war ought to have the responsibility of fighting it through, but it is one of the most perilous principles that can be admitted in this House to say that a Ministry, however reckless, unprincipled, and unfitted for office, have, merely by some cause of concealed and misunderstood diplomacy, to involve this country in a contest with some foreign country, and then to say, ‘your majorities go for nothing—your Reform Bills, your Education Bills, your Oaths Bill, your Settlement Bill, and other things that we once thought so necessary for a Government in this country and for your Parliamentary system, must now go for nothing. We will not pass a single measure of any kind except what refers to taxation; and yet, having led the country into this war, Parliament must support us, and we shall be able to defy any man.’”

The Parliamentary system was to be sacrificed to this war. He saw no clearness in our foreign policy; he saw our ally denounced two years ago by Cabinet Ministers, in possession of Rome, Athens, Paris, and Constantinople; but he saw no ground on which Ministers can ask for the confidence of Parliament or the country. (*Opposition cheers.*)

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, delighted at the speech of Mr. Bright, repeated it; and then, reading out of Hansard, showed that, in 1850, Mr. Disraeli voted, not against the admission of the Jews into Parliament, but against taking their case into consideration the next session. The long and heated debate was wound up smoothly by Mr. GLADSTONE, who mainly protested against Mr. Bright's absurd rendering of Lord John Russell's speech. What Lord John had said was that the great questions of the session are questions of peace and war, and upon these the House has not shown a want of confidence in the Government. He also vindicated Lord Aberdeen's Government from the charge of legislative impotence by naming the great measures of last session. At the tail of his speech he explained how it is that measures make no progress

“These matters ought not to be mentioned otherwise than in self-defence, but I trust it is not improper to mention them; for after all it is impossible to separate, in a question of this kind, the question of the credit of the Government from the question of the credit and character of the House of Commons. It was the feeling of the House of Commons that enabled the Government last year to conduct the legislative business of the country, and if, during the present year, the results have been different, I appeal to your sense of justice to wait a little, to consider whether it is owing to carelessness, or neglect, or want of competence, or whether it is owing to that profound change which seems to pass upon the temper of the people and which passes upon the temper of the Legislature, which you may trace every night in every discussion of the House, when the energies of the country have been drawn upon for a tremendous external struggle, and when the means so applied have been diverted from peaceful purposes, as in former years they have been; but which in future years God grant they may never be again.” (*Loud cheers.*)

The motions for withdrawing the bills were all agreed to; and the debate was over.

MINISTER OF WAR.

Mr. DRUMMOND asked Lord John Russell whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Ministers to take any steps towards placing the whole of the military resources of this country under the management of one responsible Minister? (*Loud cries of “Hear hear.”*)

Lord JOHN RUSSELL: “The important question to which the hon. gentleman refers has been under the consideration of the Government. No positive decision has been come to yet, but as soon as the decision is arrived at, I will inform the House.”

OCCUPATION OF GREECE.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES put a question to Lord John Russell regarding the truth of the report that an Anglo-French division was about to occupy Greece. Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied as follows:—

“We have not received any account of the occupation of any part of the Greek territory by the forces of the Allied Powers; but it is perfectly true that a force, consisting of about 6000 men, has been sent from France with instructions to occupy the Piræus; and her Majesty's Government, in entire conjunction with that of France, have desired that a regiment of infantry which left this country about a week ago, should likewise occupy the Piræus. The cause of this measure on the part of the Allied Powers is the intelligence that they have received repeatedly that, by the connivance of the Greek Government, Greek officers have been endeavouring to raise insurrections in the Turkish provinces adjoining Greece, and that in some instances such has been found to be the case. Besides, there has lately been found a document in the possession of a military officer who was taken during the late Greek insurrection, which shows that members of the Greek Government were cognisant of the attempts made in the late insurrection, and even that a suggestion was made that Greek regiments should be sent from Athens to the frontier, with the view of their being disbanded, so as to become the nucleus of a force for the Greek

insurgents in the Turkish territories. This was one only of very many instances which show that members of the Greek Government, instead of acting with that faith which the Government of Turkey has ever shown towards Greece since her recognition as an independent state, have been endeavouring, contrary to the faith of treaties and to the obligations of a neighbouring Power, to raise insurrections against the Sultan, and to carry fire and sword into his territories. Such being the case, the Governments of England and France have thought it necessary to send forces to occupy the Piræus. If the King of Greece disapproves, as we have been repeatedly told, of these attempts to violate the duties of a neighbouring power, the King of Greece will find, in the protection of the forces—(*laughter*)—which have been sent from England and France, a means of compelling his people to observe the faith of treaties. If the forces that have been sent out shall be found to be insufficient for that purpose, further measures will be resorted to. (*Cheers.*) It has been stated in France that there is no intention of declaring war against Greece; but we mean to take care that the Government of Greece shall not be secretly or avowedly the ally of Russia in the present war—(*cheers*)—without taking means which, we trust, will be sufficient to prevent that covert or avowed war against Turkey being carried on by Greece.” (*Cheers.*)

LETTERS TO THE FLEETS.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM, in reply to a question, stated the postal arrangements that have been made in reference to the fleets in the Baltic and Black Sea.

“On every Tuesday a mail was made up in London for the Baltic. A messenger was sent every Tuesday evening to Belgium with the mail in order to have it carried by a ship for the Baltic. Orders have been sent to Sir Charles Napier to send a steam-boat every Friday to meet the messenger from London. That messenger will convey all the officers' letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight upon payment of 8d. for each letter. The British postage is 3d., the Belgian 1d., and the Prussian 3d., making 8d. altogether. The English Post-office can of course have no control over the Prussian rates of postage, which are a matter of treaty between the two Governments. That is with respect to the officers' letters. Seamen's or soldiers' letters will be forwarded by this route for 5d. each letter—the British postage being 3d., the Belgian 1d., and the Prussian 3d. The British rate of postage has been reduced to 4d., in order to carry out as far as possible the spirit of the Act of Parliament which prescribes that the letters of sailors and seamen, sent by British conveyances, shall be charged at as low a rate as possible. In addition to this special mail every Tuesday, every ship, in the service of her Majesty, going to the Baltic, conveys mails from England to the Baltic fleet at the following rates—officers' letters, not exceeding half an ounce, 6d., soldiers' and seamen's letters 1d. each. There were three mails at these rates sent off in the month of March, three in the month of April, and five in the month of May. Arrangements had been made with Sir Charles Napier to send a ship to England once a fortnight for letters to the fleet under his command. Notice was given at the General Post-office of the particular day on which a ship would sail with letters for the fleet. The arrangements made with regard to the conveyance of letters to and from the fleet in the Black Sea were somewhat different. By a treaty entered into between the English and French Governments, every facility had been given by the French Government for the conveyance of English letters by way of Marseilles to Constantinople. Mails were made up in London six times each month for the purpose of being conveyed to the fleet in the Black Sea. British soldiers and sailors had an opportunity of corresponding with their relations in England on the same terms as the French soldiers and sailors had of corresponding with their relations in France, through the medium of the French packets. A letter not more than a quarter of an ounce in weight would be carried for 3d. The French Government reckoned the postage by the quarter ounce, and an English letter exceeding that weight would be charged 6d. He believed that the difference between the rates of letters for the Baltic and the Black Sea would be found not to be so great as it might at first sight appear to be. In fact he believed that the rates were pretty nearly the same. The letters of soldiers and seamen would also be sent to Malta, by way of Southampton, for 1d., which was the customary rate. From Malta they would be carried to the place of their destination as soon as a ship-of-war, or other vessel in the service of her Majesty, could be made use of for that purpose. In fact, no opportunity would be omitted for forwarding letters to the fleets. The best way of directing these letters was to superscribe them simply thus:—‘Seaman's letter—to be forwarded to the Baltic,’ or ‘to the Black Sea.’”

THE OATHS QUESTION.

On the last stage of the Common Law Procedure Bill, one clause of which permits an affirmation to be substituted for an oath at the discretion of the judge, there arose some interesting discussion; Lord CAMPBELL, the Lord CHANCELLOR, and Lord BROUGHAM vindicating the clause, and Lord St. LEONARD's attacking it. The arguments of the last-named peer were these. He thought that where a man was, in the face of the world, joined to a certain religious sect, knowing what was professed by that sect, you properly gave way to his religious scruples, with a guarantee that they were conscientiously entertained, and were not assumed for the convenience of the moment. If, however, you permitted a man to make an affirmation upon his mere statement there and then that he had a religious scruple to taking an oath, you were giving up an immense security which the law had hitherto given you. How was a judge to get at the genuine feelings of a man's heart and know what his religious scruples really were? The restriction which limited the affirmation at the discretion of the judge was therefore no guard at all, but a delusion. Then, again, this bill was confined to the courts of common law.

In the criminal courts and in the County Court a man would be forced to take an oath, whatever his religious scruples were. The noble and learned lord opposite had rejoiced that equity was to be administered in courts of common law. Why, in courts of equity after this bill passed litigants would still be compelled to swear as hitherto, so that on one side of Westminster-hall a man would be bound to swear as the law now stood, while upon the other he would be relieved from swearing according to the provisions of this bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said there was a fallacy in all the reasoning he had ever heard upon the subject of oaths. It was always reasoned as if taking the oath was the privilege of the witness, and not the right of the suitor. He, for instance, as suitor in a case, wanted testimony. Suppose there was only one human being who could establish his right, and that man, by a mistaken notion that it was improper and irreligious, should refuse to take the oath. Why was he, the suitor, to suffer because such a man was over-scrupulous and over-conscientious? He (the Lord Chancellor) had never heard an answer to this argument. It was quite obvious that the party primarily to be considered was not the witness, but the man who wanted the testimony of the witness. With regard to the provisions in this bill on the subject of oaths, his noble and learned friend (Lord St. Leonard's) asked what security you had that a man who said he had conscientious scruples against taking an oath really entertained those scruples? Why, what security had you when a man said he was a Quaker or a Separatist, or that he was once a Quaker or a Separatist, and still retained conscientious scruples? In such a case as this his affirmation would be sustained; and had they not exactly the same security when a man said, “I am not a Quaker or a Separatist, but I have a conscientious scruple against taking an oath?” In such cases as these a man's countenance was a pretty good test of whether he was going to speak the truth or not, and it was only because men who came forward in this way were very scrupulous, and, therefore, likely to tell the truth, that they did not save themselves from trouble by taking the oath.

Lord BROUGHAM observed that instances had come within his knowledge of the cruel injustice inflicted upon parties from their being deprived of essential evidence by reason of the conscientiousness as to oaths of the persons prepared with such evidence—the over-scrupulousness, as some thought fit to term it, yet without the shadow of justice. To apply that term to the conscientiousness of our neighbour was to assume that he was wrong and we right, an assumption which was the ground of all intolerance, of all persecution. To say that such a person is over-scrupulous because he differs from us in opinion, and that parties shall be deprived of the benefit of his testimony because of the difference of opinion, was a cruel injustice. That, further, persons should be liable to imprisonment, even for an indefinite time, because, from conscientious scruples, they refused to bear testimony in the manner required by a court, was one of the most monstrous pieces of injustice and cruelty combined of which a Legislature had ever been guilty.

The bill was then read a third time.

On the question that the bill do pass, Lord St. LEONARD's proposed the omission of the 21st clause relating to the dispensing with oaths. The House divided. The numbers were,—for the clause, 41; against, 31; majority for the clause, 10. The bill was then passed.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

The bill for reforming the University of Oxford was again taken up in committee at the point, clause 26, where progress was reported at the previous sitting. Clause 26 confers upon any member of convocation of a certain standing the power of opening private halls. Mr. EWART moved, as an amendment, that the privilege of opening halls be extended to all resident householders. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the amendment, remarking that one of the consequences of its adoption would be to compel the corporation of Oxford to add considerably to its police force. The committee ought not to break up the existing mode of discipline in the university. On a division, the amendment was negatived by 112 to 41.

Mr. GOULBURN moved the omission of the words which confer upon the students who matriculate in such private halls all the privileges of the university. He thought the better course would be to leave the establishment of private halls to the decision of the university itself. Mr. ROUSSELL PALMER thought these halls would supply a want, and in the right way. The original clause was supported by Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Sir WILLIAM HEATHCOTE, and opposed by Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and Mr. WALPOLE. On a division, the amendment was negatived by 205 to 113. The clause was then agreed to; and also clause 27.

On the question that the Chairman report progress, Lord JOHN RUSSELL mentioned that the Government intended to introduce considerable changes into the remaining parts of the bill; changes that would

refer more particularly to the colleges. He did not further state their nature, but promised to have them printed, and to give ample time for their consideration. The Chairman then reported progress.

CONVEYANCE OF TROOPS.—The Duke of NEWCASTLE, in answer to some observations from the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, said the correspondence between Lord Raglan and Marshal St. Arnaud was perfectly authentic. He would only repeat the statement he had made on a former occasion, that her Majesty's troops serving in the East had been most amply provided with every means of transport, so far as the sea was concerned; and he did not think the circumstance of a few boats having been borrowed in the Bosphorus from our allies, the French, for the purpose of disembarkation, by any means a conclusive proof to the contrary. In consequence of the necessity which existed for sending from this country two of the largest fleets that ever left our shores, it was deemed advisable that the large land force which had also gone to the East should be conveyed, not in vessels of war, but in vessels hired for the purpose, which had been previously employed in commerce. These vessels, of course, had not flat-bottomed boats, which were necessary for the disembarkation of troops engaged in military operations. The French troops had been conveyed chiefly in vessels of war, which were provided with flat-bottomed boats, and upon the occasion referred to in General Brown's letter, the French authorities very courteously placed some of them at our disposal. The House, however, might rely upon it that ample provision was made for the embarkation and disembarkation of our troops in cases of emergency in the Black Sea. This was a matter which had been maturely considered, and only this day a letter had been received from Admiral Boxer, under whose command the transport service had been placed, stating that every necessary provision had been made for the safe and rapid disembarkation of troops on any given point.

MANNING THE NAVY.—The Duke of NEWCASTLE moved the third reading of the Manning of the Navy Bill. The Earl of HARDWICKE repeated his objections to the bill, contending that as its provisions stood the duties of prize-agents could not be properly discharged. He moved amendments taking away the retrospective operation of the bill with regard to agents, and securing to the officers and crews of her Majesty's ships the right to appoint their own agents. The Duke of NEWCASTLE contended that no case had been made out for the proposed amendments, and that they were only calculated to raise doubts where none existed. Lord BROUGHAM recommended words to be inserted with the view of avoiding doubts, and he eulogised the services of the navy and prize-agents.

The House then divided on the first amendment. The numbers were—for the amendment, 34; against it, 47; majority against, 13. The bill passed.

THE RAILWAY BILL.—On the motion for going into committee on the Railway and Canal Traffic Regulation Bill, Lord CAMPBELL said, he had consulted with his brother judges in respect to this bill, and they were unanimously of opinion that the duties sought to be imposed upon them were not judicial duties. The great majority felt they were not properly competent to perform them. But if such duties were to be put upon the common-law judges, he suggested that they should be limited to the Court of Common Pleas. The LORD CHANCELLOR said the duties proposed to be placed upon the judges were, as nearly as possible, the same as they now discharged in cases which went to trial. At the same time, he had no objection to limit them to the Common Pleas. Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY also assented to this alteration. After a few words from Earl FITZWILLIAM, the House went into committee; and the clauses, with amendments, having been agreed to, the bill was reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, as chairman of the Select Committee on Business, moved the committee's resolutions. Their object is to facilitate public business by saving time. Chiefly they relate to proceedings in committees of the whole House, and abolish several stages on which the Speaker has hitherto been in the habit of formally putting the question that such and such a thing should be done. The most important resolution adopted was that several bills standing for committal on the same day might be taken in succession in the same committee, provided no objection was taken by any member to any bill about to be brought under consideration.

The present practice is for the speaker to leave the chair on the House going into committee upon a bill, his place being taken by the Chairman of Committees. When all the clauses have been separately considered, he leaves the chair; the Speaker resumes his seat; and the committee of the whole House becomes the House again. That process is repeated on every bill. The object of the resolution is to save the time occupied in the change.

Another resolution was rejected without a division. It was that the House should adjourn from Friday to Monday, as a matter of course, unless otherwise ordered. On this motion for adjournment statements are made, sometimes by Government, sometimes by members, of an important nature. From all sides there came objections to abolishing this privilege, Mr. BRIGHT leading the way, and followed by Mr. DISRAELI and Lord JOHN RUSSELL. The resolution was, therefore, withdrawn.

NAVAL ACTIONS IN THE BALTIC.

GALLANT EXPLOIT OF THE ARROGANT AND HECLA.—The Arrogant has been detached from the fleet for a considerable time, employed in reconnoitering the enemy's posts and shores about Hango Bay. While so employed, the Hecla, commanded by Capt. Hall, whose services in the China war are so well known, joined her. Both ships planned a little expedition of their own, which has turned out quite a gallant manoeuvre.

The two ships proceeded up a narrow river, and

on anchoring on the evening of the 19th instant, the enemy, from behind a high sand bank, in a thickly-wooded place, fired upon one of the boats, which was at that time pulling at a distance of from six to eight hundred yards from the shore, round shot also striking the Hecla. Both ships beat to quarters, cast loose their guns, loaded with shot and shell, which they poured into the wood, and against the sand barricade, whence the enemy was quickly dislodged. The vessels were not further molested that evening—the anchorage was shifted for the night, and all made snug, with watches posted.

At two in the morning both ships again weighed, the Hecla leading, both ships' companies standing by their guns. After about three hours quietly feeling their way along the intricate navigation of the river, both ships came suddenly within range of an enemy's battery. The Hecla opened fire, which was quickly answered from the fort; the promontory upon which stood the battery was crowded with soldiers, fine stalwart-looking fellows, with long grey coats, and spiked steel helmets glittering in the sun. While the battery was firing upon the Hecla, the Arrogant let fly a whole broadside amongst the soldiery. A troop of horse artillery, when the smoke cleared off, was observed scampering away. A prolonged and heavy fire of musketry now ensued from the wood, and Minié balls fell thick on board both ships. The Arrogant now got aground within twenty yards of the battery. However, before attempting to haul the ship off, the enemy's guns were dismounted by a broadside, and the ship was then got off in safety. On passing the fort where the guns had been dismounted, a terrible sight was witnessed—gun-carriages blown to fragments, guns dismounted, helmets and knapsacks strewed about without owners.

The town of Eckness now opened, and there lay the ships, the objects of the expedition. The Arrogant was obliged to anchor here, as the water was shallow; the Hecla proceeded on, but another battery now opened fire upon her. The Arrogant, swung broadside on, kept up a cannonade, while the Hecla passed, firing shells on the enemy as she did so, ran up alongside of a barque, took her in tow, and steamed away with her, to the horror of the inhabitants. When this little expeditionary force was returning they were joined by the Dauntless, she having been sent on by the commander-in-chief to ascertain the cause and source of the firing, which was distinctly audible as the squadron steamed into Hango-roads. The Hecla had several shot through her funnel, steam-pipe, and hull, one shot passing right through the ship's side. The round-shot and shell went over the Arrogant. Both ships were studded with Minié balls. The Arrogant had one man shot through the heart, and a man wounded by a bullet in the navel, which ball went through his intestines, and passed out at his back. He lived until yesterday. Both were very good men. The Hecla had one man shot or drowned while wounded.

Captain Hall was resolved not to leave without carrying back some military trophy. He gallantly landed with his marines, threw them out as skirmishers, while himself and a party of men hoisted one gun (an iron one) into his boat, and placed it on board the Hecla.

The Arrogant and Hecla, with their prize in tow, joined the fleet on the 21st. The Commander-in-Chief hoisted the signal, "Well done Arrogant and Hecla." The flag-ship manned the rigging; her example was followed by several other ships—all of whom gave the heroes three hearty cheers.

The following is a somewhat detailed account of the bombardment of Hango forts:—

"In the afternoon of the 22d; the Dragon, Captain Wilcox, was ordered to take up a position close by an island, where a buoy had been previously laid down. This position flanked the principal fort, Gustavus Svard, and only two guns evidently, out of the many that mounted the walls, could be trained to bear upon her. The vessel was now ordered, by signal from the flag-ship, to try range of guns. She immediately opened fire. After the second or third shot the fort replied. The ship and fort thus continued the engagement for about three and a half hours, during which several of the Dragon's shells burst right over the centre of the fort, and must have caused severe loss. Two of the shells which struck the walls did considerable mischief, smashing up one of the embrasures. The engagement was not a rapid one, on the contrary, a slow and steady fire was maintained on both sides. The Magicienne was ordered, somewhat later in the day, to a corresponding position on the opposite side of the small, narrow, rocky island in question, and opened an effective fire upon one of the masked batteries on the land side, into which she threw several shells. The battery replied with shell, and it is thought, with red-hot shot, but the Magicienne was evidently out of range. The Basilisk next joined the group. The Hecla, Captain Hall, was engaging the fort Gustavus Adolphus. Several of her shot and shell told with great effect. All the shots from the fort against the

Hecla fell short. The Hecla remained at her anchorage for the night. The other steamers were recalled about half-past four. The guns of the forts must have been worked at extreme elevation. The fire was therefore rather a plunging one, and but little ricochet in consequence. The Dragon alone had any casualties—one man killed and another wounded. She was struck three or four times."

A letter received from Hango, dated the 24th, gives an interesting account of the recent movements of the fleet:—

"My despatch of the 16th instant from Gottland informed you of the main division of the English fleet, together with the French screw line-of-battle ship *Austerlitz*, being in the vicinity of the Island of Gottska Sande—off which they had been cruising for some days previously. Having received the provisions from the steam-transport *Holyrood*, and placed on board her, for conveyance to England, invalids, supernumeraries, &c., the fleet proceeded in a northerly direction. On the 17th, Rear-Admiral Corry was detached from the fleet on particular service, taking under orders the weather column, comprising the flag-ship the *Neptune*, 120, *Monarch*, 84, *Boscawen*, 70, *Prince Regent*, 90, *Cumberland*, 70, together with the *James Watt*, 91, of the centre column; the *Royal George*, 120, and *Ajax*, 58, of the lee column, leaving in company with the Commander-in-Chief nine sail of the line and one steam-frigate of the first class. The squadron of observation, consisting of several paddle-wheel and screw-steamers, under the orders of Rear-Admiral Plumridge, are constantly separated from the main body of the fleet, for the purpose of intercepting any of the enemy's vessels which, perchance, may be proceeding down the Baltic Sea into the Great or Little Belts. The fleet was becalmed in the evening, and signalled to rendezvous at Hango.

"On the 18th, at noon, the lighthouse on the island of Outo was made, bearing N.N.E. 20 miles, the latitude being 59 deg. 25 min. N., and long. 21 deg. 10 min. E. The *Cressy*, 80, Captain R. L. Warren, and *St. Jean d'Acre*, Captain the Hon. H. Keppell, were ordered to proceed in chase of two strange sails. They proved to be merchant vessels, freighted with spirits and plank for English ports, and having sailed from Russian ports prior to the 15th instant, the date fixed on by the order in council of the 15th of April, as the limit to which the enemy's vessels would be permitted to convey articles of merchandise, not contraband of war, to any ports in the United Kingdom; they were allowed to proceed on their voyage. Another of those dense fogs, so prevalent in the Baltic at this period of the year, set in early in the morning of the 19th, and continued until noon—the flag-ships *Duke of Wellington* and *Edinburgh* in the meanwhile firing guns every half-hour to denote position. A seaman of the latter ship fell overboard, but was saved. In the evening the ships were ordered to prepare for coming to an anchor.

"At 5 A.M. of the 20th, Hango Island, the northern point at the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, was observed. The *St. George*, 120, Captain H. Eyres, joined the main body of the fleet for the first time. The *Dauntless*, 38, Captain Ryder, made her number, communicated with the Commander-in-Chief, and was ordered to keep a good look-out in the offing. The *Duke of Wellington*, 131, and *Edinburgh*, 58, got up steam, and stood in for the roadstead of Hango. The *Edinburgh*, preceded by the *Lightning* as pioneer, steamed direct for the batteries, followed by the *Duke of Wellington*, the *Blenheim* in tow of the *Basilisk*, *Hogue* in tow of the *Gorgon*, and *Cressy* in tow of the *Dragon*. By noon, these ships were at anchor off the fortress of Gustavsvärn, at a distance from it of about two miles. The *St. George*, *Princess Royal*, *St. Jean d'Acre*, &c., were then taken in tow by the paddle steamers, and by sunset the whole of the ships in company with the commander-in-chief, and consisting of nine sail-of-the-line, one steam-frigate of the first class, and four paddle-wheel steam-sloops, had anchored abreast the fortifications of Hango. In the meanwhile the store-ship *Tyne*, Master Commander J. Tucker, arrived with stores and ammunition for the fleet, and a Russian barque was captured outside the roadstead by one of the steam cruisers. With Admiral Corry's division of Dago, the main body of the fleet, with the commander-in-chief at Hango—the various steam frigates, &c., cruising between the two points—a most effective blockade of the Gulf of Finland is established, and the advanced squadron of paddle-wheel and screw steam-sloops, under the orders of Rear-Admiral Plumridge, dispersed in various quarters, must capture any of the enemy's vessels entering or leaving the Baltic."

The Russian account of these operations, published in the veracious *Invalide Russe* and *Gazette de St. Petersburg* of the 24th ult., is as follows:—

"We have this instant received two reports from the commander of the forces in Finland, dated May 20 and 21, on the opening of hostilities in the Gulf of Finland, which, thanks to God and the intrepidity of our troops, have been signalled by fresh success for the Russian arms.

"In his first report, Lieutenant-General Rokassoski announces that on the 20th of May 17 English screw two-deckers approached Hangöudd, and there came to anchor; on the evening before, two screw frigates and one steamboat, also English, had approached the strait of Witsand, between the island of Hull-ne and the shore of the peninsula of Hangöudd, near the canal leading to the town of Eckenass, and had commenced cannonading the battery erected near the narrows of Witsand.

"In his report of the 21st, Lieut.-General Rokassoski brings to the knowledge of his Majesty the Emperor, that the squadron of the enemy, anchored off Hangöudd, had not yet undertaken anything, and the flotilla which showed itself near Eckenass being boldly received by our troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Ramzai, who is charged with the command of the detachments of Abo and Pojo, was repulsed with loss, and did not dare attack Eckenass."

"The following are the details of the affair:—Lieutenant-General Ramzal having received, on the evening of May 18, information by the telegraph and the pilots that three ships of the enemy were ascending the Gulf of Pojo, took his measures immediately, and had them watched. To this end, amongst others, a half platoon of sharpshooters from the battalion of the Grenadier Rifles was posted opposite the point where the gulf is narrowest, at the height of the Lapwick station. On the 7th, between three and four P.M., two of the enemy's steamers, one built like a schooner, the other a screw-frigate, approached quite blindly this point, having a sixteen-oared boat going ahead, which sounded the channel at every step. The young officer of the battalion of sharpshooters, Sub-Lieutenant Gulling, to whom this post of observation had been entrusted, taking skilful advantage of the wooded nature of the shore, ambushed his marksmen in such a manner that they received the boat, when about 300 paces off, with so well-aimed a fire, that the boat was very clearly seen to move back impelled alone by two rowers.

"Encouraged by this first success, our sharpshooters continued, at a distance of at least 700 paces, to fire at the ships of the enemy, on board of each of which some ten men, among these who were in the rigging and on the yard-arms, were hit by our bullets. The enemy answered these shots with balls of enormous size, shells, and grape, and continued to move on slowly as far as the coast battery, which is raised opposite the narrowest part of the Witsand Strait, near Hailae, where it stopped towards evening, just within the range of heavy guns. Meanwhile, Lieutenant-General Ramzal concentrated the 1st battalion of the Grenadier regiment of Prince Frederick of the Netherlands near Lapwick, and reinforced the coast battery of the Witsand Strait with four pieces of the battery of position No. 1 of the 1st artillery brigade of Grenadiers, which had arrived from the only a few hours before. The 4th company of the 2nd battalion of the same regiment was ordered to support the battery, and the 2nd company of Grenadiers, as also a company of the battalion of Grenadier Rifles, were scattered about on both sides of the battery; the two last companies of the 2nd battalion of the same regiment remained with the commander of the latter to defend Eckenass.

"On the 20th, between four and five A.M., the enemy recommenced his onward movement, but he was stopped for nearly an hour by the well-directed fire of the coast battery, which did serious damage to his ships, after which these two boats, opening a murderous and most active fire from all their ports, literally covered the shore with grapeshot. Our battery was then removed to a particularly advantageous position near the village of Lexswall, and recommenced firing between one and two o'clock. The enemy's ships, having advanced a few hundred paces, stopped, and although they were now not more than a vent and a half (a mile) from Eckenass, having sustained heavy damage, they had not the courage to attack the town, and withdrew in the direction of the entrance to the Gulf of Pojo.

"By the testimony of Lieutenant-General Ramzal, the sharpshooters and the artillery particularly distinguished themselves in this affair, by the accuracy of their aim, and their officers, in selecting advantageous positions, contributed powerfully to its success; lastly the Cossacks, attached to the detachment, transmitted the orders and instructions with extreme skill and rapidity.

"It is impossible to determine exactly the loss of the enemy, but as he was exposed to our concentrated cross fire, it must have been considerable. Thanks to the wise arrangements of the commanding officers, and to the skill that enabled them to take proper advantage of the localities, the loss on our side has been very trifling. Among the officers we have unfortunately to regret Major Dergatcheff, commanding the 2nd battalion of the Grenadier regiment of Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, who was killed; this regiment had one man killed and another wounded besides; in the artillery two men were killed; in the battalion of sharpshooters, one man was severely wounded and three received contusions. Three artillery horses were killed.

"Having repulsed the enemy from Eckenass, on the 20th of May, Lieutenant-General Ramzal sent on the same day a part of his detachment to Hangoudd."

THE LAST VIENNA PROTOCOL.

The text of that not very definite document the last new protocol. It simply places on record, according to previous agreement, the treaties arrived at by the Western Powers and by Austria and Prussia, and declares that both treaties are in accordance with the protocols previously signed at Vienna. The document is described in its introduction as the Protocol of a Conference held at the Office for Foreign Affairs at Vienna, on the 23rd of May, 1854, between the representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, and thus reads:—

"The undersigned plenipotentiaries have held it conformable to the arrangements contained in the protocol of the 9th of April, to meet in conference to communicate reciprocally, and record in one common act, the conventions concluded between France and England on the one hand, and Austria and Prussia on the other, upon the 10th and 20th of April respectively, in the present year.

"After a careful examination of the aforesaid conventions, the undersigned have unanimously agreed:

"1. That the convention concluded between France and England, as well as that signed on the 20th of April between Austria and Prussia, bind both of them, in the relative situations to which they apply, to secure the maintenance of the principle established by the series of protocols of the Conference of Vienna.

"2. That the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and the evacuation of that portion of its territory which is occupied by the Russian army, are and will continue to be the constant and invariable object of the union of the four Powers.

"3. That, consequently, the acts communicated and annexed to the present protocol correspond to the engagement which the plenipotentiaries had mutually contracted

on the 9th of April to deliberate and agree upon the means most fit to accomplish the object of their union, and thus give a fresh sanction to the firm intentions of the four Powers represented at the Conference of Vienna, to combine all their efforts and their entire resolution to accomplish the object which forms the basis of their union.

"BUOL SCHAUENSTEIN.
BOURQUENEY.
WESTERHOLLAND.
ARNIM."

ALLEGED RUSSIAN INTRIGUES IN INDIA.

(From the Bombay Times.)

NOTWITHSTANDING Sir C. Wood's assertion in the House of Commons that he disbelieved the report of a Russian army being at Khiva, and the likelihood of the Khan forming an alliance with the Khan of Bokhara and the ruler of Cabul, the latest intelligence from Afghanistan, if trustworthy, points to a different conclusion, and shows the duplicity of Dost Mahomed. According to the *Delhi Gazette*, who has a correspondent at the city of Cabul, some Kekanees, ostensibly merchants, but in reality Russian agents, had arrived at that city; they were treated with marked civility by the Ameer, who frequently held meetings with them, alleging that they had favoured his escape from Bokhara when he was confined there. The duplicity of the Ameer in tendering us his friendship, while at the same time secretly conspiring against us, is accounted for by the fact that he fears his subjects will revolt, if he prefers the friendship of a power so distant as Russia to an alliance with us, who are so near his dominions as Peshawar. "Three days ago," writing on the 19th instant, says the journal above alluded to, "a messenger came from Bokhara to the agents at Cabul, with despatches. The Russian general has deputed a nobleman of the Khan of Khiva to the King of Bokhara, bearing the duplicate of the treaty contracted between the general and the Khan. A copy of the same paper has been sent to the agents at Cabul. Both States (Russia and Khiva) have sworn on their sacred books, and have solemnly pledged themselves to be friends to each other, and Russia has engaged never to interfere with the dominions and laws of Khiva, till the end of this world. It is stipulated that a Russian ambassador is to reside at the Court of Khiva, and ten other Russian officers are placed at the head of 10,000 horsemen, employed and paid by Russia through the Khan of Khiva. The same treaty binds the 'Hoorgun' State (Khiva) that all the Persian, Bokhara, Afghan, and Russian slaves now to be found within the realm of Khiva shall be set at liberty on payment of half their price to their masters. The friends and enemies of one State are to be friends and enemies of the other. The Russians are allowed to build a cantonment, and station their force for twenty years within the Hoorgun boundary, at the distance of one stage from the present boundary of Russia, for which the Khan of Khiva will receive a rent of 10,000 tomans. After the friendship of both parties has been tried for the space of twenty years, the Russians will retire from their cantonments. The Russian general, who is encamped with this force within two or three marches from Khiva, is by this treaty to retrace his steps after the Nowroz festival, and take his station on the stipulated spot. These are the articles of the treaty of Russia with Khiva, which I have read with my own eyes. The King of Bokhara shows great civility to the Khiva nobleman, who is accompanied by the agent of the Russian general. Nothing had transpired as to what his Majesty had done, or intended to do, with the said ambassadors, until the departure of the messenger to Cabul, whom the Ameer has rewarded with 200 rupees for his journey over the snowy passes. It is believed that the King of Bokhara, who has had a favourable impression of Russia from a long period, will attach himself to that power, since he will be thus saved from the incursions of the Khiva 'Adomans' upon one side, and the encroachments of the Afghans on the other. Dost Mahomed Khan has also ordered that an agent on his part should go to the Russian general in company with the 'Kekanees,' under the disguise of a merchant. They are to leave Cabul in the beginning of the next month (Rajaub, or April). The agent is requested to deliver the draft of the Ameer's treaty in person to the Russian general, and obtain all sorts of satisfactory assurances for their future fulfilment. The Dost had demanded of the Government of St. Petersburg to furnish him with 5000 Russian troops, and the necessary funds to recover the Afghan territories of Peshawar and Cashmeer. When the answer to this comes from the Russian general, with a sufficient sum of money from Khiva (whence he has lately advanced, with a few officers, leaving his forces behind), then the Dost will openly proclaim his alliance with Russia, and go to meet the general on the banks of the Oxus. The agents of the Russian general wish to return to Khiva by the Candahar-road, but the Ameer, being jealous of his brothers, is throwing obstacles in their way, and wants them to go through the Dehzurgee, Hazarah, and Merew. It is also reported here that the King of Persia has sent two or three of his noble-

men as ambassadors to Herat, Seestan, Candahar, and Cabul. The agents who are now with the Ameer assure him that Persia and Russia are one, and the ambassadors of the latter are undoubtedly coming by mutual consent. When these diplomatic personages appear in Candahar and Cabul, the secret of the Ameer will be disclosed. One of the Kokanee agents is desirous to see Peshawar, and return again to Cabul before his departure for Khiva. I have heard that the Ameer has asked Surdar Pter Mahomed Khan to escort him with a trusty servant. The name of the Russian general is commonly called 'Khimkhab.' Dost Mahomed Khan pays more attention and respect to his brother, Surdar Sooltan Mahomed Khan, in these days, and the latter has nothing to do but to marry daily and pass his time in pleasure, and erecting mirror houses. He is in debt, and his creditors receive no justice from the Ameer. Dost Mahomed Khan is engaged in communications with Mahomed Shah Khan Ghilzace, and invites him to come to him; but the latter hesitates, and is satisfied with the wealth of the late Akbar Khan, which has fallen into his possession. He is in his stronghold near the valley of the 'Seeshpoch Raffara.' There is no doubt he will some day or other fall into the trap of the Ameer." Such is the tenor of the most recent intelligence from Cabul, and although we cannot, of course, vouch for its exactitude, we must observe that we cannot see why a correspondent, who certainly appears to have the means of obtaining accurate information, should purposely deceive his employers. From another quarter news has also reached us that a subsidiary force is to be formed in Scinde, and that the commissioner of that province had already received orders on the subject. It is even said that Lord Dalhousie intends visiting the Punjab, *via* Scinde, so necessary does he consider his presence to be at present on our north-west frontier.

MAZZINI ON SLAVERY.

We find the following correspondence in the *Daily News*. It sufficiently explains itself, and needs no comment here:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.

"SIR,—Will you kindly oblige the committee of the North of England Anti-Slavery and India Reform League by the publication in your journal of the enclosed copy of an admirable letter on the slavery question, recently received from M. Mazzini by Dr. Beard?—Yours respectfully,
"E. W. CARLSON, Hon. Sec.

Manchester, May 30, 1854.

"Dear Sir,—I have delayed to the present moment in answering your kind invitation in the hope that I should, perhaps, be enabled to give a better answer than a written one. But I find that neither health nor business will allow me to attend. I must write and express to you, and through you to your friends, how much I feel grateful for your having asked me to attend the first meeting of the North of England Anti-Slavery Association; how earnestly I sympathise with the noble aim you are going to pursue; how deeply I shall commiserate with your efforts, and help, if I can, their success. No man ought ever to inscribe on his flag the sacred word 'Liberty,' who is not prepared to shake hands cordially with those, wherever they are, who will attach their name to the constitution of your association. Liberty may be the godlike gift of all races—of all nations—of every being who bears on his brow the stamp of MAN, or sink to the level of a narrow and mean self-interest unworthy the tears of the good, and the blood of the brave. I am yours, because I believe in the unity of God; yours, because I believe in the unity of mankind; yours, because I believe in the educability of the whole human race, and in a heavenly law of indefinite progression for all; yours, because the fulfilment of this law implies the consciousness and the responsibility of the agent, and neither consciousness nor responsibility can exist in slavery; yours, because I have devoted my life to the emancipation of my own country, and I would feel unequal to the task, a mere rebel, not an apostle of truth and justice, had I not felt from my earliest years that right and duty of revolting against lies and tyranny were grounded on a far higher sphere than that of the welfare of one single nation; that they must start from a belief in a principle which will have sooner or later to be universally applied; one God, one humanity, one law, one love from all for all. Blessed be your efforts if they start from this high ground of a common faith—if you do not forget, whilst at work for the emancipation of the black race, the millions of white slaves suffering, struggling, expiring, in Italy, in Poland, in Hungary, throughout all Europe—if you will always remember that free men only can achieve the work of freedom; and that Europe's appeal for the abolition of slavery in other lands will not weigh all-powerful before God and man, whilst Europe herself shall be desecrated by arbitrary, tyrannical power—by Czars, Emperors, and Popes.

"Ever faithfully yours,
(Signed) "JOSEPH MAZZINI."

THE AMERICANS IN JAPAN.

We are indebted to the *Times* for the following letter giving an account of the doings of our Yankee friends in Japan; and of the negotiation of the treaty which opens its commerce to the world. The *Times* prints it "from a correspondent," who is apparently an American naval officer.

"United States steam-frigate Gasquehannah, Yokohama, Bay of Jeddo, March 24.

"You know that we sailed from Hongkong on the 14th of January last. On the 21st we arrived at Napakiang,

Loochoo; on the 7th of February we sailed for Japan, and on Sunday the 14th, we anchored within about twenty-five miles of Jeddah, where no foreign vessel had ever anchored before. After a good deal of diplomacy on the part of the Japanese, and firmness on the part of the Americans, we told them that we did not like the place appointed for the negotiations, and would go nearer to Jeddah. They assented as gracefully as children go to bed before the time, and we proceeded to Yokohama, of which village, within ten miles of the Imperial city, we anchored. It was well for the Imperial diplomatists that they lost no time in agreeing to meet us here, for the boats which had been surveying returned in the afternoon, and reported that the ships could go very near to Jeddah, which they knew and dreaded. We had, however, passed our word to negotiate there, and we made a new era in Eastern diplomacy by keeping it. They immediately constructed houses and ample accommodation on the beach, and on the 8th of March the commodore landed in state to receive the answer to the President's letter. On the 17th he landed again, and made the definite arrangement of a treaty. Yes, Americans, your navy has made a treaty with the exclusive, mysterious Japanese, and Yankee whalers can now pursue their gigantic game in these well-fished seas without the fear of a hostile shore upon their lee, and may put into Matsma and other ports to rest and refresh in confidence. The treaty was concluded on the 23rd, and the princes were to dine with the commodore on board on the 27th. We sail to-day, being despatched by orders from Washington, to be placed at the disposal of Mr. Machine, our new commissioner. I do not know the particulars of the treaty, but it was modeled after that with China. We are to have as much coal as we want at some port which we will select, and all hands are to be treated with hospitality who may land upon their shores.

"As for any advantages to be immediately derived from commerce with these people, I am doubtful on that point; we saw no evidence of any wants or of any superfluities, but who can anticipate the wants which commerce can create, the superfluities which she can make necessary, and the unknown which she can call into existence? But, if our first adventures come here under the impression that the Japanese are ignorant because they are inexperienced in commerce, they will find themselves mistaken, for not even the Chinese understand the art of making things appear to the greatest advantage with more skill than the Japanese. The presents of fruits and sweetmeats were so arranged in the boxes as to appear of thrice the real quantity, and everything is so contrived as to be over-estimated by all but the closest observer. On the 1st of March, Captain Buchanan gave Yzaiman, the Governor of Uraga, and nine of his suite, a dinner on board this ship, the first foreign dinner, perhaps, ever given in Japan. They enjoyed themselves in perfect confidence, and relished our food and liquors with the taste of gourmands. They had never tasted turkey before, and asked permission to take portions of it and of other things on shore to show to their friends, which they did, wrapping them up in paper, very much like Chinese paper, leaves of which constituted their pocket-handkerchiefs. They habitually accommodated themselves to our customs, especially that of emptying their glasses; and used the knives and forks with nearly as much dexterity as perseverance. They returned thanks for our toasts, and reciprocated them with more than the tact of an alderman; as, for example, Captain Buchanan gave—"May the kind feelings which so happily subsist between our Japanese friends and ourselves prevail throughout both countries!" Governor Yzaiman promptly replied with thanks for the sentiment and assurances of reciprocity, and hopes that the American and Japanese would soon be enabled to visit each other's countries. Captain Adams proposed—"The health of the Emperor, and a long and happy reign." Governor Yzaiman immediately replied that he appreciated the compliment to his Emperor; and, filling all the glasses himself, drank the "Health of the President of the United States, and a happy Administration." Lieutenant Duer, with a few happy remarks, proposed "The health of Governor Yzaiman," at which he blushed, but, with admirable presence of mind, proposed the health of "Commodore Perry, and all the officers of the squadron." All this passed, of course, through the interpreters, and each toast was drunk in our manner, with all the honours; the huzzas appeared to divert them very much, and they joined in them with great glee. Lieutenant Brown sang a song, which they answered with a verse or two of a Japanese song. I trust the difference of taste did not make our song sound in their ears as their song did in ours, for it was more like the roaring of lions with bad colds than anything else I can compare it to. One of our marines died, and they allowed us to bury him on shore, in a romantic spot, near one of their own cemeteries, with the three volleys, and the funeral service by the chaplain. What a difference between what people expected and what our guns have realised for us! It was absurd to attempt to treat with these people without a force at command sufficient to answer, by silence alone, all their prevarications and excuses to gain time, which appears to be of no value to them. They were to have dined with the Commodore on board the Powhattan—I mean the princes who negotiated the treaty—on Monday, the 27th, and no doubt had a glorious time. We laid down a circular railroad, and the beautiful miniature locomotive and car went round with great velocity and regularity, to the admiration of the Japanese, many of whom made several circuits in the car.

"We also set up a mile of magnetic telegraph, which succeeded in spelling Japanese sounds, from one end to the other, of course making them see that it could be done, but they evidently did not comprehend nor fully believe it."

This entirely disposes of the Russian brag that their ships had "opened up" Japan. The above letter illustrates the characteristics of our American brethren in nothing more than in the concluding paragraph. Think of setting up a circular railroad and a magnetic telegraph! It is Science taking possession of Japan, and progress debarring custom and exclusion.

THE WAR.

THE most important event connected with the war is the meeting of Lord Raglan, Marshal St. Arnaud, Omar Pasha, and Riza Pasha, at Varna, in council of war, and the subsequent review of the Turkish army at Schumla by the French Marshal, who said he should be proud to fight by the side of such gallant men. From the camp at Schumla let us try to take in a view of the field of war as it is spread out before us. In and around this advanced stronghold of the Balkans we behold the Turkish army, improving every day the defences of the places, adding every day to its own efficiency by drill and exercise. Some miles to the right of Schumla lies Varna, in no sort of danger at present. A little in advance, and somewhat to the north of both places is Bazardschik, which we have no reason to believe has even been threatened by the Russians; and stretching away northward are the outposts and patrols keeping watch on General Liders. Looking to the left of Schumla we see, far up the Danube, the strong posts of Turtukai, Kustchuck, Nicopolis, Sistawa, all held by the Turks, the telegraphic reports to the contrary notwithstanding, and thus connecting the centre with the left at Kalafat, and the advanced troops observing the Russian right on the frontiers of Little Wallachia. Looking straight before us, we see the fortress of Silistria, fiercely assaulted by the Russians under Paskiewitch and Schilders; four times assailed, and four times hurling back the assailants with heavy loss; heartily and industriously repairing the gaps made by the Russian cannon in the outmost defences; preparing mines; disdaining capitulation, and prepared, under the skilful and resolved command of Mussa Pasha, one of the bravest and ablest of the Turkish generals, to defend themselves to the last. Between this fortress and Schumla we see no reason to believe that the communications have been cut; nor is it at all improbable that Omar Pasha may have thrown a few thousand additional men into Silistria. For one result of the council at war at Varna is obvious. The French troops will march into line through the Balkan, whatever they may do afterwards; and no doubt their leading files have ere this passed through Adrianople; while, on their native element, the British troops at Scutari have probably ere this landed at Varna, wherever else they may proceed.

Transferring our point of view from Schumla to Silistria, we see the besieging army on the opposite bank of the river and on the islands, now flooded by the rising Danube; we see the corps of General Liders, possibly not yet clear of the Dobruzscha, and hampered alike by sickness where he is, and by foemen if he venture forth. On the left the Russian right wing in position along the Danube, and bending back along the line of the Aluta; while far to the left the posts of communication extend to the left bank of the Sereth, and approach the army on the Austrian frontier.

It would be rash to speculate on the probable plan of the campaign, and therefore we shall not follow the example of the *Times*. That journal indicates that the allies propose to remain on the defensive even to the extent of permitting Silistria to fall into the hands of the Russians; that they will occupy the healthy, high lands, while the Russians lose thousands in the Danubian marshes, and other thousands against the fortresses. The line of the Balkans is safe, quoth the *Times*, and Turkey will be saved even if the line of the Danube is won! Whatever the Marshals may have decided upon, we cannot think that this alleged plan is their plan. No doubt they will keep their own counsel, and bide their own time; but it would seem that prudence and honour alike dictate that Silistria should be saved.

Nor have the fleets been inactive. Sir Edmund Lyons, with nine steamers, has visited Caffa and Kertch; and has found the former a paltry place. This detached squadron, at the last dates, went away southward; and we have subsequently heard that the Russians had burnt Anapa [unlikely], evacuated Soukum Daleh, and retreated upon Redout Kaleh, while the Circassians had taken possession of the abandoned defences. Whatever truth there may be in these rumours, there is no doubt but that Sir Edmund Lyons will not quit the coast of Circassia without striking a heavy blow.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE correspondent of the *Daily News* at Constantinople sends the following graphic account of the gaieties of the season in that city of all nations and languages:—

"The Turkish infantry may have regimental bands, for all I know to the contrary. Little or nothing is heard of those bands. The soldiers marching to parade walk to a sort of screeching, grunting noise, emanating from a couple of wheezy bugles and half a dozen drums, which are muffled in the ordinary state of their existence, and which, with the bugles, perform a well-known march, tune, or melody—the identical piece of music which caused the death of a certain aged and venerable cow. But on Tuesday last, very early in the morning, instead of the screech and grunt of bugles and drums, there sounded through the Stradi di Pera the clear,

sharp, spirit-stirring notes of civilised military music, playing a lively march. Of course we Europeans, shaking off our dreams of Pera filth and disorder as so many nightmares, fancied ourselves at home. Many a Londoner turning lazily on his pillow, believed he heard the parade-music in St. James's park. The people of Pera fancied that the long-expected French troops had come, and rushed out of their houses to see them. Both Londoners and Peraites were equally mistaken. Turkish battalions, preceded by their regimental bands—that is to say, two bands doing duty to a great many battalions—were marching along the Stradi di Pera towards the Campo Grande. Something was going on—everybody could tell that; but what was going on, who could know?

"Of course there were the usual questions and surmises, rumours and assertions of facts, the offspring of the embarras-fantasy of the imaginative Levantines; until it was made out, asserted, believed, and finally put down as an incontrovertible fact that the Sultan would hold a grand review of the troops at Stamboul, and that the review was to take place somewhere in the vicinity of the Campo Grande. Also, the his Highness would go to a mosque in that neighbourhood, and pay a visit to the professors and pupils of the Military Academy. And since it was understood that the movements of his Highness were not very rapid, and that a considerable time would elapse before he proceeded from the mosque to the academy, therefore did strangers and Peraites return to their lodgings and shops, to the jolling on divans, and the lounging about the streets, to the coffee-cups, the *shirazi* and last copy of *Galignani*, and the chibouk, until the time came for the public to go out and take their places near the Military School.

"I went with the rest, and stumbling on my wavy way over the never-to-be-sufficiently-abused pavement of the Stradi di Pera, watched an attempt at fraternisation between a private of the Grenadier Guards and a Turkish gunner. The two, giants both, walked arm-in-arm; the Turk supporting the Christian, who was evidently not so sober as he should have been. They talked, too, in such short phrases as pass between people who know little or nothing of one another's language.

"The road from Pera to Therapia, which skirts the Campo Grande on its straggling way down to the sea shore, was covered with horsemen, Turks and Europeans, hurrying forward to be in time for the grand exhibition of the day. Battling, rickety carriages, elaborately carved and gilt, but innocent of the effeminate luxury of springs, were loaded with veiled beauties, Turkish and Armenian, whose lowly weight well nigh broke the hearts and backs of the sorry jades of horses that had to drag them along, one horse to each carriage. Bare-legged, frowzy-haired drivers, walked by the side of each horse, flourishing formidable whips, and thrashing the wretched animals into the last convulsive efforts that a horse's nature is capable of. Women, Greeks, Turks, Franks, Peraites, and tourists, walked in the road amidst the horses and carriages; for to provide a separate path for foot passengers is what even the Franks of Pera are too barbarous even to think of.

"Half a mile out in the road is a little hamlet at the foot of a hill; it consists chiefly of houses of entertainment for Turkish pleasure parties, and perhaps for the pupils of the Military Academy, which, as most public buildings in Turkey, is built entirely of stone, with large high windows and doors, forming a strange contrast to the board and mud houses in which the Turks and Levantines delight. The village, which seems to consider itself an appendage to the academy, made most prodigious efforts to show its gratitude for the Sultan's visit. The houses were ornamented with flowers, and the principal coffee-shop had its roof surmounted by a bundle of white flags, each flag bearing in pink letters the name of one of the allied nations. There was also a board with an inscription, half in Latin and half in Italian, commemorating the thanks of the village to Abdul Medshid, 'the Imperishable Glory of the Orient.' The windows of all the houses were crowded with women, and detachments of women stood on the steps and on the porticoes. They were most of them Greeks, as might plainly be seen by their head-dress of flowers and artificial braids. On the other side of the road, just opposite to the village, rose the Military Academy from an artificial foundation of masonry; the yard surrounding it forming an elevated platform—a place to see and speak from—with a neat iron railing that would do credit to Clapham, surrounding it on one side. A slanting and well paved road led up to the gate. The platform was filled with high Turkish officers and civil functionaries: the cadets were ranged in lines, one inside the railing on the raised platform, and one outside at the foot of the wall. Opposite to them on the village side was the music of two regimental bands. Many of the musicians were Nubians, and as black as ink. A hill in front concealed the troops, infantry and artillery, which had been posted there from an early hour in the morning, and the hill side was bright with the yellow boots and sand-coloured feradshees, or overalls, of some hundreds of Turkish women, who—squatters in the most literal sense of the word—had effected a settling there. A party of Kavashes, among them, too, were many Nubians, kept the road clear by taking hold of the hinder parts of the garments of their fellow-subjects, male and female, and bodily lugging them into the space assigned to the spectators. As usual, there was a good deal of weary waiting, enlivened now and then by the arrival of some person or persons in whom the population took an interest. French colonels, with red trousers of fabulous dimensions, riding up the road, roused envious feelings in the breasts of the poorer among the Turks who would gladly have sold part of their birthright in paradise for a pair of such splendid garments. Highland officers and officers of the Rifles were examined with eager curiosity as, privileged on account of their uniform, they walked up and down in the forbidden ground, or stood leaning on their swords, chatting and looking at the fair Turks, as unbelievers should not look at believing women. Of course the Turkish ladies were highly shocked and scandalised; but so great was their contempt of the Giaours, that they did not show the disgust which no doubt they felt

They did not even avert their faces from the impertinent curiosity of the English.

"Seated in one of the Sultan's carriages, and followed by a cavalcade of French officers, the Prince Napoleon broke through the crowd on the hill. After him came the Persian ambassador, a very dignified person, who sat in his carriage with a sort of red flowery muslin night-gown on and a felt cap shaped like a sugar-loaf on his head. Several Persians in muslin night-gowns and sugar-loaf caps ran by the side of the carriage. And the Duke of Cambridge came on horseback with an aide-de-camp, smiling and touching his hat in every direction, and as he dismounted at the foot of the slanting way there was an enormous rush down of fat Turks, in bright blue coats, with heavy gold epaulettes, and entire constellations of stars and suns on their chests. For the Duke is a great favourite with the Turks of all classes, who admire kindness, politeness, and good-humour, beyond everything.

"The bright blue of the sky gave way to dark clouds, and a heavy thunderstorm rose up from the Bosphorus. Beyond the hill, cheers—faint at first, and distant, but waxing louder as they rolled nearer—announced the approach of the monarch of the country. The generals crowded near the entrance gate, ready to receive their sovereign. The military pupils closed their ranks, the bands played a lively march, and the Nubians beat their kettle drums with laudable energy. The sentinels presented arms. The kavashes, drawing their swords, used the hilts in pummelling his Highness's lieges. I expected a long cavalcade, outriders, a staff, an army of followers. There was nothing of the sort. The Sultan passed before me long ere I expected to see him. He rode, accompanied by half a dozen men on foot, and on horseback. His dark-grey horse trod the ground proudly, but slow. Abdul Medjid passed noiselessly by. There were no cheers from the spectators. The Turks never remove the fez. No heads were bared at the approach of the sovereign. As his horse bore him slowly by, he sat in the saddle as a man who assists at a pageant of which he is the principal attraction, because he is the victim. His hand hardly held the reins, his knee did not guide the horse. That slight noble figure, that pale face, showing the traces of grief and anxious unavailing thought; that right hand drooping past the gold hilt of his sword; that royal head bent down; that large lustrous eye seeking the ground, filled me with an indescribable mixture of pity and awe.

"The Sultan's thin figure and pale face disappeared among the brilliant crowd at the gate of the academy. The rain came down, a Levantine spring rain, something like the pouring out of buckets of water, and bands of music and kavashes, Turks, and Franks, yellow slippered Turkish women and Greek girls all rushed forward in search of a place for shelter. Horsemen galloped furiously back to the town. And while the rain came down, the troops behind the hill fired in platoons to do honour to the Sultan, for the Orientals love the report of musketry, and a platoon fire is to them the height of enjoyment."

Two British merchantmen remaining in Russian Baltic ports, were specifically excepted from the facilities for returning home, lately offered by proclamation to all English vessels. The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

"Lord Bloomfield has had the half-sad half-gratifying task of forwarding on their homeward course the master and crew of the *Anna MacAlister*, the William Broderic's partner in affliction under Russian detention, for while William was in durance vile at Revel, Anna was languishing in Cronstadt. They are, however, allowed now to be worked back by neutral crews, whilst their own people,—the *Anna MacAlister's* crew the same as that of the *William Broderic*,—have been sent on an excursion round by Warsaw and Myslowitz. To meet their travelling expenses and provide them with various *agrémens* on the road, the Russian Government presented Captain Evans, the master, with one silver rouble! (3s. 2d.) for himself and his men. As Captain Evans was fortunate enough in meeting with a countryman at Warsaw, who had juster views of humanity, and assisted him with 20*l.*, he has been enabled to preserve this identical silver rouble, to be presented to the British Museum, or Greenwich Hospital, or other collection of curiosities. Wherever he may deposit the capital, it is to be hoped that he and his companions will soon return to Cronstadt in the service of Admiral Napier, and pay the interest.

"Captain Evans having escaped a species of captivity, succeeded by the torture of compulsory travelling under pecuniary difficulties, allowed himself, on reaching the Berlin railway station, to fall into the delusion that now at least he had got into a free country. On being asked for his passport he produced that Russian document, but the recollection of the sufferings he and his men had just gone through at the hands of that Power, drove him irresistibly to crush the paper in his hand and spit on the Russian arms. So flagrant a violation of decorum before the very eyes of a Prussian constable in all the majesty of helmet and sword, procured him an opportunity of calming his excited feelings in a somewhat scantily furnished apartment, where his company was strictly limited to his own cogitations. After a few hours' confinement, however, he was liberated, and on reaching the Embassy all his troubles ceased.

"The same happy conclusion is fortunately also to be related of the six weeks' wanderings of an unhappy English lady's-maid, till lately in service in Russia, and who has been sent about there from pillar to post for that space of time deprived of her passport, till at last she arrived here, and has met with every kindness at the hands of Lady Bloomfield."

The *Shipping Gazette* publishes the following particulars from a letter of Mr. H. J. Donville, the surgeon of the *Tiger*, dated May 15, in the quarantine ground at Odessa, in which that officer states that he has been wonderfully preserved, and able to benefit his more unfortunate shipmates. He says:—

"On the morning of the 12th, at 6 A.M., he was awoke by the crash of the ship going on shore, and when the dense fog cleared a little, they found themselves about five miles

S.E. of Odessa. Guns were fired to attract the attention of the other steamers, but without avail. About nine o'clock the guns from the *Tiger* were on fire in two places. The captain and others frightfully wounded. They could only use one gun, the others having been thrown overboard, or removed to lighten the ship. Mr. Donville performed four amputations before they left the ship, which he did almost the last, in the care of the wounded. Poor Captain Giffard lost his left leg, and has a severe wound in his right. His sufferings were most intense for three hours under a hot sun. The surgeon's knowledge of French proved a great blessing, for some of the Russian officers understood it, and he was able to send into the town for medicine, &c., which greatly relieved the captain. The midshipman, who lost both his legs, and who was a relative and namesake of the captain's, died on the beach, and one man died on the road. The surgeon says the kindness of their captors is beyond words to tell. Everything they want is procured at once, and he says he has only to ask and to have. Leave was given them to save what they could, and the surgeon had a few clothes with him. His last words are, 'The captain is doing as well as can be expected. The amputation progressing favourably.'

Letters from St. Petersburg mention that the Emperor, has passed in review all the troops which are taking their departure, and the Grand Duke Constantine is occupied with the works of defence of Riga, Helsingfors, &c. He has several times visited the forts of Cronstadt. Letters from the interior announce that, with the exception of Moscow, the troops have been withdrawn from all the garrison-towns. The enthusiasm for the war has singularly declined.

The news of the bombardment of Odessa by the combined fleets was received at Aleppo on the 4th ult. with the most lively demonstrations of enthusiasm. At the same time that the cannon of the fortress and the batteries of the barracks celebrated the event, placards, posted up on the doors of the khans, and public criers in the streets, announced the intelligence to the inhabitants.

It was confidently stated at Vienna that the Austrian summons to Russia is equivalent to an ultimatum. The *Carlsruhe Gazette* states that Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Minister at the Court of Wurtemberg, has been suddenly recalled to St. Petersburg, and it is expected that this diplomatist, whose pacific opinions are well known, will be charged with a mission to the Courts of Berlin and Vienna. The Duke Ernest of Saxe Cobourg Gotha left Vienna on the 27th ult., having only remained in that capital for six days. The Prince and Princess of Prussia, who are now at Baden-Baden, will, it is said, return to Berlin on the 7th.

The Austrian troops are advancing to the frontier of Wallachia. On the other hand, the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"All the news we receive from Austria coincides on one point,—viz., that a sudden halt has intervened in the apparently energetic measures which the young Emperor gave the world to believe he was about to take. The details of the cessation of the military preparations, and the marching of troops towards the north-east frontier, will doubtless by the time you receive this have been reported you from Vienna. One cause of a somewhat altered feeling on the subject of the war has been traced to a certain Bavarian influence, which the young Emperor has very much at heart, but no great stress need be laid on this. Russia's assurances that the movements of her troops in Poland, and along the frontier of Galicia and the Bukowina, have no reference to Austria, and further, that her troops in the Danubian Principalities will not for the present advance beyond Siliustria and Trajan's Wall, but observe a defensive position along the Danube, seem to have met with some credence, backed as they are by the fact that the Russians are taking up a position on the Pruth and Sereth, and strengthening it. But more urgent ground for holding hands at present is to be found, according to Austrian views, in the general bearing of Prince Napoleon at Constantinople, more particularly his advocacy and patronage of the plan for forming a Polish legion in Turkish-Servia. The remonstrances made to him on the subject by Baron Bruck have been met by the Prince in a very cavalier manner, and the result is a considerable advantage to the Russian cause by this fit of Austrian paralysis."

The occupation of Greece by the allied troops is now an accomplished fact. Five thousand men, under the command of General Forey, landed at the Piræus on the 25th, after taking possession of the Greek vessels of war.

On the 26th King Otto accepted all the proposals of France and England, proclaimed a strict neutrality in the affairs of Turkey, and changed his Ministry.

It is said that the Queen of Greece was in a state of frenzy at this occupation, and had threatened to ride to the frontier and place herself at the head of the insurgents. We do not hear by what method of persuasion her Majesty was induced to remain under protection of the Anglo-French arms. It was also said that the King had declared that he would accept the ultimatum on condition only that the Piræus should not be occupied; but this condition, too, seems to have been overruled. Otto and his wife are to be protected from themselves. The moral authority of the Bavarian dynasty is, of course, utterly destroyed. The complicity of the King, and more especially of the Queen of Greece, with Russian intrigues, and with the insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly, is proved to the letter in the correspondence just laid before the Houses of Parliament.

In a letter addressed to the King's private secretary, Tzavellas, a chief of the insurgents, adverts to his correspondence with the Greek Minister of War; he complains bitterly that he has only received 23,000 francs, and has been obliged to expend 40,000; and he suggests the precious plan of moving the 1st and 11th regiments of the Greek army to the frontier, with permission to the soldiers to "*deserter fortuitement*" (this Greek-French is untranslatable), their

pay being assured to them. Tzavellas's complaint that he is insufficiently supplied with money deserves the attention of the Greek subscribers in London and Manchester to the sustentation fund for the Greek brigands in Epirus and Thessaly. It is clear that their remittances have been embezzled at Athens. The old proverb about "honour among thieves" does not appear to hold good in modern Greece.

Grivas, the favourite of the Queen, and one of the leaders of the movement, complains bitterly of the atrocious crimes of his own Christian Greek patriots, in whose behalf the classical and romantic sympathies of our Philhellenes of Western Europe are invoked.

Among many amusing illustrations of the working of what is called the "Russian system" we may mention that it was rumoured at Constantinople that General Osten-Sacken was menaced with disgrace, and that he would in all probability be degraded to the lowest rank, and sent to Siberia as a private soldier—notwithstanding the Grand Cross of St. Andrew given him for the "victory" he gained at Odessa. The letters say that he stands charged with not having applied to its proper use two millions of roubles sent some time since by the Emperor of Russia for the repairs of the defences of that city. An inquiry was instituted after the bombardment, and the result has been highly unfavourable to the integrity of the officials to whose hands the funds were intrusted.

The *Tiger*, finding all chance of escape or resistance at an end, burnt her ensigns. But the Russian general at Odessa would not be "done out of his" trophies. Accordingly he sent the ensign of an unfortunate English merchantman to St. Petersburg as the flag of H. M. S. *Tiger*.

By the latest news from Constantinople we hear that the best feelings of true brotherhood in arms exist between the two armies. Daily fraternisations, sometimes attended with ludicrous results take place. On one occasion a French Chasseur and a Highlander exchanged uniforms. Our soldiers get on wonderfully with the Turks. A special correspondent of a daily contemporary writes:—"One day this week, in passing the Koulouk, near the bridge, I observed one of our guardsmen in a most animated debate with a Turkish soldier, and had the curiosity to inquire of the former how he managed, and whether he knew Turkish? "Not perfectly, sir," said he, "but quite enough to invite my comrade to take a glass."

The Duke of Cambridge, by his unaffected soldierlike frankness and simplicity, is reported to have made himself universally popular.

The rage and panic of the Russian and Court party in Denmark have brought about a serious political crisis. Government has prohibited a public meeting at Ringsted, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the constitution, at which an address to the King, praying the dismissal of Ministers, was to have been proposed. This crisis is very seriously regarded in Paris, and it is even apprehended that the Danish Government may be brought to its senses by Sir Charles Napier. The protracted stay of the French Baltic squadron has given rise to rumours of an expeditionary force to restore Finland to Sweden. The French fleet was received most enthusiastically, at Kiel. From 15,000 to 20,000 tourists, from remote parts of Germany, visited the ships daily. Bil the Opposition papers in Denmark have been indicted.

Among the papers struck at by the Danish Government is the *Fædreland*, which on the 27th published an article identifying the cause of the national party with that of France and England. In this article it is said:—"It is a sad truth, that in spite of Czar Peter the Great, who was, however, in need of our assistance, having duped us, in spite of Czar Peter III. of Holstein Gottorp having aimed at our destruction, in spite of Czar Paul having compelled us to a rupture with England and then left us in the lurch, in spite of Czar Alexander having stripped us of Norway, and finally, in spite of Czar Nicholas having forced us to yield to Prussia, and proved his magnanimity to us by rendering the entire Danish kingdom dependent on the Duchy of Holstein—notwithstanding all this, there are people here who look to the Russian Czar as the saviour of Denmark, past and future; and this blindness is the worst of all our misfortunes. Yet rescue is still possible. Providence has made the conflict between the East and the West unavoidable; the tongue of the balance wavers, and the North might turn the scales to its own deliverance, and to the advantages of humanity; but the moment is precious. Without the co-operation of the North, England and France at last will be compelled to deliver the Baltic and Denmark up to Russia; and in the case of their subduing Russia with the aid of Sweden alone, Denmark would be the victim. Therefore we must both sink or swim together."

General Baraguay d'Hilliers, on his arrival at Paris from Constantinople, went immediately to St. Cloud, where he was received in private audience by the Emperor.

The Minister of Marine has changed the name of a new line-of-battle ship from *L'Annibal* to *Prince Jérôme*, by the Emperor's orders, in honour of his uncle.

The Minister of War has ordered the English national airs God save the Queen, and Rule Britannia, as well as the Sultan's March, to be placed on the repertory of the military bands throughout the French army.

A fearful thunderstorm took place at Constantinople on the 30th ult. A sad accident occurred in our camp. Assistant-Surgeon Sinclair and an officer of the 93d were walking over from the barracks at Scutari to their tents close by; there was a small rivulet, not generally enough to wet the toe of a boot; this was swollen, and the men held each other's hands to spring over, the flood was wide and high, they were separated; assistant-surgeon Sinclair was stopped by bushes, stones, &c., much bruised; the other, Macnish, of the 93rd, was swept into the Bosphorus.

THE GANGES CANAL.

THE most important item of intelligence, by the last mail from India, is the opening of the Ganges Canal, by the Lieutenant-Governor of the north-west provinces, Mr. John Colvin, on the 8th instant. Colonel Cautley, the projector and principal executive officer, was entertained by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the compliments which he received on the occasion were not greater than he deserves. A telegraphic message announcing the opening of the canal was sent from Roorkee to the Governor-General at Calcutta. It ran thus:—"The Ganges Canal was opened this morning by the admission, at half-past six p.m., of water over the paved channel of the Solani aqueduct. Everything went off happily amidst the rejoicings of spectators." To this message the following reply was received at Meerut at half-past two p.m., from the Governor-General:—"I have rejoiced over your message. All honour to Colonel Cautley." The time of transit was forty-seven minutes twenty-nine seconds. The scene at the opening, as described by the local papers,—English clergymen reading a form of prayers for the occasion, Brahmans throwing flowers into the stream, an imposing display of troops, a general distribution of sweetmeats, missionaries preaching to the crowd, racing in sacks, and the like,—formed a *mélange* that could only have been presented in British India. Though the great trunk of the canal has been thus formally opened, the branches required for the distribution of the water will not be fully complete for some years. By the time they are so the work will have cost a million and a half; and it is thought that the direct net return will be at the rate of about 7 per cent. on the outlay, and the indirect return arising from the increase of cultivation and land revenue is estimated at about the same sum. The results of the canal, in preventing the recurrence of the famines that have invariably followed the failure of the monsoons in the districts it traverses, and in creating numerous lines of easy and economical transit connected with the great rivers of the Doab, are incalculable. The total length of channel navigable throughout, including the trunk and terminal lines into the great branches, is very nearly 890 miles. The principal engineering work is an aqueduct over the Solani river, having a water-way of 750 feet. This work cost 300,000*l.*, about nine times as much as Telford's aqueduct over the Dee, at Pont-y-Cysyllt, which is half as long again, and nearly three times as high, but with a much narrower channel, and there can be little doubt that, had Telford's mode of construction been adopted by the military officer who constructed the work, the cost would have been very much less than it has been.

THE PEACE SOCIETY AGAIN.

THE Peace Society has attained to years of discretion, if we may judge by its age rather than its acts. It held its *thirty-eighth* anniversary last week, in Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields. The chairman of the occasion was Mr. Charles Hindley, M.P. His speech is instructive, and describes faithfully enough the position of the party at the present conjuncture. The meeting, he said, was rendered peculiarly, painfully interesting by the fact that England is now at war. For thirty-eight years this society had been endeavouring to impress upon the public mind the sinfulness of war and the duty of preserving peace—the necessity and desirableness of leaving disputes to be decided, not by might but by right, not by gunpowder and physical force, but by dependence upon that Great Being who wished his creatures to live together in harmony and peace. They had sought to indoctrinate the public mind by distributing tracts, by holding public meetings, and by reading lectures, and they had so far persevered in their efforts that it was thought to be almost impossible to agitate the people in favour of war. But they must lament that their labours had not been so successful as they could wish, and in making this observation he could not help saying he did hope that the members of the Christian Churches would have taken this matter up, and that they would have acted upon the principles inculcated in the Bible upon this important subject. He had hoped that no Christian would dissent from the doctrine that *it was wrong to take up the sword in vindication of what they called their national rights*; but he received the other day, from one of his constituents—a man of great ability, and a member of the Christian Church—a letter which contained these words:—

"I see you are to preside at a meeting of the Peace Society. I hope you will give Russia what she deserves. I would blow up all her ships and soldiers. I am a man of peace, but this is the time for fighting."

The meeting laughed heartily, as well they might, at the thoroughly British sentiment conveyed in the last sentence.

Mr. Hindley prophesied that if the war lasts Finsbury Chapel will not hold the adherents of the Peace Society; and resolutely maintained that we ought not to have gone to war at all. The other speakers were the Reverend William Brock, the Reverend John Burnett, Mr. Robert Charlton, of

Bristol, and Mr. Joseph Sturge. Mr. Charlton praised Lord Aberdeen in this wise:—

"When Lord Aberdeen filled the office of Foreign Secretary, under the Administration of the late Sir Robert Peel, disputes arose between England and France respecting the Tahiti question, and between England and America in reference to the Oregon boundary question. At that time any harsh or hasty proceeding on the part of our Government might have involved the country in embroilments from which they would have found it extremely difficult to extricate themselves; but the calm and dignified conduct of Lord Aberdeen preserved to us the great blessing of peace on both the questions he had mentioned. And, more than this, he thought that within the last ten years Lord Aberdeen had shown that strict adherence to principles with which the moral value of military heroism admitted of no comparison at all. Although he had failed on the present occasion in averting war, it was only fair that they should properly estimate the difficulties of his position, and he begged that the meeting would understand that the resolution was not intended to censure him and the Government."

The resolutions sufficiently express the peace view of national duty at present:—

"That this meeting regards with the deepest sorrows and apprehension the war recently broken out in the east of Europe; and while gratefully acknowledging the long and strenuous efforts made by her Majesty's Government to secure a pacific adjustment of the question in dispute, cannot but earnestly regret that, instead of appealing to arms, they did not persevere in negotiations, or that the matter was not submitted to the arbitration of some competent and impartial umpire, and thereby the calamities be averted which are now impending over the nations in prospect of a general European war, the extent, the duration, and the consequences of which no human eye can foresee."—"That this meeting regards with unfeigned satisfaction the subsidence of those feelings of suspicion and distrust towards France which so lately agitated this country, and cannot but consider the mischievous results that have already flowed from that panic, and the evidence of its utter groundlessness presented by the cordial alliance existing between the two Governments, as affording a significant warning to the press and people of this country how they surrender themselves to unjust suspicions and degrading alarms, under the influence of blind and unreasoning prejudice."—"That this meeting cannot but regard the war with Russia as furnishing additional illustration of the evils that have frequently come upon this country from the practice, unhappily too common in our history, of interfering by force of arms in the quarrels of other nations, and is of opinion that it is the duty and wisdom of the English people to urge upon their Government the adoption of the full principle of non-interference in their foreign policy."

The whole gist of the meeting was a mourning over the failure of the society, and a tolerably plucky expression of trust in the principles it represents.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

PROGRESS continues to be made in the agitation of the question of limited liability. On Wednesday, at the usual meeting of the Society of Arts, Mr. Slaney, formerly Member for Shrewsbury, and well known for his efforts on behalf of the poorer classes, read a paper "On Limited and Unlimited Liability in Partnerships."

He said that when a member of the House of Commons, he had addressed himself with some labour to the subjects connected with the social improvements of the middle and working classes. Such inquiries led him to consider other circumstances bearing on the encouragement to industry, and in 1850 he had obtained a committee on investments, or the savings of the working portion of the community. That investigation and evidence was the precursor of a second committee in 1851, on the law of partnership, of which he was chairman. After collecting much information, the report was presented in July of the same year. The committee stated that the existing law of partnership placed obstacles in the way of any body of workmen who desired to combine their money and labour on industrial undertakings. The law afforded no effectual remedy against the fraud of any dishonest party, and no summary mode of enforcing the rules agreed to for mutual government. The difficulties which affected the law of partnership operated with increased severity in proportion to the smallness of the sums subscribed and the number of persons included in the association. Any measure for the removal of such difficulties would be most acceptable to the middle and working classes. By the present law a person taking a share was liable to the last shilling he possessed. Such a risk prevented many cautious men from taking any part in these undertakings. Hence many improvements of a local nature were impeded or thrown into the management of reckless speculators, and many enterprises of acknowledged utility were prevented. In consequence of the great mass of favourable evidence adduced before the committee, he obtained the following year a committee on the partnership laws. Among the witnesses were Mr. Phillimore, M.P., Mr. Howell, partner in Ellis and Co.'s house in the City; Mr. Leone Levi, whose prize essay on a commercial code is well known; Mr. Cecil Fane, Commissioner of Bankruptcy; Mr. Field, an experienced solicitor; Mr. Bancroft Davis, secretary to the American Le-

gation, and others. In the course of evidence submitted, it was stated that under certain restrictions the law of limited liability prevailed in the United States, France, Holland, and Germany. Excepting Lord Brougham and Mr. Baker, the witnesses replied favourably to the plan of limited liability. He should mention among such Mr. Stuart Mill, whose name stood high, and whose works were quoted at home and abroad; Mr. Babbage, whose name was esteemed and honoured wherever scientific discoveries were appreciated; and the late Mr. G. R. Porter, well known as the author of the "Progress of the Nation." A letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the chairman strongly advocated an alteration of the law. The report contained two recommendations of great importance to large classes—1st. That charters of limited liability for small undertakings should be granted by the Crown, with due caution, but at a far more reasonable cost. 2nd. That where several industrial men worked together with a small capital, the law should provide a remedy against fraud on the part of any dishonest partner, and a summary mode of enforcing the rules agreed to for mutual government. The committee of 1851 recommended a commission on the subject. That had been issued by the present Government, consisting chiefly of eminent lawyers, with a few great merchants, but containing no statesmen nor representatives from the industrial classes. Their report had been just what might have been expected, namely, hostile to limited liability, though in favour of charters at a cheaper rate. Our unrivalled position as a country had arisen from natural as well as artificial causes, such as its insular situation, mineral wealth, coal, iron, railways, boundless trade, and civil and religious liberties. In Great Britain there was annually raised 37,000,000 of tons of coal, while in the rest of Europe the amount did not exceed 17,000,000. Great changes in society demanded corresponding changes in the laws. In 1780 the rural population was 2 to 1 compared with that of the towns. Now, the tables were exactly turned. Since 1801 there had been an increase of 15 per cent. in agricultural districts, while in the large cities the surplus was equal to 30 per cent. During the last half century the population had augmented as much as since the Norman Conquest. With all this, personal property had been greatly multiplied. Since 1815 it had increased to 50 per cent. in towns, in rural districts 30 per cent., and in 23 years had risen to 250 per cent. With such immense increase there should be additional means devised for its safe investment. What were the modes of investment? Was it in land? There was no end of difficulties and intricate proceedings connected with title, conveyances, and mortgages. Small farms had been conglomerated into a few large ones. The funds had greatly diminished, as, during forty years' peace, great portions every year were locked up in the hands of trustees. A separate act of Parliament was required for local enterprises, whether of a public or a private nature; and persons taking a share in such undertakings were liable to the uttermost farthing they possessed. He considered that the present law favoured the great capitalist, and did not give fair play to the poor man. It was a check upon all industrial investments, created feelings of dissatisfaction, embittered strikes, and widened the area between the upper and the lower classes.

According to custom a brisk discussion arose. Mr. Elliott said he would yield to no man in his intense sympathies for the working class. The term, however, had been misused, and had been improperly applied solely to men with hard, horny hands and fustian jackets. He considered Mr. Slaney's resolutions to be of a dangerous nature, and would lead to immorality. Besides, the working part of the community did not ask for an alteration in the law of partnership. The great difficulty with most of them was to obtain savings for investment. He thought it dangerous for persons to go about the country, and tell the working men that the laws were made for the rich. The law, on the contrary, was full, fair, and open. No statute, ancient or modern, was more equitable than the present one regarding partnerships. The whole country was full of undertakings for the safe investment of money. There was a gas company established about ten years ago in the City, 10*l.* only each share, and giving 10 per cent. There was the Necropolis Company, with shares of 10*l.* The great object to the poor man was security in investing his little savings. Half the national debt was paid to persons who had not more than 20*l.* per annum. Mr. Slaney had done nothing more than state plain, bold opinions unsupported by facts, and originating only from theoretical dreamers. He should not forget that the limited liability system had caused much distress in the United States, had not improved the condition of France, had been most disastrous in the Levant, and had destroyed all enterprising commerce in Italy.

Mr. Hill moved that the discussion be adjourned till next Monday week, which was unanimously agreed to. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Slaney, and the meeting separated.

THE LAST OF CANVAS-TOWN.

It is almost useless to attempt to convey to the reader's mind any correct conception of the squalid appearance of this place. If he were to see the crime-teeming quarter of St. Giles's in the City, the courts and alleys were swept away, he would form some conception of the locality. Canvas-town has latterly borne to Melbourne pretty near the same relation. But even then there are some relations, incapable of description here, that leave its illustrious rival far behind in the race. It is a small town of tents, situated upon the declivity of a slight hill, in dry weather piled over with dust, and in wet embedded in mud. In many of these canvas dwellings, with only one room, their roost, and its eating-houses, and its boarding-houses, each exhibiting a kind of noble emulation as to the amount of equator with which they should be enabled to disgust the passer-by. In the morning may be seen before the various tents clusterings of half-dressed women and children busy cooking their breakfast at their small stoves; while around them are gathered all the accompanying features that mark the hovels of an Irish village. But the worst feature of the locality is, that it has long been the very nesting-place for the hatching of much of the crime of Melbourne. Every second tent almost was a sly grog-shop, where the rough inhabitants went to spend their ill-earned gains—the fruit of criminal plans first matured here. Thence used to emanate these night prowlers, whose trade it was to stop and rob the wayfarer, quietly returning to his home at night. In a few days this nuisance will be no more, since it is to be removed by the 1st of April, and many of the owners have already cleared off their tents in consequence of a notice from the Government to that effect. It is true that there have been always dwelling in Canvas-town some persons plying a regular, respectable business, and a few unfortunate ones actually driven there for shelter. But, with the increasing accommodation that the colony now offers, the necessity for the existence of such a place has been utterly swept away. For some time past houses have become plentiful, and those who were forced six months since to fix their residence in this wretched spot—the centre of loathsome scenes, and the haunt of vile characters—may now secure a comfortable lodging at a comparatively reasonable rate. —*Melbourne Argus.*

THE AMERICANS AT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The *New York Herald* contains the following letter from a correspondent at the Falkland Islands, respecting the recent collision between the authorities of the island and an American whaling captain:—

"On the 2nd we arrived, and learned that the brig-of-war Express had sailed for New Island, to capture the (American) ship. On the 3rd the American schooner Washington, a tender to the whaler, came in in charge of an English lieutenant and six men, and was at once boarded and brought to anchor under our guns—the lieutenant, to avoid the disagreeable necessity of saying that he surrendered, falsely stating that he was not in charge, but merely put on board to see the vessel in—a despicable equivocation. On the afternoon of the same day the brig arrived, having in company the whale-ship Hudson, Captain Cliff, which ship was also in charge of an English lieutenant. The ship not being able to enter the inner harbour, was anchored outside, and on discovering the pendant of a ship of war the lieutenant landed on the nearest beach, leaving on board only a constable having a warrant for the arrest of Captain Cliff. We at once sent on board, restored the captain to his command, and learnt the facts of the case. Nearly a year since Captain Cliff killed some wild hogs on an uninhabited island, which hogs had been placed there by himself and others whaling in that neighbourhood, that they might breed. Several months subsequent to this the Governor and Council passed an act imposing a fine of 20*l.* sterling upon any person who should kill any cattle upon any of these islands—an act which could not extend to these hogs, first, because they did not belong to the Falkland Island Company, for whose protection the act was passed, and, secondly, that it was *ex post facto*. The desertion of a boat's crew brought the knowledge of the killing to the Governor, and a writ was issued on the oath of these deserters for the arrest of Captain Cliff. Armed with this, and accompanied by a constable to serve the writ, the Express sailed for New Island, where the Hudson was lying moored, with sails unbent, and seized, not the captain, for whom they had a warrant, but the ship and schooner, made prisoners of the crews, and took possession of the ship's papers. Captain Cliff offered to proceed to Stanley in the schooner or in the man-of-war, and entreated the commander of the express not to break up his voyage by removing the ship from her present secure anchorage. Deaf to all representations, he merely stated that his orders were to bring the ship and schooner, and ordered the mate of the ship, Mr. Leeds, to bend sails and prepare the ship for sea, under the threat of putting him in irons if he refused—a most atrocious violation of personal liberty, for which Captain Boys and other officers of her Britannic Majesty's brig Express deserve to be branded as pirates. Fully determined not to interfere in any way with the judicial authority, Captain Cliff appeared before the magistrate, and was fined 880*l.* sterling upon the charge of killing twenty-two hogs in August last. No evidence was offered by the prosecution other than the depositions of the

deserters before named. The captain offered to prove by his log that at the time named he was on the coast of Patagonia; but this petty despot, a Mr. Montague, refused to hear the defendant, either by himself or counsel, thus committing under colour of the law a direct robbery, and affording us an opportunity of seeing a specimen of English justice. The fine was subsequently reduced to 27*l.* All the papers in this case will be forwarded to the Government, that it may demand satisfaction for the indignity to our flag, and compensation for breaking up the ship's voyage."

If all this be true, it will be necessary to give the authorities at the Falkland Islands some correct notions as to how they should employ British power.

DOINGS AT FROME.

An unusual scene has been enacted at Frome—the parish of the Reverend Mr. Bennett, late of Knightsbridge. A labouring man, named Dimmock, was lawfully married to Elizabeth Plummer at an independent chapel, registered for the solemnization of marriages under the act of William IV. A person described in the local press as "Madame Green, a Sister of Mercy," afterwards went to the wife, and represented that such a marriage was insufficient and improper, and persuaded her to be married again at the church. Mr. Bennett's curate accordingly re-married the parties. It appears that in the church book Dimmock is described as marrying "Elizabeth Dimmock, formerly Plummer," the column usually filled up "bachelor and spinster" may have been thought rather puzzling, for no attempt is made to describe the condition of the parties, but there is written instead, "previously united at Zion Meeting-house." The affair has caused much excitement at Frome, and a very large meeting was held last week, at which it was resolved:—

"That, in the judgment of this meeting, the re-marriage of persons already united in matrimony is a violation, or, at least, an evasion of the law of the land; that it forms part of a system designed to set up ecclesiastical arrogance against civil authority, and, therefore, that it is an act deserving the reprobation of every Englishman."

Why should not people be married as many times as they please? It is not often that gentlemen and ladies like the knot twice tied.

The meeting was addressed by the Hon. Colonel Boyle, M.P., Dr. Harrison, and various Dissenting ministers and influential laymen. Resolutions were unanimously adopted condemning the conduct of the curate as a violation, or, at least, an evasion of the law of the land; and as part of a system designed to set up ecclesiastical arrogance against civil authority, and therefore an act deserving the reprobation of every Englishman. A petition embracing the sentiments of the resolutions was then adopted, and entrusted to Colonel Boyle for presentation to Parliament. The Rev. D. Anthony, in the course of his address, said that Madame Green had also gone to another poor woman, watching over a sickly child, and opened her mission of "mercy" with asking whether the little sufferer had been baptised. "No," was the answer, the mother being a Baptist. "Then," said Madame Green, "do you know where your child will go if it dies?" "Yes, to Heaven." "No," said Madame Green, "she will lift up her eyes in hell fire." Nor did the "sisterly" sympathy stop here. Of course the worst might be suspected of so heathenish a mother, and the next question of the compassionate visitant was, "Have you ever been married?" "Yes," answered the woman. "Where?" "I was married at the Baptist chapel." "Then," said Madame Green, "you are not married at all; you are living in fornication, and your children are all illegitimate." The poor woman replied, "Mr. Middleditch can marry as well as Mr. Bennett." But the Sister of Mercy was not to be thus beaten. "I tell you," said she, "you are deceived; you are not married at all. If you will be married at the church, Mr. Bennett will be a friend to you, and your children will be well educated, and you will have many other things." The poor woman was not to be swayed by such considerations. She ordered Madame Green out of her house, and told Mr. Anthony that he was at liberty to publish the facts, and that she was ready to take her oath to the truth of them before any number of persons.

HOW TO "TAKE IN" THE ENGLISH.

An illustration of the best, the infallible mode of deluding our countrymen and countrywomen is furnished by an occurrence at Bury. We take the story as we find it from the *Morning Chronicle*; it seems to be authentic:—

It appears that Mrs. Edmund Grundy, of Bridge-hall, being in want of a cook, was applied to by a woman, apparently about fifty years of age, who so far succeeded, by her plausible manners and conversation, in ingratiating herself in the lady's favour, that she was engaged without having given any references for her character; and it seems that she knew so well how to improve the advantage she had gained, that Mrs. Grundy placed the most implicit confidence in her. In a few days she began to drop hints that she had not always filled a menial situation; and, having fully prepared Mrs. Grundy's mind for a full disclosure, she announced that she was the Hon. Mrs. Scott Gordon; and that, although

at that time destitute of means, she was heiress to very considerable estates, which she very appropriately located in Ayrshire, as well as to some property in Yorkshire, with which, on the death of a relative, she should also inherit, in her own right, the title of Lady Gordon. As she completely succeeded in imposing all these marvellous statements upon Mrs. Grundy for truth, she was at once transferred from the kitchen to the drawing-room, as companion to Mrs. Grundy, until she should come into possession of her property, which, she said, might be very shortly expected. In a few days more she began to say that her relatives had behaved so ill to her that she would not leave her property to them; and that on account of the kindness and consideration with which she had been treated by Mrs. Grundy and her family they should profit by it. Shortly after making this communication she stated that she had received a letter announcing the death of the relative who held the Ayrshire estates, and her own succession thereto, at the same time repeating her promises as to its future disposal, and urging that as the Grundy family would thus become connected with the Gordons, and as she particularly wished them to accompany her into Ayrshire when she went to take possession of her estates, it was desirable that they, as well as herself, should go into mourning. This was done forthwith, and the family were busily preparing for their visit, which was fixed to take place in a few days, when the plan was interfered with by the arrival of another letter, communicating the important fact that the possessor of the Yorkshire property, Newcomb Park, was dead, and that she was consequently the owner of that estate, as well as the title of Lady Gordon. She consequently proposed that, instead of going to Ayrshire, they should all go to Newcomb Park, which was agreed upon; and the day fixed for departure was one on which Mr. and Mrs. Grundy had to be present at a wedding at Bowdon, to which, of course, Lady Gordon, was respectfully invited, and she condescendingly promised to grace it with her presence. In the morning of the day in question they all came to Manchester; but, instead of proceeding with Mr. and Mrs. Grundy to Bowdon, her ladyship suddenly recollecting that she had some important business to transact at Manchester, which would prevent her from attending the wedding, but arranged that she would meet her friends at a certain hour in the afternoon, for the purpose of proceeding to Newcomb Park. At the time appointed Mr. and Mrs. Grundy proceeded to the place agreed upon; but, there, instead of Lady Gordon, they found a note waiting their arrival, stating that she had received a telegraphic message, announcing the dangerous illness of a near relative at Newcomb Park, and earnestly requesting her presence there; that she had consequently gone off immediately, and she requested them to follow her on the next day. They consequently returned to Bury, and found "her ladyship" had arrived there during their absence, and, in great haste, had packed up and carried off all her clothes. As this appeared to be explained by the facts mentioned in the note which they had received at Manchester, it did not inspire any suspicions in the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Grundy, who set out for Newcomb Park, not only without any misgivings, but without any very clear notion where that place was situated. From some vague impression that it was not far from Leeds, they proceeded to that town; but nobody could give them any precise information on the subject. At length somebody believed there was a place of that name not far from Halifax. To Halifax they consequently proceeded, but found that the requisite topographical knowledge was just as scarce there as at Leeds. Some more vague information sent them from Halifax to Huddersfield and Bradford, and, we believe, to some other Yorkshire towns; but wherever they went, Newcomb Park appeared to fly before them, and they returned home thoroughly jaded and disappointed, but not entirely disabused of their confidence in Lady Gordon; for, on reaching home, and finding a letter from her, dated Newcomb Park, and announcing that she had broken a blood-vessel, and was dangerously ill, they sent a medical man to attend her, who, after another wild-goose chase in search of that mysterious locality, returned thoroughly convinced of its non-existence. The game was now fairly up; it was but too clear that Lady Gordon was an ardent impostor; and the Grundy family were compelled most reluctantly to abandon all hope of succeeding to the possession of Newcomb Park and the large estate in Ayrshire.

From some information recently received, the true name of this very clever impostor was ascertained to be Phoebe Ann Howitt; and her whereabouts being discovered, she was apprehended at Tiverton on Monday last, on a charge of having obtained money by fraudulent misrepresentations. She was taken before the magistrates, at Bury, on Tuesday, but Mr. Grundy declined to press the case against her, and she was discharged and sent out of the town in a cab on her way to Liverpool by railway. At Tiverton she was in lodgings, having introduced herself there, with a woman, acting as a servant, as a lady going out to Turkey. She is the same woman who, some years ago, imposed upon the public by a false tale respecting Lord Howard.

THE LOSS OF THE WINCHESTER.

The Winchester was an emigrant ship belonging to Boston, bound with emigrants from Liverpool. While on her way she met with a hurricane, and her masts went overboard, sprung leaks, and became unmanageable. Fortunately several ships passed her, and took off detachments of her living cargo. The last detachment was rescued by Captain Fitch, of the American steamer Washington, under these circumstances, as described by Professor Hackett, one of the passengers of the Washington:—

"On the morning of the 2nd of May, while under a furious gale, the sea rolling mountains high, the passengers of the Washington were called on deck by the intelligence of a dismantled vessel drifting in the direction of the steamer. About 10 A.M. we were near enough to enable Captain Fitch to hail

the vessel, and ascertain that she was the Winchester, from Boston, the captain of which entreated Captain Fitch to stay by his ship and save passengers and crew. The latter were in a most difficult position. To lower the boats and venture out upon the waves, tremendously lashed by the gale, was a most perilous undertaking. Besides, the Washington was filled with passengers and heavily laden. On the other side, hundreds of human lives were at stake. The humane captain of the Washington, however, quickly decided. He communicated to his passengers his resolution not to proceed until all was done within human power in saving the people on board the wreck. There was, of course, but one feeling of approbation among the passengers of the steamer, who had soon an opportunity to observe the circumspection, courage, and nobility displayed by the brave seamen of the Washington. No sooner had Captain Fitch made known his noble resolution, when Mr. King, first officer of the Washington, at once stepped forth and called upon the crew for volunteers to board the wreck. From among the brave sailors, who, without exception, offered their services, he chose four excellent seamen. A lifeboat was lowered. Although their own lives were in imminent peril, since it appeared nearly impossible that a boat should live upon such a sea, yet Mr. King, with his men, ventured out upon an enterprise the obvious dangers of which could not but excite the highest admiration for their heroism, as well as the truest regard for their self-forgetful love of their fellow-men. All eyes were fixed upon the boat, in which these heroes, after superhuman exertions, at length succeeded in getting alongside the Winchester. However, it was found impracticable to board the wreck, as the sea was continually making a complete breach over it and the boat. The captain of the Winchester threw a bottle into the boat, which contained a letter requesting their rescue, and stating the number of passengers and crew as being 445. Mr. King again reached the steamer in safety, and immediately left once more, with the answer of Captain Fitch sealed up in a bottle. This time, however, the noble seamen nearly fell a sacrifice to their humane intentions. Coming near the wreck, their boat, broken in the forward air chamber, commenced sinking. Ropes were thrown from the Winchester, by means of which, first the four sailors, and lastly Mr. King, were snatched from a watery grave. On board the wreck a spectacle was presented to Mr. King of the most heartrending description. The passengers, of every age and sex, in a state of unspeakable anxiety, excitement, and exhaustion, were partly lying on deck, and, although secured by ropes, owing to the tremendous rolling of the ship were continually knocked about in a manner that the arms, fingers, and legs of many were broken, and all suffering from painful contusions. The remainder of the passengers and crew were engaged at the pumps, which they could not leave for fear of being thrown overboard by the rolling of the vessel. Upon seeing Mr. King, those on deck crept up to him on their knees, crying piteously, and entreating him, with folded hands, to take them off the vessel. All, however, appeared to be resigned, and their bearing was remarkable for proofs of religious truth. Mr. King, wet throughout and nearly fainting, yet tried to console the passengers, assured them they should be taken care of, and recommended them cheerfully to work the pumps. Also, Mr. Moore, captain of the Winchester, who had the kindness to relate to me these proceedings on board the wreck, was answered that Captain Fitch had resolved to stop until all were saved, and to leave Mr. King on board the vessel as a guarantee of his intentions. Mr. King being provided with dry clothes by Captain Moore, and feeling somewhat better, went among the passengers, consoling and reassuring them of Captain Fitch's determination. During the night regular signals were exchanged with the Washington. There Captain Fitch, never leaving the deck, guided with admirable skill the movements of the steamer, which, despite the heavy gale, he always kept near the drifting Winchester, at the same time superintending the preparations for embarking and saving the passengers and crew of the wreck. Early on the morning of May the 3rd four lifeboats were lowered, and Captain Fitch directed their movements with so much circumspection, and, assisted by his chief engineer, Mr. Mathews, watched with so much prudence, care, and kindness the getting on board of the wrecked passengers, that the whole operation was finished without the least accident. Captain Moore and Mr. King were the last on board the wreck, which began rapidly to go down, taking off the American flag, as neither of them liked that emblem of liberty to become a prey of the wave. The wreck, twenty minutes after being totally abandoned, was engulfed by the sea. Four persons had been swept overboard by the falling of the masts several days before, and in all twenty lives were lost. There was one incident" (says the *New York Tribune*) "of the most thrilling nature. As Mr. King, of the Washington, and Captain Moore, of the Winchester, were about to take their final leave of the wrecked ship, which was just before she went down, carrying her dead to their watery grave, he

thought it best to take one more glance at the corpses. 'I really believe that woman breathes!' was the exclamation of one of them, as a thrill of horror mingled with hope ran through his bosom. They approached the body of a woman and placed their ears to her mouth, when lo! they discovered that one whom they had supposed dead was still breathing! They removed her on board the Washington, and she is now at the hospital on Staten Island, in a rapid state of convalescence."

EPSOM RACES.

The inauguration of the Epsom Summer Meeting was far from propitious. Heavy rain had fallen through the night, and though it did not much affect the absorbent chalky soil of the Downs, it completely saturated the lower grounds. The gloomy aspect of the morning was, moreover, most discouraging, and the strong showers which fell at short intervals, doubtless prevented numbers of persons from venturing far abroad. About noon, however, a favourable change took place, and throughout the afternoon the sun shone forth with great warmth and brilliancy. The racing on the first day was excellent; and the capital condition of the turf promised a splendid Derby.

A beautiful morning ushered in the great day of the Epsom meeting. The gloom and rain that, in the early part of the week, damped the ardour of many "City and Suburban" sportsmen, had given place to most delightful weather, and with the rise in the mercury of the barometer rose the spirits of thousands of Londoners, who look forward to the Derby as a festival to be observed and honoured by the whole sporting world. From an early hour, the trains brought in detachments of visitors from the metropolis, Brighton, Portsmouth, and the towns and villages on the south coast. Great numbers, too, arrived by vehicles of various grades—from the stylish barouche to the costermonger's humble cart, carrying six inside and two on the shafts; but the road has lost its popularity, and iron and steam now do the work that was formerly performed by horseflesh and whipcord. The contributions to the living tide that flowed upon the Downs through the various roads from the town were rather scanty until the monster trains began to arrive after 12 o'clock: then came a continuous flood until the bell had rung for saddling for the all-important race, when the attendance was at its greatest; but at no time during the day did it quite reach the average of recent years. The inclosure in front of the Grand Stand was thronged as usual with noble and distinguished patrons of the turf, and a vast body of professionals. The Stewards' and the private Stands, as well as the Grand Stand and reserved places, were crowded with fashionable company, amongst whom were a number of ladies, whose gay summer costumes gave remarkable brilliancy to the ensemble. Viewed from the hill opposite, the Grand Stand had a peculiarly fine effect. The elevated roof, piled up with human forms—the gay balconies, and the dark mass of spectators in the inclosure beneath—formed an object on the broad Downs at once strikingly picturesque and highly interesting.

For the Grand race, the "Blue ribbon of the Turf," twenty-seven horses contended.

Betting at Starting—5 to 2 agst Dervish, 7 to 2 agst Andover, 10 to 1 agst King Tom, 12 to 1 each agst Wild Huntsman, Hospodar, and Neville, 20 to 1 each agst the Hermit and Early Bird, 25 to 1 agst Marsyas, 40 to 1 each agst New Warrior, Knight of St. George, and Canute, 50 to 1 each agst Alembic and Bracken, 1000 to 15 agst Middlesex, and 1000 to 10 each agst Welham, Grey Plover, Papageno, Woodcote, and Champagne.

THE DERBY STAKES of 50 sovs each, h ft; for three-year-olds—colts, 8st 7lb, and fillies, 8st 2lb; the owner of the second horse to receive 100 sovs out of the stakes. One mile and a half, on the New Course. 217 subs.

Mr. Gully's Andover, by Bay Middleton (A Day) 1
Baron Rothschild's King Tom (Charlton) 2
Mr. Gully's Hermit (Wells) 3
Mr. Copperthwaite's the Early Bird (Aldcroft) 4

The following also ran:—Lord Derby's Dervish (Templeman), Mr. R. E. Cooper's Autocrat (G. Manning), Mr. R. E. Cooper's Woodcote (G. Whitehouse), Lord Zetland's Hospodar (G. Oates), Lord Lonsdale's Welham (S. Rogers), Mr. Cookson's The First Lord (Sly), Mr. Powney's Marc Antony (Mason), Baron Rothschild's Middlesex (Simpson), Mr. C. Spence's Canute (Pearl), Mr. S. Walker's Winkfield (W. Abdale), Mr. E. R. Clarke's Funchbox (F. Marson), Sir T. Burke's Grey Plover (J. Osborne), Mr. Clarkson's Neville (Bartholomew), Mr. Newland's Bracken (J. Holmes), Mr. Shepherdson's New Warrior (Ashmall), Mr. Gregory's Papageno (Yates), Mr. Morris's Knight of St. George (Basham), Lord Clifton's Alembic (J. Marson), Lord Clifden's Rodo Meli (G. Mann), Sir R. Pigot's Coup d'Etat (Pettit), Mr. Merry's Wild Huntsman (Marlow), Mr. Osbaldeston's Champagne (Dockeray), Mr. Knowles's Marsyas (Bumby).

The race is thus described:—"After the usual preparatory canter they returned to the paddock, and were soon afterwards called to the post by the starter. The *coup-d'œil* at this moment was extremely picturesque—the thousands of spectators surging up against the rails—the vast masses on the hillside—the multitude crowding the inclosures and the Grand Stand—had their eyes immediately rivetted, as it were, on one point, the starting place. Slowly, and in a compact form, the horses proceeded towards it from the

paddock, the colours of the riders having a gorgeous effect in the broad sunshine. At the very first signal a beautiful start was effected. Hospodar immediately went to the front with Marc Antony, Canute, and Wild Huntsman heading the pack, about the middle of which were Mr. Gully's two Dervish, King Tom, Marsyas, New Warrior, and the Early Bird. On nearing the turn, Wild Huntsman ran up to Hospodar, and Dervish lay about sixth. Marc Antony and Canute then dropping off. At the road, both Hospodar and Wild Huntsman were beaten, and a new combination of form and colour in front added excitement to excitement. Hermit now took the lead, followed in close order by Andover, King Tom, Dervish, Knight of St. George, Marsyas, Early Bird, and New Warrior. Andover waited to the half-distance, when he went ahead, followed by King Tom, who made a very resolute effort, but was beaten easily by a length. Half a length between the second and third, and a neck between third and fourth. Dervish, Marsyas, New Warrior, and Wild Huntsman were the next four. Autocrat was last off by several lengths. He went to the post merely for the purpose of saving bets about his starting. The winner ran in Mr. Gully's name, and was ridden in his colours, but he is the joint property of Mr. Padwick and Mr. Gully—the former, better known on the turf by his *nom de course* "Mr. Howard," was his nominator on this occasion. Value of the stakes, 5950l."

The Oaks was won by Mincemeat.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Court returned to town on Tuesday from Osborne. On Wednesday afternoon the Chevalier Bunsen had an audience of the Queen to present his letters of recall as Envoy from the King of Prussia. Her Majesty resumed her visits to the theatres by attending the Royal Italian Opera on Tuesday evening. Prince Albert has paid two visits this week: he dined with the Archbishop of Canterbury and a large company, at Lambeth Palace, on Tuesday, in honour of the bicentenary festival of the Sons of the Clergy; and he looked in at an evening party given by Earl de Grey, on Wednesday. The royal children have resumed their visits to the Zoological Gardens, Regent's-park, where they are pretty constant attendants.

We remark that the Duchess of Kent visited the Crystal Palace on Thursday, and that she was accompanied by the political refugees, the Duke and Duchess de Nemours.

The new Bishop of Salisbury was duly inducted into office on Wednesday morning.

The usual gathering of the charity children of the metropolis, at St. Paul's, took place on Thursday. Dr. Lee, Bishop of Manchester, preached the sermon. The number of the children present is estimated at 4000.

The new African explorer, Dr. Vogel, sent out to meet Dr. Barth, has safely crossed the great desert and arrived at Lake Tchad.

Sir Peregrine Maitland, a soldier of some mark in his day, one of the veterans of the last war, died on Tuesday, at the age of 77. He served constantly from Walcheren to Waterloo, and had been governor of more than one British dependency.

Lord Auckland, Bishop of Sodor and Man, has been translated to the vacant see of Bath and Wells, according, it is said, to an ancient promise of Lord John Russell.

Colonel Monti, who fought on the side of the insurgents of Italy and Hungary in 1848 and 1849, has just died at Turin, in the prime of his life. Signor Agostini, a Roman exile, has died at the early age of forty-one, it is feared of a broken heart. Exile is hard to men of heart.

Mr. James Wiseman, the brother of Cardinal Wiseman, died recently at Liverpool.

The Essex Rifles, the first Militia regiment entrusted with garrison duty, have, as we have already mentioned, taken up their quarters in the Tower of London, under the command of Lord Jocelyn. The Hampshire Militia, under the Marquis of Winchester, will strengthen the large and important garrison of Portsmouth. The Devonshire Militia will march to Plymouth. The Staffordshire Militia will garrison Dover. The Royal Berkshire will occupy Weedon barracks, previous to their removal to the Royal Burgh of Windsor. The Lancashire and Yorkshire regiments, and some of those in the metropolitan counties, were in the highest state of training and efficiency, and will be among the first called out. The order for the increase of the infantry of the line has been issued from the Horse Guards. Each regiment will henceforth consist of 1,400 effective men—1,000 for active service abroad, and 400 to compose the reserve companies at home. A brevet for the army will be immediately issued, which will enable several of the older officers to retire upon a high rank.

Arrangements have been concluded for holding a demonstration at Sheffield on Whit-Monday, in favour of Hungarian nationality. The ex-Governor of Hungary has promised to be present, and it is expected that Sir Joshua Walsley will accompany him. There are to be two meetings, one an open air meeting, about noon.

A new burial-ground for Lambeth, thirty acres in extent, and situate between the Tooting and Wandsworth roads, was, on Tuesday, consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester. Ten acres have been set apart for Dissenters.

The last mail from the Cape of Good Hope informs us that the Orange River Sovereignty has been fully constituted into an independent state, to be called the "Orange River Free State." Mr. Hoffman is the first president. The basis of the constitution is an elective assembly and a president for five years.

General Jackson succeeds General Cathcart in command of the troops in the Cape colony. General Jackson is said to be fully acquainted with frontier affairs.

Smoking is an institution in Germany far more than it is in England; but there as here smoking on railways is for-

bidden. Recently a curious instance of the inveteracy of the custom occurred. Lord Robert Grosvenor, travelling in a first-class carriage, was greatly annoyed by three smokers, who filled the carriage with smoke. His lordship complained; but the conductor of the train declined to interfere. Why? Two of the smokers were the chairman and vice-chairman of the railway.

In France people contrive to die even histrionically. What the satisfaction can be we are at a loss to conceive. The other day a young Prussian seated himself in a front box at the Opera, and waited for the Cathedral scene of the *Prophète* to blow his brains out in a private box. Of course the opera was suspended, and the audience went home in consternation.

As the Sultan has placed Christians and Mussulmans on a footing of equality before the law, so the legislative authorities of Victoria have passed an act admitting the testimony of aborigines and half-castes in courts of justice.

Pitcairn's Island, the Paradise of the Pacific, is now overpeopled, and the descendants of the "Bounty" are often in want. Last year Admiral Moresby generously relieved them; but for their permanent safety it is proposed to transport them to Norfolk Island as soon as the convicts have been cleared away.

The keel of the gigantic steamer for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company is now being laid in the yard of Messrs. Scott, Russell, and Co., Millwall, opposite Deptford Dockyard. Her proportions are to be nearly twice the length of the great Himalaya, and more than three times her tonnage. She is to be completed in two years, and is expected to do the distance to Australia in little over thirty days, and, if necessary, to carry sufficient fuel for the voyage out and home. She is to be fitted with paddle-wheels and screw-propelling power.

The *Scotsman* says that a vote of 6000*l.* is to be proposed by Government for the obtaining of a complete system of agricultural statistics in Scotland, to be carried out through the medium of the Highland Society.

On Saturday, at the City Sheriff's Court, on Mr. Gurney, the judge, taking his seat, only eight of the thirty-six persons summoned to serve on juries were in attendance. The judge expressed himself strongly on the subject, and at once inflicted on the absent twenty-four persons summoned the full penalty of 10*l.* each.

A letter from Naples states that on the 14th ult. M. J. Delius, of Bremen, having ascended Mount Vesuvius with a party of his countrymen, went too near the edge of the crater, and the ground giving way under him, he fell into the abyss. His groans were heard from the bottom, but when some persons descended by means of ropes he was dead.

The Judge of the Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex has decided that the late election for churchwardens at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, was invalid, on the ground that Mr. Liddell closed the poll at seven o'clock, thereby preventing persons from voting.

It has been decided, in the Court of Queen's Bench, that the Linnean Society is *not*, and that the Zoological Society, in the Regent's park, is, liable to poor-rates in respect of the premises they occupy.

One Tolomeo has been arrested at Lyons, together with his companion, an English girl named Grafton. Tolomeo was the foreman of Mr. Grafton, a London silversmith. While in that situation he seduced Miss Grafton, and induced her to leave the country with him, and, like Jessica, to carry off her father's property.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, June 3rd.

THE business of the House of Commons, last night, was extremely varied.

On Lord J. RUSSELL's moving that no new writs should be issued for the boroughs of Canterbury, Cambridge, Hull, Maldon, and Barnstaple, the seats of which are vacant on account of bribery at the last election, without seven days' notice, a smart debate arose, in which the question of the necessity for dealing with bribery in general, and those cases in particular, was discussed, but eventually the motion was agreed to.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM stated that he had received a despatch from Sir C. Napier, giving an account of the gallant exploit of the Arrogant and Hecla steamships in the Baltic, in cutting out a Russian vessel from under the guns of the fortress of Elkness.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in reply to an interpellation, said that great improvements in the dress of the army in the East were contemplated; the leather stock was to be abolished, and the question of "shaving" was also under consideration.

The Sugar Duties Bill passed through Committee after a discussion and division on the differential duties of Muscovado sugar, which resulted in a majority for the Government of 57.

On the third reading of the Excise Duties Bill Mr. J. O'CONNELL moved that it be postponed for a fortnight, but was beaten on a division by a majority of 29. Another division was taken at the instance of the Irish members for the adjournment of the debate, which was also lost by 48.

In committee on the Public Revenue and Consolidated Fund Charge Bill, Mr. GLADSTONE explained that it was intended to change the system of keeping the national accounts, and placing under the control of Parliament a number of payments of salaries, and other expenses, which were defrayed out of the gross receipts of the taxes before they were paid into the Exchequer. The bill passed through its stages

with encomiums from Mr. HUME, Mr. W. WILLIAMS, and other members.

After the other orders of the day had been disposed of, Lord PALMERSTON obtained leave to bring in a bill to render more effectual the police of counties and boroughs in England and Wales, and also a bill to amend the law relating to youthful offenders.

In the House of Lords, Lord MONTEAGLE, in moving for certain returns of transactions between the Government and the Bank of England, took the opportunity of inquiring whether there was any truth in the report that the Government intended to close their connexion with the Bank of England, and set up a bank for themselves, which was to be a bank of issue? He strongly deprecated such a course, which he thought most dangerous.

Earl GRANVILLE in reply stated, that the Government had no intention of setting up a bank.

In reply to Lord CLANRICARDE, the Duke of NEWCASTLE stated that there was no intention of blockading the Russian ports in the White Sea; and Lord BEAUMONT having criticised the gentleness with which the war was carried on, Lord ABERDEEN declared that it would be carried on with vigour and determination; and in answer to Lord ELENBOROUGH, he intimated that a Minister of War was likely to be soon appointed.

The House then adjourned till Friday next.

Last night's *Gazette* contains the despatches received by the Admiralty from Sir Charles Napier relating to the recent gallant exploits of H. M. S. Arrogant and Hecla, in Witzend Strait. Substantially Captain Yelverton's (H. M. S. Arrogant) account does not differ from that which we have printed elsewhere. But we may remark that the gallant Captain does justice to the staunch gunnery of the enemy. "They returned to their guns twice in the midst of our fire, and were only compelled to leave when their guns were destroyed by our shot." Of three merchantmen two were aground. Captain Hall (H. M. S. Hecla) brought off the third. "The admirable way," says Captain Yelverton, "in which he went in and brought out his prize under a galling fire from the enemy, deserves the greatest praise."

Captain Hall succeeded in dismounting and bringing off three of the guns from the battery. The Arrogant had two men killed and three wounded. The Hecla had three men wounded, her Captain slightly, her First-Lieutenant (Crewe Read,) very highly spoken of by Captain Hall, severely but not dangerously wounded in the face. This exploit was performed at Elkness, twelve miles up a narrow and intricate channel. Sir Charles Napier styles it a "smart operation," and says, "it will show the enemy that they are not safe, even in their country towns."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. R. in Hav." Received. Of great interest. Many thanks.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1854.

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.

A MINISTRY OF SURRENDERS:

WHERE IS IT TO STOP?

THE replies which Ministers made to the attacks of Mr. Disraeli, on Monday night, were so unsatisfactory, that they suggest, as if it were new, a doubt long repelled by us; and, unfortunately, that doubt is to a certain extent re-echoed from other quarters. We find England joining in a close alliance with Austria, the great type of Absolutist Government on the Continent. We have never assailed Ministers for that alliance; on the contrary, inconvenient as it is in many respects,—necessarily as it entails upon our Administration a species of acquiescence in the wrongdoing of that tyrannical Government, we have distinctly admitted that when the alliance of so powerful a state is offered, the responsible Ministers of the State would not be justified in refusing that alliance; *à fortiori*

they cannot be expected to refuse it. When the representatives of the National party in Europe complained that in entering upon such an alliance England would be drawn into the vortex of arbitrary systems, and would repeat that treachery to popular rights which we have too often exemplified abroad,—recanting on the field of Europe the principles that we have sustained on our own island,—we replied that the necessity of the case superseded any question of that kind, and that even in alliance with Austria, acting as our Ministers do openly before their own public, they would be obliged to maintain principles that could not fail to benefit even the nations subject to Austria. But three events have happened this week, which make us less firm in our conviction, that the ultimate position of our Ministers on the field of Europe must of necessity still be an English position.

These three events are the receipt of the Vienna Protocol, annexing the Prusso-Austrian, and the Anglo-Gallican treaties to the transactions of the conference of the Four Powers, the abandonment of the disfranchisement bills, and the unsatisfactory attitude of Ministers.

The Protocol does not define the objects of the convention with complete accuracy and exactness. The fact has been pointed out by the *Times*, and we cannot do better than copy the words of a journal certainly not extreme in the Liberalism of its opinions:—

"The Protocol affirms that 'the integrity of the Ottoman empire and the evacuation of that portion of its territory which is occupied by the Russian army are, and will continue to be, the constant and invariable object of the union of the Four Powers.' But the first article of the Convention between Great Britain and France provides that those Powers 'will do all that shall depend upon them for the purpose of bringing about the re-establishment of peace between Russia and the Porte on solid and durable bases, and of preserving Europe from the recurrence of the lamentable complications which have now so unhappily disturbed the general peace.' And by the second article these Powers agree 'to concert together the most proper means for liberating the territory of the Sultan from foreign invasion, and for accomplishing the object specified in Article I.' It is therefore impossible to contend that the terms of the Protocol include the whole objects of the Anglo-French Convention, though, as that document is annexed to the Protocol *in extenso*, it may be said to supply the omission in the quadruple instrument."

Whereas England and France profess to seek a durable peace with guarantees against the renewal of the "lamentable complications"—a phrase only to be construed as a pledge to put restriction upon the lawless encroachments of Russia, the Four Powers limit their claim to the evacuation of the Principalities, as "the constant and invariable object of the union of the Four Powers." Here, then, by a monstrous inversion of ordinary logic, the greater object of the two powers professes to include itself in the minor object of the four. We might suppose that there was some formal diplomatic advantage which the Western Powers would gain from the union; but doubts are suggested by what we observe at home.

It is not our business to criticise motives, or we might perhaps withhold from Mr. Disraeli an expression of approval, which we might, on the contrary, accord to some of the statesmen whom he condemns. Let us declare, however, once for all, our belief that some of the men now in office are as hearty in their own feelings and convictions as they have been in their professions, and that they are prepared to make their acts conform to their promises. But we must speak of facts as we find them, and review the acts of the Ministry collectively, unguided by any distinct explanation or statement of their ulterior intentions in Europe. If Mr. Disraeli is actuated by party motives, if he casts a stronger colour on one fact and throws another into a kindly shade, we have at least the same facts to go upon, we are not at the mercy of his con-

structions, and we need only thank him for re-printing in a bold and legible type a memorandum of the great facts in the Ministerial history of the last few months. What then do we find?

We find that the Ministry was formed for the purpose of retrieving the discredit into which Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby were said to have brought the Executive of this country by tampering with its accountability to Parliament; for the purpose of maintaining unimpaired the commercial policy of Sir Robert Peel; and also for the purpose of introducing a variety of measures of improvement upon which all parties, even the moderate Conservatives, were agreed. The measures were Parliamentary Reform, Purgation of Corrupt Constituencies, Education for Scotland and England, Poor-law Reform, University Reform, Law Reform, Reform of the Parliamentary Oath so as to admit Jews, and several other cognate measures of a minor order. But what are the practical results? Many of these reforms, such as the sanitary, still remain in the shape of good intentions. Some, like the University Reform, attempted in a fragmentary shape, applicable to Oxford alone, doubly or triply imperfect in their very nature, are slowly passing through committee; in which stage Ministers surrender detail after detail, permitting the Opposition or the cross-benches to supersede the leaders of the Legislature, and to share the direction of affairs. A more numerous series, like the bill for emancipating the Jews, the several bills for purging the corrupt boroughs, the bills for conferring education on England and Scotland, and that for reconstructing the Parliamentary representation of the country, are thrown overboard. Ministers had a home policy of a moderate but a popular kind, embracing many objects dear to the wishes of the great majority of the English people; and that policy entrusted to their care they have disposed of in the easiest and simplest manner in which a Ministry can dispose of its liabilities—they have thrown it over.

They have abandoned their domestic policy, and we are in sadness compelled to ask whether they are preparing also to abandon their English policy on the Continent? We lay, indeed, little stress on the rumour that France has offered to take some thousand of the political prisoners in Rome, and to transport them to Cayenne; for if that act were as true as some others not less nefarious which belong to the past, we still say that a course so foolish and suicidal in its wanton wickedness is incredible. But we have another more distressing fact in our mind, when we observe that Naples, the traitor Government, the tool and dependent of Austria, has been permitted quietly to slip into the neutrality alliance; when we remember the too great probability that Naples will claim the guarantees and immunities secured by Austria through an alliance with the anti-Russian Governments; and when we remember that Poerio still lies in prison, the victim, with hundreds or thousands of others, to studiously cruel confinement. We remember, too, the eloquent appeal made by Mr. Gladstone to Lord Aberdeen and the British public on his behalf, when the writer was out of office, and had not Lord Aberdeen for his Premier. Already, therefore, some of our statesmen have abandoned their championship of popular interests on the Continent. Well, individual Ministers must sacrifice their own enterprise to the collective counsel of a Cabinet; but here again, on the English ground, we find the entire Ministry accused by the Opposition leader of having abandoned an entire policy at home, and they are unable to give a reply, either in excuse for the past, or in re-assurance for the future!

HOW TO BEGIN A MARRIAGE REFORM MOVEMENT.

A CORRESPONDENT puts some questions which are too important to be passed over in silence:—

"It is not in the nature of things possible that so clear and forcible a statement of the duties of the 'aggrieved' under existing laws, as is contained in your article on the 'Wrongs of Women,' should remain without practical results.

"May I, with a view to these, and in the hope of eliciting something that will be generally useful, be permitted to ask one or two questions?

"First. In what degree can we be said to have the choice of submitting to or resisting an injustice that affects not ourselves alone, but others, if we have any faith in national existence, and are conscious of duties towards posterity no less binding than those we owe our contemporaries?

"Second. Why should not the believers in the necessity for Marriage-law reform strengthen each other's hands by sympathy and co-operation? Why should they not prepare for action when the right time comes by establishing at once a thorough understanding among one another?

"Third. What are the means best calculated to bring about this good understanding? How far is organisation desirable, and by what means attainable? Earnestly hoping for a practical and explicit reply,

"I am, Sir, yours, &c.

"May 24, 1854."

We answer our correspondent's questions seriatim, beginning with that in the prefatory part of the letter. We believe that however "clear and forcible" our statement may have appeared to our correspondent, it will not appear so to many, because a great number of persons do not understand the subject at all; they have not been compelled by their own experience or incited by their own intellectual activity to inquire into it, and have taken up their opinions second hand. Three-fourths of men active in society do so, and however they may reserve a few particular subjects for independent judgment, it seldom happens that that minority hit upon the same questions to be independent about. The consequence is, that all special questions command the attention of very few people indeed—a fact which must materially influence the progress of any opinion upon such subjects, and ought to be kept in view to guide any agitation upon special questions.

Of the three subsequent questions, the first would be answered, in each case, by discovering the proportion which the interest of posterity has in any course of our own. There is no doubt that our actions are the germ of the actions of posterity—that the mass of opinion and conduct of the present day is the source of opinion, and even of institutions, at a future day. But it is a class of subjects on which the ideas are necessarily so vague, so diversified, and so conflicting, that effectively very little force can be gained upon our present course of conduct by looking to the rights of posterity. Even in so simple and material a question as that of finance, the interest of posterity has a very inadequate influence; but in the class of questions under consideration, where men cannot determine what their own convictions and interests are, it is scarcely possible that they can agree what will be the interests and convictions of posterity. There is another ground, however, on which we must to some extent abstain from meddling with the responsibilities and liabilities of posterity. It is, that if there be anything progressive in education and opinion, posterity will be much better able to judge of its own institutions than we can for it. We are daily contending with laws made by our ancestors in days before printing and mail-coaches, to say nothing of gas, railways, and electric telegraphs. Some, even of the absurdities of the Marriage-law, may be traced to the apparent necessities of

society under institutions and national creeds, bearing little resemblance with our own at the present day.

There is, however, one duty towards posterity, as simple as it is great,—constantly violated yet easy to be understood; and if those who are conscientious would seize firm hold of this one principle, they would, we believe, do a greater service to mankind and to the future than by any specific laws. It is, not to presume the convictions of posterity, and simply to abstain from making any laws, intended to be irrevocable, for the observance of generations beyond those which we can see rising up within our own lifetime.

Here, indeed, we touch upon the greatest evil of the present day—the making of too much law, especially of prospective law. Let us remember, that every additional enactment devised by man, say, for some enabling purpose, is tolerably sure to carry with it many disenabling collateral effects, which are not foreseen. In the natural organism there is no portion of the frame that does not carry with itself the vital power of accommodation to the circumstances essentially natural to our being; whereas, every article of clothing that we put on, made by art, wears out, shrinks, stretches, tears, is outgrown, and entails some infliction or some deterioration of the natural power. Yet in our servile submission to conventional dictates, we not only take pride in the costume with which we burden ourselves, but positively we undertake to make slop clothing for posterity.

The difficulty in a practical reply to the third question would be, the "thorough understanding." Men desire to strengthen their own hands by the co-operation of others, but they have no corresponding wish to strengthen other men's hands for the enforcement of other men's views. Every man is his own pope, and it is particularly so on moral questions. We have practical instances before us, more or less known to the public. The reason is, that most moral questions are in themselves intricate, and are rendered more so, in the first place, by the circumstance that they take their rise in physical questions, which are very little understood, on account of the infancy of any really comprehensive physiology; and, in the second place, because they are complicated with a number of conventional arrangements, the sudden or sweeping interruption of which would be personally inconvenient, and is, in contemplation, personally alarming. But in any complicated question, handled by any judgment which is otherwise than very cool and very patient, there is a disposition summarily to supply the place of clear perception and well-established conviction by provisional presumptions; and a very large proportion of the moral convictions of society at the present time are made up in part, no doubt, of genuine, well-considered opinion, but for the rest, of presumption. Now, deference for existing usage, and for the opinion of others, is laudable for its motive and practical influence, and ought to be encouraged. But presumption, when it is made to pass for conviction, becomes absolutely worthless and actively mischievous. If any man could but survey the general schedule of his own knowledge, of his experiences, and so-called convictions, strike out from them everything which is no better than presumption, and place all such supposititious convictions in a separate schedule, which might be called "provisional rules for conduct in default of conviction," he would emancipate his mind from the grossest slavery which hinders the present freedom and the progress of mankind.

Presumptions—things which we suppose to exist when their existence is not known to us—necessities which we take on trust or

imagination—are the true instigators of all the great crimes which authority and convention have sanctioned. We believe there is no exception to that remark, and that it may be made to include thousands of incidents besides the death of Socrates, the punishment of Galileo, and the Crucifixion itself. Genuine conviction is the fruit, the pure fruit, of knowledge patiently acquired, and of the application of that knowledge at first hand. Belief based in the convictions of another man is valid, according to the evidence which you possess of that other man's authority; but in passing from hand to hand, this kind of coin becomes speedily debased, degenerates into presumption, and is then totally worthless.

Now to apply this. If all those who accept as settled necessities many of the notions relating to the question of Marriage-law, would revise their own opinions, they would, we believe, discover that a large proportion at which they have arrived, are nothing more than presumptions—that is, random guesses, dogmatic conclusions accepted at second hand, or mere apprehensions at the idea of interrupting the present arrangements. In all cases for social regulation every law might be dictated by some clear necessity or by expediency; expediency, however, being the ground only of provisional and temporary laws. That necessity for a law on the subject of marriage does exist, we have no doubt; it relates principally to the attested birth, custody, nurture, and education of progeny. Any law necessary for the attestation of parentage with its liabilities, the due nourishment and settlement of progeny, is a law based on a just necessity, and would, we believe, be effectual for all purposes actually realised by laws derived from the ancient Romans, added to by the Papal Church, complicated by modern lawyers, and botched by imperfect, confused, and often reactionary reformers. Our correspondent will perceive, that the first step towards a right understanding would be to winnow from every man's mind the genuine conviction and the clear comprehension of a substantial necessity, from the chaff of second-hand dogma and hazarded presumption.

The third question is twofold, but it is of comprehensive application. We have already said that special questions of this kind are unavoidably limited to comparatively small circles, and one proof is shown in the total disrespect for the simple and clear act of justice to widowers, who marry their wives' sisters. Society has conceded liberty for such marriages, which are uniformly recognised socially, notwithstanding the actual knowledge of the illegality of the union and the illegitimacy of the children. But as the class of people personally interested in the subject is small, as they are scattered through different ranks and political circles, and as a concession to meet their case would require a disturbing of the very complicated law respecting marriage,—a disturbance about which people are frightened, because in their own minds they feel that their convictions are spurious and shaky,—the act of justice towards these few is perseveringly refused. Society admits that such marriages are just and respectable; but the servant of society, the representative Legislature, has not a thought of reconciling the law to the practice and conviction of the public. How, then, can we approach concentrated action, or actually begin a progress in questions which are more complicated even than that fragment of the marriage question?

Much might be done if there existed a disposition amongst society to render justice for the sake of justice; but we believe that at no period of social history was that duty more uniformly despised than at the present moment, excepting in two classes of rights,—

ordinary political rights and commercial rights. Consistently with the commercial view, if you claim an act of justice, men ask you to prove the practical evil, and call for an estimate of the cost of redress; forgetting that the weed injustice spreads more rapidly and more ineradicably than tares, and that it costs more to repair the evil in the crop, than to pluck it up by the roots whenever they are discovered. Were it possible to revive something of a chivalrous disposition in defence of justice wherever it is assailed, and more especially in defence of opinions now struggling for existence against bigotry and presumption, an organisation on such a basis would be the best. Were it possible to find a few persons who agreed on subjects of the Marriage-law, and especially who agreed in recognising the freedom of any genuine opinion which could vindicate itself by clear statement and manifest sincerity, then those persons would form a nucleus of an organization. Any joint action for such a purpose as that discussed by our correspondent must begin in this way, by a small nucleus, with a view to a gradual growth. Comprehensive action like that for the Reform Bill, about which a whole community is agreed, would be impossible. The rough and ready organization which carries its will by dead weight, and overrides common roughnesses and frictions, would not here apply. A much stricter brotherhood would be requisite—a perfect understanding upon the fundamental basis of the union. We do not believe that such an organization is impossible; but its possibility depends upon the zeal, the courage, the patience, and above all, the sincere love of freedom residing in the few who might determine to undertake it. Their first step in uniting, however, would be, to take means for excluding from their union any member who could not give pledges of his perfect sincerity in promoting the objects of the union. In such an organization rude numbers, or "names" for show, would be worthless incumbrances.

THE SERMON-MANUFACTURE.

A CORRESPONDENT calls our attention to a curious kind of adulteration where it might least be expected—in the pulpit. There is a practice of not only supplying clergymen with sermons written to hand, but of having them lithographed so as to imitate manuscript—a plan which secures the cheapness of printing, and enables a teacher in the pulpit to palm off his purchased teaching as if it were his own. The evidence that this practice is becoming common is conclusive:—

"Till recently, since I have taken to reading the advertisement sheets of the *Times* and some country papers, I had no idea to what an extent this was carried. There are several firms who publish great numbers of these sermons, and one who recently advertised a complete set for the year translated into Welsh. This could never pay unless there were a considerable number of purchasers, and I am convinced that many clergymen, especially in country districts, are supplied in this manner. For some time the advertisements were boldly put in English; I suppose this has attracted too much notice, and I now find in yesterday's *Times* (Thursday, May 25), a neat little Latin advertisement, 'Ad Clerum,' instead of the tell-tale *lithographed sermons* we have 'Sacras quasdam conciones typis lithographicis.' With the exception of being in Latin, the rest of the advertisement runs as usual, and informs the clergy where they can obtain these imitation MSS., at the exceedingly low prices of 1s. a-piece, or 2s. the set of twenty-four sermons, or as it is elegantly expressed in Latin, 'Unaquaque series in viginti et quatuor concionibus constat, et viginti et quatuor solidas valet.'

"I shall not do more than call your notice to the fact, feeling sure that neither you nor your readers will need me to point out to them how damaging this is to the cause of religion, destroying as it does our confidence in the moral rectitude of our spiritual teachers, by showing but too clearly that those who are our legally appointed expounders of divine truth are too frequently in the habit of acting a lie

in the house of God itself, by making their congregations believe that they preach from their own MSS. sermons, when in truth they are nothing more than lithographed imitations, price 1s. each. That both publishers and receivers are aware of their wrongdoing appears from the fact that they endeavour to conceal their doings by advertising in Latin, as if none but clergymen could read it. Pray understand that my remarks apply solely to those who thus practice deceit, not to the great body of the clergy."

We are not prepared, indeed, entirely to condemn the use of borrowing in sermons. It would be quite right to say that the bases of truth which clergymen have to teach are usually the same, and cannot be rendered new except in the exposition, illustration, and application. There, however, are two important considerations. It is the duty of a clergyman, while keeping eternal truths constantly in view, not less constantly to keep watch for the development of knowledge, which enables us to obtain a clearer insight into fundamental truths—enables us to illustrate the working of eternal laws. It is also his duty, not less constantly, to inquire into the condition of his flock, in order to ascertain the best means for penetrating their minds, if not with a knowledge of the truth, at least with the belief and conviction that often precede knowledge. Many a text, an illustration, or an exposition, borrowed from a good writer, may be seized by a clergyman for purposes such as these, and may enable him to accomplish his duty better than if he relied solely upon his own resources,—as, indeed, what man can rely on his own resources solely?

It is quite possible that sermons arranged by others may be better than those which a minister of indifferent faculties may compose at home. Heaven defend us from some visitations impromptu! We have no unmixed delight in the specimens of the unstudied in preaching and even praying, which are carried to the extreme in Scotland, and which often lead minds of fervour but of low intellect into strange aberrations. We remember to have heard the whole case on one side in a suit at law incorporated in a grace before meat, in an elaborately expressed hope that the divine power would open the heart of some objectionable person to see the case as it was set forth *ex-parte* by the minister. Lithographed sermons would be safer and more decorous than some which have appeared under the joint influence of party feeling and knife-and-fork enthusiasm.

There is a further moral too in the evidently high character of education which the sermon-pilferers have obtained: they have at all events Latinity; and the evidence proves how little "mere Greek and Latin" can fit a man for the great office of teaching.

But lithographed sermons are not simple borrowing; nor can a man who thus takes his teaching in block,—who covers his debt with fraud, and deceives his congregation, be a person capable of conveying eternal truths even at second hand. The eternal truth becomes the eternal falsehood of the benefited adulterator. It is indeed "buying in the cheapest market, and selling in the dearest."

Our correspondent is right in showing how conduct of this kind tends to break down, not only the influence, but the very structure of the Established Church. It is a Church, let us always remember, important, not only as possessing the temporal inheritance which ought to belong to the Church of the people of England, but also as practically comprising within its bounds many of the most enlightened and liberal sects of this country. For both of these reasons we always view the Church of England with a peculiar respect, and mark its degradation with a certain pain. It is not only, we say, that clergymen detected in this species of "smashing" destroy their own character, and tarnish the

repute of their order; but it is that, by extending the practice, they are lowering the morals of the clergy, are seducing themselves and their fellows to become that worst species of blackleg, the fraudulent trader in sacred things; and are rendering the College of Soothsayers a gang of coiners unblushingly confessed. It is one of the most substantial cases of practical Atheism within the Church of England that we remember; since no man could thus stand and palm off a petty fraud upon the souls entrusted to his charge, if he had any belief that he stood in the presence of God, and had a sacred duty to perform in that presence.

FIGS FROM THISTLES.

In considering the results of the late Preston strike, many sanguine people say that "it will be the last strike in Lancashire," as if the blighting effects of this internecine war and its fruitlessness of anything but debt, idleness, and demoralisation, were sufficient to prevent a repetition of the expedient. We would that we could think so. The Preston strike of 1853-4 has, indeed, become a matter of history; but the experience of history acts very differently upon men's minds, and upon those of the majority it seldom acts as a warning. There is a passage in the *Friend*, in which Coleridge compares the effect of historical experience to the binnacle of a ship, which casts a brilliant light over the track which has been passed, but leaves all to come in unilluminated gloom. The truth is that there is seldom, if ever, a precedent in history; there is always some distinction between the present and the past, which those who wish to ignore the latter are sedulous to draw. A new generation comes, wiser in its conceit than its fathers, believing nothing but its own experience, and desirous, when warned of a foolish thing, of seeing the folly of it too. This is how it has hitherto been with Strikes. Is this the first strike which has produced disastrous results? There have been contests before, of duration quite as long, and protracted through much greater suffering, than has been supported on this occasion; and they have not acted as warnings. In 1832, when the Preston spinners turned out for thirty-two weeks, and were supported upon eightpence a week per man, it might have been said with great probability that both masters and men would have been sick of strikes; yet here is a new generation (generations come about very swiftly in Factory-land), and we have just witnessed a strike which has been intensified by all the hatred accumulated by great contests. We fear that, unless some practical change be effected in the system, and that speedily, the experience of this Strike will be as much thrown away as that of its predecessors.

Happily the employing class appear to be aware of this, and as it is manifestly from them that the reforming element must proceed, we accept the fact as a good augury of the future. Before us lies a pamphlet, written by a "Preston Manufacturer,"* or, if our information be correct, by a manufacturer who is especially qualified to offer advice to his brethren upon the points therein discussed; in the first place, from his experience, (he himself says, "I write after an experience in these matters of upwards of a quarter of a century"); and, in the next place, from his position, which is independent, being "totally unconnected with the movements of the Preston Masters' Association."

This writer evidently appreciates the importance to himself and to his class of some speedy and decisive reform. "As well for my own sake as for that of others (writes he), I naturally feel very

much interested that this state of things should no longer be suffered to continue;" and, soon after, when he has laid bare the glaring absurdity of Strikes, he adds,—"It is strange, then, that experience, which has so often proved the futility of this so-called expedient, should not have suggested some more satisfactory plan for adjusting questions in dispute between classes whose best interests are concerned in working together with a friendly spirit." The "Preston Manufacturer" is here very "warm" upon the truth. Still warmer is he when he gives the following result of his search "after the evils which undoubted exist:"—

"I have no hesitation in saying, that the main cause is a want of cordial feeling—the absence, in fact, of a good understanding between the parties to the labour-contract. This feeling,—this misunderstanding, must be established, or the case never will be mended. It is the real, nay, the only remedy for strikes, and it must proceed from the disputant parties themselves. No third parties, however sincere and well-intentioned, can ever succeed in introducing it. Third parties, except as partisans, are viewed by both sides with suspicion and distaste; and, for this cause, even that highly influential body the Society of Arts failed to produce any effect upon the Preston contest. If the conference held by that body was not attended by the employers, their absence ought not to be attributed to fear of investigation, but to an unwillingness to admit the elements into the dispute which were foreign to it, and which, however excellent in themselves, could not be suffered to interfere, without running great risk of still farther complicating the question."

Seeking to account for this want of good feeling between master and man, the writer states:—

"The operative appeared to think that it was the intention and to the interest of the employer that he should be kept in a state of ignorance and want. The employers appeared to be of opinion that prosperity would beget too great an independence in the mind of the operative, and that an amelioration of his condition would bring about an impatience of all rule and discipline. Knowing him to be ignorant, and not caring to make him otherwise, many employers appeared to think that no good gift could be bestowed upon the operative without his misusing it; and, I regret to say, that these dangerous and mistaken feelings still seem to be prevalent upon both sides."

The "Preston Manufacturer" declares that the great desideratum now wanted in the factories is *Intelligent Labour*, to cultivate which he admits that nothing has been done. "Suppose (says he) that a manufacturer were to fill his mill with clumsy or ill-conditioned machinery, would it be possible, in the present state of competition, for that man to succeed? But of how much greater importance to him is it that he should have that superior, that human machinery, which is to guide and control the senseless organisms of brass and iron, in good order and of excellent quality?" So then, after all, there are Preston Manufacturers who admit that the machine called Man is of some importance, even by the side of the "melancholy mad elephants."

To cultivate this article of *Intelligent Labour*, the "Preston Manufacturer" declares that schools for children are not so much wanted as "the education of the adult intellect."

"We bestow upon children the rudiments of knowledge, preparing their minds for the reception of ideas (whether good or evil), and then we cast them adrift upon the world to be educated by experience, and to absorb all the notions, and all the prejudices, and all the fallacies, with which chance may surround them; and then we commit the absurdity of wondering that they go wrong. What must be their inevitable fate under such a system as this, we have lately witnessed in the deplorable condition of Preston."

And now for the remedy which the "Preston Manufacturer" would apply to this sore:—

"The feeling which ought first of all to be cultivated in a mill, as the groundwork of all future plans for the amelioration of the operatives, is one of perfect confidence between them and their employer; without this, all attempts at innovation will not only be in vain, but will be viewed with suspicion and alarm."

Hear this ye proud Coketowners! ye Cotton Nicholases! to this must ye come at last—to confidence with the sons of toil who labour for you, with the smutty, oily men, whom to touch has seemed to you profanation. "When this feeling has been once engendered," says the "Preston Manufacturer," the rest is an easy task." It may be so—we hope it will be so. When once the Atlantic has been bridged over, it will be an easy task to walk over to America.

The writer then proceeds to develop the details of his scheme, for which we must refer our readers to the pamphlet itself. He recommends that "habits of mutual assistance and sympathy between the operatives themselves should be fostered and encouraged," and, to that end, proposes the foundation of sick clubs and benefit clubs in connexion with the mill. He also recommends the establishment of reading-rooms and libraries in

each mill, and to support the expense indicates *the fines* as the most proper fund. The subject of fines has heretofore been treated in these columns; but we recommend this part of the pamphlet to the attention of our readers, as strongly corroborative of our own impressions.

The next important part of the scheme developed by the "Preston Manufacturer" is that in which he recommends the institution of discussions between the men employed about a mill upon "the political and public topics of the day, the opinions of the press, the state of trade, discoveries in practical science and in mechanics (especially such as bear upon the cotton trade), and, lastly, the conduct and discipline of their own mill." At these discussions the employer himself is recommended to be present "to assist by his superior knowledge and experience." The writer appears to consider that division of the subjects, which relates to the condition of trade itself as of the highest importance.

"After the mill itself, the general laws which govern trade, the manner in which foreign competition acts upon the English manufacturer, and the causes which influence the fluctuations of the market, will form very valuable subjects of discussion. There is no point upon which the working classes are more at sea than the profits of their employers. They know nothing of the state of markets, nothing of foreign competition, and, because they see the manufacturer living in a better style than themselves, they imagine that his profits are enormous, and that he is robbing them of their just earnings, in order to support himself and his family in luxury. If these things were properly ventilated and discussed, they would at once understand that to conduct a large mill requires a very large capital, the mere interest upon which ought in itself to be a considerable income; and the possession of which entitles the manufacturer to live in a better state than they, who have no capital at all. Their eyes would be opened to those risks and chances of commerce of which they appear to be altogether ignorant; they would hear of the losses as well as the gains, of the bankruptcies as well as the large fortunes which fall to the lot of the employing class, and they would understand that, so long as good trade supplies them with constant employment, and gives them the means of supporting their families in comfort and respectability, they have no reason to envy a position for which the great majority of them are not only unprovided but unfitted to fulfil. These, and similar questions, so indispensable to a right understanding of their true position, would force themselves upon their attention during such discussions as those which I recommend."

There are many minor details connected with the scheme to which we cannot here so much as refer. Again, we say to our readers, study it yourselves; for it is not to employers in the cotton trade only that this pamphlet is addressed, it is to employers of every grade and every kind. There is no one who employs labour, in any shape or in any quantity, to whom these words will not equally apply:—

"My brother manufacturers will do well to consider that the time has arrived when something must be done, and that without delay. The people are being educated up to a certain point, and increased intelligence naturally begets a yearning after increased prosperity. Groping blindly after this prize, what wonder if they are too hasty, and mistake their way? What wonder if they take the hands of self-elected leaders as blind as themselves, who lead them, perhaps unwittingly, into snares and pitfalls? It is our duty to lead them, and if we do not perform it, the consequences will recoil upon ourselves. And surely the duty ought not to be a distasteful one to any humane and thinking man. Consider for one moment the opportunities for doing good which the employer of a large amount of human labour enjoys. It is not too much to say that the employer of 1000 operatives has more than 3000 of his fellow-creatures dependent upon him for bread. Such a responsibility is certainly not a light one; and he will be found to have fallen miserably short of his duty who deems that it is finished when the day's work is over, and his operatives betake them to their homes. His duty follows them to those homes; and, if that be not sufficient to excite him, his interest points out the same path, and demands of him to leave nothing undone that can make those who labour for him sober, industrious, and intelligent members of society."

"I feel that, in preaching this sermon of cordiality, I but follow the example of a great man who is now unhappily taken from us; taken from us, too, at the very moment when he was giving utterance to words of wisdom and loving-kindness, which ought never to be effaced from the hearts of his fellow-countrymen. Sir Thomas Talford had a large mind, and sowed many truths while yet among us, destined to bear priceless fruit; but he never uttered a deeper or more perfect truth than when he said that *want of sympathy was the real want of English society*."

Assuredly, if ever there was a time for such a sermon to be preached, this is the time. Coming from the source it does, it will be listened to with attention—let us hope with profit. We will not be too sanguine about the result; the Millennium has not arrived, nor is the Golden Age returned; but this writer has cast good seed upon the waters, and when the inundation of ignorance, pride, prejudice, and hatred has subsided, who knows but that some few grains may be found to have struck root?

* "Strikes Prevented." By a Preston Manufacturer. Manchester: Galt and Co. London: Whittaker and Co.

A "STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

A CONSIDERABLE portion of the sitting of the House of Commons on Thursday night was occupied, on the fussy entreaty of Sir John Pakington, in considering how far the forms of the House could be altered so as to admit of a more rapid despatch of business. And the appropriateness of that debate, at this particular period, was illustrated last evening when the House of Commons, for no particular reason, but remembering the traditional Whitsun holidays, adjourned for a week. In an ordinary session such an adjournment, in the very thick of work, is ridiculed: the Easter holidays are laughed at; and, on the prorogation, one inquires how it is that representative institutions are only made to keep going for six months in the year,—absolute and irresponsible despotism setting in during the remaining six? But all such comments are, this year, out of place, and hence the pleasantry of considering, in a stretch of three hours' debate, how to expedite business,—there being no business whatever even to retard.

In fact, why is the House of Commons to re-meet next Thursday, and the House of Lords next Friday? Not because there is war going on; for the "interests of the public service" require that the public should be told nothing about their popular war, the only question about the war being whether or not we shall appoint a Dictator—a Minister of War—who would not only ignore the country, but bully the Cabinet—as *Maire du Palais*. Not because there are any important measures to be dealt with; they have all been beaten off or abandoned. Not because the nation wants its national institutions; the nation is quite tired of Parliament, and having got sufficiently taxed, to an amount worthy of so great a people, is anxious for the recess, when the great country will depend on the private enterprise of commercial journals for all its knowledge of what its army and navy may be doing. In short, there is nothing whatever to delay Parliament, except the Oxford University Bill. Think of our magnificent constitutional machinery being kept in motion only to arrange the internal rules of a large school—just as if the people's representatives were called together for the purpose of decreeing a Captain of the Boats to Eton, or an alteration in the Monitor system of Harrow! But great reverence is due to youth—and particularly in England to the youth of the English governing classes. An adjournment over the "Derby day"—less justifiable than would have been an adjournment over Grisi's farewells—illustrates the spirit of our Constitution—a spirit in direct antagonism with the genius of a trading and solid people. But the continuance of the session into the dog-days merely because the Lords want to criticise the pedagogic conceptions of the "liberal" members of the House of Commons as to the Oxford course of young Tories, indicates how largely our Parliament is but the Senate of a class. It is, however, the most extraordinary circumstance in connexion with this Oxford Bill, that it is a bill forced down the throats of the class interested—they being about equally divided on its merits—by a majority obtained out of the votes of Radical members. Night after night have the Radicals clustered behind the Treasury benches to cheer on, and pass through, a bill, with which they have no concern, seeing that Oxford is not to be made more "national" than before, Dissenters being still excluded,—which affects merely the internal organisation of Oxford—and which, consequently, the Radicals don't in the least understand. Indeed any suggestion, as to the bill, offered by a Radical, is considered so complete an impertinence, that even Mr. Gladstone stares. On Thursday, for instance, Mr. Ewart, as delegate of the lodging-housekeeper interest, ventured, in the mildest way, to insinuate an amendment which would provide for poor students, by enabling them to board and lodge away from their colleges, with their greengrocers or milkmen; whereupon Mr. J. Phillimore came down upon the Dumfries' *dilettante* member with three terrible Latin quotations—Mr. Phinn, with a Ministerial hint that the House had better get on to business—Mr. Phinn can stand no nonsense now—and Mr. Gladstone, with some sternly facetious rebukes of incoherent meddling:—Mr. Ewart, accordingly, replying with trembling rapidity, and

getting through his division with nervous alacrity. The Radical finds that if he becomes a mere Ministerial hanger-on, why he must expect the treatment traditionally accorded to that class. I have no doubt Mr. Ewart was quite nervous as he went home that night, lest Hayter or Berkeley should write "unkindly" to him.

You may trace all the disasters of the session, and the scene of Monday night, to the policy adopted by the Radicals in regard to the Coalition Government. The best, the strongest, and the honestest Government which England ever possessed—the most national Government—the Radicals were bound to accord it their support, and to sustain it heartily against the pretensions of the faction of Derby-Disraeli rouge-et-noir politicians. But for a Radical to give unconditional support to a Government which must, necessarily, in a great measure, govern, like all other English Governments, in the interests of a class, the aristocracy, was to cease to be a Radical:—and the Radicals *did* disappear. They had many excuses last session: Mr. Gladstone's was a grand Budget, based upon the people's interests, and boldly defiant of the governing class, as in the succession-duty scheme. The whole tone of the Ministry was the tone of earnest men meaning work—meaning, in short, that series of attacks on "institutions" which Mr. Disraeli now so conservatively deprecates. There was a Reform Bill promised: there were other promises of as large remedies: and, on the whole, the Government were fairly entitled to the hope and confidence expressed in them by the members of the large towns. But none of the circumstances justified the Radicals in sinking their party into the Ministerial party; and the events of the two first months of this session should have suggested, even on the most charitable view, some wariness. The Radicals, however, tempted into indifference by the apathy of the people, and utterly unrepresented in the press (which is a very singular circumstance), fell into a lounging habit of oh-oh-ing every criticism upon the Government: and we have marked how Mr. Bright was denounced by his own friends for his warnings about the war, and his reticence about the Reform Bill, and how Sir John Shelley only just escaped with his life for suggesting a sham in connexion with the Reform Bill. And what has been the result of this? Why, the strong Government has been induced into weakness, and the honest Government into playing fast and loose with great principles. The Coalition were contemptuous towards the Opposition; Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli were exploded statesmen; and the Opposition consisted only of those two clever men. Having, then, gained the quiescence of the Radicals, the Coalition could afford to do anything—that is nothing. And this has brought an excellent Government into the contemptible position so malignantly yet so truly sketched by Mr. Disraeli on Monday. Not fearing the Radicals, they had no one to fear, evidently underrating the power of Mr. Disraeli, whose character does not diminish the force of his criticism, if it happens to be just; and, accordingly, they have been led into all sorts of follies and dilemmas. In the first place, they have been tempted into too much indifference to the country's anxieties in regard to the war. But for an accident, which compelled a revelation, they would have withheld from the country that "secret" correspondence which, once published, gave a new aspect to the whole Eastern question. They have refused all information and snubbed all inquiries: and they are actually carrying on a war without communicating to the self-governed country what is the object of the war. All this secretiveness, quite unnecessary to so popular—in the sense of so trusted—a Government, will tell against them in the end. In the next place, they have conducted themselves undexterously, if not rashly, in regard to all their measures. They have introduced them without care, and they have abandoned them without conscience: and, in regard to the Reform Bill, they had to give the lie to their own wisdom—or Lord John's, who, with felicitous conceit, not only denied that a time of war was a time unfavourable to a Reform Bill, but insisted that it was the very time he would prefer for introducing such a measure. The Oaths Bill was a bungle; the Bribery Bills were a botch; the Poor-law Bill was an abor-

tion; and this was all because the Administration saw no reason to be careful—in the last case because one Minister never thought it worth his while to consult another Minister. Recklessness was the characteristic of the Coalition from the first week of its formation—from the day when Sir James Graham, drunk with success, and exulting in his strength, attacked Louis Napoleon, to the day when Lord John Russell insulted the German Powers. Perhaps the Coalition took altogether a wrong view of their functions in not confining themselves exclusively to carrying on the Government,—in not doing generally what Mr. Gladstone has done in finance—made mere provisional arrangements for current necessities. But, on a fair retrospect, every observer must admit that if the Radicals had watched warily on their flank the movements of the Government would have been more dignified as well as more effective. Even had the Radicals not succeeded in getting good progressive measures, they would at least have afforded the country some guarantee that if we must have a war, it should be a war worth the money, as we are to pay for it:—that is, a war so thoroughly against Russia as to be for human freedom.

Much of the absurd position which the Government occupied on Monday night may be attributed to the imbecile leading of Lord John Russell. Statesmen have not the sagacity of opera singers and actors: Lord John, with all his lore, has not the prophetic sense of a Grisi or a Macready: and if a public man maunders in politics until he becomes incapable, why should the public hesitate to tell him so? It isn't pleasant; but can a nation like England afford to be polite? Lord John Russell ruined the Whig party; and he is ruining the Coalition. Say he is only unlucky—smart crews throw unlucky men overboard. Lord John's whole life is a continuous disaster: what he has been doing this session he has always been doing—nothing: and to express sympathy with him, because he excited no enthusiasm for a Reform Bill which was a blunder, and because he is beaten on an Oaths Bill, so framed as to ruin the Jew cause and endanger the Catholic cause, is most hilariously to throw away political charity. It is for Lord John Russell, however, we are now undergoing a new Ministerial crisis; for Mr. Disraeli's unexpected raid on Monday would be inexplicable except on the presumption that that alert personage had got at some "secret history," which suggested that dissensions were going on in the Cabinet, and that an occasion had arrived to be "improved" after his peculiar manner. Mr. Disraeli's speeches that evening only amounted to an artful appeal to Lord John not to let the Peelites too largely overshadow the Whigs; and Lord John's speech, confused, hesitating, and bungling, was a puzzled attempt to assure the Whigs that he had not sacrificed them in entering the Coalition, and that he did not mean to forget his party while remaining there. Mr. Disraeli wanted to breed distrust among the Coalition supporters, and Lord John wanted to guarantee his personal supporters that the Peelites should not have too much of their own way: the whole secret of the passage of arms being that the Cabinet was perplexed as to which member of it should get the great new office,—the virtual Premiership,—the Ministry of War. Incidentally there was a talk about Government failures and Mr. Disraeli's consistency on the Jew cause (Lord John being very silly in his sneers on that head); but the point was—was Lord John about to consent to go lower down in the ranks of the Coalition? Sir George Grey volunteered a declaration that Lord John had the perfect confidence of his old party, and it is very likely that Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Macaulay spoke the general sentiments of the Whigs, at the moment, in advising Lord John to act with Lord Aberdeen, and no one will doubt that Lord John would have been guilty of a great political sin if he had allowed any notion of his petty personal importance to impede the formation of so good a Government as Lord Aberdeen proposed to establish. But that Lord John is losing the confidence of all but those shallow Whigs, who, like Sir George Grey, are eager for a vacancy in the Coalition, is beyond question—we have only to examine the attitude, during the session, of such men as Lord Clanricarde, Lord Grey, Mr. Layard, and Mr. Vernon Smith—men who have the best of the Whigs at their backs. We have now to see whether Lord John Russell is strong enough to do without the Whigs. Perhaps, as he has become the leader of the Radicals, he may think his path is clear.

Saturday Morning.

"A STRANGER."

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.*

It is not a pleasant consideration for men of letters, but there is no disguising the fact, that the literature of the day is very nearly restricted to matters relating to the war. Such being the case, the magazines will of course be warlike or flat. Distinguished above them all, in respect of its information on the war, stands *Fraser*, and very rarely does a communication of such value appear in any journal as that on *Russian Ships and Russian Gunners*, which opens the June number. It is a continuation of the article on *Cronstat and the Russian Fleet*, which opened the May number of *Fraser*, and has since been reprinted. The writer has not only personal inspection to rely on, but he compares and controls this by the Russian official statements, and the statements of experienced writers, Russian and others. The whole paper is brimful of information; but we must select a passage or two as a whet to the reader's appetite. Here is one on the construction of the Russian ships:—

"The two vessels before-mentioned as being on the stocks at St. Petersburg—the *Orël* and *Maria*—are, in point of materials, examples of the mode of construction now adopted at the New Admiralty. They are pine and larch below, and oak above the water line, with beams and internal planking of larch. The scantlings (according to the *Naval Miscellany, à la Saymonds*?) are stout, the ships are very strongly put together, and in all respects built on the most approved principles and with the advantage of all recent improvements. But there was one thing noticeable which told either of economy or of dishonesty. The official account of these ships states that all above water is oak, and yet in the *Maria* (and, if we remember right, in the *Orël* also), a proportion of pine had found its way into the bulwarks and port-sills. The speed with which the works are urged on in Russian dockyards precludes the idea of their vessels being properly seasoned. And from this and various other causes, a line-of-battle ship usually passes into the hulk phase after ten or fifteen years' service. The three-decker, the *St. George*, was last summer spoken of as exceptionally old, and she had been launched in or about 1833. This stands in curious contrast with the fact that our *Canopus*, taken at the battle of the Nile in 1798 (as the *Franklin*), was lately in commission, and is still in the effective list. But the *Canopus* was not built in two years—the average time allowed for constructing a Russian line-of-battle ship—nor is her material fir. At Archangel, ships are usually but one year on the stocks, and the timber used is larch above and red pine below the water line; small quantities of oak for special and indispensable wants being brought from Kazan and Kostroma."

After explaining the technical meaning of various terms used with reference to guns, the writer proceeds to give, from official statements, the mounting and power of two Russian ships, the *Twelve Apostles*, 120 guns, and the *St. George*, 112, comparing them with the English ship, the *Queen*, 116. He then makes these remarks:—

"In estimating the weight of broadside thrown by each ship, we have allowed for the slight numerical superiority of metal in the *Twelve Apostles*, so that the preponderance in favour of the *Queen* is pretty accurately shown. This gives her, as compared with the *St. George*, an advantage equal to the possession of thirty-two 32-pounders—almost a whole deck—as compared with the *Twelve Apostles* of nearly five 32-pounders. Nor is this all, for the *Queen* could, at a distance of 1200 yards, pour her broadside of fifty-eight guns into the *Twelve Apostles*, who could only reply with thirty-one guns; and the *St. George*, under the same circumstances, could only reply with seventeen guns! For, on account of their inferior range and length, the Russian upper and main deck battery in the first case, and upper, main, and middle deck batteries in the second, would be almost useless except at close quarters. And further on it will be seen that the gunners of this particular *St. George* the Conqueror last year only hit their target at the rate of about twenty-five per cent., so that the British ship would receive but four shots from her enemy. Meanwhile, scarcely a missile of ours would fail to strike the Russian; and, unless we much mistake the powers of British seamen, before the spurry general of the *St. George* had recovered from the effect produced on him by the explosion of a dozen Moorsom's shells, he would receive a second broadside which would at once afford him facilities for studying the theory of the sinking of three-deckers, and the flag-ship would not only cease to be 'the conqueror,' but would at once be removed from the Navy List. These details, no theoretical conclusions, but the result of simple arithmetical facts, show that the value of such sailing line-of-battle ships as the *St. George* is, as against the vessels of the Allied fleets, absolutely nil.

What he says about the Russian sailors confirms the universal report.

"The Russian Czars have built and equipped ships of war, and sent forth fleets from harbours which they have persuaded the world to call impregnable, and yet their navy remains a phantom without a history and without a glory. Other difficulties may yield to the ambition of powerful monarchs, but the moral unfitness and apathy of a whole nation cannot be overcome by the exertion of a will, however strong and however absolute. The dislike of the Russian people to the sea service is as great and as openly manifested as in the days when Peter was the only good sailor in his dominions, and the most brilliant naval successes would fail to excite their curiosity, much less to rouse their enthusiasm. The officers of a Russian fleet expect no sympathy in victory or defeat, and they disbelieve in the utility of the institution to which they belong; while the sailors, hating an amphibious life, sigh for the very miseries of a serf's existence, and tremble lest they should be ordered into battle and annihilation. Russian sailors cannot look for encouragement to the past; the memory of the galley fleets which used in old times to ravage the shores of the Euxine, of the fire-ships of *Tchesme*, of *Sinope* itself, are not present to the crews who skulk behind the walls of *Sevastopol*. And no visions of the barks of *Varægian* rovers, with black pirate-flag floating to the breeze, no thoughts of *Grengam* or *Hango*, can chase from the minds of those who man the hulks at *Sveaborg* and *Cronstat*, the fear of the rulers of the Baltic. Even our own invincible sailors would be demoralised by continuous inaction and submission to constant insult. The name of *Nelson* would cease to animate a fleet which lay snugly in *Portsmouth* harbour, while the enemy fired guns of defiance from the anchorage of *Spithead*."

But the reader will be considerably astounded by the tables of gunnery practice here given, because, as they are Russian tables, they cannot be supposed to have understated their success. On reading the tables, we were forcibly reminded of that gentleman who was complimented on having "displayed such very fine talents for missing." Here is the first:—

Names of Ships.	Guns.	Shots fired.	Hits.	Misses.
St. George the Conqueror (flag)...	112	78	18	60
Touch-Me-Not ...	84	62	23	89
Andrew ...	84	52	18	34
Emgeiten ...	84	126	31	95
Memory of Azoph ...	74	99	12	87
Sisoi the Great ...	74	105	23	82
Villagós ...	74	86	25	61
Kulm ...	74	51	18	33
Empress Alexandra ...	84	71	20	51
Ingermanland ...	74	102	24	78
Amphitrite (gunnery ship) ...	44	40	21	19
Total Hits ...			27 per cent.	
Total Misses ...			73	

"The targets fired at were 25 feet long by 15 feet high, and painted, like the side of a frigate. A target was moored opposite every ship, at a distance of 800 yards."

There is another article in *Fraser* with a taking title, and rather exasperating contents. It is entitled the *Personnel of the Russo-European Question*, and in grand, not to say grandiloquent, language writes about the Emperor, the Sultan, Louis Napoleon, Nesselrode, Omar Pacha, and others, whom the writer has never seen, of whom he knows nothing, and so is reduced to write about, and about, and about them!

Blackwood has nothing on the war, but, although various, the number is not remarkable. A pleasant laudation of Miss MITFORD, a curious paper on *Young Bengal*, a gossip from *Madrid*, a savage article on *Ruskin*, and the commencement of a new story, are all readable but not memorable.

Bentley's Miscellany begins a new story of the author of "Christie Johnson" under the title of *Clouds and Sunshine*, which promises to be a quiet, truthful picture of rural life, moving, however, amid the old conventionalities of fiction. The number contains a poem by LONGFELLOW, two articles on the war, and a bit of natural-history gossip on the *Anleater*.

The *Dublin University* opens with a panegyric of ALISON, and continues the readings from the colloquies of ERASMUS, but there is nothing which calls for special comment in this number.

In the *Christian Examiner* there is a very noticeable paper on the popular use of the Bible, in which, while declaring the Bible to be a priceless possession, the writer ably points out many of the difficulties attending its composite structure, when it is left to indiscriminate perusal. We may return to this on a future occasion.

THE LATEST SCHOOL OF POETRY.

Night and the Soul. A Dramatic Poem. By J. Stanyan Bigg. Groombridge and Sons.

THE younger Pliny writing to a friend says, with evident delight, "this year we have a large crop of poets. This April has not seen one day without its poem to recite. It delights me to see men thus cultivating these studies, although it is true the Roman public manifests but mediocre enthusiasm for them—*tametsi ad audiendum pigre coitur!*" Pliny is pleased, but Pliny wrote and recited himself.

Our April and May have seen more poems, and an equally unimpassioned public. Not that the public has lost its taste for poetry; but it has too much taste to accept what is offered. For our own parts, we never see a new volume with pleasant feelings. If we read it we are wearied; if we review it we make an enemy; if we leave it unread we are subject to misconstructions. Poets are willing to believe that the demands on our time are exorbitant, but not willing to believe we have not leisure for a calm and careful study of their volumes!

Among our recent ventures into this unpromising realm we alighted upon *Night and the Soul*. Having read loud praises of Mr. Stanyan Bigg as a profound and imaginative poet, our disappointment was great to find this poem another specimen of a very objectionable school which has lately come into fashion with those who a few years ago would have imitated Byron.

Formerly a poem had a story, a plan, a moral, and a character or two as the substance; imagery being employed as ornament only. The story might be dull, the plan not very artistic, the moral a platitude, and the characters indifferent; but at any rate the attempt was visible. The poet never imagined that a wardrobe, however splendid, was sufficient for his drama; or that bits of colour made a picture. Some snatch at life was made even by those who could not grasp it; some human interest was claimed. But of late there has arisen a contempt for anything lower than sublimity, a disdain for clearness, for good sense, for directness of purpose. The poems are all "profound," all immensely imaginative. The heroes are uniformly nincompoops believing themselves Faustus. They have exhausted knowledge, drunk life to the dregs, and (this is indispensable) struck their heads against the stars. The scene mostly opens with the hero in his "study;" sometimes alone, fatiguing himself with soliloquies; sometimes with a "friend"—and then the soliloquy is double. Each talks the same language as the other. Both are enamoured of the stars, and talk familiarly of God, "as maidens do of puppy dogs." Both open their mouths only to let tropes escape. Having talked each other (and the reader) tired, one invariably requests the other to "sing," whereupon a lyric or two is interchanged. It is quite ludicrous to observe how these gentlemen rush into lyrics upon the slightest provocation. This done they separate, the scene changes, and the hero is introduced talking to his lady love. This talk is exactly of the same tone as that which we just listened to in the study, only varied by some imagery about beauty, love, and a general disregard of matrimonial prospects. The hero is a poet about to astonish the Browns. In a very little while he requests her to sing, or else bursts into a lyric himself. Nothing comes of their talk (except weariness), and the scene changes again to the poet's study, or to "a garden—moonlight," wherein fresh declamation, fresh stars, fresh moonlight, and fresh lyrics. The poem ends with the death of the lady—cause not ascertained—or with the blaring of trumpets on the part of the hero proclaiming what magnificent things he is about to do. Thus *Night and the Soul* concludes with the following intimation:—

"So much as I have learnt, that will I sing;
And, if the world will listen, it is well.
If not, then God shall be my auditor,
And the still Night shall know another soul,
And the great realm of spirits welcome me!"

With such a framework, what effect does the poet expect to produce? Granting that the declamation is of the grandest, the imagery of the finest, the music varied, the separate thoughts true and striking, what will the poem be which relies on these for its influence, set forth as they are with the carelessness of improvisation, with the absence of any co-ordination into Art. Compare the *Faust*—the supposed model of all these poems—and amid all its obscurity of allusion, and of allegory, note with what solid distinctness each part is presented, with what variety and prodigality of representation the types of life and the scenes of life move before the eye: *Faust*, *Mephistopheles*, *Wagner*, *Gretchen*, *Martha*, the Brother, the women at the well, the old man, the students, the boors drinking in *Auerbach's* cellar, all stand out in such distinct relief as only the cunning artist's hand can give. Read the poem, and see how poor it is in similes and how rich in

poetry, compared with all its imitations; how clear and true its descriptions of Nature, and how very unlike the incessant and insane introduction of natural phenomena in modern poems. Each character speaks his own language. Faust does not talk like Wagner, Martha does not use the same images as Gretchen, Mephistopheles does not jest like Frosch. But in these modern poems all the men talk the same language, and all the women talk like all the men. To take a sample from the latest offender—and a sample which at the same time will serve for his style—read this fragment of a young lady's reply to her friend's question, "Why art thou sad?"—

Flora. Nay, Caroline,
Not sad! No, not quite that,—and yet,—ah well?
The Night is lovely, and I love her with
A passionate devotion, for she stirs
Feelings too deep for utterance within me.
She thrills me with an influence and a power,
A saddened kind of joy I cannot name,
So that I meet her brightest smile with tears.
She seemeth like a prophetess, too wise,
Knowing, ah! all too much for happiness;
As though she had tried all things, and had found
All vain and wanting, and was thenceforth steep'd
Up to the very dark tear-filled eyes
In a mysterious gloom, a holy calm!
Dost she not look now just as if she knew
All that hath been, and all that is to come?
With one of her all-prescient glances turn'd
Towards those kindred depths which slept for aye,—
The sable robe which God threw round Himself,
And where, pavilioned in gloom, He dwelt
In brooding night for ages, perfecting
The glorious dream of past eternities,
The fabric of creation,—running adown
The long time-avenues, and gazing out
Into those blanks which slept before Time was;
And with another searching glance, turn'd up
Towards unknown futures—the book
Of unborn wonders,—till she hath perused
The chapter of its doom; and with an eye
Made vague by the dim vastness of its vision,
Watching unmoved the fall of burning worlds,
Rolling along the steep sides of the Infinite,
All ripe, like apples dropping from their stems;
Till the wide fields of space, like orchards stripp'd,
Have yielded up their treasures to the garner,
And the last star hath fallen from the crown
Of the high heavens into utter night,
Like a bright moment swallow'd up and lost
In hours of after-anguish; and all things
Are as they were in the beginning, ere
The mighty pageant trail'd its golden skirts
Along the glittering pathway of its God—
Save that the spacious halls of heaven are fill'd
With countless multitudes of finite souls,
With gem-like infinite capacities,
As if to prove all had not been a dream.
Tis this that Night, seems always thinking of;
Linking the void past to the future void,
And typifying present times in stars,
To show that all is not quite useless,
But that the blanks have yielded star-like ones
To cluster round the sapphire throne of God
In bliss for ever, and for evermore!
Oh yes! I love the Night, who ever standeth
With her gemm'd finger on her rich ripe lip,
As if in attitude of deep attention,
Catching the mighty echoes of the words
Which God had utter'd ere the earth was form'd,
Or ere you Infinite blushed like a bride
With all her jewels."

So much magnificence of language, hiding such poverty of conception! There is a certain sonorous stateliness and felicity of expression in these lines, but read as the language of a young lady, and as the explanation of her sadness, the effect is ludicrous. But it is clear throughout the poem that Mr. Bigg, like the author of *Balder*, like Gerald Massey, and many others, seldom troubles himself with *what* he is to say, solely occupied with *the how* to say it. Imagery and grandiose expression are the game they chase. A simile, an epithet, a sounding line—these are their conquests; and the more frequent the similes, the more startling the epithet, the more resonant the verse, the greater is the poem they believe themselves to have produced. It seems of very little consequence that the simile should have any likeness, or the image represent any actual feeling expressing itself metaphorically. Mr. Bigg has nevertheless in one passage so admirably characterised this species of poetry, that one is amazed to find him so frequently the target of his own shafts:—

"One must indulge a laugh at the expense
Of those who, scorning nature's godlike rule,
Frame laws unto themselves;—those who are lost
Amidst the mists and mirages of self,
Which they project before them on all things;—
Those everlasting smirkers whom nought wins
From their self-worship and idolatries;
Who think and speak as though they were commission'd
To preach their vanity before all worlds,
And lay upon the altars of all minds
An offering to their little emptiness;
Whose thoughts are vapid as small beer uncork'd;
Whose words are blown like bubbles till they burst;
Who talk of great things with an easy air,
At thought to talk of them were to be great.
"Alexis. Whoso writes 'thunder' is a thunderer,
And he who spelleth 'lightning' is a god!—
"Ferdinand. Who get chin-deep into the mud, and cry
Behold the deeps! the deeps! Who apout their rhymes
Into the people's ears, as though they were
The morning chimes of all the great world-bells
In God's cathedral, the wide universe,
Calling all men to prayer—
"Alas! Alas!
Tell them to keep their heads still—all will cease,
For they are but the jingles of the bells
That pendant-wise embellish their fools' caps."

"Ferdinand. Who vent high-sounding words instead of thoughts,
And seem unconscious that they are not one.

"Alexis. Great words come from great mouths, not from great minds!
"Ferdinand. Who would reduce all things to empty sound,
And, did the process answer, would confine
All beauty to their verses, which, drum-like,
Return mad volleys of a vague uproar,
Devoid of music and of meaning both."

The grand mistake of these poets is to imagine themselves thoughtful because they talk of thought, metaphysical because they fling about metaphysical language. The real thought of the poet is shown in his *shaping* forms into clear distinctness—is shown in his creating types which stand as representatives of what we have seen, and felt, and known; whereas these poets throw all their labour on their verse, polishing the marble instead of carving the statue. They deceive themselves with grand phrases, and deceive others too, who know not how easy it is to produce imagery when that imagery is not the product of Imagination wedded to Reality, but of the unrestrained license of Imagination "wandering at its own sweet will." In ordinary writing, the difficulty is not to turn sounding periods, but accurately to express the meaning in your mind, when you have a meaning. So, likewise, the difficulty in poetry lies not in imagery, but in appropriately expressing by an image a thought which is poetical.

O, big-mouthed poets! it is not difficult to launch your soul rudderless upon the Ocean of Infinity, and let it float there, storm-tossed on that Shoreless Sea, till it be shipwrecked on a reach of Stars, and stand appalled at the gaze of God! It is not difficult to roll up your Orb from Passion's misting Deeps; to suffer a world-travail in throes and agonies of poetic thought; to pour out eloquence like lava rushing down the scarred sides of Etna; to drink pale moonbeams from your lady's eyes; to climb the Heights of Thought's eternal Vast; to Eden pageantries within your soul; to telescope your mind with tears; to deal with all the essences of things; to probe and prove the nothingness of science (especially grammar); to make your thoughts Prophecies of Eternity, and your actions Crystals of Time; to scorn the Present and its vain applause, because your Thoughts are Stars blazing in the Heavens of the Infinite, and, therefore, to think only of the Future yet unwombed!

It is true, that those who are so solicitous of the Future are open to the objection of the Merry Andrew in *Faust*:—

"Wer machte denn der Mittelwelt Spas?"

"Who the deuce is to surse the present?" And that objection might translate itself into another question: Why not wait for this Future before you publish? Certain it is, that having no hold on the present, speaking neither the language of men, nor of poets, this latest school of poetry cannot be of the slightest service, were the talent of its disciples ten times greater.

Mr. Bigg, whom we have chosen as our text, is certainly a man of no ordinary faculty. If he is very young, we may yet expect good works from him. He has great power of verse, power of expression, and morbid activity of imagination, which he allows to go unrestrained, as he says:—

"My dreams are wild
As the lank hair of ancient prophetess,
Streaming in frenzy on the midnight wild."

We opened this instant the book at random, and this was the passage which met our eye:—

"Caroline. See, the moon hangs there on the verge of stars,
Like a bright vestal at a temple-porch.

"Ferdinand. Ah, 'tis a blissful night! The universe
Is a great rushing hymn of praise to God.
My heart is singing with the happy spheres;
Not a string jars but all is harmony.
Night is the beautiful black slave of God,
And bends before him ever wrapt in awe,
While her great heart throbs thanks in burning stars!"

and we quote it as a specimen in brief of the sort of writing which meets us on every page: God and the stars everywhere!

Mr. Bigg has only to ask himself what aspect of life, or what system of thought, his poem represents, to see that he has been led astray into the mistake of supposing that the mere *indulgence* of his imagination would produce a poem.

GENTLEMEN IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

Oakfield; or, Fellowship in the East. By W. D. Arnold. (Second Edition.)

Longman and Co.

This book is a transcript of real experience, and as such is valuable. It is the product of a cultivated mind pondering upon life as presented in our Indian army; and it will strike every reader by its seriousness and ability. But a novel, in the ordinary sense, it can scarcely be called. There is just enough story to serve as a framework for the observations of one who deplores the low tone—let us call it blackguardism at once—which disgraces and demoralises too many of the young men on their first entrance into the service. That is the purpose of the book; and the purpose is excellently carried out.

Edward Oakfield, the hero, is a young man with very strong religious convictions, who quits Oxford because there it seems hopeless for him to reconcile his beliefs with the circumstances of his position. He wants to act on Mondays what is preached on Sundays; a most anarchical desire! In India he hopes a new field will present more favourable opportunities for such a crusade; and he joins, therefore, the Indian army with this very un-military purpose. His disappointment was inevitable; was not his expectation extravagant? Oakfield sees clearly enough the discrepancy between Sunday's preaching and Monday's conduct, but he does not seem to appreciate the significance of this discrepancy.

"I am sometimes provoked by the cool way in which people assume that what is good for them must be good for you. I am sure I do not quarrel with them for thinking appointments good things *per se*; I only beg them not to expect me to think so; but this they will not agree to; but still take as an axiom in discussing what they call 'prospects in life,' that money, and position in society, and so on, are undoubtedly good things, as certainly as truth and courage are. And yet, doubtless, all who talk so have written in their copy-books, when children, that 'the love of money is the root of all evil,' and have heard on Sundays, as

men, that there are temptations attached to rank, and so on, and thought it all very right and proper of the preacher to preach so; but alas, the morality sticks to the copy-book, and the religion is reserved for the Sunday sermon; and a man who tries seriously, on Monday morning, to follow out the maxim, and lives as though he believed the Sunday discourse, is obliged either to leave society for a dreary, solitary, unprofitable hermit's life, or to be regarded as a hypocrite and a fanatic. And thus you will find that with a few exceptions, to be denoted by units, all the religious men of your acquaintance have been compelled either to quit society altogether, and thus have no influence in it at all, and confine their labours to a narrow, too often to a narrowing, bigoted circle; or, if they remain in society, so to compromise matters that their religion itself is become to you a doubtful matter. How to hit the mean between these two, is the great problem which I, at the threshold of life, have to solve,—which baffled me at Oxford,—and which is still too much for me here."

A problem indeed to task the greatest energies, and inevitably to frustrate them! for unless we place ourselves once more in the position of those who first preached the doctrine, it must necessarily be a doctrine in open antagonism to our existence. When men believed the world about to end, their scorn for this life, and their indifference to its needs, was intelligible enough; but for men in our day, having no such conviction, there is no such practical reception of the doctrine possible. What is preached on Sunday is never acted on Monday, because it would be outrageous. Let any man act Sunday's doctrine and you would shut him up in a lunatic asylum. It can only be done by a complete renunciation of this world, and all this world's claims—a renunciation which fanatics may declare desirable, but which other men will not desire. To take that little sentence, "the love of money is the root of all evil," as a specimen of the absolute aphorisms which are absolutely false, yet constantly proclaimed, who does not see that the love of money is not in itself the root of evil at all, but only so when the love is so absorbing that all other desires, instincts, and affections, are sacrificed to it?

Not to dwell longer on this point, the reader sees that Oakfield has a very difficult task to play. It gives him, however, a good standing-point from which to notice the deficiencies of the Indian army in Christianity, and, what is more to the purpose, in honourable, manly, and gentlemanly conduct. His pictures of the mess of the 8th and 90th Regiments will do good. They are true and hideous. Here is a brief indication of what must be a very common story:—

"Arthur Vernon was one of many who come out to India at sixteen, with no better fortification than a home education may have given them. He had perhaps an advantage in a delicacy of mind, as well as person, far greater than that of most boys and young men, but his gentle character was wanting in that stern discrimination between good and evil, and strong though perhaps unequal, resolution, which is given either by rare natural endowment, or education, or sorrowful experience. The open immorality of Indian bachelors' society had at first grieved and shocked him; even now, after a year's tolerance of it, he was far from taking pleasure in it; but in all men, and especially in the very young, the desire to be liked is strong, and he had been impelled by this desire to appear to take interest in things he cared little or nothing about; to suppress the interest which he really felt; to hear, first silently,—then approvingly,—lastly, himself give utterance to, sentiments which he did not believe in; which his conscience vaguely condemned; trying to satisfy himself the while by not joining in the actual vice, either of word or deed. But he soon found that there are inevitable penalties attached to disobeying even the vague bidding of conscience. Brought up in a religious family, he could not but feel, at times, that the religious element of his life was gone, or fast going. He was grieved to find that though he himself did not talk like a ruffian, his presence was no restraint upon those who did; he knew that he was living with bad men, and saw that they thought him no better than themselves, but only more *griffith*. And in this predicament he was really to be pitied. He found himself claimed as a companion, with a rough good nature, by the society of which he was a member; a good-natured recognition as an equal, by older persons, in very seductive to a boy; he could not reject their kindness altogether, and so he went on with them, utterly incapable of exercising influence over them, and therefore, of necessity, being influenced by them; till, from dwelling continually on their subjects, hearing continually their principles asserted without contradiction, and being forced, for mere companionship's sake, at least to appear to take interest in their excitements, he soon lost hold of whatever feeble clue he might once have had to an inner, independent life; grew daily more reconciled to the wretchedly narrow sphere in which he found himself, and began to think that the prospect of dragging out life in eating, drinking, smoking, billiard-playing, riding, and carousing gossip, was not intolerable."

The court-martial is also well done, and artistically brings forward the military notion of "honour." Altogether *Oakfield* is a book very interesting to men in the army or about to enter it, though not to be much cared for by novel readers.

REPUBLICATIONS.

From the mass of books awaiting notice, we select a few republications, which may be disposed of in a swift, summary manner, not because they are unimportant, but because they do not demand a lengthened review to put our readers in possession of what is needful to be known before determining on a purchase. For example, *The Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan*, by J. L. Stephens, is a book whose value has long been appreciated and highly estimated by all students of the early history of America. The new edition (ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, and Co.) is profusely illustrated and revised from the latest American edition by Frederic Catherwood, who has added materials from his own store; and the whole work, very much improved in this edition, is to be had for twelve shillings.

In the way of cheap books that are really books, and cheap, here is Bishop Stanley's charming *Familiar History of Birds* (J. W. PARKER and SON), beautifully printed, with a quantity of admirable wood-cuts, published for three-and-sixpence. It is true that this is the sixth edition, and a book which has already commanded such large circles of readers may reasonably be expected to protect any tenuity of cheapness by the certainty of a great sale. The same may be said of the new edition of *Companions of my Solitude* (J. W. PARKER and SON), in our estimation the most exquisite book of essays which this century has produced. The present edition, at three-and-sixpence, is even handsomer than the previous expensive editions, and many of those who were compelled to borrow or steal will now delight to buy. The *Annotated Edition of the English Poets*, issued by these publishers, we have already sufficiently characterised, and need, therefore, only mention that Cowper is the last poet added to the series.

Mr. BOHN, indefatigable in success, has republished *Wiffin's Translation of Tasso*, with engravings on wood and steel of a somewhat feeble rose-pink order, (which the judicious reader will probably remove,) and a postscript to the life of Tasso by Mr. Devey, giving an account of the controversies on the subject of Tasso's imprisonment. In his *British Classics*, Mr. BOHN

has continued his *Gibbon*, defending himself vigorously against his critic in the *Athenaeum*, but not, however, clearing his editor from the imputations of carelessness brought by that journal, by proving a number of errors in Milman's edition. It is really a very serious question this of accuracy in the reprinting of established works, especially now that cheap reprints prevail in various ways: the very existence of those solid, careful if expensive, editions in which our libraries used to delight. Mr. Bohn has also added a third volume to his edition of Addison since we last noticed the *British Classics*.

LONGMAN and Co. are not only reprinting Macaulay's *Critical and Historical Essays* in shilling parts, as we noticed once before, but in their *Traveller's Library* they have just introduced two parts, consisting of *Selections from the Writings of the Rev. Sydney Smith*. The Selections comprise Four Essays on Education—The Ballot—Letter on American Debts—Lectures on Wit and Humour—on Taste—and on the Conduct of the Understanding. What a treasury of wit and wisdom, and exquisite style, for two shillings!

The readers of the *Leader* need only be informed that the series of papers, *The Governing Classes of Great Britain*, which were contributed by a *Non-Elector*, have been collected into an eightpenny volume (LONGMAN and Co.), in handsome legible type—the *Non-Elector* declaring himself to be Mr. Edward Whitty, a name which has only the aspirate *de trop*. From the *Westminster Review*, July, 1853, Herbert Spencer has republished, with additions, his very striking article on *Over-Legislation*—a battery of radicalism, terrible in the culture of its guns. Finally, we have to notice the republication of Alexander Somerville's *Autobiography of a Working Man*—a remarkable bit of biography, and which will remain a piece of history to all interested in the history of the people.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- The Cross and the Crescent as Standards in War.* By J. J. Macintyre. Adam Smith.
- Laughs I have put a Pen to; or, Fun Jottings.* By M. E. Willis. Samuel Bate.
- The Friends; and Other Poems.* By Warwick Boothwood. Langman, Brown, Green, and Longman.
- Russia and the War.* By Captain Jesse. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longman.
- The Microscope, and its Application to Clinical Medicine.* By Lionel Beale, M.D. Samuel Highley.
- Lectures on Architecture and Painting, delivered at Edinburgh in November, 1853.* By John Ruskin. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- The Iron Cousin; or, Mutual Influence.* By M. C. Clarke. 2 vols. G. Routledge and Co.
- Lessons on the Phenomena of Industrial Life, and the Conditions of Industrial Success.* By Rev. R. Dawes, M.A. Groombridge and Sons.
- The Sentence of Kairex, and Other Poems.* By H. N. Oxenham, M.A. T. and G. Simpkinson.
- Memoirs of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D.* By Rev. W. Hanna, LL.D. Thomas Chalmers and Co.
- Niemi, the Last of the Ramen Tribunes. (Railway Library.)* By Sir R. Bellar Lytton, Bart., M.P. G. Routledge and Co.
- King Nutcracker, and the Poor Boy Reinhold. A Christmas Story.* By G. H. W. S. Orr and Co.
- Osman; or, the Eastern War.* By W. Molyneux. Piper, Stephenson, and Spence.
- Turkey Redeemed from Existing Abuses.* By F. A. Neale, Esq. Egan and Williams.
- Lectures et Opuscules Inédites de Leibnitz, précédés d'une Introduction.* Par A. Foucher de Careil. D. Nutt.
- Cronstadt and the Russian Fleet.* J. W. Parker and Son.
- Points of War.* By E. Lushington. Whittell and Co.
- An Easy and Practical Introduction to the Latin Language.* By A. H. Montagu. Bate and Co.
- A Poet's Children.* By Patrick Scott. Langman, Brown, Green, and Longman.
- Selections from the Writings of the Rev. Sydney Smith. (The Traveller's Library) Parts I and II.* Langman, Brown, Green, and Longman.

The Arts.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THIRD NOTICE.

LIFE IN PICTURE.

LIFE in some form or other is the subject of art; and art of every class is perfect in proportion as it suggests the fullest force of life proper to its order of subjects. It is so even in "still life;" for here the laws of inorganic or vegetable life must be caught with all the exactness and the freedom that belong to nature. This is the grand distinction between the mere copyist and the true master. Morris, who works out a very close imitation of surface, forms, and colours, as they might be seen transfixed, dead, in a mirror, fails to catch those signs of action, whether in the features of the pretty fruiterer, in the flickering of light, in the movement of air, or in the very forms of inanimate objects which a higher artist can seize. It is the power of catching those true incidents of life which gives the real value to the works of the water-colour painter, W. Hunt, and which in fact give to such works a moral force, since they are perpetually restoring, through the influence of art as well as nature, the true healthy standard of vitality.

Here is the key to a correct judgment of painters whose subject is landscape, or architecture, or whose design principally depends upon some "effect." In the great run of figure pictures, our painters rely too much upon a tame portraiture, whether of passion or of action in figure pictures, which mars the great field of painting on the walls of the Exhibition. There is the same distinction in landscape painting, though it is less marked, and the specimens of vitality are in a larger proportion. An "effect" is nothing, unless it include life and motion, though it be but of inorganic laws. For instance, Mr. F. Danby has a great picture called the "Departure of Ulysses from Ithaca—Morning," a composition completely in the Danby school, with a red sun shining behind dark trees, over a glassy water; facts imitated with considerable power. But a certain tea-board heaviness of treatment, in the design even more than in the handling, renders this half

daylight picture less interesting than the "Summer Morning," by T. Danby; and both of them are exceeded in interest by a little picture near the ground, from the hand of Mr. H. Desvignes, called "Evening—Cattle Grazing." Here the air is as tranquil, the sheep are in quiet action, but the broken ground, the glancing shadows, the varying effect of local colour and of distance, give that gentle motion which belongs to the air.

Sometimes in these historical pictures of inorganic life the human incident connects the sympathy of the spectator with the design, and illustrates the force to the great law. Thus Stanfield's "Last of the Crew"—representing the ship stranded on the rocks, not only brings before you the broken vessel, the departing storm, and the dancing waters, but tells the resistless might of the tempest, and the power of death that it carries. The same law may be illustrated in yet more tranquil traits—such as Williams's "Heath Scene—an Approaching Shower"—a broken ground with the darkened light glancing fitfully into a gloomy distance; or Greswick's "Passing Cloud"—a more open scene, where a shower coquettes with the sunlight, and forms a varnished surface of unabsorbed water; Redgrave's "Old English Homestead," or, still better, his "Midwood Shade," where the tall trunks of trees, rising upwards out of view, and the glancing leaves, distinct and yet thick and multitudinous, enclose the aisles between the trunks like some great natural cathedral.

Two pictures that challenge notice are Mr. Antony's "Nature's Mirror"—a solitary pool surrounded with willows, and Mr. Linell's "Disobedient Prophet," a composition with the story of Balaam, representing a precipitous bank surmounted by pine-trees, whose trunks glow with the setting sun; but both fail from their inattention to the true incidents of life. With all his power, Mr. Antony has allowed the group of trees on the sinister side of the picture to look as if they were cut out of a lighter-coloured paper, and pasted on; so solid is the group, so hard its edge. Mr. Linell's tree-trunks are really glowing; but the whole ground crumbles like rich loam under a broken bank; an effect perfectly natural in parts, but nowhere seen in mountain land like this, unvaried by harsh, sharp, straight lines. In fact, such a bank would fall away.

The difference between mere attitude and mere life cannot be better illustrated than by Ansdell's traveller fighting wolves, where the limbs of the struggling animals lack the short and sudden swell of action, and his Highland scene, with a shepherd gathering his sheep together: the woolly animals, mostly in a posture of standing, but with the upraised head, the well-planted limbs, the sharp eyes, and starting attitude, which bespeak the shyness, the vigour, and promptitude of the Highland sheep, while the misty atmosphere tells the distance so well that the spectator can hear the voice of the shepherd almost as well as his dogs. As scenes of living effect, we may also mention Poole's "Song of the Troubadour"—for "story there is none, sir," but the effect of moonlight is so powerful that the pictures around it with brighter colours are dim; Sidney Cooper's "Morning Effect—Harbledown Park;" Sant's "Children in the Wood"—that is as to the wood, not the children, and Roberts's views in Venice, in which the pupil of our great scene-painter, Stanfield, carries the recollection of the spectator back to the older scene-painter, Canaletto. For art, as well as nature, turns back to a common standard after the lapse of generations, and the laws which sustain "the stones of Venice" one upon another, are the same in the picture of both artists and in the city on the waters.

WYLD'S WAR MAPS.

Mr. WYLD continues his contributions towards the supply of maps illustrating the news of the day. We have two such before us. One shows, in a comprehensive view, the position of the Bosphorus as the strait between the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea, with some of the most important points of the coast on either side of the long peninsula which that strait divides. In cantons, on the same map, are plans of the Bosphorus and the Straits of the Dardanelles in detail, showing the soundings; and also a slight map of Schumla.

The second map shows the course of the Danube from Giurgevo to the mouths; presenting, in a view, the places Silistria, Varna, Schumla, and the Dobrudscha, which are the scenes of the most recent military transactions in that quarter. In cantons are the Serpent's Island at the Sulina mouth, plans of Kustendjeh and Varna.

THEATRES.

"VIVIAN, for Heaven's sake go to the HAYMARKET!" writes an anonymous friend, who seems to have more regard for my judgment than for my health, and no regard at all for my enjoyment, since he thus earnestly adjures me to go to the HAYMARKET, and tell the truth respecting the *Knights of the Round Table*. It appears that the accounts of that piece in the other papers exasperate my friend, who calls it "a very wretched production, indeed," and

such, indeed, I remember the original to have been, as I intimated last week. "It is," writes my irate correspondent, "a narrative, and not a drama at all. Almost the whole action takes place off the stage, the performers only coming on to tell each other (and the audience) what has been going on. The thing is not without a certain sustained interest; but when it is over, you cannot recal a single striking incident (except Compton's exquisite little bit in the coffee-house) which you would care to see again, or take a friend to see—always a good test of a play." This so completely accords with my recollection of the original, that I am disposed to accept it as a verdict not very far from true. But you must have considerable *naïveté*, if you imagine I am going in pure *gaieté de cœur* to test the accuracy of a verdict it is so much easier to accept! Call me indolent, call me unconscientious, call me a puppy—I submit with meek acceptance to all that your defrauded wrath can fling at me; but I am not going to be bullied into five acts of unpromising narrative. Nor does the rest of my correspondent's letter sharpen the dull edge of appetite. He speaks of Vandenhoff in terms I do not care to repeat, adding, "the Herculean efforts he makes to be cool are tremendous, and he seems to think that to take snuff perpetually with intense vigour is the acme of nonchalance." That sentence has a truthful air about it. If Vandenhoff takes snuff as he "takes the stage," my private suspicion is that I would rather not see him personate the polished villain. Snuff is a great ingredient in your polished villain, and the way it is usually taken on the stage is so exactly that which we observe in distinguished circles off the stage!

The *French Plays* are beginning to be talked about at last, thanks to the "*Joie fait Peur*" and the perfect style in which it is acted. On Friday *Romulus* was performed,—too late for me to give any account of it; and to-night, alas! is the last night of the season.

The first appearance of Grisi in *Norma*, the part which she alone can play, created no little stir, and "fluttered the doves in Corioli." She is only to play twelve times; and then hushed for ever (to the public at least) will be that voice which has transported us for twenty years! But I won't get dithyrambic; and as I can only speak of her in that strain I will change the subject to VAUXHALL and its opening night.

That opening night was Monday; and if you remember the merciless rain, with the moist relaxing wind of that day, you will see how appropriately the native gaiety of that scene and the brilliancy of the "10,000 additional lamps" (not lighted) were set in the framework of a British summer night. Vauxhall, at the gayest, is not to me a deliriously exciting scene; but Vauxhall in continuous rain, Vauxhall forlorn, dragged, muddy, steaming, damp, with anxiety on the face of the waiters, and solitude in the *bosquets*, is not what I should call a poet's dream. However, fortunately for Mr. Wardell, if he made a false start on Monday, he recovered himself on Wednesday, when the Derby crowd had real Vauxhall weather to lure them.

I have nothing else to speak of; unless it be that Charles Matthews, now fairly out of his difficulties, re-opens the LYCEUM next Monday; and that Alfred Wigan, for whom I have now another source of sympathy, (he has been suffering, I hear, from the same malady as myself, overworked brain,) re-appeared last Monday, in the *First Night*.

GEORGE WIGHTWICK'S DRAMATIC READINGS.

On Thursday, at Willis's Rooms, the author of the *Palace of Architecture*, read Shakspeare's *Henry the Fourth*. Unable to be there, I begged one on whom I can rely, and who is in such matters a second self, to send me an account, which I subjoin:—

"DEAR VIVIAN,—I know you regretted your inability to be present at Mr. Wightwick's Dramatic Reading, and, indeed, you had reason to do so. We, who have seen you in the discharge of a painful duty, wincing under the unintelligent interpretation of Shakspeare by some of our 'leading tragedians,' felt how much amends would have been made you on Thursday night by Mr. Wightwick's highly poetical and intellectual rendering of—not one—but all the characters he had to assume. His reading is remarkable for quiet power; he never rants, nor forgets the reader for the actor; there is no striving after 'points,' none of that slovenly *devouring* of a passage in order to 'throw out' a particular effect, which is observable in some modern—especially French—recitation; yet we feel that rarely have forcible passages appealed to us so forcibly; and, without labouring after new readings, or seeking to extract obscure and subtle meanings from plain expressions, his careful and intelligent delivery often awakens the hearer best acquainted with Shakspeare to a perception of significances unremarked before. He possesses the great advantage of a very expressive voice, particularly musical and pleasing in its natural key, and capable of extremely varied intonation, without straining or forcing.

"As especially happy, I may cite his delivery of King Henry's beautiful apostrophe to sleep, in (I think) the 1st scene of the 3rd act,—the scene in which the king reproaches his son with removing the crown; and many of the comic scenes, which seemed, indeed, especially relished by his audience—perhaps because our mirthful emotions find reader outward expression. However, my object in writing is not to be metaphysical, but to beg you and the public, when next you have a chance, to go and hear Mr. Wightwick read, and judge for yourselves.—Ever yours, "H."

There is nothing more for me to add beyond the pleasant news that next week a French comedy at the St. JAMES'S will be succeeded by Marie Cabel and the troupe of an *Opera Comique*. VIVIAN.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ARGYLL.—May 22, at 4, Carlton-terrace, the Duchess of Argyll: a daughter.
BROWN.—May 31, in Lowndes-square, the Hon. Mrs. George Augustus Browne: a daughter.
CURRIE.—May 31, at Worcester-park, Surrey, the wife of Sir Frederick Currie, Bart.: a son.
HOPE.—May 28, at Arklow-house, Connaught-place, Lady Mildred Hope: a daughter.
SIMEON.—May 25, at Swainston, Isle of Wight, Lady Simeon: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BARRET—PROCTOR.—May 31, the Rev. Henry Alfred Barret, rector of Chedgrave, in the county of Norfolk, and domestic chaplain to the Earl of Waldegrave, to Jane Frances, youngest daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, Bart., of Langley-park, in the same county.
MESURIER—ZANCAROL.—May 4, at the Garrison Chapel, Corfu, Lieutenant Cecil Brook Le Mesurier, Royal Artillery eldest son of Frederick H. Le Mesurier, Esq., to the Contessa Zancarol, eldest daughter of the Conte Zancarol, of Corfu.

WATSON—TREDCROFT.—May 12, at Genoa, Sir Charles Watson, Bart., of West Wrating-park, Cambridgeshire, to Georgina, third daughter of the late Rev. Robert Tredcroft, of Tangmere, Sussex.

WARBURTON—HAILES.—June 1, at St. James's Church Piccadilly, by the Venerable Archdeacon Warburton (father of the bridegroom), Augustus Frederick Warburton, Esq., of H. M. Fifteenth Regiment, to Mary Anne Campbell, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Hailes, K.H., and granddaughter of Sir Robert Campbell, Bart.

DEATHS.

HOTHAM.—May 13, at Bombay, George Frederick Hotham, Esq., Sixth Bengal Cavalry, and Adjutant of the Fifteenth Irregulars, eldest surviving son of Captain the Hon. G. F. Hotham, R.N., and the Lady Susan Hotham, aged twenty-seven.

LONDESBOROUGH.—May 31, the Hon. Alberta Denison, the infant daughter of Lord and Lady Londesborough.

MILLIGEN.—May 23, at the Admiralty-house, Queens-town, Martha Milligen, wife of Rear-Admiral Sir William Carroll, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the Irish station.

OGILVY.—May 26, at 48, Devonshire-street, Portland-place, Sarah, Lady Ogilvy, widow of the late Rear-Admiral William Ogilvy, Bart., of Baldovan-house, N.B.

SIMPSON.—May 20, at York, Sir John Simpson, Knight, aged fifty-eight.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, June 2, 1854.
We have had a very busy and exciting week, marked by a great and decided rise in the Funds, which began on Saturday evening, and on Monday they had nearly reached 92.

The heavy "Bears" got such a fright that they came in and bought back their accounts. The Bank, however, met the increased demand with plenty of "Stock," and thus swamped the market; besides this, it was understood that influential brokers again sold for the Anglo-Hebrew party, and this sent the Funds down again to below 91. A partial reaction on Tuesday and Wednesday took place; and notwithstanding the latter being the great "Derby" day, and half the "house" on the Downs, there was no lack of business. It is evident that it is a struggle between the Chancellor and the monied interest in the City—the party which does not approve of Mr. Gladstone's new principle of "No Loan."

Hence the slashing article in the *Economist*, the weekly Treasury organ, indorsed by the *Times* on Monday morning, and the speech of the representative of the millionaires, Mr. Thomas Baring, last week, as condemnatory of the finance schemes of the Chancellor, shows what the men of the East think. When such authorities differ who shall agree? but we cannot help believing in the long run that the Chancellor

will have the best of it—he looking to the well-being of the public pocket, and the other gentlemen to the fructification of their own gains.

Eastern Counties, so long despised and ignored as an investment, now seems in demand.

Mines are flatter than ever, save Nouveau Monde, in which some purchases have been made this week on behalf of great names.

There has been a demand for Pontgibeaud shares, but as there were but few dealers in the market very wide prices are made.

Land Companies have declined a little; North British Australasian have received satisfactory accounts from their agents, and are firm at par to 1/2 prem.

The feeling in the market to-day at two o'clock is still of an upward tendency. Consols are 91 1/2, 92, and although the "Bear" party is very strong, and were it not so strong would have reason and almost certainly of correct judgment on their side, the immensity of their transactions must swallow up the floating stock.

Consols close a shade flatter, 91 1/2, 91 1/2.

Consols, 91 1/2, 91 1/2; Caledonian, 57 1/2, 57 1/2; Chester and Holyhead, 14 1/2, 15 1/2; Eastern Counties, 12 1/2, 12 1/2; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 55, 57; Great Western, 70, 70 1/2; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 62 1/2, 62 1/2; London and Blackwall, 8 1/2, 8 1/2; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 103, 104; London and North Western, 99 1/2, 99 1/2; London and South Western, 79, 80; Midland, 61, 61 1/2; North British Pref., 99 1/2, 100 1/2; North Staffordshire, 4 1/2, 4 1/2; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 29 1/2, 30 1/2; Scottish Central, 85, 87; South Eastern, 62 1/2, 63 1/2; South Wales, 34, 35; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 68, 69; York and North Midland, 49 1/2, 50 1/2; East Indian, 1 1/2, 2 pm.; Luxembourg, 5 1/2, 5 1/2; Ditto (Railway), 3 1/2, 3 1/2; Ditto, Pref., 1/2, 1 1/2; Madras, 1/2, 1/2; Namur and Liege (with int.), 7, 7 1/2; Northern of France, 33 1/2, 33 1/2; Paris and Lyons, 17 1/2, 17 1/2 pm.; Paris and Orleans, 45, 47; Paris and Rouen, 36, 38; Paris and Strasbourg, 30 1/2, 30 1/2; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8 1/2; West Flanders, 3, 4; Western of France, 5 1/2, 6 1/2 pm.; Lyons and Mediterranean, 12 pm.; Agua Frias, 1/2, 1/2 pm.; Anglo-Californian, 1/2, 1/2 pm.; Colonial Gold, 1/2, 1/2 pm.; Brazils Imperial, 5, 5 1/2; St. John Del Rey, 29, 31; Carson's Creek, 1/2, 1/2; Fortunus, 1/2, 1/2 pm.; Great Nugget Vein, 1/2, 1/2; Linars, 10, 11; Nouveau Monde, 1/2, 1/2; Quartz Rock, 1/2, 1/2; United Mexican, 2 1/2, 3 1/2; Peninsula, 1/2, 1 pm.; San Fernando, 1/2, 1/2 pm.; Pontgibeauds, 16, 17; Australasian Bank, 79, 81; London Chartered Bank of Australasia, 1/2 pm., 1 pm.; Oriental Bank, 47, 48 ex bonus; Union of Australia, 69, 71; Australasian Agricultural, 45 1/2, 46 1/2; Steel Rivers, par, 1/2 pm.; Crystal Palace, 1 1/2, 1 1/2 pm.; North British Australasian, Land and Loan, par, 1 pm.; Scottish Australasian Investment, 1 1/2, 1 1/2 pm.; South Australian Land, 37, 39.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, June 2.

LOCAL TRADE.—The arrivals of all Grain during the week have been moderate, but the demand has been slow. To effect sales of Wheat to any extent, lower prices must be taken, but to this holders will not submit. Barley as before. Oats the turn cheaper than Monday.

FREE ON BOARD.—The trade has been characterised by an absence of activity since our last, at all the principal shipping ports, while here it has been dull, and has offered little inducement to purchases abroad. At the same time the arrivals from the Black Sea have been quite insignificant, with no expectation of a renewal of them, it appears likely that prices may improve rather than decline during the interval between now and harvest. Much, however, will depend on the weather in influencing farmers, millers, and merchants to realise or otherwise. The French markets are still improving, and some of our correspondents expect a revival of the demand from there.

FLOATING TRADE.—Since this day week the trade has been quiet, and there being few cargoes offering, we have little to report. 70s. has been paid for Galatz Wheat arrived, and 48s. for Saïdi; with these exceptions we hear of no sales up to the moment of writing, nor is there any new feature in the trade. The English markets have been generally quiet, and those of Scotland and Ireland have been affected by the tone of the London market.

Indian Corn is not in quite so much request. We hear of no sales—the article being scarce. Barley remains as at date of our last: a cargo of Salonica has been sold at 28s., being a better quality than was sold last week at the same price.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

Table with columns: Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri. and rows for various stocks like Bank Stock, 3 per Cent. Red., Consols for Account, etc.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Table with columns for various foreign bonds and stocks like Brazilian Bonds, Russian Bonds, Chilean Bonds, etc.

THE ROYAL OPERA—DRURY LANE. ON MONDAY, June 5th, her Majesty's servants will perform Mozart's Opera, DON GIOVANNI. Donna Anna, Madame Rudersdorf; Zerlina, Mlle. Agnes Bury; Don Giovanni, Herr Pasqué; Ottavio, Herr Reichart; Il Commendatore, Mr. Hamilton Braham; and Leporello, Herr Formes.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE. Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. On Monday and Tuesday will be presented the Comedietta, called THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE. Principal characters by Messrs. F. Robson, J. H. White, Leslie, Vincent, Franks, Rivers, Mrs. Chatterley, Miss P. Horton, and Miss Marston.

OPERA COMIQUE, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE. The Directors of the Theatre Lyrique, Paris, beg to announce that the entire Troupe of that Theatre, including the services of Madame MARIE CABEL, will commence a short Season of French Opera Comiques at the above Theatre, on Monday, June 5th, immediately after the completion of M. Lafont's Season.

LECTURES by REV. F. D. MAURICE, Chaplain of Lincoln's Inn. A Course of SIX LECTURES will be delivered at WILLIS'S ROOMS, King-street, St. James's, by the Rev. F. D. Maurice, on LEARNING and WORKING.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH (used in Her Majesty's Laundry), and WOTHERSPOONS' Machine-made CONFECTIONERY, MARMA-LADE, JAMS, JELLIES, &c. (which gained the Prize Medal of 1851). May be had of all Grocers; wholesale of Wotherspoon, Mackay, and Co., 66, Queen-street, Cheapside, London.

ANOTHER REDUCTION OF FOUR-PENCE THE POUND IN THE DUTY ON TEA.—In accordance with our usual practice of always being FIRST to give the Public the full ADVANTAGE of every REDUCTION in the value of our goods, we have at once lowered the prices of all our Teas to fullest extent of the REDUCTION OF DUTY; and we are determined, so far as we are concerned, that the Public shall reap the full benefit of this act of the Government.

Table listing tea products and prices: The Best Pekoe Congou, Strong Breakfast ditto, Good sound ditto, Choice Gunpowder, etc.

CAUTION. MESSRS. ALLSOPP and SONS find it necessary to caution the Public, and especially Shippers of their Ales to the Colonies, against frauds committed by parties in selling spurious Ales for those of Messrs. ALLSOPP and SONS.

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent, continues supplying the Public with the METROPOLITAN and PROVINCIAL JOINT-STOCK BREWERY COMPANY'S ALES and STOUT, in Bottles of the Standard Imperial Measure, at the prices below:—

DUTY OFF TEA.—The prices of all our TEAS again REDUCED 4d. per pound. Strong Congou Tea, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s.; former prices, 3s., 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL. PREPARED FOR MEDICINAL USE IN THE LOFFODEN ISLES, NORWAY, AND PUT TO THE TEST OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. THE MOST EFFECTUAL REMEDY FOR CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, AND ALL SCROFULOUS DISEASES.

For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices. All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Parcels of Tea and Coffee, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

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1. The payment of a principal sum to the Assured himself at a specified age.
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3. The payment of a principal sum in the event of death, whenever that may happen.
4. The full benefit of all sums paid, although the Premiums should at any time be discontinued.
5. Relief from the payment of Premiums after a specified age.
6. Small periodical payments, so as to suit the convenience of the Assured.

The Premiums are made payable quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly; but by an arrangement with an Agent acting for the Company, they may be paid weekly or monthly.
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	Sums Assured.	New Premiums.
1840	£108,647	£4,364
1850	110,215	3,974
1851	127,488	4,438
1852	115,105	4,206
1853	123,093	4,532

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Year.	Number of New Policies issued.	Annual Premiums on New Policies.	Amounts assured by New Policies.
1850—51	293	£ 2,427 2 2	66,990 8 8
1851—52	127	1,236 15 9	36,750 5 6
1852—53	197	2,297 4 7	66,618 6 6
1853—54	371	3,963 8 2	100,255 8 10
Total...	988	£ 11,924 10 8	310,514 8 10

Most moderate Premiums, half of which may remain unpaid, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Policies granted from 20l. and upwards, and for stated periods, the whole term of Life, or assuring payment at specified ages, by Quarterly, Half-yearly, Yearly, or a limited number of Annual payments. No additional charge to persons in the Army, Navy, or Militia, unless in actual service. ALL POLICIES INDISPUTABLE. Lives declined by other Offices assured at rates commensurate with state of health. Whole Profits divisible triennially among the Assured. Liberty for Foreign Residence and Travel greatly extended, and Emigrants covered, at a very moderate additional charge, against the risks of voyage.
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